



Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Clara River Valley “Railfest 2011”

“Steam Returns to Fillmore”

Set for Weekend of March 26th and 27th

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS), will present its sixteenth annual Santa Clara River Valley “Railfest 2011” on March 26th and 27th. This year’s Railfest theme is “Steam Returns to Fillmore”. The Railfest has become a regional event. The center of activities will be held in Central Park in Fillmore, California.

This year Raifest 2011 will be featuring a fully operating & restored Baldwin 1913 “Consolidation” type steam locomotive #14. This locomotive, a 2-8-0, will be powering the “Railfest Special Event” train as well as diesels pulling the “Scenic Excursions” to Santa Paula, CA.

Railfest 2011 hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Admission and parking are free; however, there is a charge for the railway excursions.

Following SCRVRHS’ tradition of providing a family fun event, this year there will be a “RR Spike Driving Contest”. The contestants, both men and women, will compete against the clock.

Demonstrations of the passing of “Train Orders” will take place when the F&W steam trains leave Fillmore, CA at 9:00am and 11:30am. Railfest 2011 also offers railroad-related venues such as ‘Speeder’ rides and informational displays from various railroad-related organizations. There will be Arts and Crafts booths, Model RR Trains in various scales and some unique food vendors, including SCRVRHS’ very own Tri-Tip BBQ sandwiches. Other attractions include performances by the famous Frontier Gunfighters and display of Antique Farm Equipment.

SCRVRHS’ 1956 Union Pacific Pullman Sleeping Car, the “National Embassy”, a Santa Fe caboose, the “Vicky Vee”, and a Pacific Fruit Exchange (PFE) boxcar will be on display in Fillmore adjacent to the RR Turntable.

The RR Turntable is the first to be constructed in California, in over 50 years. Demonstrations will be given throughout the event. The RR Turntable is 96 feet in diameter and weighs in at 85 tons. It was purchased from the Canadian National Railroad and is now located in Fillmore on Main St. between Central Ave. and Mountain View just east of the historic Fillmore Depot.

Rancho Camulos National Historic Landmark Museum, located just east of Piru on CA-126, will also be celebrating Railfest 2011 with us and will be giving guided tours. Bus service to the ranch will be available. Rancho Camulos is one of the settings for Helen Hunt Jackson’s famous book “Ramona” written back in 1884, a few years after the Southern Pacific railroad came into the Santa Clara River Valley. There will be a bus service to the ranch for those who would like a docent tour of the ranch buildings. Visitors can also watch the first movie based on the book, starring Mary Pickford, which was filmed on location in 1910 at Rancho Camulos

In Fillmore, the Fillmore Historical Society and Museum will be giving guided tours of the Fillmore RR Depot, Bunk House and Hinckley Home.

F&W Diesel trains will depart from in front of the restored Fillmore Depot to Santa Paula at 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. The Vintage Steam train will depart at 9:30am and 11:30am.

These vintage trains will consist mostly of traditional pre-1940 heavyweight passenger cars. On Saturday night one can enjoy the old west with cowboys and characters on F&W's "Family Murder Mystery Dinner Train". The steam train will depart Fillmore at 5:00pm. Reservations are required for the dinner train and can be made by calling F&W at 1-800-773-8724 or 805-524-2546.

Railfest proceeds benefit the non-profit Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society and its railroad restoration efforts, which include the ongoing restoration of our RR Turntable, a future Roundhouse and a Railroad Interpretive Center/Exhibit Hall.

In addition, SCRVRHS' "Buy-A-Brick" program will be selling bricks with your name, family, organization, company or other slogan engraved on the "RR Brick". The bricks will be used to beautify and enhance a new walkway from Main St. to the promenade. Donations to the "Buy-A-Brick" are tax deductible.

Donations to the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible. The SCRVRHS Railroad Visitor Center, located across from Fillmore's Central Park at 455 Main Street, contains many historical railroad artifacts, a Lionel "0" gage model-train layout, a gift shop, and a 20-seat digital theater with surround sound.

Railfest 2011 will be held in Fillmore's Central Park, corner of Central Ave. and Main St., 45 miles northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County via CA-126, nineteen miles west of I-5 and twenty one miles east of US-101 in Ventura County.

For more information visit e-mail: info@svvrhs.com, or our website: www.svvrhs.com,