

HOT ***SCOOP***

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members
February 2020



1961



2020

**Pacific Southwest
Railway Museum
Association Inc.**
www.psrmm.org

Train Operations

PSRM Campo Depot
State Hwy. 94 at Forrest Gate Rd.
Campo, CA, 619-478-9937
Lat: 32°36.8"N Lon: 116°28.2"W
Open weekends 9AM to 5PM
See website for complete train
schedule.

La Mesa Depot Museum & Business Office

4695 Nebo Drive,
La Mesa, CA, 91941 619-465-
PSRM (465-7776)
Open Saturdays 1PM to 4PM
Other times by appointment

PSRMA Board of Directors
Meetings are held on the 3rd Fri-
day 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

Museum Staff

Certification & Training:
Mike Edwards
Fundraising: Donna Spevack
Gift Shop Mgr: Alanna Hyatt
Historian: Bruce Semelsberger
Hot Scoop Editor: Alanna Hyatt
Membership: Alex Fiori
Photographer: Alanna Hyatt
Special Events: Diana Hyatt
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker

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Cover photo

Golden State crew puts the train
away

Alanna Hyatt





From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

January was a fairly quiet month for the museum. Train operations resumed on Saturday, January 11, 2020 with our thrice daily Golden State trains every Saturday and Sunday. This train schedule will continue through March 29th. The following weekend we will commence Bunny Trains on April 4, 5 and 11 with train rides departing at 11:00 am, 1:15 pm and 3:00 pm daily. Bring the kids, grand-kids or borrowed kids and come to Campo for a spring-time train ride, a visit with the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt in our Display Building. On Easter Sunday, April 12th the Golden State trains will resume with three departures daily every Saturday and Sunday through Father's Day.

Work continues with County personnel and our land strategist, Sharon Haven on our application for a Museum Overlay or Negative Declaration of 501 c(3) properties in Campo. Close to five years ago, prior to the distribution of Camp Lockett lands from the County, PSRM began the long, arduous road of changing the zoning on our numerous parcels of land in Campo to one overall zone that would allow us to build future train display buildings, a campground and/or overnight lodging for visitors,

the addition of a commercial kitchen, a theater for visitors, etc. About a decade ago, we realized that the original 8-acre parcel where the Car barn and upper yard reside had reached the limits of the Master Plan for the property. Within the last six years, we have added several more parcels contiguous to the railroad right-of-way. Some of our land is zoned Rural Residential (about 18 acres) whereas property acquired through the County does not seem to have zoning at all (about 6 usable acres and 68 unusable acres). The County parcels are all former federal Army base Camp Lockett lands and since they belonged to the government there was no need to assign zoning, which has not served to improve our position.

Recently, a meeting was called by Dianne Jacob to provide her and her staff an update on the progress of the County departments and the consultants hired specifically for this project. Supervisor Jacob is currently serving her last four year term, ending this year; she has been a strong advocate for our museum and many east county interests, local non-profits, boutique wineries and elsewhere in the County. Without this Negative Declaration/Museum Overlay, all the



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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.

members of the Camp Lockett Interest Group (CLIG) would be forced to unsuccessfully apply for Commercial Zoning at great expense and with very little chance of success. Currently, the Campo Planning & Land Use Committee has been highly supportive of the local non-profits expanding their facilities and attracting visitors to Campo with this unique zoning that will not attract large, unwelcome development in the community. The County staff and its consultant company have been stymied by attrition of personnel knowledgeable with the

project and this has greatly hampered any progress since last summer.

On the last Saturday in January, our Campo facility was visited by a very special guest arriving by helicopter, a first for us. Mr. Fred Luddy and his son Luke had heard about our railroad museum and were able to make time for a visit. Fred is the founder of Service Now, a software-as-a-service enterprise company now based in Santa Clara, CA. They were also accompanied by former F-18 Tomcat pilot Mark Halsey, Mark's son and Luke's

friend. The party rode the 11:00 am train to Canyon and afterwards joined us for lunch in the volunteer lunchroom. It was great fun showing the group our museum and answering questions. Fred graciously presented PSRM with a check for \$10,000 before departing by helicopter.

In next month's edition, there will be an update on PSRM's strategic planning progress. Until then, may your signals be green and your iron always be good. ►



Martin Caestecker applies roof sealant to SD&A 254

Alanna Hyatt

John Cenkner cleans the site glass for the cooling-water tank on SP 3873

Alanna Hyatt





Website Update

By Martin Caestecker, Vice President

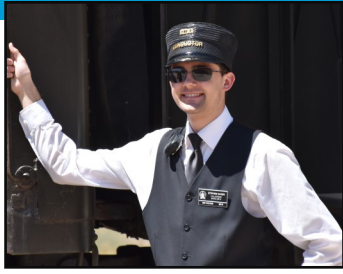
Since my early involvement with the Association, the number of people who visit our website at PSRM.org has always amazed me. In 2019, nearly 65,000 people visited the site from more than 5 different countries. Most popular pages besides our homepage include our special event train pages – especially North Pole Limited with almost 24,000 views, and our equipment roster pages. Though the website is slimmer than it once was, we still have several hundred pages of content for visitors to look through.

Back in 2015, Spencer Piontkowski and I stepped in to finish the website conversion process that was begun by the Board and a website design contractor in 2014. This included migrating hundreds of pages of information from our previous website, designed and hard-coded in the HTML website design language, into a new content management system called WordPress. The WordPress platform is used by thousands of websites around the globe to host their web-

site content. Its easy-to-use page designer and customizable styling make it ideal for a website of PSRM.org's size. One of our major projects for 2020 is to give PSRM.org its first facelift since 2015. This process will be infinitely easier than the last one. All of the website page content is stored in a secure web-based database, so giving the site a new look just requires updating the website's main theme. Think of a theme like the protective case on your smartphone – from time to time, you might wish to change your case out for a new one with a new design, style, or feel without getting a completely new phone.

During this process, we will review the main features of the site and strategize for new content and features. With nearly 58% of our website visitors browsing via their mobile devices, checking to see how the new theme interacts with those devices will be of utmost importance. Finally, we hope to give users easier access to the information they use most.

Additionally, we are looking for some extra help in creating content for the website and our social media pages. PSRM is always looking to grow its online presence and posting to our website and social media pages regularly with engaging, high-quality content is the best way to achieve that. By growing our presence online, we hope to attract more people to come visit our La Mesa and Campo locations. Ideally, we're looking for someone who has prior experience with graphic design and social media content. Please shoot me an email at mjcaestecker@psrm.org for more information. ►



Board Briefs, January 2020

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

Many of you with memberships dating back several years will remember seeing the Board Briefs column in each edition of the Hot Scoop. President Diana Hyatt recently asked me to restart this column. My goal is to keep you, the members, informed and up to date on important decisions being made by the Board of Directors and to share any interesting news that comes up during the Board meetings. I'd like to remind all members that your attendance at Board meetings is solicited and welcomed. Board meetings take place on the third Friday of every month, except December, starting at 6:30 PM in the Trinity Presbyterian Church Ward Center at 3902 Kenwood Dr, Spring Valley, CA 91977.

The Board held its first 2020 meeting on January 17th. Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, President; Martin Caestecker, Vice President; Stephen Hager, Secretary;

Rob Stebbins, Treasurer; Ron Hyatt, Director of Equipment; Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services; and Mike Edwards, Director of Operations, via telephone. Frank Denison, Director of Facilities, was unable to attend. Guests were Donna Spevack, our Administrator of Fund Development; and volunteers Alanna Hyatt, Ian Hyatt and Glen Rogers.

Rob presented the preliminary year-end financial reports for 2019. The association's financial condition is robust with roughly \$567,000 in gross profit for 2019. However, higher than usual expenses from several large projects brought the net profit down to \$48,000. The Board moved to execute a new merchant services agreement with Union Bank, lowering the association's credit card processing fee from 3.67% to 2.5% and potentially saving PSRM anywhere from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year.

The Board discussed plans to operate a Tijuana to Tecate excursion in association with the Baja California Railroad in 2020. More details should be posted on the website soon. I have spent the last two years negotiating with the North County Transit District to obtain one of the Coaster F40PH locomotives after they are retired. As of January, NCTD said that they intend to donate all five of their F40PH locomotives to our association! We must still work out the logistics of transporting the locomotives to Campo, but if all goes well, the locomotives should be on their way by the end of this year.

Jim reported on the recently refurbished restroom trailer at the Display Building. Jim and Frank worked with several volunteers during December to rehabilitate the restrooms, including replacing the dividers and rotting floor. Jim also presented plans for the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting. Un-

like previous years where the event was held as a dinner at Tom Ham's Lighthouse in Downtown San Diego, the event this year will be a catered lunch in Campo on Saturday, April 25th.

Donna delivered her monthly fundraising report, noting that she is currently pursuing a \$60,000 grant for painting SP 3709 and a \$35,000 grant for a new ADA accessible electric vehicle for the Cam-

po facility. Martin reported on some updates to the website and noted that he would gladly welcome some assistance on the site from somebody who can dedicate more time to it.

Ron reported on a busy and successful North Pole Limited season where thankfully no major mechanical issues came up. Volunteers recently replaced the batteries in two of the electric golf carts and

are now working on resealing the roofs of several of the passenger cars. Jim reported that several roof leaks in the car shop were recently repaired.

Complete packages of meeting minutes are available on the members-only portion of the website. ►

Brakeman Training Classes

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

A hands-on class for the entry level train crew position, Brakeman, will be held this March & April. The class is open to anyone, age 16 and above, who is interested in becoming a member of our volunteer train crew (don't let the brakeman title scare away any ladies.) Class size is limited to eight people. There will be two sessions

of the class; attendance at both sessions is necessary to complete the class. The two sessions will be held on March 28th and April 4th (Saturdays), all day, at Campo. Museum membership is the only prerequisite; no prior railroad experience is required! Visit the brakeman class webpage to view more details and information on

signing up:
<https://www.psrn.org/brakeman-class/> ►



Cynthia Bwy Scheuerman

By René Scheuerman

Wife of life member René Scheuerman, mother of Geoffrey Scheuerman and life member Diana Hyatt, Grandmother of Cary, Alan-

na, Aaron and Ian Hyatt; Cynthia Scheuerman passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2020 peacefully, at her home in Spring Valley. While not

an active member, Cynthia supported Saturdays at Campo by husband René, son Geoffrey, and daughter Diana. Cynthia kept the home

fires burning since 1984, with a hot meal for René and Geoffrey after a cold, rainy day at Campo.

Cynthia was born in 1938 in the Panama Canal Zone and was the youngest of three children. Her father worked for Armour & Co. and her mother worked for the U.S. Embassy. Her Grandfather was the Chief Mechanical Officer of the Canal Zone Steam Dredge Division and her uncle worked as a civil engineer for the Canal Zone. Cynthia's grandfather often took the family on weekend and multi-week adventures on his boat, the Marie Louise, to neighboring islands in the Atlantic and Pacific as well as neighboring Central and South American countries. Consequently, Cynthia's first spoken language was Spanish.

The Bwy family immigrated to La Mesa in 1946. Incidentally, their household goods were shipped and arrived via the SD&A at the La Mesa Depot for retrieval. Cynthia attended Saint John of the Cross Elementary School, then Rosary High School freshman year later transferring to Our Lady of

Peace Academy where her mother, Margaret Bwy served as school secretary. After graduation, she attended the University of San Diego where she met her future husband while working as a librarian at the campus library. Cynthia and Rene married in 1961 at The Immaculata on the USD campus. Cynthia worked at General Dynamics, Convair Division until she was pregnant with their first child and was "let go" because of her pregnancy. While raising their three children, Cynthia only worked part-time jobs until 1972 when she returned to the workforce as a teacher's aide. Cynthia retired as a transcriber from the San Diego County Probation Department in 2005. In addition to her County job, she could often be found working weekends at Moskatel's (later Michael's) or as an Avon lady for over twenty years. She enjoyed many crafts, including sewing and resin casting but enjoyed playing the piano and knitting most of all.

Cynthia's love and dedication to her family and friends knew few bounds and she could often be found

helping others in need. Because of this dedication, Cynthia and René were able to send all three of their children through twelve years of parochial school. Cynthia is survived by her two brothers: Ralph Bwy of San Diego and Douglas Bwy of Honolulu, her husband René Scheuerman of Spring Valley, son Geoffrey Scheuerman of Point Loma, son Gerald Scheuerman of San Jose, daughter Diana Hyatt of Lakeside and six grandchildren: Cary Hyatt, Emma Scheuerman, Adam Scheuerman, Alanna Hyatt, Aaron Hyatt and Ian Hyatt. ►





SD&A DOCUMENT COLLECTION ACQUIRED!

By Bruce Semelsberger, Archivist

When the MTDB purchased the SD&A from the Southern Pacific in 1979, the SP rounded up most of the maps and documents it deemed superfluous and gave them to UCSD, which spent considerable time cataloguing them, but ultimately ran out of space and transferred all of the collection to the San Diego Historical Society now the San Diego History Center, in Balboa Park. The SDHC reorganized the collection to its own cataloguing system and made it available for public use. When the SDHC also ran short of space around 2000, many documents they considered of lesser importance, mostly bound ledgers, were transferred to PSRM. After many years of working remotely to catalog in detail the remaining SD&A Railway documents located at the SDHC, the PSRM library staff finally got the news that, thanks to a pending donation of two new large archives to SDHC, their staff and Board were willing to

consider the transfer of the remaining SD&A materials to PSRM. Did we have a suitable location to house them? Thanks to the library expansion project just completed in 2019, the answer was "Yes!" PSRM library staff hosted a team from the SDHC in September to look over the new facility which was found to be eminently suitable to receive the donation.

On October first of 2019, the approximately 160 boxes of documents and files, several really massive accounting ledgers and some rare maps (including the never-built all-American survey) were loaded into a large rental truck and transported to Campo by PSRM volunteers. Given all of the special events that PSRM hosted for the SD&A Centennial this was quite an additional task to pull off, but the volunteers rose to the occasion again! Assisting in the move were Bill Hohnhorst, Alanna, Diana and Ian Hyatt, Dawn and Jim Lundquist, Jake Schai-

ble and Bruce Semelsberger on the Balboa Park end. The Hyatts had to leave after that and were replaced on the Campo end by Roark Stump, Ricky Ricketts, Theresa Gonzalez and Pablo Martinez. All done in one day!

The documents are all now ensconced in their new home, in order, on shelves and ready for access by researchers; although it will take some time to totally integrate them into the South West Railway Library cataloguing system which largely follows the original SD&A filing system. Included in the new haul are many boxes of accident reports, engineering and operations department records, real estate records and information gathered from early regional surveys including some bound volumes of the 1850s congressional reports gathered from the transcontinental surveys. Anyone interested in helping to get an index onto the library's computers is asked to drop a line to psrmlibrary@att.net. ▶



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEMBER AWARDS MEETING & LUNCH

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 Building at our
Campo Railroad Park
& Museum Site

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

-BBQ catered lunch from Descanso
Junction included

-Guest speaker, Bruce Semelsberger

Only \$20/person with the opportunity
to ride our AT&SF #1509 car at 11AM or 3PM.

Advanced ticket purchase required

Purchase at www.psrn.org/lunch2020

**or send a check for \$20 to: Members Lunch,
PSRM, 4695 Nebo Dr. La Mesa, CA 91941-5259**



Operations Volunteers for January 2020

By Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service

Those who are certified/
qualified crew members and
speeder operators/crew who
have helped us run 18 Golden
State trains, 1 School Train,
and the number of days they
have volunteered:

Colin Atwood	2
Jim Baker	1
Jarod Black	3
Ken Brown	1
James Caestecker	1
Martin Caestecker	1
Kyle Cascadden	2
John Cenkner	5
Donovan Chorny	1

Travus Clark	3
Alex Fiori	1
Cameron Garvin	3
Stephen Hager	4
Charlie Karayan	2
Mike McIntyre	3
Shaine Neale	1
Candy Obetz	1
Rich Paulus	1
Dick Pennick	4
Glen Rogers	2
Rob Stebbins	2
Tim Wamsley	1

MOW

Maintenance of way volun-
teers who have assisted
Roadmaster Glen Rogers and

Track Foreman James Caes-
tecker in maintaining tracks
and right-of-way this period:

John Cenkner	1
Travus Clark	1
Cameron Garvin	1

Yard switching

These are the volunteers who
have worked in PSRM yards
this period:

Jarod Black	1
Martin Caestecker	1
Travus Clark	1
Stephen Hager	1
Gabe Zorbas	1

This totals to 53 volunteer-
days in January 2020.

New Members November & December 2019 & January 2020

By Alex Fiori, Membership Coordinator

November

Rob Schupp & Family
Billy Robertson
Sandra Blackwell

December

Al Bartos & Family
Robert Terrien
Charlene Clare
Bryon Anderson
Roark Stump
Owen Tomlinson & Family
Julia Mershon & Family
Bruce Wessels

Miranda Kaack

January

Mike Chamber
Eric Johnson
Arthur Henschel
William Vanni & Family
Donovan Chorny
Brian Clark & Family
Donald J. Fritz Sr.

New Life Members:

Jack Gieffels
Donald Williams

Membership Totals 2015 to Present

594 Members in 2015
680 Members in 2016
674 Members in 2017
573 Members in 2018
546 Members in 2019
565 Members as of 2/1/20

Thank you to all joining the
Pacific Southwest Railway
Museum!

membership@psrm.org

“Meet and Greet” Coffee Open House

At the La Mesa Depot

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

from 9:00am-10:00am

La Mesa Depot, 4695 Nebo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941

Please join hosts Diana Hyatt, President and Donna Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum for a "Meet and Greet" Coffee. Come tour the Caboose and La Mesa Depot, while enjoying a hot cup of tea or coffee and pastries.

Learn about our:

Rail Excursions

Holiday Excursion Events

Engineer for an Hour Program

Railway museum

Educational programs

Memberships

Planned giving

Volunteer opportunities

and more Everyone is welcome!

Can't join us for coffee? Please email us at fundraising@psrm.org and we will be glad to answer all your questions. Thank you, and we look forward to meeting you!