



TRAIN ORDERS

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

MARCH, 2004

www.scrvrhs.com



SCRVRHS Board of Directors Adds Two Long Time Members

Answering the call for volunteers, two very active members came forth to lend their talents to the leadership of our organization. By a unanimous vote the Board elected Don Hatch and Jim Mendrala to the Board of Directors of SCRVRHS.

Don Hatch has been a long time SCRVRHS Car Attendant who worked his way up as a Brakeman and Conductor for the Fillmore & Western Railway. He currently heads up the Car Attendant Program for SCRVRHS, training new volunteers and scheduling the necessary crews for both the F&W and special Metrolink trains. Don is a retired California Highway Patrolman and lives in Camarillo.



Jim Mendrala has contributed his time to many SCRVRHS events, including being a Car Attendant; writing for *Train Orders*; working the BBQ Crew; and most recently assisting with the creation of the theatre in our Visitor Center. Jim has many years of experience in the motion picture and television industry and currently has his own consulting firm. Jim and his wife Sue, also a SCRVRHS volunteer, live in Val Verde.

In other Board related business, 2004 officers were elected at the recent annual meeting of the Board. Pat Askren was re-elected as President; as was Ron Lewis, Vice President; Joe Kern Esq., Treasurer; and Rick Swanson, Information Officer. Gary Philips was elected as the new Board Secretary.



Rail Fest 2004

*Three Weeks Away
Ready or Not!*

by
Rick Swanson, Festival Chairman

The 'help' call for this year's Rail Festival has been met with great enthusiasm. It must have something to do with our Caboose theme! I mean, who could refuse cute little ol' cabooses?

Every weekend in February, teams of volunteers descended on the Fillmore Café for our weekly breakfast then fanned out to tackle projects to get things ready for the Festival. Led by **Ron Lewis**, members have done a little cleaning and housekeeping in the Railroad Visitor Center. They hauled many items to our PFE car for storage and took items out of storage to place into our newly donated display case.

Folks like **John Gartman**, **Dave Jeffries**, **Troy Helton**, **Jim Mendrala**, **Tim Mason**, **Pat Askren** and others prepared our new theatre in the rear of the Center. Seats were assembled and bolted to the concrete floor, a screen was built and installed, backdrop painted and carpet laid. All in all it is looking good and will be finished by the Festival.

Then there is **Fred Ervast** who had kids t-shirts made to sell in the gift shop honoring 'The Last Caboose'. And **Mike Morgan** is arranging for some electrical/lighting work to be installed.

Finally, the team of **Jeff Trimble** and **Steve Pierce** have been cleaning windows, vacuuming and doing general repairs to our #1205 National sleeper and our #474 Santa Fe caboose (which will be on the F&W train).

All Rail Fest Volunteers!

Remember to join us for
a free BBQ dinner on
Friday night, 3/19
at Central Park in
Fillmore

Drop by any Saturday to lend a hand. There is still much to be done. And don't forget to *sign up* or *show up* to assist us at the Festival. We'll all meet in the Visitor Center. See ya!

DISPATCH BOARD

MARCH 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** **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**
7:00 PM—Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore
Members are always welcome to attend!
- 6th & 7th** **Be a CAR ATTENDANT!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 10th** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Final Rail Festival Planning & Preparation
Railroad Visitor Center — Fillmore
7:00 PM Refreshments
- 13th & 14th** **Be a CAR ATTENDANT!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624
- 20th & 21st** **2004 RAIL FESTIVAL**
“Cabooses On Parade”
9 am to 5 pm at Central Park — Fillmore
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- 27th & 28th** **Be a CAR ATTENDANT!**
FILLMORE & WESTERN DAYTIME TRAINS
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM — Call Don Hatch: 805 484-8624

AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

FLASH! — CalTrans still has our turntable plans.

THE NEW THEATRE — as stated on the front page is nearly complete. We have ordered custom cut dark green curtains to frame the theatre area (to eliminate unwanted light). Plus, we are acquiring a digital projector that will be able to handle input from a VCR, DVD or computer. Needless to say our Membership meetings will have a whole new dimension and the public will enjoy viewing railroad videos on the weekends. We still need a volunteer to oversee operations at the Visitor Center. Interested?

WORK PARTY — at the Visitor Center to prepare it for Rail Fest. **Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 am.**

OUR THANKS — go to **Otis and Lucille Gaskin** of Oxnard for donating a much needed glass display case for our Railroad Visitor Center.



THOMAS — the Tank Engine is returning to Fillmore in April! Bring the kids! Check with www.fwry.com for more information.

DO YOU LIKE TRAIN ORDERS? — well this just might be your last issue! Not that we're going to stop publishing, it may be because you haven't renewed your SCRVRHS membership. You see Membership Chairman **Ron Lewis** recently sent out 57 letters to members as a reminder that they are overdue in sending in their annual dues. Hey, what's \$35 a year to support all of the activities and opportunities made available to members of the Society. So support *your* Society and highrail your membership dues to Ron. Just drop your check to SCRVRHS P.O. Box 492, Fillmore, CA. 93016-0492. We're counting on you!

Editor/Publisher — Rick Swanson



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