



Got a Metrolink monthly pass?

Then you have a
get-out-of-town-free card!



Metrolink and Amtrak are offering all Metrolink monthly-pass holders free weekend travel on Amtrak's northbound *Pacific Surfliner* trains from February 6 through April 30, 2004.

Here's how the promotion works:

- ▶ From Friday, February 6, through Friday, April 30, 2004, all Metrolink monthly passes will be accepted for **free weekend travel** (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) north of Los Angeles on Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* corridor and connecting Amtrak Thruway Coaches.
- ▶ Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* corridor north of Los Angeles includes and stops at Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Grover Beach, and San Luis Obispo.
- ▶ **This special promotion is not valid for travel south of Los Angeles Union Station** on Amtrak *Pacific Surfliner* trains (beyond the trip limit of the Metrolink monthly pass), except for Rail 2 Rail travel.
- ▶ **There are three blackout dates during this promotion: April 9, 10, and 11.** On these dates, all Amtrak trains will require advance reservations and ticket purchase.

Inside



So where can your Metrolink monthly pass take you?

Well, for a quick weekend escape, there's Ventura. Ventura is the gateway to Channel Islands National Park, home to a thriving arts district and shelter to one of California's last working harbors. During February, visitors to Ventura can learn about the architecture of Mission San Buenaventura; go on a whale-watching cruise; take a walking tour to discover the legends, lore, and ghosts of old Ventura; and much more!

The athletically inclined may prefer to bring bicycles (on Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* trains, you can just roll them aboard and store them in the special bike areas) to ride on the magnificent Ventura River Trail, which links the Ventura coastline to the Ojai Bike Trail, a scenic path between Ventura's Foster Park and downtown Ojai.

For more ideas on where to stay and what to do, visit the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau's Web page: www.ventura-usa.com/index.cfm.

Or how about an environmentally friendly, car-free weekend in **Santa Barbara**? This little jewel of a city has an extensive network of bus routes and bicycle paths for local exploring. There are also numerous private boat, bus, and tour operators providing excursions to outlying areas, including the romantic and remote Channel Islands and beautiful valley wine country. Check out www.santabarbaracarfree.org for information, maps, and special car-free offers for both Santa Barbara and Carpinteria.

Further up the coast and ten miles inland, there's **San Luis Obispo**. With its quaint downtown area, historic mission, and stunning scenery, it's easy to see why *USA Today* voted it "The Best Small Town in America."

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Who's Your Sweetie?



Felipe Cervantes of Norwalk names his wife Agi Szabo as "the sweetest person I know." He describes her as kind and gentle, with a heart of gold. This lucky husband writes that Agi "delivers more smiles than would UPS" and that it is a rare sight to see a frown on her face.

Jorge Zavala writes: "I think my sweetheart Theresa should be featured in Metrolink Matters because she is as beautiful inside as she is outside. She has always been that special person, from the day we met four years ago. Next to her is Joshua, our two-year-old son." He signed off with this special message to his wife: "I love you, and I wouldn't change anything in our lives."



Terri Ulmer of Orange County nominated her mom and dad, Billie and Albert Juliano, who recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. "What could be sweeter than spending your whole life with your high-school sweetheart?"

Passenger Sharon R. Morrow, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, nominated Phaedra, her black lab, as her sweetie. "She is a certified therapy dog for Therapy Dogs International (TDI). She loves everyone and is gentle with children and other small dogs!"



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Anna Regalado of Montclair names Michael as her "sweetie" for the last four years. She writes that Michael "has it all"—a sense of humor, self-reliance, modesty, respect, and honesty. "Of all my Valentines, this is the one that makes my heart melt."



Amir Hami sent us this photo of his wife, Hang. "We met in 1979 on the first day of college and married in February of 1985," says Amir. "Every gift that I give to my wife ends up getting returned to the store. I hope by having her picture in Metrolink Matters, she gets stuck with it and won't end up in the return line!"



Steve Wylie of Orange County names daughter Katherine as his sweetie. Steve states: "Katherine is my sweetie because she is unquestionably the most beautiful daughter anyone could hope for. She's bright, inquisitive, talented, and loving. She gets all of these qualities from her mother."

Rosemary Randall of Riverside wrote to us about her sweetie, Frank T. Pepito, who is gone but not forgotten. Frank met Rosemary at the Downtown Riverside Metrolink Station. "Every morning Frank waited for me outside the station where the newspaper racks are and bought me a paper. He did this for six months before he got the nerve to ask me out." Frank and Rosemary were engaged when Frank passed away in November. "All the passengers on the 803 and 804 have been so kind to me. I thank all of them for that."



Mi Amor

**Dame un beso que te Pido
Te lo ruego por Favor
Ahora que estoy Perdido
En un mundo sin Amor
Dame un abrazo Profundo
Y me ayudaras a Sentir
El hombre más feliz del Mundo
Que ha podido Vivir.
Dame cuanto hoy te Imploro
Y yo pedir tú para este todo el Tiempo
Ya que por ello Llora
No importa por donde Estoy.**

Claremont passenger Jose Rene Mongalo Fallas has written more than 4,000 poems. He states that he was inspired by Metrolink Matters to write this love poem for our Valentine's Day edition.

Schedule Changes

On January 26, Metrolink schedules changed. Metrolink has reduced service on certain holidays: Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King Day, and Thanksgiving Friday. Trains that do not operate on those holidays are marked with an "X" on top of the train number on the schedule. Ventura County and San Bernardino Lines experienced more significant changes. Updated schedules are available online at www.metrolinktrains.com. Amtrak Service along the Rail 2 Rail corridor will not experience any changes. A summary of the schedule changes is below.

Antelope Valley Line

- Timetables no longer include information for Santa Clarita Transit. Buses on this route are still operating and Metrolink passes are still accepted for connecting travel as they have been in the past.

Ventura County Line

- Trains 113 and 115, headed to Montalvo, and 102 and 104, headed to Los Angeles, depart 5 minutes earlier.
- Trains 106 and 119 have extended service to and from Montalvo. Train 119 stops at Camarillo and Oxnard Stations to discharge passengers only. Stops at these stations are designated as "D" stops, where passengers will be permitted only to exit the train.

Burbank Airport

- Newly added train 903 departs Los Angeles at 7:15 a.m., headed for downtown Burbank.
- Train 904, headed to Los Angeles, departs Burbank Airport 5 minutes earlier.

Orange County Line

- No changes.

IEOC and 91 Lines

- Trains 803, headed to Oceanside, and 701, headed to Los Angeles, depart 2-3 minutes earlier.

San Bernardino Line

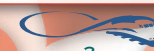
- Four new trains provide service between Covina and Los Angeles. Trains 361 and 363 depart Covina at 7:21 a.m. and 6:05 p.m., respectively. Trains 360 and 362 depart Los Angeles at 6:27 a.m. and 5:20 p.m., respectively.
- Trains designated with the symbol "t" (at Rancho Cucamonga, Montclair, Claremont and Covina Stations) stop at track 2 (the south track).
- Most trains have experienced schedule changes of 2-5 minutes.

Riverside Line

- Trains 401 and 403, headed to Los Angeles, will depart 3 minutes earlier.

Weekend Service

- No changes.



Station City News

Irvine—Three Senses Nature Walk will take place on February 14, 2004, from 10–11:30 a.m. Take some time to look at, listen to, and smell nature as you enjoy a walk around the grounds of Bommer Canyon.

Learn the history of Bommer Canyon Cattle Camp, the Irvine wilderness, and early Native American survival techniques. Discover a glimpse of the wild side of Irvine! Dress comfortably: This is a one-mile hike. Recommended for folks ages 5 and up. This event is completely free. Visit www.irvinequickreg.org to register.

Oceanside—The YMCA Surfing Championship Series is scheduled for February 7 from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the North Harbor Jetty. This is a non-profit surf contest targeting kids and teens, giving them an opportunity to acquire some experience in competitive surfing. The contest will be judged and participants will receive donated prizes. Sponsored by the La Jolla YMCA /YMCA of San Diego County. For more information, contact the La Jolla YMCA at (858) 453-3483.



East Ontario

Got a Metrolink monthly pass? *(continued from page 1)*

Though the train trip is a little longer (about 5 hours from Los Angeles), SLO's many attractions make it well worth your while: There's Hearst Castle, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, wine tasting, golf, hiking, biking, museums, theater, art exhibits, and even the chance to see elephant seals giving birth!

The San Luis Obispo County Visitor and Conference Bureau's Web site, www.sanluisobispocounty.com, has information about transportation, festivals, events, and special romance packages.

Remember, this special free-travel offer is for *Metrolink monthly-pass holders only*, and blackout dates do apply. For more information about this special offer, go to www.metrolinktrains.com.

For more information about Rail to Rail, go to www.metrolinktrains.com. For more information about Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* schedules, visit www.amtrak.com or call (800) USA-RAIL

The Winner's Circle

Passengers **Kane Auwarter**, **Sherry Grossman**, **Bonnie Holcomb**, and **Lorenzo Grimes** won free January monthly passes for participating in the Antelope Valley Line Link Event held December 9–11 and 19.

The next Link Event will be held on the Ventura County Line February 10, 11, and 12.

Take Metrolink to Pomona Raceway for K&N Filters Winternationals

Get on board for drag-racing thrills February 19–22, when more than 600 cars will pound into Pomona for the ear-splitting K&N Filters Winternational at the Pomona Raceway.

For the fifth consecutive year, Metrolink is offering the K&N Filters Winternationals at Pomona Raceway as one of our trip destinations. The NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series 2004 season-opener takes place at the historic Los Angeles County Fairgrounds racing complex.

During the K&N Filters Winternationals, Metrolink's San Bernardino Line will provide service throughout the weekend. From the Metrolink station at Fairplex (marked NHRA on the Metrolink schedule), it's only a few yards to the entrance of the main gate at Pomona Raceway. The

Fairplex stop will be in addition to the regularly scheduled stops on San Bernardino Line trains.

Pomona Raceway, located at the Los Angeles County Fairplex, has been home to NHRA's season-opening Winternationals since 1961 and to the season-ending Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals since 1984.

Headquartered in Glendora, California, the NHRA is the primary sanctioning body for the sport of drag racing in the United States.

For train schedules, check out www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK. For K&N Filters Winternationals ticket information, check online at www.nhra.com, www.ticketmaster.com or call (800) 884-6472.

Safety Matters

The safety of our passengers and members of the communities we serve is our top priority.

The Metrolink Safety Department had another busy year reaching out to communities located along our rights-of-way. Our presentations give rail safety and trespassing information tailored to each group to which we present.

We educated over 19,000 students and adults in 2003, presenting programs to the following groups:

- ▲ Adult groups (417 adults)
- ▲ Driver's-education classes (2,357 students)
- ▲ Firefighters/1st responders (2,188 persons)

- ▲ Elementary-school students (7,030 students)
- ▲ Middle-school students (2,918 students)
- ▲ Police department personnel (649 officers)
- ▲ Professional drivers (968 truck or bus drivers)

We also conducted Officer on the Train events with local law enforcement agencies and participated in numerous safety fairs.

If you would like information about a safety presentation for your school or community group, please contact Tracy Berge at (213) 452-0241.

Remember, safety first. Never pick a fight with a heavyweight!

METROLINK MATTERS

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