

# HOT RAIL!

## NEWS & EVENTS



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## Membership Renewal Time

*By Membership Committee*

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

SCRPA accomplishments in 2017:

- The Fullerton Train Museum continues to attract more visitors and volunteers on the first and third Saturday mornings each month.
- Railroad Days 2017 was a success for the 17<sup>th</sup> year. Amtrak, BNSF, Disney Resorts, Hero's Restaurant, Old Spaghetti Factory continue to provide support.
- A major donation has made it possible to repair and replace the windows in the dining and lounge cars – no more leaking windows.
- Quarterly Movie Nights at the Fullerton Museum continue to draw audiences eager to

view classic feature length films that either have a rail theme, or showcase trains as a backdrop.

Plans are underway for converting our quarterly newsletter Hot Rail! to an electronic version. **Please provide a current email address** so that you don't miss any of SCRPA's exciting news throughout the year.

We need your support as we continue to grow and continue our work to preserve the rich rail history of Orange County for future generations. Please help us make 2018 even greater by renewing your membership today, and consider giving at a higher level!

We've included the Application with a return envelope for your convenience. Or you can pay by credit card and visit our website at [www.fullertontrainmuseum.org](http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org) and click the SCRPA tab along the top.

### Fullerton Train Museum Special Event Calendar

Open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month  
9 a.m. to noon

#### October 21 — **Halloween Time**

Come and visit the museum in your costume! Games and candy.

#### December 16 — **Santa Claus is coming to town!**

Children can visit with Santa Claus. Arrive early, there may be a wait. Bring your cameras.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **Knott's Berry Farm** **"Pathways to the Past"** **Tour**

The tour includes Ghost Town, Blacksmith Shop, School House, a Train ride and Roundhouse Tour.

February 21, 2018

9:30 AM, Tour at 10 AM.(2 Hrs.)

Lunch at Mrs. Knott's Chicken  
Dinner Restaurant

Note: This is a walking tour.  
Cost: Estimated \$60.00 per person,  
(includes Parking), recommend car  
pooling. More info to come.

## **President's message**

Again, I'd like to give a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who participated at Railroad Days! I'd also like to give a few special "thank yous" to the event chairman, Jeff Schulze, and to our vendor chairman, Stu Proctor, also to Mary Proctor, Laurie Schulze, and my wife, Peggy. A special thanks to George Engelage for coordinating the full size trains and to Dave Sibrel for making sure we had the power and electrical to run a successful event. These are the individuals that help make the event run smoothly.

In this issue we are focusing on "volunteers". You will find an article about who our volunteers are, what they do and what it means to be a volunteer with SCRPA. Thank you to all those who took the time to provide the information.

We are always in need of volunteers. With the many projects on going, your help is needed. Bring yourself and your talents, and we will put you to work. Do not be discouraged if you feel that your talents may not be railroad related, we will train and assist you with whatever task needs to be completed. At the museum, we can use carpenters, electricians, painters, general maintenance and cleaning. We work in teams, so no one will be left alone to complete a task. A few hours on a Saturday morning gets work done and friendship with others is worth the price of admission.

We also need the behind-the-scenes volunteers. Those of you who want to plan events, be docents and tour guides and help with fundraising and the vision of the museum. If you are not sure where you want to participate, contact me at 714-336-1690.

We look forward to many new faces.

— Harold Benash

## **OCTOBER DINNER MEETING**

**October 11 at 6:00 p.m.**

Sizzler Restaurant  
1401 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92835

The October dinner meeting is scheduled for October 11th at the Sizzler restaurant. We have an entertaining yet very important topic for the meeting. If you remember, the July dinner meeting speaker was from Operation Lifesaver. She talked about the various ways that they are involved in getting the topic of railroad safety out to school children.

This month we will continue with the safety theme. We will be viewing a safety video titled "The Right Track." It is a Pentrex film from 1967 featuring the New York Central Railroad. It may seem like the film is a little dated but in reality, the topic is pertinent today as it was then. Come and enjoy good food, good friends, and a good film show. See you on October 11th at the Sizzler!

## **Volunteer Recruitment Outreach**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Southern California Railway Plaza Association. The SCRPA was originally founded to create a 65,000 square foot museum complex at the depot in 2009. Due to the economic recession, the project was scrapped. The organization has continued to chug along and runs the successful annual Railroad Days event that brings over 30,000 visitors to downtown Fullerton the first weekend in May.

We have now set our sights on continuing to build the first Train Museum in North Orange County at the Fullerton Depot.

The all-volunteer board of directors and our members put in a lot of hours to plan events, acquire new railcars and maintain the spur track complex and the cars. We can still use more help. See the article on page 3 to learn where you can help and contact us a.s.a.p. to get started. Thank you!

## **Fullerton Train Museum Window Replacement Update**

As of September 19, three windows have been removed and replaced, and the frames & glass have been cleaned & reinstalled. Window panes were cleaned or replaced as required. The fourth window has been removed and the restoration process is under way. New gasket materials and spacers are being prepared for the installation.

Thanks to all who have been a part of the window R & R team. Excellent job.

## The Clarence Ridenour Award Winners Announced

The SCRPA is proud to announce the winners of the prestigious **Clarence Ridenour Service Award**. The award is presented annually to a deserving volunteer or volunteers who epitomize the spirit of service that had been instilled by the award's namesake.

Clarence Ridenour was a founder of the SCSRA and his steady leadership helped that organization thrive. In 1993, SCSRA's president, Chell Hurdle proposed the creation of an annual volunteer service award named in honor of Clarence, because without his motivation, the SCSRA might never have become organized.

This year we narrowed down the selection to two individuals, both of whom are excellent examples of what the spirit of Clarence Ridenour evokes, but we couldn't decide upon a single recipient. After some discussion, we finally decided that, because there was precedent in the past for dual awards, we'd present the award to both individuals. The awards were presented at our quarterly business meeting held on July 12, 2017.

The first recipient of the 2017 Clarence Ridenour Service Award went to a man who has never been shy about speaking his mind or coming up with ideas that, to turn a phrase, were outside the box. You can find **Wendell Hanks** down at the Fullerton Train Museum just about every workday; in fact, he succeeded in convincing us to give him a key to the joint, so he could work during the week. Unfortunately, he was not able to receive his award in person as he was resting in the hospital, having successfully undergone open-heart surgery the prior Friday morning. In his absence, his daughter, Carly Hanks, accepted his award on his behalf.

The second recipient of the 2017 Clarence Ridenour Service Award inspires us with his drive, dedication, and determination to get the job done and done right. **Alan Wiles** shows up at our work parties ready to go to work. He leads by example and is a faithful steward of our railroad display. The impact of his work ethic has been an inspiration to all of us.

## We are Looking for Volunteers

Do you enjoy fixing things, are you a coordinator and planner, do you enjoy learning a new skill....

SCRPA volunteers come in all ages and abilities. We asked a few to tell us why they volunteer and here is what we learned:

**Adam Z.-** *"I volunteer because of my love of trains, preserving history, serving the community and most of all leading tours and answering questions. I like to see smiles on peoples faces when they learn something new and it also makes me very happy to be a docent on Saturdays.(1 year)"*

**Edith C.-** *"I volunteer for the FTM because I feel a Train Museum is vital for Fullerton and the surrounding cities whose very existence is due to the train systems currently coming through here. I also volunteer because the goal is so admirable and the people are so dedicated.(10 yr)"*

**Eric S.-** *"I like to see the restoration of the rail cars, see the kids faces at RR Days and working with all the other volunteers.(5 yr)"*

**Lauri S.-** *"Its fun! We enjoy bringing the railroad experience to others through education and activities.(20 yr)"*

**Alan W.-** *"I enjoy volunteering and doing this kind of work and have learned new skills helping to restore the rail cars.(3 yr)"*

Your help is needed. Come and help us with our Railcar Restoration and event planning, join the FTM sub-committee, become a docent and tour guide, join the History & Modeling committee and build miniature displays. Can you help with newsletters, the website and social media? We have opportunities for all.

Let us know if you are interested:

Contact us via email at  
fullertontrainmuseum@gmail.com

or call the  
SCRPA hotline at 714-278-0648

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**Fullerton, CA 92838-5195**

***Address correction requested***

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**Postmaster: Please deliver between October 1-5, 2017**

## HOT RAIL!

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**SCRPA Movie Night**  
October 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.  
Fullerton Museum, 301 N. Pomona

**Abbott & Costello**  
**Meet the Keystone Cops**  
Released 1955.

Filmed on and alongside the Southern Pacific Coast Line paralleling California Hwy 118 between Chatsworth and Glendale with most footage shot in Canoga Park. Railroad scenes shot during June 1954.

Wine is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Covington III

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Board of Directors Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**  
Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**Quarterly Membership Dinner**  
Sizzler Restaurant in Fullerton on Harbor Blvd.  
at 6 p.m. on October 11

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

9 a.m. – noon at the rail cars  
First and Third Saturdays every month

**Movie Night — Saturday, October 14**

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

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