



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 30, No. 4 — Winter 2010-2011



“Candy Cane Train” Starts Fri., Nov. 26

The South Coast Railroad Museum’s ever-popular end-of-year event, the *Candy Cane Train*, starts anew this holiday season on the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 26, continuing daily through Dec. 26 (except on Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 & 13-14, and 25, when the museum will be closed). During Christmas week, the museum will be open two extra days — Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 20-21 — to permit the *Candy Cane Train* to make some extra trips while local schools are out for their holiday breaks. The *Candy Cane Train* will also run on Sunday, Dec. 26.

The colorful, oversized *Candy Cane Train* souvenir tickets are good not only for a ride on the decorated train, with its unmistakable red-and-white candy-striped passenger cars, but also for an assortment of holiday treats and favors, including, of course, a candy cane.

Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m., including weekdays, but please be sure to arrive not later than 3:30 to enjoy all of the *Candy Cane Train* activities (First train: 1:15 p.m.; last train: 3:45)

Please also allow some time to enjoy the traditional *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears* display in Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room, which also opens Nov. 26.

Candy Cane Train tickets, at \$3.50 each, will be sold at the museum during event hours. Additional rides may be purchased for \$1.50 each. Museum members receive their usual 25¢ off on every ticket purchased.

For the safety of our guests, the usual 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies to all *Candy Cane Train* passengers.



Two of our favorite longtime “train-dears” are Emma and Rachel Tracy.

Trackside Shop Has Great Gift Ideas

In the Trackside Shop, we’ve been gearing up to meet your holiday shopping needs. The wooden Thomas character is back on board, along with some new friends from his *Misty Island Rescue* adventure. Many other engines and friends are back on the shelves, too.

The *Misty Island Rescue* DVD is now avail-

(cont’d on page 2, “Trackside Shop”)

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Trackside Shop (cont'd from page 1)

able, along with other new releases. We have your favorite railroad shirts, for adults and children, many with new matching beverage mugs.

The shop also stocks a long list of characters from the PBS series, *Dinosaur Train*. The children's book section contains the new *Thomas Makes A Wish* and a full selection of titles, including Bill Peet's *The Caboose Who Got Loose*.

Other gifts for adults include games, puzzles, books, DVDs and a lot more.

All of your Trackside Shop purchases benefit the museum, its programs and activities. Store hours: Wed-Sunday, 1 to 4, through Dec. 26. We accept Visa and Mastercard. Be sure to bring your valid membership card to receive your 10% discount on all store merchandise.

Follow Us On Twitter & Blogger

The museum has recently expanded its Internet presence to include both **Twitter** and **Blogger**. The Twitter address is: <http://twitter.com/goletadepot>

Twitter is also being used to power a scroll of current "**Museum News & Notes**" which can be found on the museum's website: <http://goletadepot.org> We've even used the scroll to report current-day cancellations of the miniature-train ride due to rain!

The museum blog address is: <http://goletadepot.blogspot.com> The blog is an important supplement to the information you find in the quarterly *Depot Dispatch* newsletter. Recent blog entries, for example, include profiles of super volunteer **A.J. Medina**, and our new Fall 2010 UCSB interns, **Yegal Khouban** and **Dane Mulligan**.

Another blog includes several photos from the Aug. 21 benefit at the **Hidden Oaks Golf Course**. There are even a number of blog posts about plants and wildlife found around the museum grounds — from cottontail rabbits, to scrub-jays, to egrets, to African iris — all with on-site photos!

Museum Receives Foundation Grant

The **Santa Barbara Foundation** has awarded the museum a \$5,000 general operating support grant. The grant funds will be used to perform crucial preservation work on Goleta Depot's second-story exterior. Activities will include carpentry and painting, gutter repair, mending of woodpecker and swallow damage, and control of future bird activity. The work is expected to take place during the early months of 2011.

Winter Schedule Resumes Jan. 3

The museum will be closed to the public from Dec. 27 thru Jan. 2.

Starting Jan. 3, the museum will return to a 3-day weekly schedule. The museum will be open Friday through Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. Miniature-train rides will be offered all three days, with the first train leaving the station shortly after 1 p.m. Last train: 3:45.

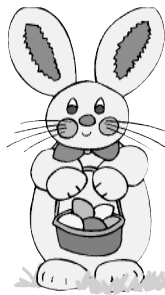
Free train rides will continue to be offered on Fridays in 2011, thanks to the sponsorship support of our dear friends at **Fairview Car Wash**. Free handcar rides every third Saturday will also return next year. **Noel and Peggy Langle** have generously renewed their sponsorship of the handcar-ride program.

Your Donations Are Crucial!

Please remember Goleta Depot and the railroad museum in your year-end gifting.
We can't do it without you!

19TH ANNUAL

Easter Bunny Express



Coming Saturday, April 23, 2011

Get Hopping! Mark Your
Calendar Today!

Welcome To Our New Members

Lili Schafer is a new Life member. **Christopher and Adam Walsh** are new Contributing members.

New Sustaining members include **Ron Busch, Jacqueline Dyson, Shannon Franco & Family, and Ricky Soldavini**. **Dan Taimuty** is a new Active member. **Aaron Foster** is our newest Junior Engineer.

Greetings to all of you!

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To contact us:

Phone: 805-964-3540;

FAX: 805-964-3549

E-mail: museum@goletadepot.org

Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

Don't Pass Up Super Saturday! Catch It Feb. 5

Feb. 5 will mark the first free train-ride weekend day of 2011, when the 15th annual “*Super Saturday!*” will be held. Hours for the event, which is always scheduled the day before the Super Bowl football game, will be 1 to 4 p.m.

Those attending may ride the miniature train as much as they like (The museum’s 34-inch minimum-height safety requirement will apply.) and will receive one of the event’s unique football-shaped *Super Saturday!* tickets to commemorate the occasion.

Super Saturday! is made possible by the generosity of a long list of sponsoring businesses, organizations and members. The 2010 sponsors, many of whom will be helping again in 2011, were **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.;** and the **John Hutchinson Family.**

Lend A Hand With Decorating For Holiday Season

On Saturday, Nov. 20, we’ll be decorating the museum in preparation for the *Candy Cane Train* event and the holiday season at the museum. If you’d care to be a part of the fun, please join us. We’ll start at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until about 11:30.

We’ll be decorating Engine No. 1316 and applying the candy-cane striping to the passenger cars, well as placing ornaments and other decorations in the trees, shrubs, and other places around the grounds. We’d be happy to have you lend a hand.



Depot Day Report

Thanks are owed to the many volunteers and other supporters who helped in so many ways to make the 28th annual *Depot Day* such a success. The admissions table was staffed ably by **Ed Leska, Carla Cabanatuan, Judy Savage,** and Goleta City Council member **Margaret Connell.**

Francesco Donati, with a helping hand from **John Hutchinson,** covered the cooking duties, preparing some of the best tri-tip we’ve had in years.. Food sellers & servers included **Nancy Johnke, Susan Strobel, Lani Bucifal,** and **Claudia Worthen.**

The silent auction tables were the responsibility of **Kari Adams, Diana Mina, Charlene Doty, Edie Wells,** and **Barbara Eggemeyer.** In Goleta Depot’s Freight Office, **Ayse Taimuty, Raphaella Banholzer,** and **Judy Blue** handled the auction sales and receipts, with the support of depot agents **Bern Verbit** and **Doug Winter.**

Two Goleta Short Line trains were kept running throughout the day, thanks to the hard work of volunteer engineers and conductors **Ron Bruns, Wes Taimuty, Nicholas Vanhecke, Roger Wells,** and **Ann Winter.** **Noel Langle** operated the handcar, while **Bob Mahan** gave plenty of rides on his Fairmont speeder.

Musical entertainment was provided by the **Young Singers Club,** under the direction of **Brett Lorraine Mutinelli,** to the delight of event-goers and staffers, alike.

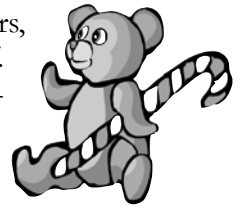
Arlene Radasky and **RoseAnn Hill** shared the 2nd-floor agent’s living quarters with many interested event attendees, and **Ralph Kornahrens** staffed the locomotive simulator for the edification and pleasure of our many guests. **Sam Chu, Bern Verbit,** and **Neil Baker** also assisted Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** as event floaters. **Thea Cremers** helped behind the counter in the Trackside Shop.

Many of these same volunteers also joined with the museum staff in running errands, as well as setup and cleanup activities, which spanned several days.

A long list of other friends, businesses, and organizations generously donated or loaned equipment, supplies, and some terrific auction items to the 2010 *Depot Day* event.

Holiday Display A Proud Parade Of Keepsake Toys

When you visit the museum over the holidays, take a few minutes to enjoy the annual “*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*” display in Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room. Featured are keepsake stuffed animals, along with toy and model trains, from the collections of the museum, its members, volunteers, and staff. The holiday exhibition opens Nov. 26 and continues through Dec. 26.



Museum Was RR Festival Partner

The museum was pleased to participate in the **Central Coast Railroad Festival,** which was held Oct. 7-11, mostly at San Luis Obispo County venues. For its part, the museum scheduled *Trails & Rails* volunteer guides aboard *Coast Starlight* trains between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo during much of the festival run, providing interpretive programs for train passengers.

Depot Tree Shares Railroad & Museum Traditions

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, for the enjoyment of travelers along Los Carneros Road as they pass the museum grounds during the holiday season.

The decorated tree, which can also be seen during the daytime, occupies the historical landmark’s second-floor window bay. It holds special Yuletide significance in preserving the custom, practiced over the years by countless rail-station agent families across America, of placing their Christmas tree so that its message of hope and wonder could be shared with those on passing trains.

Like many other things, the decorated tree has also become a *museum* tradition, something that we have done annually now since 1982. Among the tree’s decorations are small white “Remembrance Stars,” each a memorial to a museum friend who has passed away.

More Exciting Vintage Rail Adventures For 2011

We are pleased to announce that the museum has arranged for a dozen exclusive vintage rail car trips for 2011, one for each month on the calendar. All 12 will be one-day roundtrips from Santa Barbara/Goleta to San Luis Obispo.

Except for February, each trip will be aboard the historic Southern Pacific club lounge, *Overland Trail*, which the museum used extensively in both 2009 and 2010. Each *Overland Trail* trip is limited to a maximum of 36 passengers. The February trip will be aboard the Vista Dome Car, *Silver Splendor* (see companion story, *Views Unmatched From Silver Splendor Dome*).

Travel times for all trips are as follows: Depart Santa Barbara (SB) at 10:15 a.m. (Goleta 10:27). Arrive San Luis Obispo (SLO) at 12:45 p.m. Depart SLO at 2:00 p.m. Arrive SB at 4:31 p.m. (Goleta 4:16).

Tickets for the *Overland Trail* trips are \$55 per person for museum members, \$59 for the general public. Soft drinks and light snacks are included.

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 So. Pacific, Union Pacific, and Chicago & North Western railroads between San Francisco and Chicago.

These trips are selling out fast, so don't delay. As this newsletter goes to the printer, we have a single seat only available on the Jan. 22 *Overland Trail* trip. Seats for the February (*Silver Splendor*) and August (*Overland Trail*) trips are now available. The trips in March, April, May, June and July are already sold out.

For *Overland Trail* photos and additional information, visit the museum's website: <http://goletadepot.org>.

To make reservations, call the museum today, 805/964-3540. Ask about group charters.



Museum volunteer Ed Leska can hardly believe the spectacular 360-degree views afforded from *Silver Splendor's* dome.

Views Unmatched From "Silver Splendor" Dome

Museum members have a unique opportunity to ride a classic Vista Dome car. The museum has chartered *Silver Splendor* for an exclusive Feb. 19 trip.

Vista Dome cars are famous for their graceful glass-enclosed rooftop observation rooms, which provide unparalleled views in all directions. Museum volunteer **Ed Leska**, who knows something about vintage-rail travel, explains: "Riding in the dome gives you the very best views of the coast and valleys! You can see the ocean and the mountains, look forward and back without moving from your seat!"

We are limiting group size to 48 passengers, so that everyone will be guaranteed seating in the 24-seat dome for one-half of the trip. Those making early reservations have first choice of riding in the dome either during the north- or southbound legs of the trip.

See the story at left for travel times and other trip information. Tickets for the Feb. 19 *Silver Splendor* excursion are

only \$75 for museum members; \$79 for the general public.

Built by the Budd Co. in 1956 as Chicago, Burlington & Quincy No. 4735, this stainless steel car raced between Chicago and Denver on a daily basis until 1980, the last nine years under Amtrak ownership. Originally named *Silver Buckle*, she was part of the last two complete conventional train sets to be ordered new in the pre-Amtrak era, traveling more than 4.5 million miles.

To learn more about *Silver Splendor*, please visit:

<http://heritagerailways.us/index.htm>



Silver Splendor historically (left), as *Silver Buckle*, and today (above).