



MARCH 2005 •

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

• WWW.SCRVRHS.COM

## Swanson Elected Society President by Board of Directors



### Society's Second Largest Annual Fundraising Event Needs Volunteers

A funny thing happened on the way to installing the turntable. Seems that material costs recently went up and our grant won't cover all of our installation expenses. So our two major fund raisers, fireworks and Rail Festival, are that much more important to us this year. To make the later a financial success we need your help. Sound like a broken record? The fact is, the more people we end up hiring to fill the manpower needs that our members don't fill, the less money we have to finish the turntable. So if you have time to help, and want some fun at the same time, we welcome you!

Here's what's happening at the Festival this year: the famous SCRVRHS BBQ sandwiches; the Frontier Gunfighters; antique farm equipment; vintage tractors; vintage automobile displays; live steam miniature train rides and musical entertainment.

This year, the Fillmore & Western will again offer one-hour train rides,

with a twist. In addition to traditional pre-1940 heavyweight passenger cars the public can *ride* in an actual caboose (for an additional Society donation).

In addition to our 'Be-An-Engineer' program using the Sespe 0-4-0., 'modern' engineers will have the very rare opportunity to learn how to operate a diesel locomotive. The F&W Railway will offer one-hour certified instructional sessions culminating with students actually operating a modern diesel locomotive. Contact the F&W for a first come, first served diesel reservation by calling 1-800-773-8724.

Tours of our 1956 ex-Union Pacific Pullman Sleeping Car #1205 and Santa Fe cupola caboose #474 will be available to the public. Plus, a vintage diesel locomotive will also be available for a 'climb aboard, hands-on' inspection.

The Society's Railroad Visitor Center will be open both days. The Center contains many historical railroad artifacts and displays, an educational library, Lionel model train layout, gift shop, a new live

Rick Swanson became the Society's fourth President at the annual meeting on February 2, 2005. Swanson succeeds Pat Askren, who is retiring this month as the City of Fillmore Fire Chief and therefore did not seek another term. Askren, Vice President of the Society for many years, graciously stepped into the presidency in January 2003 after the untimely death of then president Paul Haase. Pat and his wife Carol, plan to travel around the country in their motor home for the next year visiting a railroad site or two.

Swanson, a Society member since 1993, currently is the SCRVRHS Information Officer, 2005 Rail Festival Chair and editor/publisher of *Train Orders*, the Society's monthly newsletter. He also has been in charge of the Car Attendant Program.



**Rick Swanson**

"I'm very fortunate to have the opportunity to lead this organization at a time when we are about to literally see the fruits of many peoples labor over the past several years. The turntable installation project is moving

ahead fast, so I look to our Society membership to step up and assist SCRVRHS in continuing our efforts to make this society both viable and fun for our membership and railroad enthusiasts in Southern California."

The other Society officers remain the same for 2005: Ron Lewis - Vice President; Gary Phillips - Secretary; and Joe Kern - Treasurer. The remaining board members are John Gartman, Roy Payton, Fred Ervast, Don Hatch, Mark Aston and Jim Mendrala.

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steam locomotive with 24k gold, video library and a 20 seat digital theatre with surround sound. Come to the silent auction and bid on a variety of wonderful items for young and old.

See the Dispatch Board (p.2) to volunteer. Just drop by the Visitor Center and we'll put you where it counts. *Thank you!*

# DISPATCH BOARD

## MARCH 2005

Join us for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00  
Yanni's Charbroil Restaurant.  
736 Ventura St., (Hwy 126) Fillmore between IHOP & Carl's Jr.

- 2nd** 7:00 p.m. - **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**  
Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore  
Members are welcome to attend
- 5th** **#1205 & #474 Freshen-Up Party to prep for the Rail Festival**  
**Meet Jeff & Steve at the cars in Fillmore at 9:00 am**
- 5th & 6th** **F&W WEEKEND EXCURSION TRAINS**  
Car Attendants Needed 11:00 am — 4:00 pm  
call Don at 805 484-8624 or email at dhatch@scrvrhs.com
- 9th** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Program: **RAIL FESTIVAL 2005**  
7:00 p.m. — Railroad Visitor Center, Fillmore
- 12th & 13th** **F&W WEEKEND EXCURSION TRAINS**  
Car Attendants Needed 11:00 am — 4:00 pm  
call Don at 805 484-8624 or email at dhatch@scrvrhs.com
- 18th** **Friday PM Festival set-up & 6 p.m. BBQ dinner for all volunteers**
- 19th & 20th** **2005 FILLMORE RAIL FESTIVAL**  
**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**All volunteers report to the Visitor Center:**  
**Morning shift at 8:00 a.m. — Afternoon shift at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Help your Society raise money for our**  
**Railroad Interpretive Center Phase 1 Construction**  
**Invite Your Friends and Family to Attend!**
- 26th & 27th** **F&W WEEKEND EXCURSION TRAINS**  
Car Attendants Needed 11:00 am — 4:00 pm  
call Don at 805 484-8624 or email at dhatch@scrvrhs.com

### AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

**THE UNION PACIFIC FOUNDATION** — notified SCRVRHS that they did not fund the \$67,000 grant proposal that we submitted last summer (*Train Orders*, October 2004). In a letter dated February 1, 2005 they stated "This is not a reflection on the worthiness of your request, but rather the difficulty in making funding decisions." The grant proposal was to improve upon the Railroad Visitor Center and to create a traveling video educational program to bring the Visitor Center experience to schools. SCRVRHS plans to try again this year.

**THE SESPE** — 1896 0-4-0 Porter steam engine (see photo on p.1) is undergoing repairs in preparation for the Rail Festival. The F&W, aided by our very own Locomotive Workshop crew, is working to have 'the 1 spot's' saddle water tank removed and repaired, injectors cleaned, wooden cab repaired, air compressor rebuilt, and wooden 'bumper' replaced. That's important in that the Festival's 2005 'Be a Steam Engineer' program has sold out for Saturday and is well on it's way to selling out for Sunday's rides as well. Last year, donations for the Sespe program brought the Society nearly \$1,400. 2005 will be a sell-out too!

**VENTURA COUNTY LIVE STEAMERS** — have placed on loan in our Visitor Center, a very special live steam locomotive in an eight foot glass case. Built by one of their members and finished by others shortly after his passing, this engine is so beautiful it even has 24k gold plated steam domes and other parts. Come see it to appreciate it.

***You will never find time for anything. You must make it.***

-- Charles Buxton, British lawyer,  
editor and statesman (1875-1942)

Editor/Publisher—Rick Swanson



### TRAIN ORDERS

Santa Clara River Valley  
Railroad Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 492  
Fillmore, California 93016-0492

