



A publication for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members

September 2023

Early California History Mine Train Project Progress



Construction progress on the Early California History Mine Train had been on hold while the Facilities Department completed a new driveway connecting the future RV workamper site to the upper pad around the horse barn. Recently, Glen Rogers completed the interior road which provides a connection from the south to the north without the requirement to pass beside the Campo Depot. With the new driveway, a new drainage system was required to carry rain water under the mine train tracks. Now that this work has been completed, we can start laying track again. We are one step closer to finishing the project.



Brian Elmore (above) and Jim Lundquist completed the installation on August 10th, along with help from Glen Rogers and Roark Stump.

Photos by Jim Lundquist 8/10/23



**Pacific Southwest Railway Museum
Association, Inc.**
WWW.PSRM.ORG

Museum and Train Operations
Campo Depot
Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Rd, Campo
619-478-9937

La Mesa Depot Museum & Office
4695 Nebo Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941
619-465-PSRM (7776)

PSRMA Board of Directors
Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month except December at 6:30PM. A link to join the Zoom meeting is emailed to active members the first of the month.

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Vice President: Gabe Zorbas
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Secretary: Jenn Brooker
Equipment Dept: Robert Smith
Facilities Dept: Frank Denison
Museum Services Dept: Travus Clark
Operations Dept: John Cenkner

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Gift Shop Mgr.: Jenn Brooker
Archivist: Bruce Semelsberger
Hot Scoop Editor: Jim Lundquist
Membership: Carl Brooker
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker
Volunteer Coordinator: vacant
Asst. Dir. Of Facilities: Jim Lundquist
Station Master (La Mesa): Timothy Miller
Social Media Mgr: Jason Drenkow

September 1, Friday - A special members meeting will be held in La Mesa to recall the "Great Freight" adventure in 1983. Several of the members who participated on that train will be in attendance sharing their memories of that effort to establish our collection in Campo. The La Mesa Police Department community room has limited seating for the 7:00PM meeting. Reservations are required for an in-person attendance and to attend via zoom. Those are available on a first come-first served basis at

<https://forms.gle/uCLj69RG2iYRvesG9>

In Campo:

Saturdays: The Golden State trains depart at 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Sunset Special trains now through September 30th at 6:30 PM .

Saturday and Sundays: work days at Campo.

Wednesdays and Saturdays: Library open from 9AM to 5PM.

September 23 and 30 - Brakeman class

October weekends - Pumpkin Express

In La Mesa: Saturdays: La Mesa Depot open 11AM to 2PM.



Education - It's who we are and what we do!

Our museum exists to educate the public on railway history. That is our primary task.

One of the ways we accomplish this is to provide an opportunity to the Boy Scouts of America which allows them to earn a Railroad Merit badge. For the past decade or so, Glen Rogers has taken on the task of providing the history and education to the various Boy Scout groups who come calling.

In addition to earning the badge, the boys also take in a train ride and visit the exhibits inside the Exhibit Hall. We also invite the troop to come out and stay on the property,



making it a great weekend for all involved. Thank you Glen, for helping us preserve and present history.

*Photos by Jim
Lundquist
8/12/23*



The *Hot Scoop*® is a publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.

The opinions expressed in the *Hot Scoop* are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc., (PSRMA) its officers or staff.

PSRMA Mission Statement:

PSRMA is dedicated to preserving the physical legacy and the experience of rail transportation. Programs address the historical, social, economic and technical impact of railroading with particular emphases on railroads of San Diego County and the systems with which they connected in the United States and Mexico.

PSRMA is a non-profit educational organization operating under section 501(c)3 of the tax codes. Donations may be tax deductible.

PSRMA is a member of the Heritage Rail Alliance.

Submission guidelines: All articles should be single spaced and submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photographs are also welcomed. Send all submissions to Editor@psrm.org

The *Hot Scoop* is available in color via email. To receive the electronic version in PDF format, send an email to editor@psrm.org and include your name, membership number and email. Note that if you opt for the e-mail version, you will no longer receive the printed copy.

Comments are always welcome. Send your feedback to:

Editor@psrm.org

From the Back Platform

By Stephen Hager, President

August was an interesting month for Southern California as we were hit by the remnants of Hurricane Hilary, then downgraded to Tropical Storm status. This was a relatively rare event; in fact, it was the first time in 84 years that a Tropical Storm had made landfall in Southern California. The storm was preceded by dire warnings of flash flooding and severe winds in eastern San Diego County, and many museum members were understandably concerned about the museum facility in Campo. I am happy to report that the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum suffered no ill effects from the storm, save for a fallen rock and a couple small mudflows over the track west of where we currently operate trains. We did end up cancelling the 3 PM and 7 PM trains and closing the museum early on Saturday, August 19th out of an abundance of caution.

On that note, museum leadership decided to adjust our museum hours and train operations in Campo to be Saturdays-only through the end of September. Due to a number of factors, including lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteer train crew ranks have gotten too thin to consistently operate trains on Sundays during the summer. Summer has historically been the most difficult time of the year for us to operate trains as the heat dissuades both volunteers and museum visitors from coming to Campo. The museum will continue to be open with train rides on Saturdays until October, at which time we will resume our regular Saturday and Sunday hours in time for the Pumpkin Express event starting on October 7th.

Although the museum in Campo is closed to the public on Sundays for the time being, scheduled volunteer workdays will continue happening on Saturdays, Sundays, and select weekdays. Bruce Semelsberger continues to host workdays at the Southwest Railway Library in Campo on most Wednesdays and Saturdays. Roadmaster Glen Rogers is always looking for new recruits to the Maintenance of Way group, which works on select weekdays and weekends each month. The MOW group recently replaced several ties on tracks 12 and 13 outside the museum's carshop, allowing multiple restrictions on those tracks to be lifted. Glen's next priority is completing repairs to the curve west of Milepost 64 where we had a derailment back

in May. Track work is the type of work where additional people can exponentially increase the amount of work that can be accomplished in one day.

In the Equipment Department, work has been proceeding on the mechanical restoration of SP 3709.



Over the course of three weekends in August, volunteers reinstalled the locomotive's #2 main air reservoir and associated piping, reinstalled both pilots, began cleaning and inspecting the traction motors, topped off the lubricating oil, flushed the cooling water system and added water treatment, and started the engine again. This time, we allowed the engine to idle for an extended period and get hot. The engine idles very smoothly and it responds well to throttle input. In fact, we throttled the engine all the way up to run 8, and boy does it purr!

Starting the first weekend of September, the Equipment Department will be making its annual push to cycle our operational locomotives and passenger cars through their annual inspections and maintenance. This work includes repairing, inspecting and testing electrical systems, air brake systems, doors, windows, seatbacks, etc. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above-mentioned tasks or on any of the numerous other tasks that it takes to keep the museum running, please send an email to volunteer@psrm.org and ask to be added to the volunteer email list.

As always, if you would like to get in touch with me, please send a note to president@psrm.org. Until next time, keep it on the high iron!

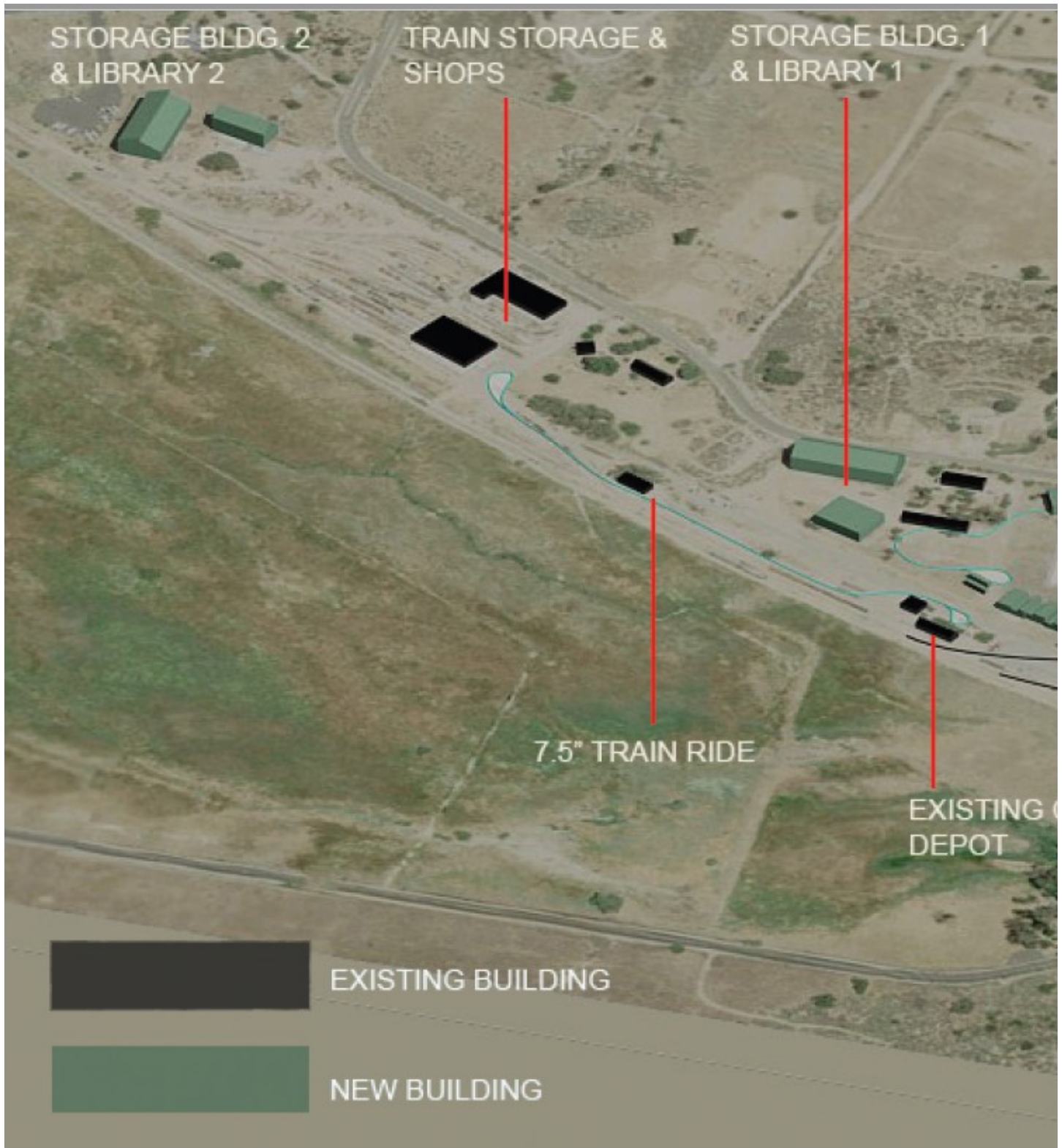
Undergoing Restoration, GP-9 Southern Pacific #3709, is the Shop Building



Outreach continues



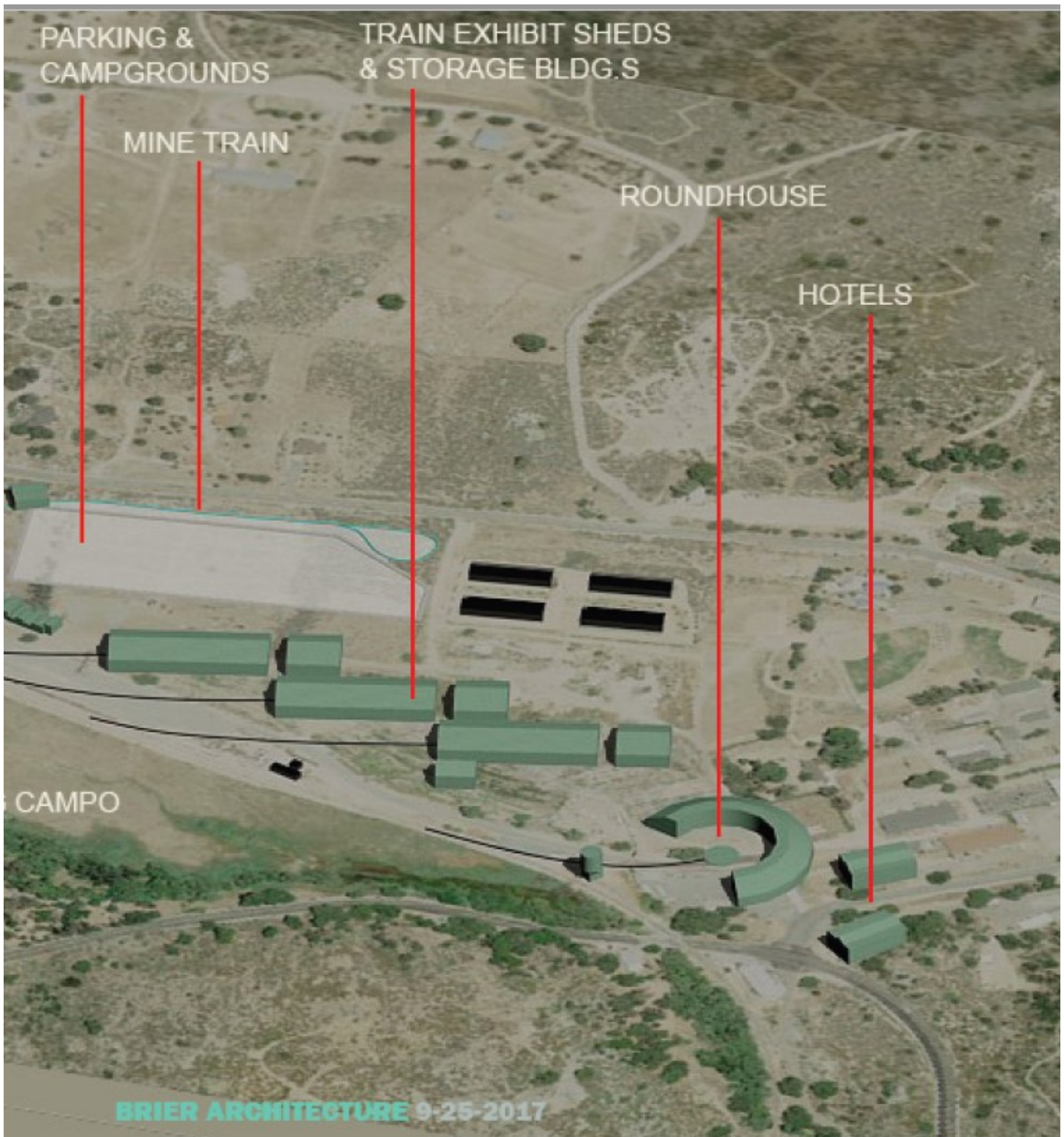
PSRM Secretary Jennifer Brooker represented PSRM during the San Diego Model Railroad Museum's Thomas Family Day on August 19, 2023. Jennifer promoted our museum, answered questions, and handed out brochures and stickers. Hopefully we'll see some new faces around PSRM!



Master Plan for Campo

Starting with 8 acres in 1980, the Museum's Master Plan has evolved into a comprehensive railway museum using approximately 40 acres of the 99.99 acres the museum owns. The existing buildings shown in

black include the Shop Building, Exhibit Hall, rental house, horse barn, Campo Depot, restrooms, DAP Station and engine house. The neighboring properties with a house and garage, the four horse stables and potential hotel are shown for reference but are not a part of our railway museum Master Plan.



The overriding goal of the Master Plan is to concentrate the visitors around the Campo Depot, making it the center of the public space. Within easy walking distance of the Campo Depot and restrooms is the Early California History exhibit featuring the mine train connecting the Motor Transport Museum buildings, as well as the three new exhibit halls, with a

roundhouse located farther west. The existing Exhibit Hall would be used for restoration shops.

The County of San Diego completed environmental studies on the plan and adopted the Master Plan into a new zone, which allows us to complete the development as funding becomes available.

Brakeman Training Classes

By Stephen Hager, Brakeman Class Instructor

The next hands-on class for the entry level train crew position, Brakeman, will be held this September. The class is open to anyone, age 16 and above, who is interested in becoming a member of our volunteer train crew (don't let the brakeman title scare away any ladies, we had two last class). Class size is limited to

eight people. There will be two sessions of the class; attendance at both sessions is necessary to complete the class. The two sessions will be held on September 23rd and 30th (Saturdays), all day, at Campo. Museum membership is the only prerequisite; no prior railroad experience is required! Visit the brakeman class webpage to view more details and information on signing up: <https://www.psrn.org/brakeman-class/>

Operations Volunteers for July 24 to August 19, 2023

by Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service - those who are qualified train crew members, speeder operators/crew, and trainees who have helped us run 11 Golden State trains, 3 Sunset Special trains, and the number of days they have volunteered through August 19: Colin Atwood 3, Jim Baker 1, Ken Brown 2, James Caestecker 1, Randy

Houk 1, Jim Lundquist 2, Shaine Neale 1, Duke Schweikert 1, Tom Ulrich 1, Tim Wamsley 3.

MOW - maintenance of way volunteers who have assisted Roadmaster Glen Rogers and Track Foreman James Caestecker in maintaining tracks and right-of-way this period: Mark Gable 1, Glen Rogers 2.

Yard switching - these are the volunteers who have worked in PSRM yards this period: Martin Caestecker 1 and Stephen Hager 1.

There were a total of 23 volunteer-days this period.

Welcome New Members

by Carl Brooker, Membership

PSRM's membership rolls keep growing and this month has been no exception. Please join the museum in welcoming new members Nat Arambula, Jim Walters, Alexander Saykanya-Perez, Kari and Ken Martone, Deborah Mariya, Richard and Tricia Jarrett, John Inglis, Nicholas Ewing-Pistelak, Eileen Bird, Edmund Bayer, and Alyssa Andersen.

The museum is always looking to grow our membership and our volunteer base. If you have a friend or family member interested in railroad, history, or looking for a new hobby bring them along to Campo!

(Photo on right)

Wood Shop Cleanup and Repairs

Richard Finch inspects our 1942 Oliver 36" band saw to be used in the Jacumba car project. The woodshop is inside the Shop Building and has been a beehive of activity over the decades at Campo.



A note from Fundraising by Donna J. Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development

Soon summer will come to a close! It was so nice to get the much-needed rain and the cooler temperatures. But you know what that means everyone's favorite time of the year, **fall** along with the **Pumpkin Express (October 7th - 29th)** is fast approaching. Be sure to go online at [Pumpkin Express – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](https://psrm.org) to make your reservations!

Thank you to our August donors: (I apologize if I missed anyone, please let me know and I will add you to the next newsletter).

Steve Wood, Jeffrey Haslam – Employment donation through Lawrence Livermore Laboratories,
Jim Lundquist – Charities Foundation of America, Daryl Leininger, Cass Witkowski, George Porter

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, PSRM can restore its iron horses to their original grandeur and preserve them for our children and grandchildren. But like all things it takes funding and there are many ways in which you can support PSRM.

Every donation makes an impact, whether it is a low cost or no cost donation: (all donations are tax deductible)

One-time donation – write a check or go online at [Donate – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](https://psrm.org).

Recurring donation – Just \$15 a month can make a difference.

In-kind donations

Amazon Smile – When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

Like us on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoTrain/>. Share PSRM with your friends.

Volunteer

In many ways, your time can be much more valuable than any monetary donation that you can give. At PSRM we have millions of things to do, but never enough people to do them all. By volunteering your time, you can help PSRM better reach their stated goals. Contact PSRM and tell us that you want to help whether it is a special event or just around the museum. We welcome any help you can give!

Skills

In the same way as your time is of great value, your skills may be more valuable than your money, and you may not even realize it. Nonprofits are always on the lookout for people who have special skills, and even if your skill set doesn't seem to be applicable, you never know. If you are a decent handyman, doing small repairs around the museum can mean that PSRM doesn't have to pay somebody else to do it. This allows them to save money that can then go toward their stated goals. You can contact PSRM directly and ask if they have any use for your skills or you can even learn a new skill with a mentor at PSRM.

Become Involved

No matter which way you become involved with PSRM, the mere fact that you become involved will help.

Contact us

There are many ways to donate-Contact me for more options at: fundraising@psrm.org or (619) 606-6231.

Thank you!

Progress on UP # 576 Reupholstery

Article and photo by Mark Landguth

PSRM's Union Pacific #576 (<https://www.psrn.org/trains/passenger/up-576/>) is a heavy-weight chair car with 22 double-seats. A San Diego County "Community Grant" was secured to have them reupholstered. Last year, custom milled fabric was obtained to match the 1948 original, specialty contractors were identified and selected, and all metal parts were stripped from the seats in preparation to getting them refinished. In March of this year, the County funds fi-

and four more taken into Stuttgart. In early August, those four were re-installed and four more taken to Stuttgart. Four double-seats at a time will be rotated through the Stuttgart shop until all are completed in time NPL 2023.

After the old fabric was removed, **one** seat had two sets of writings as follows:

- 1) JJ Wooster Omaha Neb Aug 21th 1948
Working 12 hours per pay & Sundays
- 2) AH Duman Oct 29 – 1954
Hardly working 5 days No Pay



The first one is consistent with the known fact that in 1948, UP modernized 22 Pullman coaches built in 1931 to give them a streamlined look to match the rest of the fleet. The second indicates that, for at least this seat, there was additional reupholstery work done in 1954. As noted by Stuttgart, all of the seats have multiple tack holes in the wood-metal frames, which indicates all have been reupholstered at least once.

Both writings express some-

thing about worker satisfaction which I will leave to the reader to interpret.



nally came through and the metal parts were sent out for refinishing. Pacific Plating of Santee gave the PSRM immediate turn-around and the first four double-seats went into Stuttgart Upholstery of Santee in April. In June, those first four were re-installed in the UP576

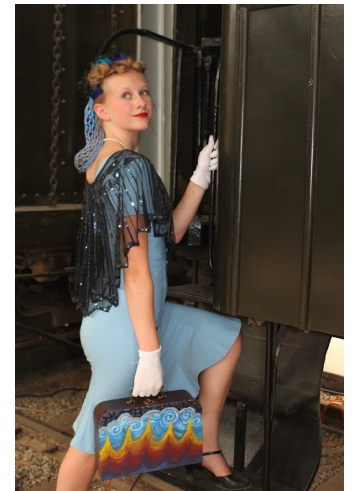
Board Member Nomination Results

Secretary Jenn Brooker reports that board member petition forms for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Facilities, and Director of Operations were received and accepted at the August board meeting. This year, current Director of Facilities Frank Denison and current Director of Operations John Cenkenner ran unopposed. Current Vice President Gabe Zorbas and current Treasurer Dave Smith will be stepping down at the end of their term this year. Colin Atwood submitted a petition for Vice President and Hector Gonzalez submitted a petition for Treasurer. A sincere "Thank You!" goes out to both Gabe and Dave for their service on the board.

Because all of the qualified candidates are running unopposed, and because there are no special election affairs to be voted upon, there will be no election held this year.

The nomination period for the 2024 election will be announced in the Hot Scoop and nomination forms will become available in late June or early July next year.

Family fun at Campo. It is always gratifying to see our visitors enjoying our museum. One day in July found the Garrett family, dressed up in period clothes, with Kerstin taking family photos for their album. They shared their photos with us. Say hello to: Eddie Garrett in tan, Kerstin Garrett in the purple dress, the tall young man in a bowler hat is Asa Harmon, the young man in the purple vest is Conner Garrett, the young ladies are Alannah (smallest, purple hat/green hair), Abigail (red dress), Megan (light blue), and Aidan (purple hat) Garrett.





THE PUMPKIN EXPRESS RETURNS!

Weekends only! October 7th – 29th, 2023

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Campo Depot

For more information and tickets, please visit psrm.org/pumpkin/

