

So. California Railway Plaza Assn. &
So. California Scenic Railway Assn.

present the

Hot Rail!

newsletter



*The latest on efforts to build and maintain
a permanent railroad attraction in Southern California*

Volume XI, Number 4

Winter 2013

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles

By Donna Johnson, Community & Media Relations Chair

A trio of activities will roll into Fullerton in May 2014 spotlighting **Trains, Planes and Automobiles**. These longtime popular events are coordinating for the first time to present a **Transportation Celebration** on three successive weekends:

- **Railroad Days 2014** on May 3 & 4 at the Fullerton Train Station
- **Airport Day** on May 10 at the Fullerton Municipal Airport
- **Muckenthaler Motor Car Festival** on May 17 & 18 at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center

As part of the celebration, a special Grand Prize drawing will be held at 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 18** at the Muckenthaler Motor Car Festival's Concours d'Elegance. The winner, who must have attended all three events, will receive three fantastic prizes and need not be present to win:

- Two round-trip tickets to Santa Barbara or San Diego aboard the Pacific Surfliner – Courtesy of Amtrak® and Railroad Days 2014 in Fullerton
- A 30-minute scenic flight in a Stearman biplane -- Courtesy of Aviator Flight Training
- Child's Steel-Chrome Ferrari Pedal Car, limited edition, inspired by 1952-57 F2 Racers -- Courtesy of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center

To qualify for the Grand Prize drawing, pick up a Transportation Celebration "Passport" at Railroad Days, then get it stamped at all three events. Or download a Grand Prize Passport at www.transportationcelebration.com and get it stamped at all three events. Be sure to "like" the Transportation Celebration Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Transportation-Celebration-in-Fullerton/435177999943911>.

SCRPA election adds 4 new board members

The SCRPA Board of Directors begins 2014 with the addition of four new members and regretfully saying goodbye to two long-standing members, as of the annual elections held in November.

Longtime Treasurer Barbara Eldredge and Movie Night Chairman Gordon Bachlund submitted their board resignations but will stay involved with the association.

Robert Freeman was elected to the board and will fill the treasurer's post. Allison Benash, Mary Proctor and Karen Sibrel were also named to the Board of Directors.

In addition, the board unanimously re-elected President Harold Benash and Vice Presidents Richard Hopping and Dennis White for another term.

The following directors whose terms were expiring were elected to new terms: Terry Galvin, Donna Johnson, Stu Proctor and Michael Vitale.

Others continuing as board members are: George Engelage, Denis Hergenreter and Jeff Schulze – for a total of 14 directors, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

Continued on Page 5

SCRPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE FOR 2014 — Please see Page 7 for membership form

President's Message

As 2013 comes to a close, we remember some of the things that made the year successful for the SCRPA: Railroad Days, ROC work parties, Movie Nights, Quarterly Dinners, Poster Contest, Railroad History presentation at the Fullerton Library, the excursion to Campo for a haunting visit to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, and the Hobo Stew/Train Watching Party in December.



Hobo ornament by Sue Hergenreter

My personal thank you to the following members who made this year and these events a huge success: Gordon Bachlund, Peggy Benash, Dave Norris, Kathy Norris, Stu Proctor, Jeff Schulze and Dennis White.

And to all the members who worked and devoted their time to these events, without your support

none of this would have been possible. Thanks to all!

As we begin 2014, we start a new adventure. First of all let me welcome our newly elected board members: Allison Benash, Bob Freeman, Mary Proctor and Karen Sibrel. With new faces and ideas, 2014 will bring new and exciting things to the SCRPA. Please support them in 2014.

The Board of Directors has accepted the resignations of two longtime board members, Barbara Eldredge and Gordon Bachlund. Their dedication and hard work will be greatly missed.

Thank you from myself and the other board members for your time and effort. We look forward to your continued support of the SCRPA.

Membership renewal letters should have been received by the time you get this Hot Rail. Please return your membership dues at your earliest convenience. Your support is always needed. My thanks to Dennis White for making this all possible.

One final note -- a big thank you to all of those who prepared and provided all of the stews, snacks, desserts and beverages at the Hobo Stew Train Watching Party at the Santa Fe Depot on Dec. 7. The food was great and there was an abundance of everything. No one left hungry!

A special thanks to my wife, Peggy, for organizing the event and all who helped in set up and take down.

Big Top Rentals supplied the tents and tables, and additional tables were provided by Marty Kluck.

And appreciation to Richard Neal of R Hobbies for the use of the generator that kept all the Crock Pots warm. Thanks much, Richard.

See you all at the Quarterly General Meeting and Dinner on January 15 at Sizzler's in Fullerton..

-- Harold Benash

Southern California Railway Plaza Assn.

Our Vision Is

Promotion of educational programs, activities, and venues for people of all ages, dedicated to the preservation of the rail heritage of Southern California.

Our Mission Is

Education of the public, providing an historical insight into the numerous contributions that railroads have made to the development and growth of Southern California from the 19th century forward.

Our Goals Are

- Successful development of the Southern California Railroad Experience
- Production of the annual Railroad Days and Children's Rail Safety Poster Contest community events
- Sponsorship of historical research and modeling of significant sites and structures, publication of the Hot Rail! newsletter, and presentation of quarterly dinners and speakers on topics of member interest

The SCRX Vision Is

To be the premier destination for presenting the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage.

The SCRX Mission Is

To provide, through our ideas, exhibitions, and programs, engaging educational and entertaining experiences to Southern California residents and visitors.

The SCRX Goals Are

To fulfill the Vision and Mission by developing and presenting programs that capture the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage and by partnering with governmental and private entities to create an experiential destination.



Kathy Norris dishes up a taste of Hobo Stew.

‘TRAINS, TREES & TRADITIONS’

Exhibit at Nixon Presidential Library continues through Jan. 5

“Trains, Trees & Traditions” takes visitors through a whistling wonderland of model trains to celebrate a time when little locomotives would round the tracks underneath Christmas trees all across America.

The festive display features six layouts of miniature railroad scenes:

- Get a birds-eye view of a Louis Marx & Company railroad town complete with skyscrapers, tunnels, shops, automobiles and figurines
- Experience the sights and sounds of the American Flyer powered by red-glowing steam
- Jump to the beginning of the toy train craze with pre-WWII tinplate models from the early 1900s
- Travel back to the 1950s to view a Lionel Dealer Display
- Journey to the Island of Sodor with beloved characters from Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends
- Be mesmerized by the iconic “disappearing train” in-store display by Lionel

The showcase reflects Richard Nixon’s love of trains that began with his childhood. In his Memoirs, he recalled one of his earliest memories from growing up in Yorba Linda: “In the daytime I could see the smoke from the steam engines. Sometimes at night I was awakened by the whistle of a train, and then I dreamed of the far-off places I wanted to visit someday.”

Surrounding the toy trains and magically displayed throughout the museum galleries are 25 breathtaking Christmas trees decorated with more than 5,000 colorful ornaments and 13,000 sparkling lights.

“Trains, Trees & Traditions” will be on display now through Sunday, January 5, 2014, and is included with museum admission. The exhibition is jointly presented by the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and the Nixon Foundation.



— Information provided by Joe Lopez,
Richard Nixon Foundation

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

Address: 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd.
Yorba Linda, California 92886

Phone: 714-983-9120

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information:

www.nixonlibrary.gov/themuseum

Photos courtesy of the Nixon Foundation.

SCRPA Movie Night presents three free vintage films on January 18

By Gordon Bachlund, Movie Night Chair

The free Members Retrospective Film Series will open the year with two silent films and a full-length feature on January 18 at the Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.

We will begin at 6 p.m. with a wine tasting on the Museum patio, sponsored by Diane and Ted Johnson.

At 6:30, we'll move inside to the auditorium, where two silent, educational films will be accompanied by our own Greg Smith.

"The Cable Car" looks at San Francisco's famed system 20 years prior to its modernization in 1982, back when the fare was 15 cents. Today it is \$6! And "The Streetcar" tells of Los Angeles' iconic Pacific Electric Yellow Car system in the 1940s, as it follows a typical passenger riding into downtown L.A. in a PCC car.



Next in the spotlight will be "Western Pacific Agent," a b/w, Lippert Pictures film made in 1946 and running 72 minutes.

On a Western Pacific train traveling through California's Feather River Canyon, a passenger tells his companion that Western Pacific maintains a corps of railroad detectives. He recounts a story he heard from his friend of the investigation of the murders of two employees and a payroll robbery.

The nature of the crime suggests some familiarity with the town and the railroad's operation. The Western Pacific's top cop, Agent Kendall, gets the case.

Lippert films went quite a bit beyond their "B movie" production values in bringing "Western Pacific Agent" to the movie-going public in 1950 and preserving images of the Western Pacific Railroad. The cast includes Kent Taylor as Agent Rod Kendall and Dick Elliot as the sheriff.

Talented members take the stage for winter Dinner Program

By Donna Johnson, Community & Media Relations Chair

The Quarterly General Meeting's Dinner Program on Jan. 15 will present our own Harold Benash, David Norris and Dennis White -- plus a large pad of paper and colorful pens. Starting from a blank page, this trio of knowledgeable rail fans will outline the Southland's historic development of railroads.

They presented a similar program to rave reviews at the Fullerton Main Library in October. SCRPA members in the audience demanded a repeat performance at a Quarterly Dinner. And here it is ...

Relying on their drawing talents -- promising to carefully line up the tracks -- they'll again offer a timeline of how, when and where the railroads came to area towns.

Prepare to be entertained by fascinating side tales of Western characters, connections and confrontations.

Join us for a great evening, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 North Harbor Boulevard (north of Berkeley Avenue) in Fullerton.

Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. Prices range from \$7 to \$23, plus beverages -- with daily specials and a senior discount available. No RSVPs are required.

Menu nutrition and allergy information are listed by item at www.sizzler.com. The Fullerton Sizzler phone is 714-738-5018.

Annual rail safety poster contest set for spring

Kathy Norris, chairman of the 2014 Railroad Safety Poster Contest, reports that she's lining up plans with the Fullerton School District for the 16th annual competition.

Sponsored by the SCRPA, Amtrak® and the Fullerton Rotary Club, the contest will again be open to all students in kindergarten through the sixth grade -- or more than 10,000 kids.

The posters must present a theme related to safe behaviors near trains and railroad tracks. Winning entries will again be displayed in the Fullerton Library Children's Room, and the top six citywide winners will receive cash prizes and rail passes on Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner.

To volunteer for the committee, contact Kathy at khndjnann@yahoo.com

Driving the train to Pearl Harbor memories

By Tom Berg, story and photo reprinted with permission from the Orange County Register. It was published Dec. 7, 2013.

FULLERTON – Sleep? Not this month, not for Bill Lewis.

You'd think by age 70 a man would start winding down a bit. But Lewis was up till 2 a.m. earlier this week; then 6 a.m.; then he stayed up all night. Why?

... (It has) to do with a lesson gleaned long ago, from Dad.

Lewis has been losing sleep over something called the Pearl Harbor Day Troop Train.

It runs every Dec. 7 – the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor – from L.A. to San Diego and back.



(SCRPA member) Bill Lewis, top, and Bill Hatrick rehearse welcoming passengers aboard their 1940s-era "Pearl Harbor Day Troop Train" on Dec. 6, the day before it will roll to San Diego and back to the Los Angeles Union Station.

Photo by Armando Brown, for the Register.

"As soon as passengers get on the train, we launch them back to 1941," says Lewis, who finds all the volunteer singers, re-enactors and actual World War II veterans who tell their stories on four vintage rail cars.

"We run it as a live radio program," he said.

You can hear songs by the Andrew Sisters. Buy coffee for a nickel. Grab a 1940s-era haircut at the on-board barbershop.

Troop Train Rail cars: 1949 Overland Trail, 1956 Silver Splendor, 1949 Colonial Crafts and 1937 Acoma
Next chance to ride: a Flag Day Train in June — **Future ticket information:** www.LArail.com

"Election" continued from Page 1

WELCOME ABOARD, NEW MEMBERS!

"Yes," said Allison Benash, with a smile. "I am the daughter of the current President of SCRPA. I've grown up with model trains and have watched miniature cities and landscapes grow from nothing -- let's say that over time I have grown to appreciate the art of modeling.

"Now I want to step in and help the organization get its goal back on track to build a museum in Fullerton. It may not be the grand design of 2008, but let's start with a Z-Scale version and grow!

"I am honored to be on the board and be able to share the vision of preserving rail history and bringing a museum to Fullerton -- a lasting legacy for all the hard work this organization has done over the years!"

Robert Freeman is an accounting and finance professional with Fortune 500 experience in the environmental waste, medical and food and beverage industries. He has volunteered with nonprofit sports, educational and religious organizations with varying responsibilities. Robert graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor's Degree in

Landscape Architecture.

Although a longtime resident of Fullerton, he currently resides in Tustin with his wife, Valerie (Johnson) and their two teen-age children.

Robert enjoys road cycling, mountain bike riding, auto restoration, HO scale railroads and die-cast model building and collecting.

Mary Proctor has been SCRPA's appointed recording secretary for the past year. She recently retired from the State Compensation Insurance Fund after 26 years of years of service as a claims adjuster and supervisor.

She and her husband, Stu, have lived in Fullerton for 19 years and have two adult children, and all are active in the association. They enjoy traveling and visiting rail destinations.

Karen Sibrel, born and raised in Southern California, is attending Fullerton College to earn her Business Administration degree. An avid Disney fan, most of her weekends are spent at the Disney Resorts riding on the Disneyland Railroad.

She is married to David Sibrel, a manager at Union Pacific, which sparked Karen's interest in trains.

SCRPA STANDING COMMITTEES – WINTER REPORT

RAILROAD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE -- Volunteers have recently tackled the following projects on the two cabooses at the Fullerton Train Station, and History & Modeling Committee members joined these efforts.

ATSF 999110

Installation of the new 120 VAC wiring continues. This job will continue into the New Year.

The Ridenour plaques have been mounted on the wood wall behind the conductor's desk, where they are very visible. Painting of the ATSF 999110 warming stove was completed between the September and October work parties.

Work has been started on the floor. The aluminum strips along the seams were removed. The batteries had the same problem as the SP caboose had last month. The bad battery was removed and the caboose will use just one battery.

SP 4049

Work continues on the restoration of the floor. Two Masonite plugs finished the buildup of substrate. Application of a finish coat of anti-skid floor paint will complete the project.

Power sanding of the baseboard area continues. When sanding is complete, the lower walls will be touched up with oil-based green paint to match the rest of the walls. — **By Stu Proctor, with contributions from Dennis White**

2014 CALENDAR

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|-----------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Jan. 13 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton | March 15 | ROC Work Party , 9 a.m. Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station |
| Jan. 15 | SCRPA Quarterly Dinner & Members Meeting , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton | March 25 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton |
| Jan. 18 | ROC Work Party , 9 a.m. Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station | April 14 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton |
| Jan. 18 | Movie Night * "Western Pacific Agent" (1950) 6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave. | April 16 | SCRPA Quarterly Dinner & Members Meeting , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton |
| Jan. 28 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton | April 19 | ROC Work Party , 9 a.m. Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station |
| Feb. 10 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton | April 22 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton |
| Feb. 15 | ROC Work Party , 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station | April 26 | Movie Night * "You're Only Young Once" (1955) 6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave. |
| Feb. 25 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton | May 3 & 4 | Railroad Days 2014 in Fullerton , 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Fullerton Train Station |
| March 10 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton | | |

** Dates and movie titles subject to change.
Check www.scrpa.net for updates.*

Read the Hot Rail! in a color PDF and check out SCRPA announcements at www.scrpa.net.

WWW.TRAINWEB.COM



Most extensive and visited railroad website in the world
including live rail video at www.RailCams.com !

2014 membership renewals are due in January

Thank you for your support of the Southern California Railway Plaza Association. Without the loyalty of our members, we could not continue to grow and work to establish a museum reflecting the contribution of railroads to the growth of Southern California.

- SCRPA accomplished much in 2013: Our ever-popular Railroad Days drew tens of thousands to the Fullerton Train Station again this year. The continued success of Railroad Days validates our organization's belief that a rail-themed museum would be a successful addition to the downtown vibrancy of Fullerton.
- National Railroad Passenger Corporation acknowledged our hard work by scheduling its very exquisite Amtrak® Exhibit Train for a visit to Fullerton concurrent with Railroad Days.
- We continue to present motor coach excursions to popular rail displays throughout the Southland, including visits to Ventura County's Fillmore and

Western Railroad and the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, near San Diego.

- Interior conservation work on our two cabooses is almost complete and exterior restoration is in the works for next spring.
- Quarterly Movie Nights at the Fullerton Museum continue to draw ever larger audiences eager to view a vast collection of old feature-length films that either have a rail theme, or at least trains are part of the backdrop.
- Quarterly General Meetings offer a wide array of programs covering rail-related subjects, such as the guests who shared memorabilia and tales about the Harvey House restaurants and the Harvey Girls.

Please renew your membership today and consider giving at a higher level. We need your support as we continue to grow and pursue our work to preserve the rich rail history of North Orange County for future generations.

— Dennis White, Vice President

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSN., INC.



PLEASE PRINT

Membership Levels

Please check appropriate level

BRAKEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
CONDUCTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
ENGINEER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
YARDMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
TRAINMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600+

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please send this application with the appropriate check or money order payable to:

SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

Dues are based upon a calendar year

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Fullerton, CA 92831

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Postmaster: Please deliver between Jan. 3 & 10, 2014

o HOT RAIL! o

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Editor: Donna Johnson

Send your letters to the editor to the address above or e-mail info@scrpa.net

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SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Harold Benash		
Members,	Barbara Eldredge	Richard L. Hopping	Michael Vitale
	George Engelage IV	Donna Johnson	Dennis White
	Terry Galvin	Stuart Proctor	
	Denis Hergenreter	Jeff Schulze	

SCSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Sue Kientz	(seat expires June 2014)	
Members,	Gordon Bachlund	(Jan 2015)	Stuart Proctor (Jan 2015)
	Harold Benash	(Dec 2013)	Michael Vitale (Sept 2013)
	Jim Hoffmann	(Sept 2013)	Dennis White (Dec 2013)
	Ted McConville	(Jan 2014)	

SCRPA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President,	Harold Benash
Vice Presidents	Richard L. Hopping and Dennis White
Secretary,	Mary Proctor
Treasurer,	Barbara Eldredge

SCSRA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President,	Gordon Bachlund	(June 2014)
Treasurer,	Michael Vitale	(June 2015)
Secretary,	Jim Hoffmann	(June 2015)

SCRPA HISTORY AND MODELING COMMITTEE

Chairman,	Harold Benash
Secretary and Editor,	Dennis White

SCRPA RAILROAD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
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SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

Membership,	Margaret Benash, Lauri Schulze, Kathy White
Community & Media Relations	Donna Johnson
Railroad Days 2013	Jeff Schulze
Movie Nights	Gordon Bachlund, Jim Hoffmann
Poster Contest	Kathy Norris
Programs	Dave Norris

APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MANAGERS

Vice President,	Sue Kientz
Railroad Operations Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
Caboos Docent Committee Chairman,	Jim Hoffmann
Caboos Maintenance Chairman,	Mike Vitale
Fund Raising Chairman,	Harold Benash
Publications Committee Chairman,	Sue Kientz
Key Control Officer,	Dennis White
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Film/Digital Presentation Manager,	Jim Hoffmann
Motion Picture Film Archivist,	Gordon Bachlund