



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
Volume 16, Number 2 — Summer 1996

## “Steaming Summer” Is Aug. 10-11

An exciting weekend of live-steam miniature railroading is scheduled for Aug. 10-11. The occasion is the 10th anniversary of *Another Steaming Summer*, the annual event sponsored by **Toyota of Santa Barbara**. Hours each day will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum members are invited to come early (10-11 a.m.) and watch the engines being “steamed-up” in preparation for the day’s activities (**members and their accompanying guests only, please**).

This year’s event promises to be a marked departure from the preceding nine issues. The most obvious change is that, for the first time, *Steaming Summer* will be concentrated over a single weekend. All previous editions have covered numerous Saturdays, spread across several summer months.

Another change for '96 is that all *Steaming Summer* attendees will pay a single daily admission of \$2.50, which will entitle them to **unlimited rides** on the Goleta Short Line and handcar. Event planners are hoping that this format will encourage event-goers to come early, stay longer, and take greater advantage of the rides. The admission charge will apply to everyone, including those who elect not to ride; infants and any others who are unable to ride the miniature train will be admitted without charge, however. For late arrivals, the admission price will drop to \$1.50 after 3 p.m.

The most sweeping change in *Steaming Summer*, however, involves the greater number of steam locomotives and other equipment that will be on hand — to haul passengers on the Goleta Short Line or for display purposes. As of late May, when this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* went to press, the list of scheduled visiting equipment includes:

- **Gene Allen's** 4-4-0 American, a *Steaming Summer* favorite — a working 500-lb., coal-burning replica of an engine built in 1888 by the Cook Locomotive and Machine Co. of Patterson, New Jersey.
- An 0-6-0 switch-engine owned by **Ed Winnewisser** of Atascadero, which has visited shows and meets throughout California.
- An Allen Models 2-6-0 mogul, operated by **John Darby** of Rancho Cucamonga, based on an 18th-century locomotive that worked on the Wabash RR.
- A 1"-scale wrecking train, featuring an operating

steam-powered wrecker car, demonstrated by owner **Art Reiter** of Atascadero.

- A Little Engine's 2-6-0 mogul, owned by museum docent **Ronald Ferguson**.
- A G.E. steeple-cab switch-engine, visiting from Arroyo Grande, courtesy of **Doug Chancey**.

Also planned is an operating tabletop display of miniature stationary steam engines and steam-driven tools and devices.

The program will also include continuous free showings of railroad films, with an emphasis on steam power, including tutorials on how to operate and maintain a steam locomotive — all shown in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

**Goleta Lions Club** members will again be here, selling their delicious tri-tip sandwiches and “Depot Dogs,” with all proceeds going to the railroad museum.

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to enjoy the steam engines in action! This promises to be the greatest *Steaming Summer* ever — and a tremendous bargain for anyone who loves riding the little trains!

## Goleta Depot Saluted In “Great Railroad Stations” Book

A new book from the Preservation Press, *Great American Railroad Stations* by architectural historian Janet Greenstein Potter, contains brief narratives on more than 700 urban and rural rail stations from throughout the 50 states. Included is a vignette on Goleta Depot, featuring an informative 1955 photo unearthed in the Southern Pacific archives. Among the 31 California depots listed, Goleta is the sole representative from the Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo-Ventura counties area.

Limited copies of *Great American Railroad Stations* are available in the museum's Trackside Shop for \$29.95. Members receive their customary 10% discount. The museum store is open Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

## Goleta National Bank Sponsors “Free Rides for Dads”

All dads visiting the railroad museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, will be treated to free rides on the miniature train, courtesy of **Goleta National** (continued on page 2)

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**Bank.** Event hours will be 1 to 4 p.m.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at the bank's offices at 5827 Hollister Ave., or at the museum. They will also be available during the event at the ticket window in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. Ride tickets will also be available at regular prices for family members and the general public.

## Helpers Aid In Weed Abatement

The museum has been receiving help from several quarters in our continuing efforts to keep the weeds under control around the grounds. In March, students from Westmont College gave the museum a morning of their time, as part of the college's annual community-service program. The museum has also received about 150 hours of free labor over the past three months through the County Honor Farm and "SWAP," the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program.

## Museum Enjoys Hectic Quarter

The January-March '96 period proved to be the busiest first quarter in museum history. The museum hosted more than 2,500 visitors during the three months — a milestone figure. The 1,900 riders on the Goleta Short Line was another first-quarter record.

## Help Needed For Events, Visitor Service

As another busy summer season approaches, the museum needs extra helpers for a number of upcoming special events and holidays. These include July 4, *Another Steaming Summer* (Aug. 10-11), and *Depot Day* (Sunday, Sept. 29). If you are able to help on any of these days, please call the museum office at 964-3540.

The shortage of museum docents also continues. We are especially in need of weekend "agents" — volunteers who greet visitors in Goleta Depot's historic freight office and sell tickets for the Goleta Short Line miniature-train. There are also openings for engineer and conductor trainees on the train ride. Docents are expected to staff at least one Saturday or Sunday after-

noon (three hours) each month. Those interested in learning more about the docent program are urged to contact Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum any weekday afternoon.

## Museum Hosts Birthday Parties

The early months of 1996 have proven to be an especially popular time for birthday parties at the museum. Those celebrating birthdays here this year to date include **Justin Cox**, 3 years old, and **Andrew Kennedy**, 7 (in January); **Brian Anderson**, 4, **Zachary Salzberg**, and **Kelsey Stimson**, 3 (in February); **Sebastian Dewitte**, 3, **Grant Kramer**, 6, and **Brian Schoneberger**, 5 (March); **Laura Betz**, 4, **Zachariah Dirdak**, 3, and **Cory Nelson**, 4 (April); and **Sam Wilkinson**, 2 (May).

## Mid-State Bank Helps Library Program

Our museum is participating once again in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, thanks to a generous sponsorship gift from **Mid-State Bank**.

Last year, 3,394 area youngsters enrolled in the reading program and, of those, 915 read at least 20 books, earning a certificate good for two free rides on the Goleta Short Line — one for themselves plus a second for a friend or family member. The certificates were distributed to program participants through the Santa Barbara Central Library, as well as the Bookmobile and the Goleta, Santa Barbara Eastside, Solvang, Carpinteria, and Montecito Branch Libraries.

## Chamber Underwrites Brochure

An updated version of the museum's brochure is now ready for distribution to our visitors or to local tourists and recreation-seekers by means of rack-card dispensers found in area hotel lobbies and travel centers. The **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce**, through its tourism committee, provided the funds for printing the 10,000 brochures, which contain revised information on the museum, its schedule, programs, and activities.

We are grateful to the Goleta chamber for its continued support through the allocation of tourism-budget dollars for promotion of the railroad museum.

## Museum Boards The Internet

Information about the South Coast Railroad Museum can now be found on the Information Superhighway, thanks to an in-kind gift from Santa Barbara-based **Silcon Beach Communications**. For those with the requisite computer and communications

Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast  
Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research  
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Phone: (805) 964-3540  
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Page 4 photo by Diana Mina.  
Printing courtesy of Kimberly Press.

equipment, the museum's home page on the World Wide Web can be found at:

<http://www.silcom.com/~scrm/>

In a matter of only a few weeks, hundreds of web travelers from around the U.S. and the world have visited the museum's site. There, one will find current information on museum personalities, coming events and activities, schedule and programs, and history.

Our web pages, donated by **Trout Computing** of Goleta, were expertly crafted by **Dana Trout**, a longtime museum member and supporter.

You may now send E-mail messages to the museum at [scrm@silcom.com](mailto:scrm@silcom.com).

## Jr. Engineers Party Set For July

The fourth annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* will be held Wednesday, July 17, from 2 p.m. until 3:30. There will be free rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos, prizes and surprises, and delicious refreshments, including a Junior Engineers cake!

Don't miss this special annual summer get-together just for you! Please RSVP, 805-964-3540.

## Greetings To New Museum Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest Milepost 100 members: **Michael and Brenda Gartzke**, **Greater Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce**, **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services (Marci Friedlander)**, and **Specialty Crane & Rigging (Seth Hammond)**. Other new members include **Michael Couch (Contributing)**; **Susan Canter, Dr. Robert Halverson, Jay Harwitt, David Kuehn, and Lani Strobel (Active)**; and **Bob Shoemaker (Corresponding)**.

New Junior Engineer Club members include **Nicholas Behrman, Robert Joe Bethune, Richard Brown, Ethan Brown, John Butcher, Charlie Butcher, Vail Cook, Jackson Ronald Cook, Maurice Gregory, Daniel Henry, Timmy Killian, Tomofumi Kitamura, Trevor Leal, Raymond Michael Macy, John Eliot Macy, Georgia Ann Macy, Cory Nelson, Michael Plotkin, Zachary Powell, Hajir R. Sailors, Ghazaleh H. Sailors, Zachary E. Salzberg, Spencer R. Salzberg, Tyler J. Salzberg, Hanna Scholle, Ryne Scholle, Aaron Stone, Brandon Stone, Ryan Stout, Sean Stout, Sam Wilkinson, and Jenny Ziesenhenn**.

## Short Line Receiving Improved Storage

Museum volunteer **Gene Allen** has redesigned the storage system for the Goleta Short Line passenger cars. The new design will make it easier to assemble and disassemble the miniature train for daily operations. It will also make it possible to prepare a larger train, with four passenger cars. These roomier trains are becoming increasingly necessary, especially for days in which there are school visits or birthday parties at the museum. Construction of the improved storage system began in mid-May.

The project has benefitted from in-kind donations from both **Tilford Welding** and **Western Welding**.

## Administrative Assistant Post Filled

It is a pleasure to welcome our new administrative assistant, **Stephanie Dunkle**. A Southern California native, Stephanie is a graduate of Calif. State University, Long Beach, where she majored in art history.

Stephanie's responsibilities cover a wide range of office duties, including bookkeeping, records and telephone, and the museum's staffing calendar. While on duty during museum hours, Stephanie can usually be found behind the counter in the Trackside Shop.

## Karl Harris Joins Projects Effort

The museum has received a terrific boost recently from the volunteer efforts of **Karl Harris**. A skilled carpenter, Karl has busied himself with a variety of projects around the depot, including the fabrication of wheel chocks for the old operating platform scale that is shared with our visitors on special-event days. Karl has also been helping **Gene Allen** build the new storage for the Goleta Short Line passenger cars.

## Certificate Honors "First Riders"

First-time riders on the museum handcar now receive a handsome certificate, suitable for framing, which commemorates their achievement. The certificate, boldly titled "My First Handcar Ride!," features an old-fashioned handcar and, when completed, bears the authenticating signature of the museum staffer responsible for that day's handcar operations.

The certificate is also used for those who are still too young to ride the handcar. For reasons of safety, the museum requires that all handcar riders be at least 48 inches tall. For those under this limit, one edge of the "First Riders" certificate contains a ruler that can be used to measure the future rider's height. Instructions to parents explain how the uncompleted certificate can be attached to a wall at home and used to trace the youngster's growth. When the child reaches a height of 48 inches, he or she may return with a parent to the

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF THIS IS A GIFT, PLEASE USE RECIPIENT'S NAME HERE, GIVER'S NAME BELOW)

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter/renew my membership (mark desired category):

- Active - \$15 ( special rate for Docent Assn. members only - \$7)
- Sustaining - \$25  Contributing \$50
- Milepost 100 - \$100  Life Member - \$200
- Jr. Engineer's Club - \$15 ( add'l. member at same address - \$5)
- GIFT. Giver name for gift card: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK, PAYABLE TO:  
SOUTH COAST RR MUSEUM, 300 N. LOS CARNEROS RD.,  
GOLETA, CA 93117

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museum to receive that first handcar ride and have the certificate authenticated.

**Kinko's Graphics by Cole** has donated several hundred copies of the "First Ride" certificate, printed on an attractive, heavy-weight paper.

Free handcar rides are offered on the third Saturday of every month, throughout the year. Upcoming ride dates include June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17. Handcar rides will also be available during *Another Steaming Summer*, Aug. 10-11.

## Depot Day Will Be Sept. 29

The 14th annual *Depot Day*, the railroad museum's biggest annual celebration, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 29. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark the date on your calendar and watch for complete *Depot Day* details in the next issue of your *Depot Dispatch*.

If you have new items or professional services to donate for the *Depot Day* silent auction, please call the museum (805-964-3540).

## Regatta Fundraiser Helps Museum

The 15th Annual *Asphalt Regatta* was held Saturday, May 18 at Goleta Depot and the grounds of Lake Los Carneros County Park. The event is the principal fundraiser of the railroad museum, generating about 10% of all operating monies. The goal for 1996 is \$14,000.

As this *Depot Dispatch* issue goes to the printer, final totals for the event have not been tallied, although it appears that the record-setting pace of 1995 may well be surpassed. Watch for a final report in the fall *Dispatch*.

## Bunny Express Was Egg-Stravaganza

April 6, the occasion of the fourth annual *Easter Bunny Express*, was one of the busiest and certainly one of the bunniest days in museum history! The Goleta Short Line carried 647 passengers, the minia-

ture train's ninth largest day, due in major part to the special double-ended train with four passenger cars that was used. More than 200 riders enjoyed the handcar — also eclipsed by only eight previous days. Total attendance was estimated at 1,100 visitors.

As always, the day offered many pleasant diversions for young and old alike. The youngsters especially enjoyed visiting the Easter Bunny and collecting an egg-filled surprise. Stuffed-animal prizes were awarded to dozens of lucky attendees in the "Jack-Rabbit Junction" drawing. There were many other event souvenirs, including colorful springtime stickers and *Easter Bunny Express* coloring pages.

All ticketholders received cookies and lemonade served at "Harvey's House." There were also hot sandwiches available, prepared by members of the **Goleta Lions Club**, with all proceeds benefitting the museum.

Special thanks are owed not only to the Lions, but also to the **Hobby Depot** in Santa Barbara, **Kinko's Graphics by Cole** in Goleta, and **Robitaille's Fine Candies** in Carpinteria for serving as advance-ticket locations. **Kinko's** also contributed some of the printing services and **Country Meat Market** donated lemonade for the occasion.

Volunteers who helped make the day successful included "Bunny" **Bob Burtness**, **Dave Cavalli**, **Susan Cavalli**, **Jack Cogan**, **Mary Cole**, **Tom Cole**, **Ron Ferguson**, **Rose Ann Hill**, **Ed Leska**, **Kathy Leska**, **Bruce Morden**, **Jim Moyer**, **Bill Parker**, **Arlene Radasky**, **Dan Saragosa**, **Judy Savage**, **Jim Smith**, **Susan Smith**, **Lani Strobel**, **Hannah Strobel**, **Susan Strobel**, **Hilda Volkman**, and **Raul Zaragosa**.

Robert (standing) and Benjamin Adams visit Mr. Bunny,



### DONOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check, made payable to South Coast Railroad Museum, in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to: SOUTH COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM,  
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