



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

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Easter Bunny Express Here April 23



Bunny Leab Savage greets a young visitor, while Bunny Helper Esther Velarde lends a hand.

It's springtime, again! Time for another enchanting *Easter Bunny Express* event at the railroad museum. "EBX," as some insiders like to call it, will celebrate its 19th anniversary when all the hopping gets going on Saturday, April 23.

Many fun activities await those who attend this year's event.



Each activity will be listed as a "station" on the oversized, egg-shaped tickets. These station stops include visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to take a six-minute ride on one of the decorated trains); *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).

This year, there will again be two trains, the *EBX Thunderbunny* and the *Lop-Ear Local*, each operating on its own one-third-mile-long route. Ticketholders will be able to 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.

For those who would like to have lunch or an afternoon snack, museum volunteers will be serving Depot Dogs, smoked-sausage sandwiches, snacks, and refreshments throughout the day.

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. Tickets are available in advance at the museum.

They will also be sold during the event until 3:30 p.m.

The 2011 *Easter Bunny Express* is sure to be another "hare-raising egg-sperience" for the whole family. Hop aboard! (rain date: April 30). The museum will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 24.

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Super Saturday Delights Many

The 15th annual *Super Saturday* was held on Feb. 5, the day before this year's Super Bowl football game.

Dozens of families took part in this year's event, enjoying unlimited rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature train.

The 2011 edition of *Super Saturday!* was made possible by these sponsors:

* Ron and Sue Bruns * Michael Gartzke, C.P.A. * Grace Baptist Church * Joan Hanna * John Hutchinson Family * Noel and Peggy Langle * Robert B. Locke, Esq. * Dick and Wendy Shelton * Marc Bradley & Lori Roper * Circle of Friends Children's Center * Dal Pozzo Tire Corp., Goleta * Peter Tiersma and Thea Cremers * Bruce and Andrea Morden * Claudia Worthen * David and Yolie Sanchez * Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens * Roger and Edie Wells * Montessori Center School *

Special thanks to all of our sponsors!

Watch For The News!

The Summer 2011 *Depot Dispatch* newsletter will have some important news about two of the museum's main events, *Depot Day* and *Goleta Railroad Days*. Please stay tuned.

Museum Volunteers To Help With “National Train Day” On May 7

Volunteer guides from the museum's Trails & Rails Program will again join in staffing *National Train Day* at Los Angeles Union Station on Saturday, May 7.

National Train Day celebrates America's love of trains. It features family-friendly activities at venues across the country. Attractions include musical entertainment, rolling-stock tours, exhibits, VIP appearances, drawings for trips and other prizes, and lots of souvenir giveaways.

In addition to Los Angeles, four other cities will feature major *National Train Day* festivities – New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Philadelphia. Los Angeles Union Station is at 800 N. Alameda Street. Hours for the 4th annual *National Train Day* are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains, Trails & Rails guides from our museum will also be taking part in *National Train Day* activities. They will be presenting live programs 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.



Greetings, New Members!

Katie Dabney and Paul D. Fritz are new Life members. Other new members include John and Ruth Rowe (Milepost 100), and Charles E. Piper (Sustaining). Our new Active members are Sarah Byelick, Deanne Day, James Eisenhood, Roberta Eisenhood, Walter Naumann, Nancy Revlin, Gary Stephens and John Wright.

Tarkan Ezal is our newest Junior Engineers Club member.

Welcome aboard one and all!

“Rotary Day” Will Coincide With Father’s Day in 2011

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

We hope you will join us for free rides on *Rotary Day*. While at the event, be sure to say hello and thank the Rotarians for the club's continuing support of the museum and its programs.

On *Rotary Day*, visitors may ride as often as they like, without charge. There is a 34-inch minimum-height requirement for the train ride; 48-inch minimum for the handcar.

Museum Honored by National Association

On Feb. 6-7, the **American Association of Museums (AAM)** held an “accreditation summit” in Chicago. The two-day event was “an important next step in AAM's ongoing effort to create a new accreditation program, one that will attract participation by more museums from every segment of our field.” AAM has been working on this major revision to its core program for several years.

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** was one of about two dozen museum professionals from across the country who were invited to participate in the summit. The South Coast Railroad Museum was the smallest museum represented at the conference.

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In Memoriam: Ted Cheesman



The museum lost a dear friend and a valued longtime volunteer with the passing of Ted Cheesman on Nov. 21, 2010. Ted was perhaps best known among museum members and visitors for his circus train, which played an important role in museum summertime events going back to 1998. That year, during *Steaming Summer*, four of the circus-train cars were used on one of the ride trains, while several other cars were put on static display. The water-squirting el-

ephant car and the calliope car with the bubble-blowing bear quickly became crowd favorites.

Ted and his longtime companion, **Lavonne Sanchez**, joined the museum in 1997. They soon trained to become two of its earliest *Coast Starlight* program volunteers. They were a regular *Coast Starlight* team until just weeks before Ted's passing.



Lavonne and Ted were two of museum's first *Coast Starlight* guides.

ephant car and the calliope car with the bubble-blowing bear quickly became crowd favorites.

Ted and Lavonne helped with the Goleta Short Line ride operations in many ways. They volunteered as conductors and station agents during special events. The 2003-2004 campaign to purchase a new engine for GSL locomotive No. 1316 was given a big boost with a generous kickoff donation from Ted and Lavonne.

Ted eventually became a regular GSL engineer and served until poor health forced his retirement. Ted also helped out with GSL track-building and repair. He was on the crew that rebuilt a portion of track that had been destroyed when a 100-foot Monterey pine, tallest on the grounds, toppled on Feb. 19, 2003.

The museum has received a memorial donation in Ted Cheesman's name from **Eugene Allen**.



Ted's son, Kendal, inspects the circus-train cars during a *Steaming Summer* event.

Holiday Drawing Winner Announced

Courtney Miller is the lucky winner of the 2010 *Candy Cane Train* drawing. She is pictured here with the two lovable bears that she won.

Courney is 14 years old and an 8th-grader at Goleta Valley Junior High School. She loves baking and soccer.

Watch for Courney's bears in the museum's 2011 holiday display, *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears*, opening Nov. 25 in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room.



Get Your News In Full Color!

You can now enjoy this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* museum newsletter in color. To find a color version of the current *Depot Dispatch*, just go to the following address on the museum's website:

www.goletadepot.org/DD/latest.pdf

There is also an archive of past issues, many in color, located at:

www.goletadepot.org/museum_dispatch.php



Two New Vintage Railcar Trips Planned

If you missed the museum's Feb. 19 excursion aboard the Vista Dome car, *Silver Sendor*, you have two more chances to be a part of a museum travel group in 2011.

Each of these upcoming trips involves a different vintage railcar. The first, on Saturday, June 4, will be aboard *Colonial Crafts*, a Pennsylvania Railroad car. Manufactured by Pullman-Standard, the car went into service in 1949. *Colonial Crafts* and her seven matching Colonial-series sisters all featured three bedrooms, a buffet, drawing room, and lounge. *Colonial Crafts* is the sole survivor. For more information about *Colonial Crafts*, visit the car's website: www.colonialcraftsrailcar.com

Seats are also available for our Nov. 12 trip aboard Bill and Debbie Hatrick's *Overland Trail*, a 39-seat club lounge, built by Pullman for the Southern Pacific. Learn more at the museum's *Overland Trail* webpage: www.goletadepot.org/museum_overlandtrail.php

Both trips are one-

day excursions to San Luis Obispo. Schedules are the same for both. Passengers may board in either Santa Barbara or Goleta. The trains are scheduled to depart Santa Barbara at 10:15 (10:27 for Goleta), arriving in San Luis Obispo at 12:45. Returns trips begin at 2 p.m., arriving Goleta at 4:16, Santa Barbara at 4:31.

Besides the chance to ride a special rail car, the trip is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the spectacular views and sites along this beautiful coastal portion of Amtrak's Pacific Coast route.

Fares for the Nov. 12 *Overland Trail* trip are \$59 per person (\$55 for museum members); for the June 4 *Colonial Crafts* excursion, the cost is \$69 (\$65 for members). All proceeds benefit the museum. For information, or to make your reservations, call the museum today, 805/964-3540.



Overland Trail

Colonial Crafts



VOLUNTEER NEWS

New Guides Come Aboard

Annual classroom training for the Trails & Rails Program was held March 5. All continuing guides took part in the all-day session, along with seven new guides-in-training: **Sarah Byelick, Deanne Day, James Eisenhood, Roberta Eisenhood, Nancy Revlin, Gary Stephens and John Wright.**

Trainers included **Steve Lewis**, from the **San Antonio Missions National Historical Park** in Texas, who gave emergency and safety instruction, and **Adam Lucas**, from the **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**, whose topics included the **National Park Service**, the Anza expedition of 1775-76, the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**, and techniques of interpretation.

Museum Director Gary Coombs introduced attendees to the 2011 Trails & Rails Standard Operating Procedures. On Feb. 24, Coombs had led an orientation meeting at which prospective guides could learn about the program and have their questions answered.

Remaining training will include more individual study followed by training trips aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains – under the supervision of senior museum guides.

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 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 San Jose.

Museum Intern News

The museum has the services of three new interns for the university's Spring Quarter: **Danae Davis, Laura Frank and Annalise O'Neil.**

At our 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.

Please Support Spring Fundraiser

The 30th annual *Spring Fundraiser* takes place on Saturday, May 21. Also known as the *Great Goleta Rail Race*, the event includes unlimited free train and handcar rides for all visitors, who meet the minimum-height requirements of 34" for the train and 48" for the handcar.

The *Spring Fundraiser* is a crucial source of operating revenue. It produces about 12-15% of the money needed to sustain the museum for a year. Everyone who contributes to the event not only sponsors the free rides on May 21, but also helps to keep the museum going and growing.

All museum members are urged to help with the fundraising before May 21, either by obtaining pledges or by making a pledge of their own. 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 send us an email at: museum@goletadepot.org