

Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society

All Aboard!!

The first month of 1995 is already upon us. We hope that the new year has started out to be a good one for you.

We wanted to remind you that the SPRS will be having it's monthly workday at Swanton Ranch on **Saturday, January 14, 1995**. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet **Wednesday, January 11** at 6:00 p. m. in Lab #7 at Cal Poly.

December turned out to be an eventful month. At Cal Poly, the #1913 locomotive is still being disassembled. This past month was spent removing the outside fairing along with all of the lagging. The cab and all of the **gauges have also been removed**. It won't be long before **the boiler can be removed to be sent off and retubed**. As most of you are aware, a caboose from Al Smiths' house in Los Gatos was to be moved up to Swanton. So the following workday at Swanton was busy with a crew preparing a site at the end of the existing caboose for this one when it arrives. Another crew spent the day working on the motor car. In the past it has been jumping the tracks quite frequently so it was decided to pull the axles and regauge them. These axles are currently at Cal Poly where students will work on them. It's also planned to use roller bearings on these axles along with the existing bearing boxes. Also busy at work that Saturday was the track crew and thanks to a few other members, the wood stove in the roundhouse was repaired. So now we can stay warm these next few cold months.

On Wednesday, December 21, a crew consisting of Bob Nichols, Ed Carnegie, Elmer Stone, Bob Morehouse, Bill McNab and Greg Duff met at Los Gatos to ready the caboose for moving to Swanton. Bob Nichols had previously made the arrangements for the crane and moving trucks so everything went real smooth and by 3 P. M. that afternoon, the caboose was set at it's temporary place at Swanton. At the January workday the permanent set of tracks will be placed and the caboose will be rolled onto those tracks and coupled to the caboose that is sitting there now.

The last activity of the year was the New Year's Eve run. A warm bon fire and Ken McCrarys' traditional hot mulled cider were enjoyed by about 125 new year revelers. Thanks go to Bud McCrary for supplying the wood for the fire. Ed & Mary Ann Carnegie supplied the fixings for "Samores" and there was even some clam chowder & garlic bread, from Marty & Carol Campbell, for those who were still hungry. Everyone enjoyed taking the last train ride of 1994 and soon after midnight the "party-goers" took the first train ride of 1995. For those of you that haven't taken a train ride at midnight, we encourage you to plan on it next year. As you travel through the woods it's pitch black and all you see is the glow among the trees from the firebox. What a way to start the new year. We hear **that after the locomotives were shut down in the round house, a group continued to celebrate in the Red house with movies of the caboose move.**

Dues for the upcoming year are now being collected. (\$25.00 for regular members and \$15.00 for students). **Please make checks payable to Swanton-Pacific Railroad Society (SPRS) and mail as soon as possible, or bring to the January meeting.** These dues help cover mailing costs and this year will go towards everyone's own name tag. If you are at all interested in seeing this railroad succeed we need your support. There will be some exciting times during 1995 and it will be important for you to be involved. As a reminder, we meet the second Saturday of the month at the Swanton Pacific Ranch and also the second Wednesday evening prior to that weekend, at Cal Poly. Anyone who is interested may join.

We hope to see you **Saturday, January 14, starting at 9:00 a.m.** at the round house, rain or shine.

Jim Mathey