



TRAIN ORDERS

Scheduled and Unscheduled Society Events, Timely News, and Notes of Interest

JANUARY, 2004

www.scrvrhs.com

Holiday Open House Honors Membership

Some 30 members who dedicated a great deal of their time and talents over the past year were honored with certificates at a holiday wine & cheese open house at our Railroad Visitor Center on December 14th. "It felt like winter" one said noting that the



Center is void of a heating system. But it was a

time to celebrate the season and mingle. Some members dropped by after working on the F&W trains while others just stopped by. The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who helped out in 2003. Here's to a great 2004! Happy New Year!

A RAILFAN'S ACCOUNT

Metrolink Holiday Santa Toy Train A Bright Spot For Young And Old

by Larry Jennings

The annual Metrolink Holiday Toy Express operated on the west end of the Ventura County Line on Sunday evening, December 7, 2003. It was scheduled to make stops at Montalvo, Oxnard, Camarillo and Moorpark.

I arrived at Camarillo about 6:15pm, a half hour before the scheduled train arrival. I took the camera for a couple of night shots of the decorated train.

Over half of the parking spaces were full with a hundred or more people waiting in a light mist. I found a parking place near the exit with the idea of leaving early and heading for Moorpark to see the train there too. The Ventura County Fire Dept was on hand with several pieces of emergency equipment. One of the fire trucks made a hasty departure. It seems there was an emergency situation on the freeway overpass that crosses the tracks. The fire truck was within sight of the festivities but was needed for the emergency.



The Metrolink train arrived at 6:33pm, 12 minutes early, holding the main. Locomotive F-59 861, bi-level 182, two flat cars, the first with a stage for the performance, the second flat had an Orange County fire truck securely tied down. The fire truck was an older model Crown. Caboose SCAX MW01, Horizon fleet coach 51,000 and F-40 800. All the equipment except the 800 was decorated. The Conductor was Bob Hildenbrand. I recognized the engineer but didn't know his name. Bob told me that they usually had a live band but due to the possibility of rain the music was recorded tonight. The show started immediately upon

arrival of the train. The main part of the program was over in about 15 minutes. I headed for my car to head for Moorpark. People were still arriving since it was the scheduled arrival time of the train. The parking lot was grid locked. In no time a sheriff came and had several autos that were blocking the entrance back up to let me and several others who wanted to leave out of the lot.



Highway 118 to Moorpark is a 55 mph road. About halfway to Moorpark I caught up to a big rig truck that was going 30 to 35 mph. Note: when the train leaves Camarillo, track speed most of the way to Moorpark is 75 mph. But, I managed to arrive at Moorpark ahead of the Toy Express. Metrolink took the siding at Moorpark, and stopped at the west end of the siding, away from the platform, at 7:17pm. At 7:29pm Amtrak 11, The Coast Starlight, rolled thru with locomotives 117 and 115 on the head end and the Silver Lariat dome car on the rear. At 7:45pm, right on time, Metrolink arrived and the show started. There were several hundred people on hand to see it. At 7:49pm, right in the middle of the show, a long UP freight heading west, or north passed at restricted speed or about 20 mph. By the time the freight had cleared the show was almost over. There were several people handing out copies of "2003 Holiday Toy Express Commemorative Book" (a 20 page booklet by Metrolink patting itself on the back for a job well done). Also being handed out was hot chocolate and cookies. The show was over and the train departed eastward or south from Moorpark at 8:07pm on a flashing yellow. It was good family entertainment for young and old alike (rail fans and kids of all ages included)!

Items For Donation Welcomed For The 2004 Rail Festival

During RAILFEST 2004 the Society will once again have its "swap meet," selling model trains, railroad memorabilia, and train toys to benefit the Society. If you have any such things to donate, SCRVRHS will be most pleased to accept them. Look in your attic, closet, garage and toybox to see if you have any railroad related items to give away.

The Society is also looking to extend its library, so if you have any railroad videos, textbooks about railroads, or books about the history of different railways, especially ones in United States, they will be gratefully accepted. When bringing in donations to our Visitor Center, please mark the box that they are in or put a label on the item to indicate whether they can be sold or should kept by the Society. All donations are tax deductible.

DISPATCH BOARD

JANUARY 2004

Join us for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00 AM at the Fillmore Cafe on Santa Clara Street across from City Hall.

- 3rd & 4th** **Call for CAR ATTENDANTS!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 7th** **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Annual Meeting**
7:00 PM—Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore
Members are always welcome to attend!
- 10th& 11th** **Call for CAR ATTENDANTS!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 14th** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Railroad Visitor Center — Fillmore
7:00 PM Refreshments
- 17th & 18th** **Call for CAR ATTENDANTS!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 24th & 25th** **Call for CAR ATTENDANTS!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 31st & 1st** **Call for CAR ATTENDANTS!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624

AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

TURNTABLE — 2004 starts the way 2003 ended with our turntable plans still in the hands of CalTrans pending approval. As you recall this is the second time that the plans have been submitted. Although we have verbal approval, CalTrans required that the plans be resubmitted on their new forms. That was over three months ago. State grant money for the project cannot be released and construction cannot start until final plan approval is given by CalTrans. Looks like that *approval* missed Santa's (and certainly SCRVRHS's) Christmas list.

PIRU STATION OPENS — December 13th saw the official grand opening of the brand new Piru train station. A Christmas parade, food booths and the appearance of the F&W #1 Sespe 0-4-0-T steam engine lead the celebration. The new station complex also holds a feed store, antique store and souvenirs. Once track work is completed to upgrade the right-of-way, F&W plans to run regular weekend tourist trains between Fillmore and Piru.

NEW ENGINES FOR F&W — some five to seven locomotives, mainly GP-30's and GP-35's are arriving from various locations as new additions to the F&W fleet. Painted in the Arizona & California



Railroad livery, these engines will be made mechanically sound and eventually painted for use on the F&W tourist trains. Look for them in the yard or on the RIP (repair in progress) track.

Editor/Publisher — Rick Swanson



TRAIN ORDERS

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