



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 31, No. 4 — Winter 2011-2012

“Candy Cane Train” Opens Nov. 25

The long-anticipated return of the *Candy Cane Train*, the beloved annual holiday-season event at the railroad museum, takes place on Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving. The event continues daily through Dec. 24, except for Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, and Dec. 12-13, when the museum will be closed. The museum will again be open every day during the week before Christmas — including Mon. & Tues., Dec. 19-20 — when many local children are out of class for their schools’ holiday breaks.

Holders of the oversized red *Candy Cane Train* souvenir tickets will receive a ride aboard the festively-decorated train, with its unique candy-striped cars. But that’s not all! Each ticket is also good for an assortment of holiday treats and favors, including, of course, a yummy candy cane.



Holiday-decorated entry will welcome you.

Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends, 2 to 4 on weekdays, but please be sure to arrive not later than 3:30 so you won’t have to rush and can leisurely enjoy all of the *Candy Cane Train* activities (The last train will leave the station each day at 3:45!) Please also allow some time to enjoy the traditional *Toy Trains*

& *Teddy Bears* display (see page 4 story) in Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room, which also opens on Nov. 25.

Candy Cane Train tickets, at \$4 each, can be purchased at the museum during event hours. You may also buy your tickets in advance, through the museum’s online store, which will earn you a free second train ride with each ticket purchased (Save \$1.50 per ticket!). Go to: <http://goo.gl/DTPN6> or use a smartphone to scan the QR code below.

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



Photo by Lori Roper

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Remember The Museum

Please include the South Coast Railroad Museum and Goleta Depot among your end-of-year gifts. Support from members and friends like you accounts for about one half of the money that the museum needs each year to keep going. Your help is critical! Please give what you can. Thank you.

Help Decorate The Museum For The Holidays

On Monday, Nov. 21, museum members, volunteers, and staff will be decorating the grounds and train-ride equipment. More help is needed! Please join Museum Director Gary Coombs and others, starting at 1 p.m., as we prepare for the *Candy Cane Train* event and the holiday season.

We'll be decorating Engine No. 1316 and applying the candy-cane striping to the passenger cars, and also placing ornaments and other decorations in the trees, shrubs, and other places around the grounds. Hope you will lend a hand!



Museum Will Help With Amtrak's 40th Anniversary Exhibit Train

This year marks Amtrak 40th anniversary. An important part of the celebration is the 40th Anniversary Exhibit Train, which is currently touring the country, with stops at major cities. The train features vintage rolling stock and displays of photos, uniforms, china, and memorabilia from America's railroading past, while also offering a glimpse into the future of U.S. passenger rail travel.

The exhibit train will spend the weekend of Dec. 11-12 at Los Angeles Union Station. Volunteers from our museum will be there to lend a hand, staffing a Trails & Rails Program booth and helping in other ways.

Learn more at www.amtrak40th.com



Museum Will Keep 5-Day Schedule

The museum will be closed to the public from Dec. 25 thru Jan. 4. When the museum reopens on January 5, it will be keeping the current 5-day schedule of Wednesday thru Sunday from 1 p.m. until 4.

The museum will also keep the shortened weekday Goleta Short Line train-ride schedule that was started back in September, which has the first weekday train departing the station at 2 p.m. and the final train at 3:45. The wait between rides is not less than 35 minutes. Rides on weekends will still start at 1:15 p.m.

Free handcar rides will continue to be offered on the third Saturday of every month, thanks to **Noel and Peggy Langle**, who have generously renewed their sponsorship of this free-ride program.

Welcome To Our New Members

Barbara and Gary Maxwell are new Sustaining members. **Michael and Alexis Weaver** are new Active members.

Our newest Junior Engineers Club members are **Manny Gorgita** and **Everett Lemon**.

Welcome to you all!

Museum Makes Good Use Of Foundation Grant

The museum is currently finishing up extensive work on Goleta Depot's second-floor exterior. Using a \$5,000 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, the museum had scaffolding erected for over two months, allowing workers to perform structural repairs, remove woodpecker damage, re-install a section of fallen redwood gutter, and paint the entire second story. Finishing touches are now underway to install netting that will discourage future swallow nesting in the eaves.

The effort included more than 200 hours of volunteer labor, supplies donated by **Goleta Valley Paint**, and, finally, the donated use of a boom truck from **Specialty Crane & Rigging**.

Two stories up, retired UCSB painter and museum volunteer A.J. Medina applies paint to one of depot's redwood gutters.



You'll Kick Yourself If You Miss Super Saturday!

Jan. 28 will be the first free train-ride weekend day of 2012. That's the day of the 16th annual "*Super Saturday!*" event at the museum. Hours will be 1 to 4 p.m.

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Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

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Railroad Days/Depot Day Report

Combining *Railroad Days* and *Depot Day* this year over a single Sept. 17-18 weekend yielded a remarkable one-time event. We drew about 1,000 event-goers and gave more than 1,500 rides. That combines trains pulled by the museum diesels and **Gene Allen's** and **Ed Winnewisser's** steam locos, the museum handcar, and **Bob Mahan's** speeder. Helping give all those rides was a long list of additional engineers, conductors and handcar operators: **Bob Burtness**, **Ken Kelley**, **Steve Kramer**, **Noel Langle**, **Bruce Morden**, **Tony Ramirez**, **Jamie Rosenberg**, **Lavonne Sanchez**, **Wes Taimuty**, **Roger Wells**, **Ann Winter**, and Intern **Kelsey Ulrich**.

There have never been so many model trains at a museum event. This was due to the tremendous effort made by the museum's friends from the **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**, the **Coast Toy Train Club**, and the **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**.

Members of the **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** almost single-handedly staffed three crucial event areas: Admissions, the Food Booth, and the Children's Interactive Area, which featured **George Hutchinson's** wooden toy trains and assists from both young George and his dad, **John Hutchinson**.

Storytimes were hosted by Children's Librarian **Judy Savage**, from **Goleta Library**, and **Kathy Halloran**.

The museum's other interns — **Gabriel Osollo** and **Laura Frank** — assisted in many ways, as did nearly every member of the museum's **Trails & Rails guides**, including **Neil Baker**, **Sarah Bylick**, **Carla Cabanatuan**, **Don Chalfant**, **Kathy Chalfant**,



Jamie Foster Photography

Deanne Day, **Tom Harders**, **Nancy Johnke**, **Dave Morse**, **Parkie Parker**, **Nancy Revlin**, **Tom Robinson**, **Al Schildhorn**, **Bill Stancer**, **Esther Velarde**, **Bern Verbit**, **John Wright** and others mentioned elsewhere in this article. Members of the **Goleta Lions Club** helped with event parking.

Ralph Kornahrens kept the locomotive simulator in operation both days. **John Green** did the same at the live-steam display. **Ed Leska** supervised the Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale throughout the event, with assistance from other volunteers mentioned above. The upstairs agent's apartment was shared on Sunday by **Susan and Leilani Strobel**.

Sunday's silent auction tables were staffed by *Depot Day* veterans **Kari Adams**, **Diana Mina**, and **Charlene Doty**, with help from some of the Trails & Rails guides. Meanwhile, in Goleta Depot's Freight Office, **Ayse Taimuty** was auction agent, with the help of **Rabobank's Tami Mason** and **Vanessa Gonzales**. **Doug Winter** and **Bern Verbit** served as depot agents on Saturday and Sunday.

Many of the aforementioned volunteers also joined with the museum staff in running errands, as well as setup and cleanup activities, spanning several days.

Other event helpers included **Ben Adams**, **Harold Adams**, **Raphaella Banholzer-Donati**, **John Clark**, and **Peggy Langle**.

A long list of other friends, businesses, and organizations generously donated or loaned equipment, supplies, and scores of auction items: **MarBorg Industries**, the **Santa Barbara Humane Society**, and many, many others.

Advertising support was provided by **AM1290**, **Radio KDB**, **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust**, the **Santa Barbara News-Press**, and **Venoco, Inc.**

Finally, special acknowledgment is

made of the volunteer members of the event committee: **Judy Connors**, **Joan Hanna**, **Ken Kelley**, **Ralph Kornahrens**, **Noel Langle**, **Ed Leska**, **Bruce Morden**, and **Ayse Taimuty**.

Volunteers Honored

A Volunteer Appreciation Party was held Sunday, Oct. 9 at the beautiful home of Trustee **Roger Wells** and his wife, **Edie**. Attending were board members, museum staff, guests, and volunteers, many of whom were singled out for special recognition.

Partygoers included (from left) Ed Leska, Bob and Lynn Burtness, Kathy Leska, Doug Winter and Bern Verbit.



Super Saturday! *(cont'd. from page 2)*

This year, we're planning something special for *Super Saturday!* including two trains running continuously on two separate tracks, with plenty of opportunities for passengers to change trains and signal flag stops. We promise that there will be a surprise or two for all who attend, as well!

Adults and children may ride as much as they like on *Super Saturday!* (Our usual 34-inch minimum-height safety requirement will apply, of course.) and everyone will receive one of the event's unique football-shaped tickets to mark the occasion.

Traditionally, *Super Saturday!* is held the day before the Super Bowl football game. This year, however, the museum is scheduling the event a week earlier to avoid a conflict with the Feb. 4 museum charter of the Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor* (see page 4 story).

Super Saturday! is made possible by a long list of generous sponsoring businesses, organizations, and members.



Jamie Foster Photography

Shop Trackside For The Holidays

The museum's Trackside Shop has the perfect holiday gifts for those on your shopping list who love trains or local history.

New items include railroad-logo light-switch plates, Thomas-character caps, Thomas Pez collector gift tins, and Chuggington puzzles and activity books.

Now in stock is a nice assortment of 2012 train calendars. We also have a fresh supply of T-shirts for adults and children. Also on hand is a great selection of Thomas and Chuggington toy engines.

All of your Trackside Shop purchases benefit the museum and its educational and recreational programs. Store hours: Wed-Sun, 1 to 4, through Dec. 24.

We accept Visa and Mastercard. Be sure to bring your valid membership card to receive your 10% discount on all store merchandise.

2012 Rail Adventures

The museum is putting together another run of monthly one-day rail trips for 2012. All 12 will be

roundtrips from Santa Barbara/Goleta to San Luis Obispo.

The February 4, 2012 trip will be aboard the spectacular Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*. (See story & full-color photos of a museum-led 2011 *Silver Splendor* trip at <http://goo.gl/Mcgor>).

All other 2012 trips will be aboard the grand Southern Pacific club lounge, *Overland Trail*. Each *Overland Trail* trip is limited to a maximum of 36 passengers. The January and March trips are sold out.

Travel times for all trips are: 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).

Overland Trail tickets are \$55 for museum members, \$59 for the general public. The February 4th *Silver Splendor* trip is \$75 for museum members, \$79 for the general public. Soft drinks and light snacks are included with all trips.



Historic view of Silver Splendor/Silver Buckle.

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

The Pullman-built *Overland Trail* was delivered in 1949. Originally designated *SP 2981*, the car served on the *San Francisco Overland* train.

Silver Splendor was built by the Budd Co. in 1956. Originally named *Silver Buckle*, she ran between Chicago and Denver on a daily basis until 1980, the last nine years under Amtrak's flag.

Warm, friendly atmosphere is an Overland Trail trademark



New Fencing Adds Train-Area Security

The Wednesday morning work crew – **Ed Leska, John Green, Tony Ramirez, and Doug Winter** – have been busy making the fencing around the Goleta Short Line's Main Station boarding area more secure. They've been adding wooden pickets to the original post-and-rail fencing, to prevent young intruders from entering the station area without supervision. Most of the pickets have now been installed, leaving another 24 running feet plus the two gates to complete the project.



Volunteer Tony Ramirez installs pickets near the Goleta Short Line passenger entry gate.

Depot Tree Marks Historic Traditions

When you visit the museum during the holiday season, or drive by on Los Carneros Road, be sure to watch for the decorated tree centered in the second-floor window bay.

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December. It holds special significance in preserving the custom, practiced over the years by countless rail-station agent families across America, of prominently placing their Christmas tree so that it would be shared with those on passing trains.

The depot tree has also become a *museum* tradition – something that we've now done every year for three full decades, since 1982. Among its decorations are small white "Remembrance Stars" that each memorialize a museum friend who is no longer with us.

Display Shares Precious Keepsakes

Be sure to make this year's "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" display a part of your holiday visits to the railroad museum. The annual exhibition in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room features stuffed animals and toy and model trains – all from the collections of the museum, its members, volunteers, and staff. The holiday exhibition opens Nov. 25 and continues through Dec. 24.



Gene Allen's "Birmingham Dribbler," a large-scale operating live-steam toy locomotive, built in England circa 1925, will be in this year's display.