



METROLINK

DECEMBER '04/JANUARY '05

Metrolink News and Events

**Holiday Toy Express
Dates and Times of Operation
December 2004**

Saturday December 4, 2004

- Rancho Cucamonga 5:05 p.m.
- Fontana 5:45 p.m.
- San Bernardino 6:30 p.m.
- Rialto 7:15 p.m.
- Upland 8:15 p.m.

Sunday December 5, 2004

- Montalvo 5:00 p.m.
- Oxnard 6:00 p.m.
- Camarillo 6:45 p.m.
- Moorpark 7:45 p.m.

Saturday December 11, 2004

- Simi Valley 5:15 p.m.
- Chatsworth 6:30 p.m.
- Northridge 7:10 p.m.
- Van Nuys 7:45 p.m.
- Glendale 8:35 p.m.

Sunday December 12, 2004

- Lancaster 5:45 p.m.
- Vincent Grade/Acton 7:00 p.m.
- Via Princesa 8:15 p.m.

Saturday December 18, 2004

- San Clemente North 5:45 p.m.
- Oceanside 7:05 p.m.
- San Clemente Pier 7:55 p.m.

Sunday December 19, 2004

- Tustin 5:25 p.m.
- San Juan Capistrano 6:50 p.m.
- Laguna Niguel/
Mission Viejo 7:40 p.m.
- Irvine 8:30 p.m.



**Santa Commutes
to Metrolink Country**

Santa and his elves are making their way to a station near you in

Metrolink's 8th Annual Holiday Toy Express Train. From Saturday, November 20, to Sunday, December 19, the Holiday Toy Express will visit 46 stations throughout Southern California.

A Metrolink train covered with over 50,000 sparkling lights and holiday decorations will bring an original musical show right to your local platform. The Holiday Toy Express has become a holiday tradition for all to share, complete with a holiday music sing-a-long.

Santa and his helpers meet a friendly dinosaur in this Jurassic-themed show that includes reindeer, a polar bear, and a dancing snowman. (No dancing snowmen were injured during the making

of Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express!)

Santa's elves may be busy making toys for thousands of children, and the Spark of Love toy drive will help make up for any shortage. Spark of Love is the official charity of local fire departments and local ABC channel 7. The toys will be collected by local firefighters and then redistributed to less fortunate children in the community where they are collected.

Check the schedule to be sure not to miss the Holiday Toy Express when it visits your local station. Please invite your family and friends to join Metrolink in this wonderful holiday tradition. And remember, an unwrapped toy for the Spark of Love toy drive can make the holidays brighter for a child in your community.



Books on Board by Liz Shivel

Our passengers give us their favorite “train reads.”

Usually my “train bag” contains decorating catalogs and magazines I have saved for the trip. However, when I want to switch from who-decorated-it to who-done-it, I pull out a Philip R. Craig mystery!

For those of you who like mysteries, you may be unfamiliar with this author. He lives the good life on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. I discovered him two years ago when touring Martha's Vineyard on vacation. My first Craig mystery was *A Shoot in Martha's Vineyard*. It was great! He has a wonderful way of including his main characters' thoughts, conversations, and short-comings, all while spinning a wonderful yarn of mystery on Martha's Vineyard.

The main character, an ex-Boston cop named J. W. Jackson who retired to the island after suffering job-related injuries (yes, bullets), tries to lead the good life and not get involved with anything dangerous, but you know that won't last for long. Almost all of the action takes place on the island of Martha's Vineyard. If you've never been there, don't worry: Craig includes a map of the island in the front of each book, so when he's talking about locations you'll be able to find them on the map. If you've been to MV, then you can enjoy the story even more with your own island memories.

There are about 15 mysteries by Philip R. Craig and I think I've read at least 10 of them. So, if you're a mystery buff, take Philip R. Craig with you on your commute. Even though he's located on the



East Coast, you can find his books in any local Barnes and Noble. If you'd like to check him out online, log on to his Web site at www.philiprcraig.com.

MetroLink commuter Liz Shivel is a CFI training team member at Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc. She travels daily by MetroLink from Tustin to Glendale.

If you would like to make a recommendation to Books On Board, e-mail MetroLink Matters at metrolinkmatters@scrra.net. We will include your recommendations as space permits.

Palmdale Transportation Center Nears Completion

The \$11 million Palmdale Transportation Center is scheduled to open in early spring 2005 near 6th Street East, just south of Technology Drive, in Palmdale. The Center will include a Spanish-style terminal building, a plaza area, and a 45-foot clock tower. The master plan for the Palmdale Transportation Center also calls for a MetroLink commuter rail station and bus, vanpool, and Park and Ride services, with future provisions for high-speed rail and airport service.

“The Palmdale Transportation Center will be the transportation hub of the Antelope Valley,” said Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford. “This Center will transform the way people move about in our community and eventually in the entire region.”



The project is funded in part by a \$5.5 million grant from the Metro. United States Congressman Howard P. “Buck” McKeon secured \$1 million in federal funding for the project. Funding from Caltrans, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, the County of Los Angeles, and the Federal Transportation Equity Act were also used for the project. The city is using Prop A funds for matching contributions in the amount of \$3.5 million.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in April 2003. For more information, please call the City of Palmdale's public works department at (661) 267-5300.



Ventura County Transportation Commission board member and Simi Valley Mayor Bill Davis, retired from the MetroLink board on November 12. Mayor Davis, one of our original board members, is joined here by MetroLink Board Chair, Bill Alexander who is also the Mayor of the City of Rancho Cucamonga.

Connex Railroad gets On Board with Metrolink

On November 12, the Metrolink board of directors awarded Connex Railroad, LLC a five-year contract to provide train operating services beginning July 1, 2005. Connex replaces longtime Metrolink operating services contractor Amtrak which has provided your train engineers and conductors since Metrolink inaugurated train service in 1992. The new contract with Connex is expected to maintain the same quality of service and level of safety provided by Amtrak.

Connex North America currently operates commuter trains for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), the fifth largest commuter rail network in the country, as well as urban and intercity bus networks in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Connecticut and New Jersey. Connex will have the option to hire some or all of the current Amtrak employees on your trains during the period leading up to July 1, 2005.

Connex, the transport division of Veolia Environment, is the number-one private surface passenger transport operator in Europe. The company operates 26,000 road and rail vehicles and carries more than one billion passengers per year.

Future issues of Metrolink Matters will have more information about the transition from Amtrak to Connex so stay tuned.

All Aboard the Amtrak Holiday Shopper Train

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner customers and Metrolink monthly-pass holders can enjoy an entertaining and relaxing trip to the Camarillo Premium Outlets on December 4 or 11 without driving or parking. Amtrak will provide the train ride, and a motorcoach will zip you for free from the train station in Camarillo to the outlet mall.

Northbound Train #763:

Departs:	Los Angeles	9:05 a.m.
	Glendale	9:16 a.m.
	Van Nuys	9:37 a.m.
	Chatsworth	9:50 a.m.
Arrives:	Camarillo	10:26 a.m.
Returns:	Motorcoach to Southbound train #784	2:45 p.m.

Please call Amtrak for more information or a reservation at (800) USA-RAIL or log on to www.amtrak.com. Advanced reservations are required for the Holiday Shopper Train.



SAFETY MATTERS

Station Platforms and Smoking

We would like to remind our passengers not to smoke while standing on the platform at Union Station. Smoke can be blown in through the open doors. It also can be pulled through the vents in the heating and cooling system and cause problems for some passengers. California Health and Safety Code 118925 states that "it is unlawful for any person to smoke tobacco or any other plant product in any vehicle of a passenger state corporation. . . . or in any vehicle of an entity receiving any transit assistance from the state." Article 118940 allows local ordinances to be adopted to further limit smoking. Los Angeles City municipal code 41.50 further prohibits smoking in "train, cruise ship, and bus depot waiting areas and ticket lines."

Smoking on train station platforms is not allowed. Applicable laws will be enforced by the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department at Union Station. Individuals may be fined up to \$250 for each violation.

Time to Indulge in a Few Holiday Treats

Metrolink and its member agencies are offering Southern California residents special treats for the holidays, with additional train service, reduced fares, and other goodies for New Year's Day. Plus, the 8th annual Holiday Toy Express began rolling out to 46 stations on Saturday, November 20, with a big opening-night celebration and media event in Anaheim.

For New Year's Day 2004, Metrolink will operate trains to Union Station on the San Bernardino (starting from Riverside) and Orange County Lines, providing a connection with the Metro Gold Line to the Rose Parade or Rose Bowl game. This service offers a choice for regional spectators to link to Metro services without stressing out with a long-distance drive in heavy traffic or hunting for parking near the Tournament of Roses

Parade—an event that nearly a million spectators attended last year.

All valid Metrolink tickets are good for free transfers to most local buses and Metro Rail Lines (Red, Blue, Gold, and Green).

The two routes operating on January 1 are the San Bernardino Line (via Riverside) and the Orange County Line.

- **San Bernardino Line parallels I-10 Freeway**

- 4 round trips (from Riverside) via San Bernardino to LA

- **Orange County Line parallels I-5 Freeway**

- 1 round trip from Oceanside to LA

Fares will be discounted by 25 percent at ticket vending machines.

All valid Metrolink tickets are good for free transfers to most local (non-express) buses and Metro Rail Lines (Red, Blue, Gold, and Green)

Passengers with valid Metrolink fare media ride free on the Metro Gold Line at Union Station to Pasadena/Rose Parade.

Metrolink tickets (one way, round-trip, 10-trip, or monthly pass) are not valid on Amtrak trains.

Only Rail 2 Rail monthly-pass holders may ride Amtrak trains, and must do so within the limits of their pass.



Station City News



Burbank Station

Lancaster—Presented by Antelope Valley Ballet, The Nutcracker Ballet is a family holiday tradition at the Lancaster Performing

Arts Center. This season's expanded cast includes 94 local performers. Performances of The Nutcracker Ballet are December 11 at 8:00 p.m. and December 12 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets start at \$14 for youth 17 and younger. For more information, or to order tickets, call the LPAC box office at (661) 723-5950 or log on to www.lpac.org.

Tustin—The City of Tustin Parks and Recreation Department invites you to join in the holiday fun as Old Town Tustin is transformed into a Hawaiian Christmas setting December 3, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. The evening will be filled with entertainment, holiday traditions, and fun for the whole family. Song and dance performances by local community groups will take the stage. There will be non-profit food booths, picture-taking with Santa Claus, and children's activities. Bring your family and friends to this special, free community event. Mele Kalikimaka! For more information, contact Barbara Guerrero at (714) 573-3370.

Antelope Valley Line Event

The results of the October 2004 Metrolink Antelope Valley Line Link Event are in!! Over 800 riders filled out comment cards on trains 211, 213, 215, and 217 when Metrolink management walked through to listen to customers' feedback about train service. Fifteen percent of these riders asked questions that customer service staff responded to via phone or e-mail.

The most frequently asked questions or inquiries were related to

- ▶ extending train 213 all the way to Lancaster and adding mid-day and Sunday service
- ▶ increased on-board staff visibility, specifically for fare inspections
- ▶ the seat cushion replacement program

Congratulations to the following lucky passengers, who were awarded monthly passes for submitting comment cards

- Joan Anderson of Valencia
- Khajag Derdcrian of Northridge
- Tony Imbarrato of Canyon Country
- Scott Mingus of Canyon Country

Our next Link event will be December 14–16 on the Riverside Line.

METROLINK MATTERS

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OKLAHOMA! Comes to LA

Rodgers & Hammerstein's first collaboration, the innovative musical masterpiece OKLAHOMA!, will be at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood January 18–30, 2005.

OKLAHOMA! created the standards for modern musical theatre. Set in the territory of Oklahoma at the turn of the century, OKLAHOMA! integrated story, song, and dance in a way that revolutionized the American musical.

To win one of five pairs of free tickets to the opening night of OKLAHOMA! (January 18), please fill out the attached coupon and mail it to: *Metrolink Matters*; OKLAHOMA! Contest; 700 S. Flower Street; 26th Floor; Los Angeles, CA 90017



Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

All winners will be contacted by phone. If you would like to learn more about this national tour of OKLAHOMA!, visit the official Web site at www.oklahomaontour.com.

