

IRON HORSE QUARTERLY

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The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. "Bill" Mason Carousel

Summer Starts With Pancakes

BJWRR Annual Flapjacks and Railroad Tracks!

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer



Summer at the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad always starts with a delicious stack of pancakes

The BJWRR hosted its ninth-annual "Flapjacks and Railroad Tracks" Pancake Breakfast on June 13. This year things were a little bit different, as the event did not quite kick off the summer season, but rather helped make it feel like summer was already upon us.

Continued on page 2

Summer Comes Early At The BJWRR!

Rosie Balistreri
Chief Operating Officer



Summer is not so long anymore at the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad. Each year school has started earlier and earlier, leaving the railroad with no staff to run operations.

To keep in with the school schedules around the area, as of 2015 our summer season will be considerably shorter. The new summer season will start a week earlier on June 8th, and instead of going until Labor Day- the summer season will end on August 15th. Right around the time everyone goes back to school.

In keeping with tradition, we will still be holding our annual End of Summer Night Ride Pasta Dinner on August 22nd, which is fun for the whole

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1/2** Pancake Breakfast / Summer at BJWRR
- 3** Rider Appreciation Month
- 4** Volunteer Spotlight: Marion & Odessa
- 5** Red Chariot Restoration Pictures
- 6** Calendar of Events

Once again we had a great group of volunteers, starting with local Boy Scouts helping us with set up, serving, and take down. This year, we were down a veteran volunteer as he moved out of state, but another great volunteer stepped in to take his place. Head cook Kirk Lang brought his great pancake talent to serve up great tasting food all morning long. Volunteer Kyle Baker stepped in to help as well, and rounding out our cooking staff were Board Members George Shannon and Board President Doug Sporleder who were a great help. Overall, it is because of our wonderful volunteers and staff that we are able to host such events.

We had a tremendous turnout, with families from all over enjoying a morning train ride and a delicious breakfast. This year something very special happened as well. Guests who paid for their breakfast were “paying it forward” by leaving money behind to help pay for the next guest’s breakfast. This went on for quite a while, and it was truly heartwarming to see the generosity amongst our valued customers.

Flapjacks and Railroad Tracks is a great family event that stands for a wonderful cause. As a non-profit organization, the railroad does not receive public funding of any kind. With events like these, we are not only able to raise a few more dollars, but are also able to provide our patrons with a fun, inexpensive, and unique experience.

Next year will be our tenth year hosting this wonderful event, and you know we will have quite the treat planned. ♠

Pancake breakfast typically falls on the second Saturday in June.

family! The Railroad will also continue to be open on Labor Day with the train and carousel operating from 10:30am to 4:30pm.

The Fall season will start on August 16th and go until the end of October. The Train will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30am to 4:30pm, while the Carousel will be open Fridays from 10:30am to 3:00pm, and of course Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30am to 4:30pm. All times as always are weather permitting.

There are lots of great events that will be closing out the summer season. Please visit our website www.bjwrr.org and like us on facebook to keep up with all the happenings at the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel! ♠

THE END OF SUMMER PASTA DINNER



Saturday, August 22nd 2015

<p>Train & Carousel: 5:30pm to 8:30pm</p> <p>Tickets: \$5.00 ticket includes a free carousel ride.</p> <p>Children under 3 ride free with a paid adult</p>		<p>Dinner Served: 5:30pm to 8:30pm</p> <p>Dinner: \$8.00 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, salad, garlic bread.</p> <p>Vegetarian Option available Beer and Wine will be available</p>
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For more information please visit www.bjwrr.org or by calling 408-395-7433

All proceeds will help keep the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and W.E. "Bill" Mason Carousel open for future generations.
 The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.
 The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad operates in Vance Park which is the property of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and is Open Monday-Friday with the cooperation of the Town of Los Gatos.

JULY IS RIDER APPRECIATION MONTH!

The BJWRR celebrates our wonderful patrons by naming your own price day on Train and Carousel.

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The year was 2005. Steam Engine #2 had gone through a 10 year restoration process, and its return to operations was going to be something worth celebrating. Thus, Billy Jones Day was born.

On Billy Jones Day, patrons get to name the price of the train ride. They may give as little or as much as they can, and ride the train all day long- much as our name sake did it on his orchard. The event has been a long standing tradition, as a way to say thank you to all our wonderful patrons who continue to support the railroad year after year.

After the great reception we received for Billy Jones Day, the railroad began planning a special celebration for the Carousel as well. In 2010, the W.E. "Bill" Mason Carousel turned 100 years old and thus Carousel Day was born. Just like Billy Jones Day, Carousel Day is an open donation to ride the carousel all day long.

Carousel Day will kick off Rider Appreciation Month on July 5th. From 10:30am to 4:30pm, the Carousel will be an open donation all day. Patrons will name the price of each carousel ride by donating as little or as much as they can. Standard pricing will apply for the train and Snack Shack. Face painting will also be available from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

This year we will be introducing T-Shirt Fridays to Rider Appreciation Month. Starting July 10th, every

Friday will be T-shirt Fridays! Wear any T-shirt from the BJWRR Retail Shop, and ride the train for free on Fridays. T-shirts must be official BJWRR shirts, and must be worn per person to warrant a free ride. T-shirt Fridays will go from 10:30am to 4:30pm.



Our Wildcat design available in child and adults sizes. Also available in black. Visit Bjwrr.org to see our latest t-shirt designs! Or visit us in person during normal hours of operation!

To conclude Rider Appreciation Month will be Billy Jones Day. From 10:30am to 4:30pm, all rides on the train will be an open donation. Ride aboard the legendary #2 Steam Engine, and join us around noon for a special scheduled double header.

All proceeds made on these special days, and every day, will help keep the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad alive for future generations. Every penny we make goes back into preserving our train, carousel, and snack shack. We are still here and operating because of you!

From all of us at the BJWRR we would like to give our sincerest Thank You, and we hope to see you riding the rails soon. ♠

Visit BJWRR.org for our latest collection of retail items including t-shirts, hats, pins, and patches! Retail is sold from our ticket booth during normal hours of operations! All info is at bjwrr.org!

Volunteer Spotlight! Marion Steeg & Odessa Pullins



*Marion Steeg and Odessa Pullins
begin work on the red chariot.*

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

If you have visited the W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel these last few weeks, you may have noticed that the red chariot received quite a make over.

After reading an article about a woman who learned how to restore carousel horses, Marion Steeg went in search of her own carousel to restore. Lucky for us, she found the BJWRR and W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel. Along with her friend, Odessa Pullins, the two took on one of the more daunting tasks to restore one of the chariots on the carousel.

IHQ: What made you want to get involved with this organization?

MS: I have loved “merry-go-rounds” all my life, and decided I would love to paint a carousel horse. Little did I know how much sanding and other work it would require before I ever lifted a brush.

IHQ: How has your experience been so far?

MS: Working on the carousel has been great! We have worked hard, learned a lot, and had a lot of fun.

OP: I have really enjoyed the people who work for the railroad, they have been extremely helpful in any way they can. Mostly encouragement.

IHQ: What do you hope to accomplish at the BJWRR and Carousel?

OP: To contribute to the community, keep something old looking new and beautiful.

MS: I can’t wait to actually paint a horse, maybe two or three before I’m done. I hope the work we do helps to preserve this beautiful carousel and bring smiles to the kid’s faces. And I hope it encourages others to help out because at the rate we are going the restoration won’t be finished in my lifetime!

Marion Steeg is retired from a life of working for social and economic justice. She worked in education, teaching multi-cultural pre-school and adult labor classes in the labor movement for the United Farm Works Union.

Odessa Pullins graduated from San Jose State with a Psychology and behavioral science degree, and a masters in criminal justice. She enjoys working with her hands. She loves the outdoors and finds it hard to stay indoors for any amount of time.

Both have been a great addition to our volunteer base at the railroad, and have already made such an impact. Take a look at the beautiful work they completed on the red chariot. ♠

See the pictures of their beautiful work on page 5!

Pictures of the Red Chariot Restoration. Pictures from Odessa Pullins.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 26TH -- "BILLY JONES" DAY

In honor of the man who founded our railroad, the BJWRR will host open donations for the train all day. Guests can "pay what they want" to ride the train. All proceeds benefit the BJWRR.

AUGUST 16TH -- START OF FALL SCHEDULE

Beginning on August 16th, the train and carousel will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30am until 4:30pm. The carousel will additionally be open Friday from 10:30am until 3:00pm. All times are weather permitting.

AUGUST 22ND -- "END OF SUMMER NIGHT RIDE" PASTA DINNER

Bring summer to a close with a delicious spaghetti dinner and evening train ride, all provided by the BJWRR. Dinner is \$8.00 and starts at 5:30pm. No reservation required. Ride tickets extra.

SEPTEMBER 7TH -- LABOR DAY

BJWRR will be open Monday, September 7th from 10:30am until 4:30pm in observance of Labor Day.

SEPTEMBER 25TH -- SCREEN ON THE GREEN

Town of Los Gatos Presents Family movie night! Show starts at 7:30pm! Before the show, starting at 6:00pm come ride the train and carousel! Then get all your movie snacks in our snack shack before finding a cozy spot on the lawn!

For further information on events, visit our website at www.bjwrr.org,

or call 408-395-7433.

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. "Bill" Mason Carousel, Inc.

General inquiries and correspondence to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad & W.E. "Bill" Mason Carousel, this newsletter, or its Board of Directors should be addressed to:

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EMAIL: info@bjwrr.org

Persons interested in volunteering in the machine shop may also call (408) 395-7433.

Visit our website at www.bjwrr.org for further updates and information.

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working with the cooperation of the Town of Los Gatos and the Santa Clara County Parks Office. Contributions are tax deductible.