



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 35, No. 3 — Fall 2015

33rd Depot Day Coming Sept. 27

The museum will be celebrating the 33rd annual “*Depot Day*” on Sunday, Sept. 27. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please join us on this special day commemorating Goleta Depot’s remarkable history and its significance as an architectural treasure of the local community.

Silent Auction Keeps Museum Going

Depot Day is a very important fundraising event for the museum. The *Depot Day* Silent Auction, in particular, raises thousands of dollars to support the museum, its programs and activities. The auction also affords lucky bidders the chance to take home some valuable goods and services, often well below retail prices.

The 2015 Silent Auction will include about 100 items, including hotel stays, Disney adventures, performing-arts tickets, a winery tour, dining at fine restaurants, garden and household items, and much more. A partial list is posted online and updated regularly on the museum’s website: goletadepot.org/auction.

The first auction table closes at 12 noon on event day. Other tables close hourly thereafter. Bidding for items on the last table will close promptly at 3:30 p.m.

Please support the museum by attending *Depot Day*, visiting the Silent Auction tables, and placing bids on the items of your choice. For the *Depot Day*

silent auction, there is no registration requirement for bidders.

\$1 Donation Requested

Upon admission, everyone will be asked to make a \$1 donation to support the museum, including our many educational and recreational programs, as well as upkeep and future preservation of the historical landmark.

Ride As Much As You Like For One Low Price

Depot Day is a rare opportunity for visitors to ride *three* different types of rail vehicles — the miniature-train, museum handcar, and inspection car. For only \$3, *Depot Day* attendees can purchase a wristband that is good for unlimited rides on all three vehicles throughout the day. (Train & speeder riders must be at least 34 inches tall; 48-in. minimum height for the handcar. Wristbands are non-transferable.)

Two Goleta Short Line trains will operate on two different tracks — a one-third-mile route originating at the Main

Station, and a one-sixth-mile run beginning from the Westside Station. Running two trains always adds a lot of extra fun for passengers and crews alike because of the frequent train meets and chances to wave to those on passing trains.

Bob Mahan will be giving rides on his always-popular inspection car. Bob’s

(cont’d. on page 4, See “Depot Day”)

Look Out For The Trains On Depot Day!



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Office Help Needed

The museum is looking for a volunteer within the museum membership who can assist with office activities. This would involve a few hours each month, some of which could be performed at home. We hope to find a volunteer with some clerical experience, including familiarity with computers and possibly light bookkeeping.

Please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs by email (gcoombs@goletadepot.org) if you are available and would like to help.

COMING EVENTS

Vintage-rail excursions,
Sept. 19 and Dec 12
Depot Day, Sept. 27
Amtrak Sampler, Oct. 11
Candy Cane Train, Nov. 27-Dec. 30
Sweetheart Special rail trip, Feb. 6, 2016

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“Amtrak Sampler” Rail Trips Expand

The museum will be offering another “Amtrak Sampler” trip on Sunday, Oct. 11. Tickets for the morning roundtrip adventure start at just \$7.95 (children thru age 17; add \$2 for ages 18 to adult).*

These short rail trips have quickly become one of the museum’s most popular activities. They are designed especially for families with young children or anyone interested getting a short and low-cost taste of rail travel aboard modern Amtrak equipment.

The museum has conducted three of these trips since the first was held on July 25, in conjunction with *Goleta Railroad Days* and the *Amtrak Train Days* celebration. The first of these was a Goleta-to-Carpinteria morning roundtrip, followed by a daylong trip to the Ventura County Fair on Aug. 5, and then another morning trip on Sept. 5 in which both Carpinteria and Ventura were offered as destinations.

The museum took more than 80 passengers on those three initial trips. Many of the younger riders (and a few of the older ones) were enjoying their very first “big train” ride experience. For everyone



* We want everyone to be able to take part in museum rail trips, so we’ve set the fares for the “Amtrak Sampler” trips lower than Amtrak itself charges a family for the same ride!



The Channel Coast is a regular Amtrak Sampler companion.

aboard, these were all special opportunities to enjoy some beautiful coastline scenes in the company of family and friends.

For the Oct. 11 trip, passengers may board in either Goleta or Santa Barbara. Destinations include Santa Barbara, Carpinteria and Ventura. Trips begin at 9:15-9:30 and all are finished before noon. Depending on the trip selected, the actual time on the train varies from about 25 minutes to approx. an hour and 50 minutes.

Museum staff and volunteers will be aboard all train to escort group members, handle tickets and share information with passengers about the trains and route. For a lot more information about the different trip options and pricing, as well to make your reservations, scan the QR code above into your smart phone or go to goletadepot.org/ride



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To contact us:
Phone: 805-964-3540;
FAX: 805-964-3549
E-mail: museum@goletadepot.org
Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

Auction Donations Needed

If you or your business have new items, collectibles or valuable services that you would like to donate to the *Depot Day* silent auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540) by Sept. 18.

All auction donors are publicly acknowledged both in the museum website and during *Depot Day*, itself. You will also receive a personal acknowledgment for tax purposes and your own records.

New Vintage Rail Adventures Dot The Calendar

As this newsletter issue goes to press, there are still a few seats available for our Sept. 19 vintage-rail excursion to San Luis Obispo. Passengers on this trip will have the opportunity to ride on two historic rail cars, one during the first half of the trip and a second during the return portion. The cost is \$79 per person when purchase is made through the museum’s online store (go to <http://goletadepot.org/ride>) or scan the QR code on page 2 into your smartphone. The online store also has more details about the trip, including the histories of the participating railcars, travel times, and more.

The museum’s next vintage rail trip will be Sat., Dec. 12. Passengers on this trip should expect a holiday surprise enroute! More details about this trip can also be found on the online store site. This will be our museum’s third vintage-rail excursion done in partnership with the **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum**.

Hollister Ranch (below) and Vandenberg AFB (right) are two of many scenic areas that our vintage-rail trips explore.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

The museum is about to complete another season of Trails & Rails program presentations for passengers aboard Amtrak’s *Coast Starlight* and *Pacific Surfliner* trains.

It’s been a memorable 19 weeks. The museum successfully established a second “crew base,” in San Jose, to complement the existing base of operations in Santa Barbara. Our very first eight San Jose guides graduated this year. Congratulations to **Ron Boyce, Walt Fant, Charlie Kieffer, Pat Kieffer, Yorkman Lowe, Joyce McPheeters, Michael Miller and Laurie Pines** for this achievement.

Kudos also to the six Santa Barbara-area guides who graduated in 2015: **Ryan Bates, Karen Gocha, Greg Hawkins, Stephen McQuinn, Carole Shapiro and Lewis Stone**.

All of these new volunteers will make it possible for the museum to expand the Trails & Rails program in 2016, by increasing the duration of the operating season, adding more days to the operating week, or both.

This was also a notable year in terms of the Trails & Rails program’s service impacts. During the five-month span, museum volunteers and staff presented more than 100 programs, serving about 27,000 total Amtrak passengers.

The South Coast Railroad Museum has been conducting programs for passengers aboard Amtrak trains since 1998. Today, we are part of **Trails & Rails**, a nationwide program organized and coordinated by **Amtrak** and the **National Park Service**.

Train-Ride Volunteers Needed

There is a pressing need at the museum for additional adult and mature teenaged volunteers to help operate the miniature train ride for our guests.

The museum’s two-person train crew includes a conductor and an engineer. New volunteers are first trained to be conductors. Many continue their training to become engineers, which also requires a California driver’s license. All of the training is conducted by Museum Director Gary Coombs.

If you can help, or if you know someone who might be interested in lending a hand, please contact Phyllis Olsen or Gary at the museum (805/964-3540).

Because of the volunteer shortage, we are now considering reducing the museum’s regular weekly schedule from four to three days. Thursday is the most likely day to be removed.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to acknowledge and welcome all of our new museum members. **Haley Casias and Grandpa Willie** have upgraded their membership. They are now Life members. **Raphaella Banholzer** and **Don Kebort** are new Milepost 100 members. **Daniel Renner** is a new Contributing member.

New Active members include **Mary Hanel, Pat and Charlie Kieffer, Gordon Morrison, Laurie Pines** and the **Rodriguez Family**.

The latest additions to the Junior Engineers Club are **Christopher Arbuckle, Miles Linder and Brian Torres**.

“Depot Day” (cont’d. from page 1)

“speeder” was used for many years on the **Ventura County Railway**.

The inspection car will share the mainline track with the museum handcar. The two conveyances will take turns, each carrying passengers for a 30-minute stint before relinquishing the track for rides on the other car.

Club Car Offers Food For Lunch Or Snacks

In the “Club Car,” **Judy Connors** and her crew will be serving yummy Depot Dogs and sausage sandwiches, a variety of snacks, bottled water and sodas.

Landmark Open House

Depot Day will be the only occasion this year when the public can visit and view the agent’s apartment, which occupies the entire second floor of the historical building. The Goleta station agents and their families usually lived in this upstairs area. Much of the second-floor has been refurnished and decorated to recreate that sense of home.



Speeder rides are a favorite Depot Day diversion for the young ones.

Goleta Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical

Resources. The building has also been designated Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark No. 22.



The Silent Auction (below) along with handcar (left) and miniature-train rides are Depot Day mainstays.

