Winter Is Coming
Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

Starting November 3rd, the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad will move into its winter season with the Train and Carousel open Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The BJWRR does not have much planned for the month of November, as we prepare for the Holiday Train; however we do have one extra day of operation on Friday, November 23rd. The Train and Carousel will be open the day after thanksgiving from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

In December, you will see a lot of schedule changes due to Fantasy of Light events. The railroad will remain closed December 1st and 2nd due to the Fantasy of Lights walk through event in Vasona Park.

The Holiday Train will kick off on Thursday, December 6th and will run Thursdays through Sundays until December 23rd from 6:00 to 9:00pm. All times as always are weather permitting.

The main entrance of Oak Meadow Park will be closing at 8:45pm during the event, and tickets will stop selling by that time as well. Tickets for the event will be $5.00 for the train, and $3.00 for the carousel. There will also be an Express Ticket available for $7.00 that includes one train ride and 1 carousel ride. The snack shack will also be in operation from 6:00 to 8:30pm and will serve snacks, sweets, and hot beverages. These evenings tend to get very cold so we encourage you bringing blankets for the train ride.

For more information on the event please visit bjwrr.org or like us on facebook.
How Does BJWRR Do…
Passenger Car Refurbishing
Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

In late 2015 the BJWRR received a generous donation from a former volunteer to build a new passenger car. A dedicated group of board members and volunteers took on the challenge of building the passenger car, Live Oak, from scratch. The Tuesday volunteer crew that took on the building on Live Oak picked up different skill sets that produced a stunning passenger car. After the completion of Live Oak, the crew noticed that the other passenger cars were in need of some serious attention, and took on the challenge of refurbishing each passenger car. Since the completion of Live Oak in December of 2016, the crew has now refurbished 3 cars with the most recent car being completed this month.

The process starts with taking off all of the seat slots. Once the slats are off the seats, they run through a planer to get fresh and smooth wood, once the wood is smooth the slats receive a clear coat. The very top of the cars are hand sanded and also receive a clear coat.

The inside and outside of the cars are sanded down, get primed and painted, then are sanded down again and painted once more. The process has a lot of waiting time as paint needs to dry before any other work can be done to the car. The metal sides on the car entrance receive a fresh coat of paint, if they are still in good condition. On a few of the cars rust was found on the metal sides, so they had to go through a sand blaster. During the refurbishment, large maintenance projects are taken care of as well. For instance, the latest passenger car received new air cups for the break system in the cars. Maintenance on the car trucks is completed often, but when the car is down for refurbishing this is the perfect opportunity to ensure bigger projects are completed. Once the last coat of paint is completed and dried, the car receives number plaques, and the BJWRR logo, and is ready to roll out.

The group of volunteers who have taken on this project have learned a great deal with each refurbishment, which has cut down on the number of months each refurbishment takes. When Live Oak was built it took almost a year to complete, and that was all done by scratch. When car #1 went for refurbishment it took five months for the crew to complete. Car #2 took four months to complete, and the latest car, car #4 only took two and a half months to be completed. Car #3 is the last car that will receive refurbishment, while car #5 will be a spruce up. The cars are looking great, and the volunteers have done a fantastic job. ♦
We (still) Need You!
Locomotive Engineers needed at BJWRR
Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad would never be what it is today without the assistance of thousands of volunteers throughout the years.

Volunteers are the life-blood of this organization. They make up nearly three-quarters of our entire staff, and are responsible for a number of elements that keep both the train and carousel running. Locomotive engineers have a unique responsibility, as we literally cannot operate without them.

We are still in need of locomotive engineers to build up our roster, and winter is the perfect season for training to be completed as the Diesel engines run the most this season. Scheduling will be based on volunteer preference, but we do require a minimum of once per month to remain active on the roster. Locomotive Engineer shifts vary. Shifts are broken down per season, per engine, per available shift.

Diesel engines are fairly simple to operate, but it’s important to note that anyone interested in becoming an engineer must be 18 years or older, and be able to sit for long periods of time. Training begins with diesel engines, where engineers will need to accumulate throttle time before they can be signed off by proper personnel. Once an engineer has been signed off, and has put in their hours on the diesel, they can begin training on steam engine #2. As mentioned before, the winter season is the perfect time for training, as the diesels run often giving student engineers plenty of time for training as well as meeting the throttle time requirement to begin steam training. The shifts can be planned just right, so when the steam season begins those new engineers are ready to take on steam training.

Steam engines are bit more complicated than diesel engines, but also a lot more fun to run. Training on steam is quite extensive, as there are many moving parts on the engine. It’s important that all engineers show a lot of competency in running this engine. Once engineers are signed off on engine #2 they may begin training on engine #5.

Persons interested in becoming a locomotive engineer can either call our shop at 408-395-2800, or visit bjwrr.org. Click on get involved for all the information. They may also email us directly at info@bjwrr.org to set up a tour of the facilities and to see the engines and the organization first hand.

We look forward to adding you to our roster! ♠
**Calendar of Events**

**November 3rd – Winter Season Starts**
Operations Saturdays and Sundays only. Train & Carousel: 11:00am to 3:00pm. Snack Shack: 11:00am to 2:30pm. BBQ: 11:00am to 2:00pm and will be serving a modified menu. All times are weather permitting.

**November 23rd – Special Open**
Join us the day after Thanksgiving! Train & Carousel: 11:00am to 3:00pm. Snack Shack: 11:00am to 2:30pm. BBQ: 11:00am to 2:00pm and will be serving a modified menu. All times are weather permitting.

**December 1st & 2nd – BJWRR Closed**
The BJWRR will remain closed on December 1st & 2nd due to Vasona Park closer for Fantasy of Lights Walk Through Event.

**December 6th – 23rd – The Holiday Train**
Join us for the 18th annual The Holiday Train starting December 6th and running through the 23rd. Thursdays through Sundays only from 6:00 to 9:00pm. All times are weather permitting.

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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.