Greetings friends of Travel Town!

Was it Dorothy Gale who asked the burning question: “What would you do with a train if you had one?” For the historic trains at Travel Town, our answer is “we’d like to restore them!” Leading the way on the Museum’s current restoration roster is the 90-year old Santa Fe Railway “doodlebug” M.177. Acclaimed in a recent article by Trains Magazine as being on the cusp of full operation, the freshly repainted railroad car provided a colorful centerpiece for our October Depot Day celebration! 1000s of hours by dedicated Travel Town volunteers, along with generous support from the community, is bringing the historic self-propelled railroad car back to full operation. Read all about it on the Trains website at [http://trn.trains.com/news/news-wire/2018/10/22-californias-travel-town-on-cusp-of-operational-santa-fe-doodlebug](http://trn.trains.com/news/news-wire/2018/10/22-californias-travel-town-on-cusp-of-operational-santa-fe-doodlebug)

The October 14th Depot Day event also marked the first full year of operation for our new Travel Town Gift Shop. It’s been an exciting and successful year in the store, thanks to our fantastic foundation staff and to YOU - our supporting foundation members! The new store allows us to offer a greater selection of train related toys, books, and souvenirs; all in a more comfortable environment for Travel Town visitors. Proceeds from the gift shop go directly to support the foundation’s program effort at the museum, including our educational outreach and train refurbishment projects like the Santa Fe M.177. The Foundation is gearing up for a wonderful holiday season, including renewal of an old Travel Town tradition - the Polar Express Pajama Party - coming up on December 13th, just in time for Travel Town’s 66th Birthday!

Also coming up on the museum’s birthday weekend will be the dedication of our new Craig A. Smith Memorial Volunteer Center. With the Gift Shop moved into its new digs, we’ve been able to completely transform the old museum store building into a long-anticipated research library and volunteer support center. The library sports over 1300 volumes on railroad history, engineering, folklore, and related subjects. Craig’s sudden passing a few months ago has left a tremendous void in our volunteer team. In recognition of his many years of work as a museum volunteer, and in celebration of his lifelong love of trains, we honor the memory of this wonderful friend of Travel Town.

Please be sure to join us for the Polar Express Pajama Party and other exciting activities at Travel Town this Holiday Season! Use the coupon enclosed in this tender for some great gift discounts – why battle the craziness of the mall when you can relax in the park?

I look forward to seeing you at the museum very soon!

GREG GNEIER
President

PS: (from Nancy, Greg’s wife) – It was Dorothy Gale (from The Wizard of Oz), but she was talking to the Scarecrow and said “what would you do with a BRAIN if you had one?” Greg always has trains on his brain....
On The Platform - Remembering Craig Smith

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I report on the passing of our dearest friend at Travel Town, Mr. Craig Smith. All of us knew Craig as “Mr. Conductor” – he has been a pillar of strength and dependability on our Volunteer team, doing everything from gardening to leading tours to acting as the Foundation’s Secretary for our Board of Directors. Craig passed away on March 16th, and he will be missed horribly, not only by other volunteers, but by the general public and the children who loved to get pictures taken with him. Craig had been volunteering with us since 2003, and earned over 4,319 volunteering hours. We are naming our old gift shop building the “Craig A. Smith Volunteer Center” in honor of this wonderful man, and we invite everyone out to the naming ceremony we will have on Travel Town’s birthday weekend on Saturday December 15th. We will miss you, dear friend!

“Now I think it is time for me to leave... but let me tell you both something. No matter what happens, we will always be friends. That’s a promise.”
– Mr. Conductor (‘Shining Time Station’, Season 1 Finale)
The Polar Express Pajama Party!

THE POLAR EXPRESS PAJAMA PARTY
An Exclusive Members-Only Event
Thursday, December 13th 2018
Wear your PJs, bring your pillow or stuffed animal, and enjoy!

Schedule of Fun Events:

4:30pm - Doors Open

4:30pm to 6:30pm
Activities include:
- Visiting the gift shop (10% discount applies on everything in the store, gift wrapping available!)
- Playing with a Thomas playday set.
- Playing with our squishy blocks and ball pool.
- Coloring pictures.
- Writing letters to Santa.
- Making tree ornaments.
- Munching on free cookies and hot chocolate!
- Purchasing a light dinner from one of our local supporting restaurants and bakeries
  – donations support our restoration work!

5:30pm to 6:30pm
Santa Fe Claus will be there for pictures!

6:30pm Reading of “The Polar Express” Book
6:45pm Showing the Movie “The Polar Express” (Runtime: 1hr 40 minutes)
8:25pm Movie will end. Gift shop will remain open until 9 pm.

Cookies and hot chocolate provided until they run out. Light Dinner/Snacks available for donation. Great night to use your member discount and get that special gift at our Store!

RSVP today so we have enough cookies and goodies!
Limited number of guests allowed, so you must RSVP! NO WALK INS!
**Depot Day 2018!**

Our Annual Open house at Travel Town was once again a big success! This year we moved our performance stage up to the front of the Museum, thus allowing the Hoover Jazz Band and Crescenta Valley High School Jazz Band easy access to the park. There was lots of room IN THE SHADE of the sycamore trees up there, and everyone loved to listen to the music with the party cars and the 3025 as a backdrop!

Also moved up to the front of the museum were our members-only playday area and our bake sale and food booth! Special thanks go out to our volunteers who baked cookies, and Western Bagel and the California Eatery who provided goodies for our bake sale! Partnerships like these with local businesses really make a difference!

In the picture at left, Greg and Nancy Gneier receive a donation plaque from the US Battery Manufacturing Company and their Western States Sales Manager Dan Grigsby. US Battery generously donated 4 32-Volt batteries to the Foundation for use in the Charley Atkins switch engine at the Museum. Our volunteers had been trying to keep the old batteries running as long as we could, however the hot summer really took a toll on the batteries and they just needed to be replaced. Thank you so much, US Battery Manufacturing Company for being great friends of Travel Town!! And behind Greg, Nancy and Dan are the super cool sounding Hoover High School Jazz Band!

In the picture on the right, the ever-talented Crescenta Valley High School Jazz Band takes the stage for their performance.
Out on the platform underneath the Pavilion, we had guests from the Santa Clarita Garden Railroad Club set up some layouts, as well as Adam’s Forge Blacksmiths, the Griffith Park Rangers, Jackie Hadnot – Woodcarver, and the Los Angeles Live Steamers, as well as several educational displays from our own Travel Town Docents.

We’re getting ready for the Golden Spike Sesquicentennial, so be sure to send us your family photos that were taken with the Stockton Terminal Eastern engine! Use the hashtag #STEandme We’d love to see them!

A really special layout was mounted inside the Exhibit hall and through Holden’s Corner by the Del Oro Pacific Modular Railroad! These guys moved in on Friday night and had a fantastic layout for all Travel Town visitors to experience both Saturday and Sunday! We hope to see them back in the spring!
"We’ve Been Workin’"

Instead of “On The Railroad”, the next words are “In The Library”. One of the other major accomplishments the Foundation achieved in the past year was the remodeling of the old gift shop into a new volunteer center and research library. To the left, you see some pictures of the building as it was being re-modeled, our old gift shop space was divided into an office for the Executive Director and a combination library - meeting room. As the building was over 25 years old, some major reconstruction on its “bones” were done first, the inside cross beams and floor support boards were either replaced or reinforced, and an ADA-approved ramp and deck were also installed, providing the Foundation with a pleasant outdoor meeting area, as well! Over the years major donations have been made to our book collection from various donors, and we have incorporated them into our library, as well as reference copies of Trains magazines and maintenance/operating manuals for the equipment we have at the Museum. Much of the work was done by volunteers, including the repainting, the cleanup work, etc., but we still required professional assistance for the wall installation and the porch rebuild, which was provided by RB Construction. Funds for the porch were contributed by Council District 4, from David Ryu. And, to really make the building look spiffy and spectacular, JR Westwood took on the exterior renovation as his Eagle Leadership Project! JR oversaw his troop and friends as they replaced and painted the trim, painted an extra coat of Southern Pacific yellow, and added some new flowers to the boxes outside of the windows of the Volunteer Center room. The Volunteer Center now provides secure locker storage for volunteers to keep their valuables while they are out in the park, and a coffeemaker was also donated to encourage our volunteers to arrive early on Saturday mornings! As an added bonus, the Girl Scouts replanted the garden next to the Volunteer Center to include butterfly-attracting plants that are drought tolerant. With volunteer Jason who comes once a month to run our LGB train for the folks who are waiting for the train ride, there is quite a lot to see and appreciate. It was great to work with local businesses, City Administration, Scout groups and our dedicated volunteers who all made this project a success.
New and Renewing Members

Restoration Partners
Stephen & Hope Heaney

Streamliner Memberships
Trina Gasawnl
Jessica Kuhlman
Stephanie Lum
Victor Rampulla
Szemeredi

Track Gang Memberships
Anton Anderson
Hanna Benfield
Rubi Bermudez
Robert Black
Brian Bock
Alice Cardone
Ana Catalan
Yogesu Chawla
Marcus Conner
Courtial
David Hamilton
David Hopwood
Jennifer Kraushaar
Giovanni Layola
Evelyn Leon
Adrian Limon

Mariela Lopez
Andrea Mankin
Nash Marquez
Michael Mitchell
Mishael Morgan
Juan Munoz
Elizabeth Olguin
Shannon Ponsford
Artyom Pulev
Raja Sahi
Fidel Sanchez
Naomi Sanghavee
Megan Tamisiea
Thomas Tyler
Gaby Urbina
Judee & Bryant Vanegas

Junior Engineer Memberships
Theodora Amado
Miles Bensimmon
King-Aedan Coyle
Elliot Farnsworth
Gabriel Friedman
Leo Goretsky
Angie Grabowski
Heather Lima
Amanda Lukask
Ben Rodari-Bowman
Evan Weekley

Track Gang Memberships
Theodora Amado
Miles Bensimmon
King-Aedan Coyle
Elliot Farnsworth
Gabriel Friedman
Leo Goretsky
Angie Grabowski
Heather Lima
Amanda Lukask
Ben Rodari-Bowman
Evan Weekley

Engineer Memberships
Nathan Browne
Caleb Dawkins
Sandra Saucedo

Do you need to renew your membership? You can do it online!
Click here for more information!

Upcoming Events!

November 24th and December 8th (Saturdays) - VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
10:30 AM in front of the Volunteer Center. Join our volunteer team! Sign up online at Travel Town Volunteers.

December 8th – (Saturday) – PASSENGER CAR TOURS
10:30 AM to 3:00 PM in the Locomotive Pavilion. Join us for Docent lead tours through selected historic railroad passenger cars. No reservation necessary.

December 13th - (Thursday) – POLAR EXPRESS PAJAMA PARTY!
4:30PM at Travel Town. Cookies, cocoa, fun activities, and of course a screening of "The Polar Express". This event is for TRAVEL TOWN MEMBERS ONLY and requires an RSVP. Become a member today online at Travel Town Members or in person at the giftshop! Already a member? Click here to RSVP for this event!

December 15th – (Saturday) – JUNIOR ENGINEER PLAYDAY (Members Only)
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM Next to the Volunteer Center. Join us for a fun Members only PlayDay. And the dedication of the Craig A. Smith Volunteer Center. Free Cake for Members!
There’s an easy way to support the Travel Town Museum Foundation!

Did you know you can link your Ralph’s Club Card with our foundation? It takes only a moment and it plays a big part in our fundraising!

First, register your Club Card on [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Then sign in and click on your name in the top right corner. Click the “Community Rewards - Enroll” link. Next simply fill in the required information: the *NEW* Travel Town NPO is GK464. Be sure to click the circle next to Travel Town to select it and click “enroll”. It’s that easy! Now every time you make a purchase at Ralph’s, they’ll make a donation to Travel Town!

And if you’re an Amazon shopper, please click the Amazon.smile link found on our website. To pay for your order, use an Amazon gift card below purchased with the Benefit App, too!

You can donate to Travel Town without taking time out of your day, or going out of your way!

We’ve teamed up with Benefit, a mobile app that allows you to instantly purchase digital gift cards to use online or in-store, at retailers including Walmart, Target, The Home Depot, and Amazon. When you buy using the app, retailers contribute up to 20% of your transaction back to the Travel Town Museum Foundation — so you don’t have to spend an extra cent!

Download the app and use it for your everyday purchases – use our name “American Southwestern Railway Association” as your Beneficiary!!
Not looking forward to the big rush at the shopping malls? Avoid the crowds and save on your gifts by using this

**Travel Town Holiday Coupon**

$5 off all purchases $25 or more! $20 off all purchases $100 or more!

*Coupon cannot be stacked with other discounts, including membership discounts. Customer must present printed or digital coupon in person at time of purchase to get discount. Coupon can be used only once per customer, per day. Offer expires 12/24/18*