

Fullerton Railway Plaza Assn. &
So. Calif. Scenic Railway Assn.
present the

Hot Rail!

newsletter



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

Issue V, Number 3

Winter 2008

RAILWAY & LOCO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER TOMORY TO SPEAK AT JAN 9 DINNER

*By Stan Swanson, FRPA
General Meeting Chair*

Twelve years ago Jesse Tomory, a lifelong railfan and model railroader, became interested in railroad history. After visiting the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, he joined several railroad historical societies. Eventually the Southern California Chapter of The Railway and Locomotive Historical Society became his passion.

Jesse has an intense interest in educating young people about railroads and their history. The chapter has preserved and maintains a collection of outstanding



Rail enthusiast Johnny Lee, a Cal State Fullerton student, got a special birthday treat when his girlfriend Bonnie arranged for a surprise party with about 20 friends in SCSRA's AT&SF caboose in early November. Learn how you too can have such a party; see page 3 for details. Photo by Bonnie Kim. More photos, pages 10-11.

Movie Night: January 19

***Danger Lights* (1930)**

Wine Tasting: 6 p.m.;
Movie: 6:30 p.m.

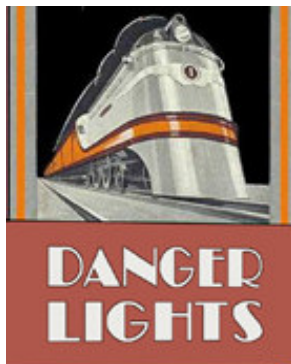
Fullerton Museum
Center Auditorium
301 N. Pomona Ave.,
Fullerton

*Free for FRPA/
SCSRA members and
guests*

FREE PARKING ACROSS THE STREET

*This month's wine tasting sponsored by
a generous anonymous donor!*

See the 2008 Calendar on page 9



examples of railroad history at the Fairplex in Pomona. Jesse is very appreciative of our invitation to speak, and has prepared an interesting presentation.

We are again expecting a large attendance of over 100, so plan now to attend. Bring your friends and acquaintances interested in railroading and railroad history as it applies to Fullerton and southern California. You will hear about Fullerton Railroad Days 2008 and news of the various activities of our association. That's Wednesday, January 9, at the China Buffet, 104 West Orangethorpe Avenue, Fullerton. Mixer starts at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$15 per person which includes all-you-can-eat, soft drink, and gratuity.

FRPA ENDS 2007 WITH 235 MEMBERS, BEGINS 2008 WITH 108 (AND COUNTING)

By Norma R. Goble, Membership Chair

FRPA ended 2007 with 235 paid members as of December 2007. Included in this number were 20 new members and 9 renewals from 2005.

Membership Chairs do not like December 31 because all memberships disappear and we begin all over again. But this did not happen this year. As of December 29, there were 108 of you who have already sent in your dues for 2008, including two new members. *I am very very proud of you!* Keep the renewals coming in quickly so that I can make an even better report at the Quarterly Meeting in January. And as always, thank you for continuing to hand out member applications.

HISTORICAL & MODELING COMMITTEE WINTER REPORT

By Dennis White, H&MC Secretary and Editor

The Historical and Modeling Committee is always busy the last three months of the year as we prepare for, and attend the various Southern California railroad shows. Before the trucks are loaded, there is preparation of the display, and we must develop a roster of workers for set-up, presentation and take-down. It is a lot of work.

Our first show of the season was December 1 & 2 at the San Diego County fairgrounds at the Del Mar Race Track in north San Diego County. Harold Benash, Doug Archer and Ted Johnson did the honors of driving the FRPA display to Del Mar on Friday November 30, setting up and then going back down on Sunday to tear it down and bring it back home. Ted Johnson and his group from OCMR manned our display on Saturday, saving us the choice of either commuting back and forth between Orange County and Del Mar for three days or staying down there and paying hotel expenses.

Our second show was December 28, 29 & 30 at the Anaheim Convention Center. This larger show had the entire eight display easels, an information table, TV playing the Barry Howard SCRX video, the printed prospectus and our 8 foot long display of the Fullerton Transportation Center c. 1948. A large crew was on hand to walk interested parties through the prospectus, explain our photo boards, talk about our plans for the FTC or just talk trains.

The last show of the quarter will take the crew back to Del Mar for the World's Greatest Hobby On Tour, which only comes around once every four years. This show will differ in context from the Anaheim show, but will also publicize SCRX/FRPA.

Our resident model builder, Doug Archer, submitted an article to *Model Railroader Magazine* on how he

Fullerton Railway Plaza Association

Our Vision Is

To create a large community-supported premier interactive railroad attraction that would include a Santa Fe heritage railroad museum and restoration facility for the purpose of bringing together businesses, government and the community to preserve our national rail heritage and provide an educational experience for our youth in a meaningful, exciting, and fulfilling manner.

Our Mission Is

To educate our youth and provide all people an historical insight into the numerous contributions the railroads have made to the creation and economic development of the City of Fullerton, the County of Orange, and Southern California from the 19th century to the present and into the future.

modeled the Cheyenne Union Pacific Depot model and is currently exchanging emails, photos, technical details, etc., as they create an article for future publication. Doug's use of scanned photos of the prototype and creating brick and stone to match the real depot was unique and will be a major feature of the article.

Doug, with help from Harold Benash and working from measurements of the Old Spaghetti Factory plus historic photos, created an HO scale model of the Fullerton Union Pacific Depot circa 1925. A diorama of the station combined with his model of the Elephant Packinghouse and other buildings will shortly begin construction. With such an ambitious project, it is doubtful he will see completion in time for Railroad Days 2008, but we are hopeful.



Dennis White, Jack Barich, and Harold Benash at the Great Train Expo. Photo by Mark Carnighan

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The H&MC received on behalf of the FRPA, a framed reproduction of an early Southern Pacific System map, donated by FRPA president George Engelage IV. The map represents the Sunset Route circa 1895 and was used as advertising many years ago. George asked that the committee verify its age and hold it for inclusion in the SCR. X.

The Historical & Modeling Committee is always looking for members. If local history, rail history, railfanning 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 FRPA. Meetings are held 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (corner of Las Palmas and Harbor Boulevard), Fullerton. Please contact Dennis White (714-871-4341) or Harold Benash (714-525-6266) for directions or any questions regarding H&MC.

SCSRA CHANGES DUES TO ENCOURAGE DUAL MEMBERS, BOOST CABOOSE RENTALS

By Gordon Bachlund, SCSRA President

In order to encourage all its members to also belong to FRPA as well as SCSRA, SCSRA's Board of Directors has instituted a new renewal incentive: starting in January, anyone who is a current FRPA member can join or renew their SCSRA membership for only \$10/year. Past associates who are not FRPA members can continue to renew at the usual \$25/year.

So why would you join SCSRA or renew your membership, you ask? After all, FRPA and SCSRA share the same newsletter, and all attend the same events like Railroad Days, the Quarterly Dinner Meetings, and even SCSRA's Annual Dinner. For one, SCSRA members retain their "associate number" by renewing. And, you might want to have your own Caboose Party in 2008!

SCSRA is offering a 40% discount on a basic rental for anyone holding a current SCSRA membership. That means that while the general public can rent either the AT&SF cupola caboose or the SP bay-window caboose for \$100 for a minimum 2-hour party (plus \$100 damage deposit, refunded at end of rental), a current SCSRA member will be able to rent the same car for only \$60 for two hours. Additional half-hours are \$25/each (general public) or \$15/each (SCSRA member).

SCSRA members who were paid up as of year 2007 will soon get their renewal letters in the mail explaining the new dues system and the caboose party options. If you wish to engage one or both of the cabooses for an upcoming event, e-mail dispatcher@scsra.org or call Sue Kientz at (626) 296-2969.

SCSRA'S CABOOSE BATTERIES: THEY AIN'T HEAVY? OH BROTHER!

When SCSRA's board members showed up at Fullerton Metrolink Station on December 1 for their quarterly board meeting, they were expecting a rather short meeting followed by lunch at Angelo's and Vinci's, as proposed by board chairman Sue Kientz. While all that happened, the congregation of so many helpful hands was irresistible for Treasurer Mike Vitale, who also had a proposition: that after lunch the group attempt to re-



move the exhausted batteries from the two cabooses, a necessary step before installing much needed brand-new ones.

Now, these caboose batteries aren't anything like automobile batteries. Each weighs about 400 pounds apiece! Our heroes were attempting to move four of these bad boys, with only brute force, a hand truck, and a bunch of cast-off ties for cribbing. Did I mention that Mike is the youngest one of us?

God mercifully sent us Eric Edborg on his bicycle who happened by and assisted us when we were as exhausted as the batteries.

When we install the new batteries (which will be smaller, truck-size batteries), we'll be sure to be better prepared, and (even better idea) next time we'll send

out a general call for help! Not the worse for wear after the move, l-r: Mike Vitale, Eric Edborg, Greg Smith, Gordon Bachlund, and Jim Hoffmann. Photos by a worn-out Sue Kientz



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BNSF IN CAJON PASS

December '07 Update

Article and photos by Dennis White

Construction of BNSF's new third main-line through Cajon Pass continues at a rapid pace. Since the last report three months ago, mountains have indeed been reduced to mole hills, or removed completely as the new right-of-way continues its march toward completion sometime during the first quarter of 2008. The photos in this report were taken December 17, 2007.

The view looking northeast from the Summit overlook (at right) clearly shows the point at which the new triple track begins at the east end of Summit (MP 55.1). Track is complete from this point west to the Union Pacific connection at Silverwood (MP 56.6) and is in operation, according to a BNSF B&B foreman.

That white stuff in the shadows of the cut is snow. The weather was clear, 40 degrees, with the wind out of the north at 15 mph.

Track One, on the left, is the new right-of-way at this location.

A new signal bridge (see below) marks the end of the big curve west of Summit.

Note the panel-track stacked on the inside of the curve.

The track is complete from Summit to within a mile of Mormon Rocks, and ballast trains were visible from a distance awaiting their next move. Unfortunately, the US Forestry Service Roads between Summit and Cajon (MP 62.8), including Alray (MP 59.7x), Cajon Ranch, Stein's Hill, Mormon Rocks, Pine Lodge, and Sullivan's Curve



are closed to all traffic except construction vehicles. I had hoped for photos at Alray showing the big cut where Tunnel 1 and Tunnel 2 once bored through the hills, but it was not to be. A quick glance from Interstate 15 was sufficient to see the completed track and the missing hills, but no photo opportunity would be possible without faking a breakdown along the side of the freeway while manipulating a long lens. I was not so adventuresome.

More photos, pages 5 and 6.



At left, Cajon Station (MP 62.8), viewed from the shoulder of old Hwy 66 looks foreign to longtime Cajon watchers. Ames Construction has installed a large “sandy-andy” to grind up rock and concrete for reuse elsewhere in the project.

Below, work on the new parallel bridge across Cajon Creek at Cajon progresses with abutments and piers complete and ready to receive the concrete spans. Note that the new right-of-way is on the southeast side of the old track in this view looking toward Sullivan’s Curve.



Next page, top: Cajon Creek crosses under the BNSF mainline between Cajon and the old Cozy Dell campground (hidden in the trees, upper left hand corner), necessitating the construction of a bridge to carry the new tracks; bottom, the much photographed small viaduct at the west end of Blue Cut will retain its photogenic self while the new track cuts around behind it. The men and trucks in the right center of the picture are standing on the sub-roadbed.

These photos are in full color on the web!

Read and/or print out our PDF newsletter found at <http://www.scrmf.org> to fully enjoy the high-resolution color photographs



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SACRAMENTO: RAILYARD PARTIES RESOLVE DISPUTE

By Mary Lynne Vellinga

Reprinted from *The Sacramento Bee*, December 9, 2007

Ending a quarrel with the state that threatened its entire project, the developer of Sacramento's downtown railyard Saturday agreed to donate two historic shop buildings to the state parks department for a museum of railroad technology.



State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, left, and Assemblyman Dave Jones, both Sacramento Democrats, brokered the agreement between developer Thomas Enterprises and the state Department of Parks and Recreation. Photo by Manny Crisostomo / Sacramento Bee file, 2006

In a deal brokered by state Sen. Darrell Steinberg and Assemblyman Dave Jones, both Sacramento Democrats, Thomas Enterprises also received assurances that the state would raise the money needed to build a high-quality museum.

"We've reached agreement on all the major business terms, but the lawyers are still exchanging documents that will be finalized in the next couple of days," said Suheil Totah, vice president of Thomas Enterprises.

Totah said he expects a signed agreement to be in place before a scheduled Tuesday vote by the Sacramento City Council on the entire railyard project.

The agreement, which Jones called an "elegant solution," was approved unanimously Saturday afternoon by the Railroad Museum Foundation board. The lawmakers got directly involved about three weeks ago in talks between Thomas Enterprises and the state Department of Parks and Recreation.

"With this agreement, we've removed a big impediment that was going to sideline the railyards development," Jones said.

"We've strongly protected the state's interest by making sure they get two buildings, and we've strong-

ly protected Thomas Enterprises' interest in making sure there is follow-through and the money to put together a good museum."

California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman said Saturday the agreement allows her department to "realize the 25-year dream" of creating a new museum focusing on railroad technology to complement the existing museum in Old Sacramento, which focuses on history.

"We will demonstrate how we can raise the funds to make sure it's a lively, exciting, world-class museum that everybody wants," Coleman said.

Under terms of the deal, Thomas Enterprises will immediately transfer ownership of the former boiler shop to the state Department of Parks and Recreation, provided the state verifies it has the money to rehabilitate it.

Transfer of the boiler shop also is contingent on the State Lands Commission releasing its legal claim on 25 acres of the railyard that once formed the bed of the American River before its mouth was rerouted to Discovery Park, Totah said.

The tin-clad boiler shop is now used to repair rail cars and engines for the California State Railroad History Museum. The state will use \$13 million it has already raised to rehabilitate the boiler shop and create public-viewing areas, Steinberg said.

"People can go in and watch the artisans work, ask them questions," Coleman said. "We can bring students in for internships, so they can get vocational training. We think it will be a fun place to visit."

The red brick-erecting shop also will be transferred to the parks department, but not until it raises the money to rehabilitate the shell of the building and pay for 25 percent of the exhibits planned in the new museum, Steinberg said.

The department will have to raise the money in three years or lose the erecting shop, unless Thomas Enterprises fails to deliver streets, sewers, utilities and other improvements in that time. If such necessities are delayed, state parks gets more time.

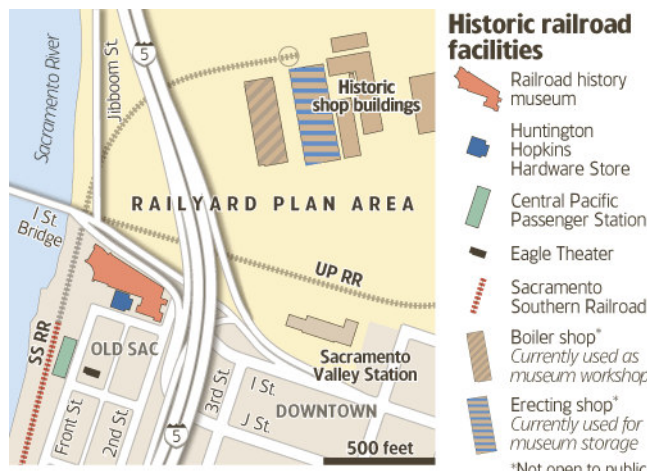
"It's not fair to hold the museum to a deadline when people can't get to it or there are no water or electric lines to it," Jones said.

Both parties have agreed to hire an independent consulting firm to determine what should be in the museum and how much it will cost to create.

"We're requiring that the facility include activities open to the public in the evenings, which maintain the same hours as the other shop buildings," Totah said.

One of Thomas Enterprises' main concerns has been that the museum would become a dead zone at night in the middle of what it hopes to turn into a lively dining, cultural and entertainment district.

In recent months, State Parks and Thomas Enterprises squabbled over the fate of the erecting shop, some of whose walls date back to 1868 and the birth of the transcontinental railroad.



Source: California State Railroad Museum

Nathaniel Levine/nlevine@sacbee.com

Continued on page 8

The state parks department had been promised the erecting shop by Union Pacific, former owner of the railyard, but Thomas Enterprises balked at the transfer of two large shop buildings that could be used for restaurants and other attractions. It had agreed to donate only the boiler shop. Parks officials said they couldn't build a new hands-on technology museum in the boiler shop, which is needed to restore trains.

Steinberg said he's relieved that the museum issue has been dealt with before the entire railyard project heads to City Council on Tuesday, and before the city and Thomas Enterprises apply to the state for as much as \$150 million in housing bond funds to help build streets, sewers and other infrastructure.

"It's a big win for the developer because they now have the wind at their back and have everybody on the same page when it comes to rallying for state infrastructure dollars," Steinberg said.

The transfer of the two shops to the state is also a crucial step in resolving the State Lands Commission claim to a piece of the railyard. Commission officials could not be reached for comment Saturday, so it was unclear if they would remove the claim before the buildings were transferred.

As part of the deal, the parks department is giving up about four acres of land it owns on the riverfront near the railyard.

"We need to discuss it with (State Lands), and everybody has to agree, but we feel it meets our needs," Coleman said of the deal.

SPECIAL MOVIE EVENT IN APRIL

By Gordon Bachlund

A very special Movie Event is slated for Saturday, April 19th, a 35mm screening of the 1939 Errol Flynn Western *Dodge City*, starring the Sierra Railroad and co-starring Olivia de Havilland, William Lundigan and Alan Hale, and directed by Michael Curtiz. Rather than being an evening event in Fullerton, this will be a matinee, preceded by a Basque lunch, in Bakersfield, CA.

While we have not yet found a venue equipped for 35mm film screenings in Fullerton, we have found a very special little theatre in Bakersfield, the Granada. Built in 1927 in what is now "old town," it was converted for "talkies" in 1929, and it served its neighborhood for the next 30 years when it went out of business. During the 1960s it was refurbished and opened for a few years, and then closed again. Several years ago, Jim and Lucy Spohn purchased it and began the slow process of restoring it and installing Jim's Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, originally in the California Theatre in Glendale.

Jim is an avid film collector as well as an organ aficionado and technician, so he installed two vintage 35mm projectors with carbon arc lamps in the booth. Adding this finishing touch enables the Granada to screen movies, both sound and silent, and the silents can be accompanied on the theatre pipe organ.



The Granada Theatre façade is typical of neighborhood movie houses across the country before TV ruled our lives. Photo by Gordon Bachlund



Dennis White peruses the old poster cases in the outer lobby. Photo by Gordon Bachlund

In addition to *Dodge City*, we will screen a silent Buster Keaton "two-reeler" comedy so Jim can show off the organ, and we're sure Jim will play a short program of music for your enjoyment to round out the show.

Since Bakersfield is a long drive from Fullerton, we have made arrangements for a chartered motor coach boarding at the Fullerton Transportation Center that will leave at 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday, April 19 (and which will return to Fullerton at approximately 6 p.m.) Those who join us on the motor coach will enjoy refreshments of the type that our Movie Night regulars are used to during the drive to and from Bakersfield, as well as a special lunch at the Wool Grower's Basque Restaurant. The per person cost of this package is \$75, and a form is included (see page 9) to sign up.

There are 56 coach seats available, and we need to sell them all to be able to travel by coach and enjoy the refreshments and the Basque lunch, so the first 56 of you who send your checks will be included. Owing to the need to pay for the charter coach and lunch in advance, this announcement is being made early. Accordingly, we ask you to remit by no later than February 27. We will hold all checks, and deposit them on March 5 only if we have enough to make the trip possible. If the coach trip and lunch are cancelled, your checks will be returned to you by mail. If the trip is a go, you will be advised by mail that you are on the motor coach boarding list, and those who were not among the first 56 will have their checks returned.

Alternately, you may drive yourself to Bakersfield and meet us at the theatre at 1:30 p.m. Your FRPA membership card admits you and your party to the show.

The Granada Theatre is located at 618 Kentucky Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305, telephone 661-326-1308.

Should the trip realize any profit, it will be placed in the FRPA general fund.

APRIL MOVIE EXCURSION TICKET ORDER FORM

Tickets per person cost \$75. Make checks payable to FRPA. Deadline is February 27, 2008.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ persons for the April 19, 2008, chartered motor coach trip to Bakersfield. I understand that if the trip is cancelled my check will be returned, and I understand that if the trip is not cancelled I must be at the Metrolink Parking Lot at the Fullerton Transportation Center no later than 9 a.m. to board the coach. The coach will leave on time and there will be no refund if I miss the coach.

Waiver of Liability and Release

The undersigned acknowledges and assumes the risk of travel, including the consumption of food and beverages, and the interim activities while participating in this event. The undersigned further holds harmless the FRPA and its affiliates in the event of accident or injury to the undersigned. The undersigned acknowledges review and acceptance of the terms and conditions of this waiver of liability and release from normal civil recourse between the undersigned and the Fullerton Railway Plaza Association (FRPA), its affiliates including the officers, directors, and other assigns.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Send completed form (with check payable to FRPA) by February 27, 2008, to
Gordon Bachlund, Event Coordinator, 312 S. Mountain Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016

2008 Calendar

Jan 9	FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave.	June 24	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
Jan 19*	Movie Night: <i>Danger Lights (1930)</i> ,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium	July 9	FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave.
Jan 22	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	July 19	H&MC/SCSRA Annual Dinner at the Depot , 7 p.m.
Feb 26	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	July 26*	Movie Night: <i>Last Train from Gun Hill (1959)</i> ,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium
Mar 25	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	Aug 26	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
April 9	FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave.	Sept 23	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
April 19*	Movie Matinee: <i>Dodge City (1939)</i> ,* 1:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting aboard motorcoach. Granada Theater, Bakersfield. Roundtrip transportation from Fullerton available; see form above.	Oct 8	FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave.
April 22	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	Oct 28	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.
May 3-4	Fullerton Railroad Days , 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fullerton Metrolink Station	Nov 15*	Movie Night: <i>Von Ryan's Express (1965)</i> ,* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium
May 27	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.	Nov 25	H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m.

* Dates and movie titles subject to change
Check www.scrmf.org for updates

CABOOSE HOSTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Photos courtesy of Bonnie Kim



On Friday, November 9, rail enthusiast Johnny Lee thought he and girlfriend Bonnie were just going to have a quiet birthday celebration after their usual weekly stint volunteering at a ministry on LA's Skid Row. What he didn't know was 20 of his friends from Cal State Fullerton were awaiting them at Fullerton Metrolink Station, in a full-size cupola caboose, to give him a birthday party he won't soon forget.

Bonnie and friends decorated the caboose with Christmas lights and had a catered meal provided by Tutto's. Most of the students belong to CSUF's Intersarsity Christian Fellowship Club. Everyone reported having a fantastic time.

Thanks to SCSRA's Greg and Marty Smith, Gordon Bachlund, and Sue Kientz for helping with the arrangements.

Learn how you too can have such a party; see page 3 for details.



O HOT RAIL! O

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Editor: Sue Kientz

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- **SCSRA Cabooses available for parties,** see article on page 3 and recent party photos, pages 10-11.
- **Update on Cajon Pass** with photos, pages 4-6.

Postmaster: Please Deliver between January 4-9, 2008