



# TRAIN ORDERS

ONLINE EDITION • FEBRUARY 2006

# **VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED**

With Railfest 2006 just weeks away, the society needs your help more than ever.

To Help Out, Please Contact:

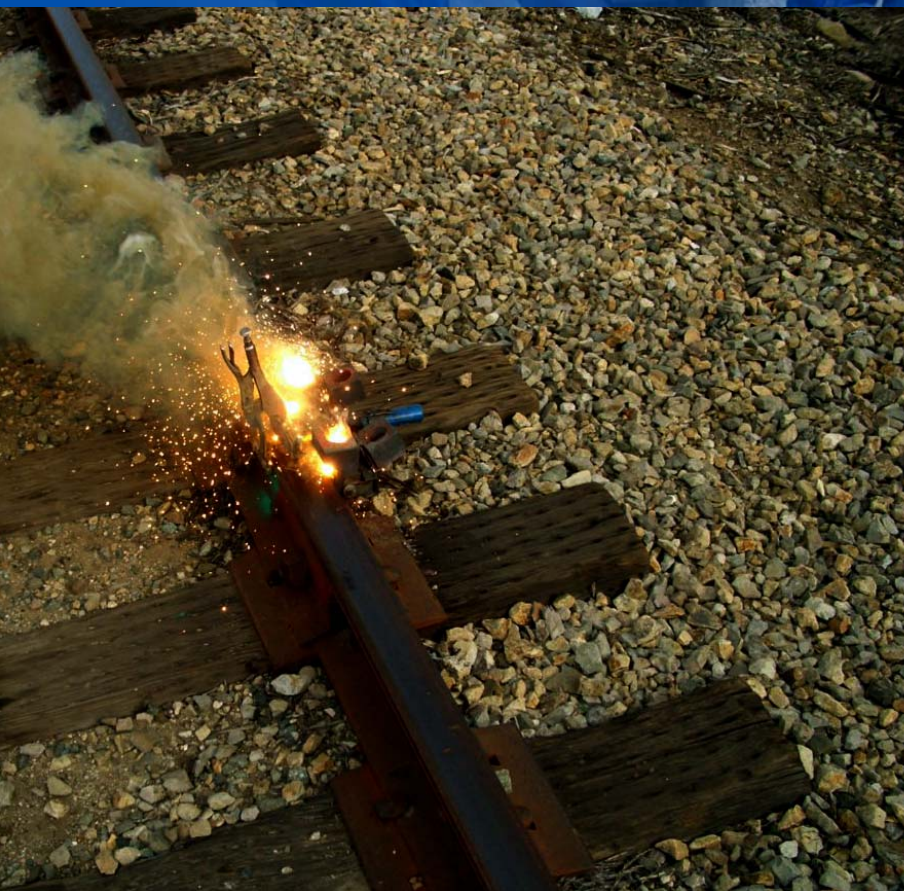
**Jim Mendrala (661) 294-1049**

**or Don Hatch (805) 484-8624**



# Behind the Scenes on the Fillmore & Western

a special online feature



In our first edition of this feature, SCRVRHS President Ron Lewis takes a look at **the vital and dangerous work** of maintaining safe operating conditions on the Fillmore and Western.

Article and photos by Ron Lewis.





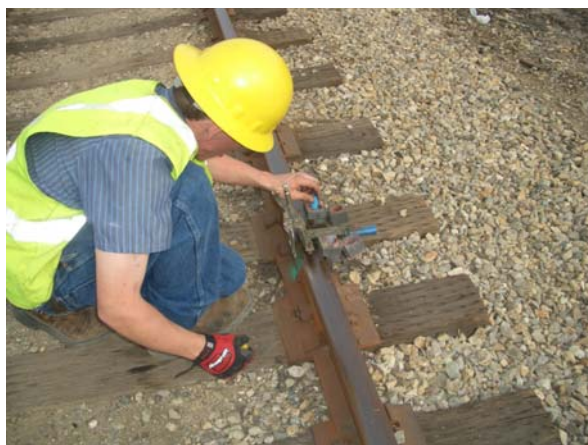
Mike Morgan and a CHP Officer survey road conditions at a damaged level crossing.

All too often, we take for granted railroad crossing protection; the crossing gates come down, as they should, and protect us from oncoming trains... But, what happens if it isn't the way we expect... Well, loss of life and property damage would be inevitable. This article is devoted to those people at the F&W RR who keep the signals working and the trains running.





Back in February, I was privileged to go along on a trip to replace some “bonds.” After a few jokes about “bonding” we were on our way. We were going out to replace several of the bond wires at the 12 Street Crossing in Santa Paula. Mike Morgan supervised while Andy Wilkinson of the Fillmore & Western did all the hard work... The process is time consuming and difficult. The old bond wires must be cut off, the rail is then ground down to a clean surface and then new wires are placed into a gadget (cad welding mold) that clamps on the rail. A highly combustible powder (thermit) is poured into a small reservoir on the cad welding kit over the end of each wire. This metallic powder is lighted and the wire is then welded to the rail. The photos here show some of this process.







While completing the bond replacements, we were called to the 126 Highway Crossing in Santa Paula. A tanker truck had ran the red crossing lights at the crossing and turned one of the crossing gates a new direction, facing East along Highway 126. Again, Andy did most of the work, removing the gate and signal lights, while Mike and the CHP Officer dutifully looked on... Later that night, the crew came back, replaced the lights and the gates—just like new. The crew should have been home, enjoying their families but no, as usual the F&W Signal Crew are on the job, protecting lives.





## SCRVRHS Announces Leadership Changes

We are sad to announce that Rick Swanson, citing work-related time constraints, resigned as President of SCRVRHS on January 5, 2006. Rick Swanson dedicated incredible amounts of time to this organization, in different roles producing Train Orders, managing our wide-ranging activities, and contributing hundreds of hours to our various projects.

At the February 2, 2006 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following individuals: Ron Lewis as President; Mark Aston as Vice President. Returning to the board by is Ken Shaner, President of the Live Steamers. He will fill the vacancy created by Mark's election as Vice President. Board Director Jim Mendrala will now be responsible for membership services, and can be reached at [jmendrala@scrvrhs.com](mailto:jmendrala@scrvrhs.com) or 661-294-1049.

William Wilkins has volunteered to serve as editor for the Train Orders. We welcome William to this new position and we encourage any of you to submit articles, photos or information of interest by contacting him at (805) 551-9220.





# A Quick Update On The Turntable

The "Big Dig" for our turn table pit was completed in January, thanks to Sam Bennet Excavation and the Fillmore and Western Railway, Inc., which donated \$8,000 towards completion of the excavation.

Bid Invitations have been published by the City of Fillmore for the turntable and the No. 14 steam engine restoration projects. A prebid meeting was held the 21st of February at the turntable site. Bids will be opened on the 28th of February, 10:00 a.m., at the Fillmore City Hall. The bid contract will cover two simultaneous schedules for the projects: "Schedule A" is the installation of the turntable and "Schedule B" is the restoration of steam engine No. 14. It is expected that the turntable work will take approximately 90 working days and the steam engine approximately one year to complete. Watch for the news on the award of the contract in our next Train Orders or on line at [www.scrvrhs.com](http://www.scrvrhs.com).



# Around The Roundhouse

## A New Look For Train Orders

Starting with this edition, the print edition of *Train Orders* now features a new design intended to maximize legibility and readability for our members while preserving the classic look and feel of the newsletter.

The cost for mailing *Train Orders* continues to increase, with materials, time and postage always increasing in cost. In past years, Rick Swanson donated materials, time and postage to produce an excellent publication for us, and we are extremely thankful for his services.

The online edition of *Train Orders* has also been radically revised. Instead of merely being a colorized version of the print edition, the new online edition features original, exclusive content, bold, aggressive design, and additional information and insights. Ron Lewis is now contributing a column profiling the Fillmore and Western's operations, which will appear exclusively in the online edition. Further exclusive content offerings are planned in the months ahead to reward SCRVRHS members who have decided to take firm action to save the organization valuable funds by switching to electronic delivery.



## Safety Barrier Erected at Railroad Visitors' Center

In the wake of the horrific attempted murder incident that resulted in severe damage to our Railroad Visitors' Center, the society decided to install metal protective barrier posts in front of the main doors to the facility. Mark Aston, Fred Ervast, Mike Morgan, and William Golden Wilkins installed the new barrier posts in late January. The new posts can be removed to allow delivery vehicles direct access to the building, yet are sufficiently durable to protect the center from a wide range of vehicle-related damage.



# DISPATCH BOARD

Schedule of Upcoming Events

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL BREAKFAST  
*at the Fillmore Cafe - Saturdays at 8:00 AM*

WHITING CAR MOVER & RAIL FESTIVAL  
PREPARATION WORK PARTY  
*Railroad Visitor Center...Febuary 25th at 9:00 AM*

RAIL FEST SET-UP & BBQ DINNER  
*Railroad Visitor Center...March 17th (all day)*

RAILFEST 2006  
*March 18th and 19th*

BOARD MEETING  
*Railroad Visitor Center...March 1st at 7:00 PM*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
*Railroad Visitor Center...March 8th at 7:00 PM*







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[www.scrvrhs.com](http://www.scrvrhs.com)

## Contact The Editor

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