



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 32, No. 2 — Summer 2012

Railroad Days Returns June 23-24

The 4th annual *Goleta Railroad Days* will be celebrated at the museum over the weekend of June 23-24. *Railroad Days* features rides on three different rail conveyances: miniature train, handcar and speeder. There will also be plenty of model trains on display – including all of the popular gauges – special hands-on activities for young and old, and a lot more fun things to see and do.

Railroad Days is a real family bargain. Daily admission is only \$2. (Children under 34 inches will be admitted free.). Rides as much as you like for only \$3 more.

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

events, activities and attractions will be offered at different times over the weekend. To be sure 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 (rddays.org), where it will be updated as changes occur (also see page 4 of this newsletter). The *Railroad Days* website is also your source for event-related videos, full lists of visiting equipment and participating organizations, lots of photos from past events, as well as the latest schedule of event activities.

ADVANCE-PURCHASE SPECIAL

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



There will be rides on the museum handcar on the mainline track in front of Goleta Depot. **Noel Langle** and **Bruce**
(continued on page 3)

Children's Activity Area



Plenty Of Rides

There will be lots of rides during *Railroad Days*, including miniature-train rides on two separate routes – the 1/3-mile-long “Centennial Loop” and the 1/6-mile “Westside Figure-8.” Both of the museum's diesel locomotives, No 1316 and No. 2655, will see heavy service hauling passengers both Saturday and Sunday.

Running two trains at once is great fun for passengers and crews, alike, with plenty of chances for trains to meet enroute, allowing riders to wave to those aboard the passing train.



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Welcome To Our New Members

Nancy Jenkins has become a Life member of the museum. Terry Remick is a new Contributing member. New Active members include Terri Bowen and Brian and Gloria Wise.

Our latest additions to the Junior Engineers Club are Darwin Auchard, Isaac de la Cruz, Henry Gambill, Leland Robbins, and Zen Wise.

Museum Volunteers Everywhere During "National Train Day"

Except for Amtrak and the National Park Service, the South Coast Railroad Museum probably participated in 2012 National Train Day festivities on May 12 at more venues than any other organization or group.

Volunteers Kathy Chalfant, Don Chalfant, Rich Guske and John Wright staffed the Trails & Rails booth at L.A. Union Station, one of the five major events in held big cities across the country.

At the same time, at the Santa Barbara Amtrak station, museum interns Pete Perez and Tseten Dolkar joined volunteer Ed Leska, manning a South Coast Railroad Museum table that promoted museum programs, activities and events.

As if that weren't enough, guides Tom Robinson and Bern Verbit were aboard the Coast Starlight on National Train Day, sharing information about highlights along the route with eager passengers.

"Rotary Day" Means Free Rides On Father's Day, June 17

If you read this by June 17, why not drop by the museum for free Father's Day rides on the miniature train and handcar? That'll be the 11th annual Rotary Day, made possible by our very good friends from the Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime.

On Rotary Day, you and other museum visitors may ride as often as you like. For the safety of our guests, the usual minimum-height requirements for both rides will be in effect. That's 34 inches for the train and 48 inches for the handcar.

DEPOT DAY
COMING SEPT. 30
Help Celebrate Goleta
Depot's 111th Birthday!
CALENDAR IT NOW!

Board Members Wanted

The museum's Board of Trustees is looking for new candidates to serve on the board. Of particular interest are persons who are current museum members. If you have the time to devote to helping the museum, please consider applying to become a board member.

Trustees serve terms of two years. For more information about the board and museum trusteeship, please contact Board President Noel Langle (email: dalplan@msn.com) or Museum Director Gary Coombs (gcoombs@goletadepot.org or 805/964-3540).

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Spring Fundraiser Supports Depot Preservation Work

A richly-deserved thank-you is extended to the scores of individuals, families, organizations and businesses who contributed thousands of dollars to the 2012 Spring Fundraiser.

Funds raised this year are being applied to two crucial Goleta Depot preservation projects. We are using some of the money to supplement grants from the City of Goleta and the Santa Barbara Foundation to complete the long-needed re-roofing of the historical landmark.

The museum is also using some of the funds, together with another Santa Barbara Foundation grant, to install floor-covering and a security barrier to protect one of the most significant and vulnerable elements of the landmark's architectural fabric – the 110-year-old unfinished Douglas fir floor in Goleta Depot's passenger Waiting Room.

It's not too late to join the preservation effort by making your own contribution to this year's Spring Fundraiser. If you still have the pledge card that was included with the last Depot Dispatch newsletter, please send it, along with your check or credit card information to: Spring Fundraiser, South Coast Railroad Museum, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117. No card? Just send a check, noting that your donation is for the Spring Fundraiser.

Or, save a stamp and make your donation through the Online Store: <http://goo.gl/CZxsE>

Thank you!

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

Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117-1502.

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Railroad Days (cont'd. from page 1)

Morden will take turns staffing the car. The handcar will share the mainline with **Bob Mahan** and his Fairmont inspection car. Formerly used on the **Ventura Railway**, Bob's "speeder" has been a regular at South Coast Railroad Museum events since 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 and speeder; 48 inches for the handcar.

Model Trains All Around!

There will be model-train demonstrations and displays just about everywhere during *Railroad Days*, thanks to three event partners — the **Coast Toy Train Club**, **South Coast Society of Model Engineers**, and **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**. The museum and *Railroad Days* are most fortunate to have the support of these local organizations that serve local model train and antique toy train enthusiasts, as well as the general public.

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.

Musical Entertainment

The band, **Glendessary Jam**, will perform, 11:30 to 3 p.m., on Sunday only. At other times during the weekend, the museum jukebox will be playing all of your favorite railroad tunes.

It's Storytime with Judy!



All RR Days images courtesy of Jamie-Foster-Photography.com



Lots More To See and Do

All *Railroad Days* attendees will be invited to participate in a free event "scavenger hunt." This popular activity returns after a successful inaugural run in 2011. There will be prizes for everyone who successfully collects a sticker from all of the event venues included in the hunt.

Other *Railroad Days* partner organizations include **Amtrak**, **Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad**, **Union Pacific Railroad**, and **Central Coast Railroad Festival**. Most of these will have booths, with representatives available to answer questions, distribute literature and souvenirs, 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.

Food For Hungry Visitors

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* again this year. The "Club Car" will be offering hot sandwiches, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages at reasonable prices. All proceeds benefit the railroad museum.

Support Is Appreciated

Railroad Days has benefitted from the advertising and other support provided by these event sponsors: **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust**, **MarBorg Industries**, **ParentClick.com**, and **Venoco**.



Goleta Short Line Conductor Ann Winter

In Memoriam: Pat Lorentzen

The museum family lost a dear member and friend, a wonderful volunteer, and an ever-faithful supporter with the April 11 passing of **Pat Lorentzen**.

Pat, along with her husband, **Perry**, who survives her, joined the museum in 1997. At the same time, the couple became two of the museum's first volunteer guides for its new interpretive program aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains.

Before long the twosome were the *Coast Starlight* program's lead volunteers. Besides staffing more days than anyone else, they took on the

Pat confers with fellow guide Carla Cabanatuan while waiting at Santa Barbara Amtrak station.



crucial extra task of keeping the staffing calendar, by scheduling all of the guides' days of service.

For many years, the devoted pair were fixtures at annual museum events – *Easter Bunny Express*, *Depot Day*, *Steaming Summer* – with Pat usually helping at the admissions table or in the Freight Office, while Perry could typically be found in the model-railroad room.

Back in 2000, largely due to their good works at the railroad museum, the Lorentzens were honored as “Volunteers Of The Week” by the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. Both were elected to the Board of Trustees in 2000.

The museum had become so important to them that when the time came for their children, **Allen Lorentzen** and **Anne Murphy**, to pick a spot for a Sept. 8, 2001 surprise birthday party and anniversary bash for their parents, the choice was clear: It had to be the museum grounds!

The museum has received memorial donations honoring Pat Lorentzen from the **BS Book Group**, **B. Marc Bradley**, **Edythe M. Cavender**, **Charles and Virginia De Armon**, **Steve Giraud**, **Robert and Char Kinney**, **Debra Paron**, **Loretta H. Roper**, and **Robert and Patricia Tench**.

We miss you, Pat.



Doing the Easter Bunny Express event in style!

“Central Coast Flyer” Launches June 30

The museum conducted its first vintage-rail day-trip back in 2009, when we organized and led a Nov. 7 excursion to San Luis Obispo aboard the former Southern Pacific club-lounge, *Overland Trail*. From that humble beginning has grown a major component of the museum's educational and recreational programming, including dozens of rail adventures and service to hundreds of local residents.



Now, all of these trips are being brought together under a single train name, the *Central Coast Flyer*, chosen by *Overland Trail* owners **Bill and Debbie Hatrick**, complete with its own logo and drumhead.

The first official *Central Coast Flyer* trip is set to go on June 30, using two cars, *Colonial Crafts* and *Overland Trail*. Another *Flyer* trip, slated for Aug. 18, will feature the Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*.

Reserve seats now through the museum's online store at: <http://goo.gl/RQ2XA>



Railroad Days 2012 Schedule of Activities

GET SCHEDULE UPDATES & MORE AT: RRDAYS.ORG

Saturday, June 23

11 a.m.	Flag-Raising	Girl Scout Junior Troop 50217
11 a.m.	Train Rides	Diesel-Train Rides on Centennial Loop (1/3-mile) & Westside Figure-8 (1/6 mile). Rides continue until 4 p.m.
11 a.m.	Speeder Rides	On standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
11:30 a.m.	Handcar Rides	On standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Children's Story Time.	Hosted by Judy Savage, Children's Librarian, Goleta Public Library. Location TBA.

Sunday, June 24

11 a.m.	Flag-Raising	Girl Scout Brownie Troop 50963
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	On standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
11:30 a.m.	Handcar Rides	On standard-gauge track in front of depot. Speeder & handcar alternate approx. every 30 minutes. Until 4 pm
11:30-3 p.m.	Musical Entertainment	The band, “Glendessary Jam,” will perform for your enjoyment.
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Children's Story Time.	Hosted by Gwen Wagy, Children's Librarian at the Santa Barbara Public Library. Location to be determined.