



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 30, No. 2 — Summer 2010

Railroad Days Arrives July 24-25



Photo by Lori Roper.

Don't miss "Goleta Railroad Days," coming July 24-25. The museum's only two-day event will feature steam-train and circus-train rides, operating model train displays, an "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale," and lots of hands-on activities for young and old.

Events hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is \$3 (under 12, \$2), which includes all activities except rides, for which there is an extra charge.

Goleta Railroad Days will again offer 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. A circus train, hauled by the museum's diesel-prototype switchers and featuring circus cars from the collection of **Ted Cheesman**, will operate on the 1/6-mile-long "Westside Figure-8" track.

There'll be handcar rides, too. For the safety of our event guests, 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 has its own website – goleta-railroaddays.org – where you will find event-related videos, lists of visit-

ing equipment and participating organizations, lots of photos, and the full schedule of event activities.

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

- ◆ Try your hand at the "Switching Puzzle," which challenges young and

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Photo by Jamie Foster.

Children's Activity Area

"Steam Table" will be filled with amazing machines.



Photo by Jamie Foster.

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Museum Joins In “National Train Day” Celebrations

It was a real honor to be asked to participate in National Train Day activities on May 8, especially in the major venue at Los Angeles’ Union Station, where an estimated 20,000 persons attended.

We were the only museum represented among about 25 institutional partners at the Los Angeles event, which included a long list of travel and recreational venues, including **Knott’s Berry Farm**, the **Grand Canyon Railway**, and many others.

Our museum sent eight representatives to the L.A. event. Trustee **Ralph Kornahrens**, Volunteer **Ed Leska**, Intern **Jose Rios**, and Museum Director **Gary Coombs** took turns staffing the South Coast Railroad Museum display table, while **Carla Cabanatuan**, **Tom Harders**, **Nancy Johnke**, and **Esther Velarde** helped share Amtrak Superliner passenger cars with event-goers in their capacities as Trails & Rails Guides.

There was also a *National Train Day* event at the Santa Barbara passenger station. The museum had a table there, too, staffed by Trustees **David Sanchez** and **Roger Wells**, and Intern **Amanda Gonzalez**.



New Museum Hours

Effective July 1, the museum will return to an expanded, 5-day schedule. The museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. For the first time, the miniature train will operate all five days, with the first train leaving the station shortly after 1 p.m. Free train rides will continue to be offered on Fridays, thanks to **Fairview Car Wash**.

Greetings, New Members!

David P. Sanchez is a new Life member. New Active members include **Tanya Bethea**, **Patricia Bishop**, **Whitney Duncan**, **Tyler Duncan**, **Armando (“A.J.”) Medina**, and **Hank Terrell**.

New Junior Engineers Club members are **Aydin Eliason**, **Wyeth Eliason**, **Vincente A. Gorgita**, **Dominic James Jennings**, **Thomas Pelland**, **Jonas Conklin Sanchez**, **Janelle Conklin Sanchez**, and **Griffin Bethea Terrell**.

Welcome to all new members!

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Hidden Oaks Golf Benefit Will Be Aug. 21

The golfing benefit at the Hidden Oaks Golf Course reported in the last *Depot Dispatch* will be held Saturday, Aug. 21. The museum will receive 20% of all course revenues generated at Hidden Oaks that day.

It isn’t a tournament, so you won’t need to sign-up in advance, or pay a special entry fee. Instead, just go when you can on Aug. 21 and play a round of golf, paying the course’s standard rates (adult \$12; senior or student 18-24 w/ID, \$10; junior 10-17, \$6; child 5-9, \$5). However, if you would prefer to play with other museum supporters, please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs by phone (805/964-3540) or email (gcoombs@goletadepot.org) before Aug. 16.

Hidden Oaks Golf Course is a 9-hole, par 27 layout, located at 4760 Calle Camarada, Santa Barbara. Hours are 8 a.m. until dusk. Coincidentally, the property was previously the site of the first home of the **Goleta Valley Railroad Club**.



The event has been moved from its original, Aug. 28 date.

For more information about the benefit event, please contact the museum (805/964-3540; or museum@goletadepot.org).

Back in the 1950s, this building on the property served as the storage shed for GVRR rolling stock.

Mark Your Calendar

Depot Day comes to the railroad museum on Sunday, Sept. 26. Don’t miss all the fun!

More Overland Trail Adventures

The special May 1 *Overland Trail* rail car trip, featuring a gourmet box lunch prepared and served by Santa Barbara executive chef **Vincent Vanhecke**, was a resounding success. Another trip, slated for Aug. 28, is also sold out.

Several additional excursions are now being planned. To be added to the waiting list, send your name in an email, please, to museum@goletadepot.org.

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Guides-In-Training Advance

Three of our guides-in-training have received their green shirts and advanced to guide status. **Betty Smith** successfully completed her first one-on-one guide assignment on June 18 with senior guide **Ed Leska**. **Dave Morse** and **Al Schildhorn** will follow suit on July 9 and 10, accompanied by **Nancy Johnke** and **Don Chalfant** respectively.

San Jose Trips Inaugurated

On May 30-31, the museum completed the first of 15 weekly Bay Area Trails & Rails trips, when Museum Director Gary Coombs led guides **Ed Leska**, **Bob Miesbauer**, and **Bern Verbit** on a combined orientation and presentation trip. It was the first time that San Jose served as the destination for these expanded summer trips, which take place from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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, with one trip each week extended to San Jose during the summer months. The program 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.

Interns, Interns Everywhere

There were five UCSB interns at the museum this spring, more than during any previous period. Two of these interns, **Matt Dunford** and **Yanina Rojas**, were anthropology students. The other three – **Amanda Gonzalez**, **Sunni Pyron**, and **Jesus Rios** – helped at the museum as part of their coursework for History 192P, "Proseminar in Public History."

The interns contributed to a number of projects around the museum, including staffing the museum's **National Train Day** tables in both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, serving as engineer and conductors on the miniature-train ride, conducting research and design work for informative new labels in the Model Railroad Exhibit, and contributing to a new page on the museum's website that interprets the "Trees and Plants of the Museum Grounds." You can explore the last at www.goletadepot.org/plants.php

At the railroad museum, UCSB students learn about museum operations and practices, earning credit by participating in both visitor-contact and behind-the-scenes activities.

Sellable Goods Requested For RR Days Freight/Baggage Sale

We are still collecting used goods for the *Goleta Railroad Days* "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale." Railroad-related items are especially desirable, including model-train supplies, toys, books, videos, and memorabilia. Also needed are household goods, tools, and general-purpose items.

If you have items to donate, please contact the museum office (805/964-3540 or museum@goletadepot.org). Please do not leave items at the museum without advance notice. Thank you.

Tony Ramirez and David Sanchez staff the sale tables during last year's event.



Photo by Lori Roper.

Langle Returns To Museum Board

Noel Langle has been elected to the Board of Trustees to serve a two-year term. Noel has been a museum member since 1993. He became very active in museum programs and activities four years later, when he first became a member of the Board. He volunteered for several museum events that year, including the *Easter Bunny Express*, *Steaming Summer*, and *Depot Day*.

Langle served 12 years as a trustee, until 2009. His tenure included two terms as Board President.

The museum handcar has always played a key role in Noel's contributions to the museum. He became a handcar volunteer in 1997, and continues to serve in that capacity. He helped build the handcar boarding platform in 2006 and, in the following year, he built and paid for a handsome new handcar storage shed. Since 2008, Noel and his wife, Peggy, have sponsored free monthly handcar rides for museum visitors.

Other major expressions around the museum of his interest in carpentry include the Visitor Center, opened in 2006,

where Noel was responsible for the lion's share of the finish work; the booth used to serve food during museum events; and the Goleta Short Line's Westside Station.

Over the years, Noel has helped with countless other projects around the museum – applying his skills and industry, as well as with financial support.

A lifelong love of trains traces back to his boyhood, growing up on the Stanford Univ. campus, where he often saw the *Gov. Stanford* locomotive and the golden spike from the transcontinental railroad at the museum there.

Noel attended UCSB, earning his B.A. in geography. Since graduating in 1980, he has worked for the County of Santa Barbara, as a planner and zoning administrator. Noel and Peggy were married in 1989. They live in Goleta.



Noel Langle



Photo by Lori Roper.

old to move a train successfully from one spot to another in a simulated rail yard. See if **you** can solve the puzzle.

- ◆ The “Children’s Interactive Area” will feature a table overflowing with **George Hutchinson’s** wooden toy trains, where everyone has a chance to “play trains.”
- ◆ Take a turn at the computer-based train simulator, featuring the state-of-the-art “Rail-Driver” cab controller.
- ◆ There will also be a train-themed Story-time each day, on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, led by Children’s Librarian **Judy Savage**, from the **Goleta Public Library**, and **Pat Weeks**.

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 help make these operating and static displays possible, 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**.



Photo by Lori Roper.

“Switching Puzzle”

Photo by Jamie Foster.



road Days will also have an exhibition of operating live-steam equipment. **Jim Marchiando’s** steam plant will provide the power to run a water-pump, a collection of steam whistles, and a table-top display of tools and toys from the collections of **Jim Higman**, **Gene Allen**, and **John Green**. Be sure to ask if you can operate one of the whistles!

Joining the museum’s own volunteers, members of the **Woman’s Service Club of Goleta** will also be helping to staff *Goleta Railroad Days*. Other *Goleta Railroad Days* partner organizations include the **Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad**, **National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Amtrak)**, and the **Union Pacific Railroad**.

Each will have a booth, with representatives available to answer questions, distribute literature, and share information with event attendees.

There will be an “Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale,” offering some great bargains on 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 his-torical land-mark each day. We will also be reopening the museum’s **Gandy Dancer Theater** for *Goleta Railroad Days*. Railroad films will be screened throughout the event.



Photo by Lori Roper.

Story Time



Photo by Jamie Foster.

Flag-Raising Ceremony



Photo by Jamie Foster.



Photo by Lori Roper.