

HOT ***SCOOP***

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members
January 2020





**Pacific Southwest Railway
Museum Association, Inc.**
www.psrma.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

PSRMA Board of Directors
Meetings 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: Rob Stebbins
Secretary: Stephen Hager
Equipment: Ron Hyatt
Facilities: Frank Denison
Museum Services: Jim Lundquist
Operations: Mike Edwards

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Special Events: Diana Hyatt
Membership: Alex Fiori
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker
Gift Shop Mgr: Alanna Hyatt
Fundraising: Donna Spevack
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Cover photo

Santa Dan waves at the train
from his home at the North
Pole

Alanna Hyatt



From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

The month of December was primarily filled with all the complexities of operating our annual North Pole trains which technically began on November 29th but since the December issue covered the Gala Dinner and 100th Anniversary of the San Diego & Arizona Railway, the January issue will cover the Christmas season. Here is a summary:

- 1 Locomotive
- 3 Santas
- 4 Mrs. Claus'
- 7 railcars
- 8 days
- 16 trains
- 40% children
- 48 priceless volunteers
- 153 elves
- 160 rail miles traveled
- 600 Gallons red-dye diesel consumed
- 480 Shirley Temple drinks
- 1,881 Silver Bells
- 4,353 tickets sold
- 5,048 chocolate chip cookies were purchased
- \$222,040.00 unaudited gross ticket sales

December 2004 was the first year we operated our very first nighttime North Pole trains which were initially named the North Pole Express until we realized, several years later, that the name was already copyrighted; the trains were then renamed and marketed as the North Pole Limited (NPL). Prior to NPL, we offered daytime Santa Trains where young children rode the train from Campo to Miller Creek and visited with Santa in the Pullman business car Robert Peary. The Santa trains were fairly popular and provided families with a fun alternative to mall Santas.

The first NPL was planned for one weekend of three consecutive days starting on a Thursday. The elves were Mountain Empire High School (MEHS) choir students and in exchange for staffing our Friday and Saturday night train with elves, they were given the rights to sell and keep the income from all ticket sales for the Thursday night NPL train. MEHS printed up their own songbooks for the elves and passengers to participate in singing Christmas carols. I believe refreshments consisted of store bought cookies and Hawaiian punch and children received a silver, made-in-China bell with a



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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 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.

hand-tied 1/8" red satin ribbon. Our Santas had fake beards and wore Santa costumes from Party City. We have come a long way since then!

Annually, we order American-made, personalized, silver sleigh bells and a pallet of Stephen's Gourmet Hot Chocolate, the purchase of which is donated by our own Bruce Deck. Bruce also continues to perform the duties of Master Hot Chocolate Maker every night of our NPL trains. Our cookies are baked fresh every week by Sprout's. For the past ten years we have predominantly offered real-bearded Santas, thanks to John Hart introducing me to the niche community of the San Diego Santas fka the Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas long ago. Some of our hobos included Bruce Semelsberger, Richard Finch and Bruce. We offer two more first class cars for sale to the public than when we first began: heavyweight chair car UP 576 was brought online about five years ago and the Robert Peary, added to the consist as a shoving car and complimentary seating for members and guests. The demand for first class cars is always high; I do not know if people realize their first class cars also ride better because they are heavyweights or if they just like

the idea of being able to purchase first class tickets. Nevertheless, demand continues to increase as coach class demand maintains or slightly wanes. Ron and I have been discussing, for several years the most likely candidate for restoration and usage as an additional first class car on our North Pole trains and the Pullman Commandant holds promise. It is an open-section heavyweight car constructed in 1915 and has upper and lower berths; during the day the lower berth converts into two, wide, facing seats and the upper berth folds away. Other than the window frames, the entire car, including interior walls, doors, writing desk, etc. are made of steel which has been painted to appear as dark wood. Hand painted pin-striping and ornamentation that closely resembles inlaid wood is a real trick to the eye; so much so that our webpage misidentifies the interior as wood. Our grant writer Donna Spevack has begun applying for a grant that will hopefully cover the cost of replacing some of the many missing light fixtures that have sprouted legs and walked away in the past 30+ years. The next step will be sealing the roof and replacing some of the window frames. If you know of a talented carpenter with time on his or her hands, please send him/her our way!

To conclude this month's report I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of PSRM, to all the volunteers who make the success of the North Pole trains possible. There were twenty-one train crew volunteers over the eight days and their work is acknowledged in Rich Paulus' Operations Report but I would like to write a note about four of those individuals. Two of those volunteers worked five of the eight NPL days: Stephen Hager and Shaine Neale who could also be found working behind the scenes on the days they were not on train crew. Two more volunteers worked seven out of the eight days: Jarod Black and Tim Wamsley. Our special events operate more smoothly when there are several work campers on the property; fortunately, we are grateful to have Roark Stump, Pablo Martinez, Teresa Gonzalez, Ricky Ricketts and Mary Molitor with us assisting in the Gift Shop, with grounds and restroom maintenance and passenger loading and unloading. Consistency in our nightly help makes a huge difference in the quality of product we put out for the public. Veteran NPL volunteers Grace Brown, Martin Caestecker, Rosalba Duran, Bruce Deck, Stephen Hager, Aaron Hyatt

Alanna Hyatt, Cary Hyatt, Diana Hyatt, Ian Hyatt, Ron Hyatt, John Shannon, Charles Smith aka the Emperor of the North Pole, and Robbie Smith were joined by Jarod Black, Travus Clark, Mariano Curiel, B.G. Miller, Tim Miller, Shaine Neale, Sienna Rogers, Jodi Siccardi, Owen Tomlinson

and Gabe Zorbas as behind the scenes and Other Than Train Crew help. There is so much more preparation and aftermath consequences to these events than most will ever realize but that is what makes it a constantly improving event. Again, I cannot stress enough how with the addition of just one

more volunteer, it makes all the difference in the world as we continue to create lasting and positive memories for our visitors. THANK YOU EVERYONE!



Hobos Bruce Semelsberger, Bruce and Richard Finch entertain guests at the Hobo Camp before a North Pole train departure.

Alanna Hyatt

Conductor Stephen Hager perfecting artistic ticket punching for some young riders on NPL

Alanna Hyatt



NPL approaches the North Pole to pickup Santa & Mrs. Claus

Alanna Hyatt





Ron Hyatt and Rich Paulus direct NPL passengers to their respective cars.

Alanna Hyatt

A cheerful elf serves hot chocolate to young NPL passengers.

Alanna Hyatt



Santa Boyd visits with some of his adoring fans.

Alanna Hyatt

Left-Right Kyle Cascadden, Martin Caestecker, Sandra Deakins, Dan Wheeler, Sienna Rogers, Stephen Hager, Boyd Applegate, Diana Hyatt, Cookie Jennings and Grace Brown.

Alanna Hyatt



NPL Quilt Raffle 2019

by Rich Paulus

Saturday night, December 21, after the last North Pole Limited train of the season, Rickey Ricketts drew the winning ticket for the 2019 NPL Quilt Raffle at Campo Depot. Misty Lacks of Del Mar had purchased that ticket the night she and her family shared a charter of the Robert Peary with other friends on the first weekend

of NPL. Ms. Lacks picked up her prize Christmas Eve day at the La Mesa Depot.

Quilt maker Janet Paulus (left) and raffle winner Misty Lacks (right) display the quilt on SP 1058 at La Mesa Depot

Rich Paulus



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEMBER AWARDS MEETING

Help us celebrate another great year as we recognize our outstanding volunteers.

Come meet new friends and reconnect with old.

APRIL 25TH
NOON – 2:30pm
DISPLAY BARN at our
Campo Railroad Park & Museum Site

-Music provided by members
Walt & Paula of Trails & Rails.

-BBQ catered lunch included.

-Guest speaker.



Only \$20/person with the opportunity to ride our AT&SF #1509 car at 11AM or 3PM.
Advanced tickets required. Purchase at www.psrn.org/lunch2020



PSRM LIBRARY WRAP-UP FOR 2019

By Bruce Semelsberger, Archivist

With the eventful year of 2019 now behind us, here is a summary of the progress made at the Southwest Railway Library during the year. In February, problems with rain leaks in the new work area which had been added in October of 2018 were resolved and new steel shelving was ordered to equip the six new 40' by 8' bays and some areas in the original section. During March and April, the shelving was assembled and Bill Hohnhorst, Richard Finch and Bruce Semelsberger began a massive relocation of materials to the new bays. Given the size of the collections and the bulk of items such as flat file storage cabinets, this was a long and strenuous task which would turn out to occupy the rest of the year to fully complete! Much planning had gone into the move beforehand, but the inevitable snags and rethinking of things added to the time required.

Part of the planning in-

volved not only allowing more space for existing materials but also the anticipated acquisition of future additions including the SD&A documents held by the San Diego History Center (now completed) and a couple of large private collections. In the case of the SDHC documents, that proved to be sooner than expected and that space became available just in time for the October donation of the collection!

All of this work had to be done in sequence as it proved impossible to move one thing until another had been relocated and drawers needed to be emptied while cabinets were tilted and moved, then the contents replaced. Additional wood shelving was constructed atop file cabinets to display the large collection of photo albums and even larger wood shelving atop the flat file storage to house the large collection of rolled maps. Also, two bays of the new library addition would

be used to store the large and small artifacts previously boxed and stored in the former "exhibits lab" in a section of the car shop where they were subject to sun and water damage. Most of that work was done during the summer months with some larger items requiring a pickup truck to move. Smaller items were being moved using one of the electric carts until it went out of service due to battery problems. Happily, Stephen Hager has now installed new batteries so this task can be completed soon. Many of the smallest items will be stored in large steel multi-drawer cabinets acquired from MCB Camp Pendleton during the summer. Those heavy cabinets were moved in two trips on a large flat-bed trailer under the supervision of Glen Rogers, who was well acquainted with the military supply system.

Of course, new donations continued to arrive during this process and had to be

dealt with as well. The largest of these came from Robert Bobbett, whose father was the ATSF Section Forman at Oceanside and included a wide range of items from books to artifacts and track tools which we are still in the process of cataloguing. Other large donations came from Wally Barber, Janet Kerr, Larry Rose, Jim Baker and Bill Schneider.

During the last two months of the year, with most of the documents relocated, it was possible to move the area designated for researchers into more spacious and comfortable quarters in the office portion of the library. Wi-Fi is available there along with all of the A/V equipment. A visit from a paid IT tech in Campo resolved problems with a balky computer, the library intranet and wi-fi issues.

Another lack in the original

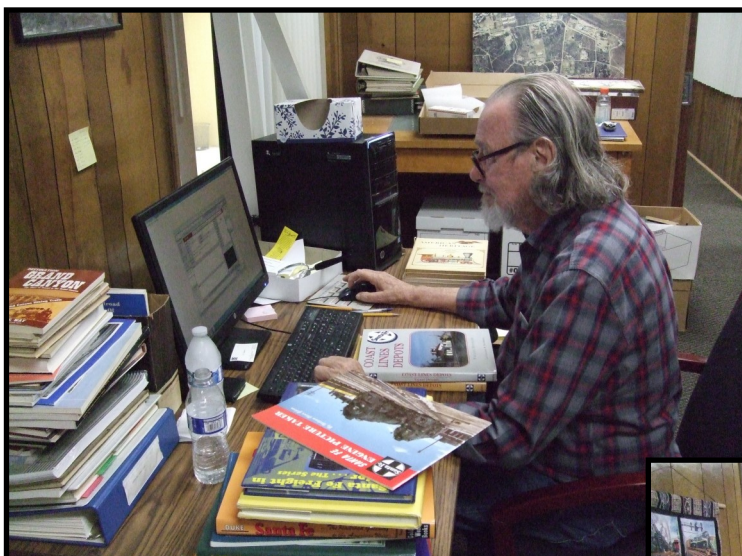
facility, that of a place to safely and conveniently unroll, study and repair large maps and sort items such as timetables, was addressed in November with the construction of a thirty-foot long hinged counter which can be folded flat against the wall of the new work space in eighty-inch segments to make an open space which may be used as a theater or meeting room.

The latest and last addition is a much-needed heating and air conditioning system installed in the two work spaces, so the entire facility will be much more comfortable for volunteers and visitors alike all year long. The two mini-split units function really well and turn on and off with simple remote controls that also allow for adjustment of temperature. This does not say that individual insulated archival bays will not be cool to cold

during the winter months, but with advance planning on a given day a door left open early will allow some heat to enter by work time.

With the facility largely complete, 2020 will be used to catch up with the large backlog of donations, upgrade computer software for both Windows and Past Perfect and acquire a large format archival quality scanner and companion printer using funds donated from the estate of the late Bob Underhill.

Lastly, a big “Thank You” to all of the volunteers who helped during 2019! Any attempt to name them all would probably result in some omissions, but the most active were Dale Wagner, Richard Finch and Bill Hohnhorst. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to drop a line to psrmlibrary@att.net.



Dale Wagner processing new books

Bruce Semelsberger

New research area

Bruce Semelsberger



New media bay

Bruce Semelsberger



New 30' counter

Bruce Semelsberger



Operations Volunteers for December 2019

By Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service

Those who are certified/qualified crew members and speeder operators/crew who have helped us run 12 North Pole Limited trains and the number of days they have volunteered:

Jim Baker	3
Jarod Black	5
Mark Brown	4
Nathan Brown	1
James Caestecker	3
Martin Caestecker	1

Kyle Cascadden	1
John Cenknor	6
Travus Clark	1
Mike Edwards	1
Stephen Hager	4
Ryan Hartmann	2
Randy Houk	1
Ron Hyatt	1
Charlie Karayan	1
Jim Lundquist	1
Mike McIntyre	1
Shaine Neale	5
Dave Tomeraasen	2
Tim Wamsley	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:

Jim Lundquist	1
Robbie Smith	1

This totals to 51 volunteer-days in December 2019.

CORRINE M. GALLAGHER May 27, 1929 - January 3, 2020

By Dick Pennick

CORRINE M. GALLAGHER May 27, 1929 - January 3, 2020.
Dick Pennick

The museum lost another long-time member and volunteer on January 3rd. She was 90 years old. Born in Duluth, MN, she arrived in

San Diego in 1954. In the 1970s, after retiring from the real estate profession, she joined PSRM members Ann McVeagh, Rita Cloud, and others to form a railway excursion committee that planned, promoted and guided more than 100 museum excursions in the U.S. and Mexico to raise funds for

museum development. Later, Corrine served on the museum's Board of Directors. She is survived by two daughters grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her service to the museum was greatly appreciated.