

# HOT RAIL!

NEWS & EVENTS



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Spring 2017

## Railroad Days 2017 – May 6&7

By Allison Benash

Railroad Days 2017 is steaming in with another big year planned. The committee has worked hard to build an even bigger and better event than before. Come out Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm at the Fullerton Train Station.

Plus, this year's event has an even bigger purpose! This year, all monies raised will go to benefit the new Fullerton Train Museum. In just a few short months, hundreds of adults and children have had the opportunity to "walk through time" and experience train travel as it was in the past and learn about trains and their historic value to the City of Fullerton. We want to keep the momentum going and show off our cars at our "**Grand Opening**" at Railroad Days.

Therefore, we are reaching out to our membership this year for help. As we grow, *we need volunteers* to help as greeters, at the Welcome Center and stationed in the railcars to provide traffic control and information.

Please attend the April 12, Quarterly Dinner to learn more and sign up to volunteer. Or call the SCRPA at 714-278-0648 to sign up early and reserve your spot.

The Railroad Days committee is excited to say that Disneyland, BNSF, Amtrak and 3751 are all coming to town. We will have plenty of model train displays and LEGO will be there. Come out early for the delicious pancake breakfast prepared by the Boy Scouts! Breakfast is served beginning at 8:00 a.m. both days.

It takes lots of time and energy to bring this event to town. A special thank you in advance to the Committee Chairman, Jeff Schulze. We would also like to thank Harold Benash for all he does, Stu Proctor as the Vendor Chairman, George Engelage, Equipment Chairman and the many others.

Keep updated on **Facebook** at **Railroad Days in Fullerton** and on our new website at [www.fullertontrainmuseum.org](http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org).

### 2017 Second Quarter Calendar of Events

**Board of Directors Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**  
April 10, May 15, June 12

**Quarterly Membership Dinner—April 12**  
Sizzler Restaurant at 1401 N. Harbor, Fullerton  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (no host)  
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Railroad Operations Work Days — Volunteers Needed**  
9:00 am – noon at the rail cars  
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 20  
June 3 and 17  
**Email:** [fullertontrainmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:fullertontrainmuseum@gmail.com)

**Fullerton Train Museum**  
9:00 am – noon at the rail cars  
April 1 and 15  
May 20

**Movie Night**  
April (rescheduled)  
July 15

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

## **President's message**

Railroad Days is six weeks away on May 6 & 7, and as usual your help is going to be needed. Planning is progressing and many things are being finalized. BNSF, Amtrak and Disneyland have committed and we are anticipating 3751 to be there also.

The **Spring Quarterly Dinner** is April 12 and Railroad Days will be the program with presentations, questions and discussion. There will be a sign-up sheet to *help volunteer* for the event.

Work has begun on a new web site for the SCRPA/ FTM (Fullerton Train Museum). It is looking good, with a completely new format that makes easy to find information about the organization. We will keep you updated on its progress.

We have received a generous donation from one of our SCRPA member families that will allow us to complete the window replacement in our two passenger cars (UP 6101 & UP 5001) in a timely fashion. See the article about Lee & Edith Culp in this issue.

Come out and support Railroad Days 2017.

— Harold Benash

## **Railroad Safety Poster Contest**

SCRPA's 19th *Railroad Safety Poster Contest* is underway with the support of the sponsors, Amtrak® and Fullerton Rotary Club.

Fullerton School District kindergartners through sixth-graders will create their artwork based on a theme showing safe behaviors near tracks and trains.

Six citywide winning posters will be chosen by SCRPA members at our Quarterly meeting on April 12. The six winners will each receive four Pacific Surfliner® tickets to a Southern California destination and a savings bond.

The winning posters will be on display at Railroad Days and at the Fullerton Public Library Children's Room from May 10-19.

—Kathy Norris, Poster Chairman

## **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.

### **Goals**

1. Open the first train museum in Orange County: the **Fullerton Train Museum**
2. Organize and host the largest annual railfan event in the United States – **Railroad Days in Fullerton**
3. Promote rail-safety education and awareness through the annual **Railroad Safety Poster Contest** that reaches about 10,000 students in the Fullerton School District.
4. Increase the SCRPA membership base by 100% and provide member benefits, such as rail-related excursions, museum programs and activities, the **Hot Rail** newsletter and quarterly dinner meetings.
5. Membership activities will include volunteer involvement through the **Fullerton Train Museum Committee**, the **Railroad Operations Committee (ROC)**, which helps preserve our railcars, and the **History & Modeling Committee** that provides historical research and modeling of significant sites and structures.

## **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.

## **Fullerton Train Museum Capital Campaign 2017**

The goal of the Capital Campaign is to restore, rehab and preserve the rail cars and provide on-going maintenance to the spur track area for the Fullerton Train Museum. This will allow the area and the cars to be used for special events, Saturday morning tours, photo shoots and Railroad Days. Received to date: \$12,000. Goal is \$100,000.

## SCRPA Receives a Very Generous Donation

The SCRPA has received a \$12,000 donation from Lee and Edith Culp for the replacement of all the windows in our two passenger cars. On behalf of the SCRPA/FTM/ROC we graciously accept and thank the Culpes for their generous donation.

The Culpes have been members for many years and actively participate as docents for the Fullerton Train Museum. Also, Lee joins us for our ROC work parties.

Lee worked for IBM and National Cash Register with their accounting machines. He also worked for North American Aviation and later for General Dynamics, supervising massive accounting systems. Lee is also a CPA and has a tax preparation business on the side.

Lee's work schedule was interrupted several times to serve in the US Army, he served at the end of WW II and in 1952 saw service in Korean War as a tank commander. He is still looking for a used Patton Tank to tinker with.

Edith worked as an executive secretary for Rheem Manufacturing and US Steel, learning that

secretaries knew more about everything than their male bosses did!!

They were married in 1953 and Edith continued to work as an executive secretary until their first child arrived. Edith found that being a stay-at-home mom was more important than working, so gave up the career to take care of two very opinionated and active daughters.

They moved to Fullerton in 1965 for a better education for their daughters. They both have had lots of trains in their lives, so naturally appreciate the SCRPA and its goal to preserve railroad history.

Their daughters are both married with families, one living here in California, the other in Virginia. There are four grandchildren and Lee & Edith are awaiting the arrival of their first great-grandchild. The Culpes will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary in September.

Again on behalf of the SCRPA, thank you for your generosity. It is greatly appreciated by all.

### QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING PROGRAM

APRIL 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Sizzler On Harbor Blvd  
Fullerton

The Quarterly Dinner will be ALL about Railroad Days and the Train Museum.

Exciting things are happening and we have a big push for volunteers. *Volunteers are needed* as greeters, at the welcome booth, and in the railcars.

Bring friends, but they must be members of the SCRPA to volunteer. They can join that night if you have interested members.

We will give a museum update, the status of repairs and the plan to use the generous donation to help repair the windows in the lounge cars.

Plus we will be voting on the artwork from the *Railroad Safety Poster Contest* submissions.

### ROC REPORT: What's Happening With The Railroad Operations Committee?

Work continues on all of our cars and around the museum compound. Our biggest short-term problem has been the failure of our 120 VAC step-down in the 480 VAC electrical panel. It appears to have shorted out due to rain that has leaked into the larger panel. The leaks have all been repaired and a new step-down has been ordered. It is scheduled to arrive in early April. In the interim, we have a donated generator that we can use for power as needed.

Speaking of rain, this season's drought busting rains have revealed new leaks in the SP caboose. We certainly have our work cut out for us now that the rains have stopped for a while.

This last month has brought us great news for the lounge cars. A pair of angels have come forward and graciously donated enough money to pay for the replacement of all the windows in both lounge cars. These angels are known to us as Edith and Lee Culp. Give them a big thank you the next time you see them. The work on the windows will start as soon as we receive the new rubber gasket material that we have ordered. As you can imagine, it all has to be custom made to order. One could probably pretty easily find replacement window gaskets for a 1949 Chevrolet coupe, but there isn't much demand for window gaskets for a 1949 Union Pacific lounge car. Repairing all of our rail cars requires a combination of volunteer labor and monetary donations. With Railroad Days only a month away we will be working on the cars every Saturday morning until May 6th between the hours of 9 AM and Noon. Come on down and help us patch a few leaks and repair a wall. Or send us a check to help offset the costs that we incur. Either way, any help is appreciated.

—Stu Proctor

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** It's not too late to renew your membership for 2017. If you or any of your family or friends wish to be docents for the Fullerton Train Museum, membership is required. We've already started seeing renewals come in as people become interested in being involved with the new museum; we hope you are interested too! Also this year, we are requiring an e-mail address to be included with your renewal as we start focusing on going digital. New members always welcome too  
— **Vanessa Sanchez, Membership Chairman**

**Postmaster: Please deliver between April 3-8, 2017**

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### SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Robert Freeman — Treasurer

Fullerton Train Museum

presents the

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