

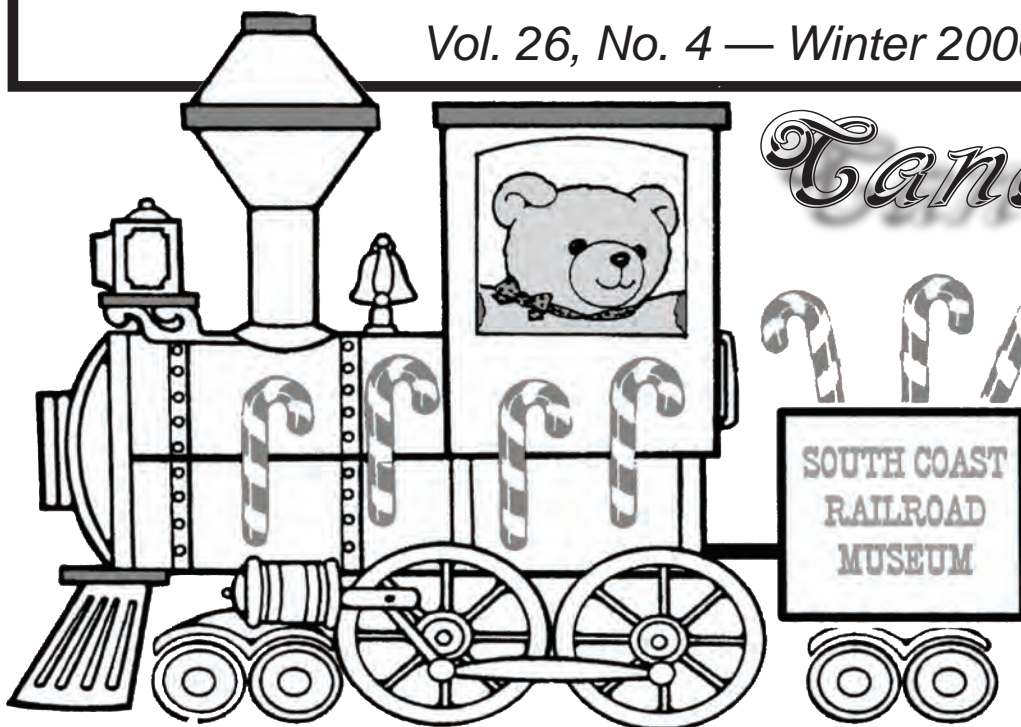


Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 26, No. 4 — Winter 2006-07



Candy Cane Train

The end of another year is drawing to a close, which means it won't be long before the *Candy Cane Train* takes over the museum tracks for another season filled with holiday merriment. The ever-popular event opens Friday, Nov. 24 — the day after Thanksgiving — and continues daily through Christmas Eve (except Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 11-12, when the museum will be closed). During the week

before Christmas, the museum will be open two additional days — Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 18 & 19 — to allow the *Candy Cane Train* to run a couple of extra days while schools are out for the holidays.

The event has changed very little since 1993, when it was called the "Holiday Train." The name was changed to *Candy Cane Train* the following year. Ticket bearers receive a ride on the festively decorated train and an assortment of holiday treats and favors — including, of course, a candy cane!

Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. each day, but event-goers are always urged to plan on arriving at the museum not later than 3:30, in order to enjoy all of the *Candy Cane Train* activities at an unhurried pace. You'll want to include enough time to enjoy the traditional *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears* display in the Freight Office, which also opens on No-

(continued on page 2, See "Candy Cane Train")

Visitor Center Ready

Grand Opening Nov 18-19

The long-awaited Visitor Center is finished at last! On the weekend of Nov. 18-19, the museum will hold a Grand Opening to celebrate the achievement. Those dates were selected because they also mark the 25th anniversary of the relocation of Goleta Depot from the railroad tracks to Lake Los Carneros County Park.

We'll have 25-cent train rides (Yes, that means members ride free — with valid membership card.), prize drawings and a lot more. Bring a bandana so you can signal and board the train at either of two flagstops set up especially for the occasion. Be one of the first to sign the new electronic guestbook in the Visitor Center.

Please join us in cheering the completion of the largest capital project in the history of the museum. Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

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Institute for American Research**

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**Easter
Bunny
Express**

April 7



Handcar Shed Being Rebuilt

Plans are underway for a major remodeling of the handcar shed. The new building, which is used to store the museum handcar between operating days, will be smaller and more sturdy than its predecessor.

Welcome To New Members

John Mudie is a new Active member. New Junior Engineers include Michael Curzan, Ben Williams and Caden Hayashida. Welcome to all of you!

**Museum Tree Renews A Hallowed
Tradition In American Railroading**

If you're out looking at Christmas lights, or just find yourself driving along Los Carneros Road some night during the holidays, be sure to watch for the lighted tree in Goleta Depot's upstairs window bay.

The depot tree renews a widely-practiced tradition of agent families to position their Christmas tree so that its light and meaning could be shared with the passengers and crews on passing trains.

The museum's tree is also decorated with small white "Remembrance Stars," each in memory of a museum friend who has passed away.

**Don't Pass, Run To Super
Saturday! On Feb. 3**

Feb. 3 will mark the first weekend day of free miniature-train rides at the museum, as we celebrate another "Super Saturday!" event. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m.

Super Saturday is always held on the day before the Super Bowl football game. This will be the 11th annual Super Saturday, since the museum's event was inaugurated 30 years after the Super Bowl, which celebrates its 41st anniversary in 2007 (Do the math: XLI - XXX = XI).

Besides unlimited rides, everyone attending Super Saturday! will receive one of the oversized, football-shaped souvenir tickets that have become an event trademark. The 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies to all train riders.

Super Saturday! would not be possible without the generosity of a long list of sponsoring businesses, organizations and members — many of whom help year after year. The 2006 sponsors included Allen Models; Bartlett Tree Experts; Dick and Wendy Shelton; Circle of Friends Children's Center; Cold Spring Tavern; and Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services.

Also, Motel 6, Goleta; Michael J. Gartzke, CPA; Dal Pozzo Tire Corp., Goleta; Goleta Valley Voice; Grace Baptist Church; and Robert B. Locke, Esq.

And, Montessori Center School; Bruce and Andrea Morden; Mike and Gail Pearl, Sotheby's International Realty; Ken Pontifex Family; R P Printing & Graphics; Peter Tiersma; and State Farm Insurance, Ed Attlessey & Tammy Dobrotin, Agents.

Candy Cane Train (continued from page 1)

November 24 (see story on page 3).

Candy Cane Train tickets, at \$3 each, will be sold at the museum during event hours. Additional rides may be purchased for 75¢ each. Museum members receive their usual 25¢ off on every ticket purchased.

For our guests' safety, the 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies to all Candy Cane Train passengers.

Read For The Record

At latest count, event organizer Jumpstart For Young Children is reporting that more than 150,000 children nationwide took part in the Aug. 24 "Read For The Record." As announced here in the last issue, a group of 30 children and adults participated in the event at our museum.

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

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Signal Installation In Progress

Trustee Bruce Morden has been leading a volunteer effort to install a pair of Coast Route signals that the museum received several years ago. The signals will be positioned along the mainline track south of the depot. When the project is complete, the signal lights will be operational.

Volunteers run electrical wire to the new signal locations. From left: David Chapman, Noel Langle, Bruce Morden and Ed Leska.

Museum Seeks Volunteers For Coast Starlight Rail Program

Volunteers are now being recruited for the museum's interpretive program aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains.

The program will start another busy year of trips to San Luis Obispo and Oakland in mid-February. Over the past year, the museum's volunteers made 143 presentations aboard *Coast Starlight* trains, reaching an audience of about 32,600 rail passengers.

Persons interested in taking part in the program during 2007 should plan to attend a required day-long orientation and training session on Saturday, Feb. 10. This training is only offered once a year. After one additional evening class, guide-recruits will begin on-the-job training aboard the *Coast Starlight*, working with senior guides and members of the museum staff.

For more information, please contact the museum office (805-964-3540 or info@goletadepot.org).

Togami and Olitzky Join Museum Board

Seth Olitzky and Edwin Togami have been elected to the board of trustees.

Edwin Togami lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Justine, and their son and daughter, Kenzie and Alison. He moved here over 22 years ago to attend UCSB. Today Ed is an Apple Macintosh computer consultant with his own company, Togami & Associates. He served previously on the board of the Adoption Center of Santa Barbara. He is also a founding member of the Santa Barbara Macintosh Users Group.



Seth Olitzky has lived in Santa Barbara for five years. He is a soft-

Edwin Togami



Seth Olitzky

Seth says that he accepted the invitation to serve on the board because he considers the museum "an outstanding resource for families in our community."

ware consultant specializing in television broadcast applications. He also teaches part-time in film theory and animation history.

Seth is a volunteer on the museum's Goleta Short Line miniature-train. He and his wife, Barbara, have a son, Ian.

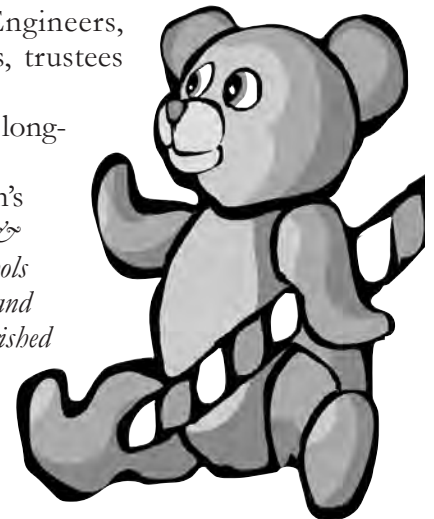
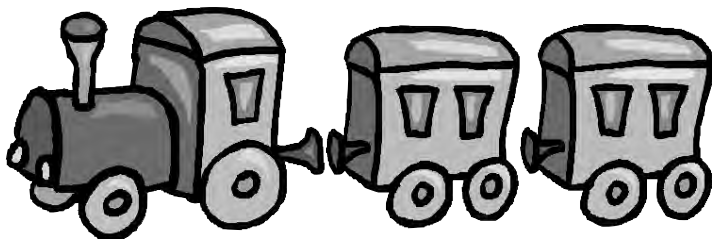
"Toy Trains & Teddy Bears" Display Shares Keepsakes For The Holidays

When you visit the museum over the holidays, be sure to drop by the Waiting Room to see the annual year-end display, "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!," which, like the *Candy Cane Cane*, opens the day after Thanksgiving.

This exhibition is a once-a-year chance for members and friends to share personal items with the museum's holiday-season visitors, including toy locomotives, antique trains, and stuffed animals – all loaned especially for the

occasion by our Junior Engineers, other members, volunteers, trustees and staff.

The late **Steve Sullivan**, long-time museum member and friend penned the exhibition's label years ago: "Toy Trains & 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."



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteers Enjoy Vandenberg Getaway

A museum group of 28, mostly volunteers, took a day-long Oct. 2 fieldtrip to Vandenberg Air Force Base. Vandenberg is one of the main topics of the interpretive program presented by our volunteers to passengers aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains. The fieldtrip was designed to give these volunteers added background and firsthand experiences at Vandenberg, as well as to provide a fun and informative getaway for all of the participants.

The trip included a number of behind-the-scenes stops, including one at the historic Pt. Arguello Coast Guard Rescue Station ("The Boathouse"), which are seldom a part of any public base tour.

The visit was organized and led by **Dr. James Carucci**, Vandenberg's Acting Cultural Resources Program Manager, and Museum Director Gary Coombs.



Photos:

Top: Dr. Jim Carucci welcomes the group aboard the VAFB tour bus.

Right: Fieldtrip members get up close and personal with Space Launch Complex No. 2.

Bottom, right: William Simpson, Ed Leska and Ron Bruns explore the top floor of the historic Boathouse.

Bottom, left: Mary and Jude Blau, Fran and Tom Harders enjoy the incredible sea view from the Boathouse porch.

Left: The last remaining Atlas missile gantry in America is easily seen from Coast Route trains.

