



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 26, Number 3 — Fall 2006

Depot Day Delights

As the headline above suggests, there's a lot to delight every member of the family at the 24th annual *Depot Day*, coming Sunday, Sept. 24. *Depot Day* is the only day of the year when rides are offered on *three* different types of rail vehicles, including the miniature train and handcar, plus **Bob Mahan's** inspection "speeder," which once ran on the tracks of the Ventura County Railway. A wonderful silent auction and tri-tip barbecue are other event highlights.

Depot Day is our yearly celebration of the saving and revitalization of Goleta Depot, an important community landmark and symbol, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Registry of Historical Resources. The event is also the South Coast Railroad Museum's most important annual fund-raiser. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Auction tables (right) will be packed with great items and eager bidders again this year.

Speeder ride (below) is a favorite with young and old alike.



Silent Auction Offers Great Buys, Helps The Museum, Too!

The silent auction has been one of the main attraction of *Depot Day* for over two decades. It first made an appearance in 1985, when it replaced traditional auction and "Unclaimed Freight and Baggage" sales formats. Longtime *Depot Day* supporters know that the auction is a great place to pick up valuable goods and services at bargain prices, while helping the museum at the same time.

This year's auction offers more than 150 items (a list will be posted on the museum web site, www.goletadepot.org, before the event), including hotel stays, golfing, performing-arts tickets, winery tours, Amtrak travel, meals at fine restaurants, and a lot more.

The auction is a primary source of financial support for the museum. Please help by visiting the tables and placing

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Welcome New Members

The latest additions to the museum family include **Steve Kramer** (Active), **Mel and Mike Hitchcock** (Sustaining), **David Palmer** (Sustaining) and **Granite Construction Company** (Milepost 100). New Life members are **Fairview Car Wash**, **Brent Muchow**, **Joanell Scala** and **Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613**.

New members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Austin Delgado**, **Fletcher Larsen**, **Ashton McCartney**, **Levi Sheffey** and **Liam Francis Shields**. Welcome one and all!

Steaming Summer Thanks

Special thanks are owed to everyone who contributed their time and resources to the 2006 *Steaming Summer* (see photo on page 4). They include **Gene Allen**, **Neil Baker**, **Marc Bradley**, **Ted Cheesman**, **Thea Cremers**, **Jean-Guy Dubé**, **Zack Hamber**, **Joan Hanna**, **Jim Higman**, **Mel Hitchcock**, **Mike Hitchcock**, **John Hutchinson**, **Steve Kramer**, **Noel Langle**, **Peggy Langle**, **Ed Leska**, **Laura Little**, **Jim Marchiando**, **Diana Mina**, **Nicholas Mina**, **Bruce Morden**, **David Palmer**, **Ken Pontifex**, **Trevor Pontifex**, **Jason Poole**, **Arlene Radasky**, **Lavonne Sanchez**, **Lorraine Saunders**, **Joanell Scala**,

Dick Shelton, **William Simpson**, **John Starr**, **Nicholas Vanhecke**, **Vincent Vanhecke**, **Bern Verbit**, **Wally Waldau**, **Paul Williams**, **Ed Winnewisser**, **Claudia Worthen** and event sponsor **Toyota of Santa Barbara**.

New Section Added To Web Site Site Traffic Growing

The museum's web site has a new section, titled "About Trains & Railroads." It can be reached from a button on the left-side menu of most site pages and contains several pages devoted to the role of trains in popular culture, including movies, music and poetry. "About Trains & Railroads" also contains a railroad-reference section and links to related web sites. There is also a link to the recently-added "Kids' Crossing" area of the web site, with activities for young site visitors.

The museum web site audience has been growing significantly in the past year. The site has received over 73,000 visits in that period, answering more than 5.7 million requests for pages and images. Over half of those requests have come in just the last three months (June thru August).

The museum's web site address is: www.goletadepot.org.

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Read For The Record

On Aug. 24, the museum hosted a "Read For The Record" event (see photo on left) — part of the nationwide campaign to encourage young readers. **Shirley Morrison**, longtime **Santa Barbara Public Library** children's librarian, presented a train theme storytime to a group of 30 children and parents, and 54 free rides on the Goleta Short Line were awarded to those in attendance.

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New Handcar Boarding Station

The handcar ride has a brand-new boarding platform, thanks to the generosity of the **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** and some of the museum's volunteers. The new platform replaces a makeshift portable unit that has been in use for many years.

The women's group donated the funds to purchase the materials needed for the construction. They are also sponsoring free handcar rides every third Saturday for the remainder of 2006. Participating in the construction were **Noel Langle, Vincent Vanhecke, Nicholas Vanhecke, Ed Leska, James "Bo" Birchim** and Museum Director Gary Coombs.

The new boarding station will welcome its first handcar passengers on Saturday, Sept. 16 and on *Depot Day*, Sept. 24.

While not working on the Visitor Center completion, Noel Langle has been helping with the new platform for handcar-ride passengers.

Depot Day *(continued from page 1)*

bids on your favorite items.

If you have new items, collectibles or valuable services to donate to the auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (964-3540).

Tri-Tip Barbecue Meal

The always-popular *Depot Day* barbecue includes sliced tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

BBQ tickets are \$8 (\$5 for children under 12), but may be purchased in advance in the museum's Trackside Shop, or from museum trustees, staff and many volunteers, saving \$1 per ticket.

Members are encouraged to buy their tickets in advance.

"Depot Dogs" and beverages will also be available on *Depot Day*.

Visit The "Information Station"

Depot Day guests will be able to explore the vast resources of the museum's new electronic Information Station, which will be set up in the Visitor Center. Be sure to drop in and sign the guest book!

Depot Open House

Depot Day affords guests a rare chance to see the agent's apartment, a historic second-floor area of the depot building that is usually closed to visitors. This was where the station agent and family lived, and the space has been refurnished to re-create that atmosphere.

Musical Entertainment

Depot Day entertainment will include popular renditions of many of your favorite railroad tunes and train songs.

It's About Saving Lives!

Museum volunteer and certified Operation Lifesaver presenter **John Staugaard** will be manning an Operation Lifesaver booth on *Depot Day*, giving away fun souvenirs that promote safety around railroad areas. There will also literature and John will be ready to answer your questions about keeping you and your loved ones safe near trains, tracks, rail yards and crossings.



films on a wide range of rail topics of interest to all age levels.

Switching Puzzle

Bruce Morden will be sharing his switching puzzle this year. The puzzle challenges aspiring engineers and conductors to move a model train successfully through a maze of switches.



Donations At The Door

All *Depot Day* visitors will be asked to make a \$1 contribution in support of the museum and the continued preservation of the historical landmark. Event rides are also \$1 each during the event.

Thank You

Depot Day 2006 has benefitted from the promotional support of the **Santa Barbara News-Press, Goleta Valley Voice, sbparent.com** and **Venoco**.

Train-Action Films

Throughout *Depot Day*, the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater will be featuring



Some of the volunteers who helped to make Steaming Summer 2006 a success were, from left to right, Mike Hitchcock, Mel Hitchcock, Jason Poole, Ed Winneniser, Steve Kramer and Gene Allen (see story and full list of Steaming Summer volunteers on Page 2)

Volunteer Doubles As Project Photographer

Trails & Rails Guide **B. Marc Bradley** has been commissioned by the museum to take photographs of scenes along the *Coast Starlight* route, for use in the recruitment, orientation and training of new guide prospects and trainees.

Museum Director Gary Coombs used some of Marc's images in an Aug. 1 presentation to the **Goleta Lions Club**.

Black-and-white doesn't do justice to this dramatic Bradley shot of the Coast Starlight crossing the Santa Ynez River at Vandenberg Air Force Base.



Candy Cane Train

Starting Friday, Nov. 24

Ed Leska (right) has been building a lot of track for the Goleta Short Line lately. Here, he gets an assist from Perry Lorentzen.



WANTED:
ENGINEERS & CONDUCTORS
 VOLUNTEERS
 FOR THE
GOLETA SHORT LINE
 MINIATURE TRAIN RIDE