



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 32, No. 1 — Spring 2012

Hop Aboard Easter Bunny Express On April 7

The long wait is over. Another *Easter Bunny Express* is just a few days away. This will be the 20th annual event, which takes place Saturday, April 7, at the railroad museum. Hours are 11 a.m. 'til 4 pm.

As always, there will be lots of fun family activities for those who attend. Each activity will be shown as a "station" on the colorful, oversized, egg-shaped tickets. These station stops include visits to **Wabbit-Twacks Station** – to take a six-minute ride on one of the festively 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 *Easter Bunny Express* souvenir.

There will be two trains again this year, the *EBX Thunderbunny* and the *Lop-Ear Local*, each running 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 an extra \$2.

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 care 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, or make your purchase through the Online Store and receive a discount on every ticket that you buy! Tickets will also be sold during the event until 3:30 p.m.

The 2012 *Easter Bunny Express* promises to be another "hare-raising egg-sperience" for the whole family. Hop aboard! (rain date: April 14).

The museum will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 8.



Photo by James Griffith.

Young visitors collect an egg surprise from 2011 Bunny Danae Davis, one of our UCSB interns.

Buy your tickets through the Online Store & save!

Scan the code at the right into your smart phone or enter the following address into your browser: <http://goo.gl/sE5qJ>



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Welcome To Our New Members

Judy Piper has joined the museum as a Sustaining member. Our new active members include Daniel Ahern, Dana Andersen and Becky Reid, Nita Bill, Karl Bretz, Debbie Fedaleo, Sharon Rose, and Michael and Alexis Weaver.

Greetings, one and all!

Museum Volunteers Will Help With 5th "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. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This will be the 5th annual *National Train Day* event, which celebrates America's love of trains. The event will feature a long list of family-friendly activities and attractions including rolling-stock tours, "Kids Depot" fun area, musical entertainment, model train displays, special exhibits, drawings for trips and other prizes, and lots of souvenir giveaways.

Besides 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.

If you attend *National Train Day* in L.A. on May 7, be sure to drop by and say hello to the museum volunteers who are staffing the Trails & Rails booth!

"Rotary Day" Will Share Father's Day Again in 2012

The 11th annual Rotary Day, will be celebrated on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17. The event will feature free miniature-train and handcar rides for museum visitors. The event is sponsored by the **Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime**. Members of the club will be at the museum during the event, to greet visitors and lend a hand with the rides.

Please join us for free rides on *Rotary Day*. When you do, be sure to extend a greeting to the Rotarians and thank them for their club's continuing support of the museum.

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

RAILROAD DAYS



Coming June 23-24

Don't Be Left At The Station!
Mark Your Calendar Today

New In The Trackside Shop

New arrivals for Spring in the museum store include characters featured in *Misty Island Adventure*. It's easy to find any of your favorites — Ferdinand, Butch, Belle, Kevin The Crane, Norman, Patrick, Kelly, Paxton, Mavis And The Fuel Tanker, and more.

We have new large battery-powered "Bump N' Go" steam locomotives that travel the floor, tooting and clanging!

"On their way" are characters you've requested from the popular childrens' series, *Dinosaur Train*.

Members receive a 10% discount on all shop merchandise. Just show your membership card.

Please Support Spring Fundraiser

The 31st annual *Spring Fundraiser* will take place on Saturday, May 19 at the museum. Better known to many as the *Great Goleta Rail Race*, and to old-timers as the "Asphalt Regatta," the event includes unlimited free train and handcar rides for all visitors who meet the minimum-height safety requirements (34" for the train; 48" for the handcar).

The *Spring Fundraiser* is a crucial source of operating revenue. It produces about 10-15% of the money needed to sustain the museum for one year. Everyone who contributes to the event not only sponsors the free rides on May 19, but also helps to keep the museum going and growing.

All museum members are urged to help with the fundraising leading up to the May 19 event, 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

MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!! ENGINEERS & CONDUCTORS

FOR THE
GOLETA SHORT LINE
MINIATURE TRAIN RIDE
IT'S FREE TRAINING!

CONTACT US TODAY: 805/964-3540
MUSEUM@GOLETADEPOT.ORG

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Museum Honors Eugene Allen

Jan. 28 was a very special day at the museum. We dedicated the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad that afternoon, honoring the man most responsible for its existence, **Gene Allen**.

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** and Board of Trustees President **Noel Langle** spoke, each citing many of the museum features and milestones for which Gene Allen was responsible. Langle and Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** unveiled a permanent stainless steel plaque (see right) to commemorate the occasion.

Regrettably, Gene was not able to attend the event due to illness, but a number of family members were there. Gene's daughter, **Christine Allen**, said a few words on behalf of the family to the audience of about 40 members and well-wishers. Among those attending were a number of Gene's longtime friends, including **Ralph Moore**, **George Potter**, and **Ed Winnewisser**.

The tribute also included a video presentation that shared images of Gene and his involvement in museum activities and affairs, from the earliest days of the Goleta Depot Project to the present.

The presentation can be viewed today on the museum website at: <http://goo.gl/SBL1Y>
For best results, download the presentation to your computer rather than viewing it in your browser.

Photos taken by Board member **Ralph Kornahrens** during the event, can also be viewed at: <http://goo.gl/fxdMq>

Jan. 28 was also *Super Saturday*, the first weekend day of free train rides for 2012. There were more than 190 free rides that afternoon. In further tribute to Gene, the trains ran on two routes, the original 1987 one-third-mile route that Gene designed, and the expanded, half-mile-long route completed two decades later. Gene supervised all of the the work on the 2007 expansion, and also built all of the switches and

GOLETA SHORT LINE RAILROAD

DEDICATED JAN. 28, 2012

IN HONOR OF



EUGENE G. ALLEN
DESIGNER AND MASTER CRAFTSMAN

the four elaborate crossovers. *Super Saturday* riders could change trains using the Westside Station as their transfer point.

The 2012 *Super Saturday* sponsors included **Ron and Sue Bruns**; **Dal Pozzo Tire Corp.**, Goleta; **Grace Baptist Church**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Joan Hanna**; **Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens**; **Noel and Peggy Langle**; **Bruce and Andrea Morden**; **Dick and Wendy Shelton**; **Peter Tiersma and Thea Cremers**; **John Hutchinson Family**; **Robert B. Locke, Esq.**; **Roger and Edie Wells**; and **Claudia Worthen**.

Gene Allen's accomplishments and contributions to Goleta Depot and the railroad museum are many. Among the most significant: Gene was a member of the Goleta Depot Committee throughout its existence (chair, 1983-87) and headed the "Restoration & Review" sub-committee; he took on responsibility for the restoration of Goleta Depot's Freight Office facade; and he served for many years on the Board of Trustees, including terms as vice-president.

SP Depot Prints Are Newest Online Store Addition

We are pleased to announce that nine blueprints of Southern Pacific depots by draftsman and longtime museum volunteer **Jean-Guy Dube** are now available through the museum's Online Store at: <http://goo.gl/EpPdT>

Eight of the blueprints are of individual California depot buildings: Fillmore, Goleta (1901), Indio, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, Saugus, Tehachapi, and Whittier. The ninth print depicts the front elevations of seven historic Ventura County depots: Camulos, Fillmore, Montalvo, Oxnard (1898), Piru, San Buenaventura, and Santa Paula.

Dube has completed drawings for 15 more Calif. and Ariz. depots and is working on seven others. All will eventually be added to the series. For more information, visit the Online Store.



Jean-Guy Dube poses with some of his depot blueprints.

New Roof Is Next Major Step In Protection Of Landmark Building

Goleta Depot will soon have a brand new roof! The work that will commence in the coming weeks is being made possible by a \$16,000 grant from the **City of Goleta** and a supplemental grant of \$4,800 from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**.

The existing roof was installed back in 1982, as part of the work to restore and revitalize Goleta Depot. There has been much wear and tear to the roof over that 30-year span.

Depot roof was last replaced in 1982, when these two historic photos were taken.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

New Guide-In-Training Join "Trails & Rails"

The 2012 training for the Trails & Rails Program began on Saturday, Feb. 18. Attending the day-long session were nine new guide prospects and 15 of our continuing guides, who must complete the training every two years. Eight of the nine guide-prospects subsequently applied to join the program: **Daniel Ahern, Dana Andersen, Nita Bill, Karl Bretz, Debbie Fedaleo, Judy Piper, Becky Reid, and Sharon Rose.**

Much of the training was handled by **Susan Scott**, Lecturer in the **Dept. of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences** at **Texas A & M University**. The session was also an opportunity for attendees to meet **Hale Sargent**, the new Interpretive Specialist with the National Park Service's **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**, which partners with the railroad museum and **Amtrak** in the Trails & Rails Program. **Museum Director Gary Coombs** introduced attendees to the 2012 Trails & Rails Standard Operating Procedures.

Additional training will include 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 Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. It includes a live presentations about 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.

Susan Scott fields a question during Feb. 18 Coast Starlight guide training.



Vintage Rail Adventures

Two upcoming vintage-rail excursions have seating available. On Sunday, April 29, the museum has chartered the SP club-lounge, *Overland Trail*. Tickets are just \$55 for museum members, \$59 for the general public. A second trip will be Saturday, June 2, when we'll ride the Vista dome car, *Silver Splendor*. Tickets for this trip are \$79 (\$75 for members). All proceeds benefit our museum.

Both trips are one-day roundtrips, traveling to San Luis Obispo from the passenger's choice of either Santa Barbara or Goleta.

For reservations, call the museum today, 805/964-3540 or contact us via email: museum@goletadepot.org

The museum's 2012 vintage-rail program got off to a rocky start this year, when Amtrak changed the scheduling and make-up of its midday *Pacific Surfliner* trains, leading to the cancellation of our Jan.-Mar. trips.

Rare "heyday" photograph of "Silver Splendor" Vista dome car.

