



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

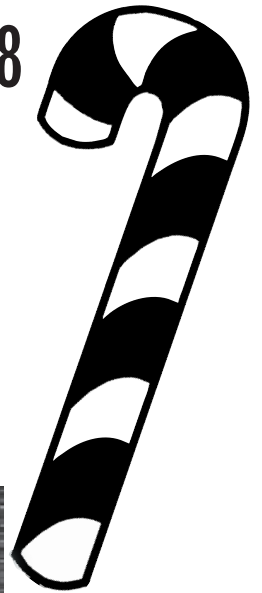


Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 23, Number 4 — Winter 2003-04



“Candy Cane Train” Opens Friday, Nov. 28

It wouldn't be the Candy Cane Train without the traditional candy striping, being applied here to the cars by a museum worker.



The first *Candy Cane Train* of 2003 will pull out of the station on Friday, Nov. 28 as the popular year-end family event begins its 11th annual run. The event will be held daily at the railroad museum through Wed., Dec. 24, except Dec. 1&2, 8&9, 15&16, when the museum is closed. During Christmas week, there will be special *Candy Cane Train* runs on Dec. 22 and 23. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. each day, but it is important that those wishing to participate in all *Candy Cane Train* activities arrive at the museum no later than 3:30 p.m.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$3 each, which includes a ride on the festively-decorated miniature train, plus an assortment of holiday treats and favors. Additional rides are 75¢ each. Members receive their usual 25¢ off on every ticket purchased. Tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours.

In the interest of safety, the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies for all *Candy Cane Train* riders.



These little ones and their proud moms enjoyed the fun last Dec. 10.

Holiday Party Slated for Evening of Dec. 4

The museum holiday party will be held on Thurs., Dec. 4, beginning at 7 p.m. The setting will again be the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave.

All museum members, along with their families or guest, are cordially invited to attend this free event. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with others. The beverages, cups, napkins, and plates will be supplied by the museum.

The holiday party is a great way to meet other members, museum staff and volunteers. We hope to see you at this annual get-together. The party was first held at Goleta Library in 1993.

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Members Share Some Personal Treasures In Holiday Display

“Toy Trains and Teddy Bears! What better symbols are there of the Holidays, Past and Present. In that spirit, these cherished keepsakes are shared anew this Joyous Season — as their gift to you — by members of our Museum Family, young and old.”

Each year, this festive greeting welcomes visitors to the museum's year-end display, which can always be found in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. This year's display opens on Friday, Nov. 28 and will continue through the end of December.

Always full of fun and fancy, this holiday-season exhibition features toy locomotives, antique trains, and stuffed animals — all borrowed from the homes of the museum's Junior Engineers, volunteers, other members, trustees, and staff.

When you visit the museum this holiday season, be sure to drop by the Waiting Room and see what's new in this latest edition of the *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears!* show.

Santa Barbara Foundation Awards Funds For Equipment

The museum has received a 2003 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. The \$2,500 grant has been used to buy the equipment necessary to make multimedia presentations.

The new equipment was first used on Nov. 3, when **Museum Director Gary Coombs** made a presentation about the museum and Goleta Depot to the **Goleta City Council**. A Nov. 25 presentation before the **Goleta Rotary Club** is also planned.

We also hope to use the new equipment to share images from museum programs and activities during 2003 at the holiday party on Dec. 4.

Welcome New Members

Wayne and Sharol Siemens are new Life members. **Edgar and Lois Seward** are new Sustaining members. **James and Margaret Milner** have returned to the area and have rejoined as Active members and guides in the Coast Starlight Interpretive Program.

New members of the Junior Engineers Club include **Owen James Behrens, Logan Nathaniel Briner, Ben Clarke, Matico Clarke, Caleb Criscione, Garrett Mager** and **Marshall E. Owen**.

Warm greetings are extended to all of our new museum members.

Museum's Christmas Tree Reflects A Long Railroad Tradition

Nighttime travelers along Los Carneros Road during the holiday season won't want to miss the decorated tree that shines out like a beacon from Goleta Depot's upstairs window bay. The lights go on in the late afternoon, but the effect is especially dramatic once darkness falls across the valley.

The tree has been placed in the landmark building's second-floor bay for more than two decades now, ever since Goleta Depot was moved to Lake Los Carneros County Park. This carries special meaning for the Yuletide season, preserving a long tradition that

was practiced by countless station-agent families down through the years, of positioning their Christmas tree in a prominent spot, where its special symbolism could be shared with passengers and crews on passing trains.

Readers may wish to know that the depot tree is also decorated with small white “Remembrance Stars,” each personalized in memory of a special friend of the museum who is now deceased.

Super Saturday! Kicks Off Jan. 31

The 8th Annual “*Super Saturday!*” will be held at the railroad museum on Jan. 31. Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m.

Super Saturday! will again mark the first weekend day of free miniature-train rides for the general public during 2004. Every year, hundreds of free rides are given to visitors on this day, which is always scheduled the day before the Super Bowl football game.

Super Saturday! is made possible by the generosity of a number of local businesses, organizations and members.

Sponsors for the 2003 event included **American Pension Co; Stephen A. Bailey, D.D.S.; Camino Real Café; Cold Spring Tavern; Michael Gartzke, C.P.A.; Gold's Gym; MFC&V Insurance Services; Mid-State Bank & Trust; “Dr J” Neel, Optometrist; Mike & Gail Pearl, Realtors; Ramada Limited; RP Printing & Graphics; Santa Barbara Hobbies; State Farm Insurance (Ed Attlessey & Tammy Dobrotin, Agents); Peter Tiersma; Western Welding;** and **ZBE Incorporated** — many of which will be returning as *Super Saturday!* sponsors for 2004.

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Wish List

Ted Cheesman and Lavonne Sanchez have made a generous pledge to kick-off the fundraising for a new engine that is needed to rejuvenate Goleta Short Line locomotive #1316 (which recently celebrated its 15th birthday!). A total of \$450 is needed to complete the purchase. If you would like to help with a donation, please contact the museum (phone: 805-964-3540 or e-mail: museum@goletadepot.org), or send your check to: South Coast Railroad Museum, Attn: Engine Fund, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117.

Special thanks to **Perry and Pat Lorentzen**, who donated a digital camera to the museum, fulfilling this previous wish-list request.

Museum Receives Learning Opportunities Grant

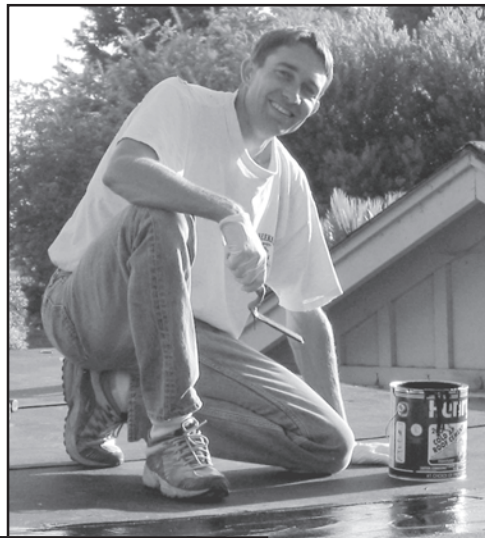
The museum has been awarded a \$20,000 Learning Opportunities grant under a special one-year program offered by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**. The funds will be used to develop and install an electronic kiosk, gateway exhibition and information desk – to introduce visitors to the historical landmark and museum.

The South Coast Railroad Museum was one of only 12 California museums to receive a Learning Opportunities grant in this nation-wide competition open to museums of all sizes and disciplines. Throughout the U.S. only 169 grants were awarded from among more than 900 applicant museums.

Museum Shop Has Holiday Shopping Answers

The museum's Trackside Shop is the ideal spot to find those perfect gifts for the rail fans and history buffs on your holiday shopping list. For the youngsters, there's a great supply of new Thomas The Tank Engine items. The selection of videos, CDs and T-shirts – for young and old – has never been greater. And, for the collector, you can't beat the prices of the authentic Goleta lemon labels, available individually or in sets of six different labels.

Every purchase benefits the museum. You benefit, too, with the 10% member's discount that you receive on all shop purchases (Membership card required). We accept Mastercard, Visa, and personal checks.



The handcar shed now has a new roof, thanks to the skills and hard work of Leif and Jim Reynolds, the father and grandfather of Junior Engineer Kelly Reynolds.

Fairview Car Wash Renews Sponsorship of Free Wednesdays and Free Handcar Days for 2004

Free-ride Wednesdays will resume in January thanks to the renewed support of **Fairview Car Wash**. Visitors may ride as often as they like any Wednesday afternoon in 2004 until the *Candy Cane Train* returns in late November. Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. each day. Riders must meet the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Fairview Car Wash is also continuing its sponsorship of free handcar rides at the museum, offered every third Saturday throughout 2004.

Depot Day Report

The 21st annual *Depot Day* on Sept. 28 drew one of the largest museum crowds in recent memory.

Everyone who enjoyed *Depot Day*, or who will benefit from the funds raised during the event, owe a debt of gratitude to the dozens of volunteers who gave their valuable time and considerable talents to make this year's event a successful one.

Depot Day wouldn't be the same without the wonderful musical entertainment provided by the **Monte Vista Elementary School** chorus, directed by **Radu Azdril**.

Parking services were the domain of the **Santa Barbara High School Jr. ROTC**, under **Master Sergeant Steven D. Potts**, which also helped with event setup, mainline track switching duties and other activities.

Trustee **John Locke** was responsible for much of the planning and purchasing for the *Depot Day* barbecue. Cooks, servers and food vendors included **David Chapman, Barbara Cornish, Eden Epling, John Hutchinson, Todd Littlehale, Samantha Matthew, Lorraine Saunders, Hannah Savage, Judy Savage** and **Dick Shelton**.

The silent auction tables were managed with great care by **Kari Adams, Charlene Doty, Carol Matthew, Scott Matthew, Diana Mina** and **Leah Savage**. Auction sales and receipts were handled by **John Starr**.

Volunteers who kept the Goleta Short Line rolling were **Glenn Anderson, Ted Cheesman, Jean-Guy Dube, Rick Marten, Jason Poole** and **Lavonne Sanchez**. Rides on his Ventura County Railway speeder were given by **Bob Mahan**, while **Noel Langle** and **Bruce Morden** kept the
(cont'd. on pg. 4, "Depot Day")

This Issue Sponsored By

**Mid-State
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“Depot Day” (cont’d. from page 3)

handcar moving. **Bruce** also set up a railroad switching puzzle – to challenge our guests, young and old – which **Andrea Morden** helped to staff.

Welcoming duties at the admissions table were covered by **Peggy Langle**, **Jim Milner**, **Margaret Milner** and **Ken and Trevor Pontifex**.

Edee Brown and **Arlene Radasky** had the rare privilege of sharing the depot’s second floor – the former station agent’s living quarters – with *Depot Day* attendees.

Operation Lifesaver, the organization devoted to fostering safety around railroad tracks and trains, was represented again this year by **Tony Czuleger** and **Pineapple Leong**.

Agent responsibilities, including ticket sales for rides, were handled by **Pat Lorentzen** and **Bruce Morden**. The model

Ken Pontifex helped staff the admissions table.



railroad exhibit was shared by **Richie Garcia** and **Perry Lorentzen**.

Pastor **Paul Hoefler** at **Christ Lutheran Church** approved our use of their field for overflow parking.

Many of the above volunteers also joined staff members in the thankless chores of setup and cleanup, which spilled over into Saturday and the



When Joan Hanna arrived, we knew the auction would be a success!

ensuing weekdays.

A long list of other friends, businesses and organizations donated or loaned equipment, supplies and auction items for *Depot Day*.



The switching puzzle was a popular addition.



The Monte Vista School chorus (left) performed before an appreciative audience.



Bruce Morden had a lot to set up for the event.

A new 11-foot bench, built by Noel Langle and funded by a PARC Foundation grant, was first used on Depot Day.

