

# ***HOT*** ***SCOOP***

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members  
April-May 2020





**Pacific Southwest  
Railway Museum  
Association Inc.**  
[www.psrmm.org](http://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 weekend 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**  
**Stephen Hager tests the GE  
70-tonner for air leaks**

*Alanna Hyatt*



## From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

The months of March and April have definitely been the strangest in recent times. We operated our Golden State trains for the first two weekends of March and then chose to close the museum site at Campo as well as the La Mesa Depot venue until restrictions over the sheltering in place order (in response to the COVID-19 threat) subside. Initially, it was hoped that would be a 30 day order but here it is May and it is indeterminate as to whether social distancing will become the new normal or become a distant memory of 2020.

Nevertheless, the harsh reality for our organization is funding all those aspects that are not funded by grants: equipment maintenance & repair, track/bridge/signal maintenance & repair & inspection, insurance (general liability, fire, volunteer, D&O and collections), utilities, volunteer training, and more are paid for with our earned income from our special event trains; primarily Pumpkin and Christmas trains specifically.

With the latest requirements for social distancing, we will have to reduce our passenger capacity in order to comply. That is of course, hoping that some people will still be willing to ride our train, especially for our special events.

A few people have still been busy plugging away at things during these past two months. Jason Drenkow continues his work with cataloguing and researching in the Southwest Library and sharing “blasts from the past” on Facebook and Twitter. Bruce Semelsberger has continued with his library responsibilities. Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist and Skip Redman have worked on the onboard, public address system installation funded by a 2019 County grant. Roark Stump, Teresa Gonzalez and Pablo Martinez have remained onsite and keep the property secure and clean. Offsite, Robbie Smith and Martin Caestecker have been working on a speeder trailer for future MOW use.

Stephen Hager has continued his efforts to establish a feasible plan for moving the F40PH-2C locomotives from North County Transit upon their receipt of brand-new Siemens Charger locomotives in Winter 2020/2021. Operations Director Mike Edwards has applied for a reprieve with the FRA while we refrain from Operations. Ron Hyatt has been investigating disinfecting and social distancing options for the train and Gift Shop and Donna Spevack, Martin Caestecker and myself have kept in touch discussing funding



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hotscoop@psrm.org).

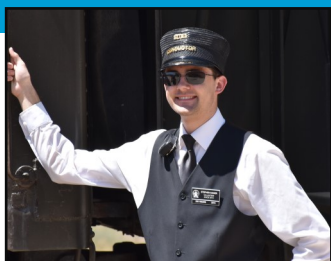
needs and investigative avenues for priority needs and projects.

We continue to investigate the option for our members and supporters to donate a set amount monthly to assist with general expenses. \$10, \$25, \$50 per

month or more would go a long way in keeping your local railroad museum alive and functional. Hopefully, we will have an update for our members soon.

Thank you for your continued support of this organization and its mission

to preserve and interpret the vital role railroads have and continue to play in our lives. ►



## Board Briefs, February 2020

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

The Board held its second 2020 meeting on February 21st. Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker (via telephone), Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins (via telephone), Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards (via telephone). Guests were Donna Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development; volunteers Alanna Hyatt, Duane Dubke, and Bruce Semelsberger; and Sharon Haven, our representative for the Camp Lockett Overlay with the County of San Diego.

Rob noted that the PSRMA received a \$10,000 donation from the Luddy Foundation, presented by its founder Frederic Luddy who recently visited the museum by heli-

copter. The board narrowed down some potential uses for Luddy's donation, including the completion of the electrical hookups at the new jacking pad, or for other electrical improvements around the car shop.

Sharon gave an update on the progress of the Camp Lockett Overlay since last summer. Unfortunately, the project manager with the county left her position last fall, resulting in the overlay process largely stalling. There is also some confusion among county staff as to whether a lengthy and expensive environmental impact report will need to be done as part of the overlay process. The PSRMA is depending upon the county to complete the overlay and re-

zone much of our property so that we can continue to develop our master plan. County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, a longtime ally of our organization, remains committed to seeing the overlay and re-zoning through to completion before the end of her term late this year.

I gave an update on the acquisition of North County Transit District's five Coaster F40PH-2C locomotives. Two years ago, NCTD applied for a grant with the California Air Resources Board through the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program in order to purchase replacements for the F40s. The grant conditions required NCTD to agree to destroy the old locomotives. In

late January, CARB approved our request for an exemption from these requirements, thus allowing the museum to acquire the locomotives. We are now in the early stages of planning to move the locomotives out to Campo. There will be costs involved and I will provide updates as they come.

When the County of San Diego sold our organization nearly 100 acres of land in Campo in 2018, included in

the sale was a small triangular piece of property along highway 94, adjacent to the Campo Green Store. The board had previously discussed using this land to erect a sign or monument directing visitors to the museum. After marking out the land and seeing its close proximity to the Green Store, the board decided against using the land, but agreed that the land needed to be leased to the Green Store owner since it is being

used for overflow parking. In the future, we will look into other nearby locations where we can place a sign.

Diana found a source for reasonably priced wooden picnic tables that we can use to replace the aging tables at the Campo Depot. In the coming months, the new tables will be purchased, sealed, and installed at the depot. ▸

## **Board Briefs, March 2020**

**By Stephen Hager, Secretary**

The Board held two meetings in March, both telephonically. The first was an emergency meeting on March 17th to develop a strategy for the organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards.

The board discussed the escalating crisis and its impacts in the State of California and the County of San

Diego. Increasingly strict CDC guidelines had reduced the maximum permissible public gathering size from 250, to 50, and finally to 10 people. Given this limitation, the board felt that it was not possible to remain open to the public and allow visitors to ride our trains in close quarters. Other railroad museums and tourist trains in California had already announced temporary closures, and many other California Counties had enacted mandatory shelter in place orders.

In light of this, the board made the decision to close the museum to the public immediately and indefinitely, to be reevaluated as soon as conditions improve. This decision was reaffirmed two days later when the Governor of California enacted a statewide shelter in place order, effectively forcing all non-essential businesses and organizations to close. In order to protect the organization's assets while income from ticket sales and gift shop purchases is cut off, the board froze all non-critical spending except for projects

that are funded by grants or restricted funds.

At the board's request, Mike agreed to file for a shutdown of the San Diego and Arizona Railway in accordance with FRA Emergency Relief Docket FRA-2020-0002 that was issued in response to the pandemic. This docket permits railroads to temporarily shut down during the pandemic and relieves them of complying with several of the CFRs (Code of Federal Regulations) for the duration of their shutdown.

The board held its second meeting at the regular date and time on March 20th, also telephonically. Directors

attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards.

Lundquist and Denison produced a comprehensive memo to the board with a cost breakdown of all spent, committed, and future funds needed for the installation of the automatic announcement and public address system currently being installed in the SD&A excursion equipment. This work is being funded by the San Diego County Grant and is not affected by the PSRMA's freeze on general fund spending during the COVID-19 pandemic. The board ap-

proved the budget and discussed potential uses for any remaining funds.

Lundquist and Denison also produced a memo for expected costs to install concrete foundations and utility hookups for the containerized commissary kitchen that the PSRMA has on order. The board decided to hold off on committing any funds to this project until Diana can get an update on the construction progress by the container's manufacturer. The board will continue to function normally during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we all look forward to being able to reopen the museum.

▷

## **Board Briefs, April 2020**

**By Stephen Hager, Secretary**

Although the museum remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board seems to be busier than ever. Since my last report, the board held three meetings between late March and mid-April, all telephonically!

The first was a brief meeting on March 29th. Directors at-

tending were Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Frank Denison, and Jim Lundquist. We received a grant through the San Diego County Community Enhancement Program last year for the installation of a PA system in our SD&A equipment. We originally intended to include the installation of a similar system

at Campo Depot, but we inadvertently omitted the latter from our application. There will be leftover funds after the system is installed in the SD&A equipment, so the board moved to file an extension/amendment request to enable the use of the remaining funds for the depot system.

The second meeting was held on April 6th. All eight directors were in attendance: Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards. Our administrator of fund development, Donna Spevack, has been working on an application for the Green Infrastructure Program Grant, administered by the State of California Natural Resources Agency. The grant can be used to fund green infrastructure investments such as parks and green spaces. Jim proposed to use it to complete the Mine Train project, which will include track laying and installing irrigation, landscaping, and playground equipment.

The museum would be required to provide 20% matching funds, but these can include material donations and volunteer time, both past and future. We have already put substantial time and materials into the project over the past two years, so we can easily meet this requirement. A successful grant application would enable us to purchase materials and hire the Urban

Corps of San Diego to complete the construction. The board agreed to move forward with the grant application. This multi-step process will take several months, which would put us on a timeline to receive the grant and start work in late summer.

The third meeting was the regularly scheduled April meeting on the 17th. Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, and Jim Lundquist. Rob gave his monthly treasurer report and discussed the museum's expected finances during the closure. In addition to our annual \$30,000 liability policy due next month, Rob estimates that we have average of \$5,000 in monthly fixed costs. The museum's current cash reserves will safely take us into 2021 should we remain closed for an extended period of time. However, Rob emphasized that our situation will be much better if we can run the North Pole Limited trains this year. The board discussed various options for a fundraising drive; we hope to be putting some-

thing out to members soon.

The board made a resolution to NCTD to accept the donation of their five Coaster F40PH-2C locomotives. The museum is currently exploring the costs to move the locomotives to Campo by rail. This will require inspecting and load rating the bridges at Division and Dog Patch, and reopening tunnels 3 and 4. We are in talks with the Baja California Railroad to apportion the financing of this work.

Diana gave an update on the commissary kitchen container that we have on order. New utility hookups need to be installed for the kitchen, including a new electrical service from SDG&E. The manufacturer is still detailing the exact appliances to be used, which will determine how much capacity the new service will need to provide.

Jim has been seeking potential buyers for two large obsolete propane tanks on the property that we purchased from the County of San Diego. These tanks cannot be used for propane storage anymore, and they are in the way of a third, larger tank

that is being actively used by our tenant, Ferrellgas. Jim received an offer from Calhoun Tanks and Services to purchase and remove the two tanks for \$4,000, which

the board agreed to accept.

Finally, the department directors gave their monthly reports. Highlights included repairs to the car shop kitch-

en ceiling, an internal repainting of SD&A 252, and progress on the PA system installation in the SD&A equipment. ▸

## **Board Nominations Now Open**

**By Stephen Hager, Secretary**

It's that time of year again! The nomination period for the 2020 Board of Directors election is now open through August 19th. The board positions up for election for the 2021-2022 term are President, Secretary, Director of Equipment, and Director of Museum Services. As always, any ten Regular Members in good standing may nominate any other Regular Member in good standing for the position of an executive officer of the corporation or the position of division director, provided the person so nominated evidences in writing a willingness to serve if elected and the person so nominated is associated with the corresponding division of the corporation.

Members wishing to petition for a position on the ballot should visit <https://>

[www.psrma.org/election2020/](https://www.psrma.org/election2020/). This webpage contains a download link for the petition form, information on important dates for the 2020 election, as well as information about the duties of the positions up for election. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have changed the petition form format and allowed for extra time to gather the required nomination signatures. Each candidate will be responsible for distributing individual petition forms to their supporters. Supporters may either mail or scan their completed forms back to the candidate. The candidate should check all petition forms for completeness and assemble them into a packet.

Petition form packets are due to me by August 15th by mailing them to:

PSRMA ATTN: Secretary  
Stephen Hager  
4695 Nebo Drive  
La Mesa, California 91941

For those positions where more than one candidate submits a valid petition form packet, a ballot will be mailed out by September 28th and will be due back to me at the above address by November 4th.

Remember, whether you chose to run for a board position or simply have to choose which candidate to support, all members have the power to shape our museum's future. Thank you! ▸



## Facilities and Museum Services Report

by Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services

In these times of bad news, our Museum continues to move forward on various fronts. While both the Campo Railroad Park & Museum as well as the La Mesa Depot are closed to the public, there is good news on several long term projects to report.

**County Rezone:** The County of San Diego marches forward with the rezoning effort for the five non-profit groups in Campo, including our museum property.

When we acquired neighboring properties from private parties and the County, the land wasn't zoned for the museum activities shown in our Master Plan. The same is true with our neighboring non-profits. Several years' worth of effort to rezone the property continues to move forward by the County staff and consultants. It is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors will take a final action to adopt land use zoning to allow the development of our museum on December 9 of this year. Once completed, we will need to

raise funds for the construction of the four large exhibit halls including a roundhouse which are in our Master Plan. Also included are camping spots, small commercial store fronts, a street car line and the Early California history exhibit. Our thanks to the leadership and support that our County Supervisor Dianne Jacob has given for this effort.

**Library Award:** Congratulations are in order for Bruce Semelsberger, all library museum volunteers and our museum for an award from the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) with the 2020 People in Preservation Gold Spike Stewardship Award! SOHO recognizes the effort we have made to preserving local San Diego history with the Library at the Campo Railroad Park & Museum. Thank you SOHO and thank you volunteers for your effort, lead by Bruce. It's always nice to be recognized for your efforts.

**Facilities plans:** The Facility Department has been giving

thought to projects which can move forward once we reopen. The list includes projects which can be completed for no or little costs and can use volunteers with various skill levels:

install rail on the jacking pads

install rails for the Party caboose

construct Workamper sites near Tomerrasen Gate

install Workamper sites near horse barn

trim trees near horse barn

install tracks for the Mine train

plant trees at the DAP Depot

plant bushes adjacent to the western town

plant bushes adjacent to Sheridan Road

install a new door and floor covering for the Operations office trailer

mow the fields near the Campo Depot

install plywood on the DAP freight shed walls

provide storage containers for pumpkin and Christmas items

raise Campo Depot baggage-room floor

construct the battery building

complete two more mines at the western town

install a wooden water tank platform and tank

find and install a windmill

construct a small building for jacks

chip tree branches

sand and stain the DAP Depot floor

spot repaint exterior of DAP Depot.

As you can see, many projects require various skill levels with no or little funding. If you can either volunteer or provide funding for these projects, we would be sincerely appreciative.

Annual Awards Meeting:

Sorry to report that the annual awards meeting scheduled for April 25th had to be canceled. This is always a good time for our members to gather and recognize our outstanding volunteers.

County Road Station in Campo: The Campo Road Station has a new manager. Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with him to discuss ways to slow or prevent

the sand and gravel that comes off County roads onto our property in Campo, which could impact our drainage system. We spend lots of time removing this material before it clogs out drainage pipes. The first step by the County was made the following day, and we certainly hope it works.

Volunteering is easy for any of these projects. Simply contact Jim Lundquist at 619-417-7059 or [Jim@psrm.org](mailto:Jim@psrm.org) and I will invite you to join us as we move our Museum forward together. ▷



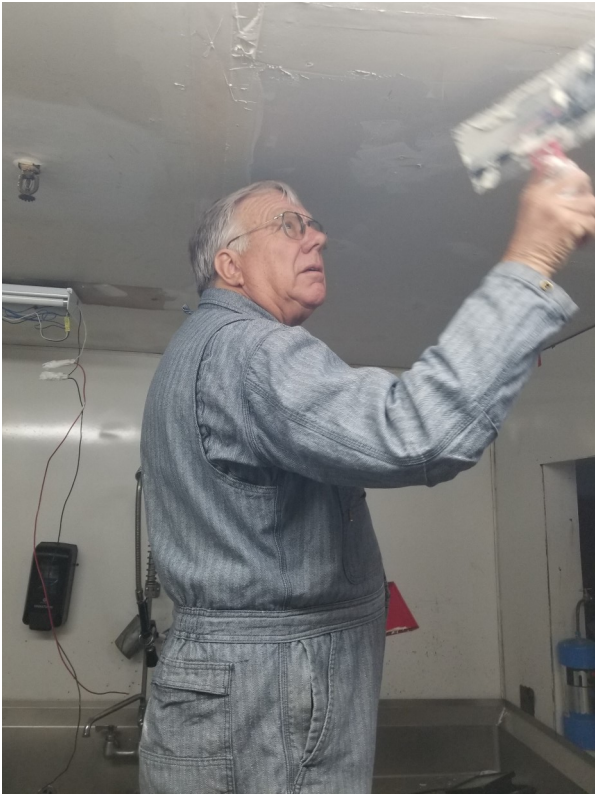
Dan Corrado installing speaker wires in the AT&SF 1509 for the new public address system being installed in our excursion train.

*Jim Lundquist*

Frank Denison is touching up paint inside the SD&A 252 as part of installing the public address system.

*Jim Lundquist*





Frank Denison is installing a new piece of drywall in the Shop kitchen.

*Jim Lundquist*

Jim Lundquist works inside the SD&A 252 to install the public address system in our excursion train.

*Frank Denison*



# **Operations Volunteers for March 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 15 Golden  
State trains during a short-  
ened schedule this month:

|              |                   |              |                 |   |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|
|              | Jim Baker         | 1            | Diana Hyatt     | 1 |
|              | Jarod Black       | 4            | Charlie Karayan | 2 |
|              | Ken Brown         | 2            | Mike McIntyre   | 1 |
|              | Martin Caestecker | 3            | Dick Pennick    | 2 |
|              | Kyle Cascadden    | 4            | Gabe Zorbas     | 1 |
|              | John Cenkner      | 2            |                 |   |
|              | Stephen Hager     | 3            |                 |   |
| Colin Atwood | 2                 | Alanna Hyatt | 1               |   |

This totals to 29 volunteer-  
days in March 2020.

