



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 32, No. 3 — Fall 2012

Depot Day Turns 30 On Sept. 30

“*Depot Day*” will celebrate three decades of family fun on Sunday, Sept. 30. The 30th annual event will be held at the museum from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Depot Day is the museum’s oldest community event, celebrating the saving of the landmark building, its colorful history, and its significance as a community treasure. Goleta Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. It is also a Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark.

Silent Auction Has Great Buys

Depot Day is also an important museum fundraiser, and the silent auction is the key to the event’s success. The auction is also a great chance for *Depot Day* attendees to pick up some valuable goods and services at great prices, while also helping the museum.

This year’s auction offers about 150 items (a partial list is posted and regularly updated on the museum web site, gole-tadepot.org), including hotel stays, Disney adventures, golfing, performing-arts tickets, winery tours, rail travel, dining at

Auction tables will offer dozens of valuable items for smart bidders.



fine restaurants, and a lot more.

If you come to *Depot Day* for no other reason, **please** help the museum by visiting the auction tables and placing bids on your favorite items. There is no advance-registration requirement.

If you or your business have new items, collectibles or valuable services that you would like to donate to the auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540).

Donation Requested At Door

Everyone will be asked to make a \$1 donation to support the museum and continued landmark preservation work.

Unlimited Rides, One Low Price

Depot Day will be the third and final day in 2012 to ride on *three* different types of rail vehicles, with **Bob Mahan’s** inspection “speeder,” formerly of the Ventura County Railway, joining our handcar and Goleta Short Line miniature trains on the museum’s tracks. There will be two trains operating simultaneously on two different tracks — a one-third-mile run starting at the Main Station, and a one-sixth-mile route served by the Westside Station. This will create plenty of occasions for trains to meet and for riders on passing trains to wave and greet one another.

For just \$3, you may buy a wristband good for unlimited trips on all rides. (Train &



Speeder ride is a popular Depot Day attraction.

speeder riders must be at least 34 inches tall; 48-in. minimum height for handcar.)

Food For Hungry Eventgoers

This year’s Club Car will offer a variety of food items, including Depot Dogs and sausage sandwiches, snacks, soda, bottled water, and juice.

Landmark Open House

Depot Day affords visitors a rare chance to view the agent’s apartment, a historic second-floor area of the depot building usually closed to the public. The station agent and any family lived there and the space has been refurbished to re-create that home atmosphere.

Thanks For Promotional Help

Depot Day has benefitted from advertising support from **Radio AM1290**, **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust**, the **Santa Barbara News-Press**, and **Venoco**.

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Welcome To Our New Members

New Sustaining members are **Gail Feeney, Russ Harmon, and Bill and Debbie Hatrick.**

Phil Keys, William (Bill) Martin, Richard Thurston and Jeri Williams are the museum's new Active members.

It is our great pleasure to welcome, to the museum and to the world, Junior Engineer **Landon Alexander Kramer**. Little Landon was born June 15 to **Steve and Alejandra Kramer** of Modesto. Landon has quite a museum pedigree. Father Steve participated in the very first Spring Fundraiser (then named the "Asphalt Regatta") in 1986, winning a \$50 bond as the most successful young fundraiser. Steve also helped to build the first miniature-train track used at the museum, back in 1987. Landon's father was also the youngest steam-locomotive engineer at the museum, taking part in a long list of steam events at the museum from the 1980s until 2011.

Landon's grandparents, **Kip and Stella Kramer**, have been longtime museum members and supporters. Kip served on the board of trustees and Stella was one of the first volunteer shop clerks at the museum.

Welcome to all of our new museum members!

Roof Project Completed

Goleta Depot now has a brand-new roof, thanks to the financial support of the **City of Goleta** and the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. The re-roofing project was long overdue. The last time the landmark building received a new roof was during the Goleta Depot Preservation Project, back in 1982.



Above: New shingles wait in bundles on roof ridge, July 2012.

Below: Removing the original wood shingles, June 1982.



"Rotary Day" Was Memorable

Thanks are extended to the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime** for their support of the 11th annual *Rotary Day*. It was one of the most successful free-ride days in recent memory, with about 200 train and handcar rides given to happy museum visitors.

Special thanks are owed to those Rotarians who were on hand to help keep the handcar running throughout the afternoon: **Mike Gartzke, Walt Stephens, and Dennis Trammell.**

Newsletter In Full Color

You may view and download a full-color copy of this newsletter from the museum website. The address is: goletadepot.org/museum_dispatch.php

In fact, any issue from the entire 32-year archive of the *Depot Dispatch* can be obtained through this same web page. More than a dozen of the most recent issues, going back to Summer 2009, are all available with their images and graphics in full color.



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Online Store Ungoes Big Changes

Have you visited the museum's online store lately? It has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last few months. The new and vastly-improved web-based store is a donation from **Volusion**, one of the world's leading providers of online merchant services.

The gift to our museum is part of the Austin, Texas-based company's "Stores To Change The World" program. Since the program began about three years ago, Volusion has donated these lifetime e-commerce packages to about 300 nonprofit organizations, "helping promote causes from cancer research to adoption" and now adding railroad museums to that list. The donation is valued at \$1200 annually.

The online store offers a selection of special items that are important to Goleta Depot and the museum:

- ◀ Our "Central Coast Flyer" vintage-rail daytrips.
- ◀ Books and booklets from the *Institute for American Research Publications in Local History Series*.
- ◀ Jean-Guy Dube's detailed architectural blueprints of Goleta Depot and other Southern Pacific depots in California.
- ◀ Special souvenir items, such as the Goleta Depot postcard, packets of authentic Goleta Depot nasturtium seeds, and the CD-version of the "first 30 years" archive of this *Depot Dispatch* newsletter.

The online store is also a convenient place to apply for museum membership, to renew a current membership, or to make a tax-deductible donation. Tickets for upcoming events can also be purchased there (Available now: *Candy Cane Train* tickets)

Purchases can be made by Mastercard, Visa, Discover, PayPal, or check.

The web-based store also bears the name, "Trackside Shop," the same as our physical store in the Visitor Center on the museum grounds. The web address is:

store.goletadepot.org

Bird-Control Measures Successful

Late last year, a number of steps were taken to control damage to the historical landmark by woodpeckers and swallows. We're pleased to report that these measures have been successful ... so far.

The netting that was installed under the eaves has proven effective in preventing the swallows from returning to the building during this past nesting season. Over the past decade or so, the number of nests built each year had grown exponentially, from a handful during the first year of activity to perhaps 100 or more by 2011.

The work also involved the repair of hundreds of woodpecker holes and the removal of tens of thousands of acorns from Goleta Depot's second-story attic space. Metal flashing was also installed beneath some of the wood shingles that cover the building's south-end gable, with the goal of inhibiting further woodpecker activity. The results thus far have been encouraging, with few woodpecker sightings on the building, and few new holes.



Builder Tom Brown shows woodpecker-damaged trim board from Goleta Depot.



Finishing touches on bird-netting installation by Gary Coombs and Doug Winter required boom-truck services, donated by Specialty Crane & Rigging (photos by Ed Leska).





"Candy Cane Train"

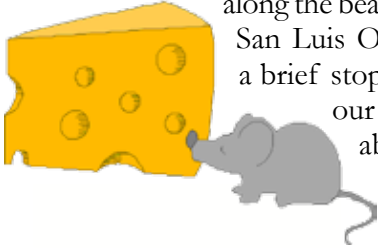
Nov. 23-Dec. 24

Don't Miss Out On All Of The Fun!

“Cheese Lover’s Limited” Will Be Museum Benefit

There will be a special “Cheese Lover’s Limited” vintage railcar trip on Sunday, Nov. 4. All proceeds will benefit the educational, recreational, and preservation programs of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

Santa Barbara and Goleta passengers will board the historic Southern Pacific Pullman club-lounge, *Overland Trail*, at about 10:15 a.m., traveling about 100 miles along the beautiful Pacific Coast to our San Luis Obispo destination. After a brief stopover, the train will bring our group home, arriving at about 4:30.



During the afternoon return, passengers will enjoy a comprehensive

tasting of about a dozen of the finest artisan cheeses from the Old World and New, presented by your *homme du fromage* for the day, **John Howard**. Mr. Howard will discuss the ancient origins of cheese and describe the remarkable processes that transform milk into the amazing variety of products we enjoy today. We’ll explore



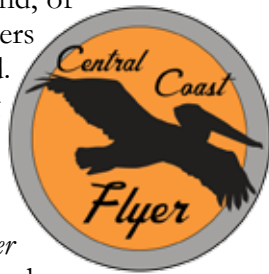
Interior of Overland Trail is always inviting.

hard, soft and ripened cheeses, and those made from the milk of cows, goats and sheep. As an encore, Howard will share a presentation plate that will inspire you and fellow passengers to host your own cheese-tasting affair. All aboard will enjoy the presentation-plate samples toward the end of our journey. It should be a Gouda trip!

Soft drinks, coffee, light snacks and, of course, cheese are included. Passengers are responsible for any additional food. You may bring your own box or bag lunch to eat enroute or during the brief stop in San Luis Obispo.

Tickets for this special museum-benefit run of the *Central Coast Flyer* are \$99 each when purchased through the museum’s online store: store.goletadepot.org (regular price: \$102). Advance purchase is a must. Group size is limited to 36 passengers.

Please support the museum by joining us on this fun and delicious vintage-rail adventure. Additional trip information is also available in the online store listing.



More Vintage-Rail Trips Available

You will find a listing of all current *Central Coast Flyer* vintage-rail travel in the online Trackside Shop:

store.goletadepot.org

Waiting Room Project Nears Completion

The work in Goleta Depot’s Waiting Room that was described in the previous issue is nearing completion. The main goal of this preservation project is to protect one of the more vulnerable features of the landmark building – the Waiting Room’s 110-year-old unfinished wooden floor. Preservation efforts include the installation of a 36-inch-tall barrier in the center of the room, which divides the space into two areas – a public area that is accessible to visitors and a protected area where the public may not go. The floor of the public area portion is covered with a durable all-weather covering to protect the flooring from foot traffic. The floor is exposed in the protected area, however, so that visitors are still able to view it.

The barrier construction and placement of the floor covering are complete and the Waiting Room has been reopened for visitors.

Museum volunteer and skilled carpenter **Tony Ramirez** built the handsome barrier, including the crafting of the 140 matched wooden balusters.

Remaining work to be done includes the addition of labels to interpret the room for visitors and reorganization of the room’s existing displays.



New barrier partitions the room into public and protected areas.

The project is being made possible by a grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, a generous donation from **Charles Alva**, and contributions to the museum’s 2012 *Spring Fundraiser*.

Fantastic Free Friday Fun

Free train rides are given every Friday at the museum, thanks to the sponsorship support of **Fairview Car Wash**. *Free Fridays* continue until Thanksgiving, when the *Candy Cane Train* begins.

We’ve started doing some special things on Fridays. Passengers are permitted to board or detrain at the Westside Station, for example, as well as at the Main Station, as usual.

There is a high demand for rides on *Free Fridays*, so we’ve started using a 15-minute schedule, with trains departing on the hour and at 15, 30, and 45 minutes past.

The last ride of the day on Fridays – always at 3:45 sharp – is also different from all other rides that day. On that ride, everyone is let off at the Westside Station, which usually requires a “double spot” (passengers are detrained in two groups) because the train is longer than the Westside Station’s platform.

Rides are also offered on Wednesdays & Thursdays, when tickets are \$1.50. Hours are 2 to 3:45 p.m. on all three weekdays. There are also weekend rides, \$1.50 each, from 1:15 to 3:45.