



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 27, No. 2 — Summer 2007

Another Steaming Summer

Once every year, for two decades now, members and friends have been bringing their miniature steam locomotives to the museum for a special event called “*Steaming Summer*.” These remarkable machines pull the trains of the



Goleta Short Line, hauling passengers and showing off their amazing power and intricate design. The result is one of the railroad museum’s most popular annual events.

The 20th *Steaming Summer* will be held over the weekend of July 28-29.

Visiting locomotives will include **Gene Allen’s** 4-4-0 American, **Ed Winnewisser’s** 0-6-0 switcher (both shown on these pages), and others.

A major addition and highlight of this year’s event will be the expanded Goleta Short Line track, which now gives passengers a wonderful nine-minute ride that is nearly one-

Ed Winnewisser and his 0-6-0 Switcher make the last curve before heading home during Steaming Summer 2005.



half-mile in length.

The event will again feature a circus theme, with cars from **Ted Cheesman’s** circus train added to one of the consists, including two *Steaming Summer* favorites — a car with water-squirting-elephants and a musical calliope car with a bubble-blowing bear.

In the model-railroad exhibit, the circus train from **Ken and Carolyn Weber’s** “K&C Famous Family Circus” will reprise its travels around the “Goleta Loop,” adding to the circus theme. The Weber circus first entertained *Steaming Summer* attendees in 1999.



Giraffe (far right) gazes at Goleta Depot as circus train passes in model-railroad exhibit room.

Jim Marchiando will be back with his steam plant, powering a water pump, a table-top display of operating steam tools and machines, and a phalanx of steam whistles.

Daily admission to *Steaming Summer* is \$4 (\$3.75 for members), which includes unlimited train and handcar rides (Riders must meet the museum’s minimum-height requirements: 34” for the train; 48” for the handcar.).

Hours both days will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum members are invited to come early — between 10 and 11 a.m. — to watch as the locomotives are being steamed-up in preparation for the day (Early admission is a special benefit of membership. It is open only to members and their accompanying guests, please.)

(cont’d on page 4, see “Steaming Summer”)

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Mid-State Bank & Trust Sponsors Reading-Program Participation

Children who successfully complete the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, by reading 15 or more books, will again receive a coupon good for two free rides on the museum's miniature train.

The museum's participation in the library program goes all the way back to 1989. That summer, museum staff members led a fieldtrip for reading-program families aboard Amtrak trains to Simi Valley in conjunction with that year's reading-program theme, "Get On The Right Track — Read."

"We are proud to be a longtime partner with the public libraries in this wonderful program that promotes reading achievement among local children," said Museum Director **Gary Coombs**.

Mid-State Bank & Trust, which is now a part of the **Rabobank Group**, is generously sponsoring the museum's contribution to the reading program in 2007.



New Track Opening & Free Rides Made Rotary Day A Big Hit

The 7th annual *Rotary Day*, held Saturday June 16, served up some real treats for those lucky enough to attend the free event sponsored each year at this time by the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime**.

The museum used the occasion to inaugurate passenger service on the expanded Goleta Short Line miniature railroad. To add to the festivities, **Gene Allen** brought his 4-4-0 American locomotive to help diesel engine No. 1316 haul passengers. The Allen steamer was also in a special banner-cutting ceremony to officially open the new track (see photo sequence at right). Two trains were operated simultaneously for most of the afternoon and those aboard had great fun waving to one another whenever the trains crossed paths.

Riders had lots of good things to say about the new, longer ride. Nearly a half-mile in length now, the ride takes about nine minutes from start to finish.

Special thanks are owed not only to the Rotary Club, itself, but also to Rotarians **Michael Gartzke**, **Sandy Stanbrough**, and **Walt Stephens**, for helping to keep the handcar running throughout the event. Gartzke, a former member of the museum's Board of Trustees, has been instrumental in keeping *Rotary Day* alive and helping with event planning and coordination.

Overall, more than 250 free train and handcar rides were given to visitors during a busy and eventful afternoon.



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This Issue Sponsored By

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Like We've Always Said, "For The Perfect Wedding Gift, Nothing Beats A Handcar Ride."

Museum Director Gary Coombs knew it was going to be a special day when he answered the phone that morning. The call came from Los Angeles — a young woman named **Elena**, who explained that she and her fiancé, **Will**, were coming to Santa Barbara for the weekend. If they visited the museum, could they please have a ride on the museum handcar? Elena would later explain that Will had told her a couple of years earlier about his longtime wish to ride a handcar and she had been trying ever since to make his dream come true. It even grew into a joke between the two: Whenever she presented him with a wrapped gift he would look at her and ask, "Handcar ride?"

They were to be wed the following Saturday, June 16. Elena had found the museum just in time to make the handcar experience a special — and unusual — bride's gift to her groom.

Coombs explained that free handcar rides were only offered on 3rd Satur-

days, but that the museum had just started a new program of making handcar rides available by request for a small fee. Elena accepted immediately. The betrothed would be the very first handcar riders under the new program!

When the couple arrived that afternoon for their ride, shop clerk **Judy Blue** could hardly contain her excitement. Elena made Will stay in the car with his eyes covered until everything was ready. The couple would enjoy a long and memorable museum visit, including a pair of handcar rides and another ride on the miniature train.

Elena had explained when she first called that she and Will were in the Navy, which seemed to make the occasion all the more special for the museum. It was only later that we learned the full story: Barely two weeks before their museum visit, on May 25, Will and Elena had both graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. Wow!



Will and Elena pose for the camera atop the handcar, part of a special museum visit sandwiched between graduation and wedding celebrations.

Depot Day Coming Sunday, Sept. 30

Don't miss out on all of the action!

- * Inspection-Car Rides *
- Silent Auction * Handcar Rides *
- * Barbecue * Miniature Train Rides *
- * Operation Lifesaver *

Loads of Family Fun!

Olitzky Family Renews "Free Fridays" Sponsorship

Free miniature-train rides on the first Friday of the month have been a staple with museum visitors since 2002. *First Fridays Free* will live on for another year, thanks to the generosity of the **Olitzky Family** — Museum Trustee **Seth Olitzky**, **Barbara Olitzky**, and their son, Junior Engineer **Ian Olitzky** — who have renewed their sponsorship of the popular museum program.

Don't Miss Jr. Engineers Party!!

The museum's annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thurs., Aug. 9 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. \$5 charge for any additional guests.

Wanted: Ride Supervisor

The museum is looking for someone with flexible hours to fill a new part-time position. Duties and responsibilities of the Ride Supervisor include operating the train and handcar rides when volunteers are unavailable; interacting with museum visitors; performing light maintenance on the track and ride equipment; supervising volunteers during rides and maintenance activities; and assisting other staff in keeping the ride-staffing calendar and recruiting new volunteers. Candidates should be: in good health; available 5-15 hours per week; willing to work weekend and weekday hours; friendly and enthusiastic about sharing the museum with the public, including many families with young children. Pay \$8-\$11/hr. depending on experience and qualifications.

Hold This Date, Please.



Fashion Show & Luncheon

*A Benefit for the
South Coast Railroad Museum*

*Fashions by Coldwater Creek
Saturday, November 10, 2007*

11:30 p.m., Hospitality

Noon Luncheon

1:00 p.m., Fashion Show

*Goleta Community Center
5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta*

\$35 per person

Luncheon by Country Catering Company

*For reservations or more information,
contact jean.hanna1@cox.net*

Long Hours By Museum Volunteers Made Longer “Short Line” Possible

VOLUNTEER NEWS

During the June 16 ceremony in which the expanded track of the Goleta Short Line was officially opened, those who contributed to the project were recognized. Financial support came from three local foundations, the **Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation**, the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, and the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**. Substantial contributions in the form of donated track-building supplies also were made to the project by **Allen Models, Inc.**

But the unquestionable heroes of the trackwork that has transformed the museum train ride are the volunteer “Gandy Dancers” who toiled uncounted hours over many months to bring the project to fruition.

Gene Allen led the way, teaching his fellow workers how to build and lay track, supervising their labors, and making sure everything was right. **Ed Leska** became Gene’s right-hand man, staying with the project from start to finish, and becoming a skilled right-of-way engineer in the process. **John Green**, **Bruce Morden**, **William Simpson**, and **Bern Verbit** contributed many of their valued mornings to the effort. **Noel Langle** cut about 1,000 ties — for the switches and crossovers and to support



Bruce Morden, foreground left, works on one of the new crossover tracks, while Gene Allen, right, supervises. Standing, left to right: Ed Leska, Bern Verbit, and John Green.

the rails everywhere in between. Also giving time were **Ron Bruns**, **Cayce Baierski**, and **Seth Olitzky**.

The result of all these efforts is the veritable rebirth of the Goleta Short Line, from little more than a “kiddie ride” to a memorable ride experience that is almost a half-mile in length and about nine minutes in duration. In

the years to come, tens of thousands of museum visitors will have these individuals and organizations to thank for the excitement and joy that the new Goleta Short Line miniature-train ride will bring to all of them.

“Steaming Summer” (cont’d. from page 1)

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 will be lowered to \$3 after 3 p.m, about the time the steamers are retiring for the day. Advance tickets, at 50¢ off (75¢ off with membership card) are now available in the museum’s Visitor Center.

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

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to ride on a Goleta Short Line train pulled by a real steam locomotive!

Gene Allen, left, and Ed Winnewisser examine Gene’s American locomotive as it passes over one of the new crossover locations during Rotary Day, June 16, 2007.



Welcome New Members

Donnis Galvan is a new museum member and a new *Coast Starlight* Trails & Rails guide-in-training. New Junior Engineers Club members are **Ailee Gessert-Ma**, **Sophie Graham**, **Valentina D. Juricek**, **Aidan Meaney**, **Trey Murray** and **Luke Thomas**. Welcome to the museum family!