Water, Water Everywhere
Huge water leak plagues the railroad

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The rainy weather definitely put a dent in operations at the railroad this winter, but the rain wasn’t the only water that caused some problems. At the end of last year, we experienced a large water leak that spanned from the barbecue area all the way to the middle of the train tracks. We had a difficult time locating exactly where the leak was, and an even harder time finding a company that could do the work for us at a reasonable price. After weeks of research we finally found Eldridge & Sons Plumbing, and they were able to take care of the work in a timely matter.

The location of the leak was extremely difficult to get to. We were unsure if the leak was underneath the barbecue area or underneath the train tracks. We began by digging a trench in the barbecue pit to see if we could spot the leak, and upon unearthing the area we found that the pipe was quite old and in need of a complete overhaul.

A brand new pipe was installed from just outside the barbecue area to the edge of the train house. Eldridge & Sons Plumbing took care of all excavation and pipe replacement. They were able to get the pipe replaced efficiently without disturbing too much around the area. Here is hoping that the rest of the season is a dry one! ♦

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Chief Engineer Corner

Recap on the busy winter the volunteer maintenance crew had.

Bill Church
Chief Engineer

The Railroad is in full swing once again after the heavy rain season has ended. Weekends are back with our usual crowds and demands to keep our rolling stock and Carousel up and running for our guests.

Locomotive #2 has been going thru an extensive overhaul. Earlier last year it experienced a leak in the smoke box. The Firemen’s side down tube that supplies steam to the cylinder ruptured. When we shut down the steam season in December it was decided to rebuild both down tubes and overhaul the cross head and slide valve linkage.

The smoke box down tubes ended up being quite difficult. Over the years the pipe connections have practical corroded together making it extremely difficult to remove. Our Tuesday volunteers have spent many hours with much frustration trying to remove the fittings. Many techniques have been used to loosen these joints. Solvents, heat and cooling have all been used with little success. They finely succumbed to cutting and collapsing of the pipes and finally we were successful in removing the last pipe.

The cross head has given our machinists equally as much problems. The bronze guides required fabrication and the slipper the top portion of the cross head required being sent to Babbitt Bearing for new surfacing. All of the machining was done in a trial and error technique. This was due to the lack of any drawing or dimensions and everything had to be custom made with many trail fittings and resulting in a finished product.

The valve linkage also was rebuilt with many of the bushing, sleeves, spacers and bearing surfaces replaced.

A look inside Engine #2 repairs. The repairs have proven to be difficult, and time consuming.

The #5 Locomotive has required minimal repairs and has been performing all of the steam operation so far this year. We did have to modify the hydrostatic lubricators (a device used to supply lubrication thru the steam supply line to the air compressor) making it more reliable.

This year also saw the completion of the last passenger car to be overhauled. This process involved removing all the seat slats then sanding and refinishing them with varithane. The interior sides where sanded primed and painted brown. Exterior sides were also sanded and primed and painted in Green. All oak railing and accent pieces were also sanded and finished with varithane.

The diesel engines have been operating well, with a few issues here and there. The crew were able to take care of them in a timely matter, so they could take on the bulk of operation.

Overall, we have had a busy winter even if the weather did not allow us to operate much. Between the locomotive needs and the carousel, here is hoping to a busy and prosperous spring and summer season. ♦
New Payment System at the BJWRR
We will be accepting credit cards!

Francesca B. Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad has joined the 21st century and will be accepting all major credit cards at the start of June. The Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad has been in business for almost 49 years, operating as a small non-profit organization with a mostly volunteer crew. It has been somewhat difficult to adhere to the ever changing technology that has taken over within the last decade, but finally here we are.

The new payment system will take all major credit cards, as well as cash payments. We hope that this system will streamline the process of purchasing tickets and retail, as well as all the tasty snacks we have available in our snack shack. With the updated system, we would like to warn you that you may see some price increases with certain menu items. Our goal is to always provide reasonable pricing for our valued guests, but some costs will be beyond our control.

Ticketing options will also change a bit to ensure that pricing remains reasonable. Train and Carousel will still remain $3.00 per person per ride, and children under 3 will still be free with a paid adult.

Our group rate will change the most out of all of the options we provide. Group rates must be purchased in increments of 30 or more, and each ticket will cost $2.00 so there is a discount available for those larger groups. Group tickets may be used on the train or carousel. There is still no need to purchase these tickets ahead of time!

The biggest change in ticketing will be the discontinuation of discount cards. We will no longer be selling discount cards, and in its place you may purchase gift cards. You choose the amount to place on the gift card, and you may use it at either the ticket booth or the snack shack.

We will still be redeeming discount cards for tickets if you purchased them before May 19th.

FLAPJACKS & RAILROAD TRACKS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED: 8:00 to 10:15AM
BREAKFAST OPTIONS:
LARGE BREAKFAST: $8.00
Includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links
SMALL BREAKFAST: $6.00
Includes: 1 pancake, 2 sausage links
A la cart items will also be available!

Train & Carousel will run from 8:00am to 4:30pm
Standard ticket pricing will apply.
For more info please visit bjwrr.org
It has been almost a year since the W.E. “Bill” Mason Carousel unveiled the Adopt a Horse Fundraiser. Within two months of the fundraiser going live, all 32 horses had been adopted. We are so thankful of all the support the fundraiser received and we are looking forward to its continued success.

The first horse that will be available for adoption will be Finn, and he will be available on May 28. Finn just received a fabulous makeover, and some much needed TLC. When Finn went down for refurbishing, a lot of problems were found with his back legs as well as one of his ears. Our talented restorer Cheryl Stuermer was able to fix all the problem areas, and give Finn a fresh new look! If you are interested in adopting Finn, please visit the Adopt a Horse Fundraiser page at bjwrr.org.

What did we hope to accomplish with adopt a horse? There are constant needs that arise for the carousel that don’t always get the attention they deserve. Items like paint for the horses, as well as tails, and other items that may seem trivial, but are actually quite important. With the funds from Adopt a Horse, we ensure that those items are taken care of right away.

What’s next? The carousel will need to undergo some major improvement within the next year. The biggest area that needs improvement is the ring gear at the very top of the carousel. The ring gear controls all the gears that allow the horses to go up and down. As you may be aware, for the last few years there are two rows of horses that remain stationary. We had to remove one gear due to wear and tear, as the gear was creating an unpleasant ride. In order to keep the carousel balanced, a secondary gear on the opposite side had to be removed as well. We are starting to find the wear and tear on the other gears, and want to address the issues before it become a bigger problem. We have been researching gear manufacturing for the last few years, and finding parts to replace a 110 year old carousel has been quite a difficult tasks. We are optimistic that we have found an avenue that we can pursue with these gears, and funds raised through Adopt a Horse will help tremendously on this endeavor.

To find out which horses will be available for adoption, please visit the Adopt a Horse Fundraiser page on our website at bjwrr.org. All adoptions are able to be renewed, so some horses may not become available this year. If you wish to donate without wanting to adopt a horse, please pick the friends of the carousel donation on the form. All donations are tax deductible, and a tax letter will be sent to you after the adoption has been finalized.

We would like to extend a big thank you for the continued support, and hope that this fundraiser is just as successful as the last. ♦
Notable Contributions from 2018

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
Los Gatos Community Foundation
Los Gatos Lions Club
Los Gatos Meats & Smokehouse
Los Gatos Rotary Club
Mayo Electric
Glenn McGhee
Ed Newman and Newman Steel
Olander Family Foundation
Virginia Peters
John Miles & Priscilla Peters
Phil Reader
John & Rena Saunders

& everyone who adopted a horse from our Adopt a Horse Fundraiser!

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**

**JUNE 8th – FLAPJACKS & RAILROAD TRACKS**  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
Kick off summer with a delicious pancake breakfast and early morning rides on the train and carousel. Breakfast will be served from 8:00am to 10:15am. Train and Carousel will run from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

**JUNE 10th – START OF SUMMER SEASON**  
The train and carousel will be open daily from 10:30am to 4:30pm!

**FRIDAYS IN JULY – T-SHIRT FRIDAYS!**  
July is Rider Appreciation Month at the BJWRR. T-shirt Fridays begin on July 5th, and will take place every Friday in July. Wear any BJWRR t-shirt and get free admission on the train. Official BJWRR shirts valid only.

**JULY 7th – CAROUSEL DAY**  
The carousel celebrates its 108 year old birthday! In its honor, guests can “pay what they want” to ride the carousel. All proceeds benefit the carousel. 10:30am to 4:30pm.

**JULY 28th – 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. 10:30am to 4:30pm.

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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.