



DECEMBER, 2009

WWW.SCRVRHS.COM

A publication of the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society; News, Notes of interest and upcoming events.



The Officers, Board of Directors wish to extend to you a very Happy Holiday Season, a Fantastically Happy and Healthy New Year!

FILLMORE AND WESTERN SPONSORS OUR 2009 CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 13th, we will board the San Cayatano Dining Car for our Christmas Dinner Celebration. This event is sponsored by Dave and Tresa at the Fillmore and Western in response to our Car Attendants who gave so much time for the October Pumpkin Trains. Through the professional appearance and hard work of these Car Attendants that we have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in style.

On the menu is a delicious Turkey or a Ham Dinner with all the trimmings. At the time of this writing we had 41 members scheduled to ride the train. In the January issue, we hope to have pictures for you of this celebration with all of our friends together for an evening of good food, celebrating a rewarding 2009. We are hopeful for a successful 2010 for both the Fillmore & Western Rwy and our Society. A big Thank You to Dave & Tresa!!! Happy Holidays to all!



IT'S CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIN TIME!

December is here and that means only one thing! *The Tree Trains*, as Fillmore & Western Railway calls them, are departing 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. from Fillmore. The trains will run December 12th and 13th, 19th and 20th. Certified Car Attendants have been notified, and they will be out there in their full dress uniform.

SCRVRHS will need docents to keep the Railroad Visitor Center open on the above days. The hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. So if you can volunteer a few hours on one or more of those days, the Society will greatly appreciate it. On some days, "Fireball" Fred brings his chili over to the Visitor Center – it's to die from! (Or is it to die for?) We plan to have free coffee available and there are plans to have hot popcorn available too. There will be plenty of railroad items to sell at the gift shop. Come on over to Fillmore and give the Society a hand on those weekends!

By: Fred Ervast, Director

The Spirit of Christmas — Giving of Yourself

As the year comes to a close this wonderful Holiday Season we should reflect for a moment on the progress our Society has made in 2009. We have seen more progress on the Turntable, with the Drive gear being painted, the rectifier shield installed and the completed boardwalk down the center of the turntable. Much of this work was done by Steven Pierce, Ken VanFleet and Mark Aston. Thanks to all that helped on the Turntable.

One of our very own has survived a major stroke, and whether you believe in miracles, or just plain luck, we are all very thankful for Mike Morgan's progress. We all hope and pray that he will soon be back among us with his wit and humor restored to us.

Our Society will begin 2010 in a very secure financial position, having no debt and with a substantial amount of cash in the bank. We also have several items of equipment; a generator and many donations to the Visitor Center, all of which are owned by the Society free and clear of any debt. We are a blessed organization! Our progress is slow, but sure and it is not built on the shoulders of borrowing for what we do not have.

I personally am very thankful for all the volunteers that gave of their time for the benefit of our organization; the car attendants, docents at the Visitor Center, those who donated their time and effort at the work parties, just to mention a few of the many who support our mission statement.

We will continue to have more challenges, especially in the area of our Director and Officer opportunities in 2010. If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors, the people who really determine our direction, I ask that you contact me. Thank you to all who contributed of your time and money. I sincerely appreciate your dedication and effort! I wish you a very Happy Holiday Season. For those who have not yet decided to give of your time, I extend a sincere invitation to actively join us, we will train you and we are appreciative of all the effort given to our group. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all...

Ron Lewis, President

DISPATCH BOARD

DECEMBER & JANUARY 2010

Join us for breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m.
IHOP RESTAURANT; 126 and Highway 23

December 13, 2009 5:00 p.m. Boarding	Christmas Dinner on the F&W Courtesy of Dave and Teresa of the Fillmore & Western Railway
January 6, 2010	Board Meeting & Election of Officers
January 13, 2010	General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Visitor Center
February 3, 2010	Board Meeting
February 10, 2010	General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Visitor Center



2009 North Pole Express

*Family fun on a vintage train to celebrate
Christmas and the Holidays!*

*Storytellers *Santa *Cookies and Chocolate Milk *Elves
Come in your pajamas & bring your teddy bears for the trip to the North Pole.
Be a part of the

“The North Pole Express”
November 28—December 27

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Call Reservations or check our website for departure and return times

Adults: \$26 Kids 2-12: \$16 Under Age 2: FREE on lap



revised 1-6-09

AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

“Did You Know”

Great Western Engine No. 51: A 1906, 2-8-0 Baldwin owned by John Birmingham of CO was built for the “Great Western Railway” of Colorado, a subsidiary of the Great Western Sugar Co. The engine was use seasonally by the GW to head up sugar beet trains, including pushing gondola cars up on the “Highline” in Windsor. She was sold to Birmingham in 1963 reportedly for the price of scrap iron. No. 51 also provided power for many excursion trains on her home rails. No. 51 was moved to Fillmore in the early 1990’s. This engine saw use in many movies during her career, including several *shoots* at the Fillmore and Western Rwy, prior to the engine’s return to Colorado. If you wish to see more on steam in CO go to the Denver Public Library Digital Photo Collection at: <http://photoswest.org:8080/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?resultsScreen+6205+1+10+0> This collection is the one of the best photo archives I have found. Ron Lewis

We need Docents to attend to the Visitor Center for the remaining weekend days in December. Please give e of your time and come to the Center at 9:00 on Saturday or at 10:00 on Sunday. Please give what time you can to the Society. If you need more information, contact Fred Ervast at: fastfinn@verizon.net

ONE OF MY FAVORITE PICTURES FOR 2009...

While looking though my pictures of 2009 SCRVRHS events, I again came across this photo of the Sespe, under steam, on the Turntable for the first time in history. It was taken during the 2009 Railfest. The Sespe is dwarfed by the size of our Turntable, but still it is a memorable picture. For me, two important facts are in this picture: First, it represents over 10 years of planning, labor, and hope for the site, plus the transportation and installation of our Turntable. It demonstrates what can be accomplished with literally hundreds of hours of work, selling T-Shirts, sandwiches, Speeders Rides at Railfest, Society Car Attendant Time, Ventura County Fair Train Attendants and the fantastic support given us by the City of Fillmore along with the Fillmore and Western Rwy. Second, the picture shows the fruition of much labor on the Sespe to bring the engine back to life for the 2009 Railfest. The frozen



throttle valve gland was repaired (no small task) plus cleaning, oiling and grate/ash pan installation. Again, this hard and dirty work was accomplished by Society Volunteers, principally Director Ken Van Fleet. I hope you enjoy this historic photo as much as I do for what it represents.
Ron Lewis