

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 XII, Number 4

Winter 2014

## WHY HOLLYWOOD ADORES TRAINS



Tom Zoellner,  
Chapman  
University

Reprinted with permission from The Orange County Register, Chapman University section, Nov. 25, 2014

The romantic comedy “Before We Go,” set for release early next year, has a classic “meet-cute” setup: Beautiful woman loses her purse in New York City, and a hunky passer-by tries to assist her. Adventure and kisses soon follow. And the first scene takes place in front of a missed train in Grand Central Station.

This isn’t an accident.

Hollywood has had a love affair with trains that goes back to the earliest days of cinema, when 1910’s audiences were reported to flee the theater when an oncoming train was depicted on the screen.

And even though the vast majority of Americans today never once have set foot on an intercity passenger train – about 98 percent of us, by one estimate – filmmakers continue to give this vehicle loving treatment, not just as a charming antique but as the very symbol of the future.

Last summer’s surprise breakout film “Snowpiercer” takes place on a high-speed train whizzing endlessly around a depleted Earth.

Jennifer Lawrence takes a gleaming high-speed bullet to the capital city in “The Hunger Games,” and in the 2040 version of Los Angeles depicted in “Her,” Joaquin Phoenix rides a train on stilts to take a vacation in the mountains with his cell phone.

Recent movies set in the 19th century give loving treatment to that century’s ubiquitous vehicle.

The first action scene in the remake of “The Lone Ranger” was a spectacular crash off the tracks. Robert Downey Jr. shimmies between rail carriages in “Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows.” And of course, the adaptation of Anna Karenina features a climatic scene in a St. Petersburg station.

It is safe to say Hollywood loves the train more than the car – even when you consider all the chases, crashes and back-seat make-outs that the latter can deliver.

What’s behind this enduring film fetish? I believe there are four hidden factors.

The first is the relentless forward quality of the train’s motion. There is no stopping the big engine once it’s barreling down the tracks, and this mimics the narrative energy that directors are always hoping to create.

The water tower spouts hurtling toward the hero as he tries to walk between the boxcars – a scene endlessly re-enacted in movies like 1976’s “Silver Streak,” 1992’s “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” and 2012’s “Skyfall” – is a perfect representation of the thrills and obstacles that filmmakers want to throw at



Fillmore & Western Railway is known for its “movie trains.”

**Continued on Page 3**

**SCRPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due. Please see message and membership form on Page. 7.**

## IN MEMORIAM

### Frederick Henry Canfield III 5/19/1938 - 11/21/2014



**Fred Canfield at  
Railroad Days 2007**

SCRPA has received word that longtime member Fred Canfield, known to most for years as “Mr. Railroad Days,” has passed away. Fred also devoted many hours on developing and maintaining our Web pages.

He and his wife, Claudia, moved to California in 1963 because of his love of Disneyland.

He was an active member of Circus Model Builders, Circus Fans, Model Railroad Builders and Meals on Wheels.

Memorial services have been set for 1 p.m. Thursday Jan. 8, 2015 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 1145 W. Valencia Mesa Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Laura Jones and Carolyn Wilcox; and four grandchildren, Claire and Ian Jones, and Audrey and Eric Wilcox.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to Fullerton Meals on Wheels Inc. 223 W. Amerige Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832.

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## **President's Message**

Happy New Year to you all! The Knott's Berry Farm tour was enjoyed by all who participated.

See Page 5 for information on a spring trip to Travel Town and the Live Steamers at Griffith Park. It's on a Sunday in mid-March, as Sunday is the only day that the Live Steamers operate.

By now you should have received your membership renewal letter, please return at your earliest convenience. A big thank you to the membership committee for their efforts -- Karen Sibrel, Peggy Benash and Dennis White.

Railroad Days 2015 is four months away, city permits have been submitted and the process is under way. Again your support will be needed to make this a successful event, as you have in the past. Chairman Jeff Schulze and site coordinator Stu Proctor will be looking for your support on May 2 & 3 – and at the Friday set-up on May 1!

We are hopeful that exciting news will be available at the Quarterly Dinner in regard to the SCRPA future endeavors in Fullerton.

Sadly we have lost two of our longtime members, Fred Kingdon and Fred Canfield. Both were great supporters of the SCRPA and will be dearly missed. -- **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

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### 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.

## January dinner updates cabooses

SCRPA's winter Quarterly Dinner Meeting for members and guests will be held Jan. 14, featuring a report on the latest developments involving our caboose projects.

The free tours of the cabooses at the Fullerton Depot house tracks will begin on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, hosted by the Railroad Operations Committee.

To hear all the news, join us for a great evening, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard (near Berkeley Avenue) in Fullerton.

Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. No RSVPs are required.

# It's 'Alfred Hitchcock Night' at the Movies in January

By Dennis White and  
Gordon Bachlund  
Movie Night Hosts

The free Members Retrospective Film Series will open 2015 with a Hitchcock directed mystery on Jan. 17, 2015 at the Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Avenue.

We will begin at 6 p.m. with a wine tasting on the museum patio, sponsored by Carole and Donald Lawver.

At 6:30 we'll move inside to the auditorium, and enjoy "The Lady Vanishes," (1938) in a digital format.

Starring Margaret Lockwood, Michael Redgrave and Paul Lucas, the feature is set in a fictional country in a highly mountainous region of Europe. A motley group of travelers is delayed by an avalanche that has blocked the



railway tracks. While waiting for the tracks to be cleared, an elderly passenger disappears and nobody on the train seems willing to remember seeing her before the avalanche.

It was filmed at Longmoor Military Railway, Longmoor Military Camp, Hampshire, England, UK, which was built in 1903 by the Specialist 53rd Railway Company of the Royal Engineers. The Royal Engineers had samples of locomotives and rolling stock from all the European railroads, including captured enemy equipment.

Longmoor Military Camp exists today, on slightly more than 4,400 acres, and is home to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, providing trade training; both basic and supplementary, to Royal Army soldiers.

## "Hollywood" from the cover

viewers in an effort to keep them engaged, frightened and delighted.

Last summer gave us a new twist: fisticuffs on top of a Japanese bullet train in "Wolverine."

Then there's the sex. The train evokes this basic urge on film just as easily as it has for authors and poets since the dawn of railways. "I like to see it lap the miles and lick the valleys up," wrote Emily Dickinson in a poem called "The Railway Train," which envisions the locomotive as a crafty lover – the same force, not coincidentally, that flattened Tolstoy's suicidal adulteress Anna Karenina.

The thrumming of the unseen engine, the soothing sway of the carriages, the coziness of the private berth: All of this creates the kind of irresistible erotic mood that is on full display in the final shot of "North by Northwest" as Cary Grant lifts his bride into the upper bunk of a speeding night train.

Which brings us to the way the train brings unfamiliar people together for chance interactions, a movie plot-maker's dream. Alfred Hitchcock got a murder tit-for-tat going between – who else and where else? – "Strangers on a Train." Two repressed would-be lovers meet, fall in love and break up in an English railway station in "Brief Encounter" (in which Celia Johnson almost pulls an Anna Karenina move at the end).

The Texas director Richard Linklater got two beautiful young people talking on board an Austrian train in "Before Sunrise," which spawned a fictional marriage and a real-life film franchise.

Finally, the sheer visual grace of the train – its chuffing

engine, its sleek carriages, its arrowing motion – makes for dazzling shots that can make the vehicle a character itself, invoking danger or beauty (or both).

It represents both warmth and claustrophobia in the underrated "Transsiberian," a 2008 thriller set in eastern Russia starring Woody Harrelson. The whistle of the last train out of Paris – in the rain, no less – is the emotional coup de grace for Rick Blaine after he reads Ilsa's breakup note in 1942's "Casablanca." In 1925, Buster Keaton's "The General" – a movie about a plot to sabotage Confederate railroads – featured the most expensive scene ever shot up until that point: the crash of a locomotive into a river.

For my money, the most harrowing film train crash, in a long and gloriously messy line of them, had to have been in the opening scenes of "Super 8" as the debris from box-cars flies in all directions and at a terrifying velocity.

A list of train appearances in movies would be as long as the Orient Express, and let's not even talk about the influence of that luxury train on celluloid. Because you get the idea.

When a director really wants to take viewers on a ride, there is only one method of conveyance to choose: All aboard – and bring the popcorn.

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Tom Zoellner is an associate professor of English at Chapman University and the author of "Train: Riding the Rails that Created the Modern World, from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief," out in paperback in November from Penguin Books USA.

Watch a book trailer at [vimeo.com/80854270](http://vimeo.com/80854270).

# SCRPA ON THE GO



An October excursion provided tours of three train museums in the San Gabriel Valley and San Bernardino, and a visit to Knott's Berry Farm in December offered behind-the-scenes views of historic locomotives, private cars and the roundhouse.



Photos clockwise from top right:

- Steam engine #3450 at RailGiants in Pomona;
- A trio of guests consort with a train "bandit" after riding the Knott's Calico Railroad;
- Mike Vitale inspects window panes in the Denver & Rio Grande Southern B-20 car "Edna" at Knott's;
- Jeff and Lauri Schulze and Dennis White discuss the Union Pacific diesel engine at RailGiants in Pomona;
- Barbara Eldredge reviews exhibits at Pacific Railroad Museum in San Dimas

-- PHOTOS BY STU PROCTOR



AN ALL-DAY EXCURSION by bus to:

**TRAVEL TOWN TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM and  
LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS, including THE DISNEY BARN**

in Griffith Park – 5200 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027 – (323) 662-5874

[www.traveltown.org](http://www.traveltown.org) and [www.lals.org](http://www.lals.org)

We will visit the museum, have lunch onboard a turn-of-the-century passenger car and spend time at the gift shop. With all of that accomplished, we will venture next door to the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, where you can ride on their 7.5 gauge model trains. Smaller gauge trains and the Disney Barn will provide additional entertainment.

**Sunday, March 22, 2015**

**Meet at Fullerton Train Station parking lot,  
200 E. Santa Fe Ave., north of 91 Freeway off Harbor Boulevard  
Doughnuts & juice at 8:15 a.m. / Buy coffee at Cafe -- Depart by bus at 9 a.m.**

LUNCH AT TRAVEL TOWN WILL BE PIZZA, SALAD AND DRINKS

**Return to Fullerton about 5 p.m.** (Please remember gratuity for bus driver)

**PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSOCIATION**

Information: Harold Benash, 714-336-1690 or email: [info@scrpa.net](mailto:info@scrpa.net)

Reservation for the spring Travel Town & Live Steamers Excursion — Please RSVP by March 1, 2015  
Send to SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838

\_\_\_\_ Number of persons @ \$65 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Check payable to SCRPA)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# SCRPA NEWS IN BRIEF

## ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS

SCRPA officers were re-elected in November to one-year terms, beginning in January.

Four board members whose terms were expiring – Allison Benash, George Engelage, Mary Proctor and Karen Sibrel – were elected to three-year extensions, through Dec. 31, 2017.

Longtime board members Terry Galvin and Richard Hopping were removed as board members and thanked for their years of service and dedication.

In addition, Peggy Benash was appointed Excursions Chairman. Karen Sibrel is the new Membership Chairman.

## 2015 RAILROAD SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

We will have a poster announcing the coming of the 2015 Railroad Safety Poster Contest in all the Fullerton elementary school offices by the middle of January.

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual competition is open to the more than 10,000 kindergarten through sixth-grade students in the Fullerton School District. Teachers and students will receive their instructions and a schedule by March 20.

Posters chosen as school winners are due back to the district by April 17, so we can pick them up and begin judging for the top six during the week of April 20-24.

Those six citywide winners – first-, second- and third-

place for both upper grades and lower grades – will receive cash prizes and four Amtrak® passes for each student's family. They may choose the destination of San Diego or Santa Barbara.

All of the schools' winning posters will be displayed in the Fullerton Library Children's Room in May. The top six winners will be on display at Railroad Days 2015.

--- **Mary Proctor and Kathy Norris**

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Railroad Operations Committee (ROC)** members have completed the interior projects on the two cabooses at the Fullerton Train Station and are preparing the exteriors to be painted in the near future.

The current ROC petty cash fund is \$344.37

The **History & Modeling Committee** is working on a new project after learning the planned donation to SCRPA of a 4 x 8 HO scale model railroad was withdrawn. Unfortunately, we had already committed the layout as a gift to the La Habra Boys & Girls Club. H&MC members have enough extra HO scale-model equipment on hand that we decided to construct a new model railroad using our supplies and present it to the club.

Work nights will be each Tuesday at Harold's house until the new layout is completed.

- **Stu Proctor and Dennis White**

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## 2015 CALENDAR

<b>Jan. 12</b>	<b>SCRPA Board Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton	<b>Feb. 7</b>	<b>Free caboose tours</b> , 9 a.m. to noon Fullerton Train Station
<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>SCRPA Quarterly Dinner &amp; Members Meeting</b> , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton	<b>Feb. 9</b>	<b>SCRPA Board Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>ROC Work Party</b> , 9 a.m. to noon, and Free caboose tours, Fullerton Train Station	<b>Feb. 21</b>	<b>ROC Work Party</b> , 9 a.m. to noon, and Free caboose tours, Fullerton Train Station
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>Movie Night</b> * "The Lady Vanishes," (1938), 6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.	<b>Feb. 24</b>	<b>H&amp;MC / ROC Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>H&amp;MC / ROC Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton	<b>LOOKING AHEAD: May 2 &amp; 3 — Railroad Days 2015</b> 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fullerton Train Station	

\* Dates and movie titles subject to change.

Read the Hot Rail! in a color PDF and check out SCRPA announcements at [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net).

**WWW.TRAINWEB.COM**



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Most extensive and visited railroad website in the world  
including live rail video at [www.RailCams.com](http://www.RailCams.com) !

# 2015 membership renewals help SCRPA continue to grow

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 2014:

- With new featured exhibits such as the BNSF Railway Co. low-emissions GenSet locomotive, Railroad Days 2014 was once again a huge success and drew record crowds to the Fullerton Transportation Center. 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.
- We continue to produce motor coach excursions to popular rail displays throughout the Southland, including visits to the San Bernardino History and Railroad

Museum and the Pacific Railroad Society Museum in San Dimas.

- Interior conservation work on our two cabooses is complete and exterior restoration is currently underway. We are now offering free public tours of the cabooses twice monthly, as well.
- 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.

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.

Sincerely, **The SCRPA Membership Committee.**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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



Membership Levels		
<i>Please check appropriate level</i>		
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.  
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Fullerton, CA 92831

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Postmaster: Please deliver between Jan. 2 & 9, 2015

## ○ 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](mailto:info@scrpa.net)  
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IRS Tax Exemption No. 33-0776081 (SCRPA) and No. 95-3947766 (SCSRA)



Editor: Donna Johnson

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#### SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Harold Benash		
Members,	Allison Benash	Denis Hergenreter	Jeff Schulze
	George Engelage IV	Donna Johnson	Karen Sibrel
	Robert Freeman	Mary Proctor	Michael Vitale
		Stuart Proctor	Dennis White

#### SCSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Sue Kientz	(seat expires Sept. 2017)	
Members,	Gordon Bachlund	(Jan 2015)	Stuart Proctor (Jan 2015)
	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 President	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

#### SCRPA RAILROAD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
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#### 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
Excursions	Peggy Benash

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MANAGERS

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Railroad Operations Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
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Caboos Maintenance Chairman,	Mike Vitale
Fund Raising Chairman,	Harold Benash
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