



*“North America’s Most Popular Railroad Museum”*

(LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AND “I” STREETS IN OLD SACRAMENTO)

(916) 445-6645 ♦ [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org)

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## *2009 Calendar of Events & Exhibits*

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*Current as of 1/12/09*

\*NOTE: All ticket prices, events, times, and equipment subject to change without notice.

### Changing Exhibits

#### **Through January 25, 2009**

##### ***Aurelius O. Carpenter: Photographer of the Mendocino Frontier***

The first comprehensive exhibition on the work of Aurelius Ormando Carpenter (1836-1919), one of the earliest and most talented photographers to set up shop in Mendocino County. His large panoramic views chronicle the coastal logging, tanbark and shipping industries, as well as the inland region’s bounty of natural attractions and agricultural products. He also produced an important body of photographs on Pomo Indian individuals and communities.

#### **February 6-August 16, 2009**

##### ***The Call of Trains: Railroad Photographs by Jim Shaughnessy***

Jim Shaughnessy is a revered name among railroad photographers. He started out in the late 1940s photographing steam locomotives in his hometown of Troy, New York, and moved on to documenting the dramatic steam-to-diesel transition. His emphasis has always been on the northeastern United States and Canada, where railroad action and often-deep snow are plentiful. Best known for his early night photography and images of railroad workers, shops and roundhouses, Shaughnessy is still taking photographs today. Presented the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society’s lifetime achievement award for photography in 1987, his work has recently been in the spotlight because of a new book featuring the same title as this exhibition. A special event is scheduled at the Museum on Sunday, March 15, as part of this exhibition: a presentation and booksigning by Jim Shaughnessy

#### **Through February 8**

##### ***Road of a Thousand Wonders: Promotional Photography of the Southern Pacific Railroad, 1890-1910***

This new exhibit specifically highlights original photos—most in their original frames—taken along the Southern Pacific’s “Coast Line” (Los Angeles-San Francisco) and “Shasta” (San Francisco-Portland) routes around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When first hung in depot waiting rooms and ticket offices, these photos (some color-tinted) likely created quite a stir! Related photos were reproduced by the railroad in souvenir booklets and as postcards, encouraging friends and family “back home” to head west. The relatively new concepts of “tourism” and “vacation” were becoming a reality with rich and middle-class alike, and Southern Pacific responded by positioning itself as “The Road of a Thousand Wonders.” These images were an important part of the railroad’s marketing message.

## **February 20-September 6, 2009**

### ***Transcontinental Railroad Photography Exhibit***

The western half of the Transcontinental Railroad will be a focus for the Museum in spring and summer 2009, during the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of completion for the world's first Transcontinental Railroad. (The railroad's "Last Spike" was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869.) Photographer Shen-Chih Cheng's stunning black & white photographs of the original Central Pacific route as it looks today will be exhibited, along with artifacts highlighting Chinese workers who were the railroad's construction crew.

## **March 7 – May 17**

### ***The Way We Worked: Photographs from the National Archives***

Work and the workplace have gone through enormous changes between the mid-19th century, when 60 percent of Americans made their living as farmers, and the late-20th century, with its shift from an industrial to a knowledge-based economy. Produced by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, *The Way We Worked* reveals the effects of industrialization, urbanization, immigration, labor unrest, wars, and economic depression on ordinary working Americans. Spanning the years 1857-1987, the exhibition's black & white images also reflect a workforce shaped by immigration and ethnicity, slavery and racial segregation, wage labor and technology, gender roles and class, as well as by the American ideals of freedom and equality.

## **Through May 31**

### ***2008 Winners from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art***

View 42 award-winning photographs recently given Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards as part of an annual, prestigious competition organized by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art. The theme of the 2008 competition was "a sense of place" as it related to the railroad environment. A total of 15 photographers located around the world were honored, virtually all with multiple entries and including four from California. More information about the competition and the Center for Railroad Photography & Art can be found at [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org).

## **Continuing**

### ***The Golden "Lost Spike"***

Until recently, few historians were aware of a "Lost" golden spike that surfaced after being held by a prominent California family for 136 years. A nearly identical twin to the famed "Last" spike of Transcontinental Railroad fame, this Lost Spike was recently acquired by the California State Railroad Museum after intense negotiations. While only 9½ inches in size, the "Lost" golden spike is visually intriguing due to intricate engraving and an attached "sprue"—excess metal left over from the casting process. It is on permanent display daily at the Museum, in a specially designed case.

## **Continuing**

### ***Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains***

Don't miss America's most comprehensive toy train exhibit, showcasing approximately 1,000 vintage toy trains collected over several decades by Mr. Thomas W. Sefton of San Diego. Some 3,300 square feet of exhibits, interactive displays, and a dazzling, operating toy train layout help bring this timeless subject to life in ways that delight young and old alike!

## **Special Events**

## **January 29**

The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park begin Volunteer Training for spring 2009. Applications are due on January 12 and advance interviews, required for all participants, will be conducted starting January 17. Men and women interested in helping to communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush are invited to contact the Museum anytime to learn

more. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed some 2 million hours of service! For additional details or to sign up, call the Museum's Volunteer Training Coordinator at (916) 324-7593.

### **January 31**

California State Parks and CSRMF are partnering with the UC Davis Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science to present a unique evening in the Museum's Roundhouse from 6-9 p.m. blending History and Food to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1849 California Gold Rush. This special event, **California Gold Rush: What We Ate**, will feature food, beer, wine, music, speakers, and a silent auction. Jim Henley, a Sacramento Gold Rush historian and Ann Chandonnet, author of "Gold Rush Grub," will bring the history of the times to life. An historically accurate meal will be served, showcasing dishes consumed by the miners and denizens of California's Mother Lode. Join us in an exploration of the Gold Rush flavors and dishes that characterized everyday life in the Mother Lode. A commemorative "California Common" beer from those days will be brewed especially for this event. Barton & Guestier wine from the Bordeaux region of France will be served, from the same winery that supplied some of the first imported wines during the Gold Rush. Tickets: \$75. For details or to purchase tickets online, visit [www.goodlifegarden.ucdavid.edu/events](http://www.goodlifegarden.ucdavid.edu/events).

### **February 7**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Sacramento Museum Day takes place in the Capital City, presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) and proudly supported by Umpqua Bank. Twenty-six participating museums (including the California State Railroad Museum) will be open free of charge this Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (all participating museums close at 5 p.m.). For detailed information about participating sites, free shuttles and more, visit [www.sacmuseums.org](http://www.sacmuseums.org).

### **March 15**

Two special events are scheduled at the Museum on Sunday, March 15: a presentation and book signing by Jim Shaughnessy as part of *The Call of Trains: Railroad Photographs* exhibition and a film showing of Richard Luckin's "*America and the Passenger Train.*"

### **April 4-5**

Opening weekend for 26<sup>th</sup> operating season of the Museum's excursion train service on the Sacramento Southern Railroad! Beginning this weekend, and continuing every weekend through September, experience the sights, smells, and sounds of a real, working steam locomotive as your train rolls along the levees of the Sacramento River. Regular steam-powered excursion trains depart Saturdays and Sundays, on-the-hour 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., from the Central Pacific Freight Depot in Old Sacramento. Climb aboard for a relaxing 40-minute, 6-mile roundtrip ride. Ride vintage passenger coaches and converted freight cars, or upgrade to First Class and soak up the elegant surroundings aboard a beautifully restored 1920s lounge-observation car with large picture windows and plush seating!

### **May 22-25 (Memorial Day Weekend)**

The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee takes place throughout Sacramento all four days! The Railroad Museum is open daily during the Jubilee, with jazz musicians performing inside the Museum and complimentary admission offered to Jazz Jubilee badge holders. Special Free Children's Stage and activity area located just outside Museum (on adjacent "1849 Scene") during Jubilee, and several event music venues located in close proximity to the Railroad Museum. Steam-powered Sacramento Southern Railroad excursion trains operate Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only, departing hourly 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (regular ticket prices apply). Jazz musicians perform aboard the trains this weekend as well! For more details about the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, visit [www.sacjazz.com](http://www.sacjazz.com).

### **June (exact date TBA)**

The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park begin Volunteer Training for summer 2009. Advance interviews, required for all participants, will be conducted starting in late spring.

Men and women interested in helping to communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush are invited to contact the Museum anytime to learn more. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed some 2 million hours of service! For additional details or to sign up, call the Museum's Volunteer Training Coordinator at (916) 324-7593.

### **September 4-7 (Labor Day Weekend)**

"Gold Rush Days," an annual commemoration of the California Gold Rush, takes place throughout Old Sacramento, with a lively, entertaining and activity-filled Embarcadero Tent City located on the Railroad Museum's "1849 Scene!" Dirt covers the (usually paved) streets all weekend, and a variety of live entertainment, living history demonstrations, and costumed characters bring Old Sacramento alive with a period flair. Admission to the event is free! (Regular museum admission prices apply.) Tour authentic Gold Rush businesses, learn about the many people and cultures living here from the late 1840s through the 1860s, participate in hands-on demonstrations and period games, and take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage or wagon. Steam-powered excursion train rides available Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only, departing hourly 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (regular ticket prices apply). For additional details about Gold Rush Days, visit [www.discovergold.org](http://www.discovergold.org).

### **September 27**

Final day of the 2009 operating season for the Museum's Sacramento Southern Railroad excursion trains. Take a leisurely train ride along the Sacramento River's levees, pulled by an authentic steam locomotive! For the balance of 2009, trains operate selected special event dates only (see listings below).

### **October (exact date TBA)**

The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park begin Volunteer Training for fall 2009. Advance interviews, required for all participants, will be conducted starting in September. Men and women interested in helping to communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush are invited to contact the Museum anytime to learn more. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed some 2 million hours of service! For additional details or to sign up, call the Museum's Volunteer Training Coordinator at (916) 324-7593.

### **October 17-18, 24-25, 31 and November 1**

Halloween-themed "Spookomotive" trains decorated for the season depart on-the-hour 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot in Old Sacramento. Regular ticket prices apply. Join our "skeleton crew" for a fun and whimsical 40-minute, 6-mile roundtrip ride along the Sacramento River! Throughout Old Sacramento, special Fall Harvest Days activities will be in full swing these three weekends, with streets decorated for the occasion. For more information about all of the activities throughout Old Sacramento, visit [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com).

### **November 27-29 (Thanksgiving Weekend)**

"Train Time for Santa" takes place at the California State Railroad Museum! Bring the whole family and enjoy a variety of operating model train and toy train layouts on display Friday through Sunday inside the Museum. It's a great place to take friends and family over the holiday weekend! Regular Museum admission fees apply, OR take a train ride with Santa AND visit the Museum too—all for one special price! Throughout Old Sacramento starting Thanksgiving Weekend and continuing through Christmas Eve, special Heritage Holidays activities will be in full swing with streets and buildings decorated for the season. For more information about all of the activities throughout Old Sacramento, visit [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com).

### **December (exact dates TBA)**

Experience the magic of a train ride based on The Polar Express™, the classic children's book by Chris Van Allsburg. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while your very special train rolls along, and listen as the magical story is narrated once again. Watch the joy and excitement on everyone's face as the train arrives at the

North Pole, where Santa Claus is waiting to greet the train. As the train begins its return trip from the North Pole, get ready! Santa Claus will be coming through handing each child a very special gift! Space is limited to only those who truly believe in the spirit of Christmas. Trains sell out well in advance—so don't wait to purchase yours. Tickets go on sale in early October online at [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org). All Aboard for a magical visit to the North Pole!

### **ONGOING**

Museum open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's)

*(Museum Members enjoy free General Admission year-round)*

General Admission: \$8 adults, \$3 youths ages 6-17, ages 5 and under free\*

Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station open occasionally for tours

*Guided Tours included with Railroad Museum General Admission*

Museum Membership Information: (916) 445-5995

Steam-Powered Excursion Trains operate weekends April-September

*(Museum Members enjoy free regular Excursion Train rides year-round)*

Train Tickets: \$8 adults, \$3 youths ages 6-17, children ages 5 and under free\*

Trains also operate selected Special Event weekends October-December

*(Ticket prices for special trains and events may be higher)*

See listings above for dates and additional details

Museum Store (open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.): (916) 324-4950

Facility & Event Rentals: (916) 445-2560

Railroad Museum Library: (916) 323-8073

School Group Reservations (ReserveAmerica): Toll Free (866) 240-4655

*Reservations are Required for School Group Tours of the Railroad Museum*

A variety of Tour and Entry Programs are offered for school groups

Huntington & Hopkins Hardware (museum and store) open Thursday-Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; free admission

Huntington & Hopkins Hardware: (916) 323-7234

Eagle Theatre (interpretive programs and live performances): (916) 323-6343

**For Media Information: Kathy Daigle, 916.445.0945 or Pati Brown, 916.445.4098**

24-hour events/info line: (916) 445-6645

**Web site: [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org)**

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