



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 32, No. 4 — Winter 2012-2013

“Candy Cane Train” Rolls Nov. 23

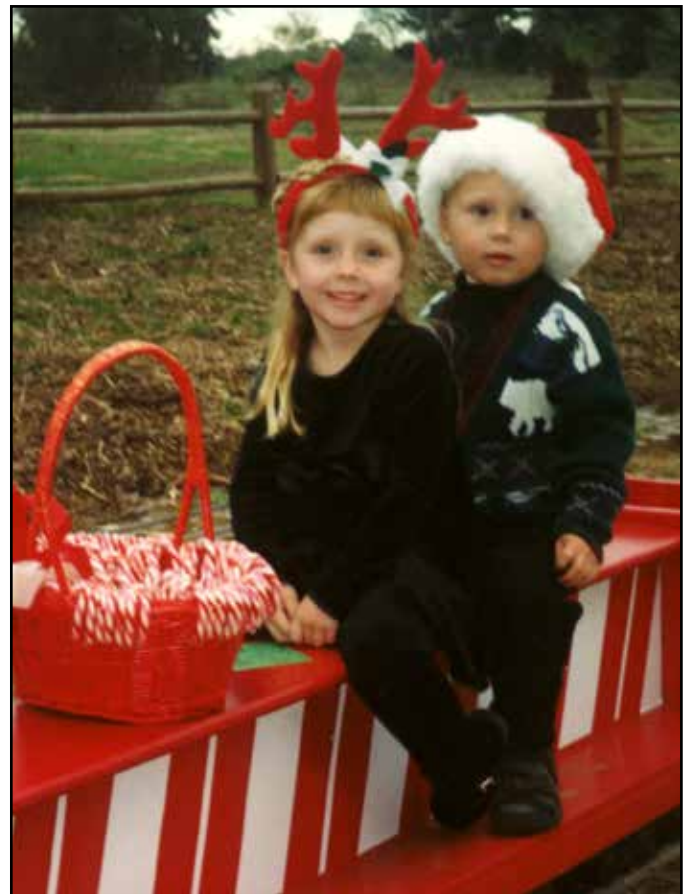
The *Candy Cane Train*, has been delighting local families, along with visitors to our area, since 1993. The ever-popular year-end event begins another holiday-season tour at the museum on Friday, Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving.

The event will continue daily through Dec. 24, except for Nov. 26-27, Dec. 3-4, and Dec. 10-11, when the museum will be closed. The museum will be open every day during the week before Christmas — including Mon. & Tues., Dec. 17-18 — when many local children are out of school for holiday breaks. The museum will also be open for *Candy Cane Train* revelers on Christmas Eve, Mon., Dec. 24.

The festive oversized red and green *Candy Cane Train* souvenir tickets will be your key to opening a treasure trove of fun activities, including a ride aboard the decorated miniature train, with its unique candy-striped cars. Also included with each ticket is an assortment of holiday treats and favors, including, of course, a delicious cherry-flavored candy cane.

Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and 2 to 4 on weekdays, but please plan to arrive not later than 3:30 so you won't have to rush and can 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 3 story) in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room, which also opens on Nov. 23.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$4 each and 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



Sierra and Nicholas Hofstatter of Santa Barbara attended the 1998 Candy Cane Train. Their festive attire earned them a place of honor in the archive of museum event photos.

purchased (a savings of \$1.50 per ticket!). Go to: store.goletadepot.org to make your advance-ticket purchase.

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

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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“SP Depots of SB County” Will Be Jan. 22 Program Topic

The museum will host a lecture and multimedia presentation on “Southern Pacific’s Depots of Santa Barbara County” by Jean-Guy Dube at 7 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 22 at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The program, which is free and open to the general public, will include an exhibition of detailed depot building blueprints crafted by Mr. Dube.

Aug. 1887 was a time of great celebration. The railroad had come to Santa Barbara! Steel rails now linked South Coast communities with the nation.

As part of its vast system, the Southern Pacific Railroad built depots in the towns from Carpinteria to Ellwood. These included both one-of-a-kind buildings and many others based on standard company plans.

The presentation audience will travel back 125 years to explore some of these depots. Copies of the depot blueprints will be available for purchase following the program.

Jean-Guy Dube is a professional draftsman and apprentice architect. He has researched and written about Southern Pacific depots since 1983.

The diazo blueprints are measured and drafted drawings. They are based on Southern Pacific standard-depot plans,



Jean-Guy Dube Will Talk About Early Local Depots

on historical photographs, and, for those depots that have survived, on actual building measurements by Mr. Dube. Each handsome and informative print is suitable for framing. Each includes noted floor plans, sections, and elevations. The prints also contain historical notes about each building. Railroad-model hobbyists will be interested to learn that the drawings are in “HO” scale. Dube uses traditional methods of blueprinting to create a blue-with-white line print from his original vellum.

Museum Will Adopt 4-Day Schedule

The museum will be closed to the public from Dec. 25 thru Jan. 2. When the museum reopens on January 3, it will turn to a new 4-day schedule, with expanded weekend hours. The museum will keep its Thurs-Fri. hours of 1 to 4 p.m., but will open two hours earlier, at 11 a.m., on weekends. The museum will be closed Monday through Wednesday.

Train rides will start at 1 p.m. on weekends and 2 p.m. on weekdays, with the last train leaving the station at 3:45 on all four days.

Fairview Car Wash Renews Support For “Free Fridays”

There will be free miniature-train rides for museum visitors every Friday in 2013 until Thanksgiving, thanks to the financial support of **Fairview Car Wash**. The company has been sponsoring free ride days at the museum since 2001. For 2013, **Fairview Car Wash** will also be sponsoring two free-ride weekend days. The specific dates will be announced in an upcoming *Depot Dispatch* newsletter.

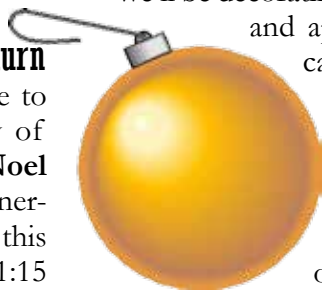
Free Monthly Handcar Rides Return

Free handcar rides will continue to be offered on the third Saturday of every month in 2013, thanks to **Noel and Peggy Langle**, who have generously renewed their sponsorship of this free-ride program. Rides start at 1:15 p.m., continuing until 3:45. A 48-inch minimum-height requirement applies.

Help Us Decorate The Museum

On Saturday, Nov. 17, museum members, volunteers, and staff will be decorating the grounds and train-ride equipment. Your help is needed, too! Please join us between 10 a.m. and noon as we make ready for the holiday season. It’s always special to attend the Candy Cane Train when you know that you’ve been a part of the preparations.

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. We hope that you’ll be able to lend a hand!



Welcome To Our New Members

Ricky J. Soldavini has renewed as a Life Member. **John Howard** and **Barry Weaver** are new Contributing Members. **Thea Mechtenberg**, **Rick Reeves**, and **Richard Roberts** are new Active Members. Our newest Junior Engineer is **Max Mechtenberg**.

Welcome one and all!

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Depot Day Report

Sunday, Sept. 30 marked another activity-filled *Depot Day* as the museum's oldest event celebrated its 30th year. Rides were a central attraction, as they usually are on *Depot Day*, when we combine miniature-train, handcar, and speeder rides. More than 900 total rides were given to event attendees.

To keep two trains running all day without stop took eight engineers and conductors, including **Ron Bruns, Bruce Morden, Ann Winter, Rick Reeves, Noel Langle, Ryan Bates, Roger Wells, Lavonne Sanchez**, plus two switch operators, **John Wright** and **Parkie Parker**.

Bob Mahan operated his Fairmont inspection car throughout the day, sharing the mainline track in 30-minute shifts with the handcar, which **Bruce Morden** and **Noel Langle** kept running smoothly when they weren't giving train rides.

Ralph Kornahrens single-handedly shared the locomotive simulator with scores of interested event attendees. The upstairs agent's apartment was hosted by **Arlene Radasky** and by **Susan and Leilani Strobel**. **Terry Remick** staffed a table promoting the museum's "*Central Coast Flyer*" vintage-rail daytrip excursions (see page 4).

The food booth was organized by **Judy Connors**, whose helpers on the day included **Aidan Haggerty** and **Claudia Worthen**.

Three **Dos Pueblos High School** students — **Angelica Garcia, Andrew**

Garcia, and Alexander Garcia — staffed the parking lot and also helped with the food booth and in other areas.

The silent auction tables were staffed by *Depot Day* veterans **Kari Adams** and **Diana Mina**, assisted by **Pam Holt**. Other auction staffers were posted in Goleta Depot's Freight Office, including auction agent **Ayse Taimuty**, who was aided by **Rabobank's Tami Mason** and **Amy Collins**. **Bern Verbit** served as depot agent.

The admissions-table duties were discharged by **Doug Winter, Nancy Revlin, Esther Velarde**, and **Carla Cabanatuan**.

Many of the above-mentioned volunteers also assisted museum staff in running errands, as well as with event setup and cleanup activities, which covered a number of days. Other event helpers included **Ben Adams** and **Harold Adams**.

A long list of friends, businesses, and organizations generously donated or loaned equipment, supplies, and more than 130 auction items. Advertising support was provided by **AM1290, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, the Santa Barbara News-Press, Venoco, Inc., and ParentClick.com**.

'Tis The Season For Holiday Shopping At The Museum

The museum's Trackside Shop offers a variety of holiday gift selections. A sure smile-producer is our Rocky Mountain Bump 'N Go Locomotive. Battery-driven, its free-wheeling movement combines with horn, smoke, and flashing headlight and is a delight to see.

Our wide selection of DVDs, CDs, books, shirts for children and adults alike, and more, make it easy to shop for that special family member or friend.

Members receive their usual discount on all purchases. All sales proceeds go to support our museum.

Hours are 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. We accept Visa and Mastercard. Free parking, too.

Call us at 805/964-3540.

Happy Holidays
Phyllis Olsen

Don't Pass, Run To Super Saturday On Feb. 2!



Feb. 2 will mark the first free-ride weekend day of the new year. That will be the occasion of the 18th annual "*Super Saturday!*" event at the museum. Train rides will start at 1 p.m. and continue until 3:45.

Two trains will run continuously on two separate tracks during the event, with plenty of opportunities for passengers to change trains at the Westside Station or to signal for flag stops.

Adults and children may ride as much as they like on *Super Saturday!* (Our usual 34-inch minimum-height safety requirement will apply.). Everyone in attendance will receive one of the event's iconic football-shaped tickets as a souvenir.

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

Depot Tree Reprises RR Tradition

When you visit the museum during the holiday season, or drive by the property at night, watch for the decorated tree 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 placing a Christmas tree where it could be shared with passengers and crews on passing trains.

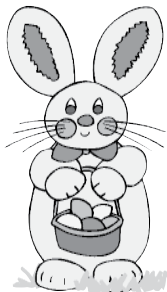
Among the depot tree's decorations are small, white "Remembrance Stars," each placed in memory of a departed museum friend.

Don't Miss Holiday Display

You'll want to see this year's "*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*" display when you visit the museum during the holiday season. This annual Waiting Room presentation includes stuffed animals and toy & model trains — all from the collections of the museum, members, volunteers, and staff. The holiday exhibition opens Nov. 23 and continues through Dec. 24.

21ST ANNUAL

**Easter
Bunny
Express**



**Coming Saturday,
March 30, 2013**

Mark Your Calendar Today!

Vintage Rail Travel News

Sweetheart Special Returns! A Perfect Gift For Your Valentine

The museum is bringing back its most popular rail-travel event from a quarter-century ago when the first *Sweetheart Special* under the *Central Coast Flyer* banner takes place on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The Valentines-themed day-trip will feature the incredible Vista Dome Car, *Silver Splendor*, a delicious gourmet boxed lunch, the spectacular views along our magnificent coastline, souvenir tickets, sweet treats to mark the occasion, and more.

All passengers will be able to ride in *Silver Splendor's* viewing dome during one-half of the



December Trips For Holidays

Looking for a quick holiday getaway? Look no further than the *Central Coast Flyer* daytrip excursions planned by the museum for Sun., Dec. 2 and Sat., Dec. 8.

The Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*, will be a part of both trips. The Dec. 2 trip will also feature the 1949 club-lounge, *Overland Trail*, flagship of the *Central Coast Flyer*

fleet. Those who choose to ride in *Overland Trail* will also be treated to musical entertainment by talented acoustic guitarist Bill Prince, who will serenade passengers with favorite American train ballads and popular tunes on the return leg of the trip.

The price for either December date and car is only \$76 per person, which includes a discount when your purchase is made through the museum's online store. Go to:

store.goletadepot.org

See the **Reservations & Information** sidebar at the top-right to learn more.



trip. Those making the earliest reservations will have their choice of riding in the dome during either the early or return portion of the trip.

The cost is \$126 per person when purchase is made through the online store. All proceeds benefit the railroad museum. To purchase your tickets, or to learn more, see the **Reservations & Information** sidebar at right.

Cheese Lover's Limited Delightful

The *Cheese Lover's Limited* trip on Nov. 4 was a wonderful experience, blending great scenery, good company, and the pleasures of learning about and sampling fine cheeses.

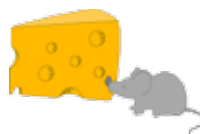
Overland Trail was full to its capacity of 36 passengers. We were pleased that nearly half of that total was made up of representatives from the **American Institute of Wine and Food**.

Everyone aboard was treated to an expert presentation by **John Howard**, who covered everything from the history of cheesemaking, to a discussion of the many varieties of cheese, to planning ideas about how cheese might be included in one's own entertaining.

Passengers sampled a dozen cheeses from Europe and American spanning a wide range of flavors, textures, composition, and methods of manufacture.

John Howard kindly donated his valuable services to the museum for this special event, including many hours of planning and preparation, for which we are deeply grateful.

We're already talking about a *Cheese Lover's Limited* reprise for next year!



Reservations & Information

Go to store.goletadepot.org to make reservations for any Central Coast Flyer vintage-rail trip. You will also receive an online-purchase discount. The online store accepts Mastercard, Visa, Discover, PayPal, and checks by mail. Detailed information about each trip is also available online.

Or, if you'd prefer a personal touch, call Terry, our reservation specialist, at 805/680-0397 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m., please).

Boarding Information: Passengers for all Central Coast Flyer vintage-rail excursions may board in either Santa Barbara or Goleta. All trips depart the South Coast at about 10:30 a.m., arriving in San Luis Obispo for a brief stopover at about 1 p.m. Return trips arrive back in Santa Barbara & Goleta at about 4:30 p.m.



Overland Trail interior (above) and Silver Splendor dome.



Remember The Museum

Please include the South Coast Railroad Museum and Goleta Depot among your end-of-year gifts. Financial support from generous members and friends represents nearly one half of the money that the museum needs to keep going for another year. Your help is critical! Please give what you can. Thank you.