



Santa Claus is on the Road!

Holiday Toy Train Schedule 2005

Saturday, December 3

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

Sunday, December 4

- Anaheim 5:15 p.m.
- Orange 6:00 p.m.
- Santa Ana 6:45 p.m.
- Fullerton 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 10

- Lancaster 5:00 p.m.
- Palmdale 5:45 p.m.
- Vincent Grade/
Acton 6:30 p.m.
- Via Princessa ... 8:10 p.m.

Sunday, December 11

- Downtown
Riverside 5:15 p.m.
- Riverside -
La Sierra 6:05 p.m.
- N. Main Corona 6:55 p.m.
- Norwalk 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, December 17

- 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 18

- 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.

Sponsored by



What a night! Santa Claus came to town in a big way on Saturday, November 19, as the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express began its 2005 run with a big opening-night event in Chatsworth.

Thousands of Chatsworth residents turned out to play in fifteen tons of snow, ride a miniature train through Operation Lifesaver's Saftety Town, listen to the live music of the barbershop quartet OC Times, and donate a toy to the ABC7 & Firefighters' Spark of Love Toy Drive.

ABC7 brought out Phillip Palmer, Garth Kemp and Jane Monreal to emcee the event, which featured appearances by 100.3 THE BEAT, representatives of Wells Fargo Bank, the Park Water Company and the City of L.A. Fire Department, as well as Santa Hogg, Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear, all leading up to the arrival of Santa on Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express.

A roaring cheer went up from the crowd as the sparkling 450-ton train pulled up, decorated with over 50,000 lights and holiday decorations. The cheering didn't stop until Santa and all of his friends began their live stage show featuring the Jolly Old Elf, North Pole characters, and a strange visitor from another planet.

The fifteen-minute show culminated with an audience sing-along and the magical appearance of snow falling from cloudless skies.

If you missed the event in Chatsworth, you still have a chance to see the Holiday Toy Express for yourself as this magical train continues to visit Metrolink stations throughout Southern California. Come and enjoy the free show, meet Santa and his friends in person, and don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Spark of Love toy drive!

Metrolink would like to thank our sponsors, Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, and Bombardier Transportation, for their generous help in making this amazing event a reality.

For more information on the 2005 Holiday Toy Express, please call (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit www.metrolinktrains.com.



Schedule Changes Effective January 3, 2006

Antelope Valley Line

To Los Angeles

- Train 212 will depart five minutes earlier at 8:55 a.m.

To Lancaster

- Train 205 will depart five minutes later at 9:20 a.m.
- Train 207 will depart two minutes earlier at 11:40 a.m.



San Bernardino Line

To Los Angeles

- Train 329 will depart from Upland one minute earlier at 5:24 p.m. The stop at Upland will become an "L" stop, which means that it may depart up to five minutes earlier.
- Train 331 will depart five minutes earlier from Rancho Cucamonga at 6:28 p.m. and six minutes earlier from Upland at 6:39 p.m.



To San Bernardino

- Train 324 will arrive at San Bernardino two minutes later at 7:11 p.m.

Orange County Line

To Los Angeles

- Train 683 will arrive at Los Angeles two minutes later at 8:15 a.m.
- Train 609 will depart from Oceanside three minutes later at 3:25 p.m.



Inland Empire–Orange County Line

Two new round-trip trains have been added between Oceanside and Riverside–Downtown, and two trains will extend service from Irvine to San Juan Capistrano.

To Riverside–Downtown

- **New train 850** will depart from Oceanside at 7:30 a.m., arriving at Riverside–Downtown at 9:40 a.m.
- **New train 852** will



depart from Oceanside at 10:35 a.m., arriving at Riverside–Downtown at 12:40 p.m.

- Train 802 will depart from San Juan Capistrano at 1:48 p.m. and from Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo at 1:55 p.m. Departure times from other stations will remain the same.

To Oceanside

- **New train 851** will depart from Riverside–Downtown at 10:50 a.m., arriving at Oceanside at 12:55 p.m.
- **New train 853** will depart from Riverside–Downtown at 1:10 p.m., arriving at Oceanside at 3:15 p.m.
- Train 811 will depart 52 minutes earlier from San Bernardino at 11:25 a.m. and extend service to Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo and San Juan Capistrano.

For more information about the schedule changes, please visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or, for speech- and hearing-impaired access, (800) 698-4TTD (4833).

Correction:

Special New Year's Day service, on January 2, is only available on San Bernardino and Orange County lines. Please visit www.metrolinktrains.com for more information.

Safety Matters

Safety Is Always in Season

We hope that you will join us as Santa makes his way to your station this year. We ask that while you wait for his arrival, you keep the following rules in mind:

- Never run on the platform.
 - Always wait behind the line indicated on the platform.
 - Hold on to your child while the train is arriving at or leaving the station.
 - Wait for the train to come to a complete stop before approaching.
 - Refrain from horseplay on the station platform; pushing and shoving can cause injuries.
 - Never place any items (coins included) on the tracks.
 - Never ignore the warning lights, bells, gates, or other signals that indicate a train is approaching. STOP when the red lights flash and the bells begin to sound.
- Enjoy the Show!



Hurricane Katrina, Part II

In November's issue of *Metrolink Matters*, Metrolink corporate relations administrator Edward Hargrave described his work assisting the American Red Cross with relief efforts related to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. When we last left Edward, Hurricane Rita had just hit an already reeling South. He continues his tale below:

"Driving was halted for a while when Hurricane Rita hit. It kept us off the roads for two days. On the third day my partner, Willie Jones, and I had a short run, only 500 miles. It was raining most of the day, but when we got to Hazlehurst, Mississippi, the rain stopped. After unloading the six pallets of water and meals at a community church, we headed back; the rain picked up, and it started to get heavy. We noticed that the sky was black behind us, then black in front of us, then black to the side of us. We turned on the radio and caught the end of a tornado report. Now, you have to understand that cell phones rarely worked. I had Nextel and my partner had Sprint and there was just extremely little reception. When you could get reception, it didn't last long.

It started raining so hard I could not see the end of the truck or the white line in the road, or if the side of the road was a ditch or



asphalt. There was an 18-wheeler in front of me, but I could not see its lights. Willie (who worked for the Portland Red Cross) told me that there was a shoulder to pull over to, so I did. Willie then started to drive. I was really lucky to have Willie driving with me. He was with the search-and-rescue/ hazardous-material team with the Coast Guard for twenty years. Plus, he grew up in Alabama. So not

only was he familiar with monstrously bad weather, he knew how to drive in it.

He got us back to the Montgomery headquarters at midnight. We walked into the place and it was really quiet. We ran across one coordinator who said that headquarters was told to evacuate at noon because of tornado warnings. Hurricane Rita had turned south

instead of going north and

east. The next day, officials showed me

twenty-two tornado reports in the counties we had driven through.

In looking back on the trip, it was a great feeling to be in a place where hundreds of people wanted to help other people in need. They were there because they wanted to be. That's unique in the world. I was lucky to be a part of that."

Ask Metrolink!

Dear Metrolink,

I take the train daily, leaving Oceanside at 6:44 a.m. Until just recently, my morning commute used to be a pleasant, quiet way to start the day. However, it seems that since school is back in session, there are numerous young riders who are ruining not only my morning commute, but the commute of other riders as well. Though most of the students are very courteous and respectful, there are a few who are loud, rude, obnoxious, and offensive in their language and actions. And they are equally disruptive on the evening train. I have complained to the conductor and he recommended that I forward my comments. I would like to know what Metrolink's policy is regarding disruptive riders.

Thank you, *Loyal Rider*

Dear Loyal Rider,

We are sorry that you have been disturbed by student commuters on the train and are glad that you brought this to our attention. Alerting the conductor of the train of the disturbance is the correct action. We will follow up immediately to resolve this, as we want all of our riders to enjoy a safe, comfortable train ride.

Sincerely,
Metrolink



Meet Metrolink's Board Members



Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Don Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the Fourth District in November 1996, and was re-elected in 2000 and 2004. Since taking office, Knabe has worked hard to implement his five-point plan, which involves work in the

following areas: taking back our streets, streamlining county government, providing jobs, protecting the social services safety net, and improving our quality of life.

Supervisor Knabe has been a community leader for more than thirty years and is recognized for his grassroots support and experience in local government. He is highly regarded not only in the fourth district of Los Angeles County, but also in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Knabe was appointed by the White House to be a member of the State and Local Officials Senior Advisory Committee to the president's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Supervisor Knabe is a leader in regional transportation, serving on the board of directors for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. He is also a member of the Southern California Association of Governments Aviation Task Force.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich was first elected in 1980 to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the Fifth District in 1980, where he served as chair in 1983, 1987, 1991, 1996, and 2001.

Prior to being elected to the board, he was a member of the California State Assembly (1972 to 1978), and an instructor at California State University at Los Angeles (1979 and 1985) and Pepperdine University (1979). He served as a member of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees from 1969 to 1972. Supervisor Antonovich was also a government/history instructor in the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1966 to 1972.

Supervisor Antonovich is currently a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission, and South Coast Air Quality Management District's Governing Board. He also serves on the board of directors of the County Supervisors Association of California. Supervisor Antonovich is also a member of the Tournament of Roses Committee, the Glendale Symphony Board of Governors, the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Zoo Association.

Traveling Through Time

Have you ever wondered about the history of the Metrolink tunnels you travel through during your daily commute? One thing you may not have known is that some of the tunnels used today were built all the way back in the late 1800s. And that's just the beginning...

It all started in 1876 when the Southern Pacific Railroad completed the first rail line connecting Los Angeles to the north through the Newhall Pass. During that time, the three lowest passes that connected to the north were Cajon (north of San Bernardino), Newhall, and Santa Susana. When building a track, railroad companies must carefully select a secure area with a low pass and a gentle grade. With that in mind, construction began on a number of tunnels, including the 6,976-foot-long San Fernando Tunnel (between Newhall and San Fernando). It is reported that this was a very difficult tunnel to build because of the pockets of soft rock and underground water. In addition to the San Fernando Tunnel, nine shorter tunnels were also created. To this day, the tunnels built through the Newhall and Santa Susana passes are still heavily used by Metrolink and Union Pacific freight trains.

Another interesting fact is that most of the original timber framing inside the tunnels was replaced with concrete in the 1920s to ensure that all tunnels were safe and secure. Today, all of the tunnels have two dates cast into the concrete — the original date of construction and the date when the tunnel lining was replaced with concrete. For example, the years 1905 and 1921 are cast into the Chatsworth Tunnel (#26).

You might be wondering why Chatsworth Tunnel is numbered 26. Southern Pacific numbered the tunnels according to increasing distance from their headquarters in San Francisco. Tunnel 16 is close to Tehachapi, and tunnels 18, 19, and 25 are located between Vincent and San Fernando.

Since Metrolink acquired Southern Pacific's tunnels in the 1990s, we've made numerous safety upgrades and improvements. For instance, in one of the tunnels, we have installed rock bolts and cement grout to secure the concrete lining against seismic movement. Metrolink has also installed radio antennas to allow for ongoing communication between the trains and dispatchers at all times, even while trains move through tunnels.

The tunnels of Metrolink are filled with years of interesting and rich history that's fun to learn about and enjoy. To keep everyone safe, Metrolink wants to remind you that trespassing is strictly prohibited on any tracks or inside tunnels.



Great Train Adventure

For the past several years, my family and I have made it a tradition to watch the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on television, but this year my sister and I decided we wanted to experience the parade in person. When we told our parents we wanted to go to Pasadena to start a new family tradition, initially they resisted due to the hassle of driving to and parking at the parade. But after we explained that we could just hop on a Metrolink train and then transfer to the Metro Gold Line, they quickly agreed!

This year, the 117th Rose Parade will be held on Monday, January 2. The parade's theme is "It's Magical." It will feature floats, marching bands and high-stepping equestrians from throughout the nation. The parade starts at 8:00 a.m., so my family and I will have to get up extra early to catch all of the excitement, but it will definitely be worth it! My favorite part of the parade is always the beautiful floats, while my sister always loves hearing the music from the lively marching bands.

And it's not just the parade we'll get to see ... my sister and I researched all the parade activities online and we discovered there is a showcase of floats following the parade that is open to the general public. This means we can actually see the floats up close and watch demonstrations of the

animated floats. The best part about the showcase is that volunteers called "White Suiters" will be on hand to answer all of our questions about the floats!

Metrolink and the Metro Gold Line make it really easy to get to the parade.

All you have to do is take a Metrolink train on the San Bernardino or Orange County lines into Union Station, where you transfer to the Metro Gold Line at no additional charge with your Metrolink ticket. Once on the Gold Line, exit at the Memorial Park or Del Mar station. From either of these stations, it's just a short walk to the parade route.

For Metrolink schedule information, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465). For additional information on the Metro Gold Line, visit www.metro.net or call (800) COMMUTE. For additional information on the numerous activities of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, please visit www.tournamentofroses.com or call (877) 793-9911.



Photo by Juan Carlos Chan

Experience the Holidays with Metrolink

'Tis the season for fun holiday events throughout Los Angeles! Start a new family tradition by getting your loved ones together to enjoy the wonderful holiday events in Southern California. The best part is that most of these fun-filled events are only a short ride away on a Metrolink train! Here are just a couple of examples:

Downtown on Ice

You and your family can't miss Downtown on Ice! Put on your winter attire and head downtown to Pershing Square to experience the Southland's largest outdoor skating rink. The eighth

annual occurrence of this holiday tradition opens on November 17, 2005, and runs through January 16, 2006. The outdoor ice oasis, which makes for a perfect family outing, is nestled in the heart of downtown among the city's towering skyscrapers and historical landmarks. The ice-skating rink is open seven days a week (including holidays). It costs only \$6 per skating session and \$2 for a skate rental. Downtown on Ice also hosts a free holiday-music concert series, along with free family events, including a "Disney on Ice" special event. The rink is easily accessible by Metrolink train: take a Metrolink train into Union Station, transfer to the Metro Red Line and get off at the Pershing Square Station at Hill Street.

For more information on skating-rink hours and events, please call (888) LA-PARKS.

(800) 371-LINK



Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival

What else can you do during this holiday season? How about visiting the ninth annual Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival? This holiday tradition features a magnificent display of lights along a one-mile segment of Crystal Springs Drive and attracts more than a half-million visitors each year. There is no admission cost to enter the Light Festival. You and your family can enjoy the display on foot via the walking path or by a free shuttle operated by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (the shuttle runs only on weekends). To visit this spectacular festival of lights, take a Metrolink train to Union Station and then transfer to MTA bus No. 96, which will take you to the Los Angeles Zoo. When you arrive at the Zoo, go to the parking lot to begin your tour! The Light Festival opens on Wednesday, November 23, and continues until Friday, December 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Visitors are encouraged to participate in the festival's third annual toy drive. Light Festival employees will be located at the entrance to collect any unwrapped toys.

For more information on Light Festival activities, please call (323) 913-4688 ext. 9.

Metrolink would like to extend our warmest holiday wishes to all Metrolink riders!



Photos courtesy of LADWP

Station City News



Burbank—The 2005 holiday season signals the return of the popular and award-winning celebration called “12 Days of Holiday Cheer,” which consists of more than 40 family-friendly happenings held from December 1 to December 12 at numerous locations in Downtown Burbank. The 12 Days of Holiday Cheer celebration kicks off Thursday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m., with the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony at Burbank City Hall. After the tree lighting,

Santa will be on hand until 8:00 p.m. to visit and have photos taken with children while the holiday parade starts its journey. Be there as the Magical Christmas Caroling Truck makes its first seasonal appearance. The Magical Christmas Caroling Truck is a 62-foot holiday phenomenon, a float adorned with magnificent Christmas scenes and thousands of sparkling lights followed by Santa’s Train. The parade will spread holiday cheer as it winds through downtown streets until 9:00 p.m.

For more information about 12 Days of Holiday Cheer, please visit www.downtown-burbank.org/events.htm.

Lancaster—Experience the *Nutcracker* ballet at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center on December 10 at 8:00 p.m. and December 11 at 2:00 p.m. It is Christmas Eve, and when Clara’s beloved nutcracker is broken, a magical chain of events transpires, concluding with the famous dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Performed by Antelope Valley Ballet with a cast of local dancers and special guest artists, this graceful and beautiful performance of a timeless tale set to Tchaikovsky’s stunning score is a family favorite for the holidays and a tradition at LPAC. Tickets are \$26, with a special youth price of only \$14.



The Lancaster Performing Arts Center is located at 750 W. Lancaster Blvd. in downtown Lancaster. For more information, call the LPAC box office at (661) 723-5950 or visit www.lpac.org.

Riverdance: Rediscover the Original!

Now in its tenth phenomenal year, *Riverdance*, the internationally acclaimed celebration of Irish music, song and dance that has touched the hearts of millions around the world, triumphantly returns to Los Angeles from February 7 to February 19, 2006.

Of all the performances to emerge from Ireland in the past decade, nothing can compare to the energy, the sensuality and the spectacle of *Riverdance*. An innovative and exciting blend of dance, music and song, *Riverdance* draws on Irish traditions, and the combined talents of the performers propel Irish dancing and music to the present day, capturing the imagination of audiences of all ages and cultures.

Five lucky winners will win a pair of tickets to opening night of *Riverdance* at the Pantages Theatre. Simply fill out the entry form below and mail it to Metrolink Matters, Riverdance Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017 by January 20.

Reminder:
Metrolink trains will operate on a reduced schedule on Monday, January 16, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Please check the timetables for additional information.



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 All winners will be contacted by phone.

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