

HOT ***SCOOP***

**A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association members
January-February 2017**





Pacific Southwest Railway
Museum Association, Inc.
www.psrsm.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: Alex Fiori
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker
Gift Shop Mgr: Heather Wright
Media Liaison: Vacant
Hot Scoop Editor: John Wright
Photographers: Frank Denison,
Alanna Hyatt
Certification & Training:
Mike Edwards

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COVER PHOTO: Santa Claus and an unidentified passenger on the North Pole Limited.
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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, PSRMA President

As we find ourselves at the beginning of yet another new year, it is only proper to wrap up 2016 and look forward to what we can accomplish in 2017. During the fourth quarter of 2016, we operated our most popular events of the entire year; so popular that proceeds from those events will finance our efforts through most of 2017. From our four weekends of North Pole trains, a total of sixteen trains, our gross, unaudited ticket sale income was \$211,000 with about \$21,000 of unsold tickets.

As always, we instituted some improvements in how the North Pole trains are presented and our guest experience. This year we attempted to publicly sell the Private Pullman car Robert Peary as one charter with limited success. Seating in UP 576, sold as a First Class car, is now assigned prior to loading which avoids confrontations and chaos. Additionally, I was able to institute a stepped pricing matrix for all North Pole trains based upon demand; historically, the two weekends closest to Christmas attract the most interest and ridership. First Class cars were again sold out within weeks of the opening of online ticket sales. It is obvious that our guests prefer First Class which means that working with the Equipment Department, we will look towards getting more First Class quality cars operational in the next several years.

This year, there are five full weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas; but since our ridership hovers around 80%, it makes no sense to run an extra two days and operate an additional four trains. The most difficult aspect of organizing these trains is mobilizing a minimum number of people each day. The variety of elves, Santas, passenger packers and even train crew creates inconsistencies on a daily basis which will need to be addressed and eliminated for continued improvement of the product we offer to the public.

Looking towards 2017, we continue towards the goals established in our Strategic Planning reviews. Don Evans was able to meet with the Strategic Planning Committee

last September and from now on, Don will guide us from afar as needed and meet with us on an annual basis. Our next move is to hire a Director of Fundraising/Grant writing. We have received a positive influx of resumes from qualified applicants and are currently in the process of reviewing and paring down the pool. As some of you may recall, this path has been tried several times before by PSRM, although not during this millennium and oftentimes, the position ends up mired in administrative minutiae and internal conflict. It will be my job to ensure that the focus of our new grant writer remains where it should be – attracting funds to PSRM that the current management has no time to research and pursue.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Dinner. I have attempted for the past five years, to schedule this event for the Thursday closest to our actual incorporation date: April 16, 1961. With that in mind, this year's Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. Our organization will be celebrating its 56th year in 2017. Additionally, the Campo Depot will be one hundred years old this year.

Let us not forget, the San Diego & Arizona Railroad will be one hundred years old in 2019. I am in the process of producing a celebratory calendar for the SD&A's birthday and I am currently collecting potential photos of all portions of the railroad and structures on the railroad whether they currently exist or not. All chosen photos will receive photographer credit, if available. Please submit your photos in the highest quality digital format to me at dhyatt@psrm.org.

Here's to another prosperous and successful year for PSRM! And in case you were wondering, I will be your president for a fifth two-year term starting now! I look forward to the continued support of our membership and friends and the continuing support of our volunteers, without whom, PSRM would not be the fifty-six-year-old, all-volunteer, non-publicly financed railroad museum that it is today! ►

2016 Summary Museum Services & Facilities Report

By Jim Lundquist, Museum Services Director

It's simply amazing what a small and dedicated group of volunteers can accomplish when working together for a common cause. I've combined this report of Museum Services with Facilities because they are interrelated and work together on many projects.

The expansion of the Library was a big story this past year. Donations by museum members has allowed us to

hire Brian Elmore to complete the expansion. In 2016, we poured grade beams, moved on six containers, poured a concrete slab, installed a covered porch over the concrete slab totally enclosing the addition and installed a roll-up door. On hand are new pedestrian doors for the ends of each container and still to be completed is installing lighting. Meanwhile, inside the library, work continues cataloging various acquisitions.

Another major effort this past year was to install a concrete floor inside the shop building on track 13. This required our volunteers to clean up the shop, remove the decomposed granite, ties and rails, dig two trenches, then Brian Elmore framed, set rebar and poured grade beams for the rails. The volunteers then re-laid the rails on the grade beams, bolted them down and added a metal flange. Hired help then poured the final flooring, with volunteers sealing the new slab.

Inside the Display Building, we completed the concrete floors by adding slabs between tracks 2 & 3, 5 & 6 and 6 to the side of the building. These slabs were also sealed. New steel stairs were constructed and installed for the #2353 and Carrizo Gorge.

Our Museum used a San Diego County grant to replace all of the doors on the Display Building and eight doors on the Shop Building. Thank you to our Board of Supervisor's for their leadership with a recommendation from Dianne Jacob's office.

Volunteers completely repainted the exterior of the Campo Depot. All the windows had to be scraped, primed and repainted. This was a huge, multi-week effort.

Our thanks to member George Cataulin for the wonderful Virtual Tours of PSRM for the trains and museum. Check it out from our web site: www.psrn.org. The museum float was in El Cajon for an event, plus summer concerts and in the Pine Valley, BOO! and Toyland Parades.

Inside the Display Building, there are a variety of new information signs regarding the motorcar, velocipede, hand-car, 2353, as well as videos on the Super Chief and Carrizo Gorge railcar. New signs are in place recognizing that Railroads Built America and the golden spikes which connected the rails.

Many thanks for our La Mesa Depot staffers, membership volunteer and Hot Scoop editor.

Volunteers have been reopening the various drainage pipes throughout the property and under the railroad tracks. In some cases, multiple day efforts have been required to open totally clogged culverts. CDF crews were on hand to clean-up the property, taking down dead trees and branches, weeds and rocks, with the latest effort centered at the front entrance, along the mainline track by the display building and our rental house.

We completed a project to reduce the wind and dust from entering the Display Building with a wind block and porch that looks like a tunnel portal and mine shack. We incorporated the mine cars in this display.

We hired a roofing company to tear-off, repair and replace the roof on our rental house at 1118 Sheridan Road. This was a huge job professionally completed.

An SDG&E contractor installed all new high efficiency lighting inside the Shop, Display Building and La Mesa Depot buildings.

Congratulations to two of our volunteers for awards recognizing their efforts at our Museum. Our Vice President Martin Caestecker was awarded the Richard Hann Collegiate Award by the Congress of History. It is awarded to a currently-enrolled college level student, graduate student, or group of students, involved in local history projects designed to preserve the history of the San Diego Co. & Imperial Co., California, and the Baja California, Mexico, region. Martin Caestecker is a college student who has become the Vice President of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo. He runs the web page with an entirely new design, as well as working weekends in Campo on mechanical projects and is part of the volunteer train crew. This is the type of young man that every historical organization dreams about— young, interested, educated, willing to help out and willing to take on a leadership role.

Dick Pennick was the recipient of the Tourist Railroads & Railway Museums Lifetime Achievement Award. This is awarded to an ATRRM member organization or individual that's made a significant contribution to the tourist railroad and/or museum field over a long career. Dick Pennick started at the beginning of our railway museum and has continued with weekly volunteering ever since. He has held positions from President, vp, engineer, docent, media coordinator, La Mesa Depot coordinator, and any other job that needed to be done. Congratulations Dick. Thank you for your lifetime of service.

All the Gold Spike Life Members are now recognized on plaques inside the Campo Depot Waiting room.

Jim & Dawn hosted a volunteer summer party at their Lundquist Station in Alpine and a good time was had by all. This year we visited Roy Athey's Descanso, Alpine & Pacific Railway in Alpine for a trip through time in this 24 inch gauge line. Much fun!

If you would like to participate in 2017, contact Frank Denison at denisoniv@gmail.com or Jim Lundquist at JimLundquist@gmail.com to see what project is next being worked on. ►

Behind The Scenes Tour Scheduled

A "Behind-the-scenes" tour has been scheduled for all members interested in learning about the early years of our museum, how we came to Campo, how we built our museum, how our library operates, and how we run and maintain our trains. All members are invited to come along, and new members are encouraged to come out to learn the details of our great museum. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 11,

2017 at 11:30 AM starting in the Campo Depot. We should be finished in time for anyone to catch the 2:30 PM Golden State train to Division. This tour would be an excellent starting point for all members interested in becoming a Docent for our museum. Look for Jim Lundquist to meet you in the waiting room downstairs in the Campo Depot. ►

New Members November & December 2016

Alex Fiori, Membership Coordinator

November

Lisa Duhaylongs
Susanne Schaible Family
Julio Cesar Rodriguez Family
Nancy Jones
Erin Woolf
Robert Larson Family
Brad Lounsbury
America Hyde

December

Ralph Castaneda
Jessika Ochoa Family
Guy Yagunoff
Rebecca Dickey Family
Ariel Fletcher
Regina Lawrence
Jesus Barba
Alma Lowry
Timothy Wamsley

New Life Member

Daniel J. Marnell

Thank you all for joining the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum!

membership@psrm.org

Membership Comparison 2015- 2016

Jan 2015: 17 Members
Feb 2015: 54 Members
Mar 2015: 53 Members
Apr 2015: 21 Members
May 2015: 28 Members
Jun 2015: 33 Members
Jul 2015: 55 Members
Aug 2015: 47 Members
Sep 2015: 40 Members
Oct 2015: 21 Members

Jan 2016: 6 Renewing Members + 2 New Members = 8
Feb 2016: 33 Renewing Members + 13 New Members = 46
Mar 2016: 34 Renewing Members + 18 New Members = 52
Apr 2016: 17 Renewing Members + 37 New Members = 54
May 2016: 30 Renewing Members + 29 New Members = 59
Jun 2016: 27 Renewing Members + 9 New Members = 36
Jul 2016: 30 Renewing Members + 14 New Members = 44
Aug 2016: 40 Renewing Members + 9 New Members = 49
Sep 2016: 27 Renewing Members + 25 New Members = 52
Oct 2016: 26 Renewing Members + 28 New Members = 54

Nov 2015: 22 Members
 Dec 2015: 44 Members
 Sub Total: 435 Members
 Life Members 2015: 184-L
 Gold Spike Members 2015: 16-GS
2015 Membership Total: 635

Nov 2016: 11 Renewing Members + 8 New Members = 19
 Dec 2016: 30 Renewing Members + 9 New Members = 39
 Sub Total: 512 Members
 Life Members 2016: 193-L
 Gold Spike Members 2016: 16-GS
2016 Membership Total: 721

Improvements Made To Walking Path

By Jim Lundquist, Museum Services

Frank Denison, Dawn & Jim Lundquist spent three days between Christmas and New Years improving the walking path from the train stop "Railroad Museum" across a drainage ditch toward the Display Building with new railings. In addition, the walking path just east of the Section House was improved with a small retaining wall, railing and additional decomposed granite. All photos by Jim Lundquist ►



Upcoming Hot Scoop Deadlines

ISSUE	DUE DATE
March-April 2017	February 27, 2017
May-June 2017	April 24, 2017
July-August 2017	June 26, 2017
September-October 2017	August 28, 2017
November-December 2017	October 25, 2017

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: