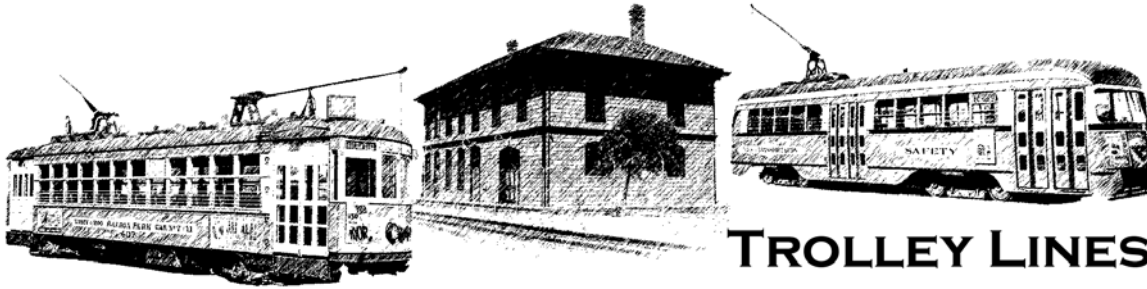


SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION



TROLLEY LINES

San Diego Electric
Railway Association
DBA San Diego
Electric Railway Co.
PO Box 89068
San Diego, CA 92138
(619) 474-4400

October 2009

Check us out at our
web site:

www.sdera.org

PCC 529 Sports SDERy Colors



Car 529 is brought out for a first look at its new SDERy paint from the MTS Paint Shop. This car has had significant metal replacement and a near complete rebuild. San Diego Vintage Trolley, its volunteers, Carlos Guzman, and the team from CG Industries should be proud of this incredible milestone! This brings us another step closer to realizing the goal of bringing the Silver Line to downtown San Diego. This photo was provided by Harry Mathis, chairman of MTS and one of the key people bringing this effort to fruition.

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Psst! Wanna Know a Secret?

This newsletter is available **in color** on our website—including our cover PCC! See www.sdera.org and look on our Newsletters page.

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

San Diego Electric Railway Association, Inc.

- David Slater, President
- George Geyer, Vice President
- Chris Higgins, Secretary / Webmaster / Newsletter Editor
- Tom Matson, Treasurer / Docent & Membership Coordinator
- Directors: Jim Price, Tom Carnes, Mitch Beauchamp, Jeff Trimble, Jim Anderson
- Gift Shop Manager: Jim Anderson

PCC Car Project Update

- Dave Slater, Project Manager

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

We now have the fourth car in our fleet! In April of this year, I began negotiations with the Museum of Transportation (MOT) at St. Louis, MO, to have this car donated to the San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc. (SDVT) Since we are both 501 (c) (3) non profit corporations, this donation is in accordance with federal and state laws governing non-profits. I was also able to get a donation in the amount of \$11,000 for transportation to our Yards in San Diego!

MANY THANKS! The car is a 1948 GE all electric with three pedal control. She was originally built and operated at the Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) with an original road number of 2186. The new road number for SDERy (SDVT) is 532. MOT purchased her in 1994 along with a sister car which they operate.

They never operated this car and, for that reason, she was declared surplus to MOT's needs. This car had a Government Overhaul (GOH) about 1982 and school bus windows were installed to replace the "cranky" roll up windows that our other three cars have. This is a great improvement. Since this car was protected in a Museum environment, it is in pristine condition inside and out. All that is needed body-wise is sanding and repainting in San Diego Electric Railway (SDERy) colors. The trolley pole was missing and our SDERA Board, at my request, voted unanimously, to donate a pole that we had! Many thanks! The retriever for the pole was also missing, however I had a retriever in stock, thanks to a donation by the Baltimore Street Car Museum! A duplicate bracket has been fabricated with the help of long time member Bob Recks! Electrical testing has begun on SDVT 532 (ex SEPTA 2186). The batteries were borrowed from another car, since 532's batteries are dead. New bulbs need to be ordered for the rear lights, but so far, all other lights are working that have good bulbs. Also, the windshield wipers and the defroster fan are working. Both the headlight and the doors operate directly from the overhead power and use a step down transformer to get the lower voltage. The headlights from the ex-Muni cars work off the batteries.

The car was retired about 1992 by SEPTA. This car comes to us on a pair of sorely needed shop trucks with Chicago Transit (CTA) wide tread, deep flanged wheels, like the ones we have for our other cars. We are also getting a trac-



tion motored truck and one axle with wheels, that will be delivered as a donation by another carrier, RAM Industries. Many thanks, Sheldon!

The first three cars we have in our fleet are 1945 GEs and the 1948 version incorporates many customer requested upgrades, which are very nice. Much of this information was gleaned in a phone call yesterday from our friend in restoration, Jan Lorenzen, of Brooklyn, New York. He is a very active member of the Branford, CT Electric Railway Museum. Jan has been one of my foremost mentors in street car restoration since 2005. Many thanks, Jan!

SDERy #529 Progress

As you can tell from the cover of this issue, we've come a long ways! I am told that this car will be completed and on the streets of downtown San Diego by the end of this year! This car is a major rebuild, courtesy of CG Guzman Industries, our primary paint and body contractor for San Diego Trolley. This donation is valued at \$400,000! Many thanks to Carlos Guzman! Mechanical assembly work is being performed by Sal Corini and Gilbert Cavasos of SD Trolley LRV Maintenance, paid by SDVT. I am constantly filling parts and material orders and delivering the same to the work site in the Building C Body Shop area.

SDERy #530 and #531 Progress

Paul Burshteyn, Dennis Frazier, Dan Kelly, Aaron Donovan, and Tom Carnes have been working on the wooden trim for the left and right rear windows. Angela McDowell, who owns a wood fabricating shop in Oceanside, has donated the wood and cutting of the same. Thanks Paul and Angela for this. This job is now complete and is beautiful!

Many thanks also go out to Ron Sutch, SDVT Staff Photographer for his very good captioned photos and Chuck Bencik for finishing up the new destination sign that Art Aydelotte was working on when he was stricken with his terminal illness. If you aren't already a member, you can follow our progress on the web via Yahoo!Groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/sdvintagetrolley>. Ron's photos on this site chronicle the immense progress!

Upcoming Work Party Dates: Work Sessions are now being held Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. *Due to security requirements, please contact Dave Slater / 619-222-5442 for authorization to be on the Trolley grounds.*

President's Message

Dave Slater

Many of you may have seen the media blitz that continues with regard to the opening of the Marina Gateway Best Western Hotel and Buster's Beach House Restaurant across the street from the Depot/Museum. These new venues are predictably raising our visitors by approximately 30% and those numbers will continue to grow as time goes on. Along those lines, we need more volunteers to staff our facility in the form of docents as well as cashiers for the Gift Shop. This volunteer service is a very pleasant way to spend a day. Interested parties should contact **Tom Matson** at (619) 846-9662. We provide training.

A long delayed project to replace the broken deck boards around the Depot was recently completed and it looks very nice. This pristine work was completed by **Tom Jenkins**. Due to the odd size of this lumber, the only vendor available in this area was Frost Hardwood in Kearney Mesa. We were told that the Douglas Fir that we needed, and will need more of over time, is increasing in price by as much as 25% due to the fact that many mature Douglas Fir trees have been cut due to encroaching development in forest areas. I felt it prudent to order some to store - saving the mill set up charge and avoiding the price increase. It has been my observation that deck boards need to be replaced every 2-3 years. They tend to develop dry rot and become brittle over time. The original restoration of the Depot commenced in 1998 and was finished in 2000. All this said, the project cost our organization about \$2,000. Please send in your donation checks to help defray these necessary costs of operating. On the memo line of the check please write Deck Board Fund. Many thanks! All donations are tax deductible.

Repairs have been made to our storage container. This is another Tom Jenkins project. He is a Master Craftsman and was referred by his neighbor, **Gene Calman**. Thanks to both men!

Mourning The Loss of Two SDERA Friends

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of two friends of SDERy and San Diego's rail community.



Richard Hamilton, Life Member and past Treasurer of SDERA passed away at the end of July. He had just turned 60. Richard had created and hosted an internet rail-themed talk show "Let's Talk Trains" in 2002 that was popular with rail fans around the country. His program will continue to be run by dedicated friends who want to see Richard's dream live on.

Richard was active with the Poway Midland Railroad Operation and was frequently seen in full uniform with waxed mustache making sure that all the passengers were loaded and given necessary instructions. He was also found at most rail special events and was a wealth of rail knowledge.

San Diego Vintage Trolley also lost a big volunteer and good friend when **Art Aydelotte** lost his battle with lung cancer in September just after turning 80. Art was an active member of the U.S.S. Midway Museum as the ship's carpenter and was one of main wood workers on the PCC restoration efforts. Even while fighting his illness, he started the effort to make destination signs for the Vintage Trolleys.

Art worked for many years in Hollywood studios as an electrician and special effects designer. The flickering light in one of the Depot's old cabooses was done by Art.

The contributions of these two people will continue to be a part of our operations and, while they will be missed, their work lives on.





Car 520 at Edgeware Rd. and Adams Ave. in Kensington on the I I Line.
Photo taken May 30, 1940 by Harold F. Stewart from San Gabriel, CA



Freight Motor 1025 at the Adams Ave. Car Barn on July 9, 1939. Photo by Harold F. Stewart.



SDERy "Special Car" 54 at the Adams Ave. Car Barn - July 9, 1939 Photo by Harold F. Stewart



SDERy Service Car 010 at the Imperial Ave. Carhouse (Cars 026 and 023 in the background). - July 9, 1939
Photo by Harold F. Stewart.

Former Santa Fe Crossing Signals Donated

SDERA member Mike Reneau donated several pieces of crossing equipment originally used on the Pasadena subdivision of the Santa Fe Railroad. All this equipment was manufactured by The Western Railroad Corporation in 1940. This collection includes:

- Several 8' poles
- Several 13' poles
- 3 crossing apparatus with all equipment, except for the 3 double wooden arms
- 4 lights with brackets (Red Flashers)
- 6 Crossing bells with cross bucks
- 2 round RR crossing signs

Mike is an expert at servicing this equipment and will be quite valuable when we are ready to display these in our Yard.



Metro Rail Gold Line Eastside Excursion

Join us November 7th as SDERA rides the Los Angeles Metro Rail Gold Line extension before revenue passengers. The tour will be timed to start after the Amtrak train from San Diego arrives at Union Station.

LA County's Metropolitan Transit Authority (LACMTA) runs the Metro Rail Gold Line to Pasadena with great success. Following the old Santa Fe Pasadena Subdivision, the Gold Line goes from Union Station, through Highland Park and Pasadena, and ends at Sierra Madre Blvd in the middle of the 210 freeway. The new portion extends south from Union

Station, crossing U.S. 101 (Hollywood Fwy), passing through Little Tokyo, Soto, Boyle Heights, and ending in East L.A. Twin 1.8 mile tunnels under Boyle Heights feature two underground stations.

The Gold Line is far from done. Plans are underway to extend the line from Sierra Madre to Azusa and Montclair and from East L.A. to the San Gabriel Valley.

Final plans are still being worked out and are subject to Metro Rail's work schedule. Revenue service is currently planned for November 14.



A Metro Rail Gold Line train departs Union Station bound for Pasadena.

Photo by Chris Higgins



New 2010 Color Calendar Shows SDERy PCCs

Color photos of the historic San Diego PCC fleet are featured in the newly printed San Diego Electric Railway Association 2010 calendar. This limited edition calendar sells for \$13.95 plus tax, and is available at the NC Depot Gift Shop. It's the first one ever, and they're going fast, so stop by and get yours today!

Save The Date! SDERA Annual Dinner and Election

Mark your calendars! The San Diego Electric Railway Association will be hosting its Annual Dinner and Election of Officers on Saturday, November 14. Our special guest speaker will



be **Roy Athey** - owner and operator of the Alpine, Descanso, and Pacific Railroad. This backyard 2-foot gauge operation is the ultimate backyard railroad and Roy's amazing efforts have been enjoyed by thousands.

Speaking of Elections: If you are interested in serving on SDERA's Board, contact Chris Higgins at 858-521-0895 and he will forward your information to the Nominating Committee.

SD Trolley Orders New LRVs

MTS announced that they have ordered 57 new light rail vehicles for \$205 million. These new cars will be 9 feet shorter than current models running through downtown to avoid blocking intersections. Siemens will be providing these new low-floor models and expects to deliver the first models in 2011.

Also, starting next year, MTS will be renovating stations, rail, and signaling systems along the Blue and Orange Lines. Work will continue through 2013.

Thank You!

A big "Thank You" to SDERA Life Member **Nancy Hardick** for her seasonal decorations around the Depot. The bunting and festive decorations for the 4th of July celebrations were impressive!

Thanks to member **Hubert Jansen** for his recent donations of signs that will help guide visitors to the Depot. We are working to add the Depot as a spot to visit and get refreshments for bicyclists in the area and Hubert's signs should do the job!



SDERA member Camille Horak browses the Depot Gift Shop at a recent visit. Photo by Ron Sutch



San Diego Electric Railway Association
d.b.a. **San Diego Electric Railway**
PO Box 89068
San Diego, CA 92138
(619) 474-4400

SDERA is at the historic National City Depot,
off I-5 at Mile of Cars Way - take Bay Marina
Dr. west, right on Cleveland, go one block and
left on W. 23rd St and straight into the Depot

Open Thursday through Sunday, 9 AM — 5 PM.

Depot phone: call (619) 474-4400

Visit us on the Web! www.sdera.org

To submit items to the Newsletter, contact Chris Higgins
via e-mail (webmaster@sdera.org) or phone (858-521-
0895). Items need to be submitted by the 18th of the
month prior to publication.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 7:30 PM on the 2nd Saturday at the National City Depot. Optional no-host dinner at **The Barbeque Pit Restaurant** - 920 E.Plaza Blvd, National City at 5:30 about 1 block east of Highland Ave. and Plaza Blvd. (Except March, June, September and December when we do a potluck). Plan to arrive at 7pm to see the Gift Shop, chat, and buy raffle tickets. The raffle starts at 7:15 PM.

Saturday, October 10 - LAMTA Gold Line eastern extension by Tom Matson discussing its past and present.

Saturday, November 14 - Annual Dinner and Election of Officers - Guest Speaker—Roy Athey of the Alpine, Descanso, and Pacific Railway.

Saturday, December 12 - Jeff Trimble presents Phoenix's new light rail system that opened this year. (Potluck month)

Special Events

Saturday, October 10 - San Diego Model Railroad Museum's Swap Meet - Balboa Park at the Model RR Museum's rear entrance - 7am to 11am. Sellers \$5, Buyers \$2. Sellers setup at 6:30am - Bring Your Tables. Contact Jim Anderson at 619-224-1041 or SDMRM office at 619-696-0199.

Saturday, November 7 - Metro Rail Gold Line's Eastside Extension Excursion.

Next Board Meetings - October 12, November 9, and December 14 at 7:00pm at the National City Depot.

Docents and Cashiers Wanted

We continue to have difficulty staffing several times a month. If you can help, even if for just a few hours, please contact Tom Matson (tmatson@sdera.org) or 619-275-0216. Training is available.