



A publication for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members

Campo Railroad Museum

June 2026

La Mesa Depot Museum

LOTS OF FUN WAS HAD AT CAMPO DAYS





**Pacific Southwest Railway Museum
Association, Inc. WWW.PSRM.ORG
619-465-PSRM (7776)**

Campo Railroad Museum

Campo Depot
Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Rd, Campo
619-478-9937

La Mesa Depot Museum & Office

4695 Nebo Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941

PSRMA Board of Directors

Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month except Dec at 6:30PM. A link to join the Zoom meeting will be provided on our website at members.psrn.org.

Museum Directors

President: Stephen Hager
Vice President: Cass Witkowski
Treasurer: Carl Brooker
Secretary: Duke Schweikert
Equipment Dept: vacant
Facilities Dept: Frank E. Denison IV
Museum Services Dept: Jim Lundquist
Operations Dept: Colin Atwood

Museum Staff

Archivist: Bruce Semelsberger
Asst Dir. Of Facilities: Jim Lundquist
Fundraising: Donna Spevack
Hot Scoop Editor: Jim Lundquist
Membership: Lena Ibarra
Social Media Manager: Jason Drenkow
Station Master (La Mesa): Timothy Miller
Volunteer Coordinator: David Choy
Acting Equipment Dir: Stephen Hager
Gift Shop Manager: Vacant



Special Events:

Track Maintenance Days at Campo Railroad Museum

Saturday, May 30 - Work Train - MP 63 Cut

Friday, June 26 - PSRM Yard - Prep work for Saturday June 27.

Saturday, June 27 - PSRM Yard - Yard Lead Ballasting/Repairs

Saturday, July 18 - PSRM Yard or Main Track at Campo TBD

Saturday, August 1 - PSRM Yard or Main Track at Campo TBD

Regular Schedule:

At Campo Railroad Museum:

Saturdays & Sundays- Golden State train rides at 10:30, 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays - volunteer work days.

Wednesdays and Saturdays - Library open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call Bruce Semelsberger at 619-264-7282 for an appointment

La Mesa Depot Open:

Tuesday & Thursday Noon - 3 p.m.

Volunteers are at both locations during the week as well.

For more information, please email: volunteer@psrm.org

Campo Days happens each year as all the Campo museum's showcase our facilities to the community at no cost to the visitor. This educational effort is directly in line with our main goals of education. This year's event happened the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. *All photos by Jim Lundquist 5/3/26*



Food is always important at all day events. Chef Annie Field, Adrian, David Choy, Mike Acosta and Mike Rella manning the food booth.



The Santa Maria Valley Railroad Railbus made its first public appearance in a decade. SMV #9 was donated to the PSRMA by Valley Pipe & Salvage owner Sam Berkowitz in May 1965 — our first piece of rolling stock!

The SD&AE Railway firetruck is always popular with the crowds. We are so happy to have it back on its home rails as a loan from the California State Railroad Museum.



The *Hot Scoop*® is a publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.

The opinions expressed in the *Hot Scoop* are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc., (PSRMA) its officers or staff.

PSRMA Mission Statement:

PSRMA is dedicated to preserving the physical legacy and the experience of rail transportation. Programs address the historical, social, economic and technical impact of railroading with particular emphases on railroads of San Diego County and the systems with which they connected in the United States and Mexico.

PSRMA is a non-profit educational organization operating under section 501(c)3 of the tax codes. Donations may be tax deductible.

PSRMA is a member of the Heritage Rail Alliance.

Submission guidelines: All articles should be single spaced and submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photographs are also welcomed. Please include photographer and date of photo. Send all submissions to Editor@psrm.org

The *Hot Scoop* is available in color via email. To receive the electronic version in PDF format, send an email to editor@psrm.org and include your name, membership number and email. Note that if you opt for the e-mail version, you will no longer receive the printed copy.

Comments are always welcome. Send your feedback to: editor@psrm.org

Campo Days photos



Morgan Snyder and Jenn Brooker chat with Dawn Lundquist inside the Athey Beer Garden



There were several live bands on the sunny side of the Campo Depot.



Southern Pacific #2353 was getting some sunshine as our visitors were getting educated by Docent Jim Baker on the how and why's of steam locomotives in Campo.

Campo Days. We had many booths from different organizations speaking to our visitors.





County Recognition for Campo Days



"CAMPO RAILROAD MUSEUM

Campo Days 2026

In special recognition and sincere appreciation of your generous contributions and active involvement in making this year's Campo Days was a spectacular success while supporting the vital preservation of local history and strengthening community spirit through service, your dedication uplifts Campo and its heritage!

Signed Joel Anderson, May 3 2026"

Spring Cleaning at Campo Railroad Museum by Jim Lundquist

All around the museum grounds, you'll see signs of cleaning activities by our volunteers. Annie Field has been leading the charge in the kitchen, bathroom, giftshop, waiting room and Exhibit Hall. Inspired by this, I undertook the major effort of cleaning the equipment inside the Exhibit Hall as well as power washing the floor. Providing major assistance was Dawn Lundquist and Justin Hyland, who took the photos. Thank you all.



LIBRARY REPORT by Bruce Semelsberger

Welcome new library volunteer Paul Moore! Paul spent last Saturday assisting with the photo archive and hopefully found it interesting enough to come back again. Thanks, also, to several members who contributed new items for the collection in recent weeks including Jim Lundquist, Timothy Miller, Travus Clark and Cheryl Lyman. We'll have more information once we are able to process the items.

Much, but not all, of what we spoke of in previous reports has now come to pass or is at least in progress. The 40 years of newspaper clippings has been sorted by railroad or other subject, duplicates eliminated and is sorted into chronological order in most cases. Each subject occupies its own folder in a drawer in bay L awaiting volunteer time to scan it into a database that will be available for research. In the meantime, all has been preserved and is accessible at the library. We were surprised that eleven archival boxes could, in the end, be condensed down to a single drawer!

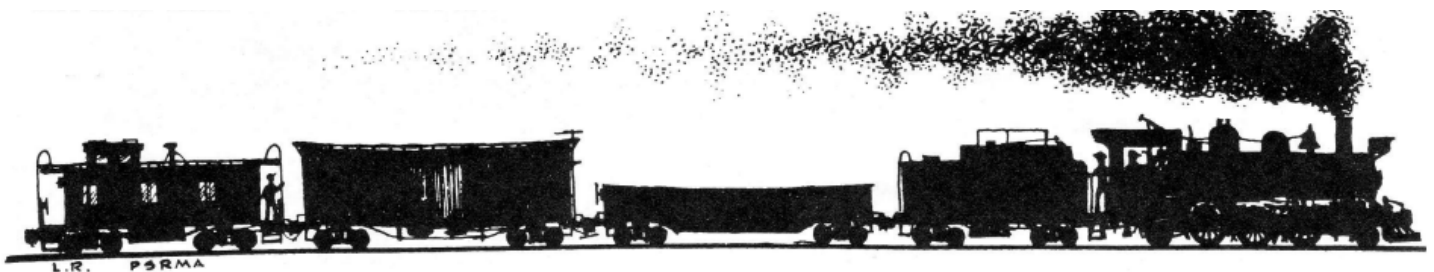
The major subject of interest for most of us has been the changeover to new computers and new software. The folks at CatalogIT completed the migration of all of the data from Past Perfect for us a couple of weeks ago. The library staff can now access everything in CatalogIT via the internet and we have the ability to accession new donations again as soon as we become more comfortable with the new process. We also received several spread sheets with all of the problems and inconsistencies found during the migration process. We knew that there would be a certain amount of these to work through, but the scope of these spreadsheets was, at first glance, a little daunting.

The first sheet we looked at was one of duplicate object ID numbers. These are the numbers that identify each book, object and document with its own unique identity in the system. The vast number of these duplications turned out to be remnants of an obsolete numbering system for maps and documents that had been updated in the past without the old numbers be-

ing purged. Michael Rella was able to quickly delete those. The few remaining numbers are in the Photos archive and are proving to be a bit more difficult to resolve.

I love a good mystery, but trying to trace back through events that happened as much as thirty years ago and involved people who are no longer around is proving to be a challenge. The biggest hurdle so far results from the fact that we use two different types of object ID numbers, one for photos and another for everything else. The main numbering system used by Past Perfect is very similar in structure to that used by CatalogIT and is a common standard among museums worldwide, so we see only minor problems resolving those issues. However, the system we created years ago for photos is very different. It employs a four letter-four digit system that identifies the railroad or other subject plus a sequential number which allows us to go straight to the proper drawer and quickly locate the photo. The migration process accepted the existing non-conforming numbers but doesn't allow us to edit them or add new ones. We suspect this will get resolved in one of two ways. Either we request CatalogIT to modify our software if possible, probably at some expense, or we scrap the existing system and convert hundreds of data entries in the computers, on envelopes and on the photos themselves to the museum standard system, requiring a great many hours. More on this to follow.

As to the computers themselves, we have purchased the new and incredibly small computers and other equipment and are waiting in line for the technical consortium to come to Campo and set up the network for us so that all of the work stations interface properly and all of the files are universally available. Many of these files will become available to the museum membership on our website in the "near" future and will allow members to search for some maps, drawings, employee records and photos. As they say: Stay Tuned!



We few, we happy few

by Cass Witkowski, Vice President

While a few good countrymen may have been great for Henry V. For an all-volunteer organization like PSR-MA, the sentiment is the more the merrier.

We have a great group of regular volunteers. What we need is new volunteers to help share the work of running both the La Mesa Depot and the Campo Railroad Museum.

In addition to operating the trains and repairing and maintaining the rolling stock, we have a need for volunteers to help with the special event trains. Our Backcountry Wine Train is our highest single day mon-

ey maker. Logistically, it's the equivalent of setting up and tearing down a bar in a few days. We could really use a few more volunteers helping with the set up and teardown. Other special events like the Pumpkin Express, Sip & Scare and the North Pole Limited need volunteers decorating, staffing the event, and cleaning up. Even if you can only help out for one day, we will gladly take your help. These special event train rides generate important income to help pay for maintaining our rolling stock and our track, and to grow the museum.

Come join the happy few. Become a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to David Choy at volunteer@psrm.org.

Operations Volunteers

by Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service - those who are qualified train crew members, speeder operators/crew, and trainees who have helped us run 23 Golden State trains and the number of days they have volunteered through May 17: Colin Atwood 5, Paul Bandemer 3, Carl Brooker 1, Ken Brown 1, Jaxon Dixon 5, Greg Flores 5, Chloe Giron 1, Leo Giron 1, Stephen Hager 2, Ryan Hodge 3, Randy Houk 3, Justin Hyland 3, Dave Little 5, Mike McIntyre 1, Bob Nickles 2, Will Vanni 1.

MOS – maintenance of signal volunteers who conducted monthly maintenance and testing of highway crossing signal systems this month: Chad Baker 1.

Yard switching - these are the volunteers who have worked in Campo and PSRM yards this period doing switching to set up rail equipment displays for Campo Days: Colin Atwood 1, Greg Flores 1, and Stephen Hager 1.

There was a total of 46 volunteer-days this period.

Membership News: New Gold Spike Life Member

By Lena Ibarra

This month we have the honor of adding a new member to our list of Gold Spike Life supporters. Please

give a warm welcome to Emelia L. Rosuay Washington. Her name will be added to a plaque at the Campo Depot station.

Joining with a Family membership is Yuo Wu. Welcome to PSRMA!

Wildfire Season - What exposure does our Campo Railroad Museum site have?

We always field some telephone calls and emails from our members and supporters every time there is news of a fire in or near Campo. We appreciate the concerns. Fortunately, we are well prepared for any wildfires. We keep our property weed free, and rake up any loose branches. The Campo Depot and Green Building have new fire resistant siding. The restroom is a cement block building. The Exhibit Hall is a steel building. The Library is covered in fire resistance coating. The Shop Building has a fire resistant roof, metal siding and is far removed from any weeds or trees. If the field across from the Campo Depot burns, it burns with a very low heat and very few embers due to the fact that it remains green during the year and the cattle keep it mowed down.

Fundraising for May by Donna Spevack, Administrator of Fund Development

In another few weeks the year will be half over, have you thought about what you can do in the second half of the year? Graduation parties, Summer vacations-where will your excursions take you?

May gray has moved in but what a great time to visit PSRM and check out all of the new restorations. The Campo Depot has been restored and an upgrade of new lighting on our boarding platform has been made thanks to grants from the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant Program.

I would like to take this time to thank all of our members and visitors for their donations to the museum.

Special thanks to: YTD: \$39,953.32

\$1,000-\$30,000

Theodora Davis



\$1-\$999

Shetland Island; Susan Gallier; John Thomas Barnes; T.J. Bonner; Donna Spevack; Steve Moyers; Jesse Giancy; Dan Gaska; Diana Humphrey; Rob Porter; Jeanne Courval.

As you might know the La Mesa Depot Caboose had been vandalized and a window had been broken, but has now been repaired. The cost of this repair was \$350 to replace it. Expenses such as this one are paid for through your membership fees and donations.

- If you would like to make a donation for general support or for a specific project or program, please go to:
- [Donate - Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.](#) We have multiple projects to choose from or if you are a person who likes to volunteer, PSRM is always looking for great volunteers to assist with various tasks at the Campo Museum [Volunteer - Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.](#)
- You can also send a check to: PSRM, 4695 Nebo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941-5259
- Buy a bench in memory or honor of a loved one (Includes a plaque) - \$1,000
- Employee Match Programs through your work place-Check with Human Resources to see if your company participates. Volunteer hours can also count towards matching gifts, [List of Companies with Matching Gift Programs.](#)
- Charitable planned gifts are also an option.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us and we will gladly assist.

Like us on Facebook: [Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association | Facebook](#)

Thank you!

Down at the La Mesa Depot by Timothy Miller

In the railroad preservation community, we tend to focus on the preservation of equipment. We are familiar with the names of pioneers, inventors and builders such as Baldwin, Pullman, Westinghouse and Shay. We seek experiences of riding on or behind their creations. (My first experience of riding in a Pullman car was in 1966 on the Illinois Central, and of riding behind a Shay locomotive was in 1967. in North Carolina.) We usually do not have a personal connection with these giant industrialists from the past.

I recently had some visitors at the La Mesa Depot who gave me that personal connection. The young fellow in the photo is Griffin Stambaugh. He is the fifth-generation grandson of Ephraim Shay, Michigan inventor of the Shay locomotive. Griffin is quite a railfan and really enjoys his visits to the Depot. Some of our newer members might not know that many years ago, PSRM's collection included a Shay. That engine now operates on the Cass Scenic Railroad in Cass, West Virginia.



Michael Rella and Jeff Devenberg will be hosting visitors at the La Mesa Depot for the La Mesa Village Bingo event on Wednesday evening, May 27th. The event runs from 5:00PM to 9:00PM. This event will help visitors understand there is more to PSRM than just a depot!

Boy Scouts Program Going Strong



Thanks to Glen Rogers, our Boy Scout program is going strong. We host many groups this time of year. Our way of giving back to the community while educating the future of our country in railroad history and safety.



From the Back Platform

By Stephen Hager, President

After a busy couple of months of special events, we are heading into our slow season over the summer; more on that later. Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association volunteers started the month of May running our fifth Annual Campo Days Event. This event, hosted in cooperation with the Motor Transport Museum, Mountain Empire Historic Society, and Camp Lockett Event and Equestrian Facility, is our annual community showcase event. People from around the county were able to enjoy two days of free museum admission in Campo and see many pieces of equipment in our collection that don't get out often.

This year, we had the newly restored Santa Maria Valley Railbus #9, Cotton Belt MT-19 Speeder, Union Pacific MT-14 Speeder 2533, and San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Fire Truck 1003 on display on the house track by the Campo Depot. Up by the Exhibit Hall, we had Southern Pacific 4-6-0 Steam Locomotive 2353 on display with a short string of freight cars. We also hosted booths for several other museums and local organizations at our museum including the San Diego Model Railroad Museum; Imperial Valley Desert Museum; San Diego All Gauge Toy Train Association; Chula Vista Live Steamers; Lions, Tigers & Bears



Rescue; and Avian Behavior International. Starting on Campo Days weekend and for the remainder of the month of May, Coaster 2103 has been leading all trains paired with Southern Pacific 3873. Coaster 2103 continues to be very popular with railfans visiting our museum and we hope it will continue inspiring new people to join our organization and volunteer or donate towards our cause.

Although we have a break from major special events for a few months, there are still plenty of projects going on at both the La Mesa Depot Museum and the Campo Railroad Museum. In La Mesa, restoration of the Mojave Northern Steam Locomotive #3 is ongoing under the discriminating eye of La Mesa Depot Stationmaster Timothy Miller. At Campo, we have several planned Maintenance of Way days coming up over the summer, led by Track Foreman James Caestecker. During these workdays, volunteers will be



changing ties and re-gauging rails at multiple locations on the mainline and in the Campo Yard.

In the Campo Car Shop, work is progressing on the restoration of Southern Pacific 3709. In the last month, volunteers have cut out several sections of corroded and rust jacked flooring, walls, and wall framing from the fireman's side of the locomotive cab. Replacement steel is now being cut to size and welded into place. After the fireman's side of the cab is complete, volunteers will be moving on to the engineer's side.

As always, if any of the above projects sound interesting to you and you would like to help, please send a note to our Volunteer Coordinator, David Choy, at volunteer@psrm.org.

As always, if you would like to get in touch with me, please send a note to president@psrm.org. Until next time, keep it on the high iron!

Special Guest Rents #1509 for a Private Birthday Party by Jim Lundquist

Over the years, our museum has hosted many private special events for our members. This includes weddings, memorial services, company outings and birthday parties. This past month, Life Member Ken Kramer rented AT&SF #1509 for all three trains for an all-day birthday party for his special friend.



Ken writes "It was a 70's theme, everyone dress in 70's vintage clothing. He hired a taco truck for lunch with an onboard deejay and a wine expert to serve specially selected wine. Each of the three trips had different treats with the first trip featuring breakfast pastries and mimosas on board. We were just partying in our own private car for the day."



It would be great if more members and visitors took advantage of the opportunities to be had at our Campo Railroad Museum. Pass the word around your friends.

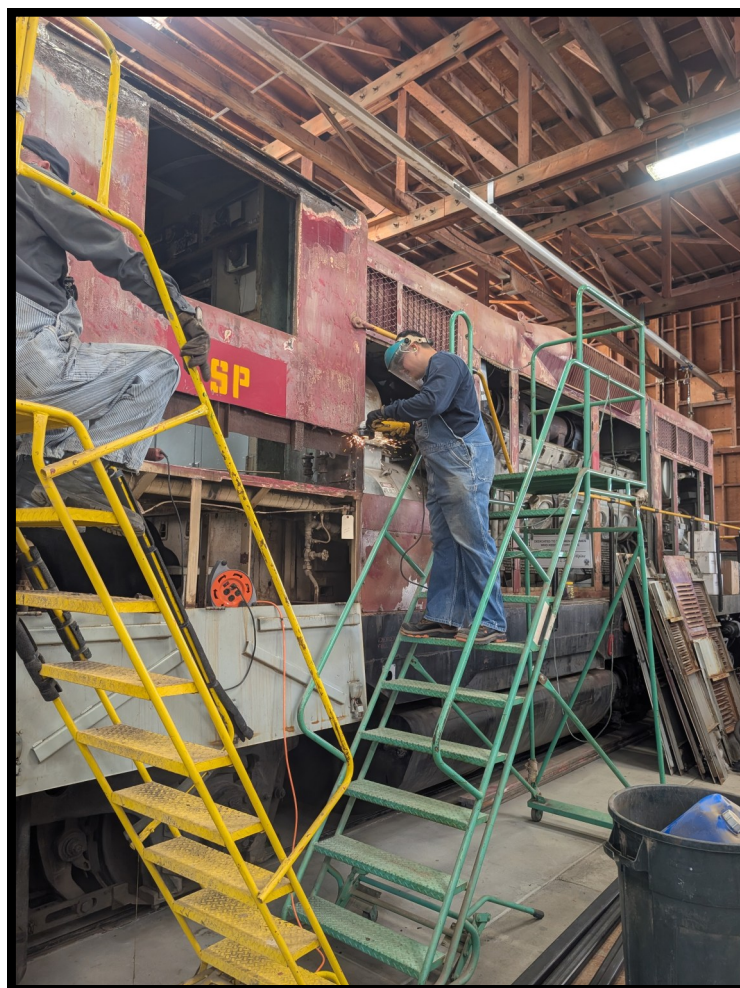


Things Are Really Cooking in the Shop Building

by Jim Lundquist

What makes volunteering at the Campo Railroad Museum so special is when a group of volunteers get together regularly to work on a project. As it gets closer to getting done, the camaraderie grows stronger and it becomes fun to see your friends. Such is the case now at Campo. The group is pulling together to transform SP #3709 from a workhorse into a museum piece—while still being a workhorse! That's teamwork. That's fun. Here is long time volunteer and Engineer Bob Nickles, Tim

Wamsley and David Choy transforming ugly duckling #3709 into a beautiful low-nose Southern Pacific General Purpose (GP) 9.



A San Diegan is backing out of Los Angeles Union station at Mission Tower for its trip to San Diego



Santa Fe's "Super Chief" Train 17 Inaugural Run
May 14, 1936 Pasadena, California
Original Photo E.M.C. Archives - Bob Finan Photographic Collection



Track Maintenance Days by James Caestecker

Work Days:

Saturday, May 30 - Work Train - MP 63 Cut

Friday, June 26 - PSRM Yard - Prep work for Saturday June 27.

Saturday, June 27 - PSRM Yard - Yard Lead Ballasting/Repairs

Saturday, July 18 - PSRM Yard or Main Track at Campo TBD

Saturday, August 1 - PSRM Yard or Main Track at Campo TBD



Things to bring: Work Gloves, Work Boots, Sunscreen, Water (Also provided), Lunch (Please bring your own), Safety Glasses/Sunglasses/Regular Glasses, Safety Vest (if you have one, we have others).

We will provide hearing protection (ear plugs) while we're working with machinery.

No prior experience is required for this work. We will teach you everything you need to know! Please let me know if you have any questions.

If you're able to make it to any of these work days, **please RSVP** to me at jcaestecker@psrm.org.