



San Diego Electric Railway Association
 PO Box 89068
 San Diego, CA 92138
 (619) 699-8990

January 2007

Check us out at our web site:
www.sdera.org

“Ernie the Birney” Gets Ready for Winter



The first of the windows goes up to help temporarily protect the Birney Car
 - Photo by Robert Baxter

Thanks to the generosity of some friends of San Diego Electric Railway, our Birney car has some temporary windows—just in time for Winter.

While at The Old Spaghetti Factory, car 357 did not need windows and was protected inside the building. Since acquiring the car last year, members have debated on how to best protect this Birney car body. Last winter, the car was covered with a tarp but this made display of this classic nearly impossible. For air conditioning, the restaurant cut holes in the roof which only let the rain in once the car reached our yard.

Thanks to **Charles Smith, Sean McColgan, Jim Anderson, Scotty and Timmy Lewis and Mike Quigg** for patching the roof. Using some standard roofing materials, the team got the roof watertight at the end of October—just in time to keep the November rains out.

In early December, we received a donation of some Lucite panels. Initially, the panels were temporarily installed—just enough to keep the weather out. Later, we will have proper sashes made and the Lucite will be cut down to fit in more realistic window frames. Workers included **Dave Slater, Mike Quigg, and Charles Smith, Pete Pearson, and Art Adeylotte**. Thanks to

SDERA member **Jacinto Gonzalez** at Chula Lumber for some wood to help secure the windows!

We still need to build the bi-fold doors and **Chuck Bencik** has been looking at some interim solutions that will allow us to protect the car and still allow access for visitors.

We have come across a source for metal Brill Waylow seat frames for \$320 each. We have a few seats already pledged and we would appreciate your help in purchasing more frames. Please contact Dave Slater to make your pledge to help!



“Ernie” gets his roof patched by handy SDERA members
 - Photo by Dave Slater

Inside this issue:

<i>“Ernie the Birney” Gets Ready for Winter</i>	1
<i>New Volunteers Make Sparks At San Diego Vintage Trolley</i>	2
<i>SDERA Hosts Annual Dinner</i>	3
<i>Painting Complete at NC Depot</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<i>Back</i>
<i>Great Train Expo</i>	<i>Back</i>



Jim Anderson changes the Depot sign to reflect our new hours!
 - Dave Slater photo

SDERA operates the historic National City Depot museum which is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 619-474-4400.

San Diego Electric Railway Association

- David Slater, President
- Jim Papulas, Vice President
- Chris Higgins, Secretary
- Tom Matson, Treasurer
- Directors: Jim Price, Tom Carnes, Jim Roamer, Gary Sweetwood, Mitch Beauchamp
- Chris Higgins, Webmaster / Newsletter Editor
- George Geyer, Bookstore

**SAN DIEGO VINTAGE TROLLEY, INC.**

Things have been picking up at San Diego Vintage Trolley. The addition of a few new volunteers brought some fresh energy to the efforts.

Cars 1123 and 1170 have been moved and a workbench has been provided between Tracks 1 & 2 in Building A. **Ron Sutch**, **Chuck Bencik**, and **Dave Slater** removed all the broken windows from car 1122 (lots!) and started removing broken ones from 1170. **Marc Weaver**—SDVT member and MTS employee—joined to help remove the broken door glass on car 1170. Thanks to SDERA member Gene Calman for his generous donation to fund a special order from Accurate Elastomeric of San Diego for new window channels. Gene often gets parts made for his automobile restorations and they gave us a great price.

Since car 1170 is over the pit, a proper boarding ramp was fashioned from some catwalk that was available. This was carefully wired to the track to prevent movement.

Art Aydelotte—ship's carpenter for the U.S.S. Midway aircraft carrier floating museum and member of both SDERA and SDVT—used his skills to



Marc Weaver works on the front door of car 1170.

- Dave Slater photo

New Volunteers Make Sparks At San Diego Vintage Trolley

Now on the web at www.sdera.org/sdvt

fabricate a new battery tray for car 1122. He used redwood that was cut and milled in his shop aboard the ship. Art has also taken on the task of replacing the wooden end window molding for each car. He has made a template so he can get a good fit. The molding was originally steam bent similar to caned furniture but this process is no longer generally available. New member **Jeff Saar**, also a woodworker, will build a steam box to make the bends. Thanks to Chuck Bencik for referring Jeff from the Maritime Museum.



Art Aydelotte stands near the new wooden battery tray in car 1122

- Dave Slater photo

John Sullivan has also recently gotten active with the project. John retired from the Navy and had been the Chief Electrician for the Dallas Cowboys. He is looking into the rear door motor from 1122 to discover why it is not working.

2007 looks to be a busy time for San Diego Vintage Trolley! Bodywork and painting, window replacement, more electrical testing and testing of the rebuilt motors is in the works. We hope you will become a part of the SDVT team!

Upcoming Work Party Dates: Work Sessions are now being held Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Saturday Work Parties will be on January 13 & 17 and February 10 & 24.

Due to security requirements, please contact Dave Slater (dslater@sdera.org or (619) 222-5442) or John Tarantino (jtarrantino@sdera.org) for authorization to be on the Trolley grounds.



SDERA Hosts Annual Dinner

San Diego Electric Railway Association held its annual dinner on November 18th at the NC Depot. Another great meal was supplied by the Barbeque Pit with desserts supplied by several members. Walt Stringer of North County Transit district gave a great presentation on the progress of the new Sprinter rail service. Mr. Stringer



Walt Stringer from North County Transit District - Photo by Tom Matson

showed the accomplishments of the new transit program and some of the areas still to go. We look forward to seeing the system as it starts service in December of 2007.

After holding our Annual Elections, Dave Slater presented some Presidential Citations to some members that contributed to the success of our

organization in 2006 (quoted from the citation text):

TOM MATSON—For his helpful suggestions, and keeping all the bills paid in a timely fashion. Thanks for devoted service to SDERA as: Treasurer, Docent Coordinator, Program Chairman, and Membership Chairman.

MIKE QUIGG—For his faithful staffing of the model railroad, and help with maintenance of many things.

JIM ANDERSON—for his all around helpfulness at any task asked of him, from building maintenance, shopping, stocking, to mechanical repairs on our streetcar fleet.

GENE CALMAN—For his assistance, both technically and financially, in repairing the window channels on the PCC cars.

GEORGE GEYER—for his faithful devotion to duty in the gift shop, and in training cashiers. Without his constant help, the depot would not be open as often as it is.

CHRIS HIGGINS—For his outstanding work as both Web Master and Editor of "Trolley Lines," and for generously applying his computer expertise to our equipment.

CHARLES SMITH—For his willingness to jump in wherever needed, from maintenance on the streetcars to working on equipment in the 3-Railer layout.

"PETE" PEARSON—For being at the model railroad layout every weekend to make sure visitors have a great railroad viewing experience.

TIMMY LEWIS—For his attention to the needs of visitors to the depot by keeping the trains running.

SCOTTY LEWIS—For help in making needed connections with the Port District, and for willingly working on equipment in our yard.

SEAN McCOLGAN—For help on projects from erecting the picnic table near the depot, to repairing the roof on "Ernie the Birney."

CHUCK BENCIK—For his faithful work at any task asked of him on the PCC project, from grant writing to down-and-dirty work on the windows; and for his considerable research on our Vienna N1 streetcars.

JIM PRICE—For his leadership of SDERA for 2-1/2 years, and for his tireless transition assistance in many areas since I assumed the Presidency.

In turn, Jim Price presented his own Presidential Citation:

DAVE SLATER—For assuming the Presidency of SDERA, and devoting countless hours of time and much energy to a "full plate" of tasks that have made SDERA a better organization, and the National City Depot a better place for visitors and members.



Jim Price, Mr & Mrs Gene Calman, Joan Sieber and Mitch Beauchamp enjoy their dinner - Photo by Tom Matson

Painting Complete at N.C. Depot

2006 has been a year of catching up on some deferred maintenance and we're pleased to announce that all of the necessary repairs have been completed! We've done electrical work, deck refinishing, plumbing, and a complete set of safety inspections. The only thing left was to remedy the weather-worn doors on the north and west sides of the building.

Patriot Painting of Ramona won the bid to paint the outside structure and varnish the doors and thresholds. They

also sealed a crack at the "belly band" on the building that developed on the south wall of the Depot when it was lifted during foundation work when the Depot was restored.

Many of our doors showed significant weather damage and we were not able to get them back to perfect condition. However, the overall results were quite good. The wood is protected again and we are ready for the winter rains. Thanks Patriot Painting!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SDERA is at the historic National City Depot,
off I-5 at Mile of Cars Way — take Bay Marina
Drive West to Marina Way, then right.

Open every Sat. and Sun., 9 AM — 5 PM.

Depot phone: call (619) 474-4400

Visit us on the Web! www.sdera.org



*Starting January 1, the
National City Depot is
open longer! Visit us
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m!*

To submit items to the Newsletter, contact Chris Higgins
via e-mail (webmaster@sdera.org) or phone (858-538-
9743). Items need to be submitted by the 18th of the
month prior to publication.

Attention Members: Please look carefully at the mailing label. If your membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send your dues, and your tax deductible contribution, to SDERA, PO Box 89068, San Diego, CA 92138-9068. Thank you.

Life: \$400, Regular \$25, Family \$35 (please include names), Regular \$25, Senior (60 +) \$15, and Juniors 17 and below \$15.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Meetings are (normally) held at 7:30pm on the 2nd Saturday of the Month at the National City Depot. Join us at 5:30 for an optional no-host dinner at Keith's Restaurant—3rd and National City Blvd. Plan to arrive by 7 p.m. to chat, and peruse the bookstore.

Saturday, January 13 - Bruce Semelsberger with Cable Cars of SD and videos (not able to be shown last time) on the horse cars and the ERT (Electric Rail Transit of SD—San Diego's 1st Streetcar line.)

Saturday, February 10 - Ed Burger will present a "triple program" with videos and pictures of Rockhill Trolley Museum (standard gauge rolling stock) and East Broadtop Railroad (3-foot-gauge steam) in Rockhill Furnace, PA, and the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum (broad gauge equipment) in Washington, PA.

SDERA at the Great Train Expo

The San Diego Electric Railway Association joined many other railroad and model railroad organizations at this year's Great Train Expo in Del Mar on Dec 2 and 3rd. Saturday was outstanding with lots of visitors and sales while Sunday was a bit slow thanks to the football game (Go Chargers!). Thanks to the following members for helping at the booth: Jim Anderson, George Geyer, Chris & Tim Higgins, Bill Steinmetz, Dave Slater, Charles Smith, Pete Pearson, and Mike Quigg. We'd also like to thank Mitch Beauchamp for sharing the cost of the booth in exchange for some space for his Tijuana Train venture "Tren Turístico del Noroeste." Reed's Hobby Shop in La Mesa was also kind enough to lend us their cash register for the show. A special thanks to Mrs. Higgins who brought lunch and cookies to the booth!

We have expanded the Depot hours in 2007! If you are interested in being either a docent or cashier, contact Tom Matson - tmatson@sdera.org - (619) 275-0216. Even if you can only staff part of the day, we can use your help!