



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 29, No. 2 — Summer 2009



"GOLETA RAILROAD DAYS"

The museum is launching a new event this summer! You won't want to miss "*Goleta Railroad Days*," so be sure to mark the weekend of Aug. 1-2 on your calendar. The two-day event will incorporate all of the activities and attractions of past *Steaming Summer* events, while adding a lot more, including operating model train displays, live music, an "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale," and lots of hands-on activities for young and old, alike.

Events hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission to the grounds is \$2, which includes all activities except rides, for which there will be an additional charge.

Speaking of rides, *Goleta Railroad Days* will feature two different train rides. On the 1/3-mile-long "Centennial Loop," two trains will be running, each pulled by a miniature steam-powered locomotive. There will also be a circus



The Children's Interactive Area will feature George Hutchinson's wooden toy trains.

One train ride will include circus cars from Ted Cheesman's collection (shown here with Ted's son, Kendal).



train, hauled by the museum's own S.P. diesel switchers and featuring cars from the collection of **Ted Cheesman**, which will operate on the 1/6-mile-long "Westside Figure-8" track.

Rides on the museum handcar will also be available. In the interest of visitor safety, the museum's usual minimum-height requirements will be in effect: 34 inches for the train ride; 48 inches for the handcar.

Goleta Railroad Days even has its own website – goletarailroaddays.org. There you will find three event-related videos, detailed lists of visiting equipment and participating organizations, lots of

(cont'd on page 4, see "Railroad Days")

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This issue can be viewed in full color and downloaded
now from the museum website: www.goletadepot.org

Rotary Day Made A Busy June 20

The 9th annual Rotary Day, on Saturday, June 20 at the railroad museum, proved to be one of the busiest free-ride days in recent memory.

The 139 free miniature-train and handcar rides were made possible by the generous sponsorship support of the **Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime**. Club members **Mike Gartzke**, **Walt Stephens**, and **Dennis Trammell** also volunteered their afternoon and kept the handcar running smoothly.

You can watch a short video of the handcar ride, featuring Walt and Dennis, online at: rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Museum%20Events/544949

Visitors Are The Spice

The museum has had some notable group visits lately. In May, Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** gave a tour of Goleta Depot to a group of 12 students from the local **Kaplan Aspect English School**. Those taking the tour hailed from China, Japan, Korea, and Saudi Arabia. The **Coastline Christian Academy** also came for a May tour and train ride.

In June, the museum hosted a group of 52, including 40 youngsters grades 1-6, from the **Santa Barbara Presby Camp**.



Museum volunteer and Trails & Rails guide Ed Leska shares information during National Train Day, May 9, at Los Angeles' Union Station.

Small Group Attends "National Train Day"

The museum sent only a small contingent to the 2nd annual *National Train Day* in Los Angeles on May 9, due largely to the Jesusita Fire, which was raging at that time. The museum shared a booth at the event with the **National Park Service**, including the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**, with whom we cooperatively present a "Trails & Rails" interpretive program for passengers aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

The museum benefits greatly from the hard work of its dedicated volunteers. Longtime volunteer **Wally Waldau**, best known to visitors and museum personnel alike for his many years as a Goleta Short Line engineer, took his first turn as a Trackside Shop clerk on March 22.

Tom Robinson and **Gladys Robinson** (no relation) have received their green *Trails & Rails* shirts, marking their advancement to guide status. Guides-in-training **Doug Winter** and **Bill Stancer** are making good progress and should also be graduating soon.

A lot of indispensable volunteer work goes on behind the scenes. Retired UCSB painter **A.J. Medina** has given scores of hours recently, carefully laying the groundwork for giving Goleta Depot a much-needed new coat of paint.

Don Chalfant and **Bruce Morden** are also examples of behind-the-scenes work by museum volunteers. Don is doing a great job of caring for the equipment and supplies of the *Trails & Rails* program, which has included his giving classes on the use of the P.A. equipment. More recently, Bruce has taken on the responsibility for developing the materials that form the educational core of the Trails & Rails presentations that our volunteers make for passengers aboard the *Coast Starlight* trains.

Every week, usually on Wednesday morning, **Ed Leska** and his crew — **John Green** and **Tony Ramirez** — devote their time to maintenance and repair activities around the museum. More often

than not, their efforts are devoted to the Goleta Short Line equipment and track, but they also find time to attend to other museum needs, from repairing a broken window or walkway light to fixing a hand-rail in the model-railroad exhibit.

The trio has also devoted much time to the operating G-gauge trains in the Visitor Center. Thanks to those efforts, a third train, running on its own separate track, has been entertaining museum visitors since June 4.

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Depot Day Is Sept. 27

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Scouts & Their Eagle Projects Help Museum

The museum has received a real boost from three recent projects organized and carried out by local Eagle Scout candidates. **Jamie Rosenberg** completed his project first. He led a group of fellow Boy Scouts, parents, and other helpers in refinishing and painting all of the wooden benches distributed around the grounds that our visitors enjoy.



Eagle Candidate **John Tench**, son of former museum trustee **Bob Tench**, took on the task of restoring some of the colorful beds of California Poppies that once graced the museum grounds. John also enlisted a large labor force for the main part of his project.

Nicholas Vanhecke is currently working on yet another Eagle project, which will improve the model-railroad exhibit inside Goleta Depot. When Nicholas' work is complete, visitors will be able to experience the trains and history that are contained in the model-railroad room without the need for a museum escort.

All three Eagle candidates – Jamie, John and Nicholas – are owed a deep debt of gratitude for the valuable contributions each has made, both to the museum and to the public that we serve.

John proudly shows off some of the early blooms in one of the new beds.



Jamie paints the boards from one of the benches.

Make History Now, Before It's Too Late!

Here's your chance to be a part of history. Do you have photos or videos that you've taken of family or friends at Goleta Depot? They don't have to be "old" photos. In fact, they can be from events or other recent visits to the museum. It's all history to us! We need family snapshots, digital images, and camcorder footage from the "Museum Period" (1981-present) to include in the updated history of Goleta Depot that is now being prepared.

We are looking especially for scenes of visitors enjoying museum activities (rides, tours, etc.) or that show people and the historical landmark together (shots taken under the "Goleta" signboards have been particularly popular for decades, but we still need more!).

You say you don't have anything like that in your scrapbook? Then why not make history! Go out and take those pictures now. There are plenty of great opportunities coming up in the next few months – during *Goleta Railroad Days* (Aug. 1-2) or *Depot Day* (Sept. 27), on a free-ride day (July 11, Aug. 8, or Sept. 12, for example) – or just about anytime that the grounds are open!

You may contact either Gary Coombs (gcoombs@goletadepot.org) or Phyllis Olsen (polsen@goletadepot.org) by email or phone (805/964-3540), to let us know that you have images to share. Or, send photos by email attachment, or drop off digital or printed copies during museum hours. Be sure to include your full name and contact information. All photos and videos used

in the book will be acknowledged.

Goleta Mayor Margaret Connell (far left) was captured here photographing her grandson, while he was riding a train during Steaming Summer 2003.



"Railroad Days" (from page 4)

the **Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, Coastal Rail Now** (rail advocacy group), **National Railroad Passenger Corp.** (Amtrak), and **RailPAC** (Rail Passenger Assn. of Calif. & Nevada). Each will have a booth, with representatives available to answer questions, distribute literature, and share information with event attendees. There will also be an "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale" – a name borrowed from the 1984 *Depot Day* event. Pick up some great bargains at this unique sale of used model-railroad supplies, railroad-theme magazines, toys, books, and other items. All proceeds benefit the museum.

There will be special afternoon guided tours of the historical landmark. We'll also be re-opening the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater for *Goleta Railroad Days*. Railroad films will be screened throughout the event.

Be one of the first to see Ken Kelley's detailed scale model of the Santa Barbara passenger station building.



“Railroad Days” (cont’d from page 1)



There’ll be plenty of steam-train rides during Goleta Railroad Days!

photos, and the full schedule of event activities.

We’ll have live musical entertainment, including performances by **Dixieland Daddies** on Saturday afternoon and the **Walk N Roll** barbershop quartet on Sunday.

Goleta Railroad Days will also offer plenty of opportunities for active participation by event attendees, including the following:

- ◆ Try your hand at the “Switching Puzzle,” which challenges young and old to move the train successfully from one spot in the rail yard to another. Can you solve the puzzle?
- ◆ The “Children’s Interactive Area” will feature **George Hutchinson’s** wooden toy-train table (which was such a hit during the *Easter Bunny Express*) where everyone has a chance to “play trains.”
- ◆ Take a turn at the computer-based train simulator, featuring **PI Engineering’s** state-of-the-art “RailDriver” cab controller (right).
- ◆ Children’s Librarian **Judy Savage**, from the **Goleta Public Library**, will lead a train-themed Storytime each day, on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.



Goleta Railroad Days will feature a number of visiting toy and model-train displays – representing all popular scales – from pocket-sized “Z” scale (1:220) to large-scale garden-railways. To make these operating and static displays possible,



Walter Naumann will share his portable Z-scale trains.

several local model railroad and toy-train clubs are partnering with the museum, including the **Coast Toy Train Club**, **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**, and **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**.

Goleta Railroad Days will mark the first public showing of **Ken Kelley’s** new scratch-built model of the Santa Barbara passenger station, which will form part of an O-gauge display filling Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room. The display will also include an operating S.P. Daylight passenger train, Kelley’s model of Goleta Depot, and a yard filled with vintage O-gauge S.P. steam locomotives from the collections of Kelley and **Robert Sponsel**.



Don’t miss the display of antique tinplate toy depots (left), also from the collection of Bob Sponsel. Covering the period 1918-1942, the display includes examples from three major American manufacturers of toy trains: Ives, American Flyer, and Lionel — companies that made both clockwork and electric trains.

Goleta Railroad Days will also feature an exhibition of operating live-steam equipment. **Jim Marchiando’s** steam plant will be at center stage, powering a collection of steam whistles, a waterpump, and a table-top display of tools and toys (see above) assembled by **Jim Higman**, **Gene Allen**, and **John**

Green. Ask if you can toot one of the whistles.

Representatives from Goleta-based **LaunchPoint Technologies** will also be on hand during *Goleta Railroad Days*, to share the company’s innovative uses of magnetic levitation (maglev) transportation (see artist’s concept at right).

Other *Goleta Railroad Days* partner organizations include



(concluded on p. 3)