



## Metrolink Welcomes Locomotive 888 on Earth Day

Keith Millhouse, Metrolink's vice chairman and a city councilmember from Moorpark, urged Southern Californians to "go cleaner and greener by riding transit" before breaking out some champagne to launch the newest addition to Metrolink's fleet of locomotives, #888. Metrolink added to a long history of environmental friendliness by rolling out the diesel-electric locomotive on Earth Day, April 22, in a small ceremony at Metrolink's Central Maintenance Facility (CMF) in Los Angeles.

Locomotive 888, the first of fifteen new locomotives, was delivered in mid-April to the CMF after traveling to Los Angeles from Boise, Idaho, where the manufacturer, MotivePower Industries, is located.

In addition to operating on the lowest-sulfur diesel fuel available (as do all Metrolink locomotives), 888 includes enhanced safety features, improved performance, and reliability. The new locomotive also features automatic stop/start technology funded by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to further cut emissions. The new generation of Metrolink locomotives also feature higher-horsepower engines, improved fuel efficiency, advanced emissions-reduction technology, and microprocessor controls.

Metrolink plans to further "green" its fleet by refurbishing its existing locomotives, which will be upgraded as the newer equipment is placed into service. Locomotive 888 is expected to join the active Metrolink fleet by mid-May.

For more information on Metrolink's commitment to cleaner commuting, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).

### CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

Amtrak is sponsoring the first-ever National Train Day on May 10, 2008. Passenger-train ridership is growing every year all over the country, so what better way to recognize that trains are the best way to relax and enjoy the ride than a party? Everyone is cordially invited to join the festivities and take part in a variety of activities, including live musical performances, exhibits, trip planning, VIP appearances, and trip giveaways.

As part of National Train Day, actor and recording artist Drake Bell will hold a free concert at Los Angeles Union Station. The show will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the station's historic ticket concourse. Metrolink and Metro (operators of Los Angeles's light-rail systems), along with other vendors, will also be participating with giveaways and other fun activities in the garden area.

*(continued on page 4)*



### Construction & Maintenance Update

#### San Juan Capistrano Street Closure

Del Obispo Street in San Juan Capistrano will be closed at the Metrolink railroad tracks for track work that is expected to begin at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and to continue through 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 4.

The work will involve the use of heavy machinery and bright lights during evening and early morning hours.

For more information on Metrolink's construction and maintenance projects, please visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

### INSIDE

- 2 • WHAT HAPPENED WHEN  
• FOUR QUESTIONS FOR GRAY CRARY
- 3 • A CLOSER LOOK  
• FOCUS ON SAFETY
- 4 • RULES OF THE ROAD  
• FULLERTON RAILROAD DAYS
- 5 • THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
- 6 • PRIORITY SEATING AT THE PANTAGES!

## WHAT HAPPENED WHEN

The Central Maintenance Facility (CMF) in Los Angeles is where the bulk of Metrolink's fleet of trains go in the late mornings to be cleaned, checked, and fueled in preparation for the afternoon commutes. Since the majority of Metrolink trains arrive at Los Angeles Union Station in the morning, then pull into CMF for servicing, and depart Union Station in the afternoon for the commute home, this means that the arrival into and departure from CMF is something of a choreographed ballet of track switching and equipment moves.

On February 8, at approximately 11:50 a.m., one of the tracks that allow our trains to exit CMF was blocked, completely disrupting the planned servicing and departure of trains. Equipment that normally leaves out of the front of the yard had to be re-routed through the rear of the yard. This necessitated rearranging the equipment to maintain its intended pattern of movement.

The incident resulted in delays of three trains:

- San Bernardino Line train 306 was delayed 15 minutes
- San Bernardino Line train 324 was delayed 16 minutes
- Orange County Line train 608 was delayed 20 minutes

By 7:30 p.m. Metrolink staff and contractors were able to completely reopen the track, bringing operations in CMF back to normal.



## Four Questions for...Gray Crary

**Assistant Executive Officer, Operations and Engineering**

This month's questions come to us from Jerry Scher, who, over the past few years, has commuted on every one of the morning, afternoon, and evening trains on the Antelope Valley Line.

**JS Any chance of a sixth car?**

**GC** Probably not until after our new passenger cars begin arriving in 2009. We expect to receive forty cars by the end of 2009, and they will be allocated to the trains that are the most crowded as well as to start off the enhanced thirty-minute Metrolink service in Orange County.

**JS Any plans for a car with fewer seats but more bike and luggage storage?**

**GC** Not at this time. I ride the trains myself, and I am seeing more bicycles and more people with luggage—I suspect due to people's using the FlyAway bus at Union Station and to our direct access to the Burbank Airport. But our passengers are still mainly commuters who, for the most part, do not travel with luggage as Amtrak passengers tend to do. Seats are a very valuable commodity with the demand for Metrolink service so high, and we are ordering more cars to add seats and reduce passenger crowding.



**JS Can you dim cabin lights during early-morning and late-evening runs?**

**GC** The conductor on at least one train has periodically dimmed the lights in one car of a train in the past. This was done at the request of a small group of passengers. While it may make it easier to catch those extra minutes or even an hour of shut-eye, the dimmed lighting can be hazardous to other passengers boarding or leaving that car. It can make it difficult to see the steps at either end of the car. For this reason, we no longer dim the lights in any of the cars.

**JS Would you please step up the enforcement of ticket checking and place multiple signs at each station, so that people see before boarding the train that the conductor or Sheriff's deputies will be checking tickets on EVERY train?**

**GC** It is a common misconception that tickets are NOT checked on every train. Metrolink conductors check approximately 25 percent of the passengers on every train on a random basis. Sheriff's deputies and law-enforcement technicians (LETs) check 100 percent of the passengers on every train at least once a month. On top of that, in response to passenger comments and [an analysis of] our citation statistics, we know which trains are most likely to have fare violations. We do intensive three-day-in-a-row hits on those trains. By the second or third day, there is no fare evasion. This level of fare inspection has been found to keep fare evasion extremely low while keeping the costs of inspecting tickets low as well.

*Submit four questions that you would like to see answered in an upcoming issue to [metrolinkmatters@scrra.net](mailto:metrolinkmatters@scrra.net), subject line "4 Questions", and you may see your answers in print!*



# A Closer Look—Train Scheduling 101

Last month we took a brief look at the way Metrolink schedules come together. This month we'll delve deeper into the process to explain just why this process is a little more complicated than you might think.

We start by asking three questions: Where will the trains originate, where will their final destinations be, and where will they stop along the way? Metrolink operates train services over tracks owned by six different county transportation commissions and by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads. Together, the member agencies of SCRRRA—the transportation commissions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura—provide input on how many trains to operate on each line and where to locate stations. Their input is based on input from riders in their communities, their overall transportation plans, and available funds. This piece of the process leads to an overall service plan that determines how many trains will run on which lines.

Once the overall service plan is determined, Metrolink staff works to combine the available locomotives and cars, track capacity, and personnel into the most efficient network of schedules possible. It's a complex process that involves many people.

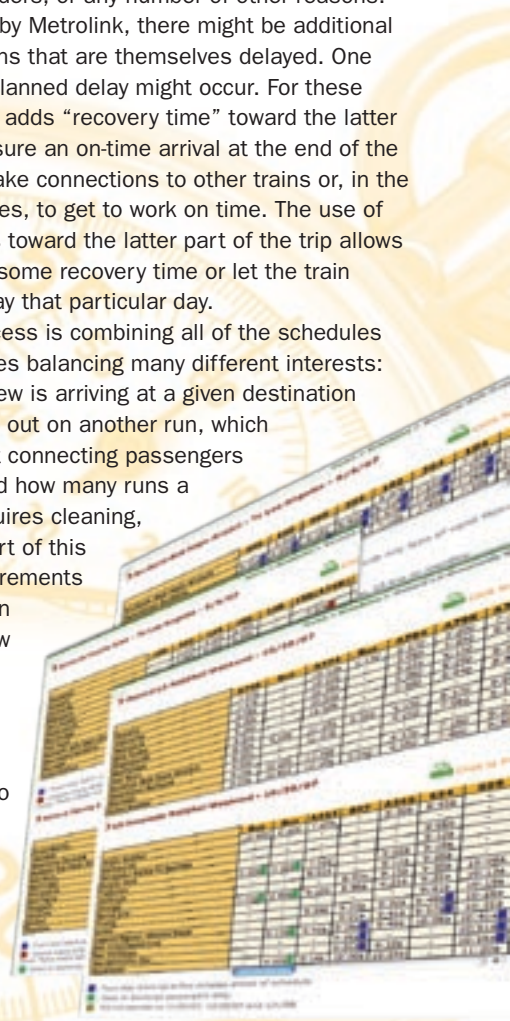
As an example, let's consider a train running from San Bernardino to Los Angeles Union Station in the morning. To create the basic schedule, we need to know how much time it takes this train to travel between stations and how much time will be spent at each station. Metrolink uses a combination of computer models and actual ride checks with stopwatches to determine these times.

The next step is to anticipate delays that may occur in en route. In a perfect world, there would be no delays. Of course, in the real world, we all know that delays sometimes occur. The question is how much time to put in the schedule for delays and where to put it. There are minutes for both planned and unplanned delays in Metrolink schedules. Most commonly, planned delay minutes involve trains operating on single track where one train needs to pull onto a siding track to allow another train to go by. These delays can generally be accounted for and built into the schedule. Unplanned

delays might be related to weather, another delayed train, an especially large number of riders, or any number of other reasons. On lines that are not owned by Metrolink, there might be additional delays caused by freight trains that are themselves delayed. One cannot predict where an unplanned delay might occur. For these reasons, Metrolink generally adds "recovery time" toward the latter part of each schedule to ensure an on-time arrival at the end of the trip, where riders need to make connections to other trains or, in the case of downtown Los Angeles, to get to work on time. The use of "L" stops at certain stations toward the latter part of the trip allows the schedule to incorporate some recovery time or let the train proceed if there is not a delay that particular day.

The final step in the process is combining all of the schedules into a "network." This involves balancing many different interests: what equipment and train crew is arriving at a given destination that might be available to go out on another run, which arriving trains have the most connecting passengers to other outbound trains, and how many runs a train can make before it requires cleaning, servicing, and fueling. As part of this exercise, we adhere to requirements for the amount of time a train crew may be on duty and how long equipment can operate before being serviced. As we operate more and more trains, we focus increasingly on including sufficient time to work on the tracks and train signals.

Metrolink schedules are available on our trains, at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com), and by calling (800) 371-LINK (5465).



## FOCUS ON SAFETY

California once again leads the nation in trespassing injuries and fatalities. According to Federal Railroad Administration statistics, 127 incidents were recorded in the state in 2007. The Railroad Trespass Prevention Act defines trespassing on railroad property as someone entering or remaining on such property without lawful authority or the railroad carrier's consent, with knowledge that he is not licensed or privileged to do so. A person standing, sitting, resting, walking, jogging, running, driving, or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, snowmobile, car, or truck on railroad property, except for the purpose of crossing such property at a public highway or other authorized crossing, is considered in violation of the Railroad Trespass Prevention Act. During a recent directed enforcement activity in Orange County, more than twenty persons were observed and cited for trespassing along the right-of-way by law-enforcement officers.

This is a reminder that it is only permissible to cross tracks at designated crossings. When crossing tracks, even where there is an active warning device such as a crossing gate that lowers to stop traffic with lights and bells, use caution and always look both ways. Metrolink trains travel up to 90 miles per hour (132 feet per second) and can take over a mile to stop. Active warning devices are only located at crossings. When you are trespassing, there is nothing to indicate the advancement of the oncoming train.

For more information about Metrolink's safety efforts, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com/safety](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/safety).



Taking a shortcut across the tracks could KILL a perfectly good day at the beach.



## Rules of the Road

Some riders have noticed a change in our advance-purchase tickets, which now print without expiration times. Worry not, these are legitimate tickets and **not counterfeit**.

The new future-dated round-trip and one-way tickets are printed without expiration times in order to make your travels and travel planning easier. Designed especially to complement trips involving Amtrak where the entire trip is not completed on a single day, these pre-purchased tickets offer you increased flexibility to plan a trip involving multiple trains. Same-day-purchase one-way tickets expire within three hours of purchase and have the time of purchase printed on them. The new advance-purchase tickets offer a lot more flexibility, allowing riders to seamlessly combine travel on Metrolink, Amtrak, and other trains in Los Angeles County. Round-trip tickets are good for the entire day between the stations indicated on the ticket. One-way tickets are also good for the entire day but are only valid in the direction away from the origin station printed on the ticket. There's an added benefit to buying Metrolink tickets in advance: with a pre-purchased ticket, you can pass by busy TVMs on the day of travel.

You can pre-purchase Metrolink tickets up to 365 days in advance. Please note: Advance-purchase tickets can be used only on the date for which they are purchased. Please direct any questions to (800) 371-LINK (5465) or ask one of the customer-service representatives in the field.



## CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAIN DAY (continued from page 1)

The date of National Train Day, May 10, holds special meaning: it is the anniversary of the 1869 completion of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah, where the east coast and west coast were connected for the first time by rail. Rail travel has come a long way since then, and we invite you to celebrate that history by joining us at National Train Day.

For more information on National Train Day and planned events, visit [www.nationaltrainday.com](http://www.nationaltrainday.com).



## FULLERTON RAILROAD DAYS

The City of Fullerton and the Fullerton Railway Plaza Association proudly present the 10th annual Fullerton Railroad Days on May 3 and 4. This celebration of the railroad history and heritage of Fullerton features train exhibits, real vintage and current railroad displays, vendors, and food.

Disneyland's Engine No. 3, the Fred Gurley steam locomotive that debuted in March 1958, will be on display outside the Disneyland Resort for the very first time. Also on display will be 100 years' worth of firefighting equipment, including a 1902 American horse-drawn steam fire engine that will be sharing the spotlight with Fullerton's newest fire truck.

Fullerton Railroad Days will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the Fullerton Train Station, 120 E. Santa Fe Avenue. For more information on Fullerton Railroad Days 2008, call (714) 278-0648 or go to [www.scrmf.org/rrdays](http://www.scrmf.org/rrdays).



## RAILROAD GRUB

This month's transit-friendly eatery is Los Toros in Chatsworth, recommended by rider Rebecca Burns.

Located within walking distance of the Chatsworth Station, Los Toros is a favorite eatery among North San Fernando Valley locals. For thirty years, this family-owned establishment has served authentic Mexican food and drinks in a colorful facility decorated with Mexican arts and crafts.

In addition to delicious renditions of Mexican-cuisine favorites, Los Toros offers house specialties such as nopales rellenos (stuffed cactus), camarones al mojo de ajo (sautéed jumbo shrimp battered in a garlic-cheese sauce), and crab enchiladas. They also make a signature margarita and offer five different beers on tap.

Los Toros is located at 21743 Devonshire Street in Chatsworth (two blocks east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard). For more information, visit [www.lostoros.com](http://www.lostoros.com).

*Let everyone in on your food find! We have only three rules:*

1. Restaurant must be within walking distance of a Metrolink station.
2. No chain eateries, please. We want to hear about places other riders may not know about.
3. Your eatery must have been in business at least a year.

Send your "find" via e-mail to [metrolinkmatters@scrra.net](mailto:metrolinkmatters@scrra.net), with the subject line "Railroad Grub."





## THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

It would normally require a plane trip halfway across the world and a train ride into the Northern Chinese city of Xi'an in order to see what many are calling the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World. Fortunately for Southern California residents, the travel time just got much shorter because, beginning May 18, the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana will host a very special exhibit: Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor.

In 1974, farmers uncovered a terra-cotta head and unknowingly made what is considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century. When archaeologists unearthed the site, they found over 1,000 unique life-size figures, all designed to protect and provide for the emperor in his afterlife.

The exhibition will give visitors a deeper understanding of the historical significance of this discovery and showcase 100 sets of artifacts, including fourteen life-size terra-cotta warriors. This is the largest loaned set of terra-cotta figures and artifacts to ever travel to the United States.

Tickets for this special exhibit are available for purchase online at [museumtix.com](http://museumtix.com) or by calling Ticketmaster at (877) 250-8999.

Weekday prices: adults, \$25; students/seniors (62+),

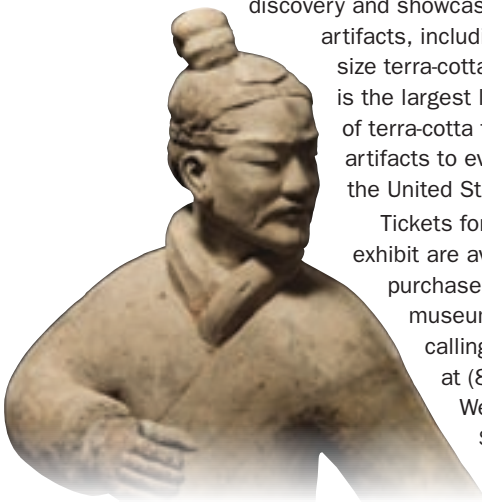
**TERRA COTTA WARRIORS**  
GUARDIANS OF CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR



\$19. Weekend prices: adults, \$27; students/seniors, \$21. Children under 6 are admitted for free. The price includes the exhibition audio tour and access to all other museum galleries. PIMCO's Free Friday Nights offers free admission for up to 100 visitors per hour at 4, 5, and 6 p.m.

The Bowers Museum is easily accessible by train. From the Santa Ana station, use your Metrolink ticket or pass to transfer free to OCTA Bus 83 northbound to Main/20th.

For more information about this exhibit, visit [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) or call (714) 567-3600.



## CHOO CHOO YOUR WAY TO BURBANK



With gas prices continuing to rise, many people are vacationing closer to home this year. And with a special promotion starting May 1, 2008, for Metrolink passengers, you can take a mini-vacation to the brand-new Residence Inn by Marriott Burbank Downtown. It's only \$139 per night, including breakfast, for a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday stay. Your weekend adventure starts with a complimentary breakfast, and then you can shop along First Street or take in other nearby destinations such as Universal Studios, the L.A. Zoo, and the Starlight Bowl. For those who just want to relax, the Marriott has a fitness center and pool on the premises. Take Metrolink to the Downtown Burbank Station and call Yellow Cab Co. at (877) 733-3305 for a ride to the hotel; a taxi voucher worth up to \$5.00 will be given to the driver when you arrive.

Call the Marriott at (800) 331-3131 and ask for the Metrolink Rail 2 Rail promotion or go to [www.residenceinnburbank.com](http://www.residenceinnburbank.com) and type in the promotional code L9Z.

Rate is subject to applicable taxes and is based on availability from May 1 to December 28, 2008. Promotional rate and dates subject to change without notice.

# A CHORUS LINE

THE BEST MUSICAL. EVER.



Photo Credit: Paul Kohnick

The cast of *A Chorus Line*

## METROLINK SAVES YOU 20 PERCENT ON A CHORUS LINE

Hop onboard to see one singular sensation! Take Metrolink to *A Chorus Line*, playing at the Ahmanson Theatre May 21 to July 6. Metrolink users save 20 percent on ticket prices for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening performances.\*

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For seventeen dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. This is *A Chorus Line*, the musical for everyone who's ever had a dream and put it all on the line. It's the winner of nine Tony Awards®, including "Best Musical," and the longest-running American Broadway musical ever.

To get your discount tickets for *A Chorus Line*, show your valid Metrolink rail ticket or pass at the Ahmanson Theatre box office, or buy tickets by phone at (213) 628-2772 or online at [www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org) (use the promotional code COMMUTER).

For directions on how to get to the Ahmanson Theatre using Metrolink, call (800) 371-LINK (5465).

\* Subject to availability. Offer excludes front orchestra seating and previously purchased tickets.

## Metrolink Riders Get Priority Seating for Broadway/L.A.'S 2009 Season at the Pantages!

Broadway/L.A. has just announced its amazing new season at Hollywood's Pantages Theater. Through this special offer for Metrolink riders, they're offering you the opportunity to purchase season tickets before the general public.

The 2009 season includes the following shows:

*The Phantom of the Opera; Grease; Mamma Mia!; Dirty Dancing; Fiddler on the Roof; Legally Blonde: The Musical; and Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical.*

Season ticket holders will also have the option to purchase tickets for two additional shows: *Rent*, starring Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp, and *Rain: The Beatles Experience*.

To purchase priority season tickets, mention the code word "Metrolink" when calling the season-ticket office at (866) 755-BWAY (2929), Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Priority season tickets may only be purchased May 5 through May 16, and are available only by telephone.



## All aboard the Angels Fan Train!



For more information on how you can catch all the action this season, call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or go to [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

Cultivate  
your career  
this summer.

Attend one of our  
**Summer Intensive**  
Programs.

Summer programs available in:

- ▶ Business Leadership
- ▶ Crime Scene Investigation
- ▶ Education: Chief Business Officials, Educational Facilities Planning, Educational Therapy
- ▶ GIS Summer School
- ▶ Teaching Certificates and Credentials

For Children, Grades 3-7:

- ▶ Expanding Horizons

E-mail: [moreinfo@ucx.ucr.edu](mailto:moreinfo@ucx.ucr.edu)  
Phone: 951.827.3806; 800.442.4996  
Web site: [www.extension.ucr.edu/metrolink](http://www.extension.ucr.edu/metrolink)

### METROLINK MATTERS

Editor-in-Chief: Paul Sitkoff  
Contributors: Charlene Ariza, Tracy Berge, Francisco Oaxaca  
Designer: Harlan West/HWDS  
Writing Consultant: Jessica Hoffmann  
C.E.O.: David Solow

Director, Communications and Development: Steve Lantz  
Manager, External Communications: Francisco Oaxaca  
Send comments or story ideas to [metrolinkmatters@scrca.net](mailto:metrolinkmatters@scrca.net)  
or to Metrolink Matters, 700 S. Flower St., Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.  
Published by the External Communications Department.

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.