

HOT SCOOP

A black and white line drawing of a hand holding a long-handled spoon, scooping a bowl of hot chocolate topped with marshmallows. The word 'HOT' is written in a large, bold, serif font to the left of the bowl, and 'SCOOP' is written in a similar font to the right. The entire illustration is enclosed in a decorative border with ornate corner pieces.

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association members
January-February 2016





**Pacific Southwest Railway
Museum Association, Inc.**
www.psrn.org

Train Operations

PSRM Campo Depot
State Hwy. 94 at Forrest Gate Rd.
Campo, California
619-478-9937
Lat: 32°36.8'N Lon: 116°28.2'W
Open weekends 9 AM to 5 PM
Golden State trains depart at
11:00 AM and 2:30 PM.

La Mesa Depot Museum & Business Office

4695 Nebo Drive,
La Mesa, California, 91941
619-465-psrm (465-7776)

Open Saturdays 1 PM to 4 PM
Other times by appointment

Meetings of the PSRMA Board
of Directors are held on the 3rd
Friday of the month at 6 PM,
Trinity Church, 3902 Kenwood
Drive, Spring Valley, CA 91977

Museum Officers

President:	Diana Hyatt
Vice-President:	Martin Caestecker
Treasurer:	Dave Tomeraasen
Secretary:	Robert Smith
Equipment:	Ron Hyatt
Facilities:	Frank Denison
Museum Services:	Jim Lundquist
Operations:	Mike Edwards

Museum Staff

Historian:	Bruce Semelsberger
Special Events:	Diana Hyatt
Membership:	Heather Wright
Steam Foreman:	Jim Baker
Gift Shop Mgr:	Heather Wright
Media Liaison:	Dick Pennick
Hot Scoop Editor:	John Wright
Photographers:	Frank Denison, John Wright
Certification & Training:	Mike Edwards

In This Issue

January-February 2016

From The Back Platform 4

Diana Hyatt, PSRM President

An overview of the past year and a look at
what's to come in 2016

Museum Services Report 6

Jim Lundquist, Museum Services

Some changes in volunteer positions and big
plans for the library

Museum Media Coordinator Retires 8

Dick Pennick

After Twelve years, Dick Pennick steps down
to concentrate on crew operations

Doing What Needs to be Done 8

Dave Tomeraasen

Sometime drastic measures are need to keep
the trains running

North Pole Limited Quilt Raffle 9

Rich Paulus

We raffle off another beautiful quilt made by
Janet Paulus.

Pictures 9

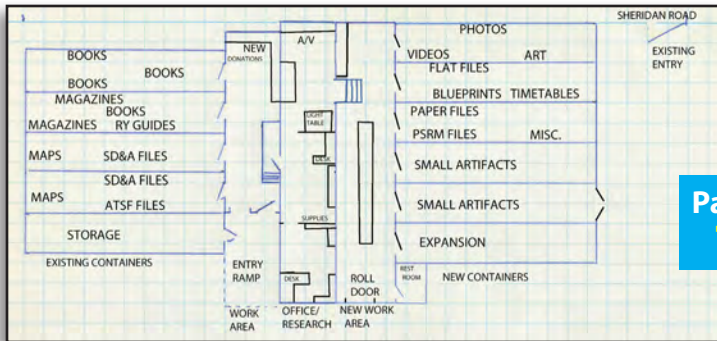
Pictures from the North Pole Limited.

Calendar 11

The museum calendar for January and
February

Cover Photo

Santa and Mrs. Claus waiting for the train at the North Pole. *Diana Hyatt*



The Hot Scoop® is a publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, 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., or its officers and staff.

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association Mission Statement:

The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc., 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 emphasis on railroads of San Diego County and the systems with which they connected in the United States and Mexico.

The Museum is a member of the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums (ATRRM) and is a non-profit educational corporation. Donations are tax deductible under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Submission guidelines: All articles should be limited to no more than three single spaced pages and submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photographs should be in jpg format no larger than 8 x 10 inches at 150 to 240 PPI resolution, but please no cell phone pictures. Send all submissions to hotscoop@psrm.org.

The Hot Scoop is available in color via e-mail. To receive the electronic version in PDF format, reply to hotscoop@psrm.org and include your name, membership number and e-mail address. 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 the Editor at hotscoop@psrm.org.

From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt

North Pole Limited and another look at 2016

I am very happy to report that we finished stronger this year than we have in past years! Ridership figures for the fourth quarter of 2015 increased by 345 passengers and operating income increased by \$38,076.32 for a total gross income (not inclusive of memberships, donations and other non-SDAE related income) of \$234,294.32 for the fourth quarter! During this quarter we added an additional three Pumpkin Trains and four additional North Pole Trains over 2014. All our active volunteers are to be highly commended and thanked for their efforts; without them, PSRM could not continue to exist.

North Pole Limited Trains

This year we operated our North Pole Limited trains from Campo to the North Pole twice per night on Fridays and Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas for a total of 16 trains during the season. Once again, the Bonita Vista High School Music Machine provided elves for us on Thanksgiving

weekend and the Mountain Empire High School provided elves for the remaining three weekends. Both schools are awarded funds that are applied to their various student organizations. As for Santa, almost all of my real-bearded Santas donated their time and talents; Santa is a necessary character and is, after all, the star of the show. Since we use two Santas per train, finding Santas was a bit of a stretch this year with one of my reliable Santas, John Hart, retiring from Santa-hood and shaving off his beard. Thanks to Boyd Applegate, Dan Wheeler, Mike Gerzen, Greg Cook, Marv Nicholson, Ken Schuttenhelm, Jim Lundquist and Santa Russ for performing as Santa. Additionally, special thanks to Kelly Weiss, Mikki Hansen, Candy Obetz, Babra Rosenberg, Heather Wright, Terri and Linda for being Mrs. Claus! If any of the ladies are interested in being Mrs. Claus, please contact me at: dhyatt@psrm.org. I was so desperate for Mrs. Claus' I actually filled in on four trains to perform this very important task thanks to

Charles Siegle assuming my onboard duties and flying solo for those two nights in addition to helping me for all eight nights as my Head Elf! It was a different perspective on things and Mrs. Claus couldn't carry a cell phone or radio! But, it was unbelievably heartwarming to see the smiles on children's faces and receive love, smiles, hugs and small gifts (as well as wish lists!) for Mrs. Claus and Santa. Now I have a deeper understanding as to why good Santas enjoy the role as they bring and receive joy, wonder and hope.

The North Pole itself is a bit of behind-the-scenes magic that everyone enjoys but no one really questions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charles Smith for once again assuming the main duty of opening, setting up and closing down the North Pole every night and Alanna Hyatt as my North Pole Elf. There is much to do, including running lots of electrical cords and servicing generators to keep it all running. Sooner or later, we may actually work on



Crew member Jim Peterson volunteered to fill in as Mrs Claus but his assistance wasn't required. *Diana Hyatt*

Thanks to Charles Smith and his helpers, Robbie Smith, Ron Hyatt and John Shannon for the North Pole setup. *Alanna Hyatt*



repairing the Claus' 1930's circa record player/radio to play Christmas records. But, I think we are all in agreement, that Santa needs some realistic animated reindeer... we will see how these plans pan out in the year ahead. Helping Charles at the North Pole and with onboard train responsibilities was Robert Smith, Ron Hyatt and John Shannon.

This year, Cary Hyatt was promoted from ATSF 1509 bartender to head chef of the kitchen. All volunteers on North Pole train nights are treated to a hot dinner after the train returns to the museum yard. Cary received many compliments on his maturing culinary skills and no one went home hungry! The other two Hyatt boys tended bar on the First Class cars: Ian Hyatt was bartender on the ATSF 1509 and Aaron Hyatt was bartender on the UP 576 offering non-alcoholic beverages. Additionally, first class child passengers received small, filled stockings. Thanks to Heather Wright who ordered the merchandise and assembled a majority of the stockings with some help from John Wright, Ron Hyatt, Aaron Hyatt and myself. Heather also bagged the hot cups by

train car and train and printed the North Pole tickets and, with John's assistance, stuffed them into their respective envelopes, which makes Bruce Deck's job as the ticket agent so much easier! Speaking of Bruce Deck, not only did he make all the hot chocolate again this year, he also purchased a pallet load of hot chocolate as a donation.

Down at the Depot, Bruce Deck performed ticket agent duties and Heather Wright, Ashley Lyon, and Cary & Mavis LaBounty staffed the Gift Shop. Ron Hyatt tended the fire in the stove in the downstairs waiting room and added aroma of cloves and cinnamon to the air. Jim Lundquist and Dawn Lundquist set up several canopies outside the Campo Depot just in case we experienced some of the El Nino rain showers that had been predicted. Fortunately, we were blessed with light rain during only two trains and primarily clear skies most of the nights. There were others who helped put up lights around the Depot and decorate the inside including Gina Prantil, Alanna Hyatt, Ashley Lyon, Jim Baker, Rosalba Duran, Robert Smith, Martin Caestecker, Glen Rogers, Charles Siegle and a few more. Jack O'Lexey and Bruce Semelsberger dressed up as hobos and tended the fire at the hobo camp east of the Depot. There was much coordinated effort in the Operations Department by Rich Paulus, Kyle Jensen and Mike Edwards and we had some fantastic conductors, engineers and train crew! Hopefully, their names are listed in a separate Operations section of this publication.

Before finishing up with North Pole, I would like to thank the selflessness of Steve Clark. Steve was able to be on hand to clean the train most Fridays and Saturdays. Cleaning six railroad cars is a huge task in itself

and often overlooked by many but desperately necessary. Another huge thank you to Rosalba Duran for another overlooked job is washing and sanitizing the Cambro hot beverage containers every Saturday and Sunday morning. Typically, there are eleven of these containers used every night and Rosalba took on the majority of the washing duties with some help from Bruce Deck and others. Steve and Rosalba are the unsung heroes of our trains!

Looking Forward: 2016

First up in January will be our Thank You dinner for the North Pole Limited volunteers. Ron and I decided to reinstitute this time-honored tradition since we were not completely burned out by the end of the season! Volunteers will enjoy a railroad themed menu cooked in the kitchen of ATSF 1509 as we take a leisurely trip to Division and return during the second weekend the museum is closed.

The Christmas Train event also known as the Three Kings Train will occur on Sunday, January 10, 2016. Unfortunately, the rails have not been repaired through daylighted tunnel 3 in Mexico and this will mark the seventh year without a PSRM train transporting the Three Kings, Santa and the volunteers to the Tecate Stadium where gifts of clothing items, personal hygiene, school supplies and an apple will be given to 4,000 needy boys, girls and infants from the Tecate area. Along with several other PSRM members, I plan to attend the event and represent our organization. I am hopeful that we will see the opening of the railroad to Tecate in 2016 but this will also be an election year for the position of Tecate Mayor. The current mayor, Cesar Moreno, a local businessman, has been a staunch supporter for reopening the rail line.



Ticket Agent Bruce Deck, left and Conductor Stephen Hager at the Depot Ticket Counter.
Alanna Hyatt



During January, we will receive the Signal Science exhibition donated to us by Todd Clark of Trainorders. We are incredibly excited about this permanent display that was designed as a traveling exposition! Out of a number of railroad museums in the western U.S., PSRM was chosen as the most ideal recipient and caretaker. The collection will be housed inside the Display Building and tells the story of how railroad signaling systems work and why accidents happen. There are interactive screens and the ability of the visitor to activate signals. The collection has been appraised at about a quarter million dollars in value. We are hoping to have everything operational

and on public display by the end of January so come pay Campo a visit!

Our 2nd Annual Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 2016. Participants and board members will review our progress to date and set goals to achieve and pursue further projects. The first fifteen to twenty minutes of every board meeting sees a very quick overview and report on actions. I will provide a more detailed review of our plans for 2016 and beyond in the next edition of the Hot Scoop.

Bunny Trains are scheduled for March 19, 20 and 26th. I am always

looking for help with decorating and set-up, assembling goody bags, hiding Easter eggs, crowd control, tear down and someone to play the Easter Bunny! If you don't know how or where to find me, please e-mail me at dhyatt@psrm.org

The Annual Dinner location and date has been set so mark your calendars! I am excited to announce that we will have a theme this year, so start thinking about what you will be wearing now. I am requesting that you come as your favorite black and white movie character! The wheels have already started turning at Campo and people are coming up with some pretty neat costume ideas! We are back at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island near downtown San Diego. The date is Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Once again, you will be able to purchase tickets through our museum website at www.psr.org. Due to my extremely high workload, I do request that you purchase your tickets online only. If you have any items for our Chinese raffle, please get them to me or leave them at the La Mesa Depot during their hours of operation: every Saturday from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Happy New Year my friends! May 2016 bring peace, contentment and prosperity to all of you and clear tracks ahead for PSRM! ►

Museum Services Report

By Jim Lundquist, Museum Services Director

Volunteer position changes and big plans for the library

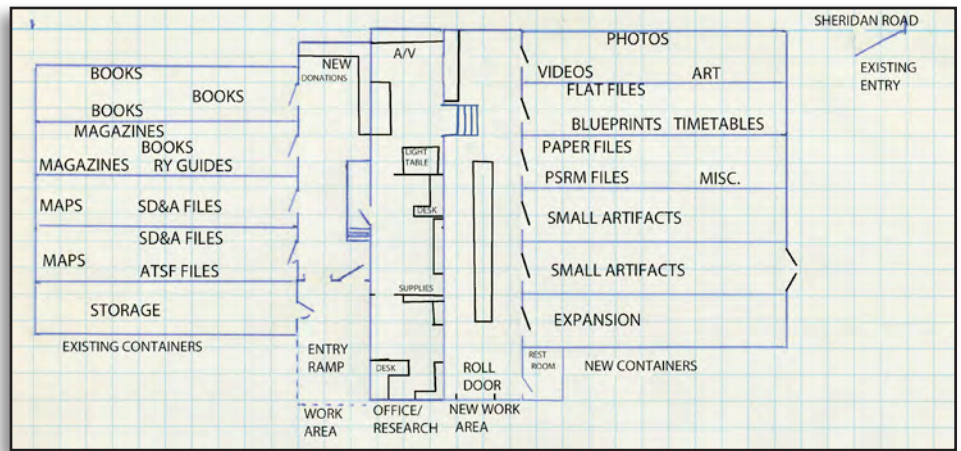
In our last Hot Scoop, a request went out to fill the Membership Secretary position as Heather Wright was stepping down. I'm happy to report that Alex Fiori has

agreed to fill that position. What is even more amazing is that Alex is a professional truck driver and will be doing the job from the road as he travels around the country. With

today's computers, that becomes a real possibility. Thank you Alex, and thanks again to Heather for her years in this position.

Most of our section's volunteers were involved in the Pumpkin trains and the North Pole trains this year. It's great that we can entertain our visitors in this way— helping them to enjoy a train ride in the country. It's also great to see our regular visitors show up these days as well, taking in our exhibits and reading all the signs we have been able to put up over the past few years. The education process continues as well.

In library news, Bruce Semelsberger has been making plans to expand our library in Campo. Phase one is getting the new containers on the site, with the recommendation that we take advantage of a current low price on containers and complete the concrete work concurrent with other concrete jobs in the Display Building and Shop. Brian Elmore suggested a concrete foundation and suggested a pair of long trenches and forms with inverted rails sunk into the tops. He even volunteered to donate the rails if this can be done when he is on site. He gave me a quote of \$3,000 to complete the job. This construction will allow us to simply slide the containers into place and bolt them together. The high-cube containers will cost us \$2380.00 each delivered from Portable Storage, so anyone needing a really big



The library expansion plans as currently envisioned.

Jim Lundquist

write-off also has a worthy target. Once the first two containers are on site, we can utilize them immediately to begin transferring the small artifacts from the car shop and storing the shelving we will need for the new expanded layout. Completion of the project will entail pouring a concrete floor for the new work area, cutting new personnel doors in the containers, enclosing the work space, adding electrical and lighting and finally adding the insulating foam to the new area and renewing the exterior of the existing section. We estimate the overall cost at \$60-65,000 plus the foam work. Once again we are counting on the help of our friends and supporters to get this vital task accomplished! After receiving this information in an email, long time member and library volunteer and

supporter Roy Pickering offered to start the project with a donation of \$5,000! Former Museum Services Director Ted Kornweibel made a donation of \$1000 towards the project.

I'll finish this report with some absolutely terrific news. Our museum has received an awesome display exhibit for our Display Building, and the movement and set up of the display has already started! It will take almost the entire month of January to put it all together. I'm not going to say more about it in the report, as I hope to include details and photos for the next issue of the Hot Scoop. I will tell you that the exhibit is first class and represents a new era of exhibits and a new part of railroad history that we haven't presented before. I'm very excited about it! ►



Sometimes it's lonely out there... Speeder (yes, there is a speeder in that picture) Operator John Wright crosses the bridge over Campo Creek at Division.

Jim Lunquist

Museum Media Coordinator Retires

By Dick Pennick

After 12 years of enticing visitors to our Campo Train-Operation Center from all over the Southland and the rest of the U.S., I have decided to hang up the skates.

One of the major spin-offs of my efforts was the formation of the museum's current Media Committee by our president, Diana Hyatt, and a group of very talented museum volunteers. The position of "Media Coordinator" was created in 2003 to fill a vacuum at that time in the coordination and implementation of a

more structured and driven media outreach program. My duties often overlapped into the "promotion" side of the equation, since I have always been a tireless promoter of our great enterprise, and am constantly seeking new ways to bring our heritage message to more and more potential visitors. One of my big regrets is that more of our members are not engaged in the promotional efforts on a personal level in their respective communities. These localized efforts could multiply the work of the committee many times over.

It's been an enjoyable, sometimes frustrating run, and I cherish the many friends I have made in the media community. But the time is now right to pass the baton. My retirement was effective Dec. 31st. I will continue to assist the committee as time permits, and will still be actively involved in train operations as a crew member, and the coordination of the staffing and exhibits at our La Mesa Depot Museum. ►

Doing What Needs To Be Done

Photos and Text By Dave Tomeraasen

On Friday, December 27, just before the initial North Pole Limited train, the UP 576 air sprung an air brake leak in a very difficult to get to place just above the wheel set. PSRM Vice-President Martin Caestecker, the only person skinny enough to fit in the extremely tight spot, was able to squeeze into the small space just above the wheel set, find the leaking air fitting, and repair it, just shortly before the NPL train was ready to depart. ►



North Pole Limited Quilt Raffle

By Rich Paulus

On Saturday evening, 19 December, after the last North Pole Limited train of the season had returned to Campo Depot and the last passengers desiring to do so had purchased their raffle tickets, Depot Staffer Mavis LaBounty

pulled the winning ticket for the 2015 NPL quilt raffle. PSRM member and Museum supporter Mary Jo Strachwitz was the winner. Mary Jo had purchased several tickets when she, her husband, and their guests visited Campo during the Pumpkin Express,

which she described as a wonderful event. On Monday, 21 December, Janet Paulus, who made the quilt specifically for NPL, met Mary Jo at the La Mesa Depot and presented the quilt. ►



Rich Paulus holds the raffle ticket container as Mavis LaBounty draws the winning ticket.
Rich Paulus



Janet Paulus (left) and Mary Jo Strachwitz (right) hold up the 2015 NPL quilt at La Mesa Depot.
Rich Paulus

Pictures

A collection of pictures from the North Pole Limited





JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Closed to Public
3 Closed to Public	4	5	6	7	8 Steam Team	9 Steam Team Cab Ride Golden State
10 Cab Ride Golden State	11	12	13	14	15 Board Meeting	16 Cab Ride Golden State
17 Cab Ride Golden State	18	19	20	21	22	23 Cab Ride Golden State
24/31 Cab Ride Golden State	25	26	27	28	29	30 Cab Ride Golden State

FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Cab Ride Golden State
7 Cab Ride Golden State	8	9	10	11	12 Steam Team	13 Steam Team Cab Ride Golden State
14 Cab Ride Golden State	15	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting	20 Cab Ride Golden State
21 Cab Ride Golden State	22 Hot Scoop Due Date	23	24	25	26	27 Cab Ride Golden State
28 Cab Ride Golden State	29					

BRICK ORDER FORM

Each brick is 4" x 8". Minimum Donation \$100 each — 1-3 lines of inscription, 20 characters per line



Engraving Information

Each line has a maximum of 20 characters, including spaces and punctuation. Please print clearly; use capital or lower case letters and make sure the information is spelled correctly. All inscriptions will be centered.

1																			
2																			
3																			

Payment Options

Visa/MasterCard

Card Number_____

Expiration Date_____CVC_____

Recurring charge for _____months

Signature_____

Or

Mail this form along with your check or money order to:

PSRM Brick Fundraiser

4695 Nebo Dr, La mesa, CA 91941-5259

PSRM is a 501(C)3 California Non-Profit Corporation

PRINT YOUR NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP

PHONE (Please include area code):

E-MAIL: