

So. California Railway Plaza Assn. &  
So. California Scenic Railway Assn.

present the

# Hot Rail!

newsletter



*The latest on efforts to build and maintain  
a permanent railroad attraction in Southern California*

Volume X, Number 4

Winter 2012

## Board holds annual election of officers

SCRPA leadership will continue into the new year with the unanimous re-election of President Harold Benash and Vice Presidents Richard Hopping and Dennis White. Treasurer Barbara Eldredge was also unanimously elected to another one-year term; and Mary Proctor was appointed to serve her first full-year as secretary.

The Board of Directors annual elections were held at a special December 10 meeting, rescheduled from November because of board members' family illnesses.

Board members re-elected as directors and their terms include: Gordon Bachlund, Barbara Eldredge and Richard Hopping, each for two years; and Jeff Schulze, three years. The new terms vary to better balance future elections. Director Fred Canfield's term expired and he decided not to run for re-election.

A new director, Denis Hergenreter, was elected to the board for a three-year term. Hergenreter, 50, lives in Anaheim and is a senior software developer with an insurance software company.

"I've loved trains all my life, as long as I can remember – model railroading, and all that," Denis said.

"I met George Engelage and learned about Railroad Days in 2008, eventually getting involved in conserving the cabooses and became an SCRPA member."

Denis volunteered at Railroad Days 2012 with the rail car exhibits and is also interested in the railroad business. Welcome aboard, Denis!

-- By Donna Johnson, Community & Media Relations Chair



Photo by Julia Proctor

All decked out for the holidays, caboose tours at the Fullerton Train Station drew more than 300 people during our Family Festival on December 16.

## *Family Festival a night packed with fun and treats*

Misty rain cleared up in the nick of time, as spirited youngsters crowded into SCRPA's second annual evening of activities in support of Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express, prior to its arrival on December 16. Brightly lighted tents set up at the Fullerton Train Station offered coloring, face-painting and temporary tattooing for the kids, along with a display of historic models plus caboose tours for all ages.

Hosting the Free Family Festival on a chilly night, our volunteers also served cups of hot chocolate and dozens of cookies to the children, thanks to donations from Santa Fe Café, Polly's Pies and Ruth Huson.

## Harvey Girls on the menu for January dinner meeting



Photo courtesy of: [choosing-santa-fe.blogspot.com](http://choosing-santa-fe.blogspot.com)

Former Harvey Girls dress in costume at a 2004 event in San Bernardino with Santa Fe 3751 steam locomotive.

The history of Harvey Girls will be featured during our winter Membership General Meeting program on Wednesday, January 16.

Program Chairman Kathy Norris has arranged for a look at the famed Harvey House restaurants' waitresses by the Harvey Girl Historical Society of the Orange Empire Railway Museum. Harvey Girls were the women who brought respectability to the work of waitressing in the early days of railroading, according to the society's website.

In 1870, Fred Harvey met Charlie Morse, president of the fledgling Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, and he contracted with Harvey for several experimental eating houses. For the next near century, Fred Harvey's company would bring good food at reasonable prices in clean, elegant restaurants, to the traveling public throughout the Southwest, under the logo "Harvey Houses – Bringing Civilization to the Old West."

The Fred Harvey Co. would recruit women via newspaper ads from towns and cities across the United States. To work in his restaurants, the women had to be of good moral character, have at least an eighth-grade education, display good manners and be neat and articulate.

In return for employment, the Harvey Girls would agree not to marry and to abide by all company rules.

### Southern California Railway Plaza Assn.

#### Our Vision Is

Promotion of educational programs, activities, and venues for people of all ages, dedicated to the preservation of the rail heritage of Southern California.

#### Our Mission Is

Education of the public, providing an historical insight into the numerous contributions that railroads have made to the development and growth of Southern California from the 19th century forward.

#### Our Goals Are

- Successful development of the Southern California Railroad Experience
- Production of the annual Railroad Days and Children's Rail Safety Poster Contest community events
- Sponsorship of historical research and modeling of significant sites and structures, publication of the Hot Rail! newsletter, and presentation of quarterly dinners and speakers on topics of member interest

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#### The SCRX Vision Is

To be the premier destination for presenting the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage.

#### The SCRX Mission Is

To provide, through our ideas, exhibitions, and programs, engaging educational and entertaining experiences to Southern California residents and visitors.

#### The SCRX Goals Are

To fulfill the Vision and Mission by developing and presenting programs that capture the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage and by partnering with governmental and private entities to create an experiential destination

Our Quarterly Meeting will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard (north of Berkeley Avenue) in Fullerton.

After dinner, we'll have a brief business session, including an update on planning for Railroad Days 2013 in Fullerton, followed by our program.

Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. Prices range from \$7 to \$23, plus beverages – with daily specials and a senior discount available. No RSVPs are required.

Menu nutrition and allergy information are listed by item at [www.sizzler.com](http://www.sizzler.com). The Fullerton Sizzler phone is 714-738-5018.

# January Movie Night offers screwball comedies

By Gordon Bachlund, Movie Night Chair

Our free members Retrospective Screening Series on January 26 will focus on humor for both the cartoon and feature film. The evening will begin a 6 p.m. with a wine-tasting on the Fullerton Museum Center patio, 301 N. Pomona Avenue.

Following the social hour, film-goers will move inside the auditorium to view "The Unicorn in the Garden." This Technicolor seven-minute short by Columbia pictures was made in 1953 and is an animated version of a short story by James Thurber that was directed by William T. Hurtz.

"The Major and the Minor" – a b/w production by Paramount – was released in 1942.

Billy Wilder's directorial debut follows Susan Applegate (Ginger Rogers), a young woman who wants to return home to Iowa from New York City after failing in her most recent job, but is so short on cash that she must masquerade as a 12-year-old to qualify for a half-price train ticket.

On the train, Sue encounters nearsighted Maj. Kirby (Ray Milland), who falls for her ruse and takes it upon himself to be her guardian, which becomes further complicated by the presence of his fiancée and her 12-year-old sister.

We assume that the train included stock footage of The Broadway Limited and footage shot in studio railroad car mock-ups.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You should have recently received your 2013 SCRPA membership package. Thoughtful consideration of your membership contribution and the good works that it will do for the organization and the community are greatly appreciated.

As we wrapped up 2012, we are looking forward to an exciting new year of activities:

Once again, the SCRPA and Metrolink served up some good cheer at the Fullerton Train Station for the Holiday Toy Express event on December 16, with a few sprinkles failing to dampen our Free Family Festival fun. Thanks to Polly's Pies and Ruth Huson for providing cookies, Santa Fe Café for the hot chocolate and Barnes & Noble for coloring pages.

Railroad Days 2013 in Fullerton is moving forward with Jeff Schulze as chairman. We have been contacted by several former participants asking to join us again for our weekend on May 4 & 5. If they confirm and join us for the event, it will provide full-size equipment for display. This will complement what we have had on display in the past years.

Start thinking about volunteering for a particular aspect of Railroad Days. You are the ones that make it the largest

event in the city of Fullerton.

Our 15th annual SCRPA Railroad Safety Poster Contest will be held in 2013, open to thousands of Fullerton School District students in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

Chairman Kathy Norris will again coordinate notices to the schools this winter, collect the posters depicting safety themes, and arrange for the judging in April by a panel of SCRPA volunteers.

Winning posters from all the schools will be displayed at the Fullerton Main Library's Children's Room through the month of May.

Amtrak® and the Fullerton Rotary Club are sponsoring the contest, helping to provide cash prizes and rail trips for the top six citywide winners.

Finally, we all send a big thank you to Fred Canfield for his years of service as a board member and as the longtime Railroad Days chairman. Under his chairmanship, our annual event's exhibitors and audience grew by huge numbers.

See you at the January dinner with more information about Railroad Days 2013 and our activities. As you can see, planning for the 2013 year is underway and can be successful only with the help of its membership.

-- Harold Benash

# An eye-opening fall excursion to Sylmar

By Peggy Benash Membership Co-Chair

Over the years of watching PBS and specifically Hewell Houser, we came to curiosity about the Nethercutt Collection and Museum in Sylmar. There is a restored locomotive and private rail car which gave us license to plan a trip in September and a group of 50 participated.

To everyone's surprise, the trip was an eye-opening, nostalgic driven, craftsmanship appreciation, auditory and visual treat.

No one can deny that the Nethercutt Collection is simply amazing. The restored automobiles are treated as works of art- and range from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century big old things, similar to horse drawn carriages, to the really current sports cars. Most of us found an automobile that jogged some sort of memory, perhaps the first car the family ever owned, to the first car acquired and worked on as a teenager.

The tour consisted of a Canadian Pacific locomotive, but the star of the show was a -private car owned by Clara Baldwin Stocker, the eldest daughter of "Lucky" Baldwin, which was a part of her inheritance from her father.

This car reflected tenacity on the part of the curator and an amazing bit of luck in finding the car in the first place, then assembling and restoring all parts to their original beauty and present time livability. It must have been good to be a princess, because the living quarters are certainly lush, but practical.

Wood paneling on the walls, tile floors, stained glass windows and a small mechanical piano, found later but



Photo by Jack Barich

Nethercutt Collection hall replicates an early 1900s car dealer showroom with elegant trimmings and an amazing display.

made with matching wood finish.

To me the "bestest" of a long list of best things to see was the room of musical instruments. The various "orchestra substitutions" were fun to watch.

The main concert involving the huge pipe organ was simply amazing. The "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," with all the sounds of the puffing steam engine, the whooshes and the whistles made for a thoroughly enjoyable musical moment.

It was a long day, a busy day, but a memorable day.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The History & Modeling Committee and Railroad Operations Committee have combined their memberships for monthly meetings.

Each group will continue to hold separate work sessions – H&MC for model-building workshops and ROC for work parties to complete conservation projects on the two cabooses at the Fullerton Train Station.

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**H&MC** -- In recent months, the new corner module was part of a display for Orange County Model Railroad in San Clemente for the city's Winter Fest. The event was open to the public from November 23 through December 1.

The committee members worked with ROC and Metrolink for SCRPA's Family Festival in support of the Holiday Toy Express that was held at the Fullerton

Train Station on December 16.

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**ROC** -- Our chief electrician has picked up electrical work on the electrical panel in SP4049 again. The wooden panel itself still has to be built.

A new desktop was installed on the conductor's desk in the ATSF caboose. A new headboard to support the desk lamp is also being installed. These will have to be painted to match the interior of the caboose.

A formal bid and an informal bid have been received for sandblasting the old paint from both cabooses. The informal bid is for \$7,500 for each car and does not include any scaffolding or disposal of removed material. The formal bid is for \$24,880 and does include the cost of scaffolding and disposal of removed material.

-- Harold Benash and Stu Proctor



**A DAY EXCURSION by bus to  
Fillmore & Western Railway Co. Depot  
and climb aboard to enjoy the  
“Murder Mystery Theater” and Express Lunch**

**Saturday, March 2, 2013**

**Meet at Fullerton Train Station parking lot,  
120 E. Santa Fe Ave., north of 91 Freeway off Harbor Boulevard  
Doughnuts & Juice at 8:30 a.m.; can purchase coffee at Santa Fe Cafe  
Depart by bus at 9 a.m.  
Arrive at Fillmore Depot and board the train; departure at 11:30 a.m.**

**P. Maxwell Productions troupe presents entertainment during lunch on the train:**

GARDEN SALAD, ORANGE-BLOSSOM CHICKEN, RICE PILAF, VEGETABLES, ROLL & BUTTER,  
COFFEE, TEA OR SODA  
DURING INTERMISSION, TRAIN STOPS AT THE LOOSE CABOOSE GARDEN CENTER  
AND GIFT SHOP, WHERE YOU MAY SHOP OR BROWSE  
DESSERT ON TRAIN AS “WHODUNIT” CONTINUES WHILE RETURNING TO FILLMORE DEPOT

**Wine and cheese on bus trip home -- Return to Fullerton about 6 p.m.**  
(Please remember gratuity to bus driver)

**Presented by the Southern California Railway Plaza Association**

Information: 714-525-6266 (Harold Benash) or email: [info@scrpa.net](mailto:info@scrpa.net)  
Fillmore & Western Railway Co. -- <http://www.fwry.com/>

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Reservation for Fillmore & Western Railway Co. Excursion – RSVP by **January 18, 2013**  
Send to SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of persons @ \$95 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Check payable to SCRPA)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# RAILROAD DAYS 2013 in FULLERTON

SAVE THE DATE:

9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 4 & 5 at the depot, 120 E. Santa Fe Ave.

Sponsors and participants are lining up for our 12<sup>th</sup> event celebrating all thing TRAINS on the mainline in Fullerton. SCRPA volunteers will welcome tens of thousands of rail fans and families from throughout California and beyond to this free community event.

To find out more about becoming a sponsor and signing up as a vendor, exhibitor, volunteer or to have a food booth, see [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) and click on **Railroad Days** page.

More information is available by emailing [info@scrpa.net](mailto:info@scrpa.net)

Jeff Schulze – Chairman, Railroad Days 2013  
[brgmstrs@pacbell.net](mailto:brgmstrs@pacbell.net)

Stu Proctor – On-Site Chairman  
[stuproctor48@gmail.com](mailto:stuproctor48@gmail.com)

## 2013 Calendar

( NOTE: Dec. 1 Holiday Train-Watching Party  
was canceled because of rain prediction )

Jan. 16 SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6 p.m.,  
Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton

Jan. 19 ROC Work Party, 9 a.m.,  
Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station

Jan. 22 H&MC / ROC Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Paul ' s  
Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr.,  
Fullerton

Jan. 26 Movie Night \* - "The Major & the Minor"  
6 p.m., Wine Tasting , Fullerton Museum  
Center, 301 N. Pomona Avenue

Feb. 16 ROC Work Party, 9 a.m.  
Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station

Feb. 26 H&MC / ROC Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Paul ' s  
Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palma  
Drive, Fullerton

March 16 ROC Work Party, 9 a.m.  
Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station

March 26 H&MC / ROC Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Paul' s  
Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palma  
Drive, Fullerton

April 10 SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting,  
6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd.,  
Fullerton

April 13 Movie Night \* – "Streamline Express"  
6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum  
Center, 301 N. Pomona Avenue

April 20 ROC Work Party, 9 a.m.  
Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station

April 23 H&MC / ROC Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Paul' s  
Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas  
Drive, Fullerton

May 4 & 5 Railroad Days 2013 in Fullerton,  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday,  
Fullerton Train Station

- Dates and movie titles subject to change.  
Check [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) for updates .

Read the Hot Rail! in a color PDF and check out news and announcements at [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net).

**SCRPA**



**Southern  
California  
Railway  
Plaza  
Association**

## 2013 Memberships and Renewals

A colorful new brochure is welcoming first-time and renewing SCRPA members to another year of activities in our great organization. Packets mailed in November reminded supporters of the importance of their continued involvement and included the brochure, plus information about upcoming events.

Please check out the brochure and submit your 2013 membership form quickly; memberships are due annually in January. We need your commitment as we continue to grow and to pursue our efforts in developing an interactive railroad attraction to preserve the rich rail history of Southern California for future generations.

If you did not receive a packet, please let me know and we'll get a brochure in the mail to you ASAP.

-- Peggy Benash, Membership Co-chairman

[hpbenash@att.net](mailto:hpbenash@att.net) or 714-525-6266

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSN., INC.



#### Membership Levels

*Please check appropriate level*

BRAKEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
CONDUCTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
ENGINEER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
YARDMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
TRAINMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600+

*PLEASE PRINT*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this application with the appropriate check or money order payable to:**

**SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195**

Dues are based upon a calendar year

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Fullerton, CA 92831

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Postmaster: Please deliver between Dec. 28 & Jan. 2

## ○ HOT RAIL! ○

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Send your letters to the editor to the address above or e-mail [info@scrpa.net](mailto:info@scrpa.net)

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#### SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Harold Benash	
Members,	Gordon R. Bachlund	Richard L. Hopping
	Barbara Eldredge	Donna Johnson
	George Engelage IV	Stuart Proctor
	Terry Galvin	Jeff Schulze
	Denis Hergenreter	Michael Vitale
		Dennis White

#### SCSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair,	Sue Kientz	(seat expires June 2014)	
Members,	Gordon Bachlund	(Jan 2015)	Stuart Proctor (Jan 2015)
	Harold Benash	(Dec 2013)	Michael Vitale (Sept 2013)
	Jim Hoffmann	(Sept 2013)	Dennis White (Dec 2013)
	Ted McConville	(Jan 2014)	

#### SCRPA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President,	Harold Benash
Vice Presidents	Richard L. Hopping and Dennis White
Secretary,	Mary Proctor
Treasurer,	Barbara Eldredge

#### SCSRA CORPORATE OFFICERS

President,	Gordon Bachlund	(June 2014)
Treasurer,	Michael Vitale	(June 2015)
Secretary,	Jim Hoffmann	(June 2015)

#### SCRPA HISTORY AND MODELING COMMITTEE

Chairman,	Harold Benash
Secretary and Editor,	Dennis White

#### SCRPA RAILROAD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
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#### SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

Membership,	Margaret Benash, Lauri Schulze, Kathy White (Acting)
Community & Media Relations	Donna Johnson
Railroad Days 2013	Jeff Schulze
Movie Nights	Gordon Bachlund, Jim Hoffmann

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MANAGERS

Vice President,	Sue Kientz
Railroad Operations Chairman,	Stuart Proctor
Caboose Docent Committee Chairman,	Jim Hoffmann
Caboose Maintenance Chairman,	Mike Vitale
Fund Raising Chairman,	Harold Benash
Publications Committee Chairman,	Sue Kientz
Key Control Officer,	Dennis White
Official Photographer,	Elliott Alper
Film/Digital Presentation Manager,	Jim Hoffmann
Motion Picture Film Archivist,	Gordon Bachlund