From the President’s Caboose
Doug Sporleder
President, Board of Directors

Hello everyone and Happy New Year. I hope you all have recovered from the frantic holiday season. The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and W. E. “Bill” Mason Carousel experienced its best Holiday Train season in five years; setting sales records in concession and overall income. It was a very busy time, with wonderful work by our Staff! This provided a good start to the upcoming year of 2018.

2017 definitely came with its ups and downs. The weather put a serious damper on most of our season, and we experienced some major repair project with our carousel. After a routine inspection found a major deficiency in the main shaft of the carousel, we searched for help in how to get the problem fixed. We found a firm named Historic Carousels from Hood River, Oregon that had the necessary expertise to fix our historic carousel. It was a four day project, and when completed the Carousel operated better than it has in years. Finding expertise and parts for our 100 year plus machinery is not easy. We were very fortunate to find the right firm to do the work.

A second project finished last year was the building and completion of a new ticket booth and Carousel Horse workshop. We are now able to have two people working on the horses at the same time.

The Tuesday Crew (our Volunteers) did their usual outstanding work throughout the year. They keep all of our rolling stock and facilities in tip top condition.

At our Annual Business Meeting last December the Board of Directors elected to return myself as President, JP Sheehan as Vice President and elected Dee Constanti to be our Secretary. Dee will replace Bob Hubbard who moved out of the area. We thank Bob for his years of service to the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad.

We also get outstanding support from the Town of Los Gatos and the County of Santa Clara as well as many businesses and service clubs in the communities of Los Gatos and Campbell. We would not be as successful an operation as we are, without the help of Ace Hardware, Economy Lumber, the Lions and Rotary Clubs and others who help. Without the assistance of A Tool Shed we wouldn’t be able to do many of our construction projects and participate in community events like the Christmas Parade and the Carol of Lights. Thank you to all who continue to support us.

♠
Chief Engineer’s Shop
Highlighting the railroad’s accomplishments in 2017

Bill Church
Chief Engineer

Well another year has passed and as usual it’s been a busy one. We’ve had no major delays in our operation, despite the fact the #2502 was down for repairs for most of the year. We had to rely heavily on the #3502 to perform most of our operational needs. Both our steam locomotives performed quite well for the time they were used. Our tracks have given us some issues, but our crews have worked their magic. The Carousel has been showing its age this year requiring the fabrication of some parts.

The #2 steam locomotive has been very reliable this year. Early in the year we overhauled the tender. Replacing our two 45 year old air tanks and installing new ASME rated 10gal tanks. At the same time the tenders trucks were modified to a roller bearings and original bearing journal covers modified to fit over the new roller bearing to maintain the original look. All new hoses were installed for the fuel, water, and air systems.

The #5 had a good year being very reliable. There were some modifications done in order to improve the performance. One was re-piping the steam operated air pump. This improved the air output of the pump. Our original Chicago Hydrostatic Lubricator was very pragmatic from the beginning. We found an older Senior Lubricator online that was in great condition only requiring new seals and glass tubing and has functioned perfectly.

The #2502 has been down for the entire season due to old electrical control systems. So the entire dash was improved with new gauges and improved control circuits. When the electrical system was finished it was found that the fuel supply system was not functioning properly. The injector pump and injector were found to be quite worn so the two were sent out to be rebuilt. At this time the locomotive is up and running ready to be put back in service.

The #3502 has been the go-to locomotive for the season. We’ve had to do a few minor repairs such a new fuel pump. Also all three of our Diesels have been fitted with ditch lights. These lights will be very helpful during night runs and better illuminate our track. They will also wig- wagg when the bell is applied which we turn on when entering and leaving the station; this will add more visibility for safety.

Car#1 car was refinished with new paint on the interior and exterior of the car. Seat slats were either resurfaced or replaced, and have now begun work on car #2.

The Carousel has been giving us a few problems this season. During inspection it was found that the center pole support had sheared some mounting bolts. An

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outside crew was brought in from Oregon to do the repairs. Later on, one of the eight conical gears had severe back lash which caused one of the cranks rods to shear. Two gears were removed disabling the up and down movement of two opposing bank of horses. We had the gears digitally imaged in a 3D rendering which will allow the gear to be reproduced in a local machine shop.

Track work is ongoing as usual. This season wild temperature shifts caused a lot of movement on the track. This plus the daily runs and the heavier steam locomotives has caused settling and flattening of the track. The diligent track crew was able to level the track and adjust the super elevation on many of our curves.

In closing, it’s been a very productive year. Thanks to our reliable and talented Tuesday volunteers, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad will continue to bring enjoyment and an educational experience to our new and loyal riders. If anyone wishes to contribute their talents to helping our railroad continue to operate please visit bjwrr.org or by reaching us on our direct line at 408-395-2800. ♦
Day and Billy Jones Day serving as bookends with T-shirt Fridays squeezed right in between. We closed out summer with our annual End of Summer Night Ride Pasta Dinner with good crowds as well.

The Pumpkin Train was a monster event this year, and I mean monster as in the crowds were huge and so were the pumpkins! We broke records for ridership across the board, as well concession and overall income. Overall the turnout was fantastic and really helped us finish out our fiscal year with strong numbers.

The Holiday Train was also a great event with a fantastic turnout! I want to give a big shout out to A tool Shed for their continued support. If it were not for their support the railroad could not put on such events and keep pricing relatively low. We owe them a big thank you for their tremendous help.

As we look ahead to 2018, we are hoping for a busy season with even better and possibly more events. We are always working on providing fun events outside of our normal operations. This year we also have a fundraising campaign that will be fun and interactive to supporters and patrons alike. Stay tuned for more information as we fine-tune the details.

The railroad will continue to provide a great day out on the rails, and will always strive to keep pricing affordable. As you know, with current economic changes there may come a time in the near future when pricing will have to increase slightly. We are a non-profit organization so any increase will only ensure that we can still afford the costs of running the organization.

Once again, we would like to extend a very warm thank you to all our benefactors for their continued support, as well as all of the families who come and visit us throughout the year. Happy Rails ♠

Don’t forget to give us a follow on all the major social media platforms. Stay updated with the latest news from your home grown railroad!

Join Our Team!
The BJWRR is always looking for enthusiastic people to help run the railroad!

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

Volunteers Needed!!
Whether your passion is volunteering, railroads, history, or working with children, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad has something to offer for persons interested in getting involved within the community.

The Railroad is always looking to add engineers to the roster. Engineers begin training on the diesel engines, and then can work their way up to engineering the steam engines. The winter season is a great time for engineers to train as we mostly run the diesel engines, and by the time spring rolls around they may even be ready to begin training on the steam engines. Scheduling is flexible and is up to the volunteer and what they can accommodate, all we ask is that you are scheduled once per month to remain active. Visit us in person on Saturdays and Sundays to see how much fun you could be having by engineering at the railroad! Visit us at bjwrr.org for all information.

If engineering isn’t really your thing, then let us know what is so we can find a great project for you. We are always looking for maintenance workers, gardeners, barbecue cooks and event catering. Volunteers are the life line of this organization, and we simply could not do what we do without their support and their talents. Be a part of a wonderful tradition in the community of Los Gatos and beyond. Join our team today!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Rosie Balistreri
Chief Operating Officer

As you all know, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and W.E. Bill Mason Carousel has been a non-profit organization since 1968. We have always relied on our volunteers for upkeep of all that you see in our train station; from locomotive work to grounds, they do it all.

Another very important factor at the railroad are the employees. Without them, we wouldn’t be able to have our snack shack available with yummy treats, no one to yell the very loud “All Aboard!” for each train ride, no one to lower the gates and ensure safety rules are being followed.

If it weren’t for our volunteers and employees, the railroad would not be what it is today.

With the never ending changes in regards to students going off to college or graduating college and starting their career, we’ve had some trouble with hiring new employees. The special thing about the railroad is that we hire mature 14 year olds. This is a great first job for many people from all walks of life. It’s mostly weekend work with hours increasing during the summer. The work is outside with kids and adults all around.

The experience these teens take with them is endless; from preparing food, to handling money and not to mention, increasing their customer service skills. As young as they are, they are here and willing to put a smile on our customers faces. As one of our managers has stated, “we are the local Disneyland for all to enjoy at a reasonable price”. Working here is simply, fun.

With the turnover rate being high, we are always accepting applications and interviewing new employees. If you are interested or know someone who is, come see us at the Campbell Community Center on Friday, February 9th from 3:30 to 5:30 for more information about what we do at the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad! We can’t wait to meet you! ♠

Campbell Community Center is located at 1W. Campbell Ave. C-31 Campbell, CA 95008
Notable Contributions from 2017

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel would like to thank the following benefactors for their contributions and continued support to the railroad:

- A Tool Shed Rentals
  Robert Butterfield
- Jerry & Mary Clouse
- Kay Mason Duff
- Paul Gardner
- C.B. Hannegan’s
- Los Gatos Community Foundation
- Los Gatos Lions Club
- Los Gatos Meats & Smokehouse
- Los Gatos Rotary Club
- Glenn McGhee
- Ed Newman and Newman Steel
- Olander Family Foundation
- Geraldine Peters
- Virginia Peters
- John Miles & Priscilla Peters
- Phil Reader
- John & Rena Saunders

Without your continued generosity we could not do what we do!

Thank you!

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible. If you are interested in making a contribution to the railroad, please contact us by writing to BJWRR, P.O. Box 234, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0234 or calling (408) 395-RIDE. You may also email us at info@bjwrr.org for donation information. Your contribution will help ensure that the railroad and carousel continue to serve the community for future generations.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MARCH 16th – START OF SPRING SEASON**
The Train and Carousel are open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 to 4:30. The carousel is also open Fridays from 10:30am to 3:00pm. All times are weather permitting.

**APRIL – STEAM SEASON RESUMES**
Engine #2 and Engine #5 take on the bulk of weekend operations. Check on our Facebook for daily updates of what engines will run.

**JUNE 9th – FLAPJACKS & RAILROAD TRACKS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Help us kick off summer with early morning rides on the train & carousel, and a delicious pancake breakfast. Our 11th Annual Flapjacks & Railroad Tracks Pancake Breakfast is set for June 9th from 8:00am to 10:15am.

**JULY – RIDER APPRECIATION MONTH**
We take the whole month of July to thank you! Carousel day and Billy Jones day will serve as bookends to our rider appreciation month, with T-shirts Friday right in between. More info to come.

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**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:

BJWRR
P.O. Box 234
Los Gatos, CA 95031-0234

Office line: (408) 395-RIDE
Shop line: (408)395-2800

EMAIL: info@bjwrr.org

Persons interested in volunteering in the machine shop may also call (408) 395-2800 or by visiting bjwrr.org

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. All contributions are tax deductible.