

So. California Railway Plaza Assn. &  
So. California Scenic Railway Assn.

*present the*

# Hot Rail!

newsletter



*The latest on efforts to build and maintain  
a permanent railroad attraction in Southern California*

Volume XII, Number 3

Fall 2014



Photo by Stu Proctor

Rail fans of all ages took part in the initial caboose tours on September 6 at the Fullerton Train Station.

## Free Saturday caboose tours will be offered twice monthly

*By Dennis White, Vice President*

Following several trial runs in recent months, the SCRPA Board of Directors is launching a new program, offering free tours twice monthly of the two cabooses on display at the Fullerton Train Station house tracks.

The tours will be hosted by members of our Railroad Operations Committee (ROC), which has devoted at least one Saturday a month — often more — since 2011, to a dedicated interior refurbishing of the two vintage cars.

We'll offer guided tours to rail fans and the general community from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturday of each month, beginning in January 2015.

"The railroads were a major part of the building of Fullerton and Southern California. We want to show the public a part of railroading that isn't seen much any more and that a lot of people don't know much about," said Stu Proctor, ROC Chairman.

During an initial test of the program on September 6, board members and ROC volunteers decided to showcase the three beautiful historic cabooses, including a privately owned car, displayed on the house tracks at the east end of the depot.

**See "Tours" on Page 2**

**The MUSEUMS EXCURSION on Oct.11 has a few openings. See President's Message, Page 2**

## **President's message**

Fall has arrived and the heat has subsided (whew!).

Our all-day Train Museums Excursion on October 11 has available space on the bus. If you are still interested, let us know. The cost is \$65 per person and lunch selection is required. For details, see [www.scrpa.net/what'snew](http://www.scrpa.net/what'snew). The news box has a link to the RSVP form with contact info.

Planning is under way for Railroad Days 2015 in Fullerton, under the direction of Chairman Jeff Schulze and his committee. They are anticipating everyone's participation and help. There are already commitments from several of our past vendors, featured participants and equipment providers for the coming year's event.

We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

SCRPA has been in contact with the city of Fullerton about a possible display site within the city. Meetings have been held with Fullerton staff and City Council members. We will have an update at the October 15 Quarterly Dinner Meeting. Conceptual drawings will be available for viewing -- with strong emphasis on "conceptual."

And a quick reminder – SCRPA membership renewals for 2015 are just around the corner. With a possible venue on the horizon and positive input that has been received to date, your continued involvement and timely membership renewal are greatly appreciated.

**-- Harold Benash**

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### ***"Tours" from Page 1***

The two vintage cabooses were opened for tours. A pop-up tent was erected at the west compound entrance, and a sandwich board placed near the Santa Fe Café directed visitors to our cabooses.

Caboose data sheets, membership brochures and assorted past issues of the Hot Rail newsletter were available for interested visitors.

We also provided those who toured with doughnuts and refreshing beverages on the 100-plus degree day.

The response was small but constant, and our expected one-hour show stretched to three hours. If not for the heat, the open house could have lasted well into the afternoon.

We had 34 visitors in all – including folks from Atlantic, Iowa; Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle and Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton and San Diego.

None of the visitors had any idea the cabooses were at the Fullerton Depot and were pleasantly surprised at the opportunity to stop and explore the cars.

Later in the fall, we will send press releases and advertise our tours – in the local media, at neighborhood businesses and through the school district -- and our visitor count should be substantially higher. Check [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) for the scheduled dates and more details.

**See related story on the two cabooses, Page 5.**

## **Southern California Railway Plaza Assn.**

### **Our Vision Is**

Promotion of educational programs, activities, and venues for people of all ages, dedicated to the preservation of the rail heritage of Southern California.

### **Our Mission Is**

Education of the public, providing an historical insight into the numerous contributions that railroads have made to the development and growth of Southern California from the 19th century forward.

### **Our Goals Are**

- Successful development of the Southern California Railroad Experience
- Production of the annual Railroad Days and Children's Rail Safety Poster Contest community events
- Sponsorship of historical research and modeling of significant sites and structures, publication of the Hot Rail! newsletter, and presentation of quarterly dinners and speakers on topics of member interest

### **The SCRX Vision Is**

To be the premier destination for presenting the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage.

### **The SCRX Mission Is**

To provide, through our ideas, exhibitions, and programs, engaging educational and entertaining experiences to Southern California residents and visitors.

### **The SCRX Goals Are**

To fulfill the Vision and Mission by developing and presenting programs that capture the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage and by partnering with governmental and private entities to create an experiential destination.

## **Fall Dinner Meeting set for Oct. 15**

Our Quarterly Members' Dinner Meeting will include updates on events happening this fall.

So plan to join us for the fall get-together, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard in Fullerton.

Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. Prices range from \$7 to \$23, plus beverages – with daily specials and a senior discount available.

No RSVPs are required. See you there!

# SCRPA Movie Night presents a rail-themed Agatha Christie murder mystery

By Dennis White, Movie Night Chair

The free Members Retrospective Film Series will finish 2014 with the full-length thriller, "Murder, She Said" (1961) on October 18 at the Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.

We will begin at 6 p.m. with a wine tasting on the museum patio, sponsored by brothers Alan and Andrew Wiles.

At 6:30, we'll move inside to the auditorium, where we will enjoy an award-winning short subject on snow removal from British railways.

We'll follow with the main attraction, "Murder, She Said," a murder mystery film directed by George Pollock, based on the novel "4:50 from Paddington" by Agatha Christie.

The production starred Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple, along with Arthur Kennedy and Muriel Pavlow, and featured Rutherford's real-life husband, Stringer Davis.

The story begins with Miss Marple passing by on a different train, when she witnesses the strangling of a young woman in the opposite carriage.

The local police dismiss her story as the ramblings of a senile and bored old woman.

So, undaunted, she conducts her own investigation, and comes to the conclusion that the body must be buried on

the grounds of Ackenthorpe Hall, which adjoins the railway line.

Wheedling her way into a job as housemaid there, Marple copes with the pompous machinations of her difficult employer, Luther Ackenthorpe (James Robertson Justice).

Thus she can search for the mysterious corpse, and eventually finds it while supposedly practicing her golf shots.

As she starts collecting suspects, accompanied by her long-suffering companion Jim Stringer (Stringer Davis), Miss Marple finds herself faced with an increasingly devious and resourceful killer, who begins casting his shadow over Ackenthorpe's heirs.

Despite Christie's dislike of this adaptation, "Murder, She Said" received a posi-

tive response from critics and maintains an 83% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Almar Halfidason, a critic for the BBC film website, awarded the picture four stars out of a possible five, calling it "delightfully dotty" and "fun."



# Plans underway for 2015 Railroad Safety Poster Contest

A 2015 Railroad Safety Poster Contest committee planning meeting was held in August. To avoid the delays we encountered last year, the committee will meet this fall with the Fullerton School District representatives to coordinate distributing contest notices and collecting entries for our 17<sup>th</sup> annual competition.

As the district's spring break is scheduled the week of March 23-27, 2015, the poster contest material needs to be given to the students by March 20.

The six citywide winning students will be announced, and their posters will be displayed at Railroad Days 2015 on May 2&3 at the Fullerton Train Station.

After Railroad Days, all of the



posters submitted by the schools will be displayed at the Fullerton Library from May 4-22, 2015.

SCRPA appreciates the support of the Fullerton Rotary Club and Amtrak®, which provide the awards for the citywide winners, including cash prizes and passes for train trips.

The committee is also looking for additional sponsors to off-set the costs charged by the school district for printing the fliers for more than 10,000 students, plus notices to all kindergarten to sixth-grade teachers.

-- Mary Proctor, Co-Chairman

**At left, two students display their 2014 Railroad Safety Poster Contest entries during the Fullerton School Board awards presentation in May.**

## 2014 CALENDAR

<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>SCRPA Fall Excursion to Train Museums</b> 9 a.m. Depart Fullerton Train Station, by bus, return about 5 p.m. RSVP & \$65/person	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>H&amp;MC / ROC Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
<b>Oct. 13</b>	<b>SCRPA Board Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton	<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>SCRPA Board Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>SCRPA Quarterly Dinner &amp; Members Meeting</b> , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton	<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>ROC Work Party</b> , 9 a.m. Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>ROC Work Party</b> , 9 a.m. Cabooses, Fullerton Train Station	<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>H&amp;MC / ROC Meeting</b> , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Movie Night</b> * "Murder, She Said," (1961), 6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.	<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>SCRPA outing to Knott's Berry Farm</b> , 8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park Meet at 9:15 a.m. at entrance for guided tours; free admission. Includes lunch at Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant; \$21 per person

\* Dates and movie titles subject to change. Check [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net) for full calendar and updates .

Read the Hot Rail! in a color PDF and check out SCRPA announcements at [www.scrpa.net](http://www.scrpa.net).

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# MEET THE VINTAGE 'CABEESE' AT THE FULLERTON TRAIN STATION

*From Hot Rail archives, 2005 & 2006  
with updates by Dennis White*

ATSF 999110 and SP 4049 are historic relics of a time gone by. Both cabooses were donated to the **Southern California Scenic Railway Association** in 1989 at the end of the caboose era on the American railroads. SCSRA operated both cabooses back and forth on a several-hundred-foot-long section of track in Los Angeles, offering free rides to the public, pushed/pulled by a small industrial diesel locomotive for about 15 years.

But then SCSRA lost their trackage rights in 2005 and a new home for the beloved cabooses had to be found.

The **Southern California Railway Plaza Association** agreed to house the cabooses in Fullerton. Since there was no railroad connection to their previous home, the cabooses had to be trucked to Fullerton's house trucks adjacent to the historic Fullerton Depot in June, 2006.

The cabooses sat unattended in Fullerton until 2010 when deterioration and water damage had reached a point where active conservation of the relics had to begin immediately if the cars were to be saved. SCRPA gained permission to work on the cars in December 2010, followed by creation of its Railroad Operations Committee (ROC) in early January 2011. The first work party was soon held and work continues to this day.

## ATSF 999110



numbered AT&SF 1860. During its operating life it was upgraded and/or modified several times, with the addition of generators and lights, radios, a toilet and improved trucks.

The last major upgrade was accomplished at the West Wichita, Kansas, shops (now closed) in 1966, resulting in a configuration called "Class CE-1" which was utilized in mainline and local service system wide. In this final configuration, the caboose is equipped with three pairs of facing bench seats which can be converted into bunks, a conductor's seat and desk and two cupola seats, as well as a heating furnace, a 12V DC refrigerator, Microphor toilet with on-board sewage treatment system, and FRA safety glazing. The caboose's dimensions and weights are:

- Length over pulling faces of couplers - 42'1"
- Length over platform end sills - 35'3"
- Length over body end sills - 26'3"
- Width over side plates - 9'7"
- Height, top of rail to top of smoke jack - 15'6"
- Weight of body - 44,340 lbs.
- Weight of trucks - 15,560 lbs.
- Total Weight - 59,900 lbs.

Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway caboose 999110 was built by American Car and Foundry Company in 1928, part of the series 1650 to 1874, which totaled 225 cabooses. The car is believed to have been originally

The trucks are Barber-Bettendorf swing bolster type with leaf springs and have 33" wheels with roller bearings. The B-end truck is equipped with a 12V DC alternator which charges the 12V battery, providing power for the lights, radio and refrigerator. The heating stove is oil fired.

The caboose was retired by the ATSF, sent to scrap and donated to the Southern California Scenic Railway Association, a SCRPA heritage organization in the fall of 1989

ATSF 999110 is conserved to its "as donated" condition and all on-board utilities are operational including the sewage treatment system which discharges only treated, chlorinated water on the ground in accordance with EPA requirements.

## SP 4049:



Southern Pacific caboose 4049 was originally numbered SP 1403, part of the series SP 1400 to SP 1599, which totaled 200 cabooses, and built by the Pacific Car and Foundry Company of Renton, Washington, in 1961, at a cost of \$19,000. Originally equipped with seven rotating chairs and two reversible chairs in each bay window, subsequent modernization reduced seating capacity

to five rotating chairs plus two rotating chairs in the windows; replaced the flush hopper toilet with a Microphor self-contained unit with on-board sewage treatment system.

Other changes included replacing two side windows with adjustable vents, plating (covering) non-essential windows, the addition of FRA safety glazing, and installation of a 12V DC refrigerator/water cooler. The caboose's dimensions and weights follow:

- Length over pulling faces of couplers - 42'6-3/8"
- Length over platform end sills - 38'1-3/8"
- Length over body end sills - 32'6-5/8"
- Width over side plates - 8'7-5/8"
- Width over bay side sheets - 10'6-1/4"
- Height, top of rail to top of roof - 12'3-11/16"
- Weight of body - 49,960 lbs
- Weight of trucks - 15,560 lbs
- Total Weight - 65,520 lbs.

The trucks are Barber-Bettendorf swing bolster type with leaf springs and have 33" wheels with roller bearings. The B-end truck is equipped with a 12V DC alternator which charges the 12V battery that supplies power for the lights, radio and refrigerator. The heating furnace is oil-fired, and the oil tank is located beneath the single bunk.

The caboose was retired by the Southern Pacific, sent to scrap and donated to the SCSRA in the fall of 1989.

SP 4049 is conserved to its "as donated" condition and all on-board utilities are operational, including the sewage treatment system that discharges only treated, chlorinated water on the ground in accordance with EPA requirements.

## Summer activities keep H&MC members busy

***By Dennis White. Vice President***

The History & Modeling Committee's summer activities included helping to host SCRPA's second annual Hobo Stew Cook-Off at the cabooses on August 9.

All of the SCRPA "hobo" participants had an enjoyable and filling day with plenty of stews and chili to choose from, plus all the fixin's that go with such a hearty meal. Lots of good train watching, too. Our thanks to all of our wonderful cooks and volunteers.

In a recent highlight, H&MC received a donation of a 4-foot by 8-foot HO-scale model railroad from a family in Garden Grove. The layout is very simple, with two unconnected loops of track, plus scenery and buildings, making it a good demonstration layout, ideal for a youth group.

H&MC contacted Fullerton youth groups without gaining any interest in the layout. The committee next contacted the **La Habra Boys and Girls Club**, which gladly accepted the layout donation by the SCRPA.

H&MC members will check, clean and repair the locomotives and rolling stock; check, clean and repair the track and convert the electrical system to a push-button control similar to that on our Buddy Young Demonstration layout, which is so popular at Railroad Days. When the work is completed, the layout will be delivered and set up at the La Habra Boys and Girls Club.

Looking ahead, a team from H&MC and ROC will visit the former ATSF baggage/MOW dormitory car 574444 in Anaheim -- to measure the windows preparatory to constructing and installing exact copies of frames and sashes.

The combined committees have several finish carpenters among their membership who have the necessary shop facilities to make this a viable and inexpensive project.

The Historical & Modeling Committee is always looking for members. If local history, rail history, rail-fanning or model railroading (any scale), interest you and you would enjoy fellowship with others who share these interests, we invite you to become a part of our growing committee. It is a great way to become an active member of the SCRPA.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of

each month (except December) at St. Paul Lutheran Church (corner of Las Palmas Road and Harbor Boulevard), Fullerton.

Please contact Dennis White (714-400-4939) or Harold Benash (714-525-6266) for directions or any questions regarding H&MC.

## ROC moves forward with caboose work and adds cart projects

***By Stu Proctor, Chairman***

The Railroad Operations Committee continued its Work Parties (emphasis on "work") through the summer months at the Fullerton Depot.

We began cleaning and organizing the storage cabinets in both vintage cabooses. We also completed extensively photographing both exteriors to document the location of stenciling, lube plates, etc. in preparation for stripping and repainting.

Vandalism continues to be a problem inside the enclosure, with wooden steps being moved and one of them broken. They will be moved inside the cabooses when not in use.

On August 16, the two baggage carts we acquired from the city in April were moved to an area near the cabooses. The oak decking of the predominately metal, rubber-tired cart was removed and the wood trashed.

The oak pieces of the predominately wooden, metal-wheeled cart were measured and drawn up for size and placement of mortises and tendons. Some of the wooden pieces were removed from the cart.

In an impromptu extra session on August 30, the rest of the wooden pieces of the cart were removed and disposed of, leaving just the wheels, the fifth-wheel steering mechanism and miscellaneous steel brackets and fittings. Most of the bolts and nuts holding everything together had to cut off with either a grinder or a reciprocating saw. New nuts and bolts will be purchased when needed.

Measurements and photos were also taken of both baggage carts to determine what materials will be needed and what plan of action will be taken to restore both carts.

**-- Dennis White contributed to this report.**

# Climb aboard for historic tours at Knott's Berry Farm

An SCRPA “merry” outing on Thursday, December 18 will include tours of Knott’s Berry Farm Ghost Town, Calico Railroad Roundhouse, private presidential car and a possible train ride. (The train runs according to park attendance -- understandable).

As part of a group package, admission is FREE.

We’ll meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Guest Relations window in front of the park, 8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park. In addition to the tours, we’ll have access to the Christmas Craft Festival.

Our visit includes lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Mrs. Knott’s Chicken Dinner Restaurant, serving two pieces of their famous chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, tossed salad and a slice of pie. The lunch cost is \$21 per person.

And we have Peggy Benash, our co-membership chair, to thank for this great way to get-together for the holidays. She’ll have more information at our Oct. 15 General Meeting.



**Calico Railroad historic steam engine is a traditional favorite ride – complete with an Old West surprise.**

*– Knott’s online photo submitted by David Freely*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSN., INC.



### Membership Levels

*Please check appropriate level*

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**Please send this application with the appropriate check or money order payable to:**

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**Postmaster: Please deliver between Oct. 3 & 8, 2014**

## ○ HOT RAIL! ○

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