

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 IX, Number 2

Summer 2011

SUMMER DINNER MEETING MOVES TO SIZZLER

Operation Lifesaver program 'on the menu'

**By Donna Johnson, Community & Media
Relations Chair**

At our April Quarterly Meeting, SCRPA members joined the board in agreeing to try a new location for our Membership Dinner Meetings. On July 13, we'll meet in a private room at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., north of Berkeley Avenue, Fullerton.

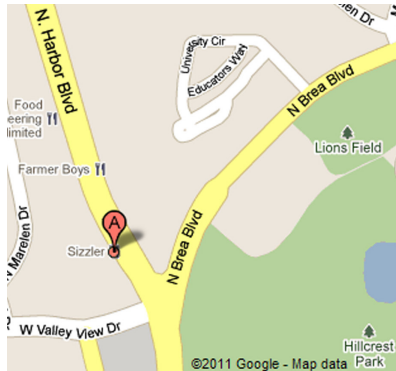
We will independently order and pay for our meals, with prices ranging from \$7 to \$23 and many entrees around \$15. They also serve beer and wine. See page 7 for more menu details.

As usual, we'll start with a mixer at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and then the program and a brief meeting. The meeting room is to the left inside Sizzler's lobby and SCRPA "greeters" will be there to guide you and answer questions.

Operation Lifesaver Program

Bob Leabow, a Certified Volunteer Presenter active in both California Operation Lifesaver and Georgia Operation Lifesaver, will be our main speaker.

Operation Lifesaver started in 1972 when the average number of collisions at U.S. highway-rail grade



Bob Leabow

crossings had risen above 12,000 incidents annually. To address this, the Idaho governor's office, along with the Idaho Peace Officers and Union Pacific Railroad launched a six-week public awareness educational campaign called Operation Lifesaver to promote rail-crossing safety.

After Idaho's crossing-related fatalities fell that year by 43%, the successful program was adopted by Nebraska (1973) – then Kansas and Georgia the following year. Within a decade it had spread around the country; in 1986 a nonprofit national Operation Lifesaver office was created to help support the efforts of state OL programs and raise national

awareness on highway-rail grade crossing issues.

Today, Operation Lifesaver's network of certified volunteer speakers and trained instructors offer free rail-safety education programs in all 50 states.

Pete Aadland, California Operation Lifesaver (CAOL) statewide coordinator, recently announced the appointment of Becky Michalkiewicz as the new Southern California regional coordinator.



Continued on page 2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A SPECIAL MUSEUM VISIT, AUG. 20

SCRPA is sponsoring a summertime one-day excursion for members and friends on Saturday, August 20, to the Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum, organized by the Membership Committee: Peggy Benash, Lauri Schulze and Kathy White. Be sure to check out the bright yellow insert inside this *Hot Rail!* edition for all the details and an RSVP form, which is due by July 23.

Continued from cover

Our presenter, Bob Leabow, has always been interested in Highway Safety through his 40-plus years working at Los Angeles County Road Department, which merged with several other county departments to form Public Works.

Previously, he was a Data Processing Manager, or a field known today as Information Technology.

"Through all these years I worked with both safety engineers and civil/traffic engineers that designed roads. ... I never worked for a railroad, or as an avid railroad hobbyist, although I always liked trains," Leabow said.

He was also part of L.A.'s Public Works Safety Award Committee and was a member, some years ago, of Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission, as well as part of its traffic committee. Leabow retired from Los Angeles County in November 1998 and is now involved in a small telephone business that includes a great deal of travel around the country.

To learn more about Operation Lifesaver's important national rail-safety effort, plan to attend the Quarterly Membership Meeting and Dinner at Sizzler.

For more information on the restaurant, check online - including this site that answers many questions: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/sizzler-fullerton>. Also, Sizzler coupons are available online if you're adept at Google or other browser searches.

Please fill out RSVP form on Page 7, and return to SCRPA office by JULY 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're checking our list, and it looks like SCRPA might help unwrap Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express

Metrolink is looking ahead to a sparkling party season in December and invited SCRPA to take part in the festivities.

Two Metrolink officials - Joseph Henderlong and Claudia Ziebell - extended the opportunity at our April Dinner Meeting. Members attending the meeting and our board are enthusiastically onboard and eager to learn the final details.

The **Holiday Toy Express** is celebrating its 15th year, and plans call for the show train to visit Metrolink stops to present a 30-minute performance and collect children's gift donations in partnership with a charitable project, such as Spark of Life.

Stops will be scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from the weekend after Thanksgiving through the weekend before Christmas - with the exact date and time in each city to be determined for the four weekends.

Ziebell, Metrolink's Communications Manager, updated us in June, saying the staff is presenting the proposal on July 8 to the Legislative and Communications Committee of the Southern California Railroad Authority. A final decision is expected in August by the SCRRA board, which oversees Metrolink.

"We want to go to all 47 stations and have a big show," Ziebell said. "With our 15th anniversary this year, we want to create a special event for our passengers and the communities."

SCRPA would join the fun by hosting the Fullerton Train Station stop and creating a festival atmosphere with activities and displays for families and rail fans.

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.

Look for more news and plans about the Holiday Toy Express in the Autumn *Hot Rail!* in October and check our website for announcements, at www.scrpa.net.

Another year and another annual SCRPA Railroad Poster Contest has been completed. Donna Johnson did an outstanding job coordinating this project, which emphasizes the importance of railroad safety to the students and the community. Donna worked diligently with the Fullerton School District, the Fullerton Main Library, sponsors and the media. For this effort, the SCRPA and I thank Donna for an excellent job.

Lastly, thanks to our trio serving as interim Membership Committee co-chairmen - Margaret Benash, Lauri Schulze and Kathy White - for coming up with a terrific idea for SCRPA to sponsor a day trip on August 20 to tour the **Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum**.

You can learn all about the successful museum project that celebrated its first anniversary on June 4 at <http://www.tehachapidepot.com/>.

Please check out the bright yellow Day Excursion to Tehachapi flier inserted in this *Hot Rail!* And then mail us your RSVP form and check. It's going to be a great outing!

See you at the July 13 Quarterly Dinner Meeting in our new location, the Sizzler in Fullerton - a map and more info are on the cover and on page 7 of this *Hot Rail!*

Harold Benash

RAILWAY SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS HONORED BY FULLERTON SCHOOL BOARD

By Donna Johnson, Poster Contest Chair

An awards presentation during the May 24 Fullerton School District board meeting honored the six Fullerton students chosen as the citywide winners in this year's Railroad Safety Poster Contest.

The 13th annual competition was sponsored by the SCRPA, Amtrak®, Coast Rail Services and Fullerton Rotary Club in an effort to make children in the area aware of the hazards associated with moving trains and the potential for serious injury in being around rail crossings and train tracks. More than 120 trains a day zip across the city near several schools and playgrounds, and youngsters often have to cross the tracks to get to class.

Nearly 11,000 Fullerton elementary students were offered an opportunity to participate and choose a theme to depict on their posters. New this year, the schools were invited to arrange free rail safety presentations by the nonprofit Operation Lifesaver organization.

Our judges selected the six citywide winning posters from about 70 school-level winners submitted by 15 elementary campuses. The students' posters were judged in two categories by grade level: kindergartners through third-graders and fourth- through sixth-graders.

Once again, Amtrak presented four round-trip tickets for the winners' families to their choice destination of San Diego or Santa Barbara. In addition, they received cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

Posters created by all winners from the 15 schools were displayed for the month of May in the Fullerton Main Library Children's Room. This year's competition was coordinated with the Fullerton School District and the Children's Librarian, Janine Jacobs.

Here are the top winners in the two divisions:

Place	Student Name	School/Grade	Theme
1st	Megan Casaday	Fern Drive/Second	"Stay Alive, Stay Off The Tracks"
2nd	Monica Yoo	Laguna Road/Second	"Don't Mess With Trains"
3rd	Lucia Kim	Sunset Lane/Third	"Stay Off The Tracks"
1st	June Woo Lee	Fern Drive/Fifth	"Stop, Look, Listen"
2nd	Emerson Little	Golden Hill/Sixth	"Don't Mess With Trains"
3rd	Brandon Rho	Acacia/Sixth	"Don't Play Games With Trains"

HISTORY & MODELING COMMITTEE SUMMER REPORT

A full summertime itinerary follows busy spring activities

By Dennis White, H&MC Secretary and Editor

Despite its packed schedule in spring, the History & Modeling Committee has added another display piece to its repertoire. Construction of the La Habra module is completed, and it will be displayed at the July 13 Quarterly Dinner Meeting.

The 2-foot by 8-foot diorama depicts the dual depots and mainline track of La Habra, circa 1930, including scenery and lighting.

Work is now underway on a new corner module depicting the Hermosa Tunnel on Union Pacific's Sherman Hill.

The successful eight-day show at Knott's Berry Farm in April showcased our history photo boards and historic dioramas, alongside a modular HO layout belonging to the Orange County Modular Railroaders club. We made many new contacts and provided handouts and SCRPA membership forms.

H&MC also represented the association at the Big Train Show in May at Ontario Convention Center.

We collected donations for door prizes, along with member reservations and payments, as we finalized the evening's entertainment for the annual Dinner at the Depot event held on June 25 at the cabooses.



Awards Presentation: (Back row, from left) Fullerton School District Superintendent Mitch Hovey, Fullerton Rotary Club's Jim Williams, Emerson Little, Brandon Rho, June Woo Lee, board President Lynn Thornby; (front) Megan Casaday, Monica Yoo and Lucia Kim. Photo by Terry Galvin.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Next up for H&MC and SCRPA will be the Great Train Expo on July 23-24 at the Pomona Fairplex. We continue to put forth great effort in keeping the association visible within the Southern California train-show circuits.

Looking to the fall, H&MC/SCRPA have been asked to join the Boy Scouts of America on September 10 at Knott's Berry Farm for a presentation and hands-on railroading workshop. Scouts who participate may work toward earning their Railroad Merit Badges. More than 500 Scouts are expected to attend the all-day event.

H&MC members form a large part of SCRPA's Railroad Operations Committee (ROC) and they have also been active with the cleaning and refurbishing of the two SCSRA cabooses at the Fullerton Train Station.

Besides digging for historic facts, looking for artifacts and building dioramas and models, the folks of the History & Modeling Committee are active "worker bees" for SCRPA. Our members take part in all the events and functions of our parent organization. If you would like to get involved, the H&MC is a great place to start.

Won't you join us?

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month (except June and December) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, corner of Las Palmas Road and Harbor Boulevard in Fullerton.

Please contact Dennis White (714-871-4341) or Harold Benash (714-525-6266) for directions or with any questions regarding H&MC.

CABOOSE TOURS HELP MAKE A BOY'S WISH COME TRUE

By Dennis White, SCRPA Vice President

With very little warning on a recent Sunday, SCRPA hosted a Make-A-Wish Foundation visit to our cabooses for Mario, a boy who just loves trains.

It began when foundation volunteer Pam Miller contacted Fred Canfield — and a quick series of events led to the get-together.

A "presentation party" was held in the Santa Fe Café at the Fullerton Station, where Mario was given his tickets and itinerary to fulfill his wish: a trip to Steam Town National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Steam Town has offered him the opportunity to operate a locomotive while visiting.

After the party, Stu Proctor and I hosted the 10-year-old, his family and two of his school chums for a quick tour of both railcars. Two foundation volunteers accompanied them.

Everybody loved the cabooses, and the boys were very excited about climbing up into the cupola of the Santa Fe caboose and watching a train pass from that vantage point.

Mario followed up with a folder filled with photos and a hand-written thank-you note addressed to Mr. Stu and Mr. Dennis, saying: "It's a good thing I've never been in a caboose before, because if I had, I wouldn't have enjoyed your tour as much." It's signed, "Full of thanks, Mario."



Mario (center, front) enjoys his caboose tour with two friends, Mr. Dennis, and Mr. Stu. Photo courtesy of Karen Sibrel and Julia Proctor.

According to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Orange County's office in Tustin, the nonprofit organization is one of the world's leading children's charities. It has granted the wishes of more than 200,000 children with life-threatening medical conditions in the United States.

Typically, children's wishes fall into four categories: "To Be" (e.g., a zookeeper, a firefighter, a baker), "To Meet" (e.g., a favorite celebrity or athlete), "To Have" (e.g., a computer, a playhouse, a puppy), or "To Go" (e.g., to a theme park, Hawaii, a major sporting event).

In fiscal year 2010, the foundation granted 13,580 wishes, the most ever in its 30-year history. The most popular wish is to visit a theme park, which accounts for more than 40% of the requests from our wish kids.

To qualify for a wish, the child must be more than 2½ years old and younger than 18 (at the time of referral) and must not have received a wish from another wish-granting organization. A child may be referred to the Make-A-Wish Foundation by a parent or guardian, a medical professional, or by the child.

For more information, contact the foundation's Tustin office at 714-573-9474.

ROC MEMBERS MAKE PROGRESS ON REFURBISHING CABOOSES

By Stu Proctor, Railroad Operations Committee Chair

Monthly Saturday morning work parties at the Fullerton depot tracks — augmented by frequent impromptu sessions — are beginning to show results of all the elbow grease contributed by members of the Railroad Operations Committee volunteer workforce.

Bit by bit, ROC is making headway on the extensive list of projects identified last winter to bring the two cabooses back to operating status and "tour sparkle."

Donations dropped in the "Collection Cans" at committee meetings, train shows, and other SCRPA gatherings are also beginning to add up. Almost \$1,000 has been contributed to help offset the growing costs for the refurbishing efforts.

Harold Benash, Eric Edborg, Don Lawver, Dave Norris, Dave Sibrel, Dennis White and I met on June 18 for another day that included grinding, sanding, painting and scrubbing.

Work in ATSF 999110

New five-pound ABC fire extinguishers with proper FRA-approved brackets have been installed in each end of the Santa Fe caboose — dubbed the "110."

Prep work on the seat frames — grinding and washing them with TSP — is about halfway completed. Four of the frames were sprayed with red primer and will be ready for a smooth coat of black paint next work session.

Four of the seat pads are sewn and ready to install.

George Engelage IV has several bases for engineer seats, and one of them will fit the ATSF seat that was discovered hiding in the SP caboose restroom last month.

Eric washed the walls, ceiling and floors of the cupola. Youth has its benefits, and Eric used talents most of us no longer have in climbing and scrubbing the "perch." Still having energy after all of that, he continued scrubbing the floor around the stove, under the water tank and under the benches and conductor's desk.

Work on SP 4049

The crew continued digging through the cupboards, bathroom and closets of the bay window caboose. The collected books, pamphlets and brochures were moved to the file cabinet in the Santa Fe caboose, to await sorting and cataloging.

ROC's next scheduled work party is July 16, and SCRPA members are welcome to join the committee at no charge.

If you can't wait to get down and dirty as you watch the shine return to these vintage rail cars, check the "What's New" page calendar at www.scrpa.net for future session dates and times.

Then come join the fun!



Stu Proctor works on a seat frame in front of former AT&SF 999110. Photo by Don Lawver

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WESTERN MOVIE NIGHT RIDES ABOARD TRAIN TO TOMBSTONE ON JULY 23

By Gordon Bachlund, Movie Nights Chair

Our Retrospective Screening Series continues with the summer feature *Train to Tombstone* on Saturday, July 23 at the Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium, 301 N. Pomona Avenue, at Wilshire Avenue. The free members' Movie Night will begin with a wine-tasting at 6 p.m. on the museum patio.

First up on the screen will be "You and Your Railroads," a 20-minute, color Interurbans Films dupe of a late-1940s AAR promotional film looking at the socio-economic impact of the nation's railroads. It includes loads of steam and early diesel action, along with wonderful footage of preserved historic equipment shot during the 1930s and '40s at fairs and exhibitions.

Then it's Indians vs. The Iron Horse in the B-Western *Train to Tombstone*. The 1950 Lippert Productions, b/w film was written and produced by its star, Donald "Red" Barry.

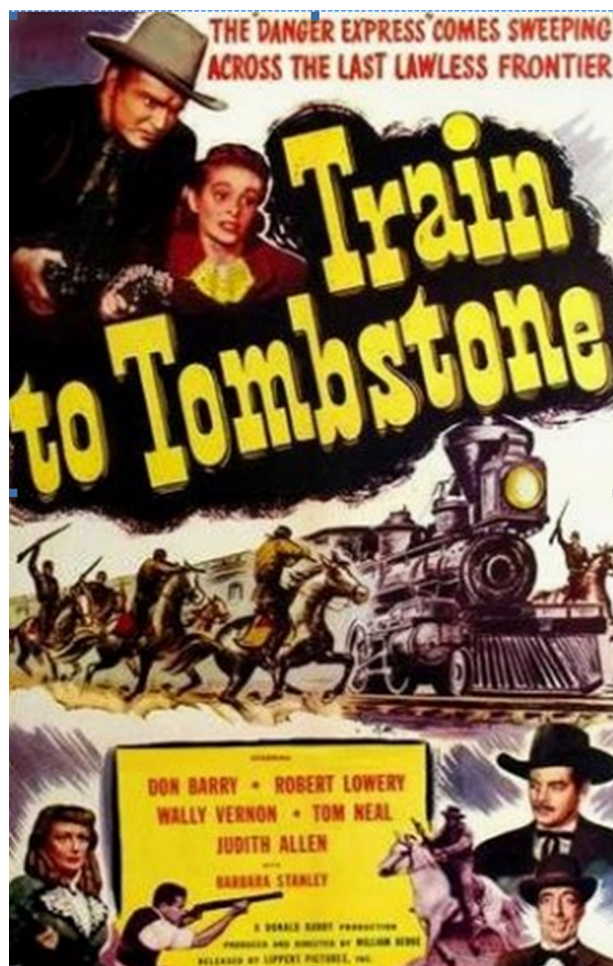
Train to Tombstone is a low-budget version of the classic *Stagecoach* (1939). Once again a group of passengers fight among themselves as their mode of transportation — this time a train — is attacked by warring Indians.

Action opens in the 1880s, at a train station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where passengers wait for their ride to Tombstone, Arizona, which has been delayed.

Barry's character, Len Howard, has been sent to protect a large gold shipment that is on the train traveling from Albuquerque to Tombstone. First he passes out guns so the passengers can fight off an Indian attack. Then when a gang dressed as Indians attack, he helps fight them off and identifies their leader who is one of the passengers.

The improbable train consist comprises (second) V&T No. 5 — ex-Nevada Copper Belt No. 5 — a 1925 American Locomotive Company 2-8-0 with an obviously phony stack; V&T No. 23, a 1911 Harriman baggage/RPO; and V&T No. 18, an 1890 wooden combine coach.

This was the very last movie filmed on the V&T's tracks between Reno and Carson City. The once mighty



Virginia & Truckee Railroad, the "Queen of the Short Lines," whose first rails were laid in 1869, ran its last train on May 30, 1950, shortly after completion of filming for *Train to Tombstone*. Save for the dummy stack on the locomotive, the last train used the same train consist as the movie.

2011 Calendar

Jul 13	SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., NEW LOCATION: Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. (north of Berkeley Ave.), Fullerton	Sep 17	ROC Meeting & Work Party , 9 a.m., Caboozes, Fullerton Amtrak Station
Jul 16	ROC Meeting & Work Party , 9 a.m., Caboozes, Fullerton Amtrak Station	Sep 27	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
Jul 23*	Movie Night: <i>Train to Tombstone</i> (1950)* , 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m., Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium (FMCA), 301 N. Pomona Ave., Fullerton	Oct 12	SCRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
Jul 26	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	Oct 15	ROC Meeting & Work Party , 9 a.m., Caboozes, Fullerton Amtrak Station
Aug 20	Excursion to Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum , 8 a.m. bus departure from Fullerton Amtrak Station; see yellow insert for details	Oct 15*	Movie Night: <i>Home in Oklahoma</i> (1946)* , 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m., FMCA
Aug 23	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	Oct 25	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
Sep 10	Boy Scouts Workshop at Knott's Berry Farm with H&MC	Nov 19	ROC Meeting & Work Party , 9 a.m., Caboozes, Fullerton Amtrak Station
		Nov 22	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
		Dec 3*	SCSRA Christmas Train-Watching Party , Caboozes, Fullerton Amtrak Station, 2-5 p.m.

* Dates and movie titles subject to change. Check www.scrpa.net for updates

SIZZLIN' SUMMER MEETING

Sizzler Menu Guide



Burgers and chicken sandwiches: \$7 to \$9

Endless Salad Bar: \$9

Includes choice of 3 soups, salad fixin's, hot appetizer bar with taco fillings and more, ice cream sundaes and dessert bar

Salad Bar added to entrée: \$4

Entrees, including sides

Seafood, fish — \$10 to \$12

Steaks — \$12 to \$16

Steak & Lobster — \$23

Plus Beverage

Beer / Wine available

Prices vary based on that day's specials

Senior discount available

Fullerton Sizzler phone: 714-738-5018

Menu nutrition and allergy information is listed by item at www.sizzler.com

RSVP for SCRPA Summer Dinner Meeting

**New Location: Sizzler Restaurant,
1401 N. Harbor Blvd. (north of Berkeley Ave.), Fullerton**
(see Meeting story and map on cover; menu above)

Members and guests will order and pay independently.
Menu prices range from \$7 to \$23, plus beverages;
Endless Salad Bar, \$9. Senior discount available.

Please reserve for a party of _____ for the Quarterly Dinner Meeting on
Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 6 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Email / Phone: _____

Please return your reservation by July 9, 2011, to:

SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

or you can e-mail your RSVP to info@scrpa.net

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- **Caboose Restoration shows progress;** see ROC report on page 5
- **Railroad Safety Poster Contest Winners Honored;** story and photo on page 3
- **Caboose tours make boy's wish come true;** see pages 4-5

Postmaster: Please Deliver between July 1-8, 2011

○ HOT RAIL! ○

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1661 E. Chapman Ave., Unit 1G, Fullerton, CA 92831 / E-mail: info@scrpa.net

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Editor: Sue Kientz

Send your letters to the editor to the address above or e-mail sue@scsra.org

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<i>Railroad Days 2012,</i>	Jeff Schulze
<i>Movie Nights,</i>	Gordon Bachlund, Jim Hoffmann

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	Jim Hoffmann	(Sept 2013)	
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