



San Diego Electric Railway Association  
 PO Box 89068  
 San Diego, CA 92138  
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November 2006

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

## Depot Sparkles with Recent Work

In recent weeks, visitors at the National City Depot have been faced with work crews in different parts of the property. Winter fast approaches and San Diego Electric Railway Association President Dave Slater felt it was time to get some of our outside projects out of the way.

Part of our Operating Agreement with National City requires that SDERA maintain the Depot and the grounds. This includes the wooden decking around the building that hasn't been maintained in a long time.

Painting Specialties, headed up by Tim Llanes, was approved to do the work and they started in September to sand and refinish the redwood boards before the rains arrived. Despite their best efforts, Depot visitors and docents got to experience the dust



Deck stain is applied on the east side of the Depot.

Photo by Robert Baxter



Photo by Robert Baxter

firsthand—but it was worth it. Thanks to their quick work, the decks look great and were ready for the rains that fell less than a week after completion!

Painting Specialties also was contracted to paint the tops of the Vienna N1 cars.

When these cars arrived at the yard, they had already faced years of winter weather in Austria, then years of damp San Diego Bay air. Tim and the Painting Specialties team hydro-blasted off all the old scale and paint. They etched the roof areas with a special solution and applied two coats of the two stage acrylic gray paint. All three cars look great now!

Our next big project will be refinishing two sets of doors and repainting and repair of the lower outside walls on west and south side of NCD. If you are interesting in helping in this effort, please contact Dave Slater as soon as possible.

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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

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



## SAN DIEGO VINTAGE TROLLEY, INC.

The volunteers have been fewer than hoped for in recent weeks. Now that the Padres season is over, parking is abundant in the area and we hope to see more folks to help in the effort to restore these PCC cars. Thanks to our regulars, **Chuck Bencik** and **Ron Sutch** and Project Manager **Dave Slater** for keeping up the work. MTS's **John Tarantino** has taken the Assistant Project Manager role (and MTS liaison) after his recent promotion at the Trolley. John has been on vacation to Italy with his family and has just returned so we hope to see a little more of John.

We have been steadily working on the windows and it is very slow going. Many of the fasteners have to be ground off or drilled out, as they have been in there since the '40's. Many of the windows are locked up by debris. All this has to



Chuck Bencik takes a drill to a stuck screw on October 10 in Car 1122. Many of these fasteners had to be removed "the hard way".

Photo—Dave Slater

## What's Happening At San Diego Vintage Trolley?

Now on the web at [www.sdera.org/sdvt](http://www.sdera.org/sdvt)

be cleaned out and the mechanisms worked on to allow free operation. Dave has been inquiring around the Internet to get 8 window cranks that are missing and was surprised at how many responses came in. We enlisted help from **Gene Calman** to try to identify how to correct some other window mechanism issues.

Last week, **Harry Mathis** and Dave Slater met and decided to bring car 1170 over from the "C" Yard and bring her into the "A" Building / car barn where 1123 is now is. They will replace some broken windows and remove graffiti from one side. The plan is that 1123 will be moved to the area just outside the door on Track 3 and 1122 will then be moved back to where she now is.

You may recall that the trucks for 1122 were in the "C" shop for cleaning and overhaul. **Lee Summerlot**—Assistant Superintendent of LRV Maintenance for San Diego Trolley — brought news that The Dahlbeck Company has agreed to donate a complete overhaul of these trucks and motors! What a generous donation to the cause! Many thanks for getting this donation, Lee! Sutch and Slater rolled the extra truck set under 1122, and let her down on them and we will use these as "Shop Trucks" for the time being to move the car around. After evaluating the car, it appears that all the electrical system in 1122 is OK. Ron and Dave also spent hours scraping all loose paint from the inside in preparation for a complete body and paint restoration inside and out. It looks as though George Toth (Lakeside Paint and Bodyshop) will be doing the re-paint.

*Please volunteer! Aug 2008 is coming fast!*

**Upcoming Work Party Dates:** Work Sessions are now being held Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Saturday Work Parties will be on Nov 4 & 18 and Dec 2 & 16.

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



## News from the Bookstore

Thanks to all the folks that helped at the National Model Railway Association show in Kearny Mesa November 13 to 15.—Jim Papulas, George Geyer, Jim Anderson, Chris & Tim Higgins, and Bill Steinmetz. While this was a small show, sales were good and our booth was across from an impressive modular layout from Lancaster.

Our next event will be the Great Train Expo at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on December 2 and 3. Jim Papulas is working on some new photo displays to help educate visitors about San Diego's historic Streetcars. Hope to see you there! For more information on the event, visit [www.greattrainexpo.com](http://www.greattrainexpo.com). If you're interested in staffing the booth, please contact George Geyer at 619-284-0998 (leave a message).

2007 Calendars are still available in the Bookstore. These are popular at the Train Shows so make sure you get one before they sell out. We will not be getting any more this season.

San Diego Trolley videos are now available on DVD. According to the producers, Valhalla Video, they will be releasing a 2nd video in late November or early December covering the Green Line extension and the opening ceremonies.

We also have copies of *The Impossible Railroad*—originally produced for PBS Video. This hour-long local production covers the history of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railroad from John D. Spreckels and the construction of the line up to the 1960's and 70's—and all the ups and downs in between. While this is only available in VHS (for \$19.95), it is still a great addition to your collection.

### *Expanded Hours at the Depot in 2007*

As we mentioned in the September Trolley Lines, we will be expanding our hours at the National City Depot. Starting in January, 2007, we will need to staff the Depot from 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. These additional hours entitle us to listing in the Auto Club Tour Book and other tourism guides and will give us access to government surplus programs. This is also help as we prepare to negotiate another lease with National City by showing that we are meeting their expectations for operating hours.

We still need docents for our current hours but we're hoping that the additional hours will give an opportunity for the early risers to come in for a morning session. It is not necessary that volunteers be at the Depot for the entire day—though it would be nice! We will work with volunteer's schedules to make sure we are fully staffed. We are also looking to expand the staffing to include bookstore "cashiers". Please contact Tom Matson for additional information and to get more information of training sessions that will be scheduled in the near future.

### **Hey! Where's Our Parking Lot??**

No, that's not an overflow crowd of visitors at the Depot. Frank Motors was granted a 6 month lease by National City while soil cleanup is being done at the Ace Metals site. A lease by Mossy Nissan was not exercised earlier in the year. A temporary fence has been erected for the duration of this lease that will block most of the primary parking lot. The existing handicapped parking spaces are still available on the south side of the depot but we will need to rely on the generosity of MSI (our neighbors to the east) for overflow parking at our events for the next few months.

Please use caution parking to the north of Depot. The pavement is uneven in places which tends to flood after rains and there is track between Ernie the Birney and the Vienna Cars that may be difficult to see now that it is dark so early. We will continue to encourage National City to make sure that there are no derelict vehicles left on the street so we can park fairly close to the Depot as often as possible.

Thanks to Mrs. Dayon Higgins for the snacks at recent General Meetings. Fresh baked Brownies, Cakes, and Apple Cobbler have been a real treat!

- George Geyer



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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., 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.

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## 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, November 18 (3rd Saturday) Annual Dinner Meeting / Board of Directors Election** - Walt Stringer from North County Transit District will discuss the construction of the Sprinter commuter train that will run from Oceanside to Escondido.

**Sat / Sun, December 2 & 3—Great Train Expo**—Del Mar Fairgrounds - 10am to 4pm. Stop by and visit our booth! \$7 for adults / kids 11 and under—Free! (Admission is good for both days). Parking is extra.

**Saturday, December 9** - Members slides, movies, and digital views (with a CD or DVD using our computer and projector). Scotty Lewis has slides of "2006 Train Mountain" - a live steam meet in Oregon with 7 1/2" scale live steam and some pictures of Klamath Falls and we'll show Corky Thomson's movies of Car 54 movement to Old Town and LA PE fan trip(s).

**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.)

We are expanding the Depot hours in 2007! If you are interested in being either a docent or cashier, contact Tom Matson ([tmatson@sdera.org](mailto:tmatson@sdera.org)) or (619) 275-0216. Training sessions to be held sometime after the New Year. Thanks for your support!