

HOT SCOOP

A black and white line drawing of a hand in a sleeve holding a long-handled shovel, scooping a bowl full of glowing coals. The bowl is tilted, and some coals are falling out. The entire illustration is framed by a decorative border with ornate corner pieces.

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association members
January-February 2018





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
See website for complete train
schedule.

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 6:30 PM,
Trinity Church, 3902 Kenwood
Drive, Spring Valley, CA 91977

Museum Officers

President:	Diana Hyatt
Vice-President:	Martin Caestecker
Treasurer:	Dave Tomeraasen
Secretary:	Stephen Hager
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:	Alanna Hyatt
Fundraising:	Vacant
Hot Scoop Editor:	John Wright
Photographer:	Alanna Hyatt
Certification & Training:	Mike Edwards

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Cover Photo:

A grapple Truck at work replacing old ties on the
Campo siding.
James Caestecker

From The Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

Reporting on November and December 2017

November and December were thankfully as busy and as financially lucrative as we could have asked for. November's Valley Flyer ridership remained consistent with ridership from November, 2016; and North Pole Limited (NPL) ridership increased by an additional 575 riders for a total of 4,843 riders compared to 2016 figures. Financials are in the process of an internal audit but preliminary reports indicate a comfortable increase over 2016 figures. These figures are primarily attributable to the popularity of booking the Robert Peary as a private charter on the NPL trains and nearly all of the sixteen trains experiencing a sell-out.

By early November, track contractor RailWorks had mobilized in Campo, CA to begin and complete PSRM's tie-renewal project between the Campo Depot east to nearly the location of the North Pole Station sign (Canyon Station the remainder of the year) at MP 61.8. RailWorks replaced a total of just under 1,000 ties at a total cost of about \$135,000. This amount is considerably higher than the annual amount PSRM budgets towards Maintenance of Way (MOW) expenses on the mainline which invariably includes spraying for weeds (\$10-\$14K annually), inspecting, maintaining and repairing the two signalized crossings over State Highway 94, annual bridge inspections (averaging \$5K-10K/annually for smaller bridges) and maintaining track tools and heavy equipment. Donations to our ongoing MOW expenses are always gratefully welcome!

On December 11th the Campo Planning & Land Use Committee hosted another meeting attended by affiliated County of San Diego departments and their subcontractors, as well as

the members of the Camp Lockett Interest Group: Motor Transport Museum, Mountain Health & Community Services, Mountain Empire School District, Mountain Empire Historical Society and the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum and local residents, to meet and discuss future plans and ideas for changes and improvements within the areas of Camp Lockett defined by the Museum Overlay. Overall, each organization's plans for their land's use was met with approval by those in attendance. Local powers are interested in maintaining the cultural heritage of the area and not promoting commercial interests, which is in alignment with the plans of the Campo non-profit organizations.

As one can imagine, the North Pole Limited Trains consume a huge amount of volunteer labor to ensure their success not only during the train rides but before and after. I would like to extend my extreme thanks to all those who assisted with the North Pole Trains but in particular, those whose presence was indispensable (including to my maintenance of sanity) and were there every single day of all sixteen trains and sometimes the Sunday after: Charles Smith (Emperor of the North Pole), John Shannon, Bruce Deck, Steve Clark, Lee & Shaine Neale, Robbie Smith, Rosalba Duran, Roark Stump and of course Ron, Cary, Alanna, Aaron & Ian Hyatt. Shout out to Hector Gonzalez who performed train crew duties for six of the eight nights as well!

At the first board meeting of 2018, the board with some sadness, accepted the resignation of our former Secretary Robert Smith. We appreciate all of his volunteer efforts within the Equipment Department and at the



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 Heritage Rail Alliance 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.

board level for several years! Robbie has assured us we will continue to enjoy his presence as a regular PSRM volunteer. Stephen Hager was nominated, accepted and voted in as our newest member and Secretary of the board and we are very pleased. Stephen began volunteering as a youth at Campo about 8 years ago (thanks to long-time members Bruce Deck and Dave Tomeraasen) and has been an invaluable volunteer since then. Stephen graduated from Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo recently and is already pursuing a career as a civil engineer in the rail industry. Stephen is a qualified motorcar operator and brakeman, certified conductor and our most recent certified engineer. Stephen is a multi-talented individual who has been working on several ongoing projects in cooperation with the Equipment Department and has produced several videos for YouTube featuring PSRM.

Membership Coordinator Alex Fiori has been investigating member management software for the past several months after realizing that our latest event management software was not providing a membership management adjunct that we enjoyed working with. We will soon begin using this new software which will track monetary and in-kind donations, produce donation receipts and allow members to alter their own information and handle their own renewals – if they prefer. It will also streamline donations to restricted accounts which have historically been a tedious accounting process and sync with our accounting software. As soon as we are set up, you will be redirected to this alternate link when on the PSRM website.

The annual dinner is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018 at Tom Ham's Lighthouse beginning at 6:00

PM. Online sales will be listed on the new member management software shortly. Prices should remain within the same range of years past.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping onto the scene beginning Saturday, March 24th, again on Sunday, March 25th and once more on Easter Saturday, March 31st. Bring the family out for some Easter fun and a train ride while the weather is gorgeous! As always, volunteers are gladly welcome to assist in decorating: Display Building, Campo Depot and train consist, goody bag production, crowd control, etc. Contact my alter-ego, the Special Events Coordinator, Diana Hyatt at: dhyatt@psrm.org.

Until the next Hot Scoop, may your travels be paved with good iron!

Come on out to Campo and support YOUR railroad museum! We'll be here! ►

Remembering Sheila Maree Edwards

By Diana Hyatt, President

September 16, 1976-November 29, 2017

Many of you are familiar with Sheila's husband Mike Edwards who began his railroad career at Campo in the 1990's and continues to serve on the PSRM board as its Director of Operations. During 2011 Mike returned to his first railroad home to actively assist us in our ongoing mission and made the trip from Sacramento to San Diego several times per month. By early 2012, our former Director of Operations had appointed Mike as the Operations Department Certification Officer. As Mike's responsibilities increased at PSRM, his family often accompanied

him to Campo and I had the pleasure of befriending Sheila and their adorable children Emily and Travis.

Sheila was the perfect fit for Mike and an accomplished railroader in her own right.



Sheila at the 2012 PSRM Annual Dinner.

Courtesy Diana Hyatt

Sheila began her railroad career at the Sierra Railroad after completing a Bachelor's degree in Forestry & Natural Resources at Columbia College in Sonora, CA and assisting in the operation of her family's cattle ranch in Sonora. At the Sierra Railroad Sheila was relied upon to administrate all daily activities including scheduling train crews, dinner trains, private car movements, producing freight manifests, accounting oversight and

filling-in as a crewmember as needed. To my knowledge, Sheila was the first female to operate an SD&A train for PSRM as a certified engineer (her existing certification was unilaterally transferred into our training program). I had no problem conceding that privilege to Sheila as she was a credit to our sex; I only hold the title of the first in-house trained, female-certified engineer for PSRM.

Our close friendship continued for several years including attendance at a California Shortline Railroad Association convention together – we were quite a hit in an otherwise “Good-Old-Boys club” of male attendance. Sheila assisted me for several seasons of our North Pole Limited trains, Bunny Trains and Chefs Fire Up the Iron Horse events. Sheila also served on the PSRM board as its’ treasurer from

2014-2015. Mike & Sheila even took on the responsibility of the Annual Dinner in 2014, a welcome relief for me!



Sheila, (third from left, rear,) with Santa Clause and the elves.

Courtesy Diana Hyatt

In 2015 the Edwards’ moved to Utah for a job opportunity there but by 2016 they had resettled in northern California. Unfortunately, in October, 2016 Sheila was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of endometrial

cancer and was given a terminal diagnosis. By 2017 Mike left paid employment in order to stay with Sheila and take care of her and their

two small children. Sheila courageously underwent chemotherapy treatment which may have prolonged her life but was ineffectual at wiping out the cancer cells. After some inpatient stays for hospice care, the Edwards’ decided Sheila would receive care at home and be attended by her loved ones where she passed during the early morning hours.

Sheila’s life embodied the adage: ‘Live like someone left the gate open.’ Our loss of her

in our lives will be felt for the remainder of our earthly existence. But we will take heart in memories of her and cherish the piece of her spirit she left with each of those whose lives she touched. ►

Museum Replaces Ties to Keep North Pole Trains on Track!

Article and photos by James Caestecker, Track Foreman

2,118 man hours expended , 1,255 ties replaced, 75+ gauge rods handled.

In the last issue of the Hot Scoop, we reported on our MOW trains, which deposited fresh railroad ties between Campo and our new station called Canyon (near MP 61.5). Since then, much work has occurred.

RailWorks Track Services began work on October 30th, arriving with a Foreman and 12 men, several hi-rail trucks, a tie crane, a backhoe,



The Grapple Truck inserts a tie near the west end of the Campo siding.

and a tamper. Hand crews removed spikes from ties identified for change-out by PSRM crews and removed tie plates from those railroad ties. A backhoe was rented by RailWorks in order to slide the old ties out and dig larger trenches

for the new ties. Behind the backhoe, the hi-rail tie crane followed to pick up the old ties and insert the new ties below the rail. After the area was

backfilled, men in the welding van would spike the ties down and the Tamper would then tamp the ties up to the proper height. On the 30th, Jim Baker and Hector Gonzalez removed gauge rods from the right of way, which were later used to fortify other locations on the railroad, and Shaine Neale helped provide crossing protection and assisted Roadmaster Glen Rogers with a variety of tasks.

In total, RailWorks expended 1240 man hours over 9 days in order to finish our track project on time. 975 railroad ties were replaced, including some very large hardwood timbers that were placed in the cut at Milepost 63 underneath the track where

water from an underground spring has been impacting track conditions. Museum volunteers assisted Foreman Caestecker in various post-RailWorks track inspections, where we found the track to be in excellent condition. We were impressed by the quality of workmanship and the sheer scope of work that was accomplished in such a short period of time, bringing our track back in service just in time for the first week-end of North Pole Limited Trains.

2017 was an up and down year in the track department. From track repair due to a small derailment in February, to the Border Fire in June 2016, to mud and debris flows with the winter rains (exacerbated by the fire), our volunteers were continually

busy maintaining the right-of-way. Throughout the year, our MOW crews made a concerted effort to replace ties and repair track, however, legislation regarding bridge maintenance programs, further inspection by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) caused us to take sections of track out of service to facilitate further repairs. The museum board allocated an unprecedented \$130,000 to make much-needed repairs to the track and RailWorks was brought in to complete the project. In addition to the work of RailWorks, our own volunteer and CDF crews have been hard at work maintaining our track, contributing 878 man hours, replacing 280 ties, and installing or removing

over 75 gauge rods. The year-end totals for 2017 are as follows: 2,118 man hours, 1,255 ties replaced, 75+ gauge rods handled.

Looking forward into 2018, the MOW Department plans on making continual improvements to the railroad, including installing drainage in several key locations along the side of the track, installing new switch ties on the main track and sidings at Campo, and changing a few final ties to bring our entire train ride up to 15 MPH. MOW would like to express its deepest gratitude to all of the volunteers who gave their time to help complete perhaps the largest single track rehabilitation project in more than a decade. We couldn't have done it all without your help and support.

Interested in learning more about maintaining our historic century-old right-of-way? Please contact Track Foreman James Caestecker at track@psrm.org for more information. ►



The Tamper and Welding Van are refueled on the House Track early in the morning.



In the distance, the Grapple Truck inserts ties in the MP 63 cut after the backhoe has removed the old ties.



The Grapple Truck begins work for the day at Railroad Museum.



Hand crews dress and spike the track ahead of the Tamper.



Ties waiting to be tamped just east of MP 63.

Operations Volunteers for November - December 2017

By Rich Paulus

Train Service - those who are certified/qualified crew members, speeder operators/crew, and docents who have helped us run 65 trains this period, including our most important fund raiser, the North Pole Limited, and the number of days they have volunteered:

	# days			# days			# days
Jim Baker	5		Stephen Hager	9		Dick Pennick	5
Jarod Black	4		Randy Houk	2		Spencer Piontkowski	1
Ken Brown	2		Diana Hyatt	2		Glen Rogers	2
Mark Brown	3		Jim Lundquist	2		Dave Smith	5
Nathan Brown	4		Robin McBride	2		Rob Stebbins	4
James Caestecker	2		Shaine Neale	9		Dave Tomeraasen	4
Martin Caestecker	1		Bob Nickles	1		Russ Walker	1
Travus Clark	3		Candy Obetz	1		Tim Wamsley	1
Cameron Garvin	2		Mike Obetz	8		Nick Williams	2
Hector Gonzalez	8		Rich Paulus	5			

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:

	# days			# days			# days
Jim Baker	1		Jim Lundquist	1		Shaine Neale	4
Jared Black	1		Rich Paulus	1			
James Caestecker	4		Glen Rogers	1			
Cameron Garvin	1		Nick Williams	1			

This totals to 115 days of volunteering, often in multiple areas, in November and December. ►

Equipment Department Pictures

Photos By Alanna Hyatt



Brian Elmore works on installing new carpet in the Robert Peary's solarium.



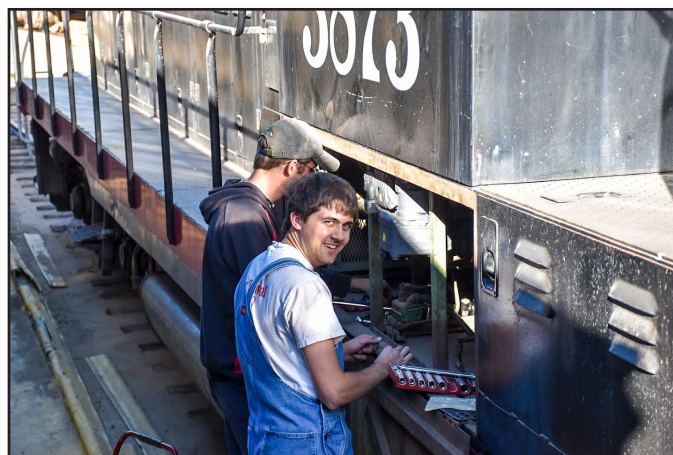
Charles Smith maintains the batteries on one of our electric carts.



Earl Soladay services the front-end of our forklift.



Martin Caestecker services the batteries on the Robert Peary.



Martin Caestecker & Stephen Hager service the airbrakes on SP 3873.

New Members July, August, September, & October 2017

Alex Fiori, Membership Coordinator

July

Edward Bystrak & Family
Todd Hall & Family
Crystal Martinez & Family
Mitchell Porter & Family
Richard White & Family
Lindsay Smith & Family
Steven Wilhelm
Gerrick Danielson & Family
Bridget Myers & Family
Andrew Allen & Family
Denise Jones & Family
David Tingle & Family
Peter Kim & Family
Elise Arroyo & Family
Pamela Nigro
John & Catherine Rames & Family
Jonathan Brier
Kim C. Brown & Family
Elizabeth Velic & Family
Regan Impellizeri & Family
David Choi & Family
Lisa Van Sickle & Family
Chris Wright
Sylvia Linardi
Marina Mendez & Family
Todd & Bonnie Tyler & Family
Tony Kang & Family
Daniel Durand
Amy Mintert & Family

August

Diane Remick
Larry Box & Family
Lauren Hernandez & Family
Katherine Oritz & Family
Mohanray Umapathy & Family
William Hinson & Family
Megan Kettmann & Family

September

Elizabeth Reilly & Family
Jared Smith & Family
Cameron Garvin
Enrique Ayala
Jose Garcia & Family
Dale Sampson & Family
Jacqueline Betterton & Family

October

Daniel Tyack & Family
Daniel Coronado & Family
John Weaver & Family
Leonard McNeilly & Family
Beth Hostetler & Family
Luis Pitones & Family
Stephanie Melany
Jenna Lyon
Janet Mazzarella & Family
Jacob Caddick
Elaine Baker
Nicole Keel & Family

Jay Pimentel & Family
Linda Lester
Thelma Silebi
E Palacios
Felicia Parker
Julia Mershon & Family
Vicki Neil & Family
Jennifer Koetting
Ellen Brandt & Family
Jim Odonnell & Family
Karina Gutierrez & Family
Robin McBride
Russel Walker
Timothy Kettinger & Family
Eric Johnson
Zara Percy & Family

New Life Members

Leoroy Huntington
Cheryl Eschwege
Mark Landguth
Arvilla & Larry Johnson
Cindy Vasquez
R A Zinser
Jerry Lestert

Thank you all for joining the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum! ►

membership@psrm.org

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 10, 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Campo Depot. We should be finished in time for anyone to catch the 3:00 PM Golden State train to Canyon. This

tour would be an excellent starting point for all members interested in becoming a volunteer for our museum. Look for Jim Lundquist to meet you in the Waiting room downstairs in the Campo Depot. ►

Submissions

Submit all articles to John Wright at hotscoop@psrm.org. List the title of the article in the subject

Hot Scoop Editorial Guidelines

line. Articles must be submitted via email as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or similar and must be attached to the email, rather

than in the body of the email. **DO NOT SUBMIT ARTICLES AS .PDF DOCUMENTS.**

Document File Name

Each submitted document must have a concise and applicable name. For example, a Museum Services report should have the words “Museum Services” in the file name.

Article Title

Each article needs to contain a working title and writer byline, in this format:

Museum Acquires Imperial Bird Pullman Car

By Diana Hyatt, President

Capitalize only the first letter of primary words.

Narrative

All articles must be written in the third person.

Spacing and Indention

Do not indent paragraphs, use one line between paragraphs, and use one space between sentences.

Spelling

Utilize spell check before submitting articles.

Photo Submissions

Pictures should be emailed to the editor in one of two formats, Joint Photographic Experts Group (.jpg) or Tagged Image File Format (.tif).

Name pictures with a concise name that is similar to the corresponding article name. Do not use the camera’s assigned file name.

Pictures resolution should be 200 to

300 dpi and no smaller than 4 inches by six inches. When obtaining courtesy photos, note that website images are usually posted at 72 dpi, which isn’t normally high enough quality for publication.

Pictures scanned from newspaper articles will not be accepted.

Poorly exposed or out-of-focus images will not be used.

Despite what manufacturers may claim, cell phones are not cameras. In many cases cell phone cameras lack the quality necessary for publication. The editor reserves the right to reject cell phone photos.

Captions

Captions must be submitted for all photos. Captions should be included in the body of the submitting email and should contain the following information: The name of each picture submitted, the name of photographer, full names of people appearing in the photo, what activity they are engaged in, the location where the photo was taken and the date of the photograph. Photos without adequate caption information will not be used.

Writing Style

Although there are some exceptions, the Hot Scoop (always written as two words) follows the Associated Press Stylebook. The following are Associated Press guidelines that seem to be sources of confusion.

Titles (e.g. president, captain, are capitalized only when placed immediately before a person’s name. The word “museum” is capitalized only when used in the organization’s full name.

Spell out numbers one through nine only. Numerals are used for the number 10 and larger. An exception to this rule is when using the number of a piece of railroad equipment.

If printing a date, abbreviate the appropriate months if used with the year: Sept. 21, 1972.

Use quotation marks sparingly. If the writer is unsure of usage, it is best to leave them out.

Acronyms

Before using acronyms, spell out words once. Don’t put the acronym in parentheses after the words. For example, spell out San Diego and Arizona Railway the first time used and then use SD&A thereafter.

Contractions

The Hot Scoop has adopted an informal style. Contracted words are permissible, but should be used sparingly.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, or have any other questions regarding photography or editorial content, contact the editor at hotscoop@psrm.org. ►

2018 Submission Deadlines

ISSUE	DUE DATE
January-February 2018	December 26, 2017
March-April 2018	February 25, 2018
May-June 2018	April 23, 2018
July-August 2018	June 25, 2018
September-October 2018	August 27, 2018
November-December 2018	October 29, 2018



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM

Annual Dinner

Thursday, April 12th, 2018

6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Tom Ham's Lighthouse

2150 Harbor Island Drive

San Diego, CA 92108

\$55 Adults/\$40 Children age 2-16

Tickets may be purchased online at: www.psrsm.org

Or by check payable in advance to:

PSRM Annual Dinner

4695 Nebo Drive

La Mesa, CA 91941

Slowpokes only RSVP to Diana Hyatt, dhyatt@psrm.org

6:00 PM: Social Hour

6:45 PM: Begin Program

7:00 PM: Buffet Dinner

7:45 PM: 2017 in review, award presentations, and opportunity prizes

No Host Bar

Leaving a Railroad Legacy



*Dave Tomeraasen, Treasurer,
Board of Directors*

I am privileged to share with you my recent experience in estate planning and leaving a charitable legacy gift to the nonprofit organizations I have respected and supported over the years.

Recently, an attorney assisted me in preparing my bequest documents. My final wishes are to have my net financial assets shared among cherished relatives and several nonprofits. I have designated the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc. with a specific dollar bequest amount to their General Fund as one of the most deserving beneficiaries. I have been a railfan, member and volunteer for over 20 years. A legacy gift will allow PSRMA to continue to celebrate our railway heritage and future.

**For additional information please contact:
Administrator, Fund Development
619-465-7776 • fundraising@psrm.org**

