

# THE CLEARBOARD

Rod Diridon, President <http://www.ctrc.org> Larry Murchison, Editor

## DIRECTIONS FROM ROD DIRIDON

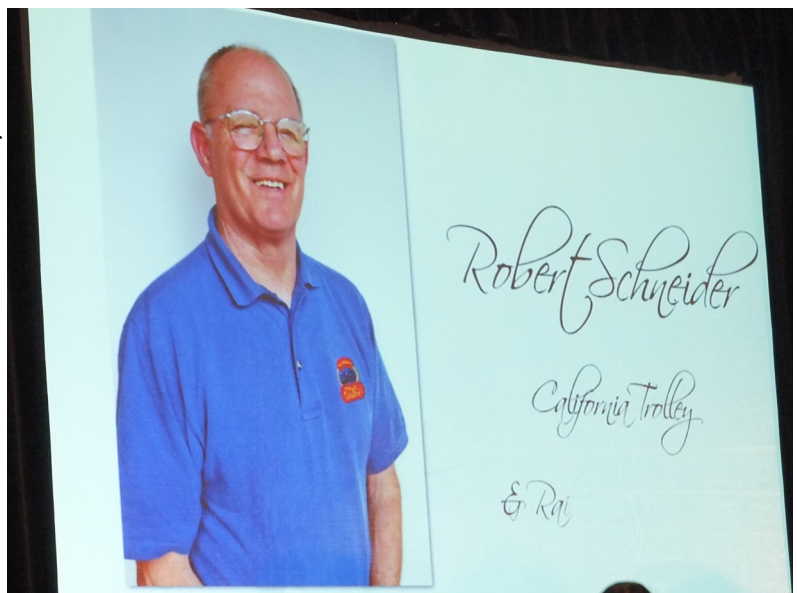


**T**ough Projects = Great Effort By 2479 Volunteers: Led by Locomotives Vice Presidents John Ezovski and Jack Young, CTRC's fine Locomotive Department volunteers have accomplished miracles with very little including the recent truing of the running gear, drilling the stay bolts, truing the steam guide slides, and babbitting of the crossheads, manufacturing and recoating the sanders with lead, remanufacturing sander nozzles, cleaning and preserving many

of the upper locomotive surfaces exposed to the weather, keeping the grass and weeds mowed to make the area look nice to the public, (See page six) and many other tough tasks. Many of these efforts required the reinvention of steam locomotive manufacturing and maintenance skills that have been long lost to history. The next task is to machine the huge brass main and side rod bearings. The one thousand one hundred pounds of custom, high quality bronze for that effort was received March 27th from Magnolia Brass Foundry in Nebraska and was paid for by a generous grant from long-time CTRC volunteer and supporters **Karen and Jerry Lane**. Jerry asked John how to help...John told him that \$10,000 was need for the bronze...the check arrived a couple of weeks later...if it could only be that easy all of the time! **Great thanks to John for asking and to Jerry and Karen for being so generous!**

**Locomotive 2479's Main Drive Pistons Funding Target for 2013:** One of the few task left to allow 2479 to return to operations is the refurbishing of the two main drive pistons. One can be rebuilt by the super CTRC volunteers but the steam valve bushing for the other has been damaged beyond use and must be recast and machined. The out-of-pocket cost of those important efforts is expected to be in excess of \$50,000 which will be the target of this year's CTRC grant request to the County's Historical Heritage Commission. A team of new CTRC Board members is taking on this task led the **former Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors Phyllis Perez-Sorensen and former Assistant to the County Executive Linda Esquivel**. These two top talents, advised by **CTRC Secretary Lynda Jones** and supported by a committee, will develop the HHC grant application and look forward to helping with future CTRC efforts.

**CTRC Trolley Barn Vice President Bob Schneider Honored:** The Junior League of San Jose honors the region's top volunteers with the Crystal Bowl Award annually and our own **Bob Schneider** is the winner this year. Bob, with his always congenial demeanor, ability to guide both the maintenance and operation of the trolley's at History San Jose, and with over 21,000 hours of volunteer time, was a shoe-in for the Junior League award. He and wife Terri were honored at a reception and lunch at the Santa Clara Convention Center Friday, April, 26, 2013.



(Continued on page 6)

# CTRC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

California Trolley & Railroad Corporation (CTRC)  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Pacific Hotel, San Jose History Park  
February 21, 2013

- I. **WELCOME** – The meeting was called to order by Board President Rod Diridon, Sr. at 8:00 a.m., at the Pacific History Hotel, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose, California.

**Attendance:** Alida Bray, Rod Diridon, Sr., John Ezovski, John Hansen (in place of Bob Schneider), Mike Kotowski, Joel Maniaci, Denis Murchison, Larry Murchison, Charley Wynn, and Lynda Ramirez Jones

- II. **MINUTES** – Action on the minutes was moved to the last item on the agenda.

III. **CHAIR’S REPORT**

**A. Chair to provide reports as each item is discussed.**

**B. Discussion of Fairgrounds General Plan** – Diridon reported that he and a delegation from the CTRC Board will be meeting tomorrow with Delana Romero, new acting General Manager of the Fairgrounds.

Ezovski commented that over the past years CTRC has had a great relationship with Fairgrounds staff. He said the CTRC Fairgrounds site appearance is very important to CTRC, especially with the hotel situated across the street.

Diridon mentioned that the County had owned the right of way for the track access, but the Union Pacific RR gave the right of way to the motel and a warehouse without consent so the right of way was severed. This will be one of the issues discussed at tomorrow’s meeting.

Kotowski stated that Howard Thomas, Fairgrounds accountant, has asked to meet with Mike and other from the Board regarding his ideas for improvement. The need for that meeting will be decided upon after the meeting with Ms. Romero has been held.

**C. Conflict of Interest Statement (2013)** – Diridon reminded Board members that it was time to complete a Conflict of Interest Statement for calendar year 2013. The forms were passed out and all present signed and returned the forms to Ms. Jones. The forms will be distributed electronically for signature by non-attending Board members.

**D. Special Projects** - Diridon noted that “Special Projects” will be a new agenda item to report on to allow CTRC to provide public relations supporting related community events, such as the essay contest sponsored by the Valley Transportation Authority giving the public an opportunity to renew their wedding vows aboard Milan Trolley Car 2001 on Valentine’s Day.

Diridon reported that the Junior League of Santa Clara County has selected Robert Schneider as a Volunteer of the Year, and he will be honored at a reception on Tuesday, April 11, 2013. Diridon has purchased a table and invited other Board members to attend by making reservations through Ms. Jones, first come first serve.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**A. Bank Reconciliation Statements (11/1/12 to 1/31/13)**

**B. Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet**

Upon a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded (Kotowski/Maniaci), and unanimously carried to accept the financial reports.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

- A. Trolley Barn** – John Hansen, a Trolley Barn volunteer, for the past four years, reported in place of Bob Schneider, who was on vacation. See Addendum #1.
- B. Locomotives 2479 and 1215** – Ezovski submitted the attached report – see Addendum #2 – which he also disburses to his network. He noted that Mr. Jerry Lane had responded to Ezovski's last report dated November 15, 2012, and asked how much was needed for the bushings and rods for Locomotive 2479. Ezovski stated he had obtained two quotes for the materials last year at an average cost of \$9,500.00. Mr. Lane donated \$10,000.00, which will be used to purchase the materials for the bushings and rods.

Kotowski referred to the sanding valves requiring repair, and suggested Ezovski check with Niles' and Union Pacific's "*parts piles*" as resources.

Referring to Locomotive 1215, Ezovski reported that the caboose had been moved from Salinas to San Jose and unloaded on the exhibit site at History San Jose Park on January 14.

Diridon mentioned that the CTRC Board is to decide what the caboose is to be named. That may be in part based on the vehicles history but also on the area's historical use of similar vehicles.

Bray raised the idea of an Eagle Scout group installing a fence around the Locomotive 1215 and caboose site. Diridon requested that Bob Schneider make a recommendation regarding that border fence.

- C. SCC Rail Museum** – A meeting has been scheduled with Vice Mayor Nguyen to emphasize the need for action regarding the Senter Road site and the three creeks trail.
- D. Kelley Park Rail Stops – Benches and Signage** – Diridon reported that Schneider had indicated he would arrange to bring poles to Trolley Barn site. Bray noted that Gina Aning, General Manager of Happy Hollow Park and Zoo, is to sign off before the poles can be transferred. Diridon stressed that the sign off needed to be obtained immediately to keep the poles from becoming unavailable for our uses and to meet our commitment for a trolley stop with Rotary.

Maniaci reported he had searched the internet and found a sample of a bench similar to the one already installed at History San Jose Park. The bench is 6' long, and the dimensions are similar, made of cast iron, and cost between \$800 to \$900 per bench. He is currently recruiting companies to sponsor or donate a bench. Diridon supported the idea but cautioned that the donated benches not take the place of the annual BBQ sponsorships which fund the CTRC operations.

Diridon noted that the Rotary Stop signs should mention Rotary Club and CTRC. The signs are yellow and green in color and a draft had been approved. The bronze bench donor plaques cost about \$100.00, and Rod indicated that they might be donated as part of the bench donation.

Bray will ask City Parks and Recreation if an issue exists to remove or re-paint any graffiti from the benches.

- E. Volunteers** – Diridon announced that the media is interested in more events with CTRC Board members, volunteers, and History San Jose Park staff.

### F. Acquisitions

**i. Name New VP of Acquisitions** – Continued to next agenda.

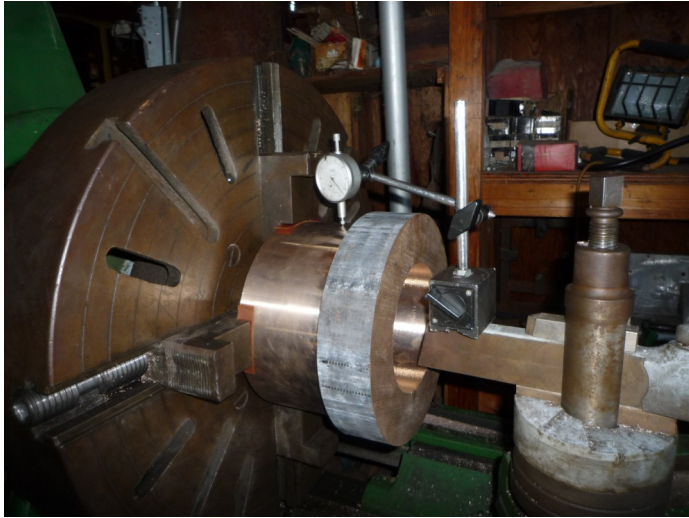
- G. Grant Applications** – Diridon reported that the County of Santa Clara Historical Heritage Commission (HHC) is holding a workshop tonight in the Board of Supervisors' chambers to review Federal and State historical heritage laws in laymen's terms. He invited CTRC Board members to attend in preparation for applying for a grant from the HHC.

- H. Diridon Station Museum** – Diridon will send Bray the name of the new operator's manager, who has an office at Diridon Station. Bray will schedule meeting with manager regarding exhibit lighting.



## LOCOMOTIVE NEWS

Thanks to the very generous donation by **Karen and Jerry Lane**, bronze for new main and side rod bushings has been received. (See image to the right.) Measurements have been taken of the number one and three driver pins and in the bores of the associated rods. Machining of the first bushing has begun. (See below.)



Repairs to the sanders have been completed! One sander required minor repairs while the second required major rework. Back in the steam days the heavily damaged sander would have been scrapped. Sand had worn away the lead liner and cut into the section of valve body that served as an exit port. Sand also cut a hole in the threaded section of the body and its 3 inch cap. Threads on the cap were re-

stored. The thin wall was repaired with a bushing and epoxy. Lead was melted and poured into each cavity followed by drilling. The last step was to swage the lead into place. From the proceeding, it might seem that these repairs were rather simple, but they



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

were very complex. Many hours were spent discussing repair methods before a final solution was obtained.

Inspection of SP-1215 at history park revealed light corrosion beginning to form on polished surfaces. Clean up of these parts has begun.

It's the growing season. Cutting of grass/weeds is taking place on an almost weekly basis to maintain site appearance.





Submitted by Bob Schneider

Things have been quiet, but the “event season” has just started. The first Family Day on 20 April had a pretty good turnout of 363 trolley riders, 156 Barn visitors and 147 hand car riders.



We’ve been hosting a number of visitors to include;

1. Friends from SF Muni and Portland transit spent time on 1/25 looking at troublesome track areas. No obvious flaws were noted, but several suggestions need follow up.



Ray Heckman & Jim Maurer

2. Afgan Rotary visitors were given special trolley rides on 2/1.

3. A friend from WRM reviewed troublesome overhead wire areas on 2/6. An offer of possible help in the future was made.

4. A friend from WRM gave 3 of us a class on controller maintenance on 3/1. Some of the techniques were recorded for future use. The controllers for both cars have been given their annual preventative maintenance.

5. Three CTRC guests were given a tour of the Trolley Barn and a ride on the Birney on 4/16. Our hope is that they will help CTRC with grant writing in the near future.

The LeBlond lathe is getting a workout (see locomotive report)

HSJ plans a Family Day on 6/16. We will run the Horse Car as part of the event. The Horse Car is 150 years old this year. The hand car will also be running. Transportation is the Family Day theme.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> I helped the parks folks take care of storm damage. The 25 foot Cork Oak beside the Portuguese Imperio had leaned over onto one of the bandstands. Soft soil. We used our fork lift safety cage and fork lift mini-



boom to help take it down.

The Yellow Fork Lift has been receiving constant attention by John Zielinski and Bill Jump. The latest job was to replace the fuel pump. Preliminary reports suggest that this, along with many previous fixes, may just have done the trick. The “trick” is to get it to run reliably for an unlimited amount of time . Previously, the run time was about 30 minutes before the fuel system shut down. Vapor lock was the likely suspect .



Removing the locomotive cab from the barn area.

(Continued from page 1)

**Annual CTCRC Board Meeting and Volunteer Recognition BBQ:** Since the founding in 1982, CTCRC's annual meeting and volunteer recognition BBQ have been convened on the third Thursday in August. This year we'll gather on August 15 at 3:00 PM in History San Jose's Pacific Hotel for the Board meeting (all are welcome) and adjourn to the BBQ by the County Firefighters at 5:30 PM. This is the opportunity to enjoy the Singing Conductors and honor our major donors and great volunteers so plan to attend with your families. And, thank you again for all each of you do via CTCRC for the residents of Santa Clara County!



(Continued from page 3)

- I. **Railfair** – Diridon reported that two additional meetings were held, and a final decision to proceed with event will be made by end of March 2013.
  
- J. **Fundraising** – Diridon noted that because the economy has improved, more efforts will be put into fundraising for this year's Volunteer Recognition BBQ event in August 2013.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS** – Ezovski announced that two volunteers from the Locomotive Facility have been working on repairing a forklift at History San Jose. Consensus was to send a thank you letter to the two volunteers, John Zelinski and William Jump.

**The agenda was moved back to Item II – Minutes.** Kotowski reported that he and Bamberg met and Kotowski forgot to mention recruiting Mrs. Bamberg to assist in fundraising and acquisitions.

Kotowski amended the minutes to read that Union Pacific (UP) is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> - not 15<sup>th</sup> as noted in the minutes – anniversary and is traveling around the country setting up in various areas to commemorate the event. He said there is nothing to be done locally as long as UP is on this schedule.

On a motion made by Kotowski, and seconded by Maniaci, the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. to the next quarterly meeting at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Ramirez Jones

**The green, green grass of 2479 Healey Avenue. Gone until next year.**





## Information

Membership Meetings: First Saturday of each month at 10:00am at 2479 Healy Avenue, San Jose, the locomotive restoration site doublewide trailer.

Work Schedule: Saturday 8:30 to 3:30.

CTRC Office: 1600 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112.

Mailing Address: CTRC, c/o MTI, 210 N Fourth Street, 4th Floor, San Jose, CA 95112

Membership: \$25.00 regular, \$10.00 Seniors. All memberships expire December 31 yearly.

To join please send dues, name, address, phone number, and e-mail address if available to the mailing address above.

The CTRC is a California 501(c)(3) not for profit educational corporation established in 1982. The organization is the official support group for the Trolley Barn at History San Jose and the San Jose Railroad Museum Park currently in the early stages of development.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) is to restore, preserve and interpret railroad, trolley, and related equipment as it was used to serve the people in Santa Clara Valley, California.

## CTRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rod Diridon, Sr, **President & Founder; Executive Committee** are Marvin Bamburg, VP Design; VP Grants; Ken Middlebrook, VP Volunteers; Larry Murchison, VP Communications; Bob Schneider, VP Trolleys; Jack Young & John Ezovski VPs Locomotive; Annette Nellen, Treasurer; David Sylvia, Corp Secretary/Attorney; Lynda Ramirez Jones, Administrator. **Board Members** are Alida Bray, Michael Burns, Dick Campisi, Carl Cookson, Sr., John Davis, John Ezovski, David K. Ginsborg, Bob Kieve, Rick Kitson, David Knight, Mike Kotowski, Art Lloyd, Joel Maniaci, Kit Menkin, Denis Murchison, David Niederauer, Tim Starbird, Neil Struthers, Steve Whitaker, Beth Wyman, Charles Wynn.



## CTRC Staff:

President: Rod Diridon <diridon@mti.sjsu.edu>

Vice President: Ken Middlebrook <kamiddlebrook@comcast.net>

Motive Power: Jack Young <jyoung99@pacbell.net>

Electrical: Bob Paddleford <bobpadd2479@comcast.net>

Site Maintenance: Denis Murchison <dmurch@charter.net>

Equipment Maintenance: John Zielinski <johnz2@sbcglobal.net>

Technical Assistance: Art Randall <arandall@earthlink.net>

Historian: Larry Murchison <larrymurchison@comcast.net>

Editor: Larry Murchison <larrymurchison@comcast.net>

Treasurer: Annette Nellen

Membership: TBD

Time Keeper: Hugh Crawford <hugh@hughcrawford.net>

Trolley Barn: Bob Schneider <schneiderri@att.net>

Acquisitions: OPEN

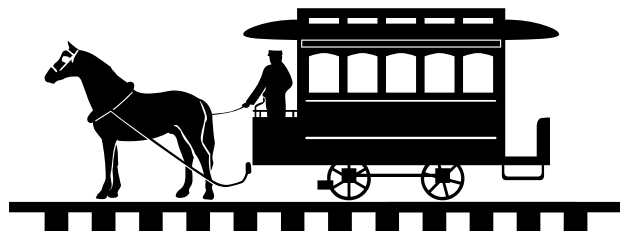
Public Relations: Ken Middlebrook <kamiddlebrook@comcast.net>

Web Site: Karl Auerbach <karl@cavebear.com>

## COMING EVENTS

► Remember the Saturday workdays. Check with John Ezovski at SLBTrainer@aol.com for other work schedules including the 1215 beautification. All very important events. See you there.

► The next CTRC board meeting will be Thursday, May 16th, 2013 at 8:00am in the History San Jose Pacific Hotel first floor conference room.



**California Trolley & Railroad Corporation**

CTRC, c/o MTI 210 N Fourth Street,  
4th Floor, San Jose, CA 95112

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**An invitation to join**

The CTRC strives to restore, maintain and operate the few surviving examples of our local rail history for the education and recreational benefit of current and future generations.

Like yourself, we are individuals with different backgrounds, talents, and skills who share a common interest in preserving our rail heritage. Supporters who contribute \$25 or more annually will receive our monthly announcements and our quarterly newsletter THE CLEARBOARD. Contributions of materials, equipment and skills are also welcome.



**THE CALIFORNIA TROLLEY AND RAILROAD CORPORATION**

**Yes, I wish to contribute to preserve our railroad heritage in the Santa Clara Valley.**

Please accept my tax deductible gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership: regular \$25, retirees and full time students \$10. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

California Trolley & Railroad Corporation  
Is a non-profit tax exempt organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic transportation equipment. Membership is open to all. Yearly dues help finance the Corporation goals. All donations to the corporation are tax deductible. IRS #23510C(3)