

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 XIV, Number 2

Summer 2016



Photo by Elliott Alper

Caboose sports a new look

A major project was completed just in time for Railroad Days – and the Southern Pacific 4049 Bay Window Caboose had a fresh coat of paint for the big event. “It looks really good,” said a pleased Stu Proctor, chairman of the Railroad Operations Committee (ROC), formed five years ago to tackle rehabilitation of the Southern California Scenic Railway Association’s two historic cabooses. Team members devoted at least two Saturdays a month to repair and spruce up the interior of the caboose built in 1961 and prepare the exterior for new paint. Member Wendell Hanks led a research of the railroad’s paint history and found a source for the authentic colors. Axalta Coating Systems matched the color chips and supplied the paint, which was applied by a painting contractor using rollers in late April.



RECORD- SETTING RAILROAD DAYS

More than 35,000 rail fans of all ages packed the Fullerton Train Station on April 30-May 1. The free admission weekend featured the most rail cars we’ve ever had open for tours, more model train layouts than ever before and the biggest crowds we’ve had in our 16 years!

Photo by Mike Vitale
See more photos, [Pages 4-5](#)

FALL EXCURSION: On September 10, SCRPA will host an outing by bus to the **Pacific Southwest Railway Museum** in Campo, Calif., east of San Diego (www.psrn.org) The trip will include a 12-mile ride on the museum’s Golden State train in a vintage rail car. A flier with all the details and an RSVP form, at \$75 per person, is inserted in this Hot Rail. Please submit your **RSVP by August 16.**

President's message

A very successful Railroad Days 2016 is behind us. I want to thank all the volunteers from SCRPA and the Fullerton Union High School football program. With your individual efforts and tenacity, our event was the best ever! Thank you again.



Railroad Days ended on a high note May 1 for Harold Benash, who climbed aboard the 3751 steam locomotive for a ride to its home in Los Angeles.
Photo by Allison Benash

We now must move forward; there is a mountain of projects ahead of us. By the time this goes to press, headway will have been made in that direction.

The first is an all-out effort to bring the Union Pacific 25052 caboose up to standards, and your participation at our twice monthly work parties will expedite this effort. So join us from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays in our Railway Plaza Compound at the

Fullerton Train Station.

There has been serious discussion with regard to relocating the current SCRPA office on Chapman Avenue in Fullerton.

This will be a cost-effective move for us. And with the acquisition of the Union Pacific 5001 & 6101 lounge cars, this relocation plan has become a reality.

Crew quarters room "C" in UP6101 will house the file cabinets and supplies. Meetings will continue to be held in the UP5001 dining area for the Board of Directors, History & Modeling Committee, Railroad Operations Committee and others, as needed. Efforts to move our files and equipment from the Chapman Avenue office will begin on August 19. More info to follow.

Please note a calendar change: The planned June 25 annual Dinner at the Depot has been rescheduled for **Saturday, December 10**. In all likelihood, it will be a potluck style get-together, featuring our third annual crock-pot cook off.

Beginning at 3 p.m., a buffet will be set up in the UP5001 dining-lounge car. More information will be in the fall Hot Rail or you can check for updates on our website at www.scrpa.net

Meanwhile, a presentation of the Ridenour Award that is usually included in the June dinner program will take place during the Quarterly Dinner Meeting at 6 p.m. July 13 at the Sizzler 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.

Railroading films at summer dinner meeting

The Quarterly General Meeting and Dinner will present a program of American Association of Railroads films at 6 p.m. July 13. These are the titles, each runs about 20 minutes:

1. "225,000 Mile Proving Ground," made in 1953 about industry changes in locomotives and other technology. Includes an uncredited host that some will recognize.
2. "Railroads and National Defense," made in the early 1950s.
3. And if time permits: "Mainline USA"

We will meet at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard (north of Berkeley Avenue) in Fullerton. Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. RSVPs are not required.

— Dave Norris, Program Chairman

American railroading during World War II

By Dennis White, Vice President

World War II had a tremendous effect on the American railroads. Still struggling to recover from the Great Depression, most of the railroads were close to bankruptcy and had little modern power or equipment to support the war effort - with many of their old, decrepit locomotives and dilapidated railcars sitting in mile long "dead lines." By most accounts, the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent U.S. entry into the Second World War caught the rail industry flat-footed.

The job of carrying men and machinery during the war years from December 1941 until well after the war ended rested squarely on the railroads — and every car and locomotive was pressed into emergency service. Out of necessity, the worn-out rolling stock on the rip tracks was brought out of retirement because the need was so great. No funds were available to upgrade physical plants that had suffered from over 10 years of deferred maintenance due to the depression.

Civilian passenger traffic was seriously hampered as passenger equipment was diverted to troop train service -- scheduled passenger trains could be annulled due to a lack of available engines or coaches, but troop trains could not.

Going to war on a troop train was often a harrowing experience, as reported by the Utah State Historical Society. They quote this remembrance from a Union Pacific Station Agent in Provo, Utah:

These boys didn't know where they were going. There were not enough seats for every man, so they rode where they could. They had no way of cleaning themselves up, they had whiskers and they were dirty. There were so many of them. Those poor boys would ride for days and nights getting to where they needed to go. They would sleep in the aisle or anywhere they could curl up and get a little rest.

The westbound trains carried troops to the ports where the boys would embark on ships to places unknown. Many of the east bound trains through Provo were loaded with the wounded and marked with big red crosses on the sides of each railcar. When the train would arrive, those who could, would get off to stretch their muscles for a few moments and walk up and down the platform. It was a sad deal seeing ... the fellows on crutches and bandaged up.

Freight trains were heavily guarded and when they stopped; armed Military Police would disembark to protect the loaded cars and locomotives from sabotage or other harm. Tank cars carried gasoline and diesel fuel, boxcars transported munitions. Tanks, trucks, jeeps and artillery pieces rode on heavily loaded flatcars

Locomotives of every sort were pressed into service, some dating to long before World War I. Most motive power was steam – diesel-electric locomotives were in their infancy — and most diesel production was diverted to the war effort. Orders for new engines had to go before the War Production Board for approval and were many times denied. The railroad had to prove a need for the locomotive before a purchase order would be approved.

The War Production Board would sometimes split an engine order between two or more railroads; an example of such "sharing" was Southern Pacific's order for 14 GS-6 Golden State streamlined 4-8-4's. The Board initially turned down the order but approved it when quick thinking SP explained that "GS" meant "General Service," not "Golden State." The WPB increased the order to 16 engines, but diverted six to the Western Pacific.

Because the railroads were so integral to the successful movement of men and *matériel* for the war effort, employees were exempt from military service. Truly, the men and women of the American railroads did much to help America prevail.

WORLD WAR II MOVIE NIGHT

By Dennis White, Movie Co-Chair

SCRPA's free Retrospective Film Series will screen on July 16 at the Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Avenue. We'll start at 6 p.m. with a social toasting on the patio; followed by the feature film beginning in the auditorium at 6:30 in a special digital presentation.

Due to the length of the feature film we will not have a short subject.

We are pleased to present the critically acclaimed 1948 "Berlin Express," starring Merle Oberon, Robert Ryan and



Charles Korvin.

Filmed in the Russian, American and British sectors of Berlin, as well as Frankfurt, the location footage gives it a sense of authenticity not found in most thrillers.

There are many excellent shots of the all-steam German National Railways to please rail fans, especially steam enthusiasts.

Libations sponsored by Kathy and Dennis White. We will be serving some of Germany's finest prior to the movie. *Zer Gut!*

Railroad Days MEMORIES



Photos by
Stu Proctor,
Karen Sibrel
and Mike Vitale

See more photos at
www.scrpa.net

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR RAILROAD DAYS 2016 VOLUNTEERS



SCRPA treated Railroad Days' volunteers on June 12 with a Goat Hill Junction Funday in Costa Mesa, including a tasty taco lunch and train rides.

Photo by Stu Proctor

Alper, Elliott
Anderson, Donna
Archer, Doug
Barlow, George
Barlow, Beth
Benash, Harold
Benash, Peggy
Benash, Allison
Bennett, Robert C.
Cannataro, Rose
Culp, Lee
Culp, Edith
Engelage, George
Engelage, Kale
Freeman, Robert
Gibbons, Pat
Gordon, Bob
Hanks, Wendell
Hatrack, Bill
Hatrack, Debbie
Hergenerter, Sue
Hergenerter, Denis
Hoffman, James
Huson, Ruth

Huson, Jenna
Johnson, Ted
Johnson, Al
Johnson, Donna
Kientz, Sue
Kluck, Marty
Lawver, Don
Lawver, Carole
McCarthy, Chris
Norris, Dave
Norris, Kathy
Proctor, Stu
Proctor, Mary
Proctor, Julia
Purnell, Lee
Reminsky, Tommy
Sanchez, Vanessa
Schultz, Harold
Schultz, Jeanie
Schulze, Jeff
Schulze, Lauri
Scott, Todd
Shishima, Eric
Shook, Dan

Sibrel, Dave
Sibrel, Karen
Van Oppens, Roger
Vitale, Mike
White, Dennis
White, Annika
Wiles, Alan
Wiles, Andrew
Witter, Anastasia Norris
AND
Fullerton Union High School,
JV Football (35 players)

Nearly 100 people were among those helping from setup Friday to take-down Sunday night — and we couldn't do it without each and every one of you!



Can't wait! Line of eager rail fans stretches from entry and across the parking lot more than a half-hour before the steam whistle signals "We're open"!

And a big thank you to the sponsors, model railroaders, locomotive engineers, vendors and thousands of train buffs of all ages and families who made this such a SUCCESSFUL community event for SCRPA!

ROC REPORT: Private tours and Open Houses prove popular

By Dennis White

The Southern California Railway Plaza Association keeps true to its mission by providing the public with historical insight into the numerous contributions that railroads have made to the development and growth of Southern California by opening our five historic railcars at the Fullerton Train Station to private tours and hosting open houses on most Saturday mornings.

Recently we had the honor of greeting and spending time with Savanna High School's Adult Transition Class of 27 students ages 17 to 22, along with their teacher Robyn Strauss-Rodriguez and several of her capable aides, for a Friday morning tour of our railcar collection.

The pupils were so excited to see the insides of the three cabooses and two lounge cars, learn how each car was used and get a behind-the-scenes peek at the lives of railroaders during the mid-20th century.

They clamored to the lounge car windows to watch in amazement as several fast container freight trains whizzed by at the posted 59 mph and gleefully waved to passengers on Metrolink and Amtrak Surfliner® trains as they embarked and disgorged passengers during stops at the very busy historic former Santa Fe Railroad Depot platform.

The love and tenderness of the six adults was obvious, and the students seemed to glow in their care. It was a very positive experience for



Savanna High School's Adult Transitional program students toured our rail cars on May 13, along with their leaders.

Photo by Stu Proctor

all of us.

The men and women of our Railroad Operations Committee enjoy showing off our rail equipment and talking about what has been done to preserve and conserve the cars -- and what still needs to be done.

Hosting various private, public and civic groups and students of all ages is why we are at the Fullerton Depot.

Please tell your local schools, social organizations and public benefit groups about SCRPA and our willingness to open for private visits.

As demonstrated at our recent Railroad Days, we can handle anything from small family units to large organizations. And while we serve at no charge, a donation to support our continuing conservation efforts is greatly appreciated.

2016 CALENDAR

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| July 2 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station | Aug. 23 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station |
| July 11 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station | Sept. 3 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station |
| July 13 | SCRPA Quarterly Dinner & Members Meeting , 6 p.m. Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton | Sept. 10 | SCRPA excursion to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, meet at 8 a.m. at Fullerton Train Station to board bus; return to station at 7:30 p.m. RSVPs due by Aug. 16 |
| July 16 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station | Sept. 12 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station |
| July 16 | Movie Night* , "Berlin Express" (digital, 1948), 6 p.m. Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave. | Sept. 17 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station |
| July 26 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station | Sept. 27 | H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station |
| Aug. 6 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station | Oct. 1 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station |
| Aug. 8 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton Train Station | Oct. 10 | SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., UP lounge cars, Railway Plaza Compound, Fullerton |
| Aug. 20 | ROC Work Party & Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station | | |

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

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

WWW.TRAINWEB.COM

Rail Travel - Rail Industry
Model Railroading - Railfanning

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



Top, from left, Jina Han, Olivia Garcia, Karina Babish, Angel Garcia
 Below, Andrew Song, Jamie Choi and teacher Mrs. Ceballos for Nathaley Kim . -- Photo by Kathy Norris

Railroad Safety Poster Contest awards presented

Six Fullerton students received the top awards in the 2016 Railroad Safety Poster Contest, presented for the 18th year by the Southern California Railway Plaza Association.

The contest creates an awareness of the need for safe behaviors around trains and the tracks that cut across the city. Fullerton School District trustees recently recognized the top winners at a board meeting.

Each elementary school was invited to submit entries by upper- and lower-grades. All of the posters were displayed in the Fullerton Public Library Children's Room.

The six citywide winners' posters were also exhibited at Railroad Days 2016. Those students each received four passes for round-trip tickets on the Amtrak Surfliner[®] and cash prizes.

Thanks go to the 2016 contest sponsors

Amtrak[®] and Fullerton Rotary Club.

Here are the winning students, by grade divisions:

LOWER GRADES:

First-- Angela Garcia, 3rd grade, Mrs. Paul, Beechwood School.

Second-- Karina Babish, 2nd grade, Mrs. Colicchio, Rolling Hills School

Third -- Olivia Chon, 1st grade, Mrs. Healy, Beechwood School

UPPER GRADES:

First -- Nathaley Kim, 5th grade, Mrs. Ceballos, Fisler School

Second -- Andrew Song, 4th grade, Mrs. Collins, Laguna Road School

Third -- Jamie Choi, 5th grade, Mrs. Ceballos, Fisler School

Honorable Mention: Jun Han, 4th grade, Mrs. Lim, Fisler School

-- Kathy Norris, Poster Contest Chairman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

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
YARDMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
TRAINMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600+

PLEASE PRINT

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.

Southern California Railway Plaza Association, Inc.
1661 E. Chapman Ave., #1G
Fullerton, CA 92831

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANAHEIM, CA
PERMIT NO. 815

Address correction requested

IN THIS ISSUE

○ Summer Dinner Meeting program showing American Association of Railroads films on July 13, **Page 2**

○ Members Movie Night: "Berlin Express" is a World War II classic on July 16, **Page 3**



○ Fall excursion to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum on Sept. 10. See flier inserted in this issue.

Postmaster: Please deliver between July 5 & 9, 2016

○ HOT RAIL! ○

is published quarterly at Fullerton, California, and is the official publication of

The Southern California Railway Plaza Association, Inc. &

The Southern California Scenic Railway Association, Inc.

1661 E. Chapman Ave., Unit 1G, Fullerton, CA 92831 / E-mail: info@scrpa.net

Visit us on the web at <http://www.scrpa.net/> & <http://www.scsra.org/>

SCRPA and SCSRA are California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporations

IRS Tax Exemption No. 33-0776081 (SCRPA) and No. 95-3947766 (SCSRA)

Editor: Donna Johnson

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

Any article or feature published in Hot Rail! may be reprinted in whole or in part provided that proper credit is given the source.



SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Harold Benash		
Members,	Allison Benash	Denis Hergenreter	Jeff Schulze
	George Engelage IV	Donna Johnson	Karen Sibrel
	Wendell Hanks	Mary Proctor	Michael Vitale
	Dave Norris	Stuart Proctor	Dennis White
	Vanessa Sanchez		

SCSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Sue Kientz	(seat expires Sept. 2017)	
Members,	Gordon Bachlund	(March 2018)	Stuart Proctor (March 2018)
	Harold Benash	(Dec. 2016)	Michael Vitale (Dec. 2016)
	Jim Hoffmann	(Dec. 2016)	Dennis White (Dec 2016)
	Ted McConville	(Dec. 2016)	

SCRPA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President	Harold Benash
Vice Presidents	Dennis White
Secretary	Mary Proctor
Treasurer	Robert Freeman

SCSRA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President,	Gordon Bachlund	(June 2016)
Treasurer,	Michael Vitale	(June 2016)
Secretary,	Jim Hoffmann	(June 2016)

SCRPA HISTORY & MODELING COMMITTEE

Chairman	Harold Benash
Secretary and Editor,	Dennis White

APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MANAGERS

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

SCRPA RAILROAD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman	Stuart Proctor
----------	----------------

SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

Membership,	Karen Sibrel
Community & Media Relations	Donna Johnson
Railroad Days 2015	Jeff Schulze
Movie Nights	Dennis White
Poster Contest	Kathy Norris, Mary Proctor
Activities	Peggy Benash
Programs	Dave Norris