

San Diego Electric Railway Association  
 PO Box 89068  
 San Diego, CA 92138  
 (619) 699-8990  
 March 2006

Check us out at our web site:  
[www.sdera.org](http://www.sdera.org)

# SD VINTAGE TROLLEY HOLDS KICK-OFF MEETING, FIRST WORK PARTY



SDERA member **George Geyer** checks out car # 1123 at SDVT's kick-off meeting. Photo—Jim Price

As noted in the January *Trolley Lines* newsletter, San Diego Vintage Trolley (SDVT) has taken delivery of two former San Francisco Muni PCC cars. The cars have now both been moved inside a building in the San Diego Trolley yard and work has commenced. A kick-off meeting for

the restoration effort was held on January 28 and the first work party on the cars happened on February 25.

If you would like to contribute some time to this project, SDERA member **Andy Goddard**, is the best point of contact. Contact Andy by mail at *San Diego Trolley, Attn: Andy Goddard, 1255 Imperial Ave. Suite 900, San Diego 92101*, phone: 619-595-4946, or by e-mail at [andy.goddard@sdmts.com](mailto:andy.goddard@sdmts.com).

Some of our members at the work party with PCC experience include **Dave Slater** and **George Geyer**. Dave was a streetcar operator for MUNI in San Francisco in the 1960's. George operates PCC cars at the Orange Empire Museum in Perris once a month. -Jim Price



Member **Dave Slater** at the controls of PCC car #1123—the same one he operated 43 years ago as a Motorman in San Francisco! Photo—Tom Matson

## Inside this issue:

<i>SD Vintage Trolley Holds Kick-Off Meeting, First Work Party</i>	1
<i>SDERA Board Holds Strategic Planning Session, Key Directions Defined</i>	2
<i>City Manager Of Nat'l City Visits Depot</i>	2
<i>Pete Pearson Suffers a "Double Whammy"</i>	2
<i>Busy SDERA Volunteers</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<i>Back</i>

SDERA operates the historic National City Depot museum which is open every Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 4 p.m. Phone 619-474-4400. The depot is located at the corner of Bay Marine Drive and Marina Way, 2 blocks west of Interstate 5 at the Bay Marina Drive exit.

## San Diego Electric Railway Association

- Jim Price, President
- Jim Papulas, Vice President
- Chris Higgins, Secretary
- Tom Matson, Treasurer
- Directors: Gene Calman, Tom Carnes, Jim Roamer
- Chris Higgins, Webmaster
- George Geyer, Bookstore
- Jim Price / Chris Higgins, Newsletter Editor(s)

## SDERA BOARD HOLDS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION, KEY DIRECTIONS DEFINED

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the SDERA Board met for a ½-day strategic planning meeting. All Board members – **Jim Price, Jim Papulas, Chris Higgins, Tom Matson, Tom Carnes, Jim Roamer** - were in attendance except for **Gene Calman** who was in New Zealand. The Board addressed many “meaty” topics about the future of SDERA, and derived the following recommendations:

1) Our situation in the NC Depot. We desire to stay in the NC Depot for the foreseeable future, and to have some kind of operating railroad equipment. But we need a longer-term commitment from National City than the current 2-year lease (which now has just over 1 year left).

2) Budget, finance. We need to establish a yearly budget, create allocations for specific projects, and be more aggressive about fund-raising - via grants, sponsorship, and donations.

3) SD Vintage Trolley. SDVT has taken delivery of two former San Francisco Muni PCC cars. SDVT intends to restore them and to operate them in downtown San Diego. Clearly their goals are very similar to ours; we need to meet with SDVT personnel to determine the best strategy for co-existing and working together.

4) Vienna cars. We need to purchase one metal-roofed, non-permanent structure for one Vienna car, see how the installation goes, and buy more structures later. In the meantime, we will keep the cars covered as best we can with existing tarps. We will allocate a budget to get started with cleaning up the cars and figuring out how to make at least one car operational.

5) Birney car. For the time being, we will restore the roof inside the car, and then use it for social events, e.g. birthday parties. We need to move it from its present location to make it more accessible. It will continue to be tarped when not in use.

6) Streetcar-on-Wheels, a.k.a. “Herbie.” We will get Herbie repaired to the point where it is reliable to drive and take it to more events as originally envisioned. We will get it painted to SDE Railway colors (green / light yellow). It needs to be ready for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

7) Collection management. We will procure a reasonably fire-proof cabinet in which to house the considerable number of photos, slides, and other unique railroad-related items that SDERA possesses, many of which are quite rare. We will commence cataloging our collection.

- Jim Price—President, SDERA

## CITY MANAGER OF NAT'L CITY VISITS DEPOT

Due to a recent change in National City's organizational structure, Mr. Chris Zapata, the City Manager, is now also the head of the Community Development Commission (CDC). The CDC is, in effect, our landlord for the NC Depot. At our invitation, Mr. Zapata visited the NC Depot on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and it was clear from his remarks that he shares many of our preservation, tourism, and community-oriented goals. We look forward to working with Mr. Zapata's office to obtain a more secure arrangement for the NC Depot than we presently have. Chris was hosted at the depot by **Jim Price, Tom Carnes, Tom Matson, Dave Slater, and Charles Smith.**

## PETE PEARSON SUFFERS A “DOUBLE-WHAMMY”

**Pete Pearson**, one of the 3-Railer stalwarts and frequent docent at the NC Depot, has suffered two major maladies. His lifetime partner, Dee, passed away around the Christmas holidays. Most of us have benefited many times from her wonderful cooking and her pleasant smile.

In mid-February, Pete took a major fall inside the NC Depot, ending up with some broken bones and cracked ribs. He was in the hospital for over a week. Although Pete's in good spirits, he would surely like to hear from SDERA members. His home phone is 619-690-4358. We all wish Pete a speedy recovery! Get well cards can be sent directly to Pete, or via SDERA, Box 89068, San Diego 92138.

## Busy SDERA Volunteers!

### SDERA represented at Great Western and Atlantic Train Show in Pomona

SDERA "iron men" **George Geyer** and **Jim Anderson** were at it again, hauling huge amounts of merchandise to a train show – this time the GWATS in Pomona on February 25. The profits from selling merchandise all year long are an important part of SDERA's operating budget. Thanks again to George and Jim!

### Work Party on Streetcars at the National City Depot

There was a work party on Sunday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> to replace the tarps blown off of two of our cars at the NC Depot by a recent storm. The work party included **Scotty and Tim Lewis, Charles Smith, Jim Anderson, Jeff Trimble, Charles Morrin, and Tom Matson**. The Birney Car and the Vienna Car with the tarp supports added were affected.



**Charles Morrin, Charles Smith, and Jeff Trimble** start on the task of getting the tarp back on a Vienna car.



The deed is done: **Charles Morrin, Charles Smith, Scotty Lewis, and Jeff Trimble** did a great job!

Photos—Tom Matson

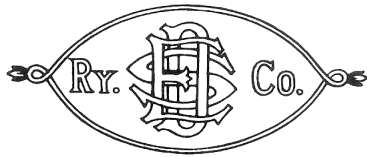
### 3-Railer Activity

There has been lots of 3-Railer volunteer activity lately including **Pete Pearson, Mike Quigg, Ed Jablonski, Dave Slater, Sean and Patrick McColgan, Charles Morrin and Charles Smith**. Also **Scotty and Tim Lewis and Carl Lewis** are seen from time to time and even **Skip Carslile** made it in from Tijuana to visit and renew his dues. **Charles Smith** has even stepped in for docent duty! (Thanks!)

### NC Depot Docents

Thanks to new docents **Charles and Barbara Schroeder** coming in to "learn the ropes," and also to **Jim Roamer**. We can use your help Sat & Sun 12-4. Please call **Tom Matson** at 619 275-0216 or email: [TMatson@sdera.org](mailto:TMatson@sdera.org)

*Need to renew your membership? Forms can be found at our website—[www.sdera.org](http://www.sdera.org). Credit cards are now accepted—even for donations!*



San Diego Electric Railway Association  
PO Box 89068  
San Diego, CA 92138

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 2606

ADDRESS CORRECTION 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., 12 noon — 4 PM.

Depot phone: call (619) 474-4400

We're on the  
Web:  
[www.sdera.org](http://www.sdera.org)

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.

**Mar. 11**, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m, NC Depot. **Glenn Stokes**, a member of the San Diego 3D Photo Club at the Photo Arts Building in Balboa Park, [www.SCACC.us](http://www.SCACC.us), will show **3D photos of the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Steam Railroad**. If you've not ever had the experience of viewing stereo photography, don't miss this meeting! And if you have seen such photos before (e.g. Paul Pakus's shows during the past few years), you'll want to see more.

**Mar. 13** – SDERA Board Meeting, 7 p.m, NC Depot.

**Apr. 8** – Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m., NC Depot. **Bruce Semelsberger**, one of San Diego's true railroad history authorities, will present a talk about one of San Diego's early entrepreneurs, William Carlson. Mr. Carlson made significant contributions to this area's early development – including some railroads that happened, and some "paper" lines that didn't. Bruce prepared this talk for the recent San Diego Congress of History conference. Bruce always does a great job on his presentations, and he's a walking encyclopedia relative to our area's railroad heritage – so bring your questions!

We are always looking for a few good docents for the Depot. If you are interested contact Tom Matson ([tmatson@sdera.org](mailto:tmatson@sdera.org)) or (619) 275-0216.