



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 30, No. 1 — Spring 2010

Easter Bunny Express Here April 3

Support Rabbit Transit! It's time for another fun-filled *Easter Bunny Express* at the railroad museum. The museum's ever-popular springtime event will be celebrating its 18th anniversary on Saturday, April 3.

Those attending this year's event will be treated to a hutchful of happy diversions, each listed as a "station" on the super-sized, egg-shaped tickets. Station stops include visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to ride one of the decorated trains on a one-third-mile-long course); *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 trains, the cost is just \$3.

This year, we'll again have two trains, the *EBX Thunderbunny* and the *Lop-Ear Local*, and two separate one-third-mile-long routes. Ticketholders can choose which train to ride. Or, they can ride both trains for just \$2 more.

Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be drawings held at *Jack Rabbit Junction* 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.

For those who would like to have lunch or an afternoon snack, mu-



From 2006: A young visitor collects a surprise-filled egg from Bunny Leah Savage.

seum volunteers will be serving hot sandwiches, chips, and refreshments throughout the event.

The 2010 *Easter Bunny Express* is

sure to be another "hare-raising egg-sperience" for the whole family. Hop aboard! (rain date: April 10). The museum will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 4.

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Museum To Help Celebrate “National Train Day” At Three Venues

Besides Amtrak, the railroad museum may be just about the only organization in the country that will be celebrating *National Train Day* in three different locations — at Los Angeles Union Station, at the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station, and aboard the Los Angeles-to-Seattle *Coast Starlight* train.

The 3rd annual *National Train Day* will be held Saturday, May 8. The event celebrates America’s love for trains and features family-friendly activities at venues across the country. Attractions will include musical entertainment, rolling-stock tours, exhibits, VIP appearances, drawings for trips and other prizes, and lots of souvenir giveaways.

Our museum has been selected to be an exhibitor at the Los Angeles venue — one of four major *National Train Day* locations, along with Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Philadelphia. Los Angeles Union Station is at 800 N. Alameda Street. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Two smaller *National Train Day* events are being planned in other California cities — one in Santa Barbara and the other in Salinas. Our museum is also taking part in the Santa Barbara event, partnering with CoastalRail-Now. The local event will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station, 209 State Street, and will feature a roundtrip train ride from Santa Barbara to Carpinteria, a press conference with elected officials, a magician, refreshments, and a cookie-decorating contest.

Aboard Amtrak’s long-distance *Coast Starlight* train, also on *National Train Day*, Trails & Rails guides from the museum will be presenting a live program to train passengers on local history, points-of-things, things-to-do, and the natural history along the railroad route between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

We hope that many museum members will participate in some of these *National Train Day* festivities. When you do, please say hello to the volunteers and staff members who are manning the museum table or giving a presentation.



10th Rotary Day Is Scheduled For June 19

On June 19, we will be celebrating the 10th annual *Rotary Day* at the museum, with free miniature-train and handcar rides for museum visitors. The event is sponsored by the **Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime**, some of whose members will be on hand to greet museum guests and lend a hand with the rides.

Please join us for free rides on *Rotary Day*. When you do, be sure to take a moment to thank the Rotarians in attendance for their renewed support of the museum and its programs. Their help is enormously important to the museum!

Greetings, New Members!

The Vanhecke Family is a new Life member. Philip T. King is a new Contributing member. Judy Connors is a new Sustaining member.

New Active members include Edward and Holly Bennett, John and Becky Cantrell, Alice Chayra, Bonnie Kirkpatrick Dillard, Natalie Erickson, Donnis Galvan, Daniel Gant, Rich LaPaglia, Steve Matthew, Dave Morse, Peter Neuhaus, Sandy Sandow, Richard Sandow, Betty Smith and Al Schildhorn. Ben Kletzer is a new Volunteer member.

The latest additions to the Junior Engineers Club are Carson Ladd, Christian Lietzow, Jonathan Ristenpart, Jasmin Marley Tappeiner, and Jacob Wilson.

Welcome aboard to all of the museum’s new members.

Super Saturday: First Wet, Then Dry

The 14th annual *Super Saturday* started off with a soggy whimper Feb. 6 when the event was rained out on that originally-scheduled date. Undaunted, we pressed on, briefly shelving the 2010 edition until the following Saturday, when clear weather prevailed.

As one would expect from the last-minute postponement, the ridership numbers were a far cry from the approx. 300 train rides given in 2009. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all who took advantage of the complimentary trips aboard the Goleta Short Line rail cars.

This year’s event was made possible by these *Super Saturday!* sponsors:

* Ron and Sue Bruns * Circle of Friends Children’s Center * Dal Pozzo Tire Corp., Goleta * Grace Baptist Church * Michael J. Gartzke, CPA * Joan Hanna * Noel and Peggy Langle * Bruce and Andrea Morden * Dick and Wendy Shelton * Marc Bradley and Lori Roper * Peter Tiersma and Thea Cremers * Robert B. Locke, Esq. * John Hutchinson Family *

Many thanks to all of them!

Mark Your Calendar

Goleta Railroad Days returns on July 24-25. Don’t be left behind! Meet us at the station for the 2nd annual event. Visit: <http://goletarailroaddays.org/>

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Museum Greet New Guides

Annual classroom training for the Trails & Rails Program was held on Feb. 17 and 27. New guides-in-training include **Alice Chayra, Bonnie Kirkpatrick Dillard, Natalie Erickson, Donnis Galvan, Rich LaPaglia, Dave Morse, Peter Neuhaus, Richard Sandow, Sandy Sandow, Betty Smith** and **Al Schildhorn**.

The rest of their training will include additional individual study followed by a series of training trips aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains – the latter under the supervision of the museum's senior guide-volunteers.

The Trails & Rails program is offered four days a week to *Coast Starlight* passengers between the station stops of 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. During the summer months, one guide trip each week is extended north to the Bay Area.

Intern Happenings

Interns **Erandy Gonzalez, Rebecca Sales** and **Ruairi Wiepking** have successfully completed their Winter-term assignments at the museum. All three served as crew members on the miniature-train ride. Erandy has also been finding photographs to interpret the model-railroad exhibit; Ruairi has been working on an addition to the museum website and "Information Station" resource that focuses on the trees and shrubs around the museum grounds; while Rebecca has been helping develop videos of the miniature-train and handcar rides, also to be used on the website and Information Station.

Both Rebecca and Ruairi are planning to return to the museum for the Spring Quarter, where they will be joining former intern **Matt Dunford** and a new intern, **Destanie Newell**.

At the railroad 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.

Spring Fundraiser Needs Your Help!

The 29th annual Spring Fundraiser takes place on Saturday, May 15. The event, which is also 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. Everyone who contributes to the event not only sponsors the free rides on May 15, but also underwrites *Free Rides For Moms* on Mother's Day (May 9) and *Free Rides For Dads* on Father's Day (June 20).

All museum members are urged to help with the fundraising before May 15, either by obtaining pledges or by making a personal pledge. Please support this important museum fundraiser with your tax-deductible donation by using the card mailed with this newsletter. For more information, contact the museum at 964-3540 or write:

museum@goletadepot.org

Benefit Event Aug. 28 At Hidden Oaks Golf Course

There will be a golfing benefit for the railroad museum at the Hidden Oaks Golf Course on Saturday, Aug. 28. The museum will receive 20% of all course revenues generated at Hidden Oaks that day.

It's not a tournament, so you won't need to sign-up in advance, or pay a high entry fee. Just show up when you can on Aug. 28 and play a round of golf, paying the standard rates for the course (adult \$12; senior or student 18-24 w/ ID, \$10; junior 10-17, \$6; child 5-9, \$5).

Hidden Oaks Golf Course is a 9-hole, par 27 layout. It is located at 4760 Calle Camarada, Santa Barbara. Coincidentally, it is also the site of the original home of the Goleta Valley Railroad Club.

For more information about the benefit event, please contact the museum (805/964-3540; museum@goletadepot.org). Watch for more details in the next *Depot Dispatch* issue.

Sellable Goods Wanted For "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale"

The museum is getting ready for *Goleta Railroad Days*, which is scheduled for the weekend of July 24-25. An "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale" will again be an important part of the event. We are collecting goods now to include in the sale. Railroad-related items, in particular, are sought, including model-train supplies, toys, books, videos, and memorabilia. Also needed are household goods, tools, and general-purpose items. Any electronic equipment must be in working condition.

If you have items to donate, please call the museum office (805/964-3540) or send us an email (museum@goletadepot.org). Please do not leave items at the museum without contacting us in advance. Thank you!

WANTED:
ENGINEERS & CONDUCTORS
 VOLUNTEERS
 FOR THE
GOLETA SHORT LINE
 MINIATURE TRAIN RIDE
 WE WILL TRAIN YOU!

In Memoriam: John Marshall Starr

We mourn the passing of John Marshall Starr, a singular member of the museum family. John Starr was one of the charter members of the “Friends of Goleta Depot,” whose names appeared in the first two issues of the *Depot Dispatch* newsletter back in June, 1981.



John became a museum volunteer in 1985, serving as one of a handful of early “docents,” who gave guided tours of the historical landmark. Later, he would become a volunteer “agent,” interpreting the building for museum visitors. Of his museum docent work, John said that he most enjoyed interacting with his fellow volunteers and “discovering all the details that bring history alive.”

John’s lifelong love of trains could be traced back to his grandfather, an engineer with the Burlington Northern for 46 years.

John’s father worked for the Great Northern Ry. When John was born, his dad was out on the rails, trying to get from Minot, North Dakota to the family home in Devils Lake in time for the blessed event, June 16, 1941.



John talks to museum visitors about Goleta Depot and its “action center” – the Freight Office., in Oct. 1988.

John continued to help with special events at the museum, despite the 400-plus-mile roundtrip drive. He even kept on as a regular volunteer, staffing at the museum every fifth Saturday for 20 years, another four trips to Goleta every year.

John will be deeply missed for his wise counsel, his gentle wit, his thirst for knowledge, and his unwavering friendship and loyalty. John Starr died Dec. 25, 2009 at the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.



Posing on the caboose, Dec. 1987. Barely a year had passed since the museum acquired the S.P. railcar.

More Overland Trail Trips Planned

The museum has been working with the owners of the *Overland Trail* rail car to provide vintage rail travel at an affordable price to museum members as well as the general public in the greater Santa Barbara area.

Seats at \$55 each are still available for a Father’s Day trip on Sunday, June 20. Passengers can 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. The return begins at 2 p.m., arriving in Goleta at 4:16, Santa Barbara at 4:31. Passengers are responsible for their own lunches. To make reservations for the Father’s Day trip, call the museum 805/964-3540.

An exclusive museum-only trip, set for May 1 and featuring a gourmet box lunch prepared and served by Santa Barbara executive chef Vincent Vanhecke, was quickly filled to capacity. We are currently planning a similar trip for later in the year. Call us if you would like to be on the waiting list for this late 2010 trip.

The *Overland Trail* is a 39-seat club lounge, built by the Pullman company for the Southern Pacific Railroad and delivered in 1949.