



A publication for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members

May 2023

BUNNY TRAINS A HUGE SUCCESS



Our visitors love special trains, and this year's Bunny Trains were a great success. Here's Carl Brooker as the Bunny, in a promotional photo for Facebook postings by Jason Drenkow on March 25, 2023.



**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 Cenkner
Equipment Dept: Robert Smith
Facilities Dept: Frank Denison
Museum Services Dept: Travus Clark
Operations Dept: John Cenkner

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Hot Scoop Editor: Jim Lundquist
Membership: Carl Brooker
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

MEMBERS

UPCOMING EVENTS



May 6 and 7 - Campo Days. Multiple special events at all Campo museums

May 12, 5:30PM -Annual Dinner meeting www.psrn.org/annualdinner2023

June 17th, 7PM - membership lecture in La Mesa PD Community Room





April 1, 2 & 8 found the Easter Bunny hopping around Campo. Visitors reached an all time high on the Saturday before Easter, the 8th. Many thanks to everyone involved, from the planning and promotions, to the on-site crew members to the behind-the-scenes volunteers who put it all together. WELL DONE.

All Bunny photos by Jason Drenkow, March 25 and April 1, 2023



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

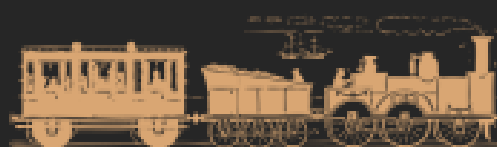


The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum

cordially invites you to

The Annual Members Dinner

*An evening of food, friends, and a look back at
this past year's achievements, including a
special recognition for our volunteers.
Fully catered meal provided by Buckboard's BBQ.*



Friday, May 12th
5:30 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Community Center East Hall
195 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020

Tickets are \$15 per person, available at:
www.PSRM.org/annualdinner2023

CAMPO DAYS



MAY 6-7, 2023

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

RAILWAY MUSEUM

750 Depot St., Campo, CA 91096

**TRAIN RIDES • VINTAGE
VEHICLES • HISTORICAL DISPLAYS
• FOOD • MUSIC • & MORE!**

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www.PSRM.org

Operations Volunteers for March 20 to April 23, 2023

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 21 Golden State trains, 12 Bunny Trains, 1 Will Ayers Memorial Charter, and the number of days they have volunteered through April 23: Colin Atwood 4, Jim Baker 2, Carl Brooker 2, Ken Brown 2, Kyle Cascadden 2, John Cenker 2, Stephen Hager 3, Charles Karayan 2, Mike McIntyre 2, Rob Stebbins 1, Tom Ulrich 1, 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: Colin Atwood 1, Sarah Fullum 1, Glen Rogers 1, Roark Stump 1.

Brakeman class - these are the volunteers who have worked the Spring Brakeman Class at Campo and the number of days they volunteered this period: Jim Baker 1, Stephen Hager 2, and Rob Stebbins 1.

There were a total of 30 volunteer-days this period.

Four More Orders for New Benches at Campo

Our thanks to four members who have donated benches for our Campo Depot this past month. They represent a nice upgrade as we replace the older wooden benches which have reached the end of their useful life.

Thank you all.

Photo by Jim Lundquist 2/1/23



Treasurer Position Opening

PSRMA's Treasurer, Dave Smith, has announced that he intends to resign due to personal commitments that have made it difficult for him to continue in the role.

The Board of Directors is seeking candidates for the position of Treasurer to serve out the remainder of the term ending on December 31, 2023. This position will be up for election again during this year's regular election for the 2024-2025 term.

Per the bylaws, an executive officer must be at least 18 years of age and a member in good standing for a minimum of one year. The Treasurer is generally responsible for maintaining PSRMA's financial books, making timely payments to vendors, and maintaining oversight and control of PSRMA's finances.

Dave has committed to providing assistance and instruction to the incoming Treasurer during the transition to ensure that it is as seamless as possible.

If you meet the qualifications above and are interested in serving as Treasurer, send a brief statement of your interest, qualifications/experience, and why you want to serve in the position to board@psrm.org before Monday, May 15th at 5 PM.



Volunteers Sand the La Mesa Depot in Preparation for Painting

On Saturday, April 8th, five volunteers starting sanding the La Mesa Depot to prepare it to be repainted. Joining Jim Lundquist were museum members Frank Denison and Timothy Miller. A neighborhood 10 year old, Rocco Smith, stopped by and jumped in, along with a gentleman who responded to a Facebook posting asking for volunteers.

A lot of progress was made by the group. The next month of the *Hot Scoop* should include photos of a freshly painted depot.

Many thanks to all. Thank you also to the City of La Mesa for the grant to cover the costs of repainting.



Photos by Jim Lundquist 4/8/23



STEAM WHISTLING

by Jim Baker, Steam Foreman

Things have been rather slow in the Steam department since my last report a year ago. Due to some health issues on my part, some serious train crew and shop help shortages and weather, many of our work sessions were canceled. I figured that helping out with train crew and shop work was of a higher priority than work on the Coos Bay 11.

As reported last May, we started disassembling the valve motion on the engineer's side of the engine. This is the mechanism that controls the valve that controls the inlet and exhaust of steam from the cylinders. Continuing, we got most of this mechanism removed, along with most of the valve motion on the fireman's side of the engine. A few stubborn parts remain.

In anticipation of a further slow down of work on the Coos Bay, we coated all exposed bearing surfaces with a heavy coat of grease to prevent any further weathering.

At a Strategic Planning Meeting, held on 1/22/23, 15 goals were set for the Museum. They were broken down into short, medium and long-term goals.

Goals 4 and 5 of the long-term goals (6 to 10 years) were:

4. SD&A 104 Cosmetic Restoration

5. Restarting our operating steam program

I have asked for some direction from the Mechanical Department as to what the steam guys should be doing now. The discussion points I mentioned are shown below.

In regard to the Coos Bay and 2353, I think we have done about all we can do in the way of disassembly of the Coos. I have asked our consultant to come down to take a look at both the Coos and 2353, but nothing has been scheduled yet. We could go back to all the parts we took off of the Coos and clean up and paint ones that appear to be usable. Going back to the frame of 2353, and what we have painted on the Coos, we used Hammerite gloss black. The manufacturer has discontinued selling it in North America. If you have any recommendations for a suitable rust preventable primer or paint, please reach out to me.

Before we can do much on the 104, things to consider include:

- 1) Location to do the work
- 2) Availability of utilities (compressed air and electricity)
- 3) A scaffold to safely access the upper parts (the running boards and cab steps are rotted out)
- 4) What kind of paint to use as rust is cleaned off?

All except for (1) require money to be budgeted for this project.

For this month of May, instead of working on the Coos Bay 11 or 104, we will be giving our ex-Southern Pacific 4-6-0, #2353, its "annual" washing. Due to COVID, it has been several years since we did this, and it shows. I have scheduled us to wash 2353 on the 12th and 13th. On Friday we will clear Track 3, and disconnect the stairway from the engine and get it ready to move. We will also put up some barricades around the work area so we don't squirt water on any visitors. This should be a fairly short work day so we can attend the Museum's annual dinner that evening. Saturday we will do the actual washing. Lots of help will be needed. I'm getting too old and unsteady to climb up on the engine to wash the upper parts. After washing, and it has dried in the sun for a while, we'll move it back inside, and connect the stairway. While sitting, and drying we'll try to get air hooked up so we can exercise the brakes, air pump, power reverse, etc. This would give any newcomers a chance to see how things work on a steam locomotive. I'd really like to see a good turnout that day. It is pretty hard work, and with more people, we can take more breaks. If we don't get everything done Saturday, we may need to continue work on Sunday. Please put this weekend on your calendar!

Our normal work days are the second Friday of the month and the next day (Saturday). For the next couple of months that will be July 7 & 8, and August 11 & 12. I will be out of town for most of June, so there will be no steam work then.

For further information, contact the Steam Foreman, Jim Baker at: jimbaker2353@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

The association is happy to welcome Esther Morado, Gaurang Parikh, Carrie Crowell, Kristen Gonzales, Shelby Shirley, Edward LeStage, J. Antonio Zavala, Scott Weber, Sam Wagstaff, Kent Ngo, and William Martinez as the newest members of the museum. Further, we thank and welcome Emmanuel Sturchler for joining as a supporting museum member.

The museum also is ecstatic to add a new life member, Jason Drenkow is Life Member #335. In addition to creating PSRM's viral videos as PSRM's social media manager he has also now joined the rolls of 334 other dedicated life members. Do you want to help significantly the museum moving forward? You too can become a life member! To join as a life member please visit <https://www.psrn.org/membership/>.

Do you want to manage your membership online and renew without having to mail a check? Use our newest link to directly access your online account settings - <https://www.psrn.org/renewal> and renew online today!

Behind the Scenes Tour



On April 15th, members Sam Wagstaff, Charles Bach and Bruce Shelton joined Jim Lundquist in the Behind the Scenes tour. After a review of the early years of the museum and how we ended up in Campo, the group toured the Campo property, reviewing the Master Plan, equipment and buildings, the Library, the Shop Building and some of our historical pieces of railroad history. A good time was had by All. Thanks to Bruce Semelsberger and President Stephen Hager for their talks about the Library and inside the Shop.



There are usually two of these tours each year. Be on the lookout for another one in the Fall if you are interested. They will be announced in a future *Hot Scoop*.

Photos by Jim Lundquist 4/15/23



Burning the Midnight Oil - Volunteers Do Whatever is Necessary to “Get it Done.”

The sun has set on Tuesday evening, March 28th. Frank Denison and Jim Lundquist have spent the day working around the facility and are leaving for home. Stephen Hager was still at Campo, working to find an electrical problem on locomotive SP #3873. We are so lucky to have dedicated volunteers.



Photos by Frank Denison 3/28/23

Hosting the Boy Scouts

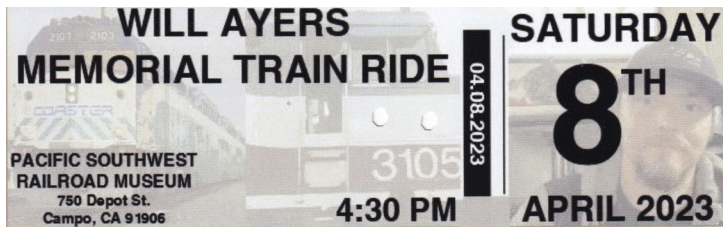
Thanks to Glen Rogers for his efforts to host the Boy Scouts at Campo several times every year. Glen makes all the arrangements, guides them on the train and through the Exhibit Hall, and helps them earn their Railroad Merit badge.

Photo by Jim Lundquist 4/22/23



Special train operated April 8

The museum operated a special train for San Diego-native railfan turned railroaders who passed away suddenly earlier this year. The event was attended by many of Will's friends and family members. It was our honor to provide the event location and train. Crew was Stephen Hager, John Cenknner, Paul Bandemer, Grace Brown, Tim Wamsley and Schweikert. The consist was Coaster 2014, SP 3873, UP 576, SD&A 6700, 252, 253 and 254.



Photos by Dave Tomerrasen 4/8/23

Restoration of SD&A #239 and #240



Work is still progressing on the “Jacumba cars” with temporary roofing now in place to protect some of the undamaged Black Walnut paneling and trim that is left in the cars. This will



also provide some dry storage areas for the extra car parts that were recovered when the cars were moved in 1995. *Upper and left photos by Jason Drenkow.*



Richard, David and Ben hard at work on the cars.

Upper right and lower photos by Jim Lundquist 4/22/23



Notes from fundraising

Donna Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development

Donate to Historic Preservation at PSRM today and you'll help preserve railway history that tells our stories, reflects our culture, and has shaped our shared American experience. To make a donation go online at www.psr.org and click on the donation tab or mail in a check addressed to PSRM, 4695 Nebo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941-5259. Please specify if you would like to contribute to a special project, in memory of a loved one (bench with a plaque) or just a general donation. If you would

like to explore more ways in which you can help PSRM, please feel free to contact me for more details. Thank you!

Thank you for our Donors for April: Barry E. and Eugene Randolph Hager, Ron McQuilliams, Mike Lucek, Ryan Casey and Mr & Mrs George Porter.

Renewing your Commitment to PSRM. Spring is definitely here and what a great time to volunteer or renew your membership at PSRM. Our member contributions help to empower our work to save historical railway equipment, memorabilia and buildings.

Down at the Depot May 2023

by Timothy Miller, Station Agent in La Mesa

April has been a very busy month at the La Mesa Depot. Local schools on spring break provided an increase in visitors, who were introduced to PSRM and local history. With the completion of the Bunny Trains, the banner on the Pacific Fruit Express Reefer needed to be changed out. (Thanks, Jim, for your help!) A Saturday sanding party prepped the depot for its upcoming new paint job. An unused play table was moved from the reefer to the Campo display building, where BG Miller set up a wooden railway with lots of buildings, tracks and trains, to help entertain

our younger visitors. It was an instant success!

Like April showers, there have been some unpleasant events. The MNRR #3 and the PFE Reefer were hit with graffiti, and #3's cab interior was covered with scribble. Always a tough challenge to clean up that kind of mess.

We lost a member and benefactor with Ronald Atkinson's recent passing. Ron gave us the Christmas tree and trains that lit up the depot this past holiday season and into the future. When he came to inspect the transformed depot at the holiday open house, you could tell he was very happy to have made that generous contribution.

LIBRARY REPORT FOR APRIL 2023

by Bruce Semelsberger

Spring is the traditional time for awakenings of all sorts and this particular spring is seeing a revival of in-person activities after the insecurities of the recent pandemic. As a result, a number of organizations are now seeking live presentations to attract new members and to encourage more active participation from existing members. PSRM is no exception with the resumption of quarterly membership meetings after a long hiatus. The library staff wants to be an active participant by screening programs that have been prepared in recent years on a variety of historical subjects. We will alternate with presentations by other PSRM members and members of other organizations. Since we now have a very nice location for the meetings thanks to the La Mesa Police Departments and the free use of their community meeting room, we encourage our members to come out where they can learn history, get answers to questions and speak with the various department heads about ongoing projects in which they can participate.

Staff is also presenting for other local organizations. Recent events include a presentation for the Congress of History symposium and one for the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. Coming up on May 4th is another for the All Gauge Toy Train Association to be followed up by a train ride and tour of PSRM Campo at a later date. We will also be active at the depot for Campo Days on May 6th. If this facet of the library or related volunteer activities appeals to you, consider joining us in the Museum Services department.

I mentioned the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties (to give its full name). This organization has been an active aide to history related organizations for the past 59 years. It is made up of delegates from member organizations and other interested parties and acts as a format for the sharing of topics such as grants and other opportunities. Like many other organizations, it has been severely impacted by Covid and the aging out of long-time members. A meeting on May 20 will determine if it is able to continue functioning.

Library - continued If anyone not already involved actively with PSRM has an interest in *active* participation with the Congress involving serving as a board member or editing a newsletter, he or she is encouraged to contact Andrew Halmay through their website. This is a great opportunity to participate, largely from home, in an organization that benefits *all* historic organizations.

On the Campo front, we are still slowly processing the collection of the late Douglas Duncan. This donation involves a large number of photographs and negatives from decades of railroading, not only locally but world-wide. Many of these are unidentified and unlabeled which requires, in some cases, magnifying, scanning and editing and internet research, all of which are time consuming, before they can be cataloged and filed. So many have already been processed that it was necessary to make alterations in the file drawers.

Another donation just received is a digital collection of photos of our locomotive #5119 taken during the earlier years of its existence. We will be reviewing those pictures shortly. Thanks to all of our library volunteers who helped out in April: Richard, Jason, David and Pat have helped get the books and magazines onto the shelves and provided photos and material for our social media.

The upgrading of the computer system is also proceeding. We have received a good evaluation of the current system and a quote for new equipment from Alpine Computers which is being reviewed by board members. Dave Smith has also gotten us an upgrade of our internet service, connecting to the Canyon Internet service already in use in the other buildings. After a week of review, this appears to be a significant improvement and so we will be discontinuing the existing direct email address for the library. The new address will be library@psrm.org.

Finally, we entertained two tours of visitors on April 15th. The first were new members on their behind-the-scenes tour led by Jim Lundquist. The second was a group from Tijuana who are establishing a museum in the old Tijuana depot. The three delegations who visited so far have been looking over artifacts which could be loaned to them for a period of time as well as maps and documents that can be copied and printed. We will be developing a list of the objects desired to be loaned and then that will need to be reviewed and approved by the PSRM Board and legal experts so the appropriate paperwork can be drawn up. Eventually, the new museum hopes to acquire objects pertaining to Baja railroads, including the T&T, from Mexico City.

From the Back Platform

By Stephen Hager, President

Spring time is one of the busier times of year at the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association and this year is no exception. In early April, we operated our annual Easter-themed Bunny Trains. Families enjoyed a train ride, a visit with the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Egg hunt in the exhibit hall. Like with other special events, passengers had the option to ride in coach or in first class aboard ATSF 1509. We have found first class to be extremely popular and we hope to offer it on more of our trains going forward. The challenge with operating first class is that it is much more resource-intensive than coach. In order to operate ATSF 1509 with bar service, sodas, snacks, napkins, cups, and ice have to be purchased weekly in bulk, coffee has to be brewed, a bar tender has to staff the car, and the car must be cleaned regularly. We currently have a very small pool of volunteers who handle these duties during our special events, and they simply can't be expected to handle these duties continuously year-round. If you are interested in helping operate our first class bar service in the future, please drop a line to our volunteer coordinator by emailing volunteer@psrm.org.

Coaster 2103 and the museum as a whole have been getting lots of attention lately thanks to interviews that I did with Jeff Zevely of CBS 8 and John Carroll of KPBS in

late March. Thanks also to Colin Atwood for joining me in the KPBS interview. It was a great opportunity to get the museum's name out there and publicly tell the story of moving Coaster 2103 to Campo. Both the CBS 8 and KPBS interviews were shown on television and their respective websites; the latter also aired on NPR radio. I heard from friends, family, and coworkers as far away as Orange and Los Angeles Counties who saw one of the interviews. We will definitely continue to look for opportunities to do interviews like this going forward.

Coaster 2103 continues to be a popular attraction at our museum. It led the trains on two out of three days that we operated the Bunny Trains and it will be operating again in early May for Campo Days. It also operated for a somewhat somber occasion on April 8th when we ran a special charter train as a memorial to local railfan and railroader Will Ayers.

Will grew up in San Diego and he knew from a very early age that he wanted to be a locomotive engineer. The Coaster commuter train service was by far his favorite railroad and he loved the F40 locomotives. After graduating from high school, Will became a light rail vehicle operator for the San Diego Trolley. After five years of this, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to take a job on the Altamont Corridor Express commuter train service. Starting out as a conductor, Will eventually promoted to

From the Back Platform - continued

locomotive engineer and spent a couple years operating ACE trains between Stockton and San Jose. In the fall of 2022, Will left California to pursue a new career as a conductor on the Rail Runner commuter train service in New Mexico. Tragically, Will passed away unexpectedly at his home in January of this year. He was 30 years old.

The memorial charter train was a chance for friends and family of Will to meet up, celebrate his memory, and take part in an event that he would have loved. In addition to the train ride, there were photo run-bys, a memorial whistle-off for Will, and a private ceremony for his family. We are glad to have been able to provide a venue for this bittersweet event.

May will see two more big events for our museum. On May 6th and 7th, we will be co-hosting the Campo Days event in Campo alongside the Camp Lockett Event and Equestrian Facility, Motor Transport Museum, and Mountain Empire Historical Society. Admission to all four locations will be free to the public. We will be operating four train rides each day, complete with first class. We will have live music, food trucks, a

bouncy castle, and other family-friendly entertainment on the museum grounds. We will also have the SD&AE fire truck on display on Saturday, and will be doing water pumping demonstrations with it on Sunday. CLEEF will be hosting a rodeo and will have a large barbecue each day. This is a great opportunity to visit Campo and support both our museum and our fellow non-profit organizations in the area.

The PSRMA Annual Dinner will be taking place on Friday, May 12th starting at 5:30 PM. This year, the dinner will be at the El Cajon Ronald Reagan Community Center's East Hall with food catering by Buckboard's Barbecue and Brew. Like in previous years, we will reflect on the past year's successes and will hand out the annual department awards and volunteer hours awards. This is a great chance to catch up with old friends and meet your museum leadership. If you haven't done so already, you can purchase tickets on our website at www.psrma.org/annualdinner. Tickets are only \$15 this year – what a steal!

As always, if you would like to get in touch with me, please send a note to president@psrm.org. Until next time, keep it on the high iron!