

THE MAIL CAR

March 2020



Bishop Museum
& Historical Society
dba
Laws Railroad Museum
& Historical Site
PO Box 363
200 Silver Canyon Road
Bishop CA 93515
(760) 873-5950
www.LawsMuseum.org



Have you ever wanted to ride a hand car? All you need is a reservation and \$5 per adult.

Fancy a private party train ride? The Death Valley Brill Car rents for \$50 per hour including operating crew. Holds 34 passengers in comfort, plus the crew will do photo a "run-by" upon request.

Did you know "Old Smokey" the mine train is very popular for children's birthday parties and rents for \$25 per hour including operating crew.

News From The Engine House

We are looking forward to another busy season operating train rides, and hand car rides, along with special rides in the "Birthday Express", and other private charters of the Death Valley RR Brill car. We have included, at the end of this news bulletin, our tentative schedule for public rides in the 2020 season.

This past Fall we received a restored Bodie Railway and Lumber Company flat car on loan from the Bodie Foundation. The car was found wrecked alongside the old right of way on one of the switchbacks to Bodie. The wood was beyond salvage, but the metal parts were salvaged, cleaned up and used to rebuild the old car with new wood parts. The car is

now on display at the Museum, near the Engine House. A big thank you to members Paul Thompson and John Fredrickson for taking the lead on this project.

At the present time we are adding another track by the Engine House to give us more storage and repair capacity. Many thanks to Cal Fire for the help their crews are giving us!

We have been quietly working with LADWP on the possibility of utilizing the old historic Carson and Colorado/Southern Pacific right of way as it extends south from the Museum grounds, to extend our existing tracks a little ways and be able to offer a longer and more scenic ride. LADWP is agreeable to the pro-



posed project and we are currently conducting the legally required environmental review for approval before we can lay track. If all goes well and we can find the money, we may have additional tracks in about a year!

We will be scheduling refresher training for experienced operators and additional training for new operators in April and May. Contact the Museum if you are interested in learning and participating in railroad operations.



News Flash!

We received a most generous donation from Buzz and Karen Shoemaker in memory of their son Jeffrey L. Shoemaker. Come by and visit this 1914 Model T lovingly restored by Buzz and Karen.



The Stamp Mill an experience you need to have

If you are looking for something entertaining and educational for all ages, come to the Mining Exhibit on Wednesday and Thursday for a "live show". Our volunteers go all out to give everyone an outstanding experience.

Did you know? Arrastras are ancient ore milling devices that could be cheaply built of local materials and operated with nearly any available source of power. They were simple circular drag mills. The term "arrastra" translates as "dragging along the ground" in Spanish. In the American West, most were hand-built by small concerns. The replica arrastra at Laws Railroad Museum & Historical Site was completed in 2015 using authentic materials by museum volunteers, staff, and the Owens Valley Cal Fire crew.



Reception/Gift Shop Makeover



More than 50 years after Paramount Studios donated the reception center formerly know as the Sweetwater, we've had a makeover. New flooring, fresh paint, up to code wiring and fixtures highlight the new souvenirs, books, and gift items on offer.



Volunteers are a gift to the community. Come make a difference at Laws Railroad Museum. We understand that life commitments don't provide the freedom to volunteer on a regular basis. However, if your days are somewhat flexible and you are able to give us a little time, we would love to have you. Please take a moment to email us at lawsrailroadmuseum@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the team.

Hosting a private event?

Laws Railroad Museum & Historical Site is the perfect setting for: weddings, receptions, birthday parties, reunions, you name it, the Museum grounds are available for your private special events. Our Museum staff will work with you to coordinate scheduling, facility needs, and special train rides. We are here to help make your event a memorable one.

Join us!

We have a variety of 2020 events scheduled.

Earth Day - April 18th - Bishop City Park
 Choo Choo Swap Meet - May 2nd
 Membership Pot Luck/Meeting - June 14th
 Laurie Lewis Concert - August 8th
 Curley Fletcher Rendezvous - Sept 25&26th
 Choo Choo Swap Meet - October 3rd
 Railroad Express - December 12th