



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 31, No. 3 — Fall 2011

Railroad Days & Depot Day

Comin' 'Round the Bend -- Sept. 17-18

Goleta Railroad Days and *Depot Day*, two of the museum's biggest and most important events, are being combined this year into one two-day *Railroad Days* event. The result is a weekend-long celebration featuring more rides, more model trains, more hands-on activities for young and old, and more fun things to see and do than we've ever had at a museum event.

You won't want to miss any of the excitement!

Railroad Days is a real family bargain. Daily admission is only \$2 per person. (Children under 34 inches will be admitted free.). Unlimited rides: just \$3 more.

Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Many of the event's activities and attractions will be offered at different times over the weekend. To be sure that you don't miss out on any personal favorites — many of these attractions only take place at the museum once a year — be sure to familiarize yourself with the event schedule, which can be found on the *Railroad Days* website (rrdays.org), where it will be updated as changes occur (also see page 4 of this newsletter). The *Railroad*

ADVANCE-PURCHASE SPECIAL

Save \$\$\$ by purchasing your tickets in advance. Get TWO days (with or without rides) for the price of one day. Avoid the line at admissions, too. This special offer is available only through the museum's online store at tickets.rrdays.org

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SUNDAY IS DEPOT DAY — THAT MEANS AUCTION!

The second of our event's two "railroad days" is *Depot Day*, which has been held on a Sunday through all of its 29 illustrious years. Sunday's highlight will be the Silent Auction, which has been a central part of *Depot Day* for the last 27 of those 29 years.

This year's auction offers more than 150 items (a partial list is posted and regularly updated on the *Railroad Days* website (go to auction.rrdays.org) including hotel stays, Disney and Magic Mountain adventures, golfing, performing-arts tickets, wines and winery tours, Amtrak travel, dining at fine restaurants, and much more.

Please help the museum by attending *Railroad Days* on *Depot Day*, visiting the auction 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 Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (805/964-3540) week-day afternoons.



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Days website is also your source for event-related videos, complete lists of visiting equipment and participating organizations, lots of photos from past events, as well as the most up-to-date schedule of event activities.

Rides Aplenty

There will be lots of rides during *Railroad Days*, including train rides on two separate routes – a 1/3-mile-long Centennial Loop and a 1/6-mile Fig-

Come Early
(10:30) on Saturday to watch the steam locomotives being readied for the day.

ure-8. Two live-steam locomotives will be handling most of the Centennial Loop chores on Saturday —

Gene Allen's 4-4-0 American and **Ed Winnewisser's** 0-6-0 yard switcher. Engineer **Steve Kramer** returns this year to help keep the steamers running.

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Both of the museum's diesel locomotives, No 1316 and No. 2655, will also see heavy service hauling passengers both Saturday and Sunday.

Running two trains at the same time is always a lot of fun for passengers and crews, alike, with plenty of opportunities for trains to meet and for riders on the passing trains to greet one another with a friendly wave of the hand.



There will be rides on the museum handcar both days. **Noel Langle** and **Bruce Morden** will share the volunteer duties, keeping the handcar running smoothly and safely.

Sunday only, **Bob Mahan** will be on hand to give rides on his Fairmont inspection car. Formerly used on the **Ventura Railway**, Bob's speeder has been a *Depot Day* mainstay for over a quarter-century, since 1985!

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.

Model Trains Galore!

There will be model trains just about everywhere during *Railroad Days* thanks to three of our event partners, the **Coast Toy Train Club**, **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**, and **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**, which are the

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Welcome, New Members

Bill and Sheila Holzer have graciously renewed their membership at the Associate Life level. Longtime supporters **Marc Bradley and Lori Roper** are new Life members.

John Samuel Contakes and **Phillip Michael Contakes** are new Jr. Engineers Club members.

Welcome and thank you all!

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three main local organizations serving model train and antique toy train enthusiasts.

There will be modeling demonstrations and plenty of operating displays, as well as some static ones — representing all popular gauges and scales — from pocket-sized “Z” scale (1:220) to large-scale garden railways.



Lots More To See and Do

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

The “Children’s Interactive Area,” which will feature a table overflowing with **George Hutchinson’s** wooden toy trains, where everyone has a chance to “play trains.”

There will be an “Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale,” offering some great bargains on new & used model-railroad

supplies, railroad-theme magazines and videos, toys, books, and many other items. All sale proceeds benefit the museum.

Railroad Days will also have an exhibition of operating live-steam equipment. **Jim Marchiando’s** steam plant will provide the power, running 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!

Take a turn at the computer-based train simulator, featuring the state-of-the-art “Rail-Driver” cab controller.

Try your hand at the “Switching Puzzle,” which challenges young and old to move a train successfully from one spot to another in a simulated rail yard. See if you can solve the puzzle.

There will also be a train-themed Story Time each day from 1 until 2:30 p.m., led on Saturday by Children’s Librarian **Judy Savage**, from **Goleta Public Library**, and by **Kathy Halloran** on Sunday.

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Attendees will be invited to take part in a free event hunt. There will be prizes for all who successfully collect a sticker from each of the *Railroad Days* places included in the hunt.

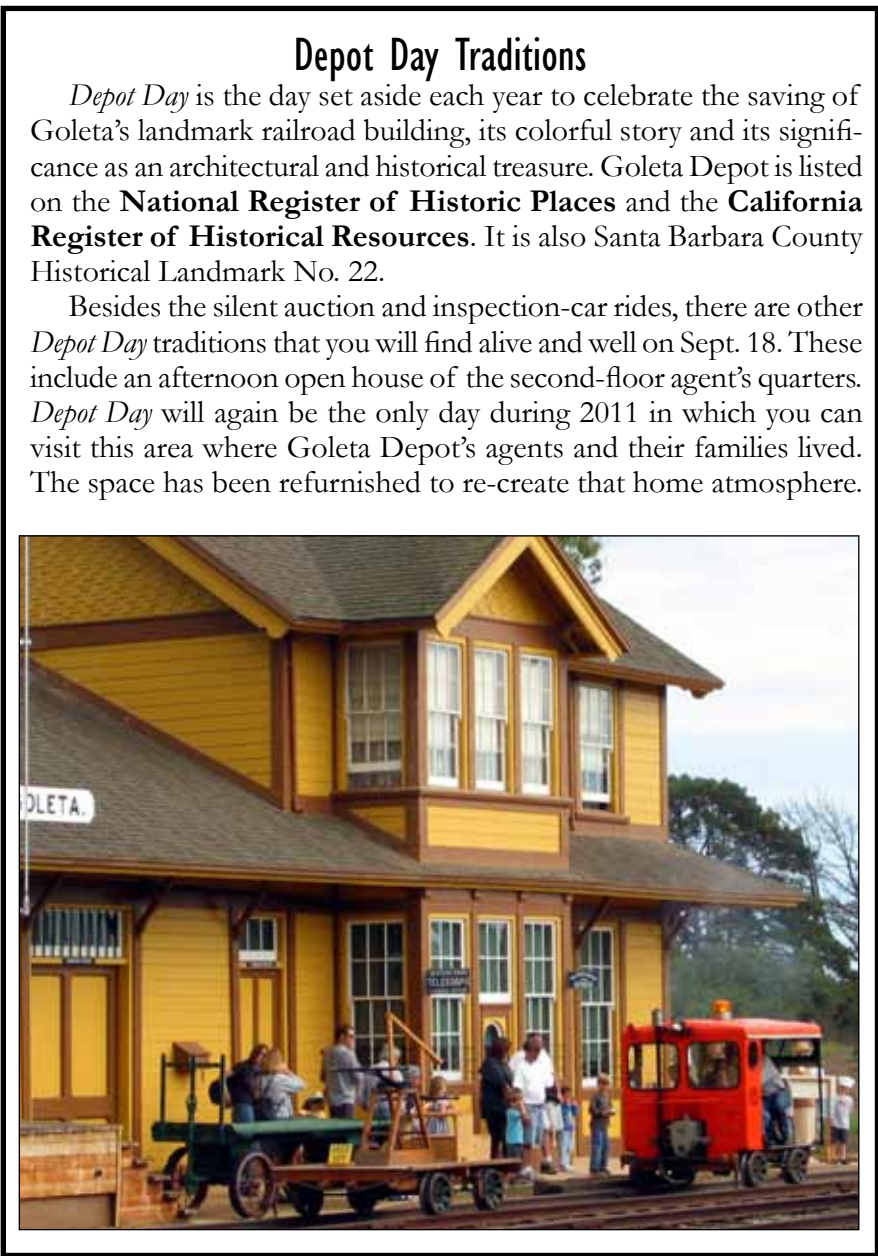
Other *Railroad Days* partner organizations include **Amtrak, Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad, Coast Rail Now, Central Coast Railroad Festival, and Coast Starlight Communities Network.** Most of these will have a booth, with representatives available to answer questions, distribute literature, and share information with event-goers.

We'll be opening the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater for *Railroad Days*. Train-theme documentaries and Thomas The Tank Engine videos for the kids will be screened throughout the event.

The museum's jukebox will be playing all of your favorite railroad tunes during *Railroad Days*.

Food For Hungry Event-Goers

Judy Connors and the **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** are taking on the task of preparing and serving all of the food for *Railroad Days* this year. The "Club Car" will be offering hot sandwiches, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages at reasonable prices. All proceeds benefit the museum.



Depot Day Traditions

Depot Day is the day set aside each year to celebrate the saving of Goleta's landmark railroad building, its colorful story and its significance as an architectural and historical 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.

Besides the silent auction and inspection-car rides, there are other *Depot Day* traditions that you will find alive and well on Sept. 18. These include an afternoon open house of the second-floor agent's quarters. *Depot Day* will again be the only day during 2011 in which you can visit this area where Goleta Depot's agents and their families lived. The space has been refurbished to re-create that home atmosphere.

Railroad Days 2011 Schedule of Activities

GET SCHEDULE UPDATES & MORE AT: RRDAYS.ORG

Saturday, Sept. 17

10:30-11:00	Steam-Up!	Come early and watch the engine crews prepare the steam locomotives.
11 a.m.	Flag-Raising	Junior Girl Scout Troop 50763 and Daisy Girl Scout Troop 50014
11 a.m.	Diesel-Train Rides	Begin on Westside Figure-8 (continuing until 4 p.m.)
11 a.m.	Steam- & Diesel-Train Rides	Start on Centennial Loop (continuing until 4 p.m.)
11 a.m.	Handcar Rides	On standard-gauge track in front of Goleta Depot (until 4 p.m.)
1:00-2:30	Children's Story Time.	Hosted by Judy Savage, Children's Librarian, Goleta Public Library. Location TBA.

Depot Day, Sunday, Sept. 18

11 a.m.	Flag-Raising	Junior Girl Scout Troop 50277 and Cadette Girl Scout Troop 50510
11 a.m.	Train Rides	Diesel-Train rides on Centennial Loop (1/3-mile) & Westside Figure-8 (1/6 mile). Until 4 p.m.
11 a.m.	Speeder Rides	Standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
11:30 a.m.	Handcar Rides	Standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
VARIOUS	Silent Auction	Auction Tables will close as follows: Table A,- 12:30; Table B- 1:15; Table C- 2:00; Table D- 2:45; Table E- 3:30.
12:30	Depot Upstairs Open House	Continuing until 4 p.m.
1:00-2:30	Children's Story Time.	Hosted by Kathy Halloran. Location to be announced.

Railroad Days has benefitted from the promotional support of these sponsors: **Radio AM1290, the Santa Barbara News-Press, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Radio KDB93.7FM, SBParent.com, and Venoco.**