



INSIDE 2

SAFETY MATTERS: AUTOMATIC TRAIN STOP TECHNOLOGY EXPANDING

3

WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

Charter Metrolink Trains Speed Fans to NASCAR

The Super Bowl is history and March Madness is weeks away. What's a sports fan to do? Take a ride on Metrolink to the West Coast premiere of NASCAR—the Auto Club 500 at Auto Club Speedway!

Just as we have since the very first race in 1997, Metrolink is partnering with Auto Club Speedway to provide direct train service from all points of the compass to the track. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 22. Metrolink will operate charter trains from Oceanside, Oxnard, and Lancaster, stopping at virtually all stations in between. Speedway trains stop at a specially constructed station just off the back straightaway at the racetrack. From there, a free tram service whisks you to the grandstand area.

Our loyal weekday riders already know the comfort and convenience of riding Metrolink. Imagine your train pulling out after the race at Fontana amid a sea of red taillights from the thousands of cars queuing up to leave the track.

The Auto Club Speedway trains are charters, and regular Metrolink tickets are not valid. Charter-train tickets are sold only by Auto Club Speedway and are mailed out prior to the race. To purchase your race and train tickets, call Auto Club Speedway at (800) 944-RACE (7223), or visit www.autoclubspeedway.com.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed on the train, so bring a bag of doughnuts with your coffee and orange juice in the morning and save some munchies for the trip home. Be sure and follow Speedway requirements regarding ice chests and other items, and remember that nothing can be stored at the Speedway train station while you attend the race.

Trains depart Auto Club Speedway one hour after the checkered flag. See you at the races!

Metrolink's Board Elects New Leadership

At its first meeting of 2009, Metrolink's Board of Directors unanimously elected Moorpark City Council Member Keith Millhouse as Board Chair. Former State Assembly Member Richard Katz was unanimously elected Vice Chair. Both officers serve one-year terms.



Keith Millhouse

A frequent Metrolink passenger, Millhouse has served on the Metrolink Board since 2004. He is the Ventura County Transportation Commission's (VCTC) representative. Millhouse brings broad public-agency and transportation-policy experience to his new responsibilities.



Richard Katz

(continued on page 2)

Peer Review Panel Issues Safety Recommendations

In September, the Metrolink Board of Directors approved a sweeping set of safety initiatives following the Chatsworth collision. A critical recommendation was to establish and select industry experts for an independent Commuter Rail Safety Peer Review Panel to review the Metrolink system.

The panel was tasked with focusing on all aspects of Metrolink's operations, including train operations; the inspection and maintenance of tracks, structures, and the signals and communications system; passenger-car and locomotive inspection; and maintenance provided by Metrolink staff and outside service providers.

After spending two intensive months on this project, the Peer Review Panel issued its final report to Metrolink's Board and senior management. The full report is available at www.metrolinktrains.com.

(continued on page 3)

TRANSIT: A HASSLE-FREE ROUTE TO CAR CULTURE AT THE PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM



It's a museum dedicated to the automobile—300,000 square feet full of cars and artifacts of car culture. Galleries display racecars, classic cars, vintage motorcycles, concept cars, cars once owned by

celebrities, and cars featured in films. An interactive learning center teaches the science of automotive technology. It's L.A.'s Petersen Automotive Museum—and approximately one-third of its staff takes public transit to work.

"I love to drive," says the Petersen's Chris Brown, "but in L.A., you're not really driving, you're just idling." So Brown takes Metrolink from Fullerton to Union Station, where he transfers to a Metro Red Line subway to Wilshire and Vermont in L.A. From there, he catches a Metro Rapid bus that drops him off in front of the Petersen at Wilshire and Fairfax. Even this three-leg trip, Brown says, takes about the same amount of time—1.5 hours—as driving. When fuel prices are high, it costs less than driving. And this way he spends his commute reading or napping, which he finds "much less stressful" than traffic.

Why *not* take transit to the Petersen Automotive Museum? From



February through September, the museum will ask, "What were they thinking?" as it showcases bizarre and unfeasible auto ideas that misguided inventors have tried to sell to the public. Plus, due to popular demand, the museum has extended its "Treasures of the Vault" exhibit through June. Here, you'll see some of the most exquisite and expensive cars ever made, including the supersized 1925 Round-Door Rolls Royce. There's also an alternative-power display exploring past experiments and future possibilities for greening the automobile.

To get there, take Metrolink to Union Station. From there, you have options: walk to Spring Street/Cesar Chavez and catch the Metro Rapid 728 bus heading west to Wilshire/Fairfax; take the Metro Red Line subway from within Union Station to Wilshire/Vermont, and then the Metro Rapid 720 bus heading west to Wilshire/Fairfax; or take the Metro Purple Line subway from within Union Station to Wilshire/Western, and then the Metro Rapid 720 bus. For Metro schedules, visit www.metro.net. For more information about the museum, visit www.petersen.org.



Photos courtesy of Petersen Automotive Museum

SAFETY MATTERS: AUTOMATIC TRAIN STOP TECHNOLOGY EXPANDING

In our ongoing effort to implement enhanced safety measures, Metrolink has received approval from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to modify our signal system and install Automatic Train Stop (ATS) technology on an expanded portion of the system.

We are proceeding swiftly with the expanded installation of ATS as a critical interim safety measure while we work to accelerate the development and deployment of Positive Train Control (PTC) technology—the ultimate automatic train-stopping technology, which is not yet available for implementation in Southern California.

ATS refers to a set of components of the train-control system, including a magnetic inductor placed next to the track that causes an audible alert from the engineer's control panel to sound approximately 75 feet before the train passes a signal light. The train brakes are automatically applied at a normal rate if the engineer does not acknowledge the alarm by pushing a button within eight seconds of the alert.

Currently, Metrolink and San Diego County's Coaster commuter-rail system have ATS on 31 miles of the route from Santa Ana to



San Diego. With the FRA's approval, Metrolink is proceeding with the installation of ATS at 43 speed-sensitive locations and expanding the number of locations of ATS inductors on the Orange County Line, as well as on three other Metrolink routes.

The ATS system will provide greater situational awareness for train engineers approaching locations on the system with significant speed reductions or sharp curves, and will establish an increased level of protection. The new installations are compatible with existing Metrolink and Amtrak ATS-equipped passenger fleets and, importantly, can be designed, procured, and installed in nine months or less without delaying PTC deployment.

Metrolink's Board...

(continued from page 1)

He was first elected to the Moorpark City Council in 2000, and has been twice reelected. In addition to holding other public posts, Millhouse is a former Chair of the VCTC and is currently Vice Chair of the Southern California Association of Governments' High Speed Rail Authority. He practices law in Westlake Village, specializing in environmental litigation.

For five years, Katz served on the State

Water Resources Control Board. He served Governor Davis as senior advisor on energy and water, and led negotiations on the landmark Colorado River Agreement forged by the federal government, California water agencies, and six other states. Katz served 16 years in the state legislature, beginning in 1980, including a term as the Assembly's Democratic leader and a 10-year stint chairing the transportation committee.

Millhouse and Katz played critical roles in the Metrolink Board's recent

efforts to implement new safety measures and technology. As the Board's Ad Hoc Subcommittee, they worked to establish the independent Commuter Rail Safety Peer Review Panel and are monitoring its recommendations for forward-looking safety improvements to the rail system.

Millhouse replaces outgoing Chair Ron Roberts, who has served on the Metrolink Board since 1999, representing the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Roberts assumed the chairmanship in 2007.

SAVE \$\$\$ ON L.A. KINGS, L.A. CLIPPERS, AND ANAHEIM DUCKS TICKETS

L.A. Kings—Save up to \$26

with Hockey Night Out Package

Saturday, February 14, 1 p.m. vs. Edmonton Oilers
 Saturday, February 21, 1 p.m. vs. Phoenix Coyotes
www.lakings.com/ticketdeals or (888) KINGS-LA



L.A. Clippers—Save 50 percent on \$35 and \$85 tickets

Monday, February 23, 7:30 p.m. vs. Golden State Warriors
www.ticketmaster.com/promo/p3mvtz (use promo code TRAIN)



Anaheim Ducks—\$5 Savings with Track Pack

Monday, February 2, 7:05 p.m. vs. Buffalo Sabres
 Wednesday, February 11, 7:05 p.m. vs. Calgary Flames
www.anaheimducks.com or (877) WILD-WING



For more special discounts, visit the “Special Events” page at www.metrolinktrains.com.

NEW LAX FLYAWAY FARES

Fares for express bus service between Union Station and Los Angeles International Airport for 2009 are:

- **Individual** \$6
- **Senior/Disabled (65+ years, with ID)** \$4
- **Children under 2 years** Free



For schedules and more information, visit www.lawa.org/flyaway.

RAILROAD GRUB: NICK'S TASTE OF TEXAS

Hungry for authentic Texas grub in Southern California? Texan transplants say Nick's Taste of Texas, located just a block from the Covina Station, offers the region's truest Texas-style dining: BBQ brisket tacos, Big Red soda, and long tables where you can eat family-style over a checkered tablecloth.

A community establishment for 20 years, Nick's Taste of Texas serves “recipes from the heart” like homemade flour tortillas and Tex-Mex fajitas. Stop by for Texas BBQ lunch or dinner, or grab a strawberry margarita at the bar. On Mondays, enjoy \$2 draft beer while watching football on a large-screen TV. Visit www.nickstasteoftexas.com for info on upcoming live entertainment.

The staff is happy to serve Metrolink riders. Just mention that you've got a train to catch and your server will rush your order. Nick's Taste of Texas is located at 545 N. Citrus, between San Bernardino Road and Front Street. (Closed Tuesdays.)



Peer Review... (continued from page 1)

The panel outlined an Enhanced Safety Action Plan with recommendations on eight key issues, with short-term and long-term milestones established for each. The areas are: enhancing Metrolink's overall safety culture; recommending an organizational analysis across all departments to ensure optimal staffing; redrafting the agency's system safety program to reflect new organizational recommendations; enhancing the agency's safety performance measurements, including strengthening operational, observation, and testing plans; enhancing programs that oversee the maintenance of way, equipment-maintenance functions, and infrastructure upgrades; recommending implementation of several short-term safety projects; developing a comprehensive strategic plan; and revisiting the Board's role in fostering and overseeing the agency's safe and secure commuter-rail operations.

While the Board and senior staff are working together on the agency's comprehensive action plan regarding the panel's recommendations, in the past few months Metrolink took the initiative in moving forward on more than a quarter of the safety enhancements outlined by the panel.



World Figure Skating Championships 2009

See the ISU World Figure Skating Championships this March at STAPLES Center. Individual session tickets are on sale now. Get up to 50 percent off on select sessions and price levels. Visit www.aegtickets.com/train, choose the session you

want to see, and use the password TRAIN for special discounts.

All session packages, mini plans, and group tickets are currently on sale. To get yours TODAY, visit www.isuworlids2009.com.

SAVE 20 PERCENT ON TICKETS TO MINSKY'S

Take Metrolink and save on tickets to *Minsky's*, playing at the Ahmanson Theatre through March 1. Metrolink users save 20 percent on ticket prices for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening performances.*

Minsky's is a big, racy new musical comedy set in Prohibition Era New York City, when entertainment was about legs and laughs. A rollicking backstage story, *Minsky's* thrusts us into the world reigned over by the king of burlesque himself, Billy Minsky—until the day he falls in love and the cops come banging on his door.

To get your discount to *Minsky's*, show your valid Metrolink ticket or pass at the Ahmanson Theatre Box Office, or buy tickets by phone at (213) 628-2772 or online at CenterTheatreGroup.org (use the promotional code COMMUTER).

The Ahmanson Theatre is at 135 N. Grand Avenue. From Union Station, transfer to the Metro Rail Red or Purple Lines to Civic Center Station. Exit the station and walk to Temple Street. Continue west on Temple approximately two blocks to the Music Center and the Ahmanson Theatre.

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



NEW HOME INVENTORY
BLOWOUT!

AT LENNAR COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT VALENCIA

DRAMATICALLY REDUCED PRICES
 ALL INVENTORY HOMES ARE PRICED TO GO NOW!



RIVERVILLE COMMUNITIES SPOTLIGHT


RiverVillage is designed to look and feel like a traditional small town with Americana-themed architecture and landscaping. Its unique look and feel complements the tranquil natural setting. Over half of the 700-acre village remains untouched, including the Santa Clara River, which runs through the land. Brookville and Heirloom at RiverVillage offer spacious single-family homes from 2,756 sq. ft. – 3,512 sq. ft. and begin from the upper \$500s. Brookville and Heirloom offer feature-rich homes that include our chef's kitchens and spa bathrooms, planned recreation facilities, parks and paseos.

All Lennar Communities in Valencia including those in RiverVillage are close to the Santa Clarita Metrolink Station, as well as shopping, dining and award-winning schools.

800-496-3871

9 Lennar Communities throughout Valencia from the \$300s

LENNAR.COM

Chat Live with an Internet New Home Consultant 

Prices subject to change without notice. See a Lennar New Home Consultant for further information. Stated square footages are approximate and should not be used as representation of the home's precise or actual size. Copyright © 2008 Lennar Corporation. Lennar and the Lennar logo are registered service marks of Lennar Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. Lennar Homes of California, Inc. - License No. 728102. Lennar Sales Corp. - Broker. 11/08



METROLINK MATTERS

Editor-in-Chief: Cheryl Downey
 Contributors: Charlene Ariza, Naomi Goldman
 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@scrra.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.