

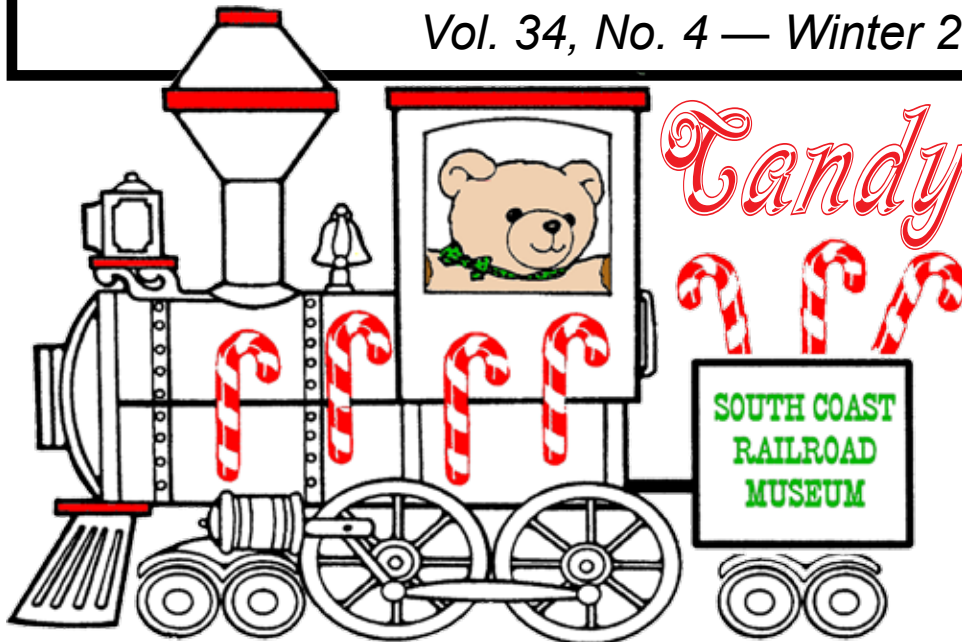


Goleta

# DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 34, No. 4 — Winter 2014-15



## Candy Cane Train

**NOV. 28  
THRU  
DEC 24**

### Include The Museum Store In Your Holiday Shopping Plans

The museum's *Trackside Shop* is ready for the holidays, with plenty of gift selections for those on your shopping list. We have "Holiday 2014" gifts from Lionel, including the Lionel Engineer Bear, ornaments, posters and more. There are also Ande Rooney signs – embossed, diecut and in traditional porcelain. We also have a selection of puzzles for those family get-togethers.

The store has a wide variety of shirts, hats, mugs, pins, patches, and magnets – representing all of your favorite railroads – plus books, posters, games, videos, and a lot more.

Members with valid card receive a 10% discount on all purchases. All sales proceeds support the museum.

Store hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Thurs. thru Sunday, as well as Dec. 22-24. We accept Visa and Mastercard.

Questions? Call us at 805/964-3540.

We'll be celebrating the successful conclusion of another year at the museum with the triumphant return of the *Candy Cane Train*, an event that has been delighting local families, as well as holiday-season visitors, since 1993.

The much-anticipated year-end event opens on Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving. It will continue daily through Christmas Eve, except for Dec. 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17, when the museum is closed. The museum will be open three extra days — Dec. 22-24 — when local children are home for the holidays.

Those holding the oversized red and green *Candy Cane Train* souvenir tickets, will be able to enjoy a number of fun and festive activities, including a ride aboard the decorated train and 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 before 3:30 to allow enough time to leisurely enjoy all *Candy Cane Train* activities. (Each day, the last train will depart the station promptly at 3:45) Please allow extra time to enjoy the traditional *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears* display in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room, which also opens Nov. 28 (see page 2 story).

*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 purchased (a savings of \$1.50 per ticket). Go to: [goletadepot.org/candy](http://goletadepot.org/candy) 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.

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Phyllis J. Olsen, Assistant Director

## Museum Tree Renews A Railroad Tradition

When you visit the museum during the holiday season, or drive by the property, don't forget to watch for the decorated tree in the second-floor window bay.

The annual Goleta Depot tree continues a custom that was long practiced by many station-agent families across the U.S., of prominently placing a Christmas tree where it could be shared with the crews and passengers on the trains that passed.

The depot tree's decorations include small, white "Remembrance Stars." Each star names and memorializes a departed museum friend. Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen started this tradition and is responsible for its continuation.

## Get In The Holiday Spirit

Here are two ways you can help the museum get ready for the holidays -- and get yourself in the holiday spirit, too:

1. Help us decorate the museum & grounds. Join Director Gary Coombs and fellow members at our annual decorating session on Monday, Nov. 24, at 9 a.m. No experience needed!
2. Loan the museum a stuffed animal or toy/model train car for our year-end "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" exhibition. To participate, please contact Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (email: polsen@goletadepot.org or phone: 805/964-3540).

## Free Fridays Will Continue in 2015

Thanks to the renewed sponsorship of **Fairview Car Wash**, the visiting public will be able to enjoy unlimited free miniature-train rides on Fridays in 2015. The program runs Jan. 2-Nov. 20.

The last day of free train rides in 2014 will be Nov. 21.

Fairview Car Wash have been supporting free-ride days at the museum since 2001.



## Make A Run For The Trains On Super Saturday, Jan. 31!

The first weekend day of free miniature-train rides at the museum will be Saturday, Jan. 31. That's the day the museum will hold its 20th annual "*Super Saturday!*" event. The

free rides will start at 1 p.m., running continuously until 3:45. We plan to have two trains running simultaneously on two tracks, which should give passengers lots of chances to change trains midway at the Westside Station, as well as to wave to passengers and crew on the opposing train.

Adults and children may ride as much as they like on *Super Saturday!* (Our usual 34-inch minimum-height requirement will apply.). Everyone will get one of the oversized football-shaped tickets as an event keepsake.

*Super Saturday!* is made possible by a long list of generous supporters, many of whom return year-after-year to help make this popular event possible. Here's a look back at the 2014 contributors: \* Michael Gartzke, C.P.A. \* Joan Hanna \* Robert B. Locke, Esq. \* Dick and Wendy Shelton \* Marc Bradley & Lori Roper \* Peter Tiersma & Thea Cremers \* Bruce and Andrea Morden \* Claudia Worthen \* Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens \* Roger & Edie Wells \*

## Trails & Rails Information Meeting

If you missed the Oct. meeting for those interested in becoming volunteers in the museum's Trails & Rails Program, you still have one more chance. There will be another meeting on Monday, Jan. 12 at the museum, starting at 7 p.m. Attendance doesn't commit you in any way, but it does give you a chance to ask questions and to learn more about this exciting and unique opportunity for local volunteers.



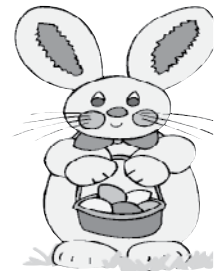
To save a seat for yourself or someone you know for the Jan. 12 meeting, call the museum today at 805/964-3540.

## Holiday Display Shares Personal & Museum Keepsakes

Be sure to make this year's "*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*" display a part of your holiday visits to the railroad museum. The annual exhibition in the Waiting Room showcases stuffed animals and toy and model trains – all from the collections of the museum, its members, volunteers, and staff. The holiday exhibition opens Nov. 28 and continues through Dec. 24.

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## Easter Bunny Express



Coming Saturday,  
April 4, 2015

Mark Your Calendar Today!

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Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

## Remember The Museum!

Please include the South Coast Railroad Museum and Goleta Depot among your end-of-year gift recipients. 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! All donations are tax-deductible from state & federal incomes taxes. Please give what you can. Thank you!

## Support The Museum, Painlessly

If you aren't able to make a year-end donation to the railroad museum (or even if you are), here are two other, easy ways to support the preservation of the historic Goleta Depot and the museum's other important programs and activities:

1. Use the enclosed "Community Commitment Donation Card" from **Fairview Car Wash**. The museum will receive \$4 every time you have your car washed and you'll receive a discount or upgrade as well. It's also a great way to say thank you for all of the financial support this local company has given the museum over the years.
2. Use **AmazonSmile** to make your Amazon purchases. To learn more, visit the museum website and see the blog post on the bottom left of the homepage: [goletadepot.org](http://goletadepot.org)



## Volunteers Make Museum's Biggest Day Possible

*Depot Day*, which celebrated its 32nd anniversary on Sept. 28, would not have been possible without the efforts of a long list of volunteers and museum supporters.

The *Depot Day* admissions table was staffed by **Ed Leska, Thea Cremers, Bruce Morden** and **John Wright**. The food booth was organized again this year by **Judy Connors**, whose helpers included **Angelica Garcia** and Judy's grandsons **Aidan Haggerty** and **Ma-son Haggerty**.

There were seven volunteer engineers and conductors, working in two shifts and in partnership with museum staff members, who kept two miniature trains running throughout the day. These included **Ron Bruns, Raphaela Banholzer, Max Anhalt, Bruce Morden, Noel Langle, Roger Wells** and **Ann Winter**. Bruce and Noel also shared the responsibility of giving handcar rides.

**Bob Mahan** ran his Fairmont inspection car throughout the day, sharing the mainline in 30-minute shifts with the handcar ride. **Andrew Garcia** and **Alex Garcia** operated both switches for the miniature trains, handcar and

speeder and also helped with event parking.

The upstairs rooms of the station agent's apartment were shared with visitors during the early shift by **Susan Strobel** and her daughter, **Leilani**, with **Arlene Radasky** taking over those duties during the second shift.

Returning to staff the silent auction tables were **Kari Adams, Diana Mina** and **Pam Holt**. Other auction staffers, posted in Goleta Depot's Freight Office, included **Vanessa Gonzales** and **Tiffany Barlow**, both from **Rabobank's** Calle Real branch.

Also staffing throughout the day was **Bern Verbit**, as depot agent in the Freight Office.

Many of these volunteers also helped in running errands, as well as with event setup and cleanup activities, which covered a number of days. Also helping with event setup and cleanup were **Don Kebort** and **Ralph Kornahrens**.

Scores of members, friends, businesses and organizations generously donated or loaned equipment, supplies, and dozens of auction items to Depot Day.

## \* \* 33 Years Ago This Month \* \*

"The Goleta Depot sailed smoothly, like a ship in the night," wrote veteran Santa Barbara News-Press newsman Steve Sullivan in a story published on Nov. 19, 1981. The late SBNP bureau chief was

writing about the dramatic move of Goleta Depot, from trackside to its new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park. It was the beginning of an entirely new chapter in the life of the venerable landmark building.

*Goleta Depot "sails" down the center of Hollister Ave. (below) then across the Fairview Overpass (left), in the late hours of Nov. 18-19, 1981.*





## “Sweetheart Special” Feb. Day Trips — The Perfect Gift For Your Valentine

The *Sweetheart Special*, a museum fundraiser dating back to the 1980s, will return in 2015, marking the third consecutive year under its new vintage-rail format.

We will again be running the Valentines-themed trip on two consecutive weekend days, Feb. 14 and 15. (This will be the first time we’re actually able to have the event on St. Valentine’s Day!) You’ll also have your choice of two cars: the Vista Dome car, *Silver Splendor*, which has served the *Sweetheart Special* well both this year and last, and *Acoma*, the original 1937 streamlined **Santa Fe Super Chief** club-lounge.

*Sweetheart Special* passengers will also receive a delicious buffet luncheon while enroute, as well as spectacular

## Nov. & Dec. Vintage Train Trips Offer Something For Everyone

The museum will be closing out its busy 2014 schedule of vintage-rail excursions with trips on Nov. 29 and Dec. 14. Both feature the historic Southern Pacific club-lounge, *Overland Trail*.

Discounted fares for the Nov. 29 trip are just \$89. If anyone in your group is celebrating a November birthday, they ride free when accompanied by at least two paying passengers!

The Dec. 14 trip has a discounted fare of \$99. Also featured, as an option on this trip only, you may add boxed lunches from the legendary **Far Western Tavern** in Orcutt to enhance your travel experience. Reminiscent of the half-century during which the Far Western called Guadalupe its home, the lunches will be delivered fresh for our passengers by tavern staff when the train makes its stop in Guadalupe.

There are four tasty luncheon selections from which to choose, all based on

views along our magnificent coastline, souvenir tickets, sweet treats to mark the occasion, and a lot more.

Director **Gary Coombs** will be aboard both trips, serving as one of your many travel hosts. Dr. Coombs, along

with some of the museum’s volunteer rail guides, will be available to answer your questions and tell you about this fascinating and historic Pacific seashore route.

The *Sweetheart Special* is a very important fundraiser for the museum. Please support the museum by joining us during this weekend of vintage-rail travel.

For more information, please refer to the **Reservations & Information** sidebar below.

the Far Western Tavern’s unique blend of contemporary California ranch cuisine, inspired by the local Santa Maria-style barbecue tradition. The lunch is an additional \$15, plus sales tax. Passengers may elect, instead, to bring their own food along on the trip.

For more, see the **Reservations & Information** sidebar below.

### Reservations & Information

Go online to [goletadepot.org/ride](http://goletadepot.org/ride) now to make reservations for any of the museum’s vintage-rail excursions. You will also receive an online-purchase discount there. The online store accepts Mastercard, Visa, Discover, PayPal, and checks by mail. Detailed information about each trip and railcar will also be found online.

Or, if you’d prefer a personal touch, you may call Terry Remick, regarding the November and December trips only, 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.

## Museum Will Expand Trails & Rails Program In 2015

Our museum will be expanding the San Jose component of its Trails & Rails program on an exploratory basis in 2015. As part of this test, the museum is now recruiting volunteers from the greater San Jose area to join the museum’s current cadre of about two dozen volunteers who live in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. On Dec. 7-9, **Museum Director Gary Coombs** will be traveling to San Jose to conduct an orientation for prospective volunteer guides there.

The museum’s Trails & Rails guides ride Amtrak’s *Coast Starlight*, giving informative program presentations to the passengers aboard these trains. Some guide trips consist of one-day roundtrips from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo. Others involve overnight excursions to San Jose.

San Jose area residents who are selected to become Trails & Rails guides will undergo a full day of classroom training, followed by onboard training under the guidance of the museum’s senior volunteer guides. On completion of their training, the new San Jose-based guides will begin making one-day presentation roundtrips on the *Coast Starlight* from their home station to San Luis Obispo.

Trails & Rails is a cooperative program of the National Park Service and Amtrak, in partnership with the South Coast Railroad Museum. For more information about Trails & Rails, please contact Gary Coombs (email: [gcoombs@goletadepot.org](mailto:gcoombs@goletadepot.org))

*Lick Observatory, near San Jose and visible from the train, is just one of many regional resources and topics discussed by museum guides during their programs for passengers.*



**FAR WESTERN  
T\* A \* V \* E \* R \* N**