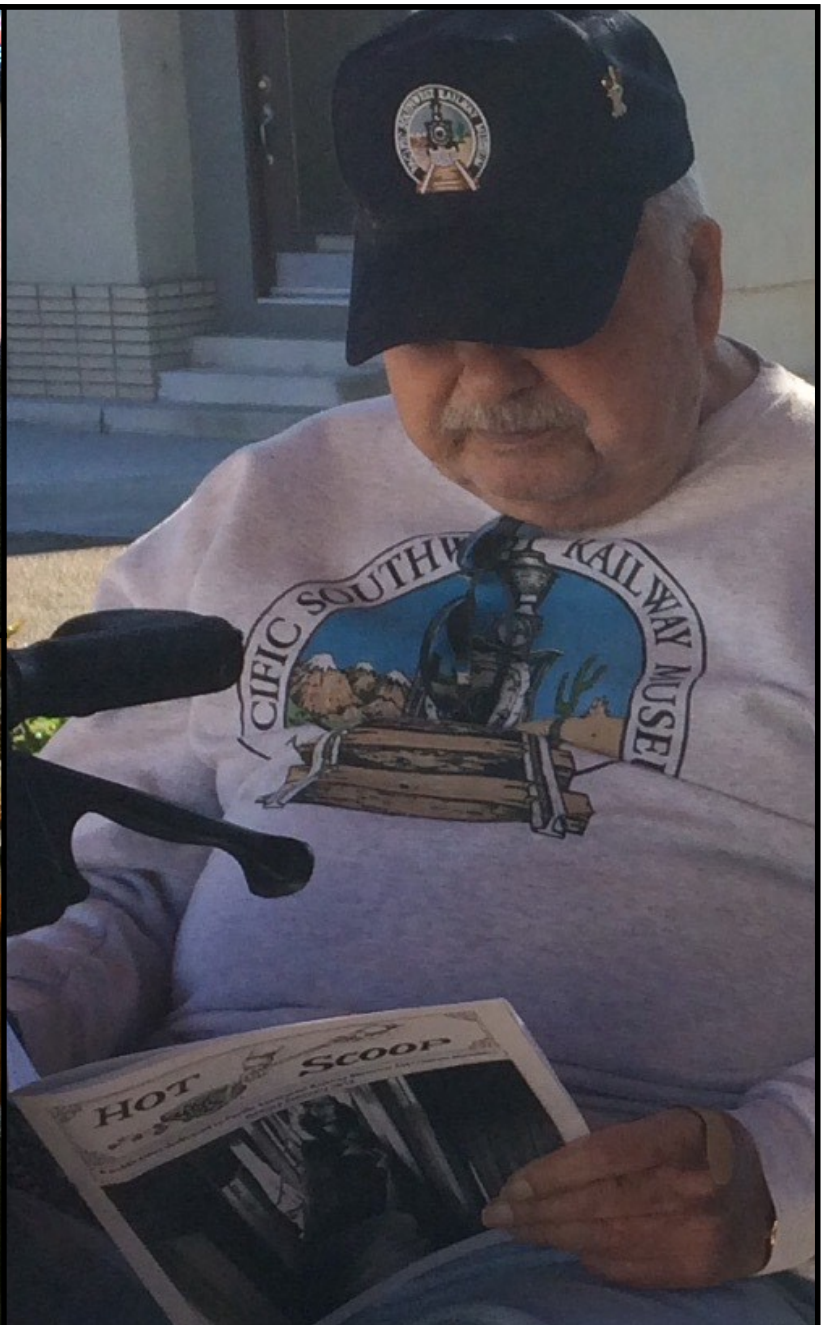




A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members
April 2021

IN MEMORIAM OF SHERWIN A. DORRIS





**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

Sherwin A. Dorris

11/1935-5/2020

Photo by George Goen



From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

On behalf of PSRM, I would like to dedicate this issue of the Hot Scoop to PSRM Life Member #256, **Sherwin A. Dorris**. Sherwin first joined PSRM in the 1980's and was an avid docent for many years. While he was taking care of his wife Gertrude, he became a less familiar face in the 2010's. Unfortunately, Gertrude predeceased Sherwin by several years and in 2018, he sold their house in San Carlos and chose to move into a retirement community. Before Covid, Sherwin could be found at Campo at least once per month, accompanied by his caregiver George Goen. Since he had a gift for gab and impaired mobility, we felt it prudent to encourage Sherwin to continue as a docent at the Campo Depot or the Display Building delighting our visitors with his love of trains. Sadly, Sherwin passed away on May 25, 2020. Services were held at Featheringill Mortuary on June 11, 2020 and attended by a dozen PSRM members including myself. It was apparent that Sherwin's love of PSRM meant quite a bit to him and he enjoyed reading the latest updates in this publication, the Hot Scoop. Sherwin's legacy lives on however, as he named PSRM as a 50% beneficiary of his estate which so far, has amounted to a check for

\$180,000.00. Look forward to future projects that may be financed by this very generous legacy. Thank you Dorris and Gertrude! May you rest in peace.

Our volunteers have been busier than ever making things happen in front of and behind the scenes. I do not think I have ever been prouder to know and work with a better group of people than those we have right now. Gift Shop Manager, Alana Hyatt and staff member Nancy McDonald have been doing an excellent job keeping inventory stocked, items properly marked, performing accurate financial accounting, keeping the store clean and always welcoming our guests with a smile.

The Equipment Department has been particularly busy with a number of new projects demanding repair or maintenance during March. They spent several weekends removing and replacing a power assembly in SP 3873. In February, SDA 7285 presented erratic symptoms and it was determined that the batteries were failing. Since then, it has been removed from service until the new set of batteries arrive. During the interim, Stephen Hager is installing heavy duty drawer slides in the battery boxes that will make it easier to remove, replace and maintain the array of batteries. GE 70 tonner



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.

SP 5119 has been serving as backup power nearly every weekend and some very interesting consists have been caught in photographs and on video by our member-photographers. Fairmont motorcar UP 2644 also decided it was not receiving enough attention and was removed from service several times for maintenance and repairs. On February 19th vandals broke both panes of glass in the end door of SDA 253 and cracked the metal latch plate on the door in their attempts to kick the door open. Those repairs have been made as well, effectively losing a full day meant for other projects.

Museum Service and the Facilities Departments have been busy erecting an engine house for the Descanso, Alpine & Pacific (DAP) mine train and laying track between the DAP Depot and the new shed. This is a weekday project that is always looking for extra hands, contact jim@psrm.org if you are interested in volunteering. Another weekday opportunity lies with the the library on Wednesdays, contact brucesems@cox.net. Steam work on the Coos Bay is held the second Friday (and

Saturday) of the month, contact Jim Baker by email: jimbaker2353@gmail.com.

We are working vigilantly on finding a temporary storage location for the Coaster F40 PH locomotives which will not reside on any SDAE owned spurs in San Diego. The board chose to hire an engineer to assess how many cubic meters of dirt will have to be removed to make former tunnel 3 in Mexico passable. Thank you to Bruce Deck for donating the funds for this necessary step to moving forward; more funds are needed and encouraged. Checks can be mailed to the La Mesa Depot and online donations can be made at: <https://www.psrn.org/donate/> at *Choose Fund*, select **Coaster F40 Locomotives**. A special thanks to Mike Armstrong for his contribution of \$2,105 to this fund.

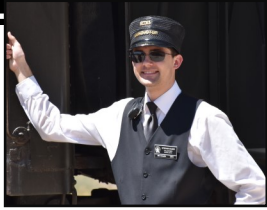
On March 4th a DUI driver of an automobile, was headed northbound on Nebo Drive and struck the La Mesa Depot. The remediation work cost \$1,750 and repairs are \$3,000. Thankfully, the Depot was rebuilt with redwood and no termite damage was found. The community has donated in excess of

\$2,000 towards this project. If you would like to help out with this fund, please send a check to the La Mesa Depot or donate online at:

<https://www.psrn.org/donate/>

select **La Mesa Depot** at *Choose Fund*.

The Media Committee has been busy promoting our organization and has met via Zoom several times this year. Jason Drenkow has been doing a fantastic job keeping our Facebook and Instagram pages fresh with a new and interesting post every 5-7 days. Plans to spend the advertising grant funds are nearly complete. You will find us in every Trains and Classic Trains magazine for the next twelve issues beginning with the May 2021 issue. We will also advertise in the Armed Forces Dispatch, San Diego Family Magazine, San Diego Magazine, Google ads, Facebook and Instagram. The remainder of the funds will be applied towards a thematic face lift to our website and the purchase of several lighted, glass wall display cabinets. Until next month, may your iron be good with clear signals ahead.



Board Briefs, March 2021

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

The board held its third meeting of 2021 on March 19th. The directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards (via telephone). Guests in attendance were volunteer Bruce Semelsberger, member Mark Landguth, and guest speaker Vaile Shelton.

Vaile of Innovative Foam Insulation gave a presentation on a proposal to seal the Campo car shop roof with a closed cell foam application. This foam layer, with a renewable elastomeric coating, is considered maintenance-free and would last for the lifetime of the building. This would be a cost-effective alternative to replacing the building's current asphalt roof in kind, which has an estimated lifespan of only 20-30 years. The up-front cost would also be slightly less than an asphalt roof. The Board adopted a resolution to pursue a Community Enhancement Grant from the

County of San Diego to fund the installation of a closed cell foam roof for the car shop.

Rob reviewed the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement as of February 28th with the Board. Thanks to the museum's reopening and healthy ticket sales, the organization made a net profit in February. Rob noted that ridership continued to climb and that San Diego County had just moved into the State of California's "Red Tier," allowing indoor museums including the Display Building to reopen. Rob also noted that donations were being received to help cover the costs of repairs to the La Mesa Depot after it was damaged by a drunk driver.

I provided the Board with a memo on the acquisition of the Coaster F40PH-2C locomotives. We are finalizing the details of a new temporary storage location in the San Diego area. The inspections of the bridges on the

SD&AE Railway between Campo and Tunnel 4 revealed no major defects. We are now waiting on the load rating reports for the bridges at Division and Dog Patch. In February, Diana, volunteer Hector Gonzalez, and I met with ADMICARGA in Tijuana and received their permission to begin efforts to reopen former Tunnel 3, which sits just south of the border, east of Tecate. The Board voted to authorize a contract with EPGC (Estudios Profesionales de Geotecnia y Concretos), a geotechnical engineering firm in Mexico, for \$9,750 to perform a geological study at Tunnel 3. The findings of this study will tell us how much of the slopes on either side of the track at the former tunnel need to be cut back to prevent further landslides. With this information, we can get a quote from a contractor to cut back the slopes and clear the existing landslides from within the cut.

The Board agreed by con-

sensus to accept the donation of long-time member and volunteer Dick Penick's 1890's-era National City and Otay Railway passenger car. Dick plans to donate the costs of transporting the car to Campo as well as the costs to hire a crane to unload the car.

After three years of using the moniker "Campo Railroad Park and Museum" to refer to our facility in Campo, the Board voted to revert to calling the facility "Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, Campo". Going forward, all logos and branding for the facility will use this name. However, the moniker, as well as several other names, will remain on file with the State of California as fictitious business names.

The Board reviewed the organization's standing rule prohibiting pets on museum

property, and agreed that the rule should remain in force. Additionally, this policy will now be posted more conspicuously on the organization's website and will be listed in the terms and conditions when visitors buy tickets online. Service animals will continue to be permitted on the property and aboard excursion trains as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Board voted to retroactively authorize expenditure of \$1,750 for initial emergency repairs to the La Mesa Depot following damage by a drunk driver. The Board also voted to authorize expenditure of an additional \$5,000 to perform permanent repairs to the depot.

The Board voted to authorize expenditure of \$5,500 to purchase additional rail for the Mine Train and continue laying track. In April, Jim

will present a report to the Board detailing the remaining funds and efforts required to complete the Mine Train to its full built-out as envisioned in the organization's master plan.

Finally, the Board voted to authorize expenditure of \$1,100 for transportation and a forklift rental to receive the donation of 400 relay ties from the San Diego Trolley. These ties can be used for track work in the PSRMA yard and the SD&AE mainline as needed.

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 12418 Parkside St., Lakeside, CA 92040. All members are welcome to attend. Please bring a mask if you plan to attend!



La Mesa Depot

Alanna Hyatt





Museum Services and Facilities Report

By Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services

Museum Services Report

The Museum welcomes our fourth BENEFACTOR LIFE member, Mark Landguth. Mark is a recently retired engineer from Qualcomm and is interested in assisting our museum in the public outreach area. As his first project, Mark has contacted the tractor museum in Vista to staff a booth for our museum for two weekends in June. He would appreciate assistance in manning the booth. If you'd like to work with him, please contact Jim Lundquist at Jim@psrm.org or call 619-417-7059 and we will get you together.

It's GREAT to be able to reopen the Display Building once again. Our visitors enjoy looking at the many exhibits inside. Many thanks to Teresa and Pablo for keeping the building clean and welcoming our guests.

We are hopeful that various public outreach activities will present themselves once again as we move away from the Covid-19 times. When parades start again, look for our float to wel-

come visitors to our museum. We could always use a volunteer willing to drive the small trailer float for us. Are you interested? Please contact Jim Lundquist at Jim@psrm.org or call at 619-417-7059 to start.

We thank Bruce Semelsberger and the Library team, Alanna Hyatt as Editor of the HotScoop and Gabe Zorbas as Membership Coordinator for their continuing efforts to making our museum better every day in their duties.

There are a GREAT many activities and tasks which go on everyday behind the scenes to keep our museum open to the public on weekends. Here's a shout out to ALL our hard working volunteers who work so hard for only a THANK YOU as payment.

Facilities Report

The last part of the jacking pad project and AT&SF crane project was the installation of the railroad rails on the slab. That work has now been completed. The rail

drill was a huge assistance with this job and I thank the Equipment Department for servicing the drill. I also thank Dan Corrado for his assistance. Starting two years ago with electrical conduits and transformers in the electrical room, removing the old tracks, the new slab, the new building, overhauling the jacks and finishing with laying the rails – this was a large job over many years.

Tracks for the mine train for our Early California History: Railroads, Mining and Agriculture has started. Thanks to Frank Denison, Steve Pohjola, Tim Miller, BG Miller, Donovan Chorny and Jim Lundquist who joined together to lay the first three switches, two tracks into the mine buildings and a portion of the mainline past the DAP Depot. We will soon be spreading ballast to prepare the right-of-way. Work will continue both weekdays and weekends and we sure could use some help. Please contact Jim Lundquist at Jim@psrm.org or call at

619-417-7059 to start.

Thanks to Chris Herzog from Barrett Junction Café for the donation of 12 picnic tables along with other ma-

terials for the mining town exhibit. All the tables were picked up and transported by Jim & Dawn Lundquist with help from Frank Denison and Donovan Chorny.

We thank Nancy McDonald, Terresa Gonzalez and Pablo Gonzales for their continuing efforts to weed and pickup our grounds.

Meet the volunteers

By Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services

This series will be written by Jim Lundquist and feature volunteers from our museum. It will appear from time-to-time in the Hot Scoop as time and space allows. Since the first effort in 1959 to establish an operating railway museum in San Diego county, it's been the unpaid volunteers who have been our most valuable asset. In an effort to shed light on these most valuable people, I will interview those willing to share their stories with us. No particular order has been assigned to the volunteers, as the intent is to feature recent and well as past active volunteers. I hope you will enjoy these articles.

Dr. Francis Stites was a very active volunteer from the early 1980's until the late 2000's. Frank was a professor at San Diego State University teaching American

Constitutional History when he met Dr. Ted Kornweibel at History Department meetings on campus. In 1982, those conversations lead to an invitation to join Ted in his effort to secure a caboose on the siding at the La Mesa Depot. Prior to these conversations, Frank had no specific knowledge of our museum or railroad history. Frank was happy to volunteer. From that start, for the next 30 years, Frank would be an active volunteer in a great variety of projects, both at La Mesa and at our Campo Railroad Park & Museum site, many as a team with Ted.

The next project was a two-year effort to restore the C&O caboose in Campo. Some donated fir was used to completely reside the exterior of the caboose, along with painting and lettering. The UP caboose was the fol-

lowing project. The caboose had been involved in some minor type of wreck and required new window frames, new interior siding and reworking the cabinets under the cupola. During this time, Frank joined in the effort to lay tracks towards Rose Junction. He said he found a new appreciation of just how hard track laying was back in the day, as he used the hand powered rail drill to make holes for joint bars in the rails. In the early 1990's, he also laid rails into the Display Building.

With these "smaller projects" out of the way, the next project was a very ambitious endeavor. The AT&SF Railway Post Office car had been donated and transported from Texas to Campo. The goal was to reverse the effort made when it was a gift store and return it to a RPO while also taking

on years of neglect. This involved cutting out the old windows, stripping the opening, finding money, having new windows made, making new custom window sills as each one was different due to rust damage, more soliciting for funds (by Ted), purchasing a biscuit-joiner and gluing together wood for sills, finding money for a new floor and installing it, painting the car inside and outside, using alcohol to clean and varnish the mail slots, custom make sorting table parts and reassembling them, watch with amazement as Harold Whalen casting new steel parts and finally working with Larry Rose to letter the car. All told – a 10-year project!

During these times, Frank also took the class and training offered to become a Trainman, Brakeman and Conductor on our SD&A trains. He made many trips to Tecate and was happy to share history with our visitors.

The next restoration for Frank and the team was the interior of the AT&SF #1509. After the museum secured private funding, new windows, new carpet, reup-

holstered chairs and interior painting were completed. There was a complete repainting and lettering of the FGEX # 56415 refrigerator car. Frank remembers carpooling with Ted and working “banker’s hours” as the late Larry Rose would tell him (9:00AM to 2:30PM). He started working by himself on Wednesday’s and would stay longer on Saturday’s. Frank recalled the pride he felt when the fully restored RPO went to Mexico and stamped mail in both USA and Mexico.

In 2002, a “clean-up” project started on the Rockdale, Sandlow & Southern #3, the 1886 wooden car that had been stored outdoors a number of years. As Frank described, it was a little bit more, then a little bit more. Started out as sculp wood as fillers for wood pecker holes, and as the project got bigger and bigger, it involved new siding, running boards, windows, hardware, stained glass, remade lamps, all while Ted raised funds (again). Frank made crates and added labels, had display cases made and even learned many new skills, like repacking the solid bearings.

In the late 2000’s, Frank helped with the restoration of the Campo Depot, with new exterior siding, interior boards donated by a La Mesa company, stair case and ticket counter. He also helped lay bricks in Campo and relettered the exterior signs for the depot. He helped redo the La Mesa Depot in 2010’s. There was always a variety of other jobs like building a dock for the loading of the North Pole Limited trains, lettering signs, lettering the Union Pacific #576, needle gunning SP #2353 and pulling weeds.

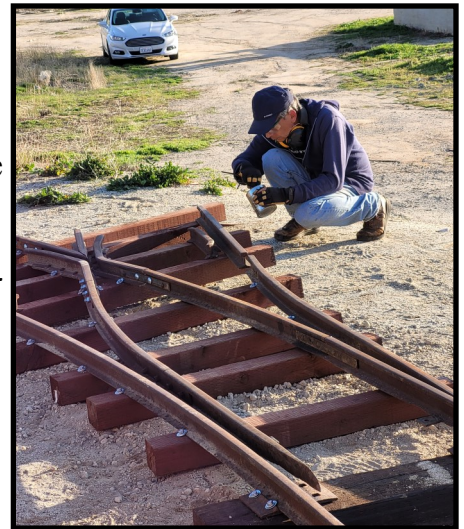
All in all, Frank recalls his 30+ years of volunteer experience as “Enjoyable. Always something to do, always something to learn. Good people. Great experience.”





Steven Pohjola laying tracks for the mine train.

Jim Lundquist.



Membership Report, April 2021

By Gabriel Zorbas, Membership Coordinator

I am pleased to report much progress has been made over this last month in regards to membership. A large group of us audited the entire membership; correcting spelling errors, reconciling payment information, and updating missing information. Along with that, there is now a membership coordinator's manual, so when it is time for another member to take on the role of membership coordinator, there will be documentation on how everything is done.

Membership is on the rise again! San Diego County slowly re-opens, and as our ridership increases, I wholly expect us to see a significant increase in membership. This is already happening, as you will see below.

Current Active Members: 535

Percent Change: +5%

New Members for March

Mana Badillo

Chad Baker

Patricia Daley

Camille Gray

C. Daniel Jones

Christopher Karcher

Victoria Krol

Brent MacGregor

Jessica Martin

Julia Mershon

Brent Montgomery

Eric Pena

Oleg Popa

Antonio Rosas

Jonathon Shatsnider

Carl Swenson

Wendee Theilemann

T. Daniel Trunk Esq

Gerardo Valenzuela

Operations Volunteers for March 2021

Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service

Those who are certified/qualified crew members and speeder operators/crew who have helped us run 24 Golden State trains, 8 Bunny Trains, and the number of days they have volunteered:

Colin Atwood	3
Jim Baker	1
Paul Bandemer	2
Jarod Black	5
Ken Brown	2
James Caestecker	1

Martin Caestecker	1
Kyle Cascadden	3
John Cenkner	2
Stephen Hager	3
Diana Hyatt	1
Charlie Karayan	4
Mike McIntyre	1
Shaine Neale	3
Rich Paulus	1
Glen Rogers	4
Rob Stebbins	2
Tim Wamsley	2
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
James Caestecker	1
Glen Rogers	1

This totals to 45 volunteer-days in March 2021.

