



TRAIN ORDERS

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

MAY, 2003

CELEBRATING
OUR *10th Anniversary*

www.scrvrhs.org

COMMITTEES FORMING

The Board of Directors is looking for members to participate in various committees to plan, coordinate, organize, and staff various seasonal and continuing projects and events like: Rail Festival, 4th of July, Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Trains, Car Attendants, Railroad Visitor Center, Railcar Restoration, Education Library, etc.

Contact President Pat Askren at
(805) 524-0586 or
paskren@ci.fillmore.ca.us



OLD #51

The Greeley Colorado Tribune newspaper shows a picture of 'our' #51 steam locomotive on a flatcar as it journeyed from Fillmore to its original home in Colorado. The #51 left Fillmore right after film shooting on the movie 'Seabiscuit'.

Meet Your Board of Directors

Fred Ervast - Always Full Steam Ahead, Literally!

"Fireball" Fred Ervast has been on the SCRVRHS board since 1999 and holds the post of Secretary. He chaired the most recent Rail Festival, has 'adopted' the Railroad Visitor Center, and created the milepost marker program as a Society fundraiser. He is also our most flamboyant Car Attendant walking the platform and shouting weird train announcements to Fillmore & Western passengers. His time and energy seem endless.

Born in Oakland, CA, he grew up in the Sacramento area about a half-mile from the maintenance facility of the Western Pacific Railway where he watched steam locomotives undergoing repair. Also, Fred would bicycle down to the Southern Pacific depot and watch passenger trains arriving and departing. While living in Auburn just a quarter mile from the downhill tracks of Southern Pacific, he witnessed the transition of cab-forward steam locomotives to diesels. Fred was not averse to hiking through railroad tunnels and snow sheds in the Sierras ("what headlight?").

Fred graduated from Berkeley High School and attended University of California, Berkeley. He transferred to California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo (another train town), and received a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. Later, he took graduate courses at San Jose State University.

A nine year United States Coast Guard Reserve veteran, Fred's professional career started as an Electronics Engineer for the U.S. Navy at Port Hueneme. During his tenure at the Naval Ship Engineering Center, he was assigned to a Mine Warfare Flotilla in South Vietnam, installing and operating new mine hunting equipment near the demilitarized zone. Later, he was part of the team, which designed, evaluated, and certified the Surface-launch Tomahawk (cruise missile) Weapon System. He also was a project engineer for the Standoff Land Attack Missile Weapon System, which was successfully deployed in the Persian Gulf War.

Fred retired in 1995 and started participating in SCRVRHS activities to be near one of his early loves, railroading. Fred married Leola Huber, a professional artist, in 1976, and both reside in Leisure Village, Camarillo. He learned lapidary (making jewelry out of rock) and now teaches it at the Village. In 1997, Fred and Lee bought The Twin Lakes Art Gallery in the Inyo National Forest at Mammoth Lakes, where they spend the summers selling artwork and crafts. But reverting to his first love, railroading, Fred also shares his time with the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Bodie Railroad & Lumber Company, Inc. He is also a member of the Carson & Colorado Railroad, Inc. (he was also its majority owner for a short period). However, whenever possible, Fred takes his blue van over Grimes Canyon Road to be in Fillmore, working in the Visitor Center, or in the rail yard, or on the train as a Car Attendant. . . and what a great job he does.



DISPATCH BOARD

MAY 2003

This is an open invitation for breakfast every Saturday morning at 8 am at the Fillmore Cafe on Santa Clara Street across from City Hall.

2nd, 3rd & 4th

A Day Out With Thomas

(Thomas The Tank Engine that is!)

Hosted by the Fillmore & Western Railway

Train rides from 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM

Volunteers *needed* as Car Attendants and Visitor Center docents for all or part of a day.

Help us raise money for SCRVRHS.

Call Larry Stermolle at 805 497-6373 or

Fred Ervast at 805 389-0787 today!



7th

7:00 pm - **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**
Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore

10th & 11th

1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373

14th

7 PM General Membership Meeting
Chicago, Illinois & Midland Railroad
with Stan Hurst
Railroad Visitor Center - Central & Main, Fillmore
See www.members.scrvrhs.com for a map and directions

17th & 18th

1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373

24th & 25th

1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373

31st & 1st

1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373

AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

THOMAS BENEFITS SCRVRHS — by bringing mobs of people to Fillmore. On Saturday 4/26 alone, the Fillmore and Western, headed by Thomas the Tank Engine, carried more passengers than in the entire month of October! Many of these Thomas lovers dropped by our Visitor Center. We made \$568. from sales at the gift shop during the three days in April. That's the good news. The bad news is that we are nearly out of children's T-shirts and most everything else in the display cases! We're working to re-supply.

We also provided free coffee to weary parents in which they in turn contributed over \$75. in donations to the water jug. Plus we gave out 150 'Join Us' brochures which we hope will bring new members to the Society.

We had good docent support on Sunday but could have used a great deal more help on Saturday in that we only had ONE person to handle the crowds from 2-5 PM. We have some more members scheduled for this weekend but could use a little relief. (Many hands make light work).

The Fillmore & Western is running 14 round trip, eleven car trains this weekend starting at 8:15 am. Car Attendants are surely needed on each car to load and unload the crowds for each of these 35 minute round trips to the fish hatchery. Help is also needed to que passengers in line. Two shifts, either morning or afternoon, are available. Call Larry at 805 497-6373 to sign up. For all of our assistance the F&W has promised to make a donation to the Society. Join us!! We need the \$\$.

Editor — Rick Swanson



TRAIN ORDERS

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