



President's Message

Greeting Friends of Travel Town!

Every Saturday of late, I have been astonished by the incredible progress being made by our small gang of restorationists working inside the historic Union Pacific dining car! So much of the work on the car over the past few years has been “take-apart” stuff; stripping walls, replacing electrical wiring, fixing 100-year-old cabinet locks and rebuilding ceiling fan motors... but now the parts are all coming back together; the new ceiling has been painted and pinstriped, the mahogany walls are being stained and varnished – the vista changes dramatically each week! There is still quite a ways left to go, but we’re finally beginning to see that light at the end of the tunnel!



There’s a whole lot going on OUTSIDE at Travel Town as well. The summer has brought out quite a number of new volunteers, giving us great opportunities to do long-needed spruce-up work on several of the old steam locomotives. Growing volunteer participation has also fostered an increase in the number of docent-guided educational tours that we are able to provide for Travel Town visitors. And with the help of a formidable Eagle Scout Leadership Project, we’ve been able to refresh the interior of the Arcadia Freight Depot, paving the way for a new museum exhibit inside the historic building. Congratulations to boy scout, Ben Kofman, of Burbank Troop 210 on an incredible job with his big repainting project!

Don’t forget, our annual DEPOT DAY open house event is just two months away on Sunday, October 13th. Put that on your calendar and I’ll eagerly look forward to seeing you at the Museum!

Happy Summer!
GREG GNEIER
President

On the Platform – Steve Garbade

How a southern boy's life trek led him westbound and landed him on the platform of Travel Town.

Moving around quite a bit as a kid, I covered a lot of ground in Texas and Louisiana growing up. Culture shock struck hard when I attended college in Boston, but I loved every second of it. After spending time on the Gulf Coast and the East Coast, it was time to head to the West Coast; this has been where I have called home since 1997. And yes, Hollywood drew me here. I went to college for Music Composition/ Film Scoring and that is what I moved out here to do. It has taken years, but I have scored over 60 films/ tv shows/ live theater productions and have won several awards including two Emmy Awards for Best Musical Composition. The composing part is awesome, but abrupt overnight deadlines, legal issues, constant film edits, directors and editors giving me contradictory visions are not (yet always amusing, in hindsight). I want to keep composing fun, and even tolerable in some cases, so no way on earth I would I do that full time.



Absolutely anything of historic merit is of great wonder to me. I have always been a fan of museums. After working at the California Museum of Science and Industry and the California Science Center, I found a new home for the next 25 years at the J. Paul Getty Trust managing Visitor Services, Volunteers and events at both the Getty Villa and the Getty Center with great success. As my vacation hours accumulated, I realized there was no longer a need to rush my vacations, no need to be around stressed out individuals and families at the airport, and no need to sit in a narrow seat hunched over for hours with maybe one arm rest available for my use while on the airplane. There are other options out there!

After several relaxing train trips, I decided my 1.5-2 hour automobile commutes to the Getty Center and the Getty Villa (in Malibu) were no longer for me, nor were the 10+ hour work shifts. So, I quit and took another train trip! After working on some music projects, taking another train to the Grand Canyon, continuing to race in national and state BMX and road cycling races, and working with my dogs in agility (my other hobbies), I saw a job opening at Travel Town that more than checked all of the boxes I would be looking for in a job. Visiting Travel Town and meeting everyone quickly reinforced my feelings.



At Travel Town, the first thing that I quickly learned was that our volunteers do not play a small part in something big- not even close. Each volunteer plays a HUGE part of something NECESSARY (preserving history and educating) that just happens to be extremely cool! Finding folks with expertise of old trains is not an easy find, nor is finding people that just want to make our site look incredible or want to give a tour. I am grateful for every volunteer hour worked that makes this possible. In many ways, time can be the most valuable donation there is. The heart and soul that the volunteers put into their work here easily surpasses any of the places I have seen and I am very proud to be a part of it!

I look forward to meeting you if I haven't already and working with you all!

Steve

Awards Ceremony for our Fantastic Volunteers in May

We recognized our fantastic volunteer crew in May with an Awards Ceremony and luncheon! It was also a sad day, however, because our long time Program Manager, Kendall Williams, announced her resignation to our volunteers. Kendall has decided to work full time with her husband Josh and their construction business, taking on the administrative and bookkeeping aspects of the work for their family. Our organization was honored with watching her kids grow up and we all appreciated Kendall's calm, attentive and wise approach to running the volunteer program. Always willing to train, supervise, and encourage but also jump in and work hard, Kendall's presence will be missed. We wish Kendall and Josh all the very best and thank her for her years of service.



Our hardworking adult volunteers who earned Service Awards (over 250 hours) this year were: F.G. Vincent, Bob Frein, Linda Barth, Brad Slosar, Mike and Gary Teti. Our two youth who earned the award (over 50 hours) were Alex Morton and Larry Fitzgerald. Mauricio and James from the Tierra Del Sol program were also honored, as they gave over 200 hours during the week helping maintain our gardens and clean some of the exhibits.

Next year we hope to give many more awards to both students and adults! Give Steve a call if you are interested in donating any time as a volunteer – meet interesting people as you tell the stories of our trains to visitors, help us maintain our gardens, help us run our Squirrel Valley Railroad, or maybe you could prepare a delicious lunch for our volunteers! Weekday hours are available to help guide school tours, or do other maintenance and gardening. Give us a call – we are willing to TRAIN! Steve is at 323-668-0104, extension 12.



Depot Day is coming in October

Travel Town families!

Mark you calendars for DEPOT DAY, SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 2024. This year we will welcome back the Del Oro Model Railroaders group inside our exhibit hall! They bring a fun interactive railroad set for the kiddos to control, too!



Sandy has her special Train-related costume contest ready to go, for all you fantastic members, and our high school bands and food trucks will also be performing in the picnic areas of the Museum. A great fun, day for the family, and you get to see our restoration work in progress out on the platform with special tours, too. Hope to see you there, give you some free

popcorn, and share a delicious Reading Soda.



We've been working on the Railroad

Eagle Project completed in the Arcadia Depot

Our Arcadia Depot got a refreshing new coat of paint in the waiting room thanks to the efforts of Ben Kofman and Scouts from Troop 210 and 211 in Burbank. Ben has been a long-time fan of Travel Town and was able to start his scouting career on a Webelo “overnighter” here at the Museum. He wanted to help us improve our Museum, and did a great job leading his fellow scouts and parents by managing over 250 hours of volunteer labor. Thank you Ben, the room looks great!



Look for our Foundation to be making a new Exhibit in the office of the waiting room, we hope to interpret some railroad history with displays related to a railroad station office.

Girl Scouts help with Garden replanting

On June 22nd, Girl Scouts Emelia and Chloe from Troop 2446 earned their Silver Award by re-designing our Squirrel Valley Railroad Garden. The ladies weeded and re-planted several sustainable plants that should be easier to maintain as the garden grows. They also provided a special art opportunity for young visitors by allowing them to chalk up the bricks in the garden.



Summertime means painting is happening!

Birthday party cars – if you’ve been to Travel Town in the month of July, you’ll have seen some great improvements underway at our popular Birthday Party cars. The Pennsylvania dining Car, the Southern Pacific Dining Car, and the Santa Fe Chair car are all getting new roof treatments and historic paint schemes. Our Foundation researched and provided information on the historic colors and paint schemes for these three cars. There should be some pretty new cars when you come to Depot Day!!

M.177 gets refueled

Two years. It takes the M.177 about 2 years to go through 50 gallons of gas. The Department of Recreation and parks had their truck come out and refuel the engine in July. We try to keep all our working locomotives working! This means watering batteries, refueling engines, changing oil, etc. If you’d like to be on our maintenance team, give Nancy and call and tell her about your experience working with engines. She is at 323-668-0104, extension 10, mention this article from the Tender.



We've been working on the Railroad

Locomotives also getting spruced up!

We moved around some of our locomotives in June of this year, positioning the Sharp and Fellows engine back near the picnic areas and the Southern Pacific 1273 in front of the Locomotive Pavillion. Volunteers Bob Frein and F.G. Vincent worked more of their magic by gently uncovering some of the painted over lettering on the 1273 tender. This work also included refining the lettering on the north side so that only one set of letters are visible. This picture shows the “double letters” behind Bob’s shoulder on the right.



The Sharp and Fellows #7 engine is getting a new coat of paint, but working on this engine must be done before the sun gets too high. Our volunteers are limited to working between 7 and 10 in the morning! We are also working on the Harbor engines at the front of the Museum (#31 and #32). Enjoy these “Before” pictures, and come see the “After” at Depot Day!



New and Renewing Members since April, 2024

[CLICK HERE FOR PAYPAL PAGE](#)

Restoration Partners:

Tanya Kramer
Howard Levine
Makoto Ueno

Little Nugget Club Members

Elena Gustavson
John and Darlene Ruh

Streamliners

Mary Brown
Stephen Cooper
Maria Giraco
Richard Martinez
Tristan Mathews
Sheldon Roth
Michael Tirella
Heather Zien

Track Gang Members:

Shannon Bicknell
Evans Boney
Leticia Canato
Joannah Cannon
Juan Castillo
Alisa Chalmers
Chris Cheramie
Michael Fields
Brady Frome
Lauren Godfrey
Aleks Gryczon
Joel Israel
John Lin
Aaron Littman
Kristina Moskovian
Annie Nuttall
Matt Payton
Allison Rothschild
Ria Salvador

Dan Shear
Steve Siegel
Shanel Stadheim

Engineers:

Michael Mahoney
Norman Moline
Militza Watts
Stuart Young
John Vertrees
Nalida Dubois
Sandra Hilliard
Sean Pressler
Ben Rosenberg
Chris Rougier
Nancy Santiago

Do you need to renew your membership?
You can do it online!

Memberships are great gifts for other families, too!

Visit our membership page at: <https://traveltown.networkforgood.com/projects/89794-memberships>

or

Visit the website at [Traveltown.org](https://traveltown.org) and click on the **Green JOIN button** on the right!!

Thank you to **Jeff and Tonys Ice Cream Distributors** for making our Summer Movie night such a big hit! Members came and watched Cartoons and a special screening of the “The Harvey Girls” at the Museum after hours. We hope everyone enjoyed this special evening!



Travel Town Museum Foundation
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