

MAY 2008
NEWS LETTER NUMBER 15

AMADOR SAWMILL AND MINING ASSOCIATION

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A 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non-profit Ca. corporation

“The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be for public purposes: acquiring, restoring, and preserving authentic historic working sawmill and hard rock mining equipment for public education through display and demonstration, together with related activities.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET



L to R, Tom, Bill, John, Jerry



Watercolor of our sawmill



Sawmill crew group photo

The Amador Sawmill and Mining Association held its annual Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, April 12, 2008. In attendance were directors Bill Braun, Jerry Virtue, John Tower, and Tom Innes. Alan Langmuir, our news letter editor was also in attendance.

Since its inception, the Board has consisted of three members, Bill Braun, Jerry Virtue and John Tower. The Board recently voted to add two additional members and Tom Innes was elected to the Board to fill one of those two positions. Tom is the resident donkey puncher and has been operating the steam donkey during the last several Amador County Fairs. One advantage Tom brings to the Association is that he fits into the donkey boiler so stay bolts can be installed and riveted for proper installation.

At the board meeting the current financial report of the Association was presented. Whereas the Association assets are healthy, it is clear the cash position leaves much to be desired. Additional contributions are needed to keep the sawmill going forward. Please send any contribution to the Association at PO Box 1062, Plymouth, CA 95669.

Even though we are a non profit operation, almost half our budget goes for fees and insurance mostly relating to our truck. So the government and the attorneys have their hands out for their share before we do anything. This is the reason contributions are so important. We really do need help from our supporters.

The Association is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt non profit corporation. This means contributions to the Association may be deducted on your income tax return as a charitable deduction. While we are required to issue letters of acknowledgement for each donation of \$250 or more, we try to send letters for donations of \$50 or more. If you donate cash (not by check) we will gladly send a receipt for your records.

CUSTOM CUT ORDER HELPS HIKING CLUB

The Alpine Club of California, founded in 1913, purchased 1000 board feet of 1X12X16' of Ponderosa Pine then stacked it on a trailer and drove the load to the club's historic lodge near Echo Summit. The all wood lodge was built in 1920 as a road house to service the newly macadamized toll road over Echo Pass near Lake Tahoe, the old Meyers grade. Cars and trucks would stop and take in the superb view of the Lake Tahoe basin from 7365 feet. The club bought the lodge in 1952 and has been maintaining the lodge to Forest Service historic guide lines. This means circular saw marks on all sides of replacement wood and of the same species. They unloaded and stacked the load of 65 planks inside the lodge with lots of stickers for air drying the same day it was cut. They will have a work party at the lodge this spring so look up www.calalpineclub.org to get more information about their charming and picturesque Alpine Club Lodges and a list of activities and conservation projects they do. Our crew of 5 volunteers set up the mill on Friday connecting the 1954 Dodge HEMI Industrial Gas Engine by threading the belt under the 1904 Corliss steam engine to the main drive shaft. On Saturday the regular crew showed up and after a safety meeting by President Bill Braun and ran the mill with no brake downs. We finished the cut order by 3:30 and started to cut the re-saw pile looking for sizes we could use to finish the new mill roof. John tower loaded up all the sawdust for his horses.



Alpine Club Lodge at Lake Tahoe



1954 Chrysler and 100' drive belt



65 one by twelve's being chained down



Drive belt under steam engine



Turning the logs



Smell that fresh wood!

That first Ponderosa Pine log was a beautiful piece of Gods work, with no knots at all! Sawyer John Tower had the guys turn that log three times to set it just right on the carriage for that first cut. Dave Bibby had sharpened the inset teeth with a file using his keen eye and Bill Braun now set the HIMI on the governor at 800 RPM blade speed. Then we started to hear that belt slap noise each revolution of the belt lacing. John Hannum and his swamper John of the Alpine Club were ready with their trusty Dodge and hefty trailer ready to load up about 3250 lbs. of wood that matches their 1920's Lodge siding. Two not for profit organizations full-filling their Mission Statements and having **FUN!**

POTLUCK November 2007

The 6th annual year end potluck was held again at the Amador Fair Grounds in Plymouth. It was the culmination of a year full of highs and lows, lots of work and lots of fun. As usual a planned work day preceded the potluck dinner and the volunteers came in tired, somewhat dirty and very hungry as the task master wouldn't blow the whistle for a lunch break! But the dinner was worth the wait. The side dishes and desserts provided by the volunteers were super and made a great accompaniment to the excellent chicken dish that was prepared by Ken McCoy. Ken never fails to put a delicious main dish on the table. His culinary skills are top notch and we really appreciate his efforts. Many thanks from all of us Ken. As the Nez Perce Indians say – “skoocumchuck” – which translated means “good grub”. Jim Head once again provided an assortment of fine wines for us to enjoy with our meal. Those of us who enjoy the fruit of the vine were very happy indeed. I don't know – maybe it was the juice from the vines that made us so happy??

After dinner we were treated to a short musical interlude from Ken's wife Pam. She brought her guitar and sang some oldies but goodies from the past which MOST of us could relate to. Bill Braun said he had never heard of any of the songs before but I highly suspect the there was some denial going on.

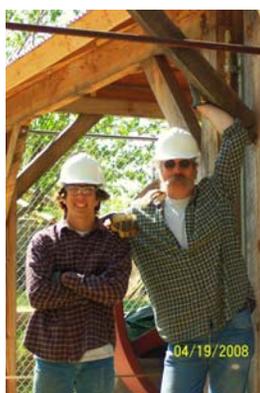
After the enjoyable break Bill Braun gave an update of the accomplishments of the past year and some of the plans in the works for the coming year for the Association. A need to find financial support is a real concern. The future activities of the Association depend on donations. He ended his short presentation by recognizing all of the volunteers for their many hours of hard work. Without all of you there would be no Association. The history and heritage of saw milling, mining, old engines and equipment which all of you are helping to preserve would disappear like so much of our past has already. And that is unacceptable. I think all of us have an obligation to preserve as much of the past as we can both collectively and individually. And finally – we all need to recognize Cathy Braun and give her a big thank you!

I know from first hand experience what she does as the wife of “head honcho” and it's NOT easy!! It pretty much is a thankless job – with lots expected and little in return. So Cathy – here's to you –THANKS FOR KEEPING BILL IN LINE AND DOING A GREAT JOB!

Submitted by Marianne Virtue



Dave Bibby



Jake and Jim



Jacking crew



Setting roof trusses

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

This is the first in what we hope will be a continuing series of brief articles profiling the volunteers that are the backbone of the Association.

Imagine it is 1890 deep in the forests of the gold country and volunteer James Allen is there, caulked boots, leather work gloves, wood shirt and no (!) hard hat, making lumber

James is our newest volunteer and he related to me during our interview that he had similar thoughts as he helped stack the 65 1X12's recently produced by the sawmill. His other thought was, "boy this is hard work!" He also volunteers at the Kennedy mine and it was there that he was recruited by Bill Braun to help at the sawmill. Both activities count toward the 10 hours of community service required for graduation. (Boy things have changes since 1962)

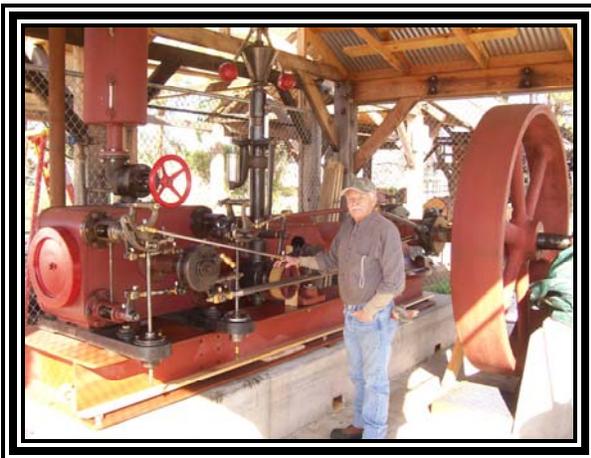
James is 17 years old and a senior at Amador High School. After graduation he hopes to attend American River College and then transfer to UCLA to enter the world of film making. James has indicated that he will consider continuing as a volunteer after graduation and is looking forward to this year at the Amador County Fair,

To sum up his experience James said "it's more work than I thought" and "it's all about teamwork."

See you at the Fair James.....

Submitted by: Ken McCoy

Amador Saw Mill and Mining Association
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Tom Innes and "BRUNO"