



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 17, Number 2 — Summer 1997

“Steaming Summer” Is Aug. 9-10

Another thrilling weekend of live-steam miniature railroading is scheduled for Aug. 9-10 — the 11th annual *Another Steaming Summer*, sponsored by **Toyota of Santa Barbara**. Hours each day will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but 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**).

The 1997 edition of *Steaming Summer* will follow the format that proved so successful last year: The event will be held over a single weekend, with all attendees paying a single daily admission of \$2.50, entitling them to **unlimited rides** on the Goleta Short Line and handcar. The admission charge will again apply to everyone, including those who elect not to ride; while infants and any others who are unable to ride the train will be admitted without charge. For late arrivals, the admission price will drop to \$1.50 after 3 p.m.

Gene Allen is putting together another terrific assortment of steam locomotives and other equipment — 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 own 4-4-0 American, a *Steaming Summer* mainstay — a working 500-lb., coal-burning replica of an engine built in 1888 by the Cook Locomotive and Machine Co. of Patterson, N.J.
- An 0-6-0 switch-engine owned by **Ed Winnewisser** of Atascadero, which has visited shows and meets throughout California.
- A 1"-scale wrecking train, featuring an operating steam-powered wrecker car, demonstrated by owner **Art Reiter** of Atascadero.
- An 1-1/2"-scale Climax geared logging locomotive.
- An Allen Models 2-6-0 mogul, owned and operated by **Dan O'Brien** of Westminster.

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! It's a wonderful event, not to mention a terrific bargain for everyone who loves riding the little trains!

100 Rider-Miles Logged In “Great Race”

More than 440 free rides were given to museum visitors during the *Great Goleta Rail Race* on Saturday, May 17. The miniature-train completed 77.5 rider-miles during the three-hour event, while the handcar compiled 27.5 rider-miles. Based on the handicaps calculated by local high school students, however, the handcar was judged to be the winner.

The most accurate handicap was submitted by the Dos Pueblos High School team of **James Hogg** and **Daniel Kliman**, who were able to predict the passenger-mile difference between the train and handcar within only one-tenth of a passenger-mile! However, the most accurate estimates of the actual passenger-miles completed by both conveyances were contained in the entry submitted by the team of **Amy Lamboley**, **Evan Morrison**, **Bita Mazloom**, and **Piper Silverman** (also from Dos Pueblos). Accordingly, both entries were determined to be prize winners.

All *Great Race* riders and everyone else involved in the event received a handsome certificate, suitable for framing, acknowledging their participation.

As for the event's fund-raising side, pledges continue to come in as this *Depot Dispatch* issue goes to press, at which point the \$8,000 mark had been passed. A final report on the fund-raising effort will appear in the newsletter's next issue. This year's goal is \$12,000.

Donations Still Sought

It's not too late to earn a spot on the *Great Goleta Rail Race* sponsors list. Just use the donation form on page 4 to make a contribution of \$10 or more. Be sure to indicate “Great Race” on the form.

Money raised from the event will be used not only to underwrite general museum operations, but also to sponsor three days of free train rides for visitors during 1997. The first day was May 17, when the sponsors list
(continued on page 2)

*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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(continued from page 1)

was prominently displayed for all to see.

The other free-ride Saturdays will be July 26 and Nov. 8. The names of new donors will be added to the sponsors list, which will be shown for several days leading up to the July and November free days.

Please help the museum to reach its fund-raising target with your tax-deductible gift.

Goleta National Bank Sponsors "Free Rides for Dads"

Don't forget those free miniature-train rides for dads on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, compliments of **Goleta National Bank**. Trains will run continuously beginning at 1:15, with the last train pulling out of the station at 3:45 sharp.

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. Goleta National Bank has sponsored the Father's Day event at the museum since its inception in 1994.

Planning Process Continues; Member Input Appreciated

The Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, headed by **Rich Thom**, gratefully acknowledges those museum volunteers and members who attended the April 16 meeting at Goleta Library. Their thoughtful comments and ideas made a valuable contribution to the on-going planning process.

Based on this member input, the Board has approved several Planning Committee recommendations, including the construction of a new museum entry structure, patterned after the historic Miramar depot, which visitors will pass through as they enter the museum grounds from the parking lot.

Elks Support Library Program

The railroad museum is again participating in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, thanks to the generous support of the **Santa Barbara Elks Lodge**.

Last year's program, sponsored by **Mid-State Bank**, was a huge success, marked by the distribution of more than 1,600 train-ride certificates to those children who read 15 or more books during the program. Certificates were given out at all library branches, including Santa Barbara (both Central and Eastside), Goleta, Solvang, Carpinteria, Montecito, Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and even the Bookmobile! Total program enrollment was over 4,000 children.

Coast Starlight Program Back On Track

After a two-year hiatus, Amtrak has asked our museum to resume development of the on-board interpretive guide program for the *Coast Starlight*, which was first announced in the *Depot Dispatch* in 1994.

It was two years ago this spring that South Coast Railroad Museum staff drafted a script for the *Coast Starlight* program and began pretesting aboard the Los Angeles-to-Seattle train. Since then, the *Coast Starlight* has been transformed into Amtrak's premiere long-distance train, with the addition of the Pacific Parlor Car — a first-class lounge to join the traditional coach lounge — and a long list of other refinements. The schedule for the southbound *Starlight* has also been relaxed, making a one-day Santa Barbara-to-San Luis Obispo roundtrip feasible, thus making the guide program more practical as well.

A new contract between Amtrak and the museum for the development of the program has been drafted, and the script and program outline are currently undergoing revisions. The next pretest is scheduled for late June, during which *Coast Starlight* passengers will have the chance to enjoy the coach-lounge narrative between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. Sponsors of the guide program include **California State Parks, Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau, and Santa Barbara County Parks**.

Besides the free train rides, guides have a unique opportunity to share "California's Wonderful Corner" with travelers. Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a *Coast Starlight* guide are encouraged to contact Museum Director Gary Coombs at 805-964-3540.

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Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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Photos: Courtesy of the Calderwood family.

Membership Ranks Grow

Recent additions to the museum family include Virginia Bryant, Dana Driskel, Karl Harris, Bill and Sheila Holzer, Robert Kvaas, and Margaret Pryde, who is also our newest docent-in-training.

New Junior Engineers Club members are Benjamin Harris Adams, Robert Alan Adams, Kelso Calderwood, Madera Calderwood, Taher Dahleh, Charlotte Fling, A.J. Fling, George Golbuff, David Emmanuel Hernandez, Jessica Killackey, Graham Mosbrucker, and Gabriel Rives-Corbett.

Welcome to all new museum members!

Jr. Engineers Party Will Be July 17

The fifth annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* will be held Thursday, 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 summer get-together, Junior Engineers! Please RSVP, 805-964-3540.

Bunny Express Was Egg-straordinary

The fifth annual *Easter Bunny Express* on March 29 was an enchanting occasion for the hundreds of families that decided to spend part of their holiday weekend with us. The Goleta Short Line carried more than 600 passengers, while the 254 handcar riders were the most ever outside of the hectic September-October period. Total attendance was estimated at about 1,100 visitors.

As always, the day's highlight for most was a visit to the Easter Bunny, where the young ones received an egg-filled surprise. Scores of prizes were awarded to lucky winners in the "Jack-Rabbit Junction" drawing, while everyone received event souvenirs, including colorful springtime stickers and *Easter Bunny Express* coloring pages. All ticketholders received cookies and lemonade served at "Harvey's House." Hot sandwiches also were available, prepared and served by members of the **Goleta Lions Club** — under the direction of **Tom Tucker and Jack Rutten**.

We owe special thanks also to **Kinko's Graphics**,

Bruce Morden gave "Rabbit Transit" during Bunny Express.



which provided some of the printing services, and to **Country Meat Market**, which donated the lemonade. Volunteers who helped make the day successful included **Ben Beede**, "**Bunny**" **Bob Burtness**, **Maurice Caler**, **Susan Cavalli**, **Judy Connors**, **Mary Cole**, **Tom Cole**, **Neil Fetter**, **Al Jaramillo**, **Noel Langle**, **Susie Leska**, **Bruce Morden**, **Jim Moyer**, **Bill Parker**, **Ellyn Roberts**, **Pete Shamlian**, **John Starr**, and **Hilda Volkman**.

Museum Planning New Station Opening

Goleta's new Amtrak station should be ready and open for business by summer or early fall, according to **Robert Crego**, District Manager for Amtrak West, whose *San Diego* trains will use the Goleta facility.

The railroad museum and **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** have agreed to work together in planning an opening ceremony for the new station. Persons interested in helping with the opening should call Museum Director Gary Coombs at 805-964-3540.

Burtness To Share Train Experiences

Local educator and author **Bob Burtness** will present an evening program on modern-day steam railroads in the Western U.S. on Wednesday, June 18, as part of the railroad museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*. In the hour-long narrated slide presentation, entitled "Excursion Steam Railroads of the West," Burtness will recount visits he made circa 1990 to seven operating passenger steam railroads in Arizona, California, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Bob Burtness has been a South Coast Railroad Museum docent since 1983. His love of railroading and railroad history is also reflected in his antique model train collecting, as well as in his travel choices. A Santa Barbara native, Burtness is active with many other local organizations, including the Sierra Club and Goleta-Santa Barbara Air Heritage Museum. He is the author of *Camper's Guide To The Tri-County Area* and is currently working on a book about an incident in local aviation history. Burtness teaches in the English
(continued on page 4)

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

South Coast Railroad Museum is an educational program and business name of the Institute for American Research, a local nonprofit organization. Contributions are deductible from state and federal income taxes.

(continued from page 3)

Dept. at San Marcos High School.

All *Continuing Lecture Series* programs are held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., and begin at 7:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public. Refreshments follow each series presentation.

Foundation Grant Awarded

The railroad museum has received a \$4,000 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, to purchase an office copier and additional computer equipment.

Over the years, the Santa Barbara Foundation has been one of the museum's most faithful supporters. During the campaign to save and restore Goleta Depot, in the early 1980s, the Santa Barbara Foundation was a major contributor to the preservation effort. More recent grants from the foundation have been used for the repainting of the depot exterior, improvements to the grounds drainage system, and office equipment.

Chamber Sponsors New Brochure

Special thanks to the **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** and its Tourism Committee for underwriting the printing of the museum's revised brochure.

Help Needed For Events, Visitor Service

With the approach of another busy summer season, the museum needs extra helpers for upcoming special events and holidays. These include 4th of July, *Another Steaming Summer* (Aug. 9-10), and *Depot Day* (Sunday, Sept. 28). 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 "agents" who greet visitors in Goleta Depot's historic freight office and sell Goleta Short Line tickets — as well as engineer and conductor trainees for the train ride. Those interested in learning more about the docent program are urged to contact Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum any weekday afternoon.

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,
300 NORTH LOS CARNEROS RD., GOLETA, CA 93117

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Jr. Engineer Kelso Calderwood enjoyed his Bunny visit.

Record Audience Numbers Attained

The railroad museum is off to another great start for 1997. Over the first five months, records have been set for total audience (5,418 visitors, an increase of about 12% over last year), miniature-train (4,727 riders, up more than 37% vs. '96), theater attendance (1,582 viewers), and handcar (686 riders — more than doubling last year's record-setting pace!).

Depot Day Will Be Sept. 28

The 15th annual *Depot Day*, the railroad museum's biggest annual celebration, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and watch for complete *Depot Day* details in the next *Depot Dispatch* issue.

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

School & Youth-Group Visits

Since the beginning of December, the museum has hosted the following school and youth groups: **El Rancho School** (grades 1-2); **Our Redeemer Lutheran School** (two kindergartens); **La Patera School** (special-abilities children); **Patagonia Day Care** (ages 5-10); **Isla Vista Child Care Center** (age 6); **Monroe School** (5th grade); **La Patera** (bilingual 4th grade); **Montecito Union School** (kindergarten); **Lincoln School** (Ventura 3rd grade). Local youth organizations receive a free train ride as part of their museum tour, compliments of **Cox Communications**.

Museum Hosts Birthday Parties

Celebrating birthday parties at the museum since the year began were **Carson Curtis, Taher Dahleh, Michael Dockendorf, A.J. Fling, Charlotte Fling, Eric Gregston, Andrew Leicht, Addison Mayfield, Kyle Mayfield, Mick Mathis, Sespe Miller, Jacob Moghtader, Justin Nathanson, Vicky Nelson, Michael Plotkin, Isaac Schaefer, Daniel Schniepp, Jack Shield, and Thanh-liem Tran**.