

Goleta **DEPOT** **DISPATCH**

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 29, No. 3 — Fall 2009

Sept. 27 Marks 27th Depot Day Celebration

Sunday, the 27th day of September is, coincidentally, also the 27th annual “Depot Day” at the railroad museum. The museum’s most hallowed event, *Depot Day* celebrates the saving of the landmark building, its history, and its importance as a community treasure.

Goleta Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. It is also Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark No. 22.

Event hours for *Depot Day* are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Depot Day Has Lots of Rides

Depot Day is the only occasion each year in which rides are available on three different types of rail vehicles, including **Bob Mahan’s** inspection “speeder,” which was once used by the Ventura County Railway, along with the museum handcar and the trains of the

Goleta Short Line miniature railroad. Two different train rides will be offered: a one-third mile ride around the museum grounds, and a one-sixth mile ride working out of the Westside Station. Having two trains operating simultaneously always adds a lot of extra fun and excitement for passengers and spectators alike.

A new twist this year is that there will be wristbands rather than tickets for the rides. A \$3 wristband will be good for unlimited rides of all types. (Handcar riders must be at least 48 inches tall; 34-inch minimum for all other rides.)

Don’t Miss The Silent Auction

Depot Day is a very important fundraiser for the museum, especially in this year of tight economics. As always, the silent auction will be the key to the event’s financial success. The auction is also a great opportunity for *Depot Day* event-goers to find some valuable goods

and services at bargain prices, while helping the museum at the same time.

This year’s auction offers more than 150 items (a list is now posted on the museum web site, www.goletadepot.org), including hotel stays, golfing, performing-arts tickets, winery tours, Amtrak travel, meals at fine restaurants, and a lot more.

Please help the museum on *Depot Day* by visiting the tables and placing bids on the items of your choice. You won’t be disappointed.

If you or your business have new items, collectibles or valuable services that you would like to donate to the auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540).

Woody’s BBQ Chicken Meal

Museum staff has been working with **Woody’s Catering** to bring you the best meal we’ve ever had on *Depot Day*. The barbecue plate will include a half-chicken, cowboy beans, salad with choice of two dressings, roll and butter.

BBQ tickets are \$8. Or, save \$1 per ticket by purchasing them in advance in the museum’s Visitor Center, or from museum trustees, staff, and many volunteers. Members are encouraged to buy their tickets before the day of the event.

Woody’s hot dogs, a hot-dog plate with salad, beverages, and snacks will also be available for purchase.

(cont’d on page 4, see “Depot Day”)

Westside Station will be the terminus for one of two Depot Day train rides.



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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteers Keep Museum Projects Humming

It's hard to imagine where the railroad museum might be were it not for its volunteers. Here are a few examples of important improvements that have been made recently at the museum thanks to these dedicated and hard-working individuals.

The Westside Station, which is being used a lot now, especially during special events this year, is now sporting a handsome new roof. **Noel Langle**, who is doing all of the work, hopes to have the station structure painted and shingled by *Depot Day*. See more photos of Noel at work at: <http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Projects/GSL/Roof/>

On the opposite side of the property, the Goleta Short Line now has a brand-new turntable to help keep the trains running smoothly, thanks to the hard work of

Tony Ramirez, Ed Leska, John Green, and Bob Miesbauer.

The original turntable, made largely of wood, was more than 20 years old and badly rotted when it was pulled up by the crew earlier this year. **Doug Winter** is a recent addition to the "Mostly Wednesdays" group headed by **Ed Leska**, that does so much with the Goleta Short Line track and rolling stock. Find more photos of the turntable work at: <http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Projects/GSL/Turntable2009/>

Inside Goleta Depot, in the model-railroad room, **Nicholas Vanhecke** completed his Eagle Scout project, consisting of a major overhaul of the model-train exhibit. The improvements made by Nicholas and his crew of fellow scouts and his father, **Vincent Vanhecke**, now allow visitors to view the model trains

in operation without a museum escort in tow. While still keeping the trains and layout safe and secure, the improvements have made the exhibit room much more available to our guests. You can see lots of photos from the Eagle Scout project at: <http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Projects/modelRR/VanheckeEagle/>

Because of the hard work and perseverance of **Seth Olitzky**, visitors riding the Goleta Short Line, as well as those waiting for trains to pass, are now treated to the bell and lights of the crossing signal every day that the ride runs, weekdays and weekends alike. (<http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Projects/GSL/Crossing/>)

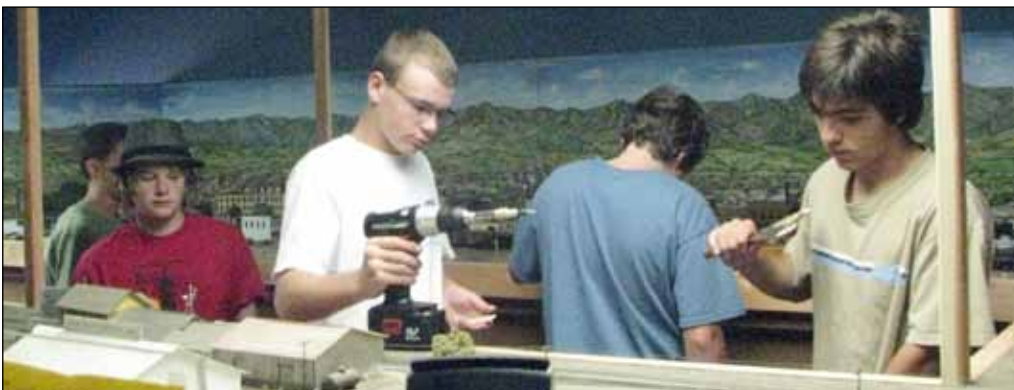


Noel Langle adds a board to the new station roof.



Main portion of the new turntable, fashioned by Tony Ramirez, is moved into place by Ed Leska, Bob Miesbauer, and John Green.

Nicholas Vanhecke (with power drill in hand) and fellow scouts install framing for a security enclosure inside the model-railroad exhibit.



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There's Still Time To Make History!

In late August, the *Santa Barbara News-Press* published a full-page story on the forthcoming book on Goleta Depot, as part of its "Plugged-In" series for young readers. On the full-color photo-rich page, which was entitled "History: Doing It, Being It, Making It," readers young and

Photo by J.P. Curzon



While his mother, Jenny, looks on, Jr. Engineer Michael Curzon receives a sweet treat from Candy Cane Train volunteer Don Chalfant.

old were invited to assist with the book project. Several ways to help were mentioned – by identifying unknown people appearing in historical photos, by contributing photos and stories of one's own, and so on.

If you didn't see this page in the paper, or if you saw it but didn't respond at the time, you are urged to lend a hand now. You can view the page at the following web address: http://sbert.org/plugged_in/July%202009-LO.pdf Your assistance would be a great help to the museum and the book project!

We've been receiving some



Jane Honikman shared the above family photo of the 1981 Goleta Valley Days Parade, showing Honikman children Stephen, 9, (left) and Jeanette, 6, (behind her brother) on the "Friends Of Goleta Depot" parade entry. Others in the photo: Stephanie Coombs (right side of tailgate) and Heather Coombs (far right). Can you identify the person seated in the center of the tailgate?

good help from museum members and friends in response to articles in previous issues of the *Depot Dispatch* newsletter, especially in terms of personal photographs. These include historical images as well as more recent snapshots, like the two examples shown here.



Saturday morning flag-raising & pledge.

Jim Higman, Jim Marchiando, and John Green kept the steam display running smoothly.



View more than **400** eye-popping Goleta Railroad Days images, most by photographers Jamie Foster and Lorie Roper, at the museum's SmugMug website: <http://rrmuseum.smugmug.com/Museum-Events/Goleta-Railroad-Days>

Goleta Railroad Days!

Goleta Railroad Days proved to be a very special addition to the 2009 calendar. Successor to *Steaming Summer*, which would have been 23 years old this year, *Goleta Railroad Days* offered an extra measure of things to see and do for event-goers, including lots of model trains, a locomotive simulator, plenty of fun and informative booths and displays, and much more.

Special thanks are owed to the many partnering organizations and agencies who had booths, tables, static displays, or operating exhibits at the event. These included **Amtrak**, **Coast Toy Train Club**, **Coastal Rail Now**, **Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad**, **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**, **Goleta Public Library**, **Goleta Rotary Club**, **LaunchPoint Technologies**, **Marborg Industries**, **RailPAC**, **sbparent.com**, **Santa Maria Valley Railroad**, **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**, **Union Pacific Railroad**, **"Walk N Roll" barbershop quartet**, and **Woman's Service Club of Goleta**.

More than 100 volunteers, mostly from the above-listed organizations and the museum, gave countless hours to ensure the success of this inaugural event. Members of the committee responsible for the event's planning included **Marc Bradley**, chairman; **Joan Hanna**; **John Hutchinson**; **Noel Langle**; **Ed Leska**; and **Bruce Morden**.

The committee has already chosen the weekend of July 24-25, 2010 for a second annual *Goleta Railroad Days*.



There were model trains running everywhere!

Judy Savage shares a storytime with event goers.



Goleta RR Days photos courtesy of Lorie Roper (top, right) and Jamie Foster (all others)

This Issue Sponsored By

Wilson Printing

“Depot Day” (cont'd from page 1)

Depot Open House

Depot Day affords museum visitors a rare opportunity to see the agent's apartment, a historic second-floor area of the depot building that is generally closed to the public. It was here that the station agent and family lived, and the space has been refurbished to re-create that home atmosphere.

Musical Entertainment

Depot Day entertainment will include popular renditions of many of your favorite railroad tunes and train songs, all played from the museum jukebox.

Locomotive Simulator

Try your hand at the controls of a 4,000 horsepower Dash-9 GE locomotive. That's what its like using the Rail-Driver cab console in conjunction with Microsoft's Train Simulator computer software. We'll have an improved version of the setup we introduced to the public during *Goleta Railroad Days*. You won't believe the realistic operation, the authentic sounds and visuals, even the rumbling motion of the control console as you move your train over Montana's Marias Pass along the BNSF Route.

Be sure to give it a try, or just drop by for a viewing. You'll find the train simulator in the “Old Shop” room adjacent to the Gandy Dancer Theater inside Goleta Depot, and directly behind the *Depot Day* podium.

Donations At The Door

All *Depot Day* visitors will be asked to make a \$1 contribution in support of the museum and the continued preservation of the landmark.

Thank You!

Depot Day has again benefitted from the promotional support provided by **Radio AM1290**, **Santa Barbara News-Press**, **sbparent.com**, **Channel 19**, and **Venoco**.

Artist Betty Bazzi has donated to the Depot Day auction for each of its 27 years, going back to 1983.



Ride A Vintage Rail Car On Nov. 7 Museum Trip

The museum has chartered the vintage rail car *Overland Trail* for a special round-trip adventure to San Luis Obispo on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Passengers will be able to board in either Santa Barbara or Goleta. The train is scheduled to depart Santa Barbara at 10:15 (10:27 for Goleta), arriving in San Luis Obispo at 12:45. We'll begin our return at 2:00 p.m., arriving in Goleta at 4:16 and Santa Barbara at 4:31.

The *Overland Trail* is a 39-seat club lounge, built by the Pullman company for the Southern Pacific Railroad and delivered in 1949. Originally designated *SP 2981*, the car served on the *San Francisco Overland*, a train jointly operated by the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Chicago & North Western railroads between San Francisco and Chicago.

Besides the chance to ride a special rail car, this trip will be a great opportunity to see the spectacular views and



Overland Trail owner “Conductor Bill” Hatrick will be our trip host.

sites along the beautiful coastal route traveled by the museum's volunteer guides during their “Trails & Rails” program presentations. A number of these volunteers will be aboard for the *Overland Trail* trip.

The cost is only \$69 for museum members and \$75 for the general public. All proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit the railroad museum.

Trip seating is limited. For more information, or to make reservations, call the museum, 805/964-3540.

To learn more about the *Overland Trail* rail car, and to see it in action, visit the website: www.overlandtrail.com

Depot Dispatch In Color!!

Issues of the *Depot Dispatch* newsletter can be viewed and downloaded from the museum website (<http://www.goletadepot.org/depotdispatch.htm>).

You'll find there are several advantages to using the online versions: the photographs are all in full color (starting with the Spring 2009 issue); the online copies are fully searchable; and all of the web addresses that appear are hyperlinks, making them much easier to locate than typing long addresses by hand into a browser.

Welcome New Members

Lili Schafer is a new Milepost 100 member. New Active members include **Tyler Rocha** and the **Scibird Family**. New members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Matthew Diamond**, **Cash Evers**, **Cole Evers**, **Jaxon James**, **Vincent Lopez**, **Riley Polchin**, and **Lucky Smart**.

Greetings to all new members!

“Candy Cane Train”
Starts Nov. 27