



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 35, No. 1 — Spring 2015

## Easter Bunny Express Coming April 4

The *Easter Bunny Express* has become an essential rite of spring for many families on the South Coast. This year marks the 23rd celebration of this unique family event held annually at the railroad museum. It will be Saturday, April 4, from 11 a.m. until 4 pm.

The colorful, oversized, egg-shaped souvenir tickets have become an event trademark. The tickets are also a promise that plenty of fun activities await. Each activity is listed on the ticket as a “station.” These station stops include:

\**Rabbit-Twacks Station* – where you’ll take a six-minute ride on one of the festively-decorated trains —

\**Easter-Bunnyville* – to meet the Easter Bunny, where children each receive an egg-filled surprise while parents take advantage of this great opportunity for photos —

\**Jack-Rabbit Junction* – to enter a drawing for some great prizes, including a large selection of adorable stuffed animals and lots of new plants for the garden (The drawings will held every hour, at 12 noon, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 3:45.) — and

\**What’s Up Dock* – to collect another *Easter Bunny Express* souvenir.

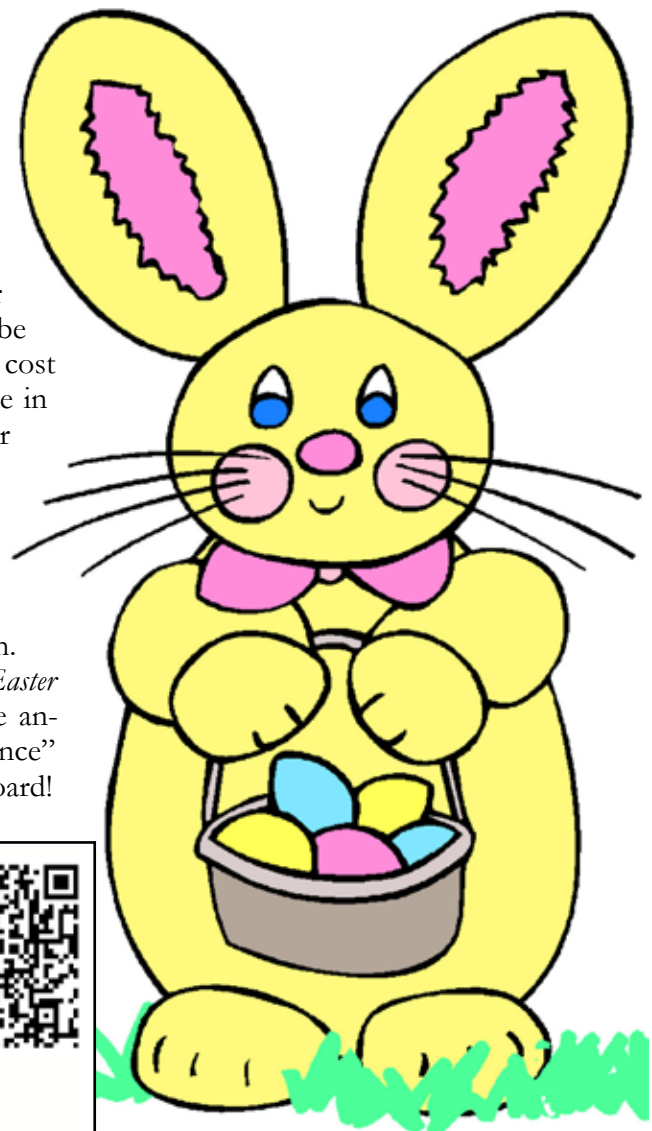
Ticketholders have their choice of two train rides, either the *EBX Thunderbunny* or the *Lop-Ear Local*. Each train will operate on its own 1/3-mile-long route. Or, ride both trains for just \$2 more (The museum’s standard 34-in. minimum-

height safety requirement applies to all train riders.) (rain date: Sat., April 11). The museum will be closed Easter Sunday, April 5.

For those wishing to have lunch or an afternoon snack, **Judy Connors** and her volunteer crew will be serving Depot Dogs, smoked-sausage sandwiches, snacks, and cold beverages throughout the day.

*Easter Bunny Express* tickets are \$4 per person, adult or child. For those who will not be riding the miniature trains, the cost is just \$3. Tickets are available in advance at the museum, or you may make your purchase through the online store (see below) and receive a discount on every ticket! Tickets will also be sold during the event until 3:30 p.m.

The 2015 edition of the *Easter Bunny Express* is certain to be another “hare-raising egg-sperience” for the whole family. Hop aboard!



Buy your tickets through the online store & save!

Scan the code at the right into your phone or type the following address into your browser:

<http://ow.ly/iKXT2>



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## Something New For Great Race Day

We'll be adding something new and different when the *Great Goleta Rail Race* rolls in on May 16. As usual, there'll be free miniature-train and handcar rides for all museum visitors.

This year, there will also be special souvenir *Great Race* tickets, which our ride crews will be punching to mark the completion of each ride. Then, at the end of the day, prizes will be awarded in several categories, all based on the number of rides taken by ticketholders. To be eligible, winners must be present at awards time.

Please join us for an afternoon of fun. The minimum-height safety requirements for the train ride is 34 inches; it's 48 inches for the handcar.

## Super Saturday Was...Well...Super!

The 19th annual *Super Saturday* event on Jan. 31 proved to be the perfect way to kick off another year of free-ride weekend days at the railroad museum. Special thanks to this year's sponsors:

- \* Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime
- \* Michael J. Gartzke, CPA
- \* Bruce and Andrea Morden
- \* In Memory of Peter Tiersma
- \* Thea Cremers
- \* Noel and Peggy Langle
- \* Marc Bradley and Lori Roper
- \* Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens



## “Train Sampler” Rail Trip Slated For April 18

The museum is organizing a special train-ride day-trip for Sat., April 18. The destination is Pismo Beach/Grover Beach and we'll be riding Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* trains.

We're putting this trip together as a “Train-Ride Sampler,” designed especially for families or others wishing to enjoy a short train-ride experience. So that just about anyone can participate, we've set the fares lower than Amtrak itself charges for the same trip: only \$39.95 for ages 16 thru adult; \$29.95 for children ages 2 thru 15.

All passengers will assemble and board at the Goleta Amtrak Station (25 So La Patera Lane). Scheduled train times are as follows: Depart Goleta at 10:34 a.m., Arrive Grover Beach station, 12:35 p.m., Depart 2:15 p.m.; Arrive back in Goleta at 4:17 p.m.

Our train will travel along the Pacific Coast for much of the way, giving passengers the chance to experience some of the spectacular views for which this beautiful route is world famous. That includes the majestic Gaviota Coast, Santa Barbara Channel Islands, abundant wildlife and flora, the Hollister

Ranch, Point Conception, Vandenberg Air Force Base, a number of state and county beach parks, and a lot more.

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** and Trails & Rails Senior Guide **Ed Leska** will be your escorts for this trip. Ed and Gary will be ready to answer your questions and will share anecdotes, local history, points of interest, and fun facts along the way.



Group members will have about one hour and 40 minutes at our destination, to enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants within an easy walk from the station; or pack a picnic lunch to take to Pismo State Beach, directly across from the Amtrak station. Food items will also be available for purchase during the trip in the train's Sea View Cafe & Lounge.

Tickets may be purchased now through the museum's online store at:

[goletadepot.org/ride](http://goletadepot.org/ride)



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## Welcome New Members

We proudly acknowledge the latest additions to the museum family. New Life members include **Virginia Ortega** and **Gwenn, Don and Ben Abrams**.

**Veronica V. Sandoval** is a new Contributing member; **Glen Matteson** is a new Sustaining member.

Recently joining as Active members are **Ryan Bates; Kyle Bucy; Greg Hawkins; Carol Hicks; Mike Hicks; Victoria Kearny; Mary, Finn, Doug & Hillary McCauley; Astrid Nelson; Carole J. Shapiro; Nicole, Matt & Reed Staska; Lewis N. Stone; Cathy Trask; Jim Trask; Emmanuel Valencia; Karen Valencia; Mark York; and Katherine Zeiss**.

The latest members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Thatcher McNally, Faith Ortega, Melody Ortega, Elena Ortega, Rue Foy; and Greyson Foy**.

## Free-Ride Calendar Grows

*Rotary Day* will return to the museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, with free train and handcar rides. The event is made possible by the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime**.

**Rabobank** is again sponsoring the museum's participation in the *Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries*, including a pair of free train rides for all children who complete the program in recognition of their reading excellence.

You can also help to sponsor a day of free rides at the museum. Just make a pledge to the museum's 2015 *Spring Fundraiser*. Read all about the event and its importance to the museum in the article on page 4.

## COMING EVENTS

Pismo/Grover Beach "Train Sampler" Day-Trip, April 18  
*Great Goleta Rail Race*, May 16  
 Vintage-Rail Excursion, June 20  
*Rotary Day*, June 21  
*Goleta Railroad Days*, July 25-26  
*Depot Day*, Sept. 27  
*Candy Cane Train*, Nov. 27-Dec. 30



## 37 Enlist To Become Trails & Rails Guides in Santa Barbara, San Jose

The museum is having its most successful year recruiting new volunteers in the history of the organization's long association with the *Trails & Rails* program. In separate training sessions held on Jan. 24 and Feb. 28, we were able to sign up 23 new guide-prospects in the greater Santa Barbara area and another 14 for the new San Jose-based portion of the program.

The museum's *Trails & Rails* guides provide free educational programs and other interpretive services for passengers aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* trains. They talk about regional history, points of interest, local sights, and the natural history along the train route, sharing brochures, images, and other illustrative materials with passengers.

Those joining to serve from the program's Santa Barbara base are **Ryan Bates, Lorraine Brandt, Robert Breese, Karen Gocha, Greg Hawkins, Carol Hicks, Mike Hicks, Karen Houlihan-Trimble, Victoria Kearny, Melvin Kimlinger, Linda Metelka, Astrid Nelson, Dennis Nord, John Riedinger, Nancy Russell, Carole J. Shapiro, Lewis N. Stone, Cathy Trask, Jim Trask, Em-**

**manuel Valencia, Karen Valencia, Mark York and Katherine Zeiss**.

The museum's first San Jose-area volunteers include **Kathy Beauregard, Ron Boyce, Ray Cosyn, Walt Fant, Mary Hanel, Charlie Kieffer, Pat Kieffer, Yorkman Lowe, Sharon McCray, Joyce McPheeters, Michael Miller, Laurie Pines, Alfonso Ramirez and Ron Troyer**.

New guide-prospects undergo extensive training, much of it conducted onboard the *Coast Starlight*, before they can advance to full guide status. In a typical year, many of those who apply do not successfully complete the training.

In 2015, program presentations aboard the trains will begin Friday, May 15 and continue until Sept. 6. The next cycle of recruitment and training of new volunteers will start at the end of this year.

*Trails & Rails* is a collaborative program of the **National Park Service** and **Amtrak**. From Santa Barbara to San Jose, these two national partners are joined in the effort by the **South Coast Railroad Museum** and the **Anza National Historic Trail**.

*First San Jose-area recruits for Trails & Rails program pose with Anza National Historic Trail's Interpretive Specialist Hale Sargent and Museum Director Gary Coombs (front row at far right).*



## Ride Vintage Rail On June 20

The museum's next vintage rail trip will be Sat., June 20. Our museum is partnering with the **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum** for this trip. We hope that it's the first of many collaborations between the two organizations.

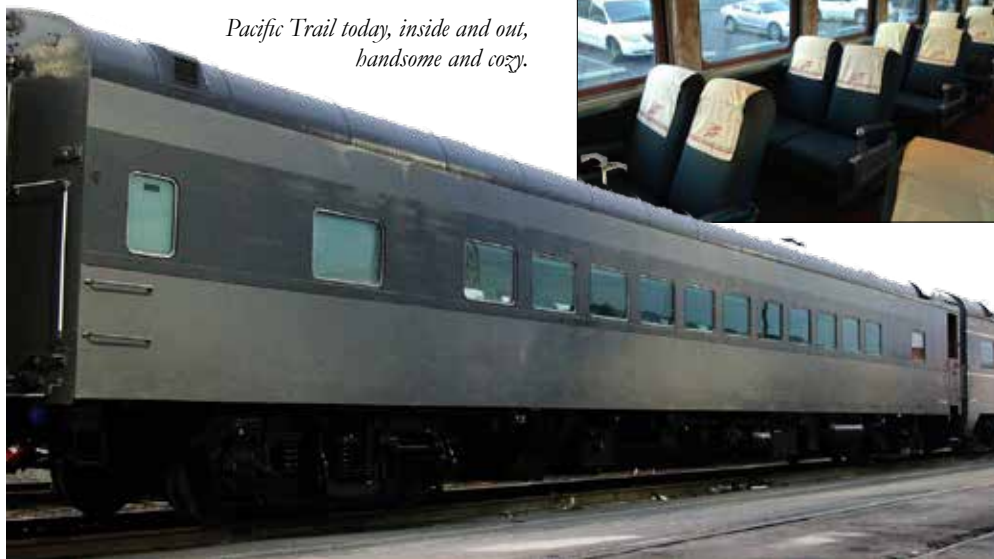
A choice of two historic cars is available for this trip, *Overland Trail* or *Pacific Trail*. The museum has used *Overland Trail*, a Southern Pacific club-lounge, many times over the years. This will be our first trip with *Pacific Trail*, however. This long-distance chair car was built by the Pullman-Standard Co. and delivered to the Union Pacific Railroad in 1950. The car served on famous Union Pacific trains like the *City of Los Angeles* (you may remember that Lucy, Rickie, Ethel and Fred returned home from California aboard the *City of Los Angeles!*). Both cars are owned by **Bill and Debbie Hatrick** of Santa Ana.

Tickets are \$69 for passage aboard *Pacific Trail* (\$49 for ages 2-15) and \$79 (no child fare for *Overland Trail*). These prices include a discount when the purchase is made through the museum's online store at: [goletadepot.org/ride](http://goletadepot.org/ride)

Or, call the museum (805/964-3540) for reservations or more information.

Passengers for this trip will be able to board in Santa Barbara or Goleta. All trips depart the South Coast stations at about 10:30 a.m., arriving in San Luis Obispo for a brief stopover at about 1 p.m. The train will arrive back home at about 4:30 p.m.

*Pacific Trail today, inside and out, handsome and cozy.*



## Replica Station Signboards Receive Makeover

Goleta Depot now sports three newly painted "GOLETA" station signboards. These aren't the original Southern Pacific signs, which first graced the building's eaves when the depot was new, back in the early 1900s. Those precious relics are protected from the elements and preserved inside the landmark structure.

The freshly painted signs are much younger, but are still old enough to need the attention they've just received. These signs have graced the depot exterior since 1982-83, when the building was reopened at its new Lake Los Carneros Park home.

Modeled after the S.P. originals, these signboards were fashioned by carpenter **Ralph Moore**, with lettering by **Gary Coombs**, who would shortly become director of a new railroad museum here. The paint and lettering of the replica signs were touched up in 2001. This is the first time, however, that they have received a comprehensive makeover by a professional sign painter.

The sign work and reinstallation was carried out by **Paul Musgrove**, who even lined up the contributors for the project. Donations were received from **Steve Randolph, Roger Drue**, and three others.

*Paul Musgrove returns revitalized sign to depot roof.*



## Your Support of Spring Fundraiser Is Crucial To Museum

The museum's 34th annual *Spring Fundraiser* is now underway. This event supports a day of free miniature train and handcar rides, which has become

known as the *Great Goleta Rail Race* (see separate story on page 2). The 2015 *Great Race* will be held Sat., May 16.

The *Spring Fundraiser* provides operating support that is absolutely essential for the continued operation of the railroad museum. In fact, the event produces nearly 10% of the money needed each year to keep the museum going. Everyone who makes a financial contribution to the *Spring Fundraiser* is helping in a very important way to keep the museum healthy and strong.

Please support the fundraising effort either by obtaining pledges or by making a pledge of your own. Support this critical museum fundraiser with your tax-deductible donation by using the card included with this newsletter. For a pledge form or more information, contact the museum at 805/964-3540 or send us an email at:

[museum@goletadepot.org](mailto:museum@goletadepot.org)