



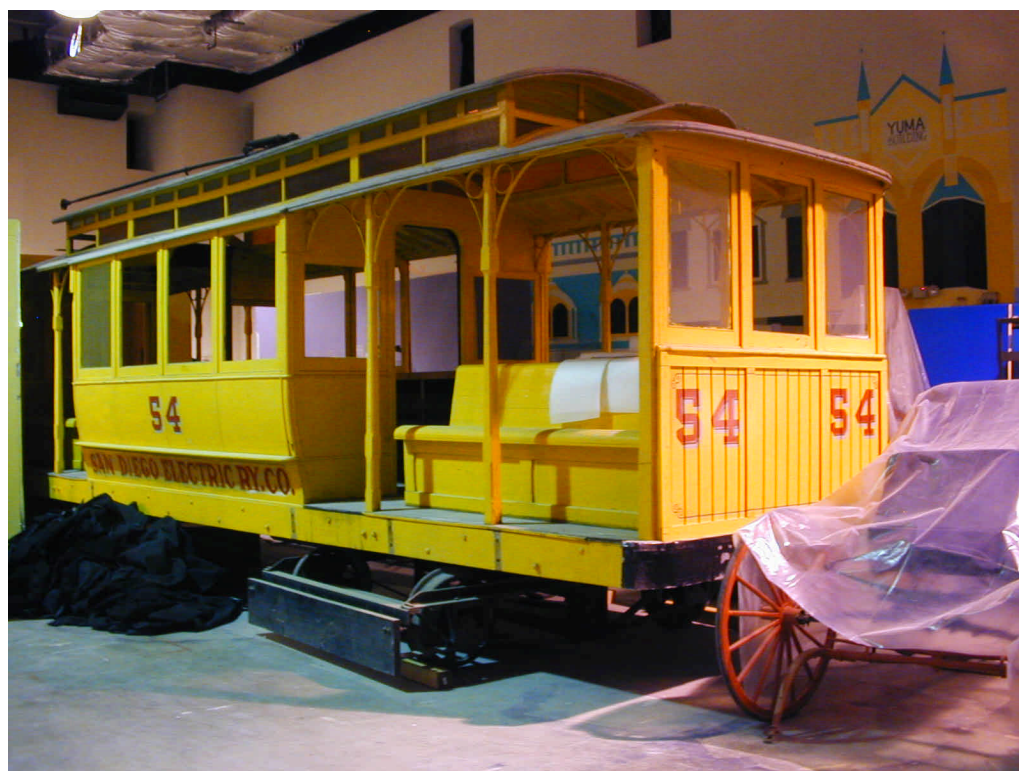
San Diego Electric
Railway Association
PO Box 89068
San Diego, CA 92138
(619) 699-8990

May 2006

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

SDERA PARTICIPATING IN CAR 54 PROJECT AT SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SDERA members **Jim Price, Dave Slater, and Chuck Bencik** have been helping the San Diego Historical Society (SDHS) in the construction of its upcoming exhibit on San Diego history. Car 54, an original San Diego Electric Railway car, long stored away at the SDHS, will be the centerpiece of the exhibit. We may assist with signage, interpretative materials, audio wand verbiage, and hand-out booklets – about not only Car 54, but also the SDErY history. If anyone wants to help with this effort, please contact Jim Price at 619-787-4148 or jprice@sdera.org.



San Diego Electric Railway Car 54 has been "locked up" at the San Diego Historical Society for many years. It will now be the centerpiece of a new San Diego exhibition at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park. SDERA members expect to assist with preparing interpretive materials about this car and SDErY.

- Photo by Jim Price

WANTED!! The Depot is in need of some refinishing work. If you can help with some of the exterior doors or the decking, please contact Jim Price or Tom Matson.

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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.

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)

FIRST PARTY IN BIRNEY CAR A BIG HIT!

SDERA member, **Scott Applebaum**, and his wife **Judy**, threw a very unique birthday party for their son, **Elliot** on April 9. The whole event took place in around the NC Depot. First the kids ran model trains on our layout. Then a very entertaining magician kept the kids fascinated in our freight room. Finally it was time for cake and presents in the Birney car. About 25 kids attended, along with their parents. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

This event was successful in large part thanks to a number of SDERA Volunteers. The “spit-

and-polish crew” on Saturday consisted of **Chris Higgins, Jeff Trimble, Jim Roamer, Jim Price, and Scott Applebaum**. The “support crew” on Sunday included **Jim Anderson, George Geyer, Jim Price, Tom Matson, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Schroeder, Dave Slater, Charles Smith, Eddie Jablonsky, Jim Price, and Pete Pearson** (yes, he's back!!)

This means that we can now begin to promote having private parties in the Birney car. More information will appear in the next newsletter, but start to spread the word!



Judy and Scott Applebaum (standing in rear) put on a grand birthday party for their son, Elliot (right center in black shirt), at the NC Depot and in SDERA's Birney car on April 9. A great time was had by all – 25 kids and their parents!

- Photo by Jim Price

WHAT SHALL WE NAME THE BIRNEY CAR?

We need a name for the Birney car – something catchy for people who want to hold private parties – especially kids' birthday parties! **Rob Freeburn**, owner of the “Trains Are Good” model railroad store, has graciously offered a \$25 gift certificate to the person whose suggested name is chosen for the Birney car. You can't beat that! Contact Jim Price at 619-787-4148 or by e-mail: jprice@sdera.org with your name for the car. Cut off for nominations is May 15.

Thanks!

THANK YOU to Eddie Jablonsky for donating a microwave oven, now set up in the gift shop area.

NEW STAIRS BUILT AND IN PLACE FOR BIRNEY CAR

In preparation for the April 9 birthday party, SDERA member and ace carpenter, **Bob Recks**, built some beautiful and very functional (and safe) stairs for both doors on the Birney car. They worked very well for the party. **Joan Sieber**, Jim Price's wife, painted the stairs. Jim and Bob put a sealer on the steps which were left natural wood. Thanks to Bob and Joan for a super job!!



Joan Sieber, Jim Price's wife, paints the new Birney car stairs prior to the first birthday party in the car. The steps are covered with clear sealer; everything else is painted red to match the Birney car.

Photos by Jim Price



The Birney car, and its new stairs (right), are ready for their first birthday party. Bob Recks built two sets of stairs, and Joan Sieber painted them. They provide safe access to the car from both sides.

WE'LL HAVE A NEW "NEIGHBOR," AT LEAST TEMPORARILY

In a somewhat surprise move, the National City Community Development Commission (CDC), our landlord, has decided to temporarily lease the southern end of the depot parking lot to Mossy Nissan for car storage. We effectively lost use of this area in April 2005 when CDC decided that it was needed for overflow parking for the new hotel being built southeast of the depot. But since the hotel will not be finished for at least a year, CDC is leasing the area in the meantime. A fence will be constructed south of the handicap parking spaces, separating that part of the parking lot from our day-to-day operations at the depot. Mossy will use the gate and driveway on the south end of the property (along Bay Marina Drive) to access the lot.

COME RIDE THE
**DESCANSO, ALPINE,
& PACIFIC RAILROAD**

A FUN DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!

Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m. Optional lunch (at your own expense) after the ride at the Bread Basket restaurant in Alpine. Please let us know if you are coming so we can reserve enough seats at this popular restaurant.

Owned by Roy Athey, SDERA member and true rail buff, this is the ultimate backyard railroad – a 2-foot gauge “labor of love” for Roy, and great fun for those who ride!

Location: 1266 Alpine Heights Road, Alpine; Phone: 619-445-4781

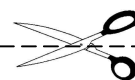
Directions: Take Interstate 8 East, exit on Tavern Road (south), go about 1 mile, turn right on South Grade Rd, left on Alpine Heights Rd.

PARKING IS LIMITED, CAR POOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

Cost is only \$5 per person.

Please fill out and return the slip below with your check so that it arrives to SDERA no later than May 8. For more info, call Jim Papulas at 858-693-8058

----- Cut and return bottom of this form! -----



RESERVATION FORM — DESCANSO, ALPINE, & PACIFIC RAILROAD — MAY 13, 2006

Please reserve _____ seats on the Descanso, Alpine, & Pacific Railroad at **\$5 each** = \$ _____.

Coming to lunch at The Bread Basket? Yes No (circle one)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

You can also renew your membership (or join) at the same time! Check the mailing label for the expiration date.

Regular _____ \$25 Family _____ \$35 Senior _____ \$15 Life \$400 _____

Additional Donation to SDERA (tax deductible) \$ _____ I enclose my check for \$ _____

Please make Checks Payable to **SDERA**, and mail (so it arrives no later than **May 8**) to:

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

Credit Card? Card #: _____ Exp _____ Type?: Visa - M/C - AmEx - Disc

Signature: _____ Amount \$ _____ (\$10 min for credit card)

WORK PROGRESSES ON THE PCC CARS AT THE SD TROLLEY YARD

SDERA members continue to roll up their sleeves and contribute to the restoration of the PCC cars at the SD Trolley yard. Among them: **Ron Sutch, Chuck Bencik, Allen Copeland, Dave Slater, Gary Johnson, Jim Roamer, Chris Higgins, and Dan McLean.** Car 1122 has been the focus of the attention for our volunteers. Car 1123 is being used as a storage car while the orange MUNI car is being restored. SD Trolley employee **Dave Garcia** has been running some low voltage tests and was able to get 3 out of 4 of the doors to operate. Chuck Bencik took on the daunting task of disassembling a window to see what was causing them not to move—and got one window

working! (Lots more to go Chuck!) The seats are being removed so some floor work can be done. **John “Chooch” Tarantino**, who led the 2nd work party, spent some time removing stubborn bolts that were holding seats in (see photo). The front windows and glare guard have been removed. John has also removed a bad front door motor and it is being examined by **Andy Goddard Jr.** John has also found new “stop” taillights for the car and is looking into the proper headlight assembly as well. Thanks to Trolley employees **Nancy Dock, Gary**



MTS Employee John Tarantino grinds away rusted in screws from the seats during the April 8th work party. - Photo by Chris Higgins

Johnsen, Ross Robinson, Chuck Schraeder for their continued support.

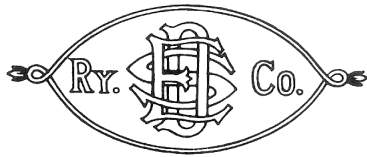
Work parties will be held every other Saturday. The next dates will be May 6 and May 20—but work can also be done during the week. If you want to get involved in this fun and interesting project, and you don't have a special San Diego Vintage Trolley badge yet, please contact Andy Goddard at 619-595-4946 or andy.goddard@sdera.org



Car 1122 sits next to SD Trolley's new S70 car in the A Building. - Photo by Chris Higgins

Let's Ride Trains!

Thanks to the generosity of SDERA member, Roy Athey, our May event will be a ride on the Descanso, Alpine & Pacific Railroad! At 10 a.m. on May 13, we will converge on Alpine to take a ride on Roy's 2-foot gauge railway. Cost for the event is only \$5 per person, plus cost of the optional lunch. This will be a GREAT family event – bring along your kids, grandkids, neighbor's kids, whoever! Please fill out the attached flyer and send in your paid reservations no later than May 8. For those who can't make this event, Tom Matson will be at the depot that evening to share some LA streetcar slides.



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

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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

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.

May 6-7 – Fullerton Railroad Days, adjacent to Fullerton Amtrak station. For more information, see www.sdermf.org/rrdays.

May 6 – PCC Work Party, San Diego Trolley yard.

May 13 – SDERA outing to ride the Descanso, Alpine & Pacific Railroad in Alpine, see flyer in this newsletter. The depot will also be open that evening – Tom Matson will share slides of LA streetcars.

May 20 – PCC Work Party, San Diego Trolley yard

June 3 – PCC Work Party, San Diego Trolley yard

June 10 – SDERA monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., NC Depot. Topic to be announced.

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

Where's Herbie?? Our 3/5th scale streetcar on wheels, Herbie, is visiting our friends at South Bay VW for some repairs. He is built on an VW chassis with lots of custom mechanical components. We look forward to having him back in a few days—better than ever!