

HOT RAIL!

NEWS & EVENTS



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Winter 2017

2018 Comes Steaming In!

By Allison Benash

2017 was another fantastic year for the SCRPA.

Here is a brief recap:

1. The Fullerton Train Museum hosted over 35,000 visitors and was open for Railroad Days, holiday events, movie and photo shoots, and Amtrak security dog trainings.
2. Membership numbers and donations are on the rise. With the financial help of some very generous railfans, the SCRPA has been able to restore and rehab the railcar collection and preserve them for years to come. Projects have and will include the repair and replacement of over 25 windows in the lounge and dining cars.
3. Volunteer support is better than ever. The SCRPA only happens because of the dedication and support of the many volunteers. We are an all-volunteer run organization and without the commitment and over 20,000 hours put in by the many volunteers, the museum wouldn't continue to grow and thrive.
4. There is a new website for the Museum. Visit www.fullertontrainmuseum.org and keep up-to-date and learn more.

Looking forward to 2018:

1. SCRPA is going green. The HotRail quarterly newsletter will begin with this issue and will be emailed to the membership, therefore cutting down on paper usage. You can always find them archived on the website. We will also be emailing additional information periodically to help keep our members informed and updated.
2. The Museum will be hosting quarterly "Holiday-Themed" events. Dates TBD.
 - 1st Quarter—**Easter Egg Hunt**
 - 2nd Quarter — **Rail Day!** (we are sorry to say that Railroad Days 2018 has been postponed due to construction at the depot and some rising costs that need to be addressed)
 - 3rd Quarter — **Scary Train**
 - 4th Quarter — **Santa and Mrs. Claus visit**
3. The Railroad Operations Committee will be extremely busy replacing windows. With a new emphasis on finding more funding for air conditioning, furniture upholstery, window blinds and the many other projects.

Thank you to all who made 2017 a great year and we are looking forward to 2018 to be another year of opportunities to showcase the Fullerton Train Museum and share our railcars with the community.

**Knott's Berry Farm
Lunch and Tour
February 21, 2018
9:30 am
Cost is \$40 per person**

Come visit **Knott's Berry Farm** on **Wednesday, February 21**. Package includes an educational tour of the Knott's Roundhouse, a ride on the Narrow Gauge Railroad, the opportunity to visit displays in the park (amusement rides not included) and a tasty lunch at Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner restaurant (beverage included). Monies are due by January 30. All the details are included in the enclosed flyer. Contact Harold at 714-336-1690.

President's message

Happy New Year to all. The SCRPA has had another successful year with many accomplishments.

Work on the UP Caboose is progressing under the watchful eyes of Stu Proctor and Ted Johnson. Window replacement in UP 6101 is moving forward with five windows completed. The crew of Alan Wiles, Eric Shishima, Marty Kluck, Wendell Hanks, Roger Van Oppens, myself and others continue to learn with each window as to the removal and installation. Also, thanks to George Engelage, Kale Engelage and Bill Hatrick for getting the project underway.

A warm welcome to Jim Hoffmann to the BOD, Jim also serves as the coordinator for the Museum docent program. More about Jim can be found in this Hot Rail issue.

With the start of a new year we have a positive outlook, with the implementation of our Halloween and Christmas events. More are being planned under the watchful eyes of Mary Proctor & Karen Sibrel. A big thank you to both of you.

We have extended our land use agreement with the City of Fullerton and by the time you read this it will have been implemented by both parties.

We have gone "green" with the Hot Rail, thank you to Allison Benash-Daniel.

Thanks to all that have paid the 2018 dues, a reminder that they are due, and please include your email address so you can receive the newsletter. For those that have not sent their dues, there is a membership attachment in the newsletter.

We are looking forward to the new year, with the continuation and progress of improvements to the Museum and its equipment. Become an active part of what the SCRPA has to offer and we look forward to seeing you and your support of the Museum.

Harold Benash, President

New Board Member Elections — Welcome Jim Hoffmann

At SCRPA's annual board elections in November, James G. Hoffmann was chosen as the newest member of the Board of Directors, Southern California Railway Plaza Association.

Jim was a member of the Orange Empire Railroad Museum from 1965 to the mid-1980s, holding many positions, including Chief Instructor. He also contributed to a number of their manuals. Jim joined the Southern California Scenic Railway Association in 1991, where he assisted with their demonstration railroad operations and was appointed Operating Department Superintendent in 1991. He served as SCSRA president from 1995-96, was appointed to their Board of Directors in 2003, and was elected secretary in 2009, which he continued until the group's dissolution. Jim has been an SCRPA member since 2010 and currently serves as the Fullerton Train Museum's docent training chairman. He will serve for a three-year term on the board of directors.

Southern California Railway Plaza Assn.

Mission

To become the premier nonprofit group in Southern California that preserves the history, the present and the future of Class One railroads in Southern California.

Vision

Create a venue where people can visit and take "a walk through time" to experience traveling by train in the early 20th century.

Fullerton Train Museum

Mission

Founded by the SCRPA, the **Fullerton Train Museum** will be the region's destination attraction that serves as a center for gathering, preserving and interpreting significant railroad artifacts -- including railcars, photos, charts, plats, maps, books and such dioramas as depots and model trains.

Vision

To provide an educational atmosphere that vividly brings to life the cultural and historical importance of rail transportation through the preservation, conservation and display of historic railcars and memorabilia.

SCRPA is looking for a Recording Secretary

We have an opening for a non-board member Recording Secretary. Duties of a Recording Secretary include: In addition to keeping the legal account of each meeting, recording secretaries must maintain records of past meetings, which may include indexing discussion topics. Should the group vote on any issues, the recording secretary may help with the process.

Please contact Harold Benash at 714-336-1690.

Movie Night Returns on Saturday, January 13 at 6:00 pm At the Fullerton Museum at 302 N. Pomona Avenue

Retrospective Screening Series for Members

Movie Night Presents OKLAHOMA!

January 13, 2018 marks SCRPA's first movie night of the New Year. We will begin at 6 PM and the movie will start when we run out of wine, which is sponsored by Mr. Eric Shishima.

Oklahoma! is the first musical written by the team of composer Richard Rodgers and librettist Oscar Hammerstein II. The musical is based on Lynn Riggs' 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*. Set in Oklahoma Territory outside the town of Claremore in 1906, it tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams. A secondary romance concerns cowboy Will Parker and his flirtatious fiancée, Ado Annie.

The 1955 film adaptation starred Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones (in her film debut), Rod Steiger, Charlotte Greenwood, Gloria Grahame, Gene Nelson, James Whitmore and Eddie Albert. It was the only musical film directed by Fred Zinnemann, and Agnes de Mille choreographed. It was the first feature film photographed in the Todd-AO 70 mm widescreen process.



Starring in the “Kansas City” sequence is a Southern Pacific 1673, a standard gauge 2-6-0 M-4 Mogul built in 1900 by Schenectady Locomotive Works for SP. The locomotive is slightly spruced up for the movie but retain its Southern Pacific style. SP 1673 still exists, resting in the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Oklahoma! was filmed mainly in Arizona's San Rafael Valley, a vast area along the Mexican border about 30 miles from Rancho Grande, near the town of Nogales.

QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING PROGRAM

January 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Sizzler in Fullerton
On Harbor Blvd

By Dave Norris, Program Chairman

Our guest speaker is Clifford Prather, a third generation Orange County native, a lifelong railfan with a strong interest in railroad operations. His subject will be railroad freight service in Orange County.

Come and enjoy dinner at 6:00 p.m., the presentation starts at 7:00.
Dinners range in price and is no-host.

Keep up-to-date at www.fullertontrainmuseum.org or visit us on Facebook—Fullerton Train Museum

Halloween Scary Train by Mary Proctor

The Scary Train on October 21 was a huge success. Approximately 750 visitors risked meeting ghouls and goblins to tour through the cars for our second annual event. Most came out with lots of Halloween treats they gathered on their tour of the museum.

The kids enjoyed the games and coloring table, and the parents liked the photo opportunities.

Exit polls indicated the attendees enjoyed the "risky" experiences. A big hit was the talking pumpkin in the ATSF 999110 caboose.

The resting railroad worker with the shrunken head spooked a few kids in caboose SP4049.

All the visitors and the volunteer ghouls had a good time. And we want to give a special thank you to **Polly's Pies** for their sponsorship and support of our events.



Santa and Mrs. Claus Come to the Fullerton Train Museum by Stu Proctor

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus took a little time off from their busy pre-Christmas schedule to come down to the Fullerton Train Museum and visit with the children and their parents who came to see them. As well as seeing Santa Claus, the visitors also toured our lounge cars and our cabooses, played games and got their faces painted if they wished. Santa had plenty of candy to give each boy and girl, after they told Santa what they wanted for Christmas. There were several of Santa's helpers throughout the rail cars giving out more candy. Santa even brought an elf that passed out coupons for free slices of pie at Polly's Pies.

The event was very successful and well attended by many children and their parents. We had a large number of our volunteers show up to help direct the visitors and, where needed, assist them in climbing up and down the steps of the rail cars.

We thank Santa and Mrs. Claus for coming to our event and the

many visitors who came to see them. We hope to see them all next year.



Photos Courtesy of Stu Proctor

SCRPA Honors a “Founding” Member

By Donna Johnson and Dennis White

Longtime train enthusiast George Barlow, 76, has died at his home in Fullerton, after dealing with an extensive battle with cancer.

George was an original member of what is now the Southern California Railway Plaza Association. He grew up in Connecticut, where he and his wife, Beth, met as teenagers. After their marriage, they came to Anaheim, Calif., in 1962, then bought their home in Fullerton in 1964.

George worked for IBM until his retirement at 50. He turned his hobby into a new career, driving the steam locomotive at Knott's Berry Farm and working in the park's train store. Through the years, George was also a member of the Classic Thunderbird Club International, based in Long Beach. When he retired from Knott's he became more involved with the Thunderbird Club.



George also helped form the Fullerton Railway Plaza Association, which began as a weekly coffee klatch at the depot in 1991 and incorporated in 1996. The FRPA renamed itself Southern California Railway Plaza Association in 2009 to more accurately identify its identity in the Los Angeles Basin.

You may ask how this group of rail enthusiasts got together? Fullerton Mayor Bob Root, booked himself onto a Pacific Rail Society fan trip from Los Angeles to Bakersfield, scheduled to be powered by steam locomotive ATSF 3751, then undergoing a wheels-up restoration in San Bernardino.

Root, a longtime rail enthusiast, visited the ATSF 3751 steam locomotive restoration site in early 1991, where he met fellow Fullertonian George Barlow, a volunteer for the San Bernardino Railroad Historical Society, owners of the engine. On the Bakersfield trip, Root, Barlow, and a few other Fullertonians along for the ride, discussed the possibility of housing the 3751 in a shelter at the former Santa Fe depot in Fullerton.

George Barlow, Bob Root and Stan Swanson began informal meetings and, by early 1995, the group's dream had grown to include a larger facility that could capture the valuable part that railroads played in the region's development. Support expanded for the idea, and a city study for the Fullerton Transportation Center area by Arroyo Group consultants included the rail attraction in its analysis.

In 1996, the founding group took the step to formalize the idea and formed Fullerton Railway Plaza Association, Inc. (FRPA), as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

FRPA then initiated the idea of holding a community event that would showcase rail-related activities as a form of entertainment and thus validate their belief that the concept would be a viable destination attraction. George Barlow was part of the organizing committee to produce the first “Fullerton Railroad Days” in 1999.

In addition to Beth, George is survived by their son, Michael; daughter Dana and six grandchildren. Beth can be reached at: bethbarlow@prodigy.net.

Railroad Operations Committee Update, 4th quarter, 2017

It's been a relatively quiet Fall at the ROC. Work continues on the windows in UP 6101. We have five completed and a sixth one has been removed from the frame to be worked on. According to the window detail team, this one looks to be the hardest so far because of old rain leakage and past attempts to stop that leakage with some kind of mastic. But our guys have become pros at this so they'll be able to handle it.

The only other on-going work is the restoration of the interior of the UP 3252 caboose. The final bench is being worked on. This includes completing the galvanized coal bin that had one end left off. After this bench is finished we will do the walls, then the floors.

One interesting thing that happened just recently was that we were contacted by a couple of students from the Los Angeles City High School of Performing Arts. They want to make a short film in our lounge cars as a senior project. They were awed by the lounge cars and were quite animated by the prospect of filming in them. Whether anything comes of this, we'll see.

The mother of one of them was with them and she also was quite impressed with what we had and what we were doing with them. We asked the mother if the school had any contacts with any of the various studios in Hollywood and she said that they did.

We then asked if they had any contacts in the production design departments that may have contacts with companies that could repair our blinds. As luck would have it her husband is a production designer and she would ask him what he might be able to do. We recently found out that he has a contact at NBC, and has arranged for that person to contact us. This is very exciting for us.

We have no more work parties scheduled until Jan. 6, 2018. It'll be a new, and exciting, year. Come join us if you can. If we could get a few more volunteers, we could tackle two windows at a time and get the job done sooner.

Thank you to all our volunteers for all the work you've put in during 2017.

Stu Proctor, Chairman, ROC

2018 Membership Drive and Renewals

Membership in the SCRPA is a great way to become involved in the preservation of our railroading history and contribute in a meaningful way to the community. If you are intrigued by our programs and projects, you should be a member of this dynamic organization. The future is bright and more members will be needed for the busy days ahead.

Membership Includes:

- Members' Quarterly Dinners and General Meetings and Quarterly Free Movie Nights
- *Hot Rail*, a members-only quarterly newsletter, delivered through email
- Opportunities to participate with the following groups and projects:
 - Fullerton Train Museum
 - Railroad Days
 - History & Modeling Committee
 - Railroad Operations Committee
 - Activities & Events: Seasonal excursions to rail displays and train rides

Join or renew today by mailing in the enclosed Membership Application or visit our website at <http://fullertontrainmuseum.org/scrpa/membership>

Southern California Railway Plaza Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 5195
Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

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Send your letters to the editor to the address above

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SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Allison Benash
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Wendell Hanks
Denis Hergenreter
Jim Hoffmann
Donna Johnson: Media & Community Relations
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Mary Proctor: Secretary and Poster Contest
Stuart Proctor: Railroad Operations Chairman
Jeff Schulze: Vice President & Railroad Days Chairman
Vanessa Sanchez: Membership Chairman
Karen Sibrel
Mike Vitale
Dennis White: Vice President, History & Modeling Secretary, Movie Night Chrmn

SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

Treasurer	Robert Freeman
Poster Contest	Kathy Norris
Activities	Peggy Benash

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Directors Meetings at 7:00 p.m.
January 8, February 12, March 12

Quarterly Membership Dinners
Sizzler Restaurant in Fullerton on Harbor Blvd.
at 6 p.m. on January 10

**Railroad Operations Work Days and
Fullerton Train Museum Hours
Free Tours**

9 a.m. – noon at the rail cars
January 6 and 20
February 3 and 17
March 3 and 17

Movie Night — Saturday, January 13

History & Modeling Committee
Come join the committee to work on HO layouts
Contact Harold Benash for location
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



Fullerton Train Museum
presents the

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