

HOT ***SCOOP***

A publication dedicated to Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members
May 2021



1961



2021

**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)
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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Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer



Cover

The Easter Bunny waves
goodbye before hopping off
the train.

Jason Drenkow



From the Back Platform

By Diana Hyatt, President

Now that we are one third of the way into 2021, things are starting to get back to 'normal.' With the Bunny Trains on the last weekend of March and the first weekend of April, the operating schedule changed from three trains per day to four trains per day. More trains per day has been our attempt at coping with the limited passenger capacity under the state's coronavirus guidelines. Fortunately, California moved from the red tier to the orange tier and we have recently been able to increase our train capacity from 25% to 50% per passenger car.

On Mother's Day weekend, all Moms can ride free as long as they are accompanied by one full-fare paying adult so tell your friends! We will likely post a similar incentive for Father's Day on the weekend of June 19th and 20th. Plans through the end of the year, especially our North Pole trains have not been solidified yet but news of that should be posted in the June or July issue of the Hot Scoop along with a postcard to members announcing pre-sales ahead of the public.

Bunny Trains were popular this year and many families brought their young children to ride the train and receive a candy-filled Easter egg from the Easter Bunny himself. Ridership

was 557 this year, 0 in 2020, 800 in 2019 and 1,267 in 2018.

Also on a positive note, now that the museum and train rides have been open for a solid three months, it is nice to see an increase in profit but it is still not outweighing our expenses. As we approach the summer months, it is highly likely our ridership will experience a lull as it usually does during the hottest months of the year: July, August and September.

There was a hubbub of activity in all the departments during the month of April and you, as members, are always encouraged to get involved and try your hand at volunteering. The Behind the Scenes Tour held on Saturday, April 10, 2021 received a response from about 23 members and guests and is a prime opportunity to find out if there is anything at Campo that may hold your interest. If you are unsure of what you would like to do or where you can be of help, you may email our Membership Coordinator, Gabe Zorbas at membership@psrm.org and he will route you to the correct contact within the museum. Other contacts: Equipment: mjcaestecker@psrm.org, Steam: jimbaker2353@gmail.com, Gift Shop: dhyatt@psrm.org, Library: brucesems@cox.net, Operations: hager@psrm.org



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.

Happy Mother's Day!

On Sunday May 9th Moms can ride free as long as they are accompanied by one full-fare paying adult.



For information on special events and more visit our website at www.PSRM.org



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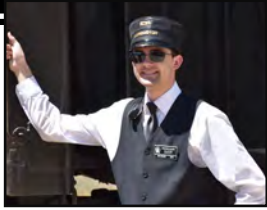
@SanDiegoTrain



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Board Briefs, April 2021

By Stephen Hager, Secretary

The board held its April 2021 meeting on the 16th. The directors attending were Diana Hyatt, Martin Caestecker, Stephen Hager, Rob Stebbins, Ron Hyatt, Frank Denison, Jim Lundquist, and Mike Edwards (via telephone). Guests in attendance were volunteer Bruce Semelsberger and member Mark Landguth.

Rob reviewed the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement as of March 31st with the Board. The \$180,962.56 check from the Sherwin Dorris estate was deposited in the contingency fund. The funds will remain here until the board determines an appropriate way to allocate them. Revenue from ticket sales for the Bunny Trains in March was robust. Diana noted that \$13,000 was paid for the organization's insurance policy in March and that the board should expect to pay the annual insurance premium in May. The premium was \$30,000 in 2020, but she expected that it would be lower

in 2021 due to the significantly lower ridership in the past year.

Jim presented Mark Landguth with a Benefactor Life Member plaque to recognize his \$10,000 donation to the PSRMA. Mark's name will also be added to the Benefactor Life Member plaque at the Campo Depot.

I provided the Board with an update on the acquisition of the Coaster F40PH-2C locomotives. An unexpected denial of our previously planned temporary storage location has forced us to look for a new location and efforts are ongoing. NCTD granted us an extension to the deadline to remove the locomotives from their property while we sort out a new location. In the meantime, efforts continue to clear former Tunnel 3 in Mexico. The PSRMA's contracted geotechnical engineering firm, EPGC (Estudios Profesionales de Geotecnia y Concretos), was in the process of performing their geo-

logical study at the site. Once we receive the report from the study, the next step will be to get a quote from an earthworks contractor to perform the clearing and slope stabilizing work at the site.

The board discussed the issue of ongoing vegetation growth along the SD&AE Right of Way. Mike proposed to hire a professional firm to spray herbicide along the right of way and then manually clear it. Jim proposed an alternative solution; get a large group of volunteers and community members to perform the clearing work. The board opted to attempt Jim's idea, but is prepared to reconvene and authorize hiring a professional firm should the volunteer effort prove inadequate.

Diana reported that the People Mover, paid for by a San Diego County Grant, had arrived safely in Campo. Ron was putting together an operator's manual to use for

training and qualifying volunteers to drive it. Diana also reported that she received a quote from a contractor for \$3,000 to perform permanent repairs to the La Mesa Depot following damage that it received from a DUI driver in March.

Jim submitted a proposal from Civil Landworks to produce a preliminary grading and drainage plan for the PSRMA's site in support of the Master Plan. Jim also expected to receive a separate quote for a topographic survey which would be needed to support the grading plan and any future design work on the site.

Diana forwarded information on an opportunity to

acquire more LGB G Gauge track from Justin Rennilson, who previously donated most of his layout to the PSRMA. The board agreed to accept the donation of the additional track.

Lundquist reported that the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System had offered to donate thousands of linear feet of 90 LB rail to the PSRMA; the PSRMA need only pay to cut the rail to length and relocate it to Campo. This rail will be needed to construct the various tracks that are proposed in the Master Plan. Diana agreed to follow up with MTS to get more details.

The board voted to authorize expenditure of \$1,000 to

mow the PSRMA property in Campo. The board also voted to authorize expenditure of up to \$5,000 to transport, diagnose, and repair the New Holland Backhoe.

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. Please bring a mask if you plan to attend!



Museum Services and Facilities Report

By Jim Lundquist, Director of Museum Services

On April 10th, 23 members spent the day on the “Behind the Scenes” tour. We covered early museum history and the Master Plan. The group then toured the Early California History exhibit under construction featuring the Athey Mine train. As a bonus, Roy Athey, who donated the railway to the museum, was on the tour! We reviewed our property from on high, then stopped for lunch. The Hyatt’s prepared a fine feast while Ron gave Shop tours. It was off to the Library after that, with the visit lead by Bruce Semelsberger. We then stopped by the Coos Bay where Jim Baker lead the discussion of the restoration efforts there. Some of the group broke off there for a ride on our SD&A excursion train. Others continued with me as we explored seldom seen rail cars and locomotives. Exploration inside the Display Building was next, with a last train ride for all but two of the group next. The final two keep exploring with Jim until closing time. All seemed to have a great day.

Our thanks to the Hyatts for lunch, Ron Hyatt for leading tours in the shop, Bruce Semelsberger for leading tours in the Library, Jim Baker for leading tours of the Coos Bay and Frank Denison for bringing up the rear of the group and answering additional questions.

As we get further out from the Covid pandemic, we were able to open up the Display Building to the public. That’s always a hit with our visitors. As always, thanks to Bruce, Richard, Alana, Gabe, Teresa & Pablo for their continuing fine work in the Museum Services Department.

More good news in Facilities as two big projects continued moving forward. The Mine Train track construction is moving rapidly now. Working both on the weekdays and Saturdays, we have completed about 760 feet of rail. About 1300 feet is left to get to the four Motor

Transport Museum Buildings, the currently planned end of the line. This past month, we welcomed two new volunteers to the group. Andy Diefenbach and Dave Smith joined the regulars: Frank Denison, Steve Pohjola, Tim Miller, BG Miller and myself for their service at Campo this past month. Volunteer Allan Jones provided the material and welded two gates for the Big Hole Mine at his home shop. Dawn Lundquist made a new sign for the Big Hole Mine. Rick Northcote drove over his tractor from Lake Moreno and graded the roadbed for additional tracks. Glen Rogers used a rented forklift to load out the mine train cars on Allan Jones trailer as well as place a locomotive and caboose on the mine train tracks. The mine train cars were taken home to Jim & Dawn Lundquist’s where Jim, Diego Lundquist and Tyson Heyser removed the old wheels with bad bearings (which were plenty happy to stay where they were rusted) and installed new wheels

On one car so far. Finally, Steve and Jim spent two days weed spraying our property. Weed spraying is a never ending task!

As you can see, lots of activities ongoing at Campo. If you'd like to join the week-day group, simply email Jim@psrm.org or call me at 619-417-7059 to get started.

I usually will reach out to see which days work best for everyone, and those that can make it show up and we have a great time. Join us.



(Left) Frank Dennison moves rail for the mine train.

(Right) Jim Lundquist, Steve Pohjola and Frank Dennison adjust the track



Jason Drenkow



(Left) Tim Miller secures the rail to the wooden ties.

(Right) Steve Pohjola drills holes for a rail joint bar.

Jason Drenkow





Diego Lundquist works to remove the old wheels under a mine train car to allow the installation of new roller bearing wheels.

Jim Lundquist



BG Miller working hard to put together washers with lag bolts used to secure the rail to the ties of the mine train.

Jim Lundquist



New member volunteer Allen Jones is stretching a donated spring at his home shop in Alpine. The springs will be used for mine train switches

Jim Lundquist



Rick Northcote grading the roadway for the mine train track.

Jim Lundquist



Membership Report, April 2021

By Gabriel Zorbas, Membership Coordinator

It is great to see membership on the rise for the second consecutive month! I want to thank everyone who has been assisting with membership; Jarod Black, Martin Caestaker, Ian Hyatt, and Nancy McDonald.

As always, thank you to our members for their contributions! It is because of you that we as a museum can succeed!

Current Active Members: 544

Percent Change: +1.7%

New Members for April

Francisco Aguiar

Kliment Gounev

Patrick McCammond

Joel & Evelyn Alvarez

Ian Hamilton

James & Elizabeth Parrotte

Michael Blum

Bill Hipp

Peggy Vorwald

Brad Bridges

Sheryl Hotchkiss

Noemi Coria

Allan Jones

Brian Fleming

Allison Lee

Scott Gallegos

Kimberly Malchow

Operations Volunteers for April 2021

Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service

Those who are certified/qualified crew members and speeder operators/crew who have helped us run 4 Bunny Trains on the last Saturday before Easter, 27 Golden State trains over the rest of the month, and the number of days they have volunteered:

Colin Atwood	3
Jim Baker	1
Paul Bandemer	2
Jarod Black	4
Ken Brown	1
James Caestecker	1
Martin Caestecker	2
Kyle Cascadden	6
John Cenkner	8
Stephen Hager	1
Randy Houk	1
Charlie Karayan	6
Mike McIntyre	2

Shaine Neale	2
Rich Paulus	1
Rob Stebbins	2
Gabe Zorbas	1

Docent

These are the volunteers who have been docents aboard our trains or for groups this period:

Bruce Deck	1
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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:

Pat Filicicchia	1
Nancy McDonald	2
Glen Rogers	2
Roark Stump	1

Yard switching

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

James Caestecker	1
Stephen Hager	1
Gabe Zorbas	1

This totals to 54 volunteer-days in April 2021.

