

HOT SCOOP

A stylized black and white illustration of a hand holding a long-handled scoop, scooping a portion of ice cream into a small bowl. The bowl is already filled with several scoops of ice cream. The entire illustration is framed by a decorative border with ornate corner pieces.

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association members
May-June 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:	Donna Spevack
Hot Scoop Editor:	John Wright
Photographer:	Alanna Hyatt
Certification & Training:	Mike Edwards

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A few of the museum visitors on a typical Bunny
Train day.

Alanna Hyatt





From The Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

Spring weather was with us, at least temporarily in March with the weather warming up in April. There was very little rainfall again this year which for the railroad, is usually a good thing. The temperate weather made the prospect of the Easter Bunny's job a little more palatable. The first quarter San Diego & Arizona Eastern (SD&AE) meeting landed in April and we celebrated the 57th anniversary of the museum at the Annual Dinner & Membership Meeting on April 12th.

Bunny Train ridership this year was outstanding with 1,267 passengers, our highest ridership since we began these trains. First quarter ridership was 2,718 passengers and has not been that high since 2013. The president's lovely daughter Alanna Hyatt played the Easter Bunny for all nine trains over three days of this event. Along with Alanna's help, we were fortunate to have the help of Eileen Neale, Aaron and Ian Hyatt, Emily and Travis Edwards, Shaine Neale, Mariano Curiel, Spencer Piontkowski and Pat Tasker.



The Easter Bunny greeting passengers on the Bunny Train. *Diana Hyatt*

After attending the SD&AE board meeting and providing a report to the board earlier this month, the president was able to inspect the two surplus

Presidential Conference Cars owned by the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). We have formally requested these cars and are in the process of contracting the freight to Campo. One of the cars has had its trucks removed and the other has many of its windows and doors removed. The intent is to make one good trolley car, acquiring additional parts as necessary, and eventually operate it to Chaffee Park, a circular grove of 300-400 year old Live Oak trees in the former boys' camp now owned by Mountain Health. The Camp Lockett Interest Group (CLIG) intends to continue its work and preserve and maintain Chaffee Park and develop it for the enjoyment of the community. Contributions to the movement expenses for the PCC cars and the refurbishment project are welcome and encouraged.

This year's Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting was held, once again, at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island. Tom Ham's continues to be a venue of choice thanks to its central location, beautiful view, convenient parking and hassle-free set-up. Your president acted as the Mistress of Ceremonies for her tenth year and Alanna Hyatt compiled and edited the 2017 Year in Review. Chinese auction items were donated from the Southwest Library and acquired by Ron Hyatt. The theme celebrated the Santa Fe Super Chief trains and for the tenth year in a row guests were able to bid on the coveted train quilt handmade by Janet Paulus. Thank you Janet! Hourly awards were distributed and in attendance to receive theirs were: Martin Caestecker, Dave



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. 501c(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.

Tomeraasen, Rob Stebbins, Shaine Neale, Dawn Lundquist, Stephen Hager, Jim Baker, James Caestecker, Rich Paulus, Jim Lundquist and Glen Rogers. Congratulations and a very special thanks to our hard-working volunteers! Recipients of department



Volunteer hour award recipients at the PSRM Annual Dinner. *Alanna Hyatt*

awards are chosen by department directors and given to those who have gone above and beyond during the previous calendar year. The Administration award, presented by Diana Hyatt, went to Vice-President Martin Caestecker; the Equipment award, chosen by Equipment Director Ron Hyatt, was awarded to Stephen Hager; the Facilities award, chosen by Facilities Director Frank Denison, went to Jim Lundquist; the Museum Services award, chosen and presented by Museum Services Director Jim Lundquist, was awarded to Southwest Library volunteer Bob Underhill; and the Operations award, chosen and presented by Operations Director Mike Edwards, went to James Caestecker. Railfan of the Year was awarded to Shaine Neal who has been an instrumental addition to all aspects at Campo. Shaine commutes from Tucson to Campo several times

per month and lends a hand wherever there is a need. We are fortunate to have him as a volunteer!



Shaine Neal receiving his Railfan Of The Year award from President Diana Hyatt. *Alanna Hyatt*

Our Gift Shop, under the management of Alanna Hyatt, is experiencing a few changes. The latest is our move away from the expensive and user un-friendly Quickbooks Point of Sale (POS) software that is incompatible with the accounting software we utilize. The new POS system is intuitive and easy to use; a welcome relief from the cumbersomeness of the previous POS. We can now accept magstripes, EMV chip cards and contactless (Apple Pay) at the store as well as anywhere there is internet service available. This ability will make it very easy to sell items at off-site events signed in to the app on a smart phone. Many of the winter clothing items have recently been marked down in order to make room for new inventory. Please pay the gift shop a visit and pick up some presents for others while you are there!

I am pleased to introduce our new grant-writer, Donna Spevack. Donna and her husband were in attendance at the Annual Dinner; if

you didn't have an opportunity to meet her at the dinner, please contact her for an appointment at the La Mesa Depot in the Southern Pacific caboose at fundraising@psrm.org. After her return from a well-deserved trip to Japan, Donna and the president intend to establish a monthly coffee meet-and-greet for members and guests at the Depot in La Mesa. Please read Donna's article in this edition of the Hot Scoop.

At the April PSRM Board of Directors meeting our treasurer of the past three years, Dave Tomerassen, chose to resign from his duties due to health reasons. Rob Stebbins, a former secretary of the PSRM board, has agreed to assume the duties of the treasurer on June 1st to allow for a transition period. We look forward to welcoming Rob to the board once again. PSRM finances have become well-organized and streamlined under the direction of Dave Tomeraasen; his business acumen, experience and skills will be sorely missed from the board dynamic.

Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Members Day at Campo to be held Saturday, May 19th. We will be barbecuing on site for our members and their guests. Join us for a train ride and some camaraderie! If you know of someone who enjoys history, trains or both, this is a perfect opportunity to expose them to the Campo Railroad Park and Museum! ►

Making The Most For PSRM

By Donna Spevack, Fundraising

Donna Spevack has joined our staff at the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum as its Administrator of Fund Development. Originally from New York, Donna and her

husband (a geologist) have lived in San Diego for the past 20 years with their son, a graduate student at UC Merced. Donna is a certified grant writer who has worked for various

(non-profit and for-profit) organizations over the last 14 years. She has collaborated with the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, as a member of their Board of

Directors (VP Financial Planning), and has written grants for Deaf Community Services, La Jolla High School Bioscience Center, Grants West, Inc. and Barona Tribal Government. Donna has experience in all areas of funding and welcomes the opportunity to make an impact in the PSRM funding levels so that critical upgrades can be implemented in order to preserve and expand historical collections for future ferroequinologists.

“After touring the Campo Railroad Park and Museum facilities, I was very impressed with the operation and the vast history that accompanies the Museum. The historic trains that are housed on the property are amazing to stand beside, but to listen

to the history associated with each train cars’ past is phenomenal. The time I spent there was very inspiring and a great learning opportunity,” says Donna.

Within the next few years, PSRM would like to upgrade the facilities property:

- By enhancing the library for proper storage of the vast collection of historical documents and books and digitizing the collection
- Track repair and expansion, including the wooden trestle at MP 66.77
- Revitalization of coach cars for passenger comfort

- Restoring Category 1 railcars and locomotives
- General property upgrades including new exhibit buildings and covering the rolling stock

In the near future, PSRM would like to accelerate the emergent Planned Giving Program, begin planning and raising funds for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the San Diego & Arizona Railway in 2019 and establish a monthly meet and greet coffee at the La Mesa Train Depot. Donna is looking forward to getting started and meeting many of you in person as she settles into the La Mesa Caboose and learns about PSRM and its future projects! ►



First, we have to say goodbye to Pat Tasker, our live-on volunteer who has been our Display Building Docent. In addition, Pat has been keeping the Display Building clean, and taking on special tasks like cleaning the #576 and getting it ready for placement inside the Display Building. Pat is moving on to another location in Arizona and we will miss her.

We will be offering a Docent Training class. There are two dates coming up: Saturday, June 30th and Saturday, July 14th. Docents interact with our museum visitors joining them on the train and in the Display Building, explaining railroad and local history, answering questions on how things

work – being our face to the public. This important job only requires a willing volunteer who works well with people. We will provide all the basic information you need to become a Docent – in the class, with handouts, on the train and in the Display Building. Classes will start at 9:00 AM in Campo and will conclude with riding with our visitors on the train and walking through the Display Building. Once you have completed the class, you’ll be asked to purchase black pants and a white shirt to join the ranks and start scheduling yourself to be our first contact to the public. Good with public and willing to serve? This class is for you. Please RSVP to: Jim@

psrm.org so we can arrange the materials you’ll need for the class. An email by the Wednesday before the class to Jim is required to attend.

We have been welcoming various Boy Scout troops at our Campo Railroad Park & Museum facility. Led by Glen Rogers, the Scouts camp out and earn their railroad scouting Merit Badge. What a terrific way to introduce our youth to the railroads so important to our nation.

Our fundraising effort to reconstruct the mine train now has a total of \$3,267. The Museum hired Brian Elmore to grade for the tracks, mine and DAP Depot placement, and to set the DAP Depot, Freight House and

Museum Services Report

By Jim Lundquist, Museum Services Director

Section House in the final locations. This work is almost complete!



The DAP Depot in place in Campo.
Jim Lundquist

Now comes the major task of laying the mine train tracks. It is anticipated that Roy Athey will assist in constructing the switches on the tracks. Many hours of volunteer work will be required for cutting steel ties in half and drilling four holes in them. There will be almost 1,000 ties for this effort. If you can assist, please contact Jim Lundquist

at Jim@psrm.org or call him at 619-417-7059. The work will begin early summer..

Our continuing thanks to the department volunteers – in our Library, La Mesa Depot, Membership and publishing the *Hot Scoop*. Thank you one and all. ►

New Members January & February 2018

Alex Fiori, Membership Coordinator

January

Carolina Cox
Patricia Sirivan
Robert Stinson
Deena Arvizu
Jane Jeter
David Jeter

February

Beth Rey & Family
Trevor Murchison
Tonya Newhan

Rita David & Family
Stephen Lemos & Family
Janet Beltran & Family
Celso Fernandez & Family
Yesenia Rodriguez & Family
Joe LaGreca
Margret Dinner
Edwin Lindgren
Adrian Rodriguez & Family
Armando Gandara & Family
Tareq Asfour & Family
Dawnellebaileye South & Family

New Life Members

Michael Panger
Robert Berger
Robert Underhill

New Gold Spike Life Members

Seth Miller

Thank you all for joining the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum!

membership@psrm.org

Annual Members Day Set For May 19th

By Jim Lundquist

Our Annual Members Day has been set for this year, and that day is approaching fast. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 19th for a great day for all Museum members with a special tour, ride on our AT&SF #1509 private car, food and music. There are three options available to all members on this day. Here are the details.

Option 1 – Depart Campo Depot at 1:15 PM on the AT&SF #1509 car to Canyon and return to the Display Building. There, you will be met by Museum Services Director Jim Lundquist for a special tour of our Library, Shop Building, perhaps our steam group will show us progress on Coos Bay #11, and we will

go into detail on any equipment we wish to visit.

If you wish to start your day with the tour, join us at 2 PM at the Railroad Museum stop when the Golden State train arrives. We will be finished with our tour to join everyone in the Display Building for a wonderful meal and music by our own Martin Caestecker.

Option 2 – Depart Campo Depot at 3:00 PM on the AT&SF #1509 car to Canyon and return to the Display Building. There, you will join everyone in the Display Building for a wonderful meal and music by our own Martin Caestecker.

Option 3 – At 4:00 PM, join everyone

in the Display Building for a wonderful meal and music by our own Martin Caestecker.

The only costs for this terrific day will be a requested donation of \$5-10 to cover the costs of the food prepared for us. The private car train ride, tour and music are all part of our way of saying Thank You for your membership.

In order to prepare for the day, please RSVP by Wednesday, May 16th (or earlier, please) via email to: bbq@psrm.org

This is sure to be a super day and we look forward to seeing you. ►

PSRM Library Update March 2018

By Bruce Semelsberger, Librarian

Well, it has been a while since the last update and it's not because there hasn't been anything to talk about. On the contrary, it has been very busy. You may recall that as last year ended, we had just installed email. After a few bugs were dealt with, the new system is working well. We now receive some of the newsletters we exchange with other museums and groups directly and it is expected that more will follow suit. We can also receive requests for research and appointments direct at our Campo facility which means we can sometimes answer the same day or at least shortly thereafter. We also have internet access which is a real boon for the cataloging process since we can use references like the Library of Congress to assign catalog numbers and clear up questions.

Staffing has been by the same small cadre of volunteers, but we are all aging and time off for medical and other issues continues to mount. If you know anyone who would like to assist even once or twice a month

please take time to mention the library. There are several tasks that require no specialized knowledge and some that could even be accomplished at home.

The new annex has been used for storage up to this point as we still await the funding to complete the exterior insulation/ waterproofing. We have applied for a \$30,000 grant from the county but it is not known when or even if that might happen, so documents and other paper ephemera cannot be moved there due to the summer heat. It has proved a handy storage for many objects recently donated by Roy Athey along with the Alpine, Descanso & Pacific RR. Roy also blessed the library with a number of long tables suitable for working on long maps. As soon as the rain lets up, the new work area will at least be painted inside and shelving purchased so as to be ready for use when the insulation gets done. Unavailability of this space continues to slow down almost everything as the crowding in

current areas means moving things constantly to get at other things and having to walk sideways down narrow isles while trying not to knock things off shelves.

Several major research projects for clients have taken up much of the available staff time, despite which considerable progress has been made in organizing the book section, most of the SD&A drawings and all of the maps are now in a computer database, the backlog of donated materials is slowly shrinking and a detailed listing of the SD&A archive at the San Diego History Center is underway one day a week. A recently completed genealogy ties together the ancestry of long time SD&A engineers Lloyd Norse and Elmer Hall with that of the late Vern Cook, a museum volunteer for many years. Later this month, we will welcome descendants of another former SD&A engineer who was involved in a major court case so we expect some interesting details of that story to emerge. Stay tuned! ►



Frank Denison and Jim Lundquist installed a new directional sign in Campo.

Jim Lundquist.



Frank Denison and Jim Lundquist installed No Trespassing signs and barricades on our new property donated by the County to our museum.

Jim Lundquist

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																			

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