



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 29, No. 1 — Spring 2009

Hop Aboard Easter Bunny Express April 11

Dust off those rabbit ears! It's time for another fun-filled *Easter Bunny Express* at the railroad museum. The museum's most popular springtime event celebrates its 17th anniversary on Saturday, April 11.

Those attending this year's event will be treated to a number of pleasant activities, each listed as a "station" on the special super-sized, egg-shaped tickets. Station stops include visits to *Wabbit-Trucks Station* (to ride the decorated trains on a one-third-mile-long course); *Harvey's House* (for a delicious cookie and lemonade); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the Easter Bunny, where children will also receive an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a prize drawing); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).

The ticket cost is \$4 per person, adult or child. For those who will not be riding the miniature train, the cost is only \$2.

This year, we're adding something special: a second figure-8 ride, also one-third-mile long, which we're calling the "Lop-Ear Local." Ticketholders will be able to select which train they ride. Or, ride both trains for just \$2 more.

Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be Jack Rabbit Junction drawings held every hour, at 12 noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 3:45 p.m.

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



Bunny Leah Savage greets one of our young guests during the 2006 event.

For those who would like to have lunch or an afternoon snack, museum volunteers will be serving hot sandwiches, chips, and refreshments throughout the event.

The 2009 *Easter Bunny Express* promises to be another "hare-raising egg-sperience" for the whole family. Hope to see you there! (rain date: April 18). The museum will be closed Easter Sunday, April 12.

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Super Saturday Special Trains

Super Saturday attendees were greeted with something new this year. Instead of the usual train ride, the Jan. 31 event featured **two** trains, operating on **two different routes!** A four-car train, headed by Engine No. 1316, hauled passengers on a six-minute ride around the museum grounds, while a two-car train, working out of the westside station and featuring Engine No. 2655, carried riders on a three-minute ride. Visitors could climb aboard either train as much as they liked during the busy Saturday afternoon, during which about 300 free rides were given.

The event was made possible by the following *Super Saturday!* sponsors:

*** Bartlett Tree Experts * Circle of Friends Children's Center * Dal Pozzo Tire Corp., Goleta * Grace Baptist Church * Michael J. Gartzke, CPA * Joan Hanna * Claudia Worthen * Noel and Peggy Langle * Bruce and Andrea Morden * Dick and Wendy Shelton * Lori Grimaud Roper * Peter Tiersma * Roger Wells * Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens * Carol Higgins & John Hutchinson ***

Thank you all for helping to make this year's *Super Saturday!* event one of the most memorable.

Museum Reprises "National Train Day" Trip For 2nd Annual Event

Last year's rail trip to *National Train Day* was so popular that the museum is organizing another group trip for Saturday, May 9, when the 2nd annual *National Train Day* event will be held at Los Angeles Union Station.

Amtrak is promising that the 2009 event will offer even more attractions than last year's inaugural event: musical entertainment, rolling-stock tours, exhibits, VIP appearances, drawings for trips and other prizes, and plenty of souvenir giveaways.

The museum group, which will be led by Museum Director Gary Coombs and members of the museum's board of trustees, will travel aboard Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* trains. Group members will be able to choose their boarding location, selecting from Santa Barbara, Goleta, or Carpinteria.

The museum group will make use of two different southbound trains and two different northbound trains, allowing group members to choose between early and late departures and returns. Passengers can choose to ride to Los Angeles on either Train 768 (departing Santa Barbara at 6:45 a.m.) or Train 774, leaving Santa Barbara at 9:20 a.m. For the return home, passengers can ride either Train 775, leaving Los Angeles at 2:55 p.m., or Train 785, departing at 7 p.m.

Costs vary depending on the station selected. For example, the costs for a Santa Barbara passenger will be, for adults, \$43 (\$41 for museum members or seniors) and, for children age 2-15, \$27 (members, \$25). Goleta passengers will pay a few dollars more, Carpinteria riders slightly less.

Group members will have a lot to choose from during their time in Los Angeles, besides attending *National Train Day*. Historic Olvera Street and Chinatown are both within an easy walk of the train station, and several lines of the LA Metro Rail System also originate there. May 9 is also a free family day at the nearby Japanese American Museum, a special opportunity that many of our group members took advantage of during last year's *National Train Day* trip.

The museum is also planning to offer a limited itinerary of optional activities for those wishing to remain with other group members during parts of the day in Los Angeles.

To make your reservations, or for more information, contact the museum office, 805/964-3540. Space is limited; call today.

Rotary Day Is Coming June 20

Saturday, June 20 will mark the 9th annual *Rotary Day* at the museum. Sponsored by the **Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime**, the event features an afternoon of free train and handcar rides. Members of the Rotary group will again be on hand during the event to greet visitors and assist with the rides.

Please come out for *Rotary Day*, enjoy the rides, and let the Rotary representatives know how much their renewed support of the museum and its programs means to our members, visitors, and guests.

Mark Your Calendar!

Live steam will return to the museum over the weekend of Aug. 1-2, and this year we'll be adding a lot more to see and do. The 27th annual *Depot Day* will be celebrated Sunday, Sept. 27.

You won't want to miss either of these upcoming museum events!

Welcome New Members

Denise Ann Friend is a new Life member. New Active members include **Marvin Del Chiaro, Denise Goldstein, and Rhonda Peters**. Our new Volunteer members are **Freda Hooper, Tony Ramirez, Gladys Robinson, Tom Robinson, William Stancer, Doug Winter, Betty Wittwer, John Wittwer, Jack Yates, and Shirly Yates**.

The latest additions to the Junior Engineers Club are **Eddie Dodson, Kaelen Peters, Alexis Velazquez, and Diego Velazquez**.

Cheery greetings to all of our new museum members!

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Volunteer News

New Guides-In-Training

Annual classroom training for the Trails & Rails Program was held on Feb. 25 and March 7. New additions to the program are **Freda Hooper, Gladys Robinson, Tom Robinson, William Stancer, Doug Winter, Betty Wittwer, John Wittwer, Jack Yates, and Shirly Yates**. The next phase of their training will be aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains, under the tutelage of the museum's senior guide-volunteers.

The Trails & Rails program is offered four days a week to passengers on the *Coast Starlight* between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. It includes a live presentation in which the guides share information, anecdotes, photographs, and other materials related to area history, local sights, natural history, and things -to-do along the train's route. Dur-

ing the summer months, one guide trip each week is extended north to the Bay Area.

Intern Progress

Interns **Emilia Dellemonico** and **Matt Dunford** successfully completed their Winter-term assignments at the museum. It was Emilia's second stint with us. Both interns expect to return for the Spring Quarter. At the museum, UCSB students learn about museum operations and practices, and earn credit toward graduation, by participating in both visitor-contact and behind-the-scenes activities.

Short Line Gains New Vols

John Hutchinson, Tony Ramirez, Roger Wells, and Ann Winter are all training to become engineers and conductors on the Goleta Short Line miniature train.

Spring Fundraiser Needs Your Support!

The 28th annual Spring Fundraiser takes place on Saturday, May 16. The event, which is better known as the *Great Goleta Rail Race*, includes unlimited free train and handcar rides for all visitors. The usual minimum-height requirements (34" on train; 48" handcar) apply to all riders.

The Spring Fundraiser is a crucial source of operating revenue. It raises about 10-15% of the funds needed to sustain the museum for one year.

Members are urged to take part by helping with the fundraising leading up to the May 16 event, either by obtaining pledges or by making a personal pledge. Please support this important museum fundraiser with your tax-deductible donation using the card mailed with this newsletter. For more information, contact the museum at 964-3540 or write: museum@goletadepot.org.

Bruce Morden Rejoins Board Of Trustees

Bruce Morden has been elected to the Board of Trustees for a two-year term. Morden was born in Santa Monica in 1949. He grew up in West Los Angeles, where he attended public schools. He went on to the Univ. of Calif., San Diego, earning a BA degree in biology. His professional career spanned more than 31 years as a food and drug investigator for the State of California. He retired in 2003, but continues to work as a consultant in the food-safety area.



Bruce Morden

Bruce and his wife, **Andrea**, will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary this May. Andrea is a docent at the **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** and is also actively involved in habitat restoration projects throughout the greater Santa Barbara area.

Carpinteria has been the Morden family's home since 1990. Bruce and Andrea have two grown children. Daughter **Miranda** is married and lives in Thousand Oaks. Their son, **Michael**, works in Portland, Ore.

Bruce is very active with his church, including service on church committees and as director of the handbell choir.

Many of his other interests revolve around trains, especially model railroading and the Southern Pacific Railroad. Bruce is actively involved with a number of railroad-related groups and organizations, including the **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**, the **Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society**, and the **Layout Design Special Inter-**

est Group. He is a frequent presenter and session organizer at annual meetings and conventions.

Bruce has long been one of the museum's most active and versatile members. He joined the organization in 1992 and by 1995 was training to become a museum docent. Soon, Bruce had acquired the skills and experience necessary to fill just about all of the different volunteer jobs at the museum, including those of Goleta Short Line engineer and conductor, handcar-ride volunteer, and station agent. Bruce has also proven himself invaluable to the museum in many other ways, most notably by his ability and willingness to help keep the trains of the model-railroad exhibit in running order. Down through the years, Bruce has helped with special museum events, including thankless setup and cleanup activities, far too numerous to mention here.

Morden previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2007. He was president in 2004.



Agent Bruce and son/assistant Michael pose for the camera in 1999.

Historic Safe Finds New, Goleta Depot Home

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** had been waiting a quarter-century for the phone call. Back in the early 1980s, an Amtrak representative had promised that the old safe at the



"S.P. Co." lettering can be seen at top of safe front.

Santa Barbara train station would be donated to the museum, once a new safe had been acquired. Coombs knew this would be a major addition to the museum's collections — it was an original Southern Pacific Railroad safe and a close match to the S.P. safe that had occupied a special spot beneath the staircase in Goleta Depot's Freight Office during the mid-1900s.

Finally, last summer, **Carol Crego**, Amtrak's district manager of stations,

called Gary to notify the museum that it could have the Santa Barbara safe. Moving the safe, which weighed many hundreds of pounds, would have to be the museum's responsibility, however.

Fortunately, the museum has had a good friend whenever heavy lifting has been needed. Back in 1986, **Specialty Crane & Rigging** helped move Caboose No 4023 from La Patera spur track to the museum grounds. Over the years, the same company had come to the museum's aid to install the wig-wag signal, the train-order board, and other large and



At Santa Barbara Amtrak station, Specialty crewmen Russell Allen and Louis McBurnie gently lower the safe onto the lift-truck bed, Nov. 18, 2008.

unwieldy pieces of equipment around the grounds. Owner **Seth Hammond** was happy to say yes again when Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** asked if Specialty Crane & Rigging could come to the rescue once more.

The safe was moved by one of Seth's crews on Nov. 18, the same date that Goleta Depot was moved 27 years earlier!

Hutchinson Family Donation Will Help Set New Free-Ride Mark

Thanks to a generous donation from the **Hutchinson Family**, the museum is able to offer our visitors more free-ride days during 2009 than in any previous year. The Hutchinsons — **John, Carol Higgins**, and their son, **George** — are sponsoring seven free-train-ride Saturdays, beginning on April 18, which is also a free handcar-ride day. The other Hutchinson-sponsored Saturdays are June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14.

Adding these to the free days that have already been scheduled brings the 2009 total to a record 81 free-ride days. That includes 58 free-train weekdays, under the *Free Ride Wednesday* program, sponsored by **Fairview Car Wash**, and *First Fridays Free*, which is made possible by the **Olitzky Family**.

The 2009 calendar also includes 12 days of free train rides on weekend days, including the Hutchinson-sponsored days, *Super Saturday* (held back on Jan. 31), and the approaching *Great Goleta Rail Race* (May 16; see page 3 story) and *Rotary Day* (June 20; see page 2) events, both of which also include free handcar rides. Free handcar rides are also given on the third Saturday of every month, thanks to the support of **Noel and Peggy Langle**.

The museum also sponsors *Free Rides For Moms*, on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 10) and *Free Rides For Dads*, on Father's Day (Sunday, June 21).

Next time you're in the Trackside Shop, be sure to pick up a copy of the "Free-Ride Flyer," a convenient calendar of upcoming free days at the museum.



The Hutchinsons — John, George, and Carol