



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 26, Number 2 — Summer 2006

Summer Is Steaming

AT THE RAILROAD MUSEUM

The weekend of July 29-30 will be an important one for the railroad museum, marking the 20th anniversary of *Steaming Summer*. The event draws its name from the live-steam locomotives that visit the museum once a year to pull the trains of the Goleta Short Line railroad.

Steaming Summer will again feature a circus theme, with cars from **Ted Cheesman's** circus train added to one of the consists, including the ever-popular squirting-elephants car and the musical calliope car with the bubble-blowing bear.

In the model-railroad exhibit, the circus train from **Ken and Carolyn Weber's** "K&C Famous Family Circus" will return to travel the "Goleta Loop." The Weber circus first joined the list of *Steaming Summer* attractions in 1999.

Daily admission to *Steaming Summer* 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 invi-

tation – 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 — all to be shown in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

During the event there will be tri-tip sandwiches, "Depot Dogs" and beverages available for purchase.

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

(cont'd. on page 4, See "Steaming Summer")



Double-header meets inbound train near Goleta yard limit during 2005 "Summer."

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Rep. Capps Makes Memorial Gift

The museum has received a donation in memory of **Steve Arbuckle** from **Congresswoman Lois Capps**.

Steve Arbuckle's passing on Jan 11 was reported in the previous issue of the *Depot Dispatch* newsletter. In her card, Lois Capps wrote about Steve, "He and his family were our neighbors in Goleta as he and his brothers and sisters grew up as friends of our children. At an early age Steve loved trains. We miss him!"

This Issue Sponsored By

**Carroll
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Welcome New Members

Claudia Worthen is a new Life Member. New members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Adela Barcia-Bacon, A.J. Campbell, Eric Johnson** and **Elijah Luis Valerjev**.

Welcome aboard to all of you!

Olitzky Family Adopts Free Fridays

The family of volunteer **Seth Olitzky** and Jr. Engineer **Ian Olitzky** has taken over the sponsorship of *First Fridays Free*, the museum's popular monthly afternoon of free miniature-train rides.

The program was started in spring 2002 by **Cox Communications**, which generously sponsored the popular museum event for four years.

Thanks to the Olitzky family, "Free Fridays" will resume on July 7.

Don't Miss Jr. Engineers Party!!

The museum's annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thurs., Aug. 17 from 2 'til 4 p.m. on the museum grounds. There will be yummy 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 \$5 each for any additional guests.

Coombs Selected As Museum Reviewer By Professional Group

Museum Director Gary Coombs has been selected by the American Association of Museum to serve as a peer reviewer in its Museum Assessment Program (MAP). MAP is a confidential, consultative process designed to help museums understand how they compare to standards and best practices in the field.

MAP reviewers are professionals from the museum community who conduct site visits and make recommendations to museum boards and administrators about ways to improve their programs and manner of operation.

Dr. Coombs has been approved to conduct any of the four types of MAP assessments: Collections Management, Governance, Institutional, and Public Dimension. Each assessment type focuses on a different aspect of museum operations. Gary will be working primarily with other small museums.

Teachers' Group Sponsors Summer Reading

The museum is renewing an 18-year-old tradition this year by participating in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**. Children who complete the program by reading 15 or more books will receive a pair of free rides on the Goleta Short Line — one for themselves and another for a friend or family member — in recognition of their reading achievement.

This year's participation is being made possible by the **Santa Barbara Teachers Federal Credit Union**, through its sponsorship support.

The museum has been a part of the Summer Reading Program since 1989, when **Museum Director Gary Coombs, Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen** and **Goleta Children's Librarian Judy Savage** led a group of 16 youngsters and 14 parents on an Aug. 11 rail adventure to Simi Valley via Amtrak's *San Diegan* and *Coast Starlight* trains, celebrating that year's program theme, "Get On The Right Track — Read."

"Kids' Crossing" Is New Addition To Museum Web Site

The museum web site has a new section devoted especially to children. It's called "Kids' Crossing" and the section can be reached via a link in the menu at the top of any web page.

Kids' Crossing includes a fun new puzzle featuring a curious mouse. Use your *computer* mouse to solve the puzzle and find out what this mouse is doing.

The section also includes the popular "Run Your Own Train" game as well as a spot for getting information about holding a birthday or youth-group party at the museum.

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Allen Gives Track-Building Class

With the grant funds received from the **Santa Barbara Foundation** and the **Alice-Tweed Tuohy Foundation**, the museum has been amassing a large supply of rail, tie materials and hardware for assembling track for the Goleta Short Line. In May, **Gene Allen** conducted a class on constructing 10-foot-long track panels, both straight and curved, using these track materials.

Attending the morning class were **David Chapman**, **Jim Felland**, **Ed Leska**, **Bruce Morden**, **Seth Olitzky** and Museum Director **Gary Coombs**.

The new track, which includes ties made from 2x2-inch plastic lumber, will be used to expand the miniature railroad as well as repair parts of the roadbed that have become worn after years of use.

Gene Allen drives a screw into place as students Seth Olitzky (far left), Ed Leska (foreground) and Jim Felland (right, with ball cap) look on.



Thanks, Noontime Rotary

Special thanks are owed to the **Goleta Noontime Rotary Club** for sponsoring an afternoon of free train and handcar rides on Saturday, June 17. It was the 6th annual "Rotary Day."

Volunteers Needed

The museum needs more volunteer help, especially during the busy summer season. If you would like to pitch in, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, weekdays.

Museum Is Birthday Party Hit

You couldn't ask for a better spot to hold a party for that little rail fan in your family. For less than \$40 (and there are discounts for members!), a party group receives exclusive use of the museum party area for the entire afternoon, 20 miniature-train rides, a 10% discount for party-supply and other purchases in the museum store, a special birthday greeting card from the museum, and other benefits.

The party area can be reserved by contacting Phyllis Olsen (polsen@goletadepot.org) in the museum office (805-964-3540). For more information, ask Phyllis, or pick up a party brochure in the museum shop or download a copy from the new "Kids' Crossing" section of the museum web site: www.goletadepot.org.

Celebrating recent birthday parties at the museum were **Sean Erskine**, **Justin Juarez** and **Jack Lindsey** (March); **Scott Buie**, **Kendall Spitz** and **Kyle Wilczak** (April); **Keegan Naronka** (May); **Emily Donelan**, **Eric Johnson** and **Elijah Valerjev** (June).

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Training Completed For Handcar, Amtrak Programs

Congratulations to volunteers **Neil Baker**, **B. Marc Bradley**, **Rich Guske** and **Bernard Verbit** who have completed all of the classroom and onboard training required to become *Coast Starlight* guides. Neil, Marc, Rich and Bern have each received the Trails & Rails green shirt and shoulder patch that signify their advancement from guides-in-training status.

All four men participate in the Santa Barbara-to-San Luis Obispo version of the program, in which guides make a one-day roundtrip sharing history and information with passengers on the West Coast Amtrak train.

The museum also conducts an overnight Santa Barbara-to-Oakland program. **Don Chalfant**, **Kathy Chalfant** and **Bev Torres** have recently been approved as guides for Oakland trips.

Both programs are offered in partnership with the **Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail** and the "Trails & Rails" program of the **National Park Service**.

Robert Burtness has been recertified to offer rides on the museum handcar. Visit Bob and the other handcar volunteers on the third Saturday of any month, when free rides are given, or during special events.

Worthen Added To Museum Board

Claudia Worthen has been elected to the museum's Board of Trustees for a two-year term. President **Joan Hanna** describes Claudia as "one of the most energetic and active women I know." She "comes to us with a lot of experience serving on non-profit boards."



Claudia Worthen

Worthen is president of the **Santa Barbara Woman's Club** and treasurer of the **Santa Barbara Business & Professional Women**. She is also a past president of the **Automotive Service Council** and **Zonta International** and has served on the boards of **Job Smart**, the **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce**, **Goleta Community Center**, **Girls Club**, and the **Santa Barbara Christian Women's Club**.

Claudia moved here from Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1966. Before her retirement, she ran two successful local businesses, **Wally's Automotive** in Goleta and **Kimo's Polynesian Shop**, a Santa Barbara Down-

Spring Fundraiser Results Are In!

As this issue of the Depot Dispatch goes to press, donations received and pledged for the 25th annual Spring Fundraiser stand at \$12,500, tantalizingly close to the \$13,000 goal. If you would like to help put us over the top, it's not too late to make a pledge or add to your 2006 gift.

The money raised during the Spring Fundraiser is used to support general museum operations.

Museum Joins "Read For The Record" Event

In partnership with **Jumpstart** and the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, the railroad museum will be participating on Thurs., Aug. 24 in "Read For The Record," a national campaign to engage tens of thousands of children and adults in setting the world record for the largest shared reading experience ever.

Groups across the U.S. will be reading *The Little Engine That Could* to promote children's school readiness through one-on-one reading. At the museum, we'll add free train rides, refreshments and other fun things as we help to set the record. Please join us, 1 to 4 p.m.

"Steaming Summer" (continued from page 1)

pulled by a real steam locomotive!

Steaming Summer would not be possible without the generous sponsorship support of **Toyota of Santa Barbara**. This marks the 19th consecutive year in which the car dealership has sponsored the event. The name "Another Steaming Summer" was first applied back in 1988, when steam-train rides were offered on the second and fourth Saturdays of July, August and September thanks to the sponsorship of what was then **Joe Redford's Toyota**.

The 1988 event was "another" steaming summer because the previous year was the museum's first summer of train rides, when the steam-powered trains ran every Saturday in July and August as part of our contribution to the *Santa Barbara Railroad Centennial* celebration. Except for *Depot Day*, those were the only rides given that year. The miniature-railroad ran steam trains exclusively until 1989, when the gasoline-powered diesel-prototype engine No. 1316 was purchased.

Depot Day
Sept. 24

Railroadiana Collecting Is New Display Topic

The next time you're at the museum, be sure to check out the new display on railroadiana collecting in the Waiting Room. The exhibit was designed by volunteers **Jean-Guy Dube** and **Paul Williams**, using items and books from Jean-Guy's collections and library.

The display has sections on lanterns, locks & keys, dining-car china, and many other popular types of railroad collectibles. There's also lots of practical information for current and would-be collectors.

The railroadiana exhibition will run through September. Don't miss it.

Railroad China is just one of the areas of collecting covered in the new exhibition.

