



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 25, Number 2 — Summer 2005

Steamin' Up for Summer!

The 19th annual *Steaming Summer*, the South Coast Railroad Museum's only two-day event, is set for the weekend of July 30-31. The main attraction of *Steaming Summer* are the miniature steam locomotives that make a much-anticipated once-a-year visit to the museum. These handsome custom-built engines are also real powerhouses – ready to haul tons of rail cars and passengers during a typical event weekend.

The 2005 *Steaming Summer* roster includes a variety of steam locomotives, including **Gene Allen's** 4-4-0 American and an 0-6-0 switcher that **Ed Winnewisser** will be bringing down from Atascadero. San Bernardino County's **Ron Wilkerson**, who made his first *Steaming Summer* appearance in 2004 with a Ten-Wheeler, plans to return this year with a 2-6-0 Mogul. **Mike Hitchcock** of Covina will bring another 4-4-0 American – one that **Gene Allen** built during the Bicentennial, back in 1976.

Ted Cheesman and his circus-train

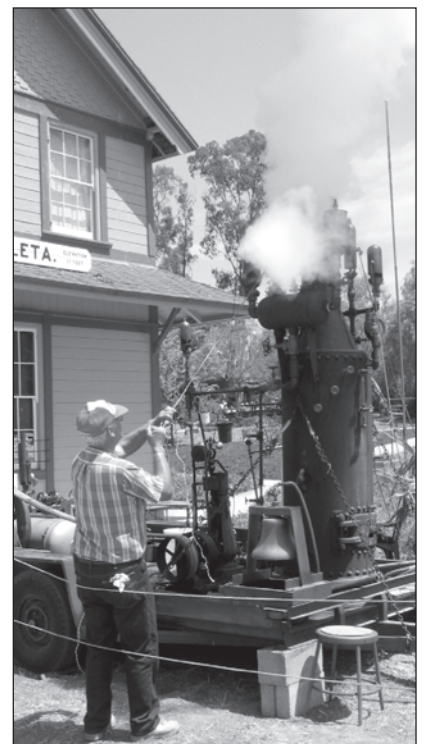


cars will be at *Steaming Summer* again this year. The box car with the water-squirting elephants and the musical calliope car with bubble-blowing bear are two of *Steaming Summer's* most popular diversions.

The circus theme will carry over into the model-railroad exhibit, where **Ken and Carolyn Weber's** "K&C Famous Family Circus" will return to the vacant lot near the Santa Barbara roundhouse that has become its summer home. The HO-scale three-ring circus, including big top and operating circus train, has been enchanting *Steaming Summer* audiences since 1999.

Daily admission to *Steaming Summer*
(cont'd. on page 4, See "Steaming Summer")

Jim Marchiando will be back, with his steam plant and those ever-popular steam whistles.



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Free-Ride Days Bring Fun, Action, New Visitors

The museum is always a busy place when there are free rides for the visiting public. Two recent cases are great examples of free-ride days at their very best.

On March 5, a free day was sponsored by the **Lambda Theta Nu** sorority at UCSB. The event was designed to attract new audiences to the museum, especially from the local Latino community.

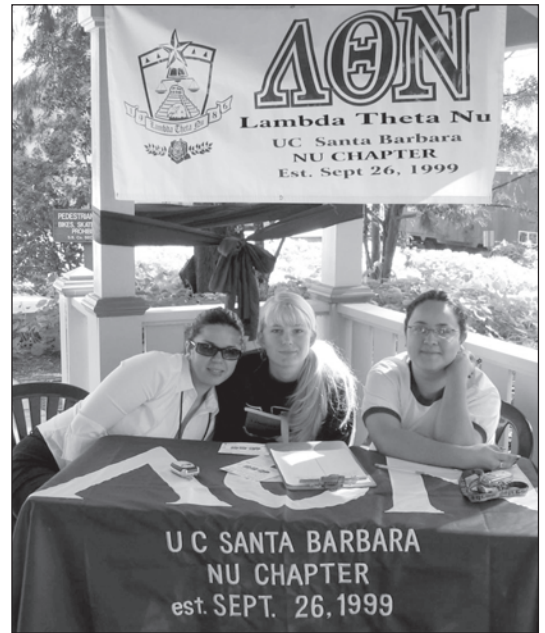
Sorority member **Samantha Escobar** organized the event as her museum internship project.

Samantha was able to secure sponsorship support from several local businesses, including **Domino's**, **Saigon Noodle House**, **Santa Cruz Market** and the **Goleta Valley Voice**, which made it possible to advertise the event, as well as to include free pizza and beverages to accompany the afternoon's free train rides.

The result was one of the busiest free days ever recorded at the museum, including many families making first-time visits.

The other special free day was *Rotary Day*, which celebrated its fifth anniversary on June 18. Like the Lambda Theta Nu event, *Rotary Day* is something special because members of the sponsoring **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime** are always on hand – to greet visitors and help run the handcar ride, which has become a regular part of their event. Rotarian **Michael Gartzke**, in particular, deserves much for the success that *Rotary Day* has achieved.

Combined, the Lambda Theta Nu and Rotary events were responsible for 398 free train and handcar rides. They introduced a lot of new people to the museum, and brought hours of pleasures to these and to many others.



Lambda Theta Nu event featured a pleasant greeting and plenty of pizza and drinks.



"Elks Day" Coming Aug. 20

Come and enjoy free rides on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 20, thanks to the sponsorship support of **Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613**.

Ride the train and handcar as often as you like on "Elks Day," from 1:15 until 3:45 p.m.

For their safety, all train riders must be at least 34-inches tall; handcar riders must be at least 48 inches tall.

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To contact us:

Phone: 805-964-3540;
FAX: 805-964-3549
E-mail: museum@goletadepot.org
Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

Don't Miss Jr. Engineers Party!!

The museum's annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thursday, July 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the museum grounds. There will be delicious refreshments and free miniature-train rides for all in attendance.

To make reservations, please call the museum office (964-3540). Each Junior Engineer member may bring two guests (parent, sibling, relative or friend) without charge. There is a charge of \$3 each for any additional guests).

Depot Day Sept. 25

Welcome New Members

New museum members include **Victor Andazola, Donovan Chalfant, Manuel Corral, Ysidra Corral, James Donlon, Richard Guske, Tim Hannon, Thomas Alan Harders, Arthur Kohn, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Kenneth Lewis, Benjamin F.**

Mallard, Patricia Martzen, Seth Olitzky, Elaine Rymills, John C. Staugaard, Benny Torres, Beverly Torres, Esther Velarde, Paul Williams, and Glenn R. Zimmerman.

The newest Junior Engineers Club members are **Devon Acker, Aidan Barcia-Bacon, Eli Baur, Myles DeBra-Thompson, Cage Jacob Englander, Jed Langer-Weida, Simon Machin and Nevaeh Oberon.**

Welcome aboard, one and all!

Spring Fundraiser Results Are In!

More than \$13,000 was raised during the 24th annual Spring Fundraiser. Pledges were received from about 150 museum members and friends and from local businesses and organizations. It was one of the largest amounts ever raised over the event's history. The funds will be used to support general museum operations.

The handcar was easily victorious over the miniature train in the "Great Goleta Rail Race," the competition portion of the event that included free train and handcar rides for all visitors.

Museum Steps Up To Help

The railroad museum participated in the 2005 Optimist Adventure Camp, which was held on Wed., April 6. The program, held during the spring elementary-school break, focuses on children of working parents, mostly from the **Boys and Girls Clubs** of Goleta and Santa Barbara Westside. There were about 35 participating youngsters this year, who were treated to free handcar rides, sponsored by **Chuck Eckert**, and rides on the miniature train, compliments of **Fairview Car Wash**.

The event is organized by the **Breakfast Optimist Club of Goleta**.

This Issue Sponsored By

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Sadly, we must bid a fond farewell to **Edee Brown**, who has been a regular museum volunteer for almost two decades, mostly as a clerk in the museum store. Edee and her husband, Carroll, have moved to Oregon where she can be near her sister.

The *Coast Starlight* program has 18 new guides-in-training — a result of an April-May recruiting drive. Welcome to **Victor Andazola, Donovan Chalfant, Manuel Corral, Ysidra Corral, James Donlon, Richard Guske, Tim Hannon, Thomas Alan Harders, Arthur Kohn, Kenneth Lewis, Benjamin Mallard, Pat Martzen, Elaine Rymills, John C. Staugaard, Benny Torres, Beverly**

* Goodbye, Edee! * New Volunteers * * Oakland Program Has Rocky Start *

Torres, Esther Velarde, and Glenn Zimmerman.

New recruits for the miniature-train are **Seth Olitzky** and **Paul Williams**. Also joining the museum's volunteers are **Ken Roberts**, a Dos Pueblos High School student who is completing his community-service requirement at the museum and **Kent Johnson**, a new intern from UCSB.

The expanded *Coast Starlight* program got off to a rough start on June 9-10 when Museum Director Gary Coombs took guides **Allie Pressman, Jerry Pressman** and **Parkie Parker** on an inaugural training trip. Train 14, the northbound *Coast Starlight* didn't deliver the museum team to their Oakland destination until 2:51 a.m., over five hours late, and the following day's return to Santa Barbara aboard the

southbound Train 11 fared even worse — over six hours late. The group, however, did reach an audience of more than 600 *Coast Starlight* passengers over the two days, using the train's public-address system to describe local history, points of interest, natural history, and things to do along the railroad route. More Oakland trips are planned for July 21-24. Other volunteers enrolled in the Oakland program include **Doug Barteld, Carla Cabanatuan, Ted Cheesman, Jim Felland, Nancy Johnke, Ed Leska** and **Lavonne Sanchez**.

The museum also conducts a Santa Barbara-to-San Luis Obispo program, which has been in operation since 1998. Both are offered in partnership with the **Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail** and the "Trails & Rails" program of the **National Park Service**.



David Chapman and Daniel Moosbrugger prepare for the electrical installation.

Visitor Center Crunch Time!

Just A Few Dollars More Needed

The pace of construction on the Visitor Center has picked up considerably over the past few weeks, as the museum and its mostly-volunteer workforce make a final push toward the goal of a summer opening. Contractor **Tom Brown** has been generously volunteering his supervisory skills throughout much of the project, but especially so in recent weeks.

Current efforts are focusing on electrical work, installation of the remaining gable window, application of cedar shingles in the gables to match Goleta Depot, and the exterior trim. Insulation, drywall and exterior siding are next.

This also marks the final fundraising push for the project. Less than \$10,000 is needed to open the Visitor Center and begin its service to the public. About \$15,000 will complete the project. Please help us get "Over The Top" with your tax-deductible gift to the Building Fund.



Noel Langle measures a trim piece.

Free Wednesdays Come To An End

June 29 marked the last day of free rides on Wednesdays – at least until a new sponsor is found.

A deep debt of gratitude is owed to **John Price, Tod Berlinger** and **Fairview Car Wash** for their wonderful support of this popular program over the past two and a half years and

for the many ways in which they continue to contribute to the museum's financial well-being and to the benefit of the public that we serve.

Each year, thousands of free rides have resulted from this program.

The search for a new Free-Ride Wednesdays sponsor goes on.

"Steaming Summer" (from pg. 1)

is only \$4 (\$3.75 for members), which includes unlimited train and handcar rides (Riders must meet minimum-height requirements: 34" for the train; 48" for the handcar.).

Hours both Saturday and Sunday are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum members enjoy the privilege of an early-bird invitation – to come between 10 and 11 a.m. to watch the locomotives being steamed-up in preparation for the day's activities (Early admission is a special membership benefit open only

to members and their accompanying guests, please.)

The admission charge applies to everyone, including those who choose not to ride. Infants and any others who are unable to ride the train will be admitted at no charge. For late arrivals, the admission price is lowered to \$3 after 3 p.m. Advance tickets, at 50¢ off (75¢ off with membership card) are now available in the museum's Trackside Shop.

The *Steaming Summer* program will also include continuous free showings

of railroad films, with an emphasis on steam locomotion, including tutorials on how to operate and maintain a steam engine — to be shown in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

Tri-tip sandwiches, "Depot Dogs," beverages, and other lunch and snack items will be available during the event.

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to ride on a steam-powered Goleta Short Line train!

Steaming Summer would not be possible without the generous sponsorship support of **Toyota of Santa Barbara**.