

HOT ***SCOOP***

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members
February 2021



1961



2021

**Pacific Southwest
Railway Museum
Association Inc.**
www.psrma.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)
By appointment only

PSRMA Board of Directors
Meetings are held on the 3rd Fri-
day of the month at 6:30 PM,
Lakeside Historical Society 12418
Parkside St. Lakeside, CA 92040

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: Gabe Zorbas
Photographer: Alanna Hyatt
Special Events: Diana Hyatt
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker

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Cover

**Snow along the main line at
the Campo Depot**

Nancy McDonald



From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

As we begin to settle into 2021, PSRM has been bustling with activity. Not only did we hold our first board meeting of the year, we resurrected our annual Strategic Planning & Review this month. A separate article will appear in the March issue of the Hot Scoop as, for once in a very long time, there are actually too many article submissions for this issue!

As we prepare to head into February, we are once again preparing to re-open our outdoor activities to the public. The organization, its volunteers as well as many of our members and supporters are eager to resume our new semblance of normalcy and “get on with it.” In that vein, even though we must continue to speculate over our event offerings to the public for 2021, we are looking towards continuing to focus on projects that need to be completed as man (and woman) power and funds present themselves. Moving into the first half of 2021 we will have accomplished several long term goals such as accepting delivery of our new, battery operated, ADA-capable, people-mover as well as delivery and installation of our commercial kitchen container. Both have been on the wish list for many years and are cogs in the wheels of our progress.

Discussions have begun regarding our annual dinner and membership meeting but the consensus is to wait and see whether the coronavirus pandemic is slowing down or hitting a new stride before we settle on a date and location. By that same logic, we may not offer a complete Bunny Train experience this year but an abridged version with decorated cars, limited capacity and a cameo appearance by the Easter Bunny.

I would like to address our financial status because it looks much better than it is. Annually (except 2021), we set aside 10% of our gross income into a contingency fund or *Rainy Day* fund if you will. This fund is how we were able to afford RailWorks to perform tie replacement in 2017 or we would have had to forego North Pole trains that year. This year, this fund will start to pay our ongoing expenses. Other assets are *endowments* where we can only spend interest earned, some are *restricted* funds that are for designated projects, departments or pieces of equipment, some are large dollar *grants* also for specific projects and NONE can be used towards ongoing, mundane expenses. Every year, until 2021, we have started the year flush with funds earned from our
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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:

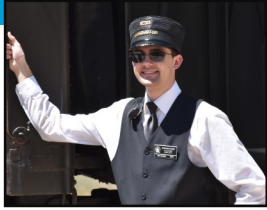
The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc., is dedicated to preserving the physical legacy and the experience of rail transportation. Programs address the historical, social, economic and technical impact of railroading with particular emphasis on railroads of San Diego County and the systems 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 Briefs, November 2020 - January 2021

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

November

The Board held two meetings in November. The first was a special telephonic meeting on November 4th. Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, and Jim Lundquist.

The first agenda item was the execution of a memorandum of understanding between the PSRMA, the North County Transit District (NCTD), and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). This MOU authorizes the donation of the Coaster F40PH-2C locomotives to the PSRMA after they have been disabled, while satisfying NCTD's obligation to replace these locomotives with newer, lower emissions locomotives. In addition, NCTD agrees to fully fund the inspections and load ratings required for the bridges between Tunnel 4 and Campo so that the locomotives can be moved to Campo by rail. The Board voted to execute the MOU.

The second item was the execution of a contract with engineering consultant Rail-Pros to provide these bridge

inspections and load ratings. The Board voted to execute the contract.

The regular November board meeting was held in person at the Lakeside Historical Society on the 20th. Board members in attendance were Diana Hyatt, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, and Jim Lundquist. Board members Martin Caestecker, Frank Denison, and Mike Edwards joined the meeting telephonically.

Rob gave his usual Treasurer's report and noted that the PSRMA's balance sheet was showing signs of recovery thanks to income from the Pumpkin Express event. Diana reported that longtime volunteer Sherwin Dorris had recently passed away and that the PSRMA would be receiving half of his estate, totaling \$182,000. This amounts to the second largest donation that the PSRMA has received in its entire history, and comes at a time when additional funds are sorely needed.

The Board discussed continuing efforts to secure a temporary storage location for the Coaster locomotives in the San Diego area. Volun-

teer Bruce Deck donated \$10,000 to help fence in the storage location and the Board voted to authorize expenditure of these funds to procure and install fencing.

Diana updated the Board on the long-awaited commissary kitchen container. The manufacturer was waiting on the range hood which is the last item that needed to be installed. The manufacturer estimated that the container would be ready to ship to the PSRMA by mid to late December.

Diana received a quote from Moto Electric Vehicles in Florida to manufacture a People Mover for the PSRMA. This ADA-compliant People Mover is funded by a grant from the County of San Diego and will allow volunteers to shuttle museum visitors between Campo Depot and the Display Building. The final quote slightly exceeded the grant amount, and Bruce Deck offered to cover the difference. The Board voted to authorize the purchase and delivery of the People Mover.

The PSRMA received another grant from the County of San Diego for advertising in

the amount of \$50,000. The Board discussed potential uses for the funds and authorized Diana and the Media Committee to spend up to \$10,000 for advertising before the January Board Meeting.

Diana shared an opportunity with the Board to acquire one of the recently retired rapid transit commuter cars from the Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART). These cars were manufactured by Rohr Industries in Chula Vista, making them an excellent interpretive exhibit to discuss Rohr's significance as part of local railroad history. BART will be accepting proposals for donations to non-profit organizations such as the PSRMA. The Board agreed to explore this potential acquisition further.

Finally, the Board authorized the purchase of materials to construct a viewing platform that would be used alongside Santa's "North Pole" trailer for the 2020 modified holiday special event dubbed the "Santa Express".

January 2021

The board held its first meeting of 2021 on January 15th.

Directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards (via telephone). Volunteer Glen Rogers attended the meeting as a guest.

Rob reviewed the preliminary year-end financial reports for 2020 with the Board. Overall, the PSRMA ended 2020 on a strong note in spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In fact, the PSRMA had a net income of over \$87,000 for the year. This is due in part to the Board's successful effort to cut all non-essential spending as well as from receiving several grants and generous donations from members.

Rob presented a draft budget for 2021 using data from the previous year's spending. He asked each of the department directors to review the budgets for their department and provide feedback at the February meeting.

Progress continues on the Coaster F40PH-2C Locomotives acquisition. The locomotives will be turned over to us sometime between February and April. We are

working in tandem to develop a plan to move the locomotives through Mexico to Campo and to store the locomotives in San Diego should the former be delayed. Engineering consultant RailPros has been contracted to inspect and load rate the bridges between Campo and Tunnel 4 so that we can put all three bridges in service and move the locomotives over them. This also has the benefit of allowing us to extend our Golden State train service back to Division. Since the beginning of 2018, all trains have been turning at Canyon, 1.7 miles short of Division.

Glen and the Board discussed plans for continued vegetation abatement on the SD&AE Right of Way. The PSRMA has been doing herbicide spraying in-house for the last few years. Although effective for localized growth, this spot spraying is not effective in knocking down large-scale vegetation growth. Glen plans to mount a 300-gallon spray tank that we own onto a flat car, allowing us to spray herbicide on larger sections of the right of way.

Diana reported that the People Mover that was purchased using a San Diego County Grant was being constructed and would be ready to deliver to Campo in 30-45 days.

The Board continued a discussion on the potential acquisition of one of the recently retired cars from the Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART) manufactured by Rohr Industries. The Board is exploring the possibility of have BART or Rohr's successor, United Technologies Corporation,

sponsor the construction of a new climate-controlled exhibit building to house the car.

The Board authorized spending to book the Lakeside Historical Society for the planned summer 2021 Rules and Review classes for operations department volunteers. The Board authorized spending to repair a hole in the exterior wall of the air brake room on the east side of the car shop. The Board also authorized spending to purchase materials needed to start laying track for the

Mine Train. Finally, the Board authorized spending to make repairs to the Car Shop and Display Building as required by a recent inspection by the San Diego County Fire Authority.

Board meetings take place on the third Friday of every month, except December, starting at 6:30 PM in the Lakeside Olde Community Church Hall at 9906 Maine Ave, Lakeside, CA 92040. All members are welcome to attend.

2020 Board Election Results

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

The final results of the 2020 board election are in! The election was a single contest for the position of President with incumbent Diana Hyatt running against Alexander Fiori. The final vote count was 166-22 with Diana securing reelection for the 2021-2022 term. Diana has served as the organization's president since January 2009 and we welcome her continued leadership as we enter

another year overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board members for the 2021-2022 term are:

President – Diana Hyatt
Secretary – Stephen Hager
Director of Equipment – Ron Hyatt
Director of Museum Services – Jim Lundquist

Thank you to all members

who voted in this election. For those of you who are interested in running for a board position in the 2021 election, keep an eye out for a Hot Scoop article with information on the nomination process at the beginning of summer.



Facilities and Museum Services Report

by Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services

The new year started with a bang for improvement projects at our Campo Railroad Park & Museum site. Many people showed up to help on various projects – with funding coming from specific donations and museum general funds. Our thanks to all who assisted.

The largest project this month was a four day blitz on installing a roof on the mine building, which will house the mine train equipment. Volunteers installed donated trusses, then plywood which was purchased at half price, then donated roofing paper, and finally, donated sheet metal! This was a challenging project due to the fact that all materials had to be hand carried and mounted because all of our hydraulic equipment is awaiting repairs plus, for added measures, the wind was blowing a good portion of the days. However, these wonderful volunteers got the job done: Jim Lundquist, Frank Denison, Steven Pohjola, Dawn Lundquist, Glen Rogers, Jim Rosenberg, Tim Miller and BG Miller. Left

to complete are end walls, maybe some siding, a new gate and electrical lights. But, make no mistake about it, this was a majority of work to be completed. Hopefully, we can start laying track soon!

Another blitz job this past month was the repair and replacement of a portion of the Shop Building wall behind the Operations trailer office. The plywood wall had years of rain attack it and the sheet metal siding was blowing off. The first order of business was to remove the operations trailer, then the metal siding to expose the bad plywood. Four new sheets were installed, followed by donated roofing sheeting material, then replacing the metal siding with a flashing extension metal band and replacing the trailer. We took this time to relevel the trailer and repair the steps. Working on this job were Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist and Steven Pohjola.

Our electrician, Dan Corrado, was busy as well.

Work continued on the Jack's project, wiring the jacks and new cords for the AT&SF crane. This work is not finished as yet. In addition, the Garden Shed electrical service was rewired as the wires into the shed had broken and needed replacement. Dan has installed a new emergency exit sign and lights in the Shop Building restroom, as required by the Fire Marshal. The remaining exit signs will be replaced as well.

Thanks to Alanna for her work on the Hot Scoop. The goal is to produce a monthly newsletter for our members. The Board has directed that a printed version will be sent to all members. Many members were not receiving notice of the electronic version being available, and we want to make sure we communicate with our members.

The Library staff remains busy with donations and requests for information.

I'm working on a better way to display the information signs on our properties. The signs need to be protected

from the sun.

The general overall appearance of our property was improved with Steven Pohjola and I weed whipping and weed spraying throughout our property. Weeds contin-

ue to grow everywhere and need to be addressed by spraying and mowing. A dedicated tractor and mower attachment for this work needs to be addressed.

As always, we can use help

with a variety of tasks. Any skill level appreciated. If you can assist, please reach out to me at Jim@psrm.org or call 619/417-7059. Thank you volunteers.



Mine train building gets a roof

Dawn C Lundquist



Jim Lundquist applies paneling to the side of the car shop

Frank Denison

Changes to Hot Scoop and Members information

In an effort to increase communication with you, our members, we have decided to publish and mail out a paper version of the Hot Scoop to every member. What we have found is that most members did not receive the notice of a new Hot Scoop being available or didn't open the link to review it. A complete version will still be posted on our web pages where the photos will be in color.

All members have access to members only information, like Hot Scoop, By-laws, Article of Incorporation, etc.

These can be found on the web at:

www.members.psrn.org

That will bring up a login page. The user name is volunteer and the password is 2353.

We are making a commitment to get the Hot Scoop to you every month. We will strive to get monthly updates on new members, an article covering the Equipment Department volunteers efforts, news from the Operations Department, regular updates from the Library volunteers, regular updates covering our financial status, as well as

the regular updates from the President and the Facilities and Museum Services Department.

We hope these efforts are appreciated by the membership. We have many volunteers doing great work for our museum, and we believe all should be recognized. As space and time allows, a special feature could be added dealing with museum history and our volunteers.

Thank you for your membership and thank you for your support of your museum.

2020 Financial Status

By Robert Stebbins, Treasurer

Presented below are highlights of your Association's financial status for the year ending December 31,

2020. These statements are prepared internally and have not been reviewed or audited by outside profes-

sionals. PSRMA is incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Profit and Loss Statement

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	60,775	Administration	8,706
Grants	113,635	Banking/Bookkeeping	8,613
Membership dues	24,103	Equipment	49,620
Excursion revenue	57,747	Facilities	71,190
Gift Shop Receipts	15,465	Insurance	44,912
Other Income items	28,871	Museum Services	10,153
		Operations	19,260
		Other Expenses	26,650
		Taxes	5,887
Total Income	\$ 300,596	Total Expenses	\$239,104
Net Income		\$53,099	
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Bank/Endowment accounts	706,724	Current Liabilities	33,180
Other current assets	67,285	Long Term Liabilities	130,492
Total Current Assets	774,009		
Fixed Assets (land, buildings, equip)	3,311,693		
Total Assets	\$4,085,702	Total Liabilities	\$163,672
Net Worth		\$3,992,030	

PSRMA faced many new challenges during 2020, mostly resulting from the Coronavirus crisis. However, we ended the year with an operating profit, ready to face the continuing influence of the pandemic and its impact on our finances. Excursion Income has been our biggest single source of revenue in prior years, and our Operations volunteers cannot wait to get back onboard our trains

hauling happy visitors down the tracks from the Campo Depot. Fortunately, we had a flurry of sizeable donations and booked several grants during the last months of 2020, financially positioning ourselves to weather the storm while continuing to improve our Campo property. Board members are extremely grateful for donations made by the membership and for the grants we receive

from local government and rail history organizations. We review the financial performance of the Association at every Board meeting, and should you have more detailed questions about this summary, please attend the next meeting on February 19, 2021 or contact me via email at treasurer@psrm.org.

From the Back Platform cont.

By Diana Hyatt, President

North Pole trains, typically \$185-225K from that event alone. This is a perpetual problem when viewing our Profit and Loss statements as these funds support the lean months through the first three quarters of every year.

This year, due to our inability to offer a 2020 Christmas experience to our beloved passengers, we will face a more sobering reality financially. Particularly if we must continue to curtail our capacity and eliminate the

use of our first class cars. We need to innovate ideas, and likely spend money in the process, in order to navigate towards a new business plan that includes making a profit for this non-profit organization.

PSRMA Thanks 2020 Donors

By Martin Caestecker, Vice President

We wish to briefly look back upon 2020 and acknowledge the generosity of our friends, colleagues, and supporters. While 2020 made for a significantly challenging environment for all, the following individu-

als stand out for their financial or material donations to the organization we all have grown to love so much. Contributions of any amount are important – from renewing your membership to purchasing train ride

tickets to sending in a few of your hard-earned dollars as a donation. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your support.

Jim Baker	Leroy Huntington	Mary Isabelle Perry
Robert & Deborah Baker	James L. & Arvila Johnson	Richard Prusinowski
Albert Barnier	John P. Jones	Michael Retz
John & Jan Cenker	Jean Landmesser	Rick & Sandy Rowe
Douglas Dean Clark, Jr. & Dr. Janet Moyer	Daniel Lapham	Franky & Elsie Salinardi
Joann Chew Cuadras	Kenneth & Susan Lapham	Brian Sampson
CyberGrants on behalf of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	Carol Lasek	Ann Schaefer
Bruce Deck	Luddy Family Foundation	Erik Shetler
Randall Dunphy	Jim & Dawn Lundquist	Michael Sidorsky & Mariane Richman
Cheryl Eschwege	Ronald McQuilliams	Kyle Sieg
Don Getz	Harlan & Sharon Mille	Robert Stebbins
Linda Gonzalez	Timothy & B.G. Miller	Lori Trent
Stephen Hager	Anthony & Olivia Neece	Amy Turner
Jeffrey Haslam	Jack O'Lexey	Thomas Uter
Elmer Hemingway	Willie Owens, Jr.	William & Diane Wadley
Hervey Family	Richard Owner	Catherine Karayan Wilbur
Jack & Martha Houghton	Michael & Heidi Palmer	Francis Witkowski
Bruce Hunter	Richard & Janet Paulus	PLUS Anonymous Donors



Membership Report, February 2021

By Gabriel Zorbas, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to the new year!

Work is progressing in overhauling the way we process and track membership. Currently, we use a web service known as NeonCRM to keep track of our membership. While this program is adequate in performing the tasks needed to service our membership roster it has

limitations. Martin Caestaker is currently working on a proprietary database to replace NeonCRM. Having this new database in place will eventually reduce the time it takes to administer the membership by at least half.

Make sure to thank Martin when you see him!

Understandably, there have not been that many new members joining over the last ten months. So until the pandemic has subsided, I will be releasing membership numbers every quarter.

Operations Volunteers for December 2020

Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service

Those who are certified/qualified crew members and speeder operators/crew, and those who are in training, who have helped us run 10 Santa Express trains and the number of days they have volunteered during the month of December:

Jarod Black	2
Ken Brown	1
Mark Brown	1
Nathan Brown	1
Martin Caestecker	2

Kyle Cascadden	2
Stephen Hager	2
Randy Houk	1
Jim Lundquist	1
Mike McIntyre	1
Glen Rogers	2
Rob Stebbins	1
Gabe Zorbas	1

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 Baker	1
Ryan Hartmann	1
Glen Rogers	2
Roark Stump	1

This totals to 23 volunteer-days in December 2020.

A note from Fundraising

Donna Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development

In this difficult year, we are extremely grateful for our wonderful donors, whose philanthropic generosity this past fiscal year has enabled us to upgrade our facilities, expand our programming and enhance our educational offerings.

In 2020, we received a grant that enabled us to install an amazing sound system in the rail excursion cars at the Campo Depot. This endeavor was taken on by our great volunteers - Jim Lundquist and

Frank Denison, including a small group of volunteers and contractors. We hope you will visit us, when we reopen to enjoy your enhanced railway excursion experience.

Going into 2021, we are proud to announce that there will be a new addition of an electric motorized vehicle (through a grant) to assist our visitors with disabilities and the elderly. Now everyone can share in the same great PSRM "Living History Day" experience.

Your membership and donations are what keep PSRM chugging along the tracks, so once again thank you and please be sure to visit us when you are able to and stay safe!

I am always available to assist with any questions you may have, particularly about planned-giving: remembering PSRM in your will or trust, grant opportunities or just to chat, so please feel free to reach out to me! fundraising@psrm.org