

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

present the

# Hot Rail!

newsletter

Volume X, Number 1

Spring 2012

## RAILROAD DAYS 2012 IS READY TO ROLL

**By Donna Johnson, Media & Community Relations Chairman**

Community supporters and regional railroads have stepped up in large numbers to create an expansive Railroad Days 2012, set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5 & 6 at the Fullerton Train Station.

The FREE event now in its 12th year will salute Fullerton's historic rail connection with extensive train exhibits and tours, a scenic garden railroad and more than 8,000 square feet of layouts created by 13 modular groups in all scales -- Z to G -- to delight families and rail fans of all ages.

Area businesses and foundations responded very positively to the appeal of SCRPA volunteers in recent months by helping to fund the return of Railroad Days to the mainline in Fullerton.

The City Council is onboard for the event, proclaiming that it commends the SCRPA for bringing "the railroad heritage of the community to life for all to enjoy."

Sponsors this year include BridgeMasters; Coast Rail Services; Godfrey, Godfrey, Lamb & Ortega LLB;

Southern California Railway Plaza Association Presents

### RAILROAD DAYS 2012

IN FULLERTON

May 5&6  
FREE Admission



9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday  
FULLERTON TRAIN STATION  
120 E. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832

For further information: (714) 278-0648 • WEBSITE: [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) • EMAIL: [info@scrpa.net](mailto:info@scrpa.net)  
P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

SPONSORS

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FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

The Grainger Foundation; Heroes Bar & Grill; McCoy Mills Ford, Fullerton; Morningside of Fullerton; The Old Spaghetti Factory; The Orange County Register and The Wilson W. Phelps Foundation.

And we have an all-star lineup of featured participants that will provide rail equipment for tours, including: Disneyland Railroad's Presidential Coach "Lilly Belle," a narrow-gauge observation car named for Walt Disney's wife, Lillian. The elegant Victorian-décor car will be combined for the first time since 1974 with the Carolwood Pacific's coach for passengers and baggage that was designed by Disney Imagineers at Walt's request.

Visitors may also tour a modern BNSF freight locomotive, as well as vintage passenger cars and cabooses. And the California Fire Fighter Association's 1902 steam fire engine will be on display, complete with a watchful Dalmatian.

"It's going to be the best one yet," said Railroad Days Chairman Jeff Schulze, noting that new this year, kids

*Continued on page 2*

## It's all about trains at April Dinner Meeting

Our spring Members' Quarterly Dinner program will focus on last-minute plans and exhibits for Railroad Days 2012 in Fullerton. Chairman Jeff Schulze will present an overview, with details added by Railroad Days Committee Chairmen and sign-ups for volunteer commitments on May 5 & 6.

We will meet on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at the Sizzler restaurant in Fullerton. The evening will start with a mixer at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and then the program and a brief meeting.

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.

The Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. (north of Berkeley Avenue), also serves beer and wine. Menu nutrition and allergy information is listed by item at [www.sizzler.com](http://www.sizzler.com). The Fullerton Sizzler phone is: 714-738-5018.

Continued from cover

ages 12 and younger may climb aboard a trackless train for a free ride on Santa Fe Avenue -- thanks to The Old Spaghetti Factory

An expanded food court along Santa Fe will include tented seating for enjoying treats purchased from food booths. Boy Scout Troop 292 will serve a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Dozens of Amtrak passenger trains and Metrolink commuter lines travel through Orange County each day, plus countless freight trains; and SCRPA also aims to raise railroad safety awareness, especially for children. Our annual Railroad Safety Poster Contest that is open to more than 12,000 students in kindergarten through sixth grade will again have winning posters displayed in the SCRPA booth.

Free parking is available throughout downtown Fullerton. Or better yet, you could climb aboard Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner trains or ride Metrolink commuter lines to the depot at 120 E. Santa Fe Avenue, east of Harbor Boulevard and north of the 91 Freeway.

See MORE ABOUT RAILROAD DAYS 2012  
on pages 6 and 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Are you ready? With Railroad Days fast approaching, your participation is needed. At the April Quarterly Dinner, Railroad Days Chairman Jeff Schulze will ask that you sign up for as much time as you can, to assist with the daily duties that are required to make the event the most successful one to date. We are looking forward to your commitment for May 5 & 6, 2012.

Also, we are going to place orders for shirts and hats for the SCRPA membership. The shirts will have a BNSF logo and SCRPA wording. The hats will have "Southern California Railway Plaza Association" above the brim and possibly, Railroad Days in Fullerton, on the side. The cost of the shirts will be \$25, as in past years and the hats will be \$15. They will be available prior to Railroad Days. We'll be taking orders and pre-payment at the dinner.

On a sad note, we have lost two of our members, Paul Gerhardt passed away on January 3, 2012, after being diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. Paul was a devoted member and was involved with many aspects of the History & Modeling Committee's functions and projects. As an active modeler, he had many acquaintances from the hobby industry. He will be missed.

I have also received word that Liz Gerhardt, Paul's wife, passed away on March 3, 2012, from complications with pneumonia. She also will be missed.

Several members assisted with the removal of an HO scale model railroad that Paul had built at his home. We also acquired his Railroad Magazine collection, Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman, from 1993 through 2011. If you are interested in any of the issues, let me know and you are welcome to take them for your collection or reading. They are at my home and can be picked up any time. Please let me know.

And BIG thanks to Kathy and Dave Norris for stepping up to fill two SCRPA positions: Kathy as chairman of the 16th annual Railroad Safety Poster Contest, and Dave as program chairman for the Quarterly Dinner Meetings.

The April 11 Dinner is an all-hands-on-deck night, and we'll have lots of great news about our 12th Railroad Days. See you there!

*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.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RAILROAD DAYS 2012 NEWS!

We have advertisements and press release information being printed in newspapers, magazines and in online sites in the coming weeks.

Look for notices or ads in Westways, AAA's magazine; in the Fullerton Observer, and in our official media sponsor, The Orange County Register. You can also see articles in the Metrolink Matters newsletter and its website, plus calendar listings on the Kalmbach train-related websites.

In addition, watch for the 8-page Railroad Days 2012 Program that will be distributed in The Register and Los Angeles Times to specific north Orange County ZIP codes, as well as direct mail deliveries to certain ZIP codes. It's a terrific guide to all the activities and participants, including a map to help you locate everything.

AND you too can help us spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors about our great event on May 5 & 6 at the Train Station in Fullerton - then come join the fun!

**CORRECTION: The Hot Rail delivered in early January was the Winter 2011 edition, not the Winter 2012 as the pages were labeled. Our online version in the Hot Rail archives has the correct edition information. There was a mix-up over the publication date, which was December 31, 2011.**

## H&MC SPRING REPORT: PREPARING FOR RAILROAD DAYS

*By Dennis White, H&MC Secretary and Editor*

Great news! Railroad Days is coming back to the Fullerton Transportation Center the first weekend in May, and members of the History & Modeling Committee have shifted gears to get ready for the show. Members will be on hand to interpret the Committee's historic display for the inquisitive public.

Our ever-popular historic photo display will be featured, along with 32 feet of HO Scale dioramas depicting historic north Orange County railroad scenes. The dioramas will be integrated into the modular layout operated by the Orange County Modular Engineers Club, allowing visitors to watch HO model trains roll through our historic Fullerton and La Habra scenery from days gone by.

The beautiful 5-foot by 9-foot HO scale-model railroad built years ago by Buddy Young of San Diego will be back by popular demand. The legs of the layout have been shortened to a more convenient height for the enjoyment of our younger guests, as they watch the

trains run through a town, across a mountain, and over a spindly wood trestle.

The track, wiring and scenery have been carefully checked and updated and will feature hand-held controls, so visiting children will have the opportunity to actually operate the trains on this typical small, home layout.

The Buddy Young layout was donated to SCRPA several years ago and was first displayed at 2008 Railroad Days.

The Historical & Modeling Committee is always looking for members. If local history, rail history, rail-fanning or model railroading (any scale), interest you and you would enjoy fellowship with others who share these interests, we invite you to become a part of our growing committee.

It is a great way to become an active member of the SCRPA.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (corner of Las Palmas Road and Harbor Boulevard), Fullerton. Please contact Dennis White (714-400-4939) or Harold Benash (714-525-6266) for directions or any questions regarding H&MC.

## ROC REPORT: SCSRA's two historic cabooses are almost 'stabilized'



*OFF TO WORK WE GO! ROC work crew carry a wig-wag to a new location. From left: Harold Benash, Dave Norris, Stu Proctor, Jack Barich and Martin Kluck (Benash & Proctor partially hidden)  
Photo by Karen Sibrel*

Work 'parties' focused on leaks, rust, grime

*By Dennis White, Vice President*

Fifteen months ago, an agreement between Southern California Scenic Railway Association and Southern California Railway Plaza Association merged the memberships of the two groups into a single, cohesive organization.

That decision also called for the formation of a new SCRPA committee dedicated to the stabilization of the two historic cabooses sleeping on a house track at Fullerton's Amtrak Station.

Dubbed the Railroad Operations Committee (ROC - pronounced ROCK) and chaired by SCRPA board member Stu Proctor, the group held its first meeting-work party aboard ATSF 999110 the third weekend of January 2011.

A walk-through of both cabooses created a long list of issues, which were prioritized by importance.

- Both cabooses suffered multiple leaks that had let moisture in, causing dry rot, delamination of plywood and rust.

- The smoke jack of the ATSF caboose was broken and had been removed for future repair.

- The upholstery in both cars was badly worn, split in many places; foam had hardened and the cushions oozed years of perspiration.

- Rust had broken through the interior paint in some places.

- One cupboard door was hanging by a single hinge.

- The RV style refrigerator had rusted away and could barely support its own weight, with the door actually crumbling each time it was touched.

- The cars were filthy inside, covered with years of diesel soot from the on-board heaters and general railroad grime.

Some of the ROC members wondered what they had gotten themselves into, but the group was congenial and their love of everything trains overcame all doubts.

The first job was to fix the broken smoke-jack, which was retrieved from its storage place and taken to a black smith who specialized in repairing cast steel parts for old steam-powered fire engines. He happened to also like trains, and agreed to rebuild the stack. Roof leaks were also repaired.

In the meantime, upholstered seats were taken apart and stripped of old Naugahyde and foam. While the seats were apart, the frames were stripped to bare metal, primed and repainted.

Closets, toilet facilities and every available corner of both cabooses were filled with various pieces and interesting items, some unidentifiable, and many not belonging to a caboose. This "stuff" was removed so

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

cleaning and repair could continue. The floors, walls, and ceiling were scrubbed with TSP and rust spots on all metal surfaces scraped, cleaned, primed and repainted as needed.

Split, rotted, delaminated (or missing) wood was replaced and painted to match. Cupboard doors were checked, cleaned and repaired as needed.

A new RV refrigerator matching the size and similar in design to the old one was located and installed.

The batteries that power the electrical system in each car were old, sulfated and unable to hold a charge. The battery boxes under each car were also in bad condition with the wooden liners rotted away. The battery boxes (properly called battery cellars) were stripped of all rot, their floors were lined with cement board and two heavy duty, deep-cycle industrial batteries were installed in each car.

The interiors of both cars have been returned to their state of repair when donated in 1989. They smell good, are clean, comfortable and look like the last crew just returned the cars to the caboose track to await their next assignment.

Everything works in both cars and technically, they are completely operable and could return to service on a moment's notice.

Except for the smoke-jack repair and some of the upholstery work, all work has been done by ROC volunteers with financial and in-kind support of SCSRA, our SCRPA members and friends.

ROC is thrilled with the huge amount of work accomplished in its first 15 months and indebted to our always reliable and very talented volunteers who make hard jobs look easy and the easy ones, effortless.

Be sure to visit the cabooses during Railroad Days in May, or better yet, come down and visit us on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. till noon. Who knows, you might just want to join the folks and become a "ROC Star!"

## WE'RE IN THE 'PINK' WITH A FILM GEM FOR FREE MOVIE SERIES

*By Gordon Bachlund, Movie Nights Chair*

The SCRPA free members' Retrospective Screening Series will present a detective comedy classic when the curtain rises on Saturday, April 28, 2012. We'll begin at 6 p.m. with a wine-tasting on the Fullerton Museum Center patio, 301 N. Pomona Avenue. The wine sponsorship is still available.

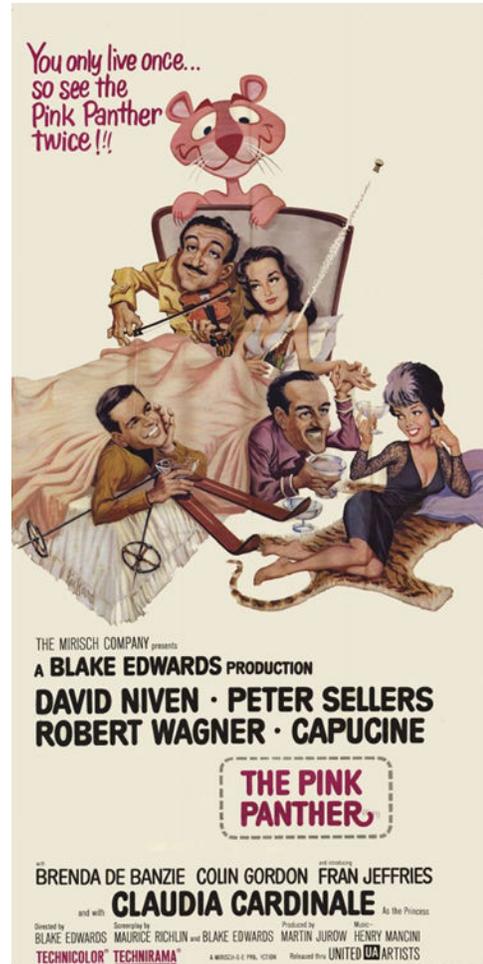
Moving inside to the auditorium, our feature film will be United Artist's 1963 Pink Panther (NR). This is the first in a series from director Blake Edwards starring Peter Sellers as bumbling French Police Inspector Jacques Clouseau, the mishap-prone snoop who is actually a supporting player.

David Niven stars as Sir Charles Lytton, a suave jewel thief known as The Phantom, whose calling card is a white glove bearing a monogrammed "P."

The plot centers on the "Pink Panther," the largest diamond in the world which has an unusual flaw -

looking deeply into the stone one perceives a tiny discoloration resembling a panther. As a child, Princess Dala received this gem as a gift from her father, the Shah of Lugash.

Several years later, Dala relaxes on holiday at an exclusive skiing resort in Cortina d'Ampezzo. Also staying there is a noted British playboy, Sir Lytton, who leads a secret life as the jewel thief and has his eyes on the Pink Panther.



His unwitting American playboy nephew, George, follows his uncle to the resort, also hoping to steal the jewel and blame it on the Phantom.

On the Phantom's trail for years, Clouseau keeps losing his quarry, perhaps because his wife Simone is Lytton's lover and alerts him every time her husband draws near.

At a posh costume ball, the jewel is stolen and Clouseau, still trying to determine the thief's identity, is framed for the crime himself.

The Pink Panther series made Sellers and his Clouseau character so popular that the character moved to center stage in a series of a farcical Pink Panther cartoons and numerous sequels. One such cartoon also will be on the program.

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## 14th ANNUAL RAILROAD SAFETY POSTER CONTEST IS UNDERWAY

Fullerton School District students are invited to enter their posters; top six winners will receive Grand Prize of Amtrak tickets for four and cash awards.

**By Donna Johnson, Community & Media Relations Chairman**

More than 11,000 Fullerton School District students in kindergarten through the sixth grade have been invited to participate in the 14th annual Railroad Safety Poster Contest. The 2012 competition is sponsored by Southern California Railway Plaza Association, Amtrak® and the Rotary Club of Fullerton to promote railroad safety awareness.

SCRPA has also connected the nonprofit Operation Lifesavers of California to arrange for free presentations at the Hunt Branch Library in Fullerton. Operation Lifesavers' experienced volunteers will emphasize the importance of knowing about safe behaviors near trains and the tracks. Several of the district's schools have playgrounds next to the mainline tracks that run through Fullerton or have students who must cross the rails to get to class.

Kathy Norris, SCRPA's Poster Contest Chairman, announced that April 18 is the deadline for students' entries to be submitted in more than 350 classrooms and judging completed for all 17 elementary campuses. All posters must depict a rail-safety theme.

Winning posters from each school will be entered into a citywide competition with first-, second- and third-place winners chosen in each of two categories: kindergartners through third-graders and fourth-through sixth-graders.

Those six citywide winners will each receive four round-trip Amtrak tickets to Santa Barbara or San Diego for their families. In addition, they will be awarded cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively by placement, sponsored by the Fullerton Rotary Club.

The six top winners' posters will be displayed during Railroad Days on May 5 & 6 at the Fullerton Train Station.

All of the schools' winning posters will be posted in the Fullerton Main Library's Children's Room from May 8 to June 4.

## Remember to send your RSVP by June 15 for Dinner at the Depot

Our spring Dinner at the Depot will be held at 6 p.m. June 23, 2012, at the Amtrak Station.

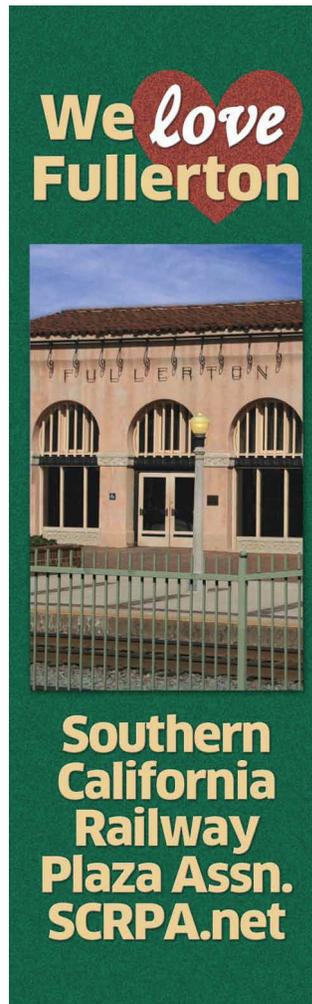
Join us for a delicious meal of sandwiches, chips, salads, dessert and drinks, catered by Santa Fe Café for \$12 per person. The money is due, along with an RSVP by June 15.

After dinner, we'll have the usual door prizes, awards and watching trains, trains, trains!

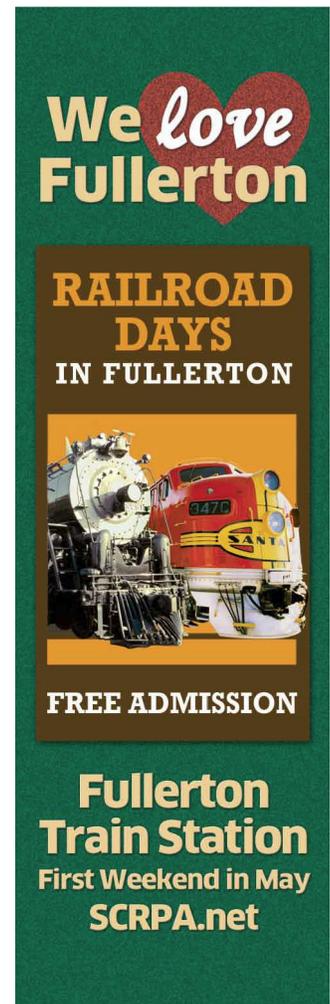
If you wish to donate some door prizes (and we hope you do), contact Harold Benash at 714-525-6266.

You may pay at the April Quarterly Meeting or send your RSVP and your check payable to SCRPA to: **SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195.**

Please include your name, number attending and telephone &/or email address.



Left: Amtrak/Sante Fe Train Station photo by Karen Sibrel.  
Right: Southern California Railway Plaza Association logo.



## HEARTFELT BANNERS

Watch for nearly 100 "We Love Fullerton" banners to be displayed around Fullerton this spring, including two with messages from SCRPA.

The 8-foot x 30-inch vertical banners will hang from lampposts around Downtown through June.

Mike Ritto, president of the Downtown Business Association (DBA), organized the project to remind folks of the people and places we love about the city of Fullerton.

Various groups and businesses are choosing a photo or artwork for their banners to declare their Fullerton favorites.

One of SCRPA's banners features an image of the Amtrak Station above our name and the second, salutes our annual Railroad Days with an image of our logo.

Look for them on lampposts along streets near the Transportation Center: South Harbor Boulevard or East Commonwealth, Pomona and East Santa Fe avenues.

# MORE ABOUT RAILROAD DAYS 2012

**FEATURED PARTICIPANTS: FREE RAIL CAR TOURS - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MAY 5 & 6**

## **BNSF RAILWAY CO.**

Tour a (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) diesel-electric freight locomotive.

BNSF operates one of the largest railroad networks in North America, with 32,000 route miles in 28 states and two Canadian provinces - 2650 Lou Menk Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2830 - [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com)

## **CAROLWOOD PACIFIC**

Tour Carolwood Pacific's combine coach for passengers and baggage that was designed by Disney Imagineers at Walt's request

Carolwood Foundation & Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Walt Disney Railroad's legacy -- [www.carolwood.org](http://www.carolwood.org)

## **DISNEYLAND RESORT**

Tour Disneyland Railroad's Presidential Coach Lilly Belle -- the narrow-gauge observation car named for Walt Disney's wife, Lillian.

And Walt Disney's love of trains is documented in a Disneyland exhibit: "All Aboard... A Grand Circle Tour of the Trains of Disney"

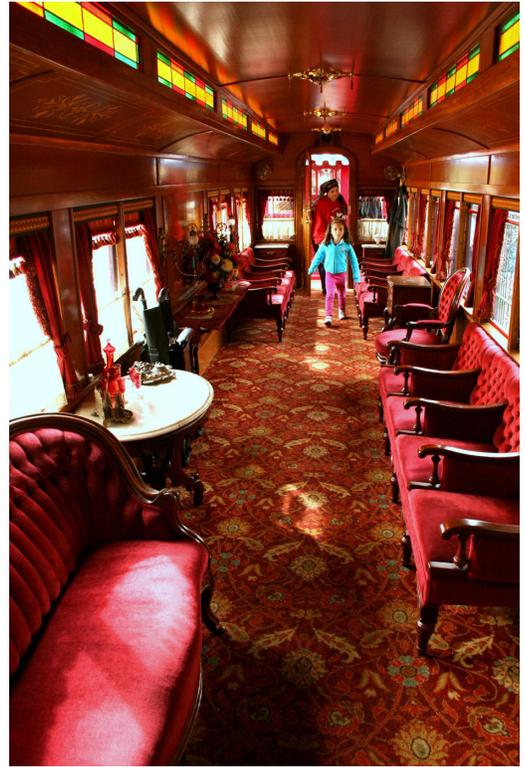
This Disney railroad retrospective on exhibit now at The Disney Gallery on Main Street, USA in Disneyland® park showcases the artwork and inspiration for Disney railroads, trains and train attractions throughout the years, as well as an array of artifacts on loan from both private collectors and the Carolwood Foundation. Visit the exhibit now through June 2012!

For detailed information about the Disneyland Resort, please visit [www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com).

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCENIC RAILWAY ASSN.**

Tour the former AT&SF Cupola Caboose No. 999110 and former Southern Pacific Bay-Window Caboose No. 4049 -- which are being refurbished at the Fullerton Depot by SCRPA's Railroad Operations Committee.

Southern California Scenic Railway Association is a nonprofit group that owns the two vintage cabooses.



*Above and left: The elegant Disneyland Railroad Lilly Belle Victorian-decor car will be on display with Carolwood Pacific's combine coach for the first time since 1974. Photos by Karen Sibrel*



**For more news about Railroad Days 2012, check our website at [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net)**

**or look at our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RailroadDays2012InFullerton>.**

**If you'd like more information about becoming an exhibitor or vendor, email [brgmstrs@pacbell.net](mailto:brgmstrs@pacbell.net) or leave a message at the SCRPA office, 714-278-0648.**

## **RAILROAD DAYS SPONSORS:**

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**MORNINGSIDE OF FULLERTON**

**THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY**

**THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

**THE WILSON W. PHELPS  
FOUNDATION**

# AT THE FULLERTON TRAIN STATION



## **Getting 'face-to-face' with Railroad Days 2012**

Check out our new RAILROAD DAYS FACEBOOK PAGE, created and administered by Karen Sibrel, a very talented SCRPA member: <https://www.facebook.com/RailroadDays2012InFullerton>

If you're not already a Facebook member, you'll need to sign up and fill in a few blanks - but you can ignore most of them. It's all free. Then you can browse through the info boxes, photos and videos - being sure to mark yourself as a "friend" of the page, noting the things you "like" or leaving your appreciative comments.

When you've finished, you can go to the top right-hand corner, click on the "down arrow" next to "home", scroll down and click on "log out". Enjoy! And visit often to see what's new on the page.

## **EXHIBITORS, VENDORS AND FOOD COURT**

### **MODEL TRAIN LAYOUTS:**

Bowman, John -- O-Gauge (Lionel)  
Del Oro Pacific Modular Railroad -- G-Gauge  
Elseman, Erik - N-Gauge tabletop  
Furlong, Chuck -- S-Gauge  
Garden Railroad -- G-Gauge  
N Trak Express -- N-Gauge  
Orange County Modular Railroaders -- HO-Gauge  
Orange County Nginers -- N-Gauge  
Orange County Tinplate Trackers -- O-Gauge (Lionel)  
Pacific Coast Modular Club -- HO-gauge  
SoCal Lego Train Club -- O-Gauge (LEGO)  
Train Collectors Association -- O-Gauge (Lionel)  
Toy Train Operating Society -- O-Gauge (Lionel)  
ZoCal-SoCal Z Scale Modelers -- Z-Gauge

### **FOOD BOOTHS:**

Barrett's Lemonade  
Boy Scouts of America Troop 292, Fullerton  
Heroes Bar & Grill  
Kettle Masters  
Muscle Beach Cafe  
Pacific Catering Co.  
Patty's Cakes and Desserts  
Renner's Funnel Cakes  
Santa Fe Café

### **CONCESSIONAIRES & INFORMATION:**

American Passenger Rail Heritage Foundation  
Archer Travel Service  
The Big Train Show  
California High Speed Rail Authority  
Choose-A-Choo-Choo Trackless Train - kids' rides  
Daylight Sales  
Fred Farias Jr.  
Fullerton Fire Department and Fullerton Firefighters Association, Local 3421  
Fullerton Host Lions Club  
Grainger Industrial  
Imagination Depot  
Izaak Walton League of America  
McCoy Mills Ford  
Milepost 38 Model Trains  
Niles Gift Depot  
Orange County Railway Historical Society  
Orange County Register  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
Pacific Southwest Railway Museum  
R. Hobbies  
Railway and Locomotive Historical Society  
Rainbow Girls of Fullerton & Yorba Linda  
Women in Railroading

### **GETTING INVOLVED**

We have openings on several committees, including Greeters, Security and Survey Takers. Email your name, interest & contact info to [brgmstrs@pacbell.net](mailto:brgmstrs@pacbell.net)

# A memorable excursion on Fillmore & Western Railway to Santa Paula

By Peggy Benash, Co-Membership Chairman

With technical notes by Dennis White

A casual conversation with SCRPA's Dennis White sparked the idea of going by bus to Fillmore in Ventura County for a train ride. A couple of phone calls and SCRPA was on the calendar for late February.

Our membership responded immediately. Then we received a phone call from Zoot Velasco, director of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton, where we have a collaborative membership pact. He asked permission to do an email blast to center members concerning the excursion. The result was a second bus -- for a total of 96 people riding the Fillmore & Western Railroad to Santa Paula.

A chilly morning preceded a beautiful day for an outing. In Fillmore, we boarded for a scenic ride through acres and acres of citrus and avocado groves.

Luncheon on board the moving train resulted in not a single complaint regarding the food or service. Folks, including me, didn't quite understand the stop at the Loose Caboose -- though I noticed some vegetables and a couple

of lawn tortoise did board the train. (I suppose the stopover is for the steam engine, and water replacement, when in use, but I bet someone knows).

Most of our fellow travelers were impressed with the agriculture, art and petroleum museums in Santa Paula, about 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles. All agreed that more time was needed to fully appreciate the skill that was evident in the historical and artistic presentations.

The cheesecake served on the trip back to Fillmore was delicious. The scenery slowly passing as we moved forward was spectacular, as only California can be. Serene views are a gift of train travel.

We had a first-time passenger pickup and drop off at the Glendale Park and Ride, allowing the bus riders to see a beautiful train station and experience a very skilled bus driver doing an almost doughnut turn confined in the tracks of the street entrance turn-around. The gals were dropped off at the curb at their request.

The wine served on the bus trip back to Fullerton was Candlelight by Galleano Winery of Mira Loma,

Calif. The cheese served was Manchego, produced from sheep milk, a product of Spain and purchased from The Meat House of Brea.

Wine servers on the trip home were Todd Scott and Jack Barich (lovingly called Trixie and Bubbles), while Harold Benash and Zoot Velasco served wine on the Muck Bus. Hats off to the bus commentators: Jeff Schulze, Dave Norris and Dennis White on the SCRPA bus, with Harold and Zoot taking care of the Muck.

A trip of this nature is vastly improved by willing volunteers. Thank you to: Lauri and Jeff Schulze, Stu and Mary Proctor, Dennis and Kathy White, Martin Kluck and Chris McCarty, Todd Scott, Jack Barich, Karen and Dave Sibel, and Mike and Donna Anderson. We received compliments on the organization of the trip -- phew, thanks too to all who stepped in when

they saw a need. If your name was omitted, just know we are grateful for your help.

This trip was an opportunity for fellowship with our SCRPA membership, but proved to be a great way to introduce ourselves to our Muckenthaler colleagues.

We are grateful to all of our fellow travelers and it was good to spend the day

with you all.

## A technical perspective

Fillmore & Western lightweight Diner (dining and galley)- former SP 10402, class 83-DL-1 lightweight diner Golden Trencher - built for San Francisco Overland by Pullman Standard in 1949. The San Francisco Overland operated from Chicago to San Francisco (CNW - North Platte - UP - Ogden - SP - San Francisco).

Dining car (no galley) - former L&N 3256, a 60-seat "Jim Crow" coach built for the Humming Bird by American Car & Foundry in 1955. The Humming Bird operated from New York City to New Orleans (New York City - PRR- Cincinnati - L&N - New Orleans). L&N's Jim Crow segregated coaches were among the last cars of the type built before being outlawed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Jim crow coaches had bulkheads to segregate black passengers from white passengers creating "separate, but equal," accommodations.



L&N's Jim Crow coaches are easy to identify by their small double windows at each end of the car marking the location of both men's and women's restrooms at each end of the car. After passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, some railroads (later, Amtrak) kept the Jim Crow partition in place to separate smoking from non-smoking sections.

F-7A Fillmore & Western 101, (ex Maryland & Midland 101, Metra 413, Chicago Northwestern 413, Chicago Northwestern 4083A; built for CNW in 1949). F-7 diesel electric locomotives were built by Electromotive Division (EMD) of General Motors between 1949 and 1952 and generate 1,500 hp using a 16 cylinder 567B supercharged two-cycle diesel engine.

GP-35 Fillmore & Western 3501, (ex Arizona & California 3501, Conrail 2262, Penn Central 2262, Pennsylvania Railroad 2262; built for PRR in 1964). GP-35 diesel electric locomotives were built by Electromotive Division (EMD) of General Motors and generate 2,500 hp using a 567D3A 16 cylinder supercharged two-cycle diesel engine.

The F&W is a standard-gauge railroad running roughly parallel to State Route 126 in Ventura County, California, on a section of track formerly owned by Southern Pacific Railroad. This line was originally part of the Southern Pacific's main line between San Francisco and Los Angeles before the Montalvo Cutoff was built through the Santa Susana Mountains in 1924.

The track was used extensively by Southern Pacific as late as the 1950s to haul citrus from packing houses located in the Santa Clara River Valley. This section is now a branch line, connecting at its west end to the Union Pacific at Montalvo, between the cities of Oxnard and Ventura.

Prior to storm damage in 1979, the eastern end of the line connected to Southern Pacific tracks in Santa Clarita.

Sources:

- <http://www.scrvrhs.com/branch.htm>
- <http://www.fwry.com/FAQ/History.html>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMD\\_F7](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMD_F7)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMD\\_GP35](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMD_GP35)
- <http://www.trainorders.com/discussion/read.php?4,490488>
- <http://www.thedieselshop.us/FillWest.HTML>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil\\_Rights\\_Act\\_of\\_1964](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964)



*At top, scenic setting for Fillmore & Western Railway. Photo by Jack Barich*

*Above, Dining cars provided comfortable seating, lush views and tasty luncheon. Dessert was served on return trip to the Fillmore Depot, left. Photos by Karen Sibrel*

*See additional photo on Page 10*

**These photos are in COLOR on the web. Read the *Hot Rail!* in PDF at [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net)**



*Acres and acres of citrus and avocado groves with mountains beyond delight the eye on train ride to Santa Paula. Photo by Jack Barich*

## 2012 Calendar

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Apr 11</b>    <b>SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting</b>, 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton</p> <p><b>Apr 14</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Apr 24</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Apr 28*</b>    <b>Movie Night: <i>The Pink Panther (1963)</i></b>,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m., FMCA</p> <p><b>May 5-6</b>    <b>Railroad Days</b>. Location TBA</p> <p><b>May 19</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>May 22</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jun 16</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Jun 23</b>    <b>Annual Dinner at Depot</b>, Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jul 11</b>    <b>SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting</b>, 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton</p> <p><b>Jul 21</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Jul 24</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Jul 28*</b>    <b>Movie Night: <i>Diamond Jim (1935)</i></b>,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m., FMCA</p> <p><b>Aug 18</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Aug 28</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sep 15</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Sep 25</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct 10</b>    <b>SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting</b>, 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton</p> <p><b>Oct 20</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Oct 23</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct 27*</b>    <b>Movie Night: <i>A Shot In The Dark (1964)</i></b>,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m., FMCA</p> <p><b>Nov 17</b>    <b>ROC Meeting &amp; Work Party</b>, 9 a.m., Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station</p> <p><b>Nov 27</b>    <b>H&amp;MC Meeting</b>, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Dec 1*</b>    <b>Christmas Train-Watching Party</b>, Cabooses, Fullerton Amtrak Station, 2-5 p.m.</p> |
|---|--|

\* Dates and movie titles subject to change. Check [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) for updates

# Member VOLUNTEERS are key to success

By Peggy Benash, Membership Co-Chair

Remember the naysayers thinking the Little Engine couldn't and being proved wrong?

Southern California Railway Plaza Association is resurrecting its presence at the Fullerton depot and the larger community of Southern California, (All with the coordination of Volunteers).

The seed monies, given by dear members early in October through December, grew into sponsorships from very generous local businesses and community-minded foundations.

These actions have enabled our Railroad Days 2012 in Fullerton to be a reality in May. (All with the coordination of Volunteers).

Our History & Modeling Committee is working on an amazing "kid operated" model train layout consisting of hills and dales. (All with the coordination of Volunteers).

Our one-day excursions have been an outreach of the membership committee, discovering other folks who love trains and appreciate the railroad industry's

significance in our nation's history. (All with the coordination of volunteers).

To you "newbies": Please consider joining us for our Quarterly Membership Dinner Meetings or the free wine tastings followed by Movie Night vintage train-theme films shown in the Fullerton Museum Center's just right mini-auditorium. (All with the coordination of Volunteers).

Are we busy? Yes. Do we enjoy what we are busy at? You betcha! Do we get tired? Ahh, yes. But working with the community and seeing the awe on a child's face standing near a real locomotive....yes, it is all worthwhile.

If your ears perk up at the sound of a train whistle or the rumbling on the tracks, please consider joining our organization. You are as hooked as we are - and ready to become members of the Southern California Railway Plaza Association.

If you have not yet done so, please mail your renewal or join us today - see form below.

Continued membership support is needed to maintain and grow our association -- ALL WITH THE COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS!.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSN., INC.



#### Membership Levels

Please check appropriate level

BRAKEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
CONDUCTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
ENGINEER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
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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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## IN THIS ISSUE

- All the news on Railroad Days 2012 participants and sponsors; see cover and pages 2 and 6-7
- Upcoming Movie Night: Saturday, April 28, *The Pink Panther*; see page 4
- Photos and story on SCRPA 'We Love Fullerton Banners'; see Page 5
- Membership growth is key; see page 11
- Photos of excursion on Fillmore & Western Railway; see Pages 8-9
- Plus a peek into H&MC and ROC preparations for Railroad Days

Postmaster: Please Deliver between April 4-8, 2012

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