



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 28, No. 2 — Summer 2008

Steaming Summer ... Just Around The Bend

The museum will be celebrating the 22nd anniversary of its ever-popular “*Steaming Summer*” event over the weekend of July 19-20. The event draws its name — not from the sizzling heat we’ve been experiencing of late — but from the miniature live-steam locomotives that members and friends bring to the museum just once a year for this annual “salute to steam.” These incredible engines are called into service to pull the trains of the Goleta Short Line, hauling passengers as they parade proudly around the museum grounds.

This year’s visiting locomotives will include two *Steaming Summer* mainstays, **Gene Allen’s** American and **Ed Winnewisser’s** 0-6-0 switcher. **Ron Wilkerson** also plans to attend and will bring either his mogul or ten-wheeler. We’ll be running multiple trains simultaneously this year, which makes for a lot of fun and extra interest for passengers and crew alike.

Steaming Summer 2008 will also feature a table-top display of operating steam tools and machines, a water pump, and an orchestra of steam whistles — all driven by **Jim Marchiando’s** powerful steam plant.

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 are 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



Left to right: Jason Poole, Ed Winnewisser, Steve Kramer, and Gene Allen ready the engines for Steaming Summer 2006.

preparation for the day (Early admission is a special benefit of membership. It is open only to members and their accompanying guests, please. Be sure to bring and be prepared to show your valid museum membership card.)

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 same 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 delicious “Depot Dogs,” as well as cold drinks available for purchase in the Club Car.

Don’t miss this once-a-year chance to ride on a Goleta Short Line train pulled by a real steam locomotive!

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Welcome New Members

Mary Ebeling is a new museum member (Active).

New Junior Engineers Club members include Gabriel Anderson, **Ella J. Beltz**, **Henry Goodman**, Sean Hillman, **Nico Angelo Scibird**, **Aidan Smith**, and **Graham Parker Stilwell Stuart**.

A cheery welcome to all of you!

Rotary Day Happens Because Goleta Noontime Rotary Cares

Special thanks are owed to the members of the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime** for making possible the 8th annual *Rotary Day* which was held at the museum on Saturday, June 21. Thanks especially to Rotarian **Walt Stephens** who helped keep the handcar operating smoothly and to event founder and co-organizer **Michael Gartzke**. More than 100 free miniature-train and handcar rides were given to appreciative visitors during one of the hottest museum afternoons in recent memory.

Museum Takes Part In “National Train Day” Celebration

A group of 47, including museum volunteers, staff, members, and many others from the general public, traveled aboard Amtrak’s *Pacific Surfliner* trains to Los Angeles on May 10 for the first-ever *National Train Day* event. The museum group, which ranged from young children and teenagers to seniors, was escorted by Director Gary Coombs and Board member **John Hutchinson**. The group made full use of Amtrak’s South Coast stations, with some excursion members boarding in Goleta and others joining the group in Santa Barbara or Carpinteria.

National Train Day offered event-goers a variety of things-to-do at Union Station, including an afternoon concert, tours of Amtrak Superliner cars, including one of the newly refurbished Pacific Parlour Cars, prize drawings and giveaways, a children’s activity area, a model-railroad display, and a large number of organizational booths.

Most members of the museum group found time to explore beyond Union Station and *National Train Day*. Many visited Olvera Street or took part in the Taiwan Fest activities held at El Pueblo De Los Angeles Historical Monument. Some walked to Chinatown and others to Little Tokyo for a free family day at the Japanese American National Museum. **Don and Kathy Chalfant** took advantage of the 25-cent weekend

“Name The Museum Store” Contest

A large number of entries in the “Name The Museum Store” contest were received on or before the May 1, 2008 contest deadline. The Board of Trustees is reviewing all of the proposed names and will be selecting the winning entry shortly. Watch for all the details in the next *Depot Dispatch* issue.



Many of the museum excursion members boarded the train in Goleta, including Pat and Perry Lorentzen, on far right.

fare for seniors on the Los Angeles Metro to ride the Gold Line to Pasadena. It was an especially memorable ride for Don, who attended nearby Franklin High School and was familiar with many of the neighborhoods and sights along the Gold Line route.

Rare Photos Preserved Online

Visit the museum’s incredible new online photo gallery:

<http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com>
This amazing, growing collection already holds more than 2,300 images, including digital versions of many rare historical photographs. Don’t miss it!

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Reporting Caboose Progress

Much has been happening lately with the museum's caboose, S.P. No. 4023, which the museum has owned and cared for since 1986, when the retired waycar was purchased from the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. and moved to the museum site. The car has been shared on a regular basis with museum visitors for more than two decades.

Using funds from a Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment For The Humanities, the museum has obtained the services of **Brian Howard**,



Conservator Brian Howard inspects the roof of No. 4023.

one of the top conservators of historic transportation vehicles in the U.S. to study our caboose and make recommendations regarding its conservation and care. Howard conducted a site visit on May 22-23, collecting

detailed measurements, photographs, and other information about the caboose. His project report and recommendations are expected in the coming weeks.



Museum visitors are now greeted by a new interpretive sign that can help them learn about the caboose.

Another recent development involving the caboose is a new interpretive sign that is displayed in front of the caboose entrance during museum hours. The sign includes historical photographs and describes the general purpose and functions of the railroad caboose as well as the specific history of No. 4023. **Gene Allen** helped in mounting the new sign.

In yet another recent caboose happening, Museum Director Gary Coombs traveled to Fullerton on June 21 to meet representatives of the Southern California Scenic Railway Association (SCSRA). The SCSRA has its own S.P. caboose, No. 4049, which is permanently housed on one of the private car tracks at the Fullerton passenger station. Caboose 4049 is a sister to our own No. 4023. Both cars were among a group of 124 40-foot-long Southern Pacific cabooses that the S.P. remodeled and reconditioned starting in 1973.

Coombs sees his Fullerton trip as a first step toward future cooperation and collaborations between the two organizations.

Caboose 4049, on display in Fullerton, is a sister to the museum caboose, No. 4023. Sue Kientz Photo courtesy of Southern California Scenic Railway Association.



Museum Gives Justice A Hand

Since 1989, the railroad museum and grounds have been used as a site for law enforcement training conducted by the Calif. Dept. of Justice. This year's training was held here March 13-14.

About 30 law-enforcement personnel/students participated in the class, which involved practicing protection drills during a mock visit by a foreign dignitary.

Museum Grounds Are Party Spot

Celebrating birthdays recently at the museum were Timothy Bateson, age 2; Ella K. Beltz, 3; Eddie Dodson, 3; Henry Goodman, 7; Rylan Honikman, 3; Eric Johnson, 5; Zahran Moore, 6;

Jamie Nelson, 6; Nico Scibird, 2; and Livia Tuttle, 3.

Party space can be reserved by calling Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540). You can find party information flyers in the Visitor Center, Wed.-Sun., 1-4 p.m., or online at:

<http://www.goletadepot.org/PDF/PartyBrochure.pdf>

Olitzky Family Renews "Free Fridays" Sponsorship

Free miniature-train rides for our visitors on the first Friday of the month have become a favorite attraction since the program was started at the museum back in 2002. *First Fridays Free* will be with us for another year, at least, thanks

to the kindness of the **Olitzky Family** — Museum Trustee **Seth Olitzky**, **Barbara Olitzky**, and their son, Junior Engineer **Ian Olitzky** — who have renewed their sponsorship of the monthly rides through mid-2009.

Depot Photographs Wanted

Do you have any photos of Goleta Depot that were taken before the building was moved back in 1981? How about snapshots taken during the move or before the building was rehabilitated and reopened at the park? If you do, please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs (Phone: 805/964-3540 or Email: gcoombs@goletadepot.org).

Daylight Train Almost Ready To Start Hauling G-Gauge Passengers In Visitor Center

There's been a lot of progress made on expanding the suspended train in the Visitor Center, since "Phase 2" of the G-Gauge model-train project was announced in the last newsletter issue.

The installation is well underway, with volunteers **John Green** and **Ed Leska** responsible for most of the new construction. So that visitors can get a glimpse of what the final product will look like, a temporary static display, featuring many of the SP Daylight passenger cars, has been placed below one of the four supporting steel rods from which the entire Phase 2 right-of-way will eventually be suspended.

Adding to the growing Daylight consist, **Edward Boyle** and **Michelle Bradley** have donated another locomotive, so that the Daylight train now has ABA motive power, with all three diesel units contributed by members of the **B. Marc Bradley** family. **Richard ("Dick") Temple** has added the baggage car.

Wally Waldau, whose RPO (mail) car donation was acknowledged in the previous *Depot Dispatch*, included a note with his check, in which he explained the special significance of this particular car to his family. He wrote: "My father was a postoffice buff and loved trains. So the RPO car was his favorite. So my sponsorship of this car is a sort of tribute to him and the love of trains (big & small) that he passed on to me. Thanks for this opportunity."

A full-color sketch of the Visitor Center train plan can be seen on the museum website. The address is: <http://www.goletadepot.org/PDF/VisitorCenterTrain.pdf>

Only \$900, plus a lot of skilled volunteer labor, is needed to complete Phase 2. If you would like to make a donation to the project, or help with the construction, please send your tax-deductible gift to: South Coast Railroad Museum, Attn: Phase 2, 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA 93117-1502; or contact Museum Director Gary Coombs at 805/964-3540 or gcoombs@goletadepot.org



John Green get a closeup view at the Daylight train display, while Ed Leska looks on.

Depot Day Coming Sunday, Sept. 28

Don't miss out on all of the action!

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

Loads of Family Fun!

Museum Store Has Many New Items Onboard

A variety of new merchandise has been added recently to the museum store. You'll find some challenging train-theme puzzles for all ages, including a 1000-piece *Black Widow On The Coast Line*. There are several new audio CDs, five with steam and diesel train sounds and two featuring popular railroad tunes. We've added more than a dozen new DVDs, mostly feature films (*Runaway Train*, Disney's *Great Locomotive Chase*, and *Murder On The Orient Express*, for example), as well as documentaries (*Lionel Nation* and PBS's excellent *Transcontinental Railroad*). There's also a Wallace & Gromit

DVD, which includes *The Wrong Trousers* with its a hilarious train-chase sequence.

The party-supplies areas have been enlarged to include plates, napkins and other items, based on historic and modern American railroad themes, that will appeal to all ages.

There is also an expanded selection of engineer's caps in adult sizes, as well as some handsome black caps sporting S.P. and Daylight logos. The new adult-sized T-shirts (F7A Black Widow, for example) are some of the most attractive we've ever carried.