



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

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“Chocolate Lovers Limited” Trip To Highlight August-September Vintage Rail Adventures

The museum is offering members and the general public several opportunities to ride vintage railcars in August and September. On Sat., Aug. 2, during Fiesta week, you have your choice of two different cars, the Southern Pacific club-lounge, *Overland Trail*, and the Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*. Both cars will feature a complimentary chips and salsa bar.

On Sept. 20, we will be running another of our popular “*Chocolate Lovers Limited*” trips aboard *Overland Trail*. During the return portion of our journey, Swiss-born chocolatier, **Maya Schoop-Rutten** will delight you with a fun and informative tasting of some of her exquisite handmade chocolates. During the tasting, Maya will tell you about the origins of chocolate, the many flavor traits of the cacao bean, and the conditions and methods that can produce often-subtle variations in the character of chocolate.

Maya has fascinating stories about the cultivation of cacao and the processes leading up to the final product, having led group tours and taken many private trips to cacao plantations in Java, Hawaii, Cuba and Peru. Over the years, Maya has conducted about 280 chocolate tastings.

You’ll leave the *Chocolate Lovers Limited* journey with a greater appreciation of chocolate, as well as helpful tips on where to find the best chocolate in our part of the world.

We will also be running the Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*, on Sept. 20. All Silver Splendor passengers will be able to ride both upstairs in the dome and downstairs in the dining salon.

All of these day trips travel to San Luis Obispo along our beautiful Central Coast. During the trip, take in the breathtaking Gaviota Coast, the legendary surfing beaches of the Hollister and Bixby ranches, Point Conception, the massive launch sites of Vandenberg AFB, the vineyards of the Edna Valley, state and county beach parks, a variety of wildlife and botanical

wonders, and a lot more.

Passengers may board in either Santa Barbara or Goleta. Travel times are: Depart Santa Barbara (SB) at 10:22 a.m. (Goleta 10:34). Arrive San Luis Obispo (SLO) at 1:00 p.m. Depart SLO at 1:55 p.m. Arrive SB at 4:32 p.m. (Goleta 4:17).

Complimentary soft drinks, coffee, and a light snack are also included with each trip. Passengers are responsible for any additional food. Passengers are welcome to bring a picnic lunch or favorite vintage to enjoy as we travel.

Fares are \$102 for either of the *Silver Splendor* trips. Seats on the *Chocolate Lovers Limited* are \$128. The Aug. 2 trip aboard *Overland Trail* is only \$72. An Aug. 30 *Overland Trail* ride is \$92.

You may make reservations by calling Terry Remick at 805/680-0397 (9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., please). Or, receive a \$3 per seat discount on any of these fares, by making your purchase through the museum’s online store: goletadepot.org/ride

Chocolate Lovers Limited presenter Maya Schoop-Rutten displays cacao pods during a recent trip to Peru.



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COMING EVENTS

Vintage-Rail Excursion, Aug. 2
Goleta Railroad Days, Aug. 9-10
Free-Ride Saturday, Aug. 23
Ride Overland Trail, Aug. 30
"Chocolate Lovers Limited" Sept. 20
Depot Day, Sept. 28
Candy Cane Train, Nov. 28-Dec. 24



Passengers discover California's Wonderful Corner with help from Trails & Rails guide Bern Verbit.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Leslie Zomalt has completed her training and will now begin serving as a Trails & Rails guide in partnership with some of our senior guides. On Aug. 8-9, Leslie will make her first overnight Trails & Rails trip to San Jose aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train.

During UCSB's Spring Quarter, the museum welcomed anthropology student **Veronica Jacobs-Edmondson** as our new museum intern. Veronica helped with a number of projects, activities and errands around the museum, including service on the Goleta Short Line. She will be sorely missed.

In recent months, the museum has benefitted greatly from the volunteer efforts of Dos Pueblos High School students **Calvin Golas, Jack Royer** and **Max Anholt**. All three young men have served numerous times as conductor on the miniature-train ride.

Max has also fulfilled his Eagle Scout requirement at the museum with a project that included painting all of the Goleta Short Line cars and building a container out of railroad ties for storing ballast and other track materials for the miniature train.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The museum has a continuing need for volunteers -- especially in two critical areas: the miniature-train ride and the Trails & Rails program.

Train-ride volunteers are all trained personally by the museum director, first as conductor, then as engineer. The training generally takes two afternoons to complete.

The next orientation and training day for new Trails & Rails guide-prospects is Sat., Jan. 24. Please put this date on your calendar if you are interested in this program.

Trails & Rails is conducted by our museum in conjunction with the **National Park Service** and **Amtrak**. It is a unique opportunity for local volunteers to meet and interact with travelers from around the nation and the world, while riding Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains through some of the most beautiful and interesting areas found anywhere in our country's passenger rail system.

Trails & Rails guides work in pairs, making one-day roundtrips from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo and two-day overnight trips to San Jose. While onboard, guides share information with passengers about local sights, things-to-do, and the natural and cultural history of the areas traveled.

Within the National Park Service, our Trails & Rails program is sponsored by the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**. Much of the *Coast Starlight* route between Santa Barbara and San Jose follows closely along the historic route of the Anza expedition of 1775-76, which brought the first European settlers to California.

If you are interested in becoming either a Trails & Rails guide or a train-ride volunteer, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540 or polson@goletadepot.org).

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**Carroll
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Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest additions to the museum's membership rolls. **Bill and Janne Wissel** have joined the museum as Benefactor Life members. **Haley Casias and her Grandpa Willie** are new Milepost 100 members. **Asher Fastman** is our new Junior Engineers Club member.

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