



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

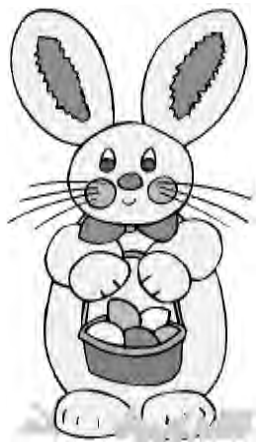


Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 27, No. 1 — Spring 2007

EASTER BUNNY EXPRESS

One of the most delightful family events on the museum's annual calendar will take place Saturday, April 7, when another *Easter Bunny Express* comes to the museum grounds. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$4 per person, adult or child.



Attendees will be treated to a number of fun activities, each listed as a "station" on the special oversized egg-shaped ticket, including visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to ride the decorated train); *Harvey's House* (for a yummy cookie and some lemonade); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the Easter Bunny and receive an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a prize drawing); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).

Tickets are available in advance at the museum. They will also be sold during the event until 3:30 p.m.

For those wanting lunch or an afternoon snack, our volunteers will be serving hot sandwiches, snacks and refreshments throughout the event.

The 2007 *Easter Bunny Express* promises to be another "hare-raising egg-sperience" for the whole family. Don't miss it! (rain date: April 14). The museum will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 8.



Thom To Share Narrow Gauge Rails, Part II

The long-awaited second installment of Rich Thom's "Round The World By Narrow Gauge" will take place on Wed., April 11 at 7 p.m. at Goleta Library. The international railway traveler and chronicler will again augment his lecture with digital video footage and stereo sound to take his audience on an armchair tour of railroads with track gauges of three feet or less – in Guatemala, India, and China. Thom will explain how the railroad builders used these smaller gauges to save on construction costs. Many of these little railroads survive today, some as tourist operations and

(continued on page 4, See "Thom To Talk")

Crew clears a rock slide on the Ferrovias Guatemala.



Expanded Store Is Big Hit

The museum store, now much larger in its new Visitor Center digs, has been receiving rave reviews from our visitors. Especially popular are the new merchandise items that we weren't able to carry due to the limited space in the former store area. These include a wonderful selection of colorful and attractive framed and unframed posters, which have done a lot to grace the walls in the new store, and a wide assortment of new Thomas The Tank Engine items, including an HO-scale Thomas electric train set,

Lego sets and wooden Thomas engines and cars from Learning Curve, and new tracks for the die-cast Thomas train characters that have been popular with museum shoppers for many years.

We also now have a used book area, where shoppers can browse through a growing selection of rare and vintage titles on trains and railroad subjects.

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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Super Thanks, Super Sponsors, Super Saturday

Special thanks are extended to all of the community sponsors who helped to make possible this year's *Super Saturday!* event on Feb. 3. They are **Bartlett Tree Experts * Circle of Friends Children's Center * Dal Pozzo Tire Corp., Goleta * DiMauro's Honda/Acura Service * Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services * Michael J. Gartzke, CPA * Grace Baptist Church * Robert B. Locke, Esq. * MacMechanic * Montessori Center School * Bruce and Andrea Morden * Mike and Gail Pearl, Sotheby's International Realty * Ken Pontifex Family * Dick and Wendy Shelton * Peter Tiersma.**

Thank you, one and all!

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Seeing Double, Three Times Over!



What are the odds? On Sunday, March 18, the Goleta Short

Line miniature railroad carried 10 passengers on its first train. The 10 riders represented three families with two children each. The families had never met. What's so special? Only that the six youngsters were three sets of twins! **Andrea and Rachel Monarrez**, age 4

(with their father, **Rafael**); **Diego and Kai Casas**, age 2 (with parents, **Laura and Chris**); and **Morgan and Liam Phillips**, age 2 (with mother, **Lorie**). They were all kind enough to pose for the accompanying photograph to document the occasion.

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

New Members Welcomed

New museum members include **John Curran, Pam Curran, Donald Gill, John Green, Sandra Newkirk, Ken Kelley, Dorothy Magmore, Michelle Kee, James Reith, John Reith, John Reith VII, Vincent Schlerf, Virginia Schmalenberger, Melanie Topalian, and Mike Topping.**

New Junior Engineers Club members are **Jackson Andrews, Aidan Bartel, Aaron Broumand, Rece Graham, Tyler Herzog, Roland Huynh, Logan Kaufman, Aedan Metzner, Claire Metzner, Graeme Metzner, Torben Vraciu, and Sam Weiss-Chytilo.**

A hearty welcome to all of our new members!



Rotary Day Coming June 17

The 7th annual *Rotary Day*, an afternoon of free train and handcar rides at the museum, will be held Saturday, June 16. The event is sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime.** Club members will be on hand to greet visitors and assist with the rides.

Please plan to attend and tell the Rotarians how much we all appreciate their continuing support!

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“Great Race” Fundraiser Means A Lot To Museum, Goleta Depot

The museum’s 26th annual Spring Fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 19. The event features unlimited free miniature train and handcar rides for all museum visitors.

The 2007 event will use the “Great Goleta Rail Race” theme that was first applied back in 1997. Reminiscent of the story of track-builder John Henry, the “steel drivin’ man” who raced a steam-powered drill, the museum’s “Great Race” offers its own version of the struggle between man and machine, as the people-powered museum handcar and the Goleta Short Line miniature train compete to see which can



complete the greatest number of passenger-miles over a three-hour span.

For museum visitors, there will be free rides from 1 to 4 p.m., during which both the handcar and train will operate continuously. All riders must meet the minimum-height requirements for their mode of travel: 34 inches on the train, 48 inches on the handcar.

Careful record will be kept of the total passengers carried and the distance completed by each vehicle, with the winner determined using a handicapping system based on the actual vehicle performances over the entire history of the event, except for the first year, when the handicap was determined by calculations performed by math teams from local high schools.

The first Spring Fundraiser, which was called the “Asphalt Regatta” for many years, was held at Goleta Beach on April 24, 1982, barely five months after a dilapidated Goleta Depot (see photo on right) had been moved from its trackside site to a new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park. The

inaugural event raised about \$1,500 for the campaign to save and preserve the historical landmark.

Members are urged to take part this year by helping with the fundraising leading up to the May 19 event, either by obtaining pledges or making a pledge of one’s own. Each year, the Spring Fundraiser generates about 15% of the museum’s annual operating costs. This year’s goal is to raise \$15,000.

Please support this important museum event by making a tax-deductible donation using the pledge form that accompanies this newsletter. For more information about the event and how you can help, please contact the museum office at 964-3540 or museum@goletadepot.org.



A New Home: November, 1981



Photo by Paul Heuston

New Waiting Room Display Looks At Insulators

There is a new display in Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room. It focuses on the glass and porcelain insulators that were once used on telegraph, telephone and electrical poles to insulate the wires. In the exhibit label, designers **Jean-Guy Dubé** and **Paul Williams** describe how the insulators were used, as well as discussing their place as valued collectibles. All of the insulators on exhibition are from Jean-Guy Dubé’s personal collection.

The next time you visit the museum, be sure to drop by the Waiting Room to see this new temporary display.



Stephanie Johnson

Welcome, Stephanie.

It’s a pleasure to introduce the museum’s new staff member, **Stephanie Johnson**. Stephanie didn’t have to travel far to find her place as our new museum assistant. Born in Santa Barbara, she lives only a few blocks away and attended nearby La Patera Elementary School, Goleta Valley Valley Junior High and Dos Pueblos High School, where she graduated with honors in 2001.

She went on to U.C. Berkeley, graduating in 2005 with bachelor’s degrees in dance performance studies and in nutrition, with an emphasis in toxicology.

“Thom To Talk” (continued from page 1)

others as everyday carriers of passengers and freight. Many wind through mountainous regions and areas of great scenic beauty. Some provide the only link between isolated villages and the outside world.



Rich Thom

The presentation will feature a sampling of these diminutive survivors drawn from three continents. The first stop will be Ferrocarriles Guatemala, originally part of the International Railways of Central America, an American enterprise built by the United Fruit Co.

Next, we'll travel to one of India's lofty hill stations, Shimla, aboard the narrow-gauge line that was built to transport British bureaucrats and their families to cool mountain heights while urban Delhi roasted in the summer heat. The tour will conclude in China, with six narrow-gauge railways that carry just about everything: limestone, coal, clay (for bricks), crops and passengers.

Rich Thom has ridden and photograph railroads in over 37 countries, focusing on the more exotic and remote lines of South America, India, and China. His articles have appeared in *Trains* and *Aboard* magazines, and in *International Railway Traveler*, where he is a contributing editor.

Before turning to digital still and video photography starting in the late 1990s, Thom had amassed an estimated 29,300 slides and negatives from his international railway travels.

A former trustee and president of the South Coast Railroad Museum, Rich Thom is retired and lives in Washington state with his wife, Linda. The couple makes frequent trips to Santa Barbara, where Rich can often be found volunteering his time at the museum.

The program is free and open to the public. The library is at 500 North Fairview Ave., Goleta.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Judy Blue Meet Jude Blau

Two members of the museum's cadre of dedicated volunteers have nearly identical names. Fortunately for the many who might otherwise be confused, the two serve in very different areas and their paths seldom cross. They are **Judy Blue**, who began her museum service in 2000 as an *Easter Bunny Express* volunteer and now staffs regularly as a shop clerk, and **Jude Blau**, who has been a volunteer in the museum's *Coast Starlight* program since 2000.

Judy likes to point out that the name similarity is even greater than it appears at first glance: “Jude” is also Judy's nickname, while “blau” is German for blue. She says that their first encounter took place during a *Depot Day* silent auction, when Jude ended up with some of Judy's winning-bid items. Or, was it the other way around?



Judy and Jude

Work Continues On Track Additions

Museum volunteers, under the direction of **Gene Allen**, have been making good progress toward completion of the Goleta Short Line miniature-railroad additions. Most of the work has been performed by Allen, **Ed Leska** and **William Simpson**, with additional contributions of labor by **Ron Bruns**, **Seth Olitzky** and **Bern Verbit**.

Already installed are two switches,

Coast Starlight Guide Prospects

We are pleased to welcome the 2007 class of guides-in-training for the museum's Coast Starlight program. To date, 11 new volunteers have attended the Feb. 10 classroom training and completed their applications. They are **John Curran**, **Pamela Curran**, **Donald Gill**, **Michelle Kee**, **Kenneth Kelley**, **Dorothy Magmore**, **Sandra Newkirk**, **Vincent Schlerf**, **Virginia Schmalenberger**, **Melanie Topalian** and **Michael Topping**. Several others may also soon join this group of program inductees.

two crossovers and about 200 feet of new track.

Ed Leska, Gene Allen and William Simpson pose for the camera near end-of-track

