



Metrolink Enjoys a Dose of Red Hat Lady Glamour

To the list of charming things about Fullerton, one of our station cities, we must now add *home of the original Red Hat Ladies*.

Founder Sue Ellen Cooper started the fast-spreading club when she read a poem by Jenny Joseph

which states, "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple/ With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me. / And I shall spend

my pension on brandy and summer gloves ..." Cooper promptly framed the poem and purchased a red hat

for her friend. From this modest beginning, the lively Red Hat Ladies were born.

The Red Hat Society began as a result of a few women deciding to greet middle age with verve, humor and élan. We believe silliness is the comic relief of life, and since we are all in it together, we might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the gusto together. Underneath the frivolity, we share a bond of affection, forged by common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for wherever life takes us next."

—Sue Ellen Cooper, Queen Mother of the Red Hat Ladies and Fullerton resident

When one hundred Red Hat Ladies showed up in Chatsworth to take the Metrolink train to Union Station, it was clear: Red hats suit them just fine. In fact, the Red Hat Ladies are absolutely fabulous, decked out in purple clothes, feathers flying and red hats proudly held high. Some—but not all—of the Red Hat Ladies qualified for half-price senior fares. Everyone else enjoyed a 25 percent discount for riding the train during non-peak hours. *(Continued on page 2)*

Thanksgiving Treat

Metrolink will again be offering special Thanksgiving Day service on Thursday, November 25. Tickets purchased on that day will be priced at off-peak prices (25 percent off) and an adult with a valid ticket of any type can bring up to three children (ages 18 and under) onboard for free. Thanksgiving Day service will be available on the San Bernardino Line and Inland Empire-Orange County Lines.

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, the Thanksgiving Family Treat will allow monthly-pass holders to bring up to three individuals of any age onboard for free. Please check www.metrolinktrains.com for special limited service schedules for this day.

Inside



Summary of Schedule Changes as of November 17

The Rail 2 Rail partnership between Amtrak and Metrolink continues to grow stronger with Amtrak agreeing to add new stops at Metrolink stations to better serve the growing demand for additional service.

Beginning Monday, November 15, Orange County Line passengers will be able to ride two Amtrak trains to Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Stations and another one to Orange. Amtrak trains normally do not serve those stations.

Ventura County Line passengers will also benefit beginning November 17 from expanded service. As part of the Rail 2 Rail service, Amtrak has added a new afternoon train departing Oxnard. In addition, Metrolink Ventura County Line trains 103 and 108 will be replaced by Amtrak trains. These Amtrak trains will make stops at all Metrolink stations from Oxnard to Los Angeles. This arrangement also benefits Metrolink passengers on other lines by making available the passenger cars used by trains 103 and 108 for use on overcrowded trains on other lines.

See below for a detailed summary of the upcoming schedule changes.

Orange County:

- ▶ Trains A566, A768, A583 and A785 will no longer stop at San Clemente Pier on weekdays, but will continue to stop at the station on weekends.
- ▶ Train A578, departing Union Station at 2:00 p.m., will make a new stop at Orange at 2:44 p.m.
- ▶ Train A590, departing Union Station at 7:35 p.m.,

will make new stops at Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs, at 7:55 p.m., and at Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo, at 8:45 p.m.

- ▶ Train A573, departing Oceanside at 11:39 a.m., will make new stops at Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo at 12:15 p.m., and at Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs at 1:05 p.m.

Ventura County:

- ▶ The new Amtrak/Metrolink joint train 108/(A768) will depart Oxnard at 7:40 a.m. and arrive at Union Station at 9:25 a.m.
- ▶ The new Amtrak/Metrolink joint train 103/(A799) will depart Union Station at 7:30 a.m. and arrive at Oxnard at 9:20 a.m.

- ▶ Trains 108/(A768) and 103/(A799) will stop at all stations except Montalvo. These trains are available to passengers with any type of valid Metrolink ticket or Monthly Pass.
- ▶ Train A798, will depart Oxnard at 4:56 p.m. arriving at Union Station at 7:10 p.m. This train is available to monthly pass holders as part of the Rail 2 Rail program.



...Red Hat Lady Glamour (Continued from page 1)

The Red Hat Society is often referred to fondly as a “disorganization.” This is a group that likes to have a good time and that imposes few rules. However, Society custom requires that one be fifty or older to “earn” the right to don a red hat and purple attire. Younger women are free to join, but must wear pink hats and lavender clothes until the full glory of their red-hat years is upon them. The Red Hatters believe that aging should be embraced and anticipated with excitement.

Composed of women who have shouldered various responsibilities at home and in the community their whole lives, the Red Hat Society’s objective is to have fun. The Society is entirely dedicated to enjoyment.

On their trip to Union Station, the Red Hat Ladies cut quite a swath,

filling an entire train car. Upon arriving in downtown Los Angeles, some headed directly for Philippe’s for the famous French dip sandwiches and some were off to tour the Cathedral—but most of the contingent walked across the street to visit bustling Olvera Street, where they were an instant hit with the strolling mariachis.

If you are interested in learning more about the Red Ladies, log on to www.redhatsociety.com. You don’t have to be a Red Hat Lady to take advantage of lower-priced off-peak or senior Metrolink fares. Go to www.metrolinktrains.com for schedules, fares, and other information on Metrolink service, or call (800) 371-LINK (5465) to speak to a customer-service representative.



Rail 2 Rail Thanksgiving Blackout Dates

Metrolink monthly passes will not be accepted on Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains Wednesday and Thursday, November 24 and 25, or Sunday, November 28. Amtrak will require advance reservations and Amtrak ticketing for all passengers traveling during the Thanksgiving holiday week. If you wish to travel on Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains during the blackout period, please purchase an Amtrak ticket at any Amtrak ticket counter, call (800) USA-RAIL, or go to www.amtrak.com to make a reservation. Regular Rail 2 Rail service will resume on Monday, November 29, 2004. For Metrolink schedules and information, call (800) 371-LINK or visit our Web site at www.metrolinktrains.com.



The Holiday Toy Express at a Station Near You

The Holiday Toy Express is a once-a-year dazzling display of lights and a terrific way for families in our Metrolink communities to enjoy the holiday season and make life a little brighter for children who might otherwise be left out of the holiday cheer.

This year, the Holiday Toy Express is making stops at 45 Metrolink stations in six counties on weekend evenings now through December 21.

The Holiday Toy Express includes a live, kid-friendly holiday musical show that features Santa trading puns with an oversized T-Rex, a reindeer, a snowman, and a couple of holiday elves. The show features a sing-a-long followed by a meet-and-greet with all the show's characters. But the real star of the evening is a 450-ton Metrolink train spiffed up with tens of thousands of twinkling lights, tinsel, and animated decorations.

Each year, the Spark of Love Toy Drive collects new, unwrapped toys and sporting equipment for less-fortunate children throughout Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Orange Counties. Spark of Love is currently under the direction of an advisory council of Southern California Firefighters and staff from Disney-owned KABC-TV.

Please be aware that the Holiday Toy Express can't roll in the rain. If it looks like rain on the day the train is coming to your station city, please check our Web site at www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465) to see if your visit from the Holiday Toy Express has been rescheduled.

Don't miss out on this wonderful holiday tradition.

SAFETY MATTERS

When you approach any crossing, always expect a train - on any track, at any time, from any direction.

When the lights and bells are activated at a crossing - stop and wait until the train passes. Upon exiting - do not cross in front of or behind the train. Wait at the pedestrian crossing until the train leaves the station and the lights and bells are no longer active.

Never cross if the crossing lights and bells are activated. Be aware that freight trains and maintenance vehicles can run on the same tracks with Metrolink trains and do not operate on a set schedule.

Always put your safety first. We do and you should, too.

San Bernardino Half-Cent Tax on the Ballot

In 1989, voters in San Bernardino County approved a half-cent sales tax to help pay for road and transit projects and services throughout the county. Measure I has helped pay for more than 3,000 local street projects throughout the county, the new 210 freeway to Fontana (continuing work will bring it to San Bernardino by 2007), the new 71 freeway through Chino Valley, the widening and addition of carpool lanes on the 10 and 60 freeways, and the start of Metrolink commuter-rail service, as well as other projects. This tax will expire in 2010. Measure I, up for vote on the November 2 ballot, would extend the tax for 30 years and provide San Bernardino County with an estimated \$6 billion for additional transportation improvements.

Funds from Measure I would be spent as follows:

- ▶ Forty-eight percent would go to regional highways and local streets. Projects would include the building of new and upgraded highways, maintenance and repair of local roads, and construction of rail-street grade separations.
- ▶ Thirty-three percent would go toward freeway improvements. Projects would include adding new lanes to crowded freeways and building new and upgraded interchanges.
- ▶ Sixteen percent would help support public transit, including local and express buses, Metrolink commuter rail, and transit services for seniors and the disabled.
- ▶ Two percent would go toward projects to improve traffic flow, including the coordination of traffic signals and the expansion of freeway service patrols.
- ▶ One percent would go to the administration and oversight of Measure I, including the funding of an independent oversight committee to ensure funds are spent efficiently and in accordance with Measure I's provisions.

Measure I is supported by a broad bipartisan coalition in San Bernardino County, including the county board of supervisors; the San Bernardino Associated Governments; every city in the county; local business groups; and numerous labor, senior, transportation, and other organizations.

Holiday Toy Express Dates and Times of Operation November 2004

Saturday, November 20, 2004

- Anaheim 5:15 p.m.
- Orange 6:45 p.m.
- Santa Ana 7:35 p.m.
- Fullerton 8:35 p.m.

Sunday, November 21, 2004

- Riverside-Downtown 5:15 p.m.
- Riverside-La Sierra 6:05 p.m.
- North Main Corona 6:55 p.m.
- Norwalk/S.F. Springs 8:15 p.m.

Friday, November 26, 2004

- Downtown Burbank 6:50 p.m.
- Sylmar/San Fernando 7:30 p.m.
- Newhall 8:25 p.m.
- Santa Clarita 9:10 p.m.

Saturday, November 27, 2004

- Pedley 5:20 p.m.
- East Ontario 6:10 p.m.
- Downtown Pomona 6:50 p.m.
- Industry 7:40 p.m.
- Montebello/Commerce 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 28, 2004

- El Monte 5:15 p.m.
- Baldwin Park 6:10 p.m.
- Covina 6:55 p.m.
- Montclair 8:00 p.m.
- Claremont 8:30 p.m.



Look for December dates of the Holiday Toy Express in December's edition of Metrolink Matters. You can also check online at www.metrolinktrains.com or call our customer service center at (800) 371-LINK (5465).



Station City News

Los Angeles—On Saturday, November 20, enjoy a visit to the Los Angeles Central Library Mark Taper Auditorium for a Performing Books event. The book will be *The Remarkable Farkle McBride* by John Lithgow, performed by mime Keith Berger and storyteller David Prather. Musical prodigy Farkle McBride plays a number of instruments before discovering that conducting all the instruments makes him happy. Special thanks to the Los Angeles Philharmonic for their generous collaboration. The Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th Street. This event takes place from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is completely free.

Lancaster—Four shows will be performed at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center in November! Carol Channing and friends promise to deliver an exciting evening of comedy, Broadway, big band, and more on Friday, November 12. Joining Channing onstage will be the Dick Parent Big Band All Stars, the Pied Pipers, and Johnny Carson's favorite comedian, Pete Barbutti. An inspirational performer and prodigious lyricist, Scottish folk rocker Al Stewart will present a special acoustic concert on Saturday, November 13. Chinese acrobats have been thrilling audiences with astounding feats for more than twenty-seven centuries. The

Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats will continue this tradition at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, November 17. "It's a Motown Christmas!" will feature Thelma Houston performing favorite holiday tunes in a '60s Motown style on Saturday, November 20. Tickets for all shows may be obtained by calling the LPAC box office at (661) 723-5950, visiting the box office between noon and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, or logging on to www.lpac.org. The Lancaster Performing Arts Center is located at 750 W. Lancaster Boulevard in downtown Lancaster.

Pomona—Come to the Art Walk in Pomona and explore this historic neighborhood of artists' studios, shops, and lofts where ceramics, glass, paintings, sculptures, murals, and much more are created and shared with the public. Every second Saturday, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., dozens of new exhibitions, live music, and open houses welcome thousands of visitors to celebrate one of California's largest Art Walks. The Pomona Arts Colony is located in downtown Pomona, on Garey Avenue, West Second Street, Thomas Street, Main Street, and East Third Street, with plenty of public parking. For more information and a free map of downtown Pomona, please call (909) 629-3592.



Pomona station

Founders' Day in Pomona. Join us Saturday, November 20 in downtown Pomona for a celebration of music and fun! Festivities will begin with a leisurely stroll through our quaint shops, art galleries, and antique stores. Browse Antique Row, full of historical memorabilia and one-of-a-kind gift items, and stay for an evening of performances and music! Our lineup includes the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley featuring the Aztec Dance Group, the Copali Copili Aztec Dance Group, the Shield of Faith Gospel Choir, the Folklorico Dancers from Xochiquetzal, the Chaffey College Jazz Band, and the School of Arts and Enterprise Choir. The Cal Poly Pomona Downtown Center Stage and the Thomas Plaza Stage are both located in the Pomona Arts Colony along Second Street. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.

Les Miz Returns to LA

Les Misérables, the legendary award-winning musical, returns to the Pantages Theatre for five weeks only, December 2, 2004 through January 1, 2005. Presented by Cameron Mackintosh, *Les Misérables* is a musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg. The Broadway production ended its 16-year run on May 18, 2003, becoming the third-longest-running show in Broadway

history.

This national tour, the only current production of *Les Misérables* in the United States, is a faithful recreation of the original Broadway and London productions.

Win one of five pairs of free tickets to this extraordinary theatrical event by mailing the attached coupon before November 19 to *Metrolink Matters*; Les Miz Contest; 700 S. Flower Street, 26th Floor; Los Angeles, CA 90017.



METROLINK MATTERS

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All winners will be contacted by phone.

Correction

The photograph of the Seattle Sounder train that appeared in October's *Matters* should have included the credit "photos by Steven J. Brown, www.photosbystevenjbrown.com."

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

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