



A publication for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members

December 2022

Museum Hosts Rolls Royce Silver Ghosts Group





**Pacific Southwest Railway Museum
Association, Inc.**
WWW.PSRM.ORG

Museum and Train Operations

Campo Depot
Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Rd, Campo
619-478-9937

La Mesa Depot Museum & Office

4695 Nebo Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941
619-465-PSRM (7776)

PSRMA Board of Directors

Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month except Dec at 6:30PM, A link to join the Zoom meeting will be provided on our website at members.psrn.org.

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Vice President: Gabe Zorbas
Treasurer: Dave Smith
Secretary: John Cenknor
Equipment Dept: Robert Smith
Facilities Dept: Frank Denison
Museum Services Dept: Jarod Black
Operations Dept: Martin Caestecker

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Gift Shop Mgr: Jenn Brooker
Archivist: Bruce Semelsberger
Hot Scoop Editor: Jim Lundquist
Membership: Carl Booker
Steam Foreman: Jim Baker
Volunteer Coordinator: Gabe Zorbas
Asst. Dir. Of Facilities: Jim Lundquist
Station Master (La Mesa): Timothy Miller
Social Media Mgr.: Jason Drenkow

Museum hosts Rolls Royce Silver Ghosts group

Our Campo museum site was contacted by a group of antique car owners asking if we could arrange for a weekday tour. Of course we are always happy to show off our collection and museum to other owners of historic vehicles. On Tuesday, November 1st, about 20 beautiful antique vehicles in immaculate condition drove into our Campo museum site. Bruce Semelsberger was there to greet them, along with Terresa Gonzalez, Pablo Martinez and Jim Lundquist. A guided walking tour took the group from the Campo Depot up to the Exhibit Hall and yards. All had a great time. Included in this issue of the *Hot Scoop* are photos of that event.

Hot Scoop request.

As Editor, I am always seeking information and photographs of interesting events going on with our museum. Please take a moment to stop and grab a photo or two when you are working on a project or see someone else working. We know there are lots of volunteers working hard in various projects and issues for our museum.

Let's see that everyone gets the recognition they deserve and the members are up to date on events within our museum family.

Send all photos and articles IN WORD to: Editor@psrm.org THANK YOU.

Letters:

Dave Tomerrasen wrote: "Hi Jim. As usual, thank you so much for all your hard work as Editor of the *Hot Scoop*. Always published on time, that is excellent. I noticed a name spelling error on page 2 of the museum staff. Please change the B to a D in Drenkow, misspelled with a B. Please change the B to a D in your December publication. I am sure Jason will be pleased to see the correction."

Thank you for your kind remarks, Dave. Alas, typos do get past us from time to time. Jason Drenkow did a terrific job of taking pictures and forwarding stories to share with all of us for the Hot Scoop. Sorry for the typo, Jason.

Mark Landguth wrote: "Jim, Another great *Hot Scoop*! After a long day, I am having a glass of wine while I read the *Scoop* from cover to cover. I liked the "last Stop" as well as the many color photos. The 576 cross connection was clever. Thank you."

Thank you, Mark.



The *Hot Scoop*® is a publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, 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., (PSRMA) its officers or staff.

PSRMA Mission Statement:

PSRMA 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 emphases on railroads of San Diego County and the systems with which they connected in the United States and Mexico.

PSRMA is a non-profit educational organization operating under section 501(c)3 of the tax codes. Donations may be tax deductible.

PSRMA is a member of the Heritage Rail Alliance.

Submission guidelines: All articles should be single spaced and submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photographs are also welcomed.

Send all submissions to Editor@psrm.org

The *Hot Scoop* is available in color via email. To receive the electronic version in PDF format, send an email to editor@psrm.org and include your name, membership number and email. 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:

Editor@psrm.org



Museum's prime mission in action

Preserving, interpreting and presenting history is the prime mission of all museums, and is central to our museum as well.

Left and below, Bruce Semelsberger is leading a group tour of our Museum explaining history to eager visitors.

Photo by Jim Lundquist 11/1/22



Below, our volunteers, led by Robert Smith, took the show on the road with the SD&AE Firetruck on display in Alpine for fire prevention days.

Photo by Jim Lundquist 10/16/22



At right, our visitors are reading about the history of the SD&A on our signs at Campo. Just another way of educating our visitors on railroad history.

Photo by Jim Lundquist 10/1/22



Membership Perks

Your membership in the railway museum includes unlimited rides on all regularly-scheduled Golden State trains operated from the Campo Depot on the San Diego & Arizona Railway. However, our special trains, like the Pumpkin Trains and the North Pole Limited trains, are not included as a free benefit. It is these trains which account for the majority of

financial resources for our museum. You are welcome to purchase tickets for these trains. Your membership also includes 10% off items purchased in the giftshop, as well as entrance to the museum and our Exhibit Hall. One other benefit of membership - it allows each member to become an active volunteer!

www.psrn.org/membership

Welcome New Members

The lifeblood of our all volunteer museums is our members. We welcome and celebrate these new members in our railway museum:

Family Member: Tim Bischel and John M. Whitlock

Regular Member: Jennifer Brooker, Susan Leifheit, Carmen Lopez, Carol Mandra, Rowan Mandra, Andy McPhee, Jennifer Posey, James Royale, Erik Ruggels, Reid Sasaki and Cathy Ulrich.

We hope you make the most of your membership by coming out to Campo or La Mesa regularly and join with us in the various ongoing projects.



New Volunteer Gift Shop Manager

We are happy to welcome Jenn Brooker as the new Giftshop Manager. This is an important position with our Museum as the giftshop is the first place our visitors see at Campo. Jenn will oversee sales and ordering for the giftshop. We are also very fortunate that

Terresa Gonzalez continues her hard work behind the counter. When you visit the museum at Campo, please make sure to say hello to these fine ladies for all there volunteer activities. Jenn can be reached via email at giftshop@psrm.org

Operations Volunteers for October 24 to November 20, 2022

by Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service - those who are qualified train crew members, speeder operators/crew, and trainees who have helped us run 8 Pumpkin Express trains, 10 Golden State trains, 1 North Pole Limited rehearsal train, and the number of days they have volunteered through November 20: Colin Atwood 4, Jim Baker 1, Paul Bandemer 2, Carl Brooker 3, Ken Brown 1, James Caestecker 1, Martin Caestecker 1, John Cenker 4, Stephen Hager 1, Bryson Medlock 2, Mike McIntyre 2,

Glen Rogers 3, Duke Schweikert 2, Rob Stebbins 2, Will Vanni 1, Tim Wamsley 1

Pumpkin Express is one of our major fundraisers in the year. After 4 weeks of Pumpkin Express trains, 2898 passengers have ridden the train to the Pumpkin Patch and Haunted Train in the Exhibit Hall.

Yard switching - these are the volunteers who have worked in PSRM and CAMPO yards this period: Colin Atwood 1, John Cenker 1, and Stephen Hager 1.

This totals to 34 volunteer-days this period.

*Holiday Open House
at the
La Mesa Depot
In Celebration of Railway
History*

Saturday, December 3, 2022
From 12pm to 6pm

Free candy canes for the children with a visit
from Santa

Hosted by
Donna Spevack and
Shoshona Dennis



Fundraising Report by Donna Spevack fundraising @psrm.org

THANK YOU to Mark Landguth for donations for new signs at our entrance in Campo. Thanks also to Bruce Deck, Benjamin Lazerson and Barbara McNeese for their donations.

The holidays are here! Christmas is a magical time of for the family, the air filled with the smell of ginger-bread cookies, hot chocolate and unwrapping that perfect gift on Christmas morning!

Did you make your reservations for the NPL? What a magical way to start the holidays off and create your new Holiday Family Tradition. Make your reservations as the NPL fills up fast [North Pole Limited – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](http://North Pole Limited – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum (psrm.org)).

Gift Giving ideas: We have lots of options, below are just a few.

Why not think about a *legacy* gift in honor of that special someone or a family member who has passed. Maybe a bench and plaque placed at the Campo Depot, to be enjoyed by your grandkids for years to come.

Kids love trains, so why not create a tradition by giving a family membership for your son/daughter and grandkids, so that they could enjoy an excursion ride for an entire year. PSRMA Membership Information – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum.

Or maybe a member of your family is a train enthusiast-you might want to think about the purchase of a ride in the Locomotive Cab upon their visit to PSRM? [Locomotive Cab Rides – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](http://Locomotive Cab Rides – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum (psrm.org)).

You can also make a donation online at www.psrma.org or mail with the clip out below to: **PSRM, 4695 Nebo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941-5259**. All donations are tax deductible and help us to make restorations and further our mission of preserving historical railway history.

Volunteers Needed! We are looking for a handful of volunteers if you are interested in volunteering with the NPL excursion ride **November 25-December 17**, please let us know. We need hosts to serve hot chocolate on the trains, Merchandise sales at the gift shop and will-call ticketing. Mark Landguth needs your assistance as a volunteer! Email Mark at npl@psrm.org

We thank you in advance and welcome all volunteers and donations to help with restorations and special events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Like us on **Facebook!** Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc. | Facebook.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Holidays from the PSRM family to yours!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Project or general fund: _____ (please specify)

Volunteers decorate for Christmas and the North Pole Limited's



Many volunteers were lending a helping hand decorating for Christmas. In a photo by Bruce Semelsberger, Bruce, Bill Hohnhorst, Jennifer Posey and Lynne Schneider are inside a SD&A coach. A complete report will be featured in the January 2023 *Hot Scoop*.

Library News



The library was busy providing historic information this past month. Left, Richard Finch making a copy on the new scanner for a client while (right) two Engineers were reaching right-of-way owned by the AT&SF Railway years ago.



George Boggs passes. One of our first Giftshop Managers in Campo, George Boggs, passed away on May 31st. George was 92 at the time of his passing. George lived in Ramona and was a true railfan and was one of our Boy Scout Merit Badge counselors as an Eagle Scout himself. George had a 1.5" ride upon train layout at his home in Ramona. He and Nancy, his wife, were regulars in Campo on the weekends.



Down at the La Mesa Depot

by Timothy Miller

October ended with an intense two-hour assault of Trick-or-Treaters. BG Miller and I dispersed brochures, and the two huge bags of candy supplied by Donna Spevack were totally depleted!

The first item on the November agenda was the exchange of Pumpkin Express banners for North Pole Limited banners, with Justin Hyland's help. (One of the Pumpkin Express banners seems to have vanished, but we heard that the banners convinced many of our Pumpkin Express riders to make the trip to Campo.) As always, work continues on the module railroad project. We have had a steady stream of visitors at the depot. Our wooden railway continues to delight the younger set.

Member Ronald Atkinson, our Christmas tree donor, called asking if I had a train to run around the tree. I replied that I did not. Ron offered a Lionel O gauge

train with matching Santa Fe GP-9's, cars and track. We didn't waste any time picking up the trains. We needed a power supply for the train, and were able to acquire one at the recent All Gauge Toy Train Association meet that will be able to control both sounds and speed.



The City of La Mesa's recently began its project to replicate the spring-fed water fountain that was adjacent to the depot around 1914. Temporary fencing around the construction site is in place. Lots of activity going on! While the water was turned off, we were able to replace the corroded and plugged plumbing in the depot.

On Saturday, December 3rd, while most of us will be working on the North Pole Limited, La Mesa will be celebrating Holiday in the Village. Fortunately, Donna Spevack will be at the Depot dispensing candy canes, so PSRM has a presence at this event.

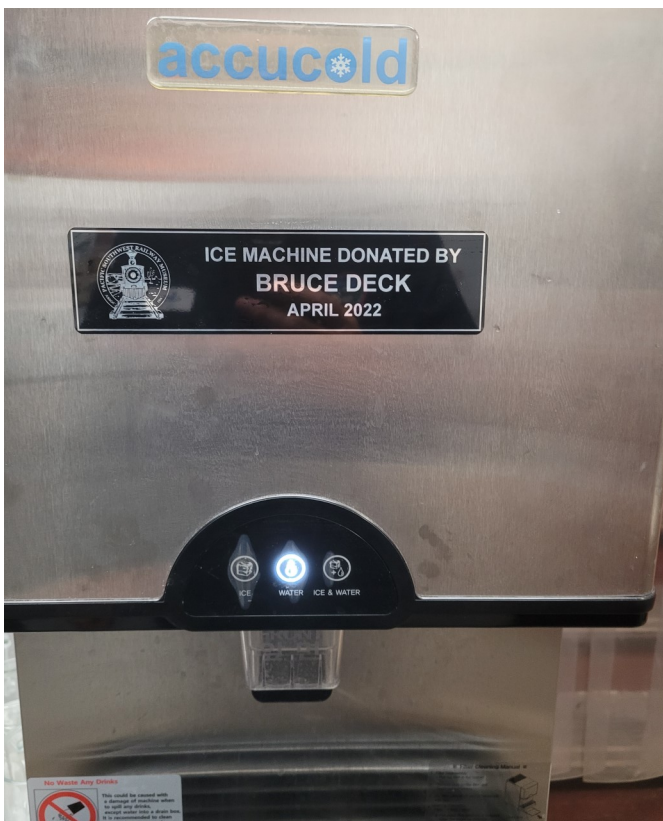
On the evening of Tuesday, December 13th, the La Mesa Depot will host a Holiday Gathering, showcasing the progress made at the depot to expand our availability to the community. Donna Spevack has made flyers and sent out invitations. The invitation has garnered positive responses from County Supervisors Nathan Fletcher and Joel Anderson. Please drop by from 4 – 8 PM. There will be light refreshments.

Those of us "Down at the Depot" wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.



Lunchroom Improvements and ongoing maintenance

Frank Denison and Jim Lundquist covered over an inside window in the Shop Building kitchen/lunchroom area. This allowed for the permanent installation of the ice machine donated by Bruce Deck. *Photos by Jim Lundquist*



On the right is Stephen Hager rehanging an emergency exit sign in side the Shop Building. All part of the ongoing maintenance that our museum requires.

Photo by Dave Smith 10/30/22



NORTH POLE LIMITED TRAINS ARE UNDERWAY

Our yearly trips to the North Pole are underway again from Campo. These trains are the largest draw for visitors each year and represent our number one fundraiser. This year, there is a new cast of volunteers putting the event on for us. Join us if you can. Tickets available at www.psrn.org/npl



New this year are signs that families can hold up while they take photos at the handcar on the west end of the Campo Depot. Our thanks to Jason Drenkow for making these signs and driving them to Campo from Nebraska!



The interior of the coaches have been decorated and ready for our visitors. On the left is the completed upholstered chair in the UP #576 coach. They look great. UP #576 is one of three first class cars on our North Pole Limited trains.



Jason created these images which are placed in various social media locations in the internet world.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**





Campo Depot Ready for Visitors

Our Campo Depot is decorated and ready to welcome the North Pole Limited visitors in this photo by Jason Drenkow. Jason took our handcar float and added Christmas trees and signs for families to make memories this year. Many volunteers put in many hours to bring holiday cheer to our visitors.

From our Museum family to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year and a Very

