



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2009



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Steam Train Operating Season Opens April 4-5 *Calaveras and Tuolumne County Residents Ride FREE All Weekend!*

JAMESTOWN, Calif. – On Saturday and Sunday, April 4-5, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park in Jamestown will begin the first weekend of steam train operations for 2009. The ceremonies begin with a marching band and a raising of the flag at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Following a grand entrance and ceremonial whistle-blowing, steam-powered excursion trains will depart on-the-hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Visitors are encouraged to step aboard for a six-mile, 40-minute roundtrip ride along the rails of the famous “Movie Railroad,” passing through California’s scenic Gold Country. During opening weekend only, residents of Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties ride for **free** with proof of residency!

As part of the weekend festivities, the park is offering many special activities as well. Starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday, visitors are invited to attend the “Early Bird” program and watch as the engine crew readies the locomotive for the day. The locomotive is started with the tossing of a burning rag into the firebox, then the crew works to fuel, lubricate and water the engine as the boiler is slowly brought up to temperature. Our knowledgeable guides will be on hand in the roundhouse to narrate every step of the process.

Throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, many special activities will be offered, including handcar and railcar rides, tours of the historic roundhouse and demonstrations of the historic belt-driven machine shop. Two special cars will be on display—a restored observation car, and the in-progress caboose restoration. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk on board and discuss the project with volunteer staff.

Also new this year is the introduction of a snack bar at the Park. Tony and Elfie Taylor, owners of the Twain Harte Snack Shack, will be offering light meals, ice cream and snacks in the carriage room. This new offering is yet another valuable service available to Park visitors who wish to spend the day fully exploring Railtown.

About Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

Known today as “The Movie Railroad,” Railtown 1897 State Historic Park has been featured in over 200 movies and TV productions. Operated by California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum, with financial assistance from the nonprofit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park offers special events and trains throughout the year. For more information, call (209) 984-3953 or visit the Railtown 1897 State Historic Park website at www.railtown1897.org.

For Special Events at the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks
Visit www.parks.ca.gov/capitaldistrict