



# TRAIN ORDERS

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

JULY, 2003

CELEBRATING  
OUR *10th Anniversary*

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



Each year in August, since the inception of Ventura County Fair Metrolink service, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) has invited the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society members to participate in a truly exclusive experience. Our role, as defined by Metrolink, is for our members to be 'Ambassadors' aboard the trains. Our responsibility is to ensure passenger safety by assisting in the boarding, de-training, and in-route safety of the passengers (making sure aisles and stairwells are clear and passable. We also pass out Operation Lifesaver safety material to kids as well as do a passenger count both coming in and departing the Ventura station. Sound similar to our Car Attendant program? It is! In fact most, but not all, of our volunteers are trained, experienced Car Attendants.

For our service in 2002, VCTC donated some \$750. for our services. So it's a double treat. We participate in mainline railroad activity at 75 mph as part of the train crew and get paid for it at the same time! Not to mention that in past years, VCTC gave each Car Attendant a voucher for lunch at the fair plus a free pass for their family members. Can't beat that. But because of these financial obligations, we need to perform. That again means that we need volunteers.



Certainly if you are a qualified SCRVRHS Car Attendant, we need you. If you have always wanted to be a Car Attendant, now's your chance. Chief Car Attendant Don Hatch can train you in the basics and schedule you for an initial in-service training on a Fillmore & Western train run. All Car Attendants are required to wear our standard uniform of dark blue pants, white shirt, solid dark blue tie, black shoes (boots preferable), and dark blue suspenders (or optional dark blue vest). A conductors hat or engineers hat is also required. A pocket flashlight (required for train crews by the FRA), notebook and writing pen are also helpful. An inexpensive counter available at any stationary store saves using your fingers and toes. Don can give you all of the information necessary. Look for his telephone number on the Dispatch Board (p.2) and give him a call.



VCTC operates two (2) Fair trains per day over the two fair weekends in August. That obviously means that we need two crews per day of at least four (4) Car Attendants each. Our crews meet and are picked up by Metrolink at the Moorpark Metrolink Station. Trains then deadhead to Chatsworth where we pick up the first passengers. If you bring a scanner to listen to both the Metrolink crews and Union Pacific dispatchers, you truly are in the middle of all of the action! Join us! This is an railroad experience that only comes with SCRVRHS membership. It's just for you. Take advantage of a good thing that only comes around once a year. See you onboard!!



## CalTrans Comes Through, Turntable Moves Forward

After literally loosing our initial hazardous material study report, CalTrans came through on their promise to move our resubmitted report to the top of the list and make a quick review of things. SCRVRHS President Pat Askren recently received a verbal approval of our turntable installation plans based on a favorable hazardous material report. The beat goes on!



Now the real work begins. The next step toward installation is to prepare drawings and documents for use in soliciting bids. Once completed, bid requests will be sent to local contractors for review and return. A construction company will be chosen and hopefully, construction will begin by this October. The Society has nearly a quarter of a million dollars of state transportation grants for this portion of the plan. The Society's share of matching funds comes to about \$75,000, money that the Society has already set aside. As developments continue to unfold, we'll keep you informed.



### RAILROAD VISITOR CENTER

Open nearly every weekend, the Center is always in need of docents to meet and greet the railroad admiring public.

Contact Fred Ervast at  
[fastfinn@aol.com](mailto:fastfinn@aol.com)

# DISPATCH BOARD

## JULY 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** 7:00 pm - **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**  
Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore
- 4th, 5th & 6th** **4TH OF JULY WEEKEND**  
Join in on the fun! Volunteer as a F&W Car Attendant  
Call Don Hatch at 805 484-8624
- 11th** **7:00 PM General Membership Meeting**  
Railroad Visitor Center - Central & Main, Fillmore  
See [www.members.scrvrhs.com](http://www.members.scrvrhs.com) for a map and directions
- 12th & 13th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Trains  
Join in on the fun! Volunteer as a Car Attendant  
Call Don Hatch at 805 484-8624
- 19th & 20th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train  
Join in on the fun! Volunteer as a Car Attendant  
Call Don Hatch at 805 484-8624
- 26th & 27th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train  
Join in on the fun! Volunteer as a Car Attendant  
Call Don Hatch at 805 484-8624



### Now thru July 4th **SCRVRHS FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER**

Show your patriotism + your **red, white & blue**  
**Pick a 2 hour shift and help us sell fireworks!**  
And buy your fireworks from us to also help raise \$\$\$\$  
**Contact Event Chairman Troy Helton at**  
**(805) 993-1199 or e-mail at [wrldflyr@gte.net](mailto:wrldflyr@gte.net)**  
**(we truly could use your help)**

### AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

**PASSING THE LANTERN** - The SCRVRHS Car Attendant Program has been a hallmark of the



Stermolle

Society since its very inception in 1993. After coordinating our Car Attendant program for some time, **Larry Stermolle**, has passed on the responsibility to long time Car Attendant, and F&W Brakeman/Conductor **Don Hatch**. Thank you Larry for your time, your fine job, and your total contributions to the program! Your milepost marker at mp 421 stands as a tribute to your success!

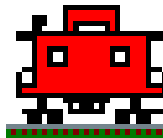


Don Hatch

Don is very familiar with both the training and value of Car Attendants. Like Larry, being an Attendant and under-standing the responsibility involved, uniquely qualifies Don for this high visibility position. Of course, his first major task is to coordinate our long standing Metrolink Fair Train obligation. Don can do it, with your help. Are you a SCRVRHS member but have never been a part of a train crew? Don can show you the ropes. Look at the Dispatch Board and give Don a call. Newcomers are always welcome! It's a true railroad experience.

**RAIL FESTIVAL UPDATE** - Our friends and long time Society supporters, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, donated \$1,000. as a major sponsor of this year's Festival.

Please thank them the next time you visit a branch or open an account. By the way, the theme for the 2004 Festival is "Cabooses on Parade". Think of the possibilities!



Editor — Rick Swanson



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