



Making Tracks to the Ventura County Fair!



It's now easier than ever for you and your family to get to the Ventura County Fair! Metrolink will again be making tracks to Seaside Park, home to "a country fair with ocean air." The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) has once again chartered Metrolink trains for special service between Chatsworth and Ventura on Saturdays August 6 and 13 and Sundays August 7 and 14.

The Ventura County Fair is a wonderland of carnival rides, agricultural exhibits, and live entertainment. At the Grandstand Arena, concerts and events will take place throughout the fair. The Seabreeze Stage will provide great family entertainment, including performances by local bands, comedy acts, and dancing. Stop by the Seaside Club after 4:00 p.m. to dance to a range of jazz, blues, rock, and country music in a club-type atmosphere. All of this fun is included with your fair admission ticket!

Riding the train is just as fun—and just as easy! You can buy your special Metrolink fair-train tickets in advance, Monday

through Friday, at Simi Valley, Moorpark and Camarillo city halls, at the Whistle Stop Depot Café in the Chatsworth Station, or by calling (800) 438-1112. Tickets may also be purchased from special sellers at the train stations on the day of travel.

Metrolink monthly-pass holders' tickets will also be accepted. Regular Metrolink one-way, four-trip, round-trip, and 10-trip tickets are not valid on the fair trains. Children ages five and younger ride FREE on the Metrolink train to the fairgrounds.

The Ventura County Fair opens at 10:00 a.m. on weekends; all fair exhibits close at 10:00 p.m. Visit www.seasidepark.org for information and show times.

The Ventura County Fair Metrolink Train Ticket Prices

	One Way	Round Trip
Chatsworth	\$5.00	\$10.00
Simi Valley	\$4.00	\$8.00
Moorpark	\$4.00	\$8.00
Camarillo	\$3.00	\$6.00
Oxnard	\$3.00	\$6.00

The Ventura County Fair Metrolink Train Schedule

Westbound to Fair				Eastbound to Chatsworth			
Train #	189	191	197	Train #	194	196	198
Chatsworth Departs	9:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	Ventura Departs	3:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	10:10 p.m.
Simi Valley	9:15 a.m.	11:47 a.m.	1:45 p.m.	Oxnard	d3:45 p.m.	d6:45 p.m.	d10:25p.m.
Moorpark	9:29 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	1:59 p.m.	Camarillo	d3:56 p.m.	d7:01 p.m.	d10:40 p.m.
Camarillo	9:41 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	2:13 p.m.	Moorpark	d4:07 p.m.	d7:13 p.m.	d10:52 p.m.
Oxnard	9:53 a.m.*	12:35 p.m.*	2:31 p.m.*	Simi Valley	d4:22 p.m.	d7:29 p.m.	d11:10 p.m.
Ventura	10:20 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Chatsworth	4:40 p.m.	7:55 p.m.	11:30 p.m.

*Denotes trains may depart up to 10 minutes early.

d: No riders will be allowed to board at these stations

On the Train Again

Last month, my mom and dad took me on a Metrolink train adventure to Universal Studios and CityWalk. We had such a good time that Dad, who normally spends Sundays on the couch, said we were all going to take the train to LA again! His father took him to Olvera Street for the first time when he was my age, so it was time to continue a family tradition.

Last time, we got the first train out of San Bernardino, but this time Dad wanted to sleep in, so we caught the train that got us to Los Angeles Union Station by 11:35 a.m. ("Just in time for lunch," Mom said!)

After everything I'd heard about Olvera Street on the train, I was surprised when we just walked across the street from the train station and there we were! Dad wanted to start with the Avila Adobe, the oldest house in Los Angeles, but Mom's tummy started to rumble, so off we went to La Golondrina, one of Olvera Street's famous restaurants.

Dad and Mom shared a burrito platter (it was so big!) while I enjoyed a taco platter. Everything was so good, I know where we're going for my next birthday!

We did get to the Avila Adobe. It was built in 1810, which makes it slightly older than my dad (according to Mom). Between the museums, exhibits, and shopping, we completely forgot the time and missed the 3:55 p.m. train home.

"No problem," Dad exclaimed. "There's another train home at 7:00!"

To tell the truth, I think he planned it that way. That's my dad!

For complete Metrolink San Bernardino Line weekend schedules, please log on to www.metrolinktrains.com.



Ask Metrolink!

"Ask Metrolink" is a new monthly column that will answer questions Metrolink has received from our passengers over the past few years.

Dear Metrolink,

I have been a faithful Metrolink rider for the past 10 years. Recently, I have

been bothered by some of my fellow riders and their loud cell-phone conversations. Most of the time my fellow riders are courteous, but the one or two who YELL INTO THEIR CELL PHONES seem to think it is okay to do this EVERY DAY. Is there anything Metrolink can do to get the quiet back?

Sincerely,

Faithful Metrolink Rider

Dear Faithful Metrolink Rider,

Thank you for your letter and your 10 years of loyal ridership. We can certainly see how loud cell-phone conversations could shatter an otherwise peaceful commute. Although we cannot prohibit such conversations, your letter does provide a good opportunity to offer some friendly reminders about being courteous while talking on cell phones on the trains:

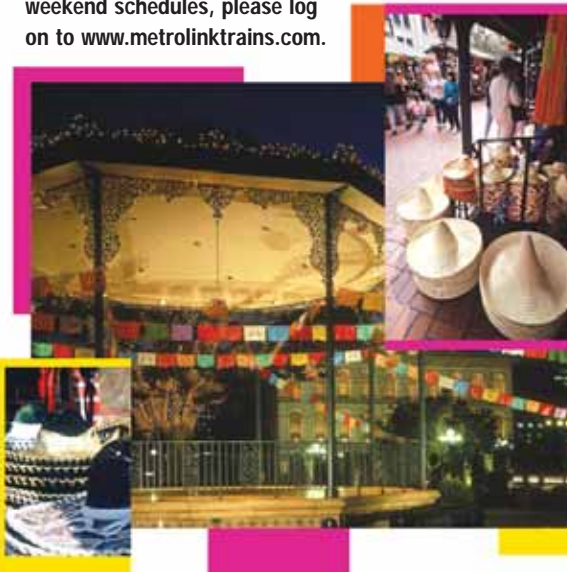
1. Avoid "cell-yell" – Cell phones are built with super-sensitive microphones, so the person on the other end of the line can hear you even if you don't raise your voice.
2. Use an earpiece – This allows you to hear the amplification—how loud you sound at the other end—so you can adjust your voice accordingly.
3. Be discreet – Since we are all sitting in close proximity to each other on the train, please try to keep your conversations brief and, for your protection, please don't discuss personal or proprietary information while on the train. Remember that your fellow riders have no choice but to listen to your conversation in these enclosed spaces.
4. Text message – If your phone has text-message capabilities, then put 'em to work! Use those fancy features such as text messaging to send and receive important information.

ALSO:

Grammar Guidelines from Metrolink Riders

In March, Metrolink received a letter from dedicated train rider Jameelah Xochitl Medina, who pointed out some grammatical errors in Metrolink's on-board train signage. Mr. Medina, a Metrolink train rider who commutes from Rialto to Cal State LA every day, holds a BA in Spanish literature and an MA in education. Mr. Medina has made a hobby of identifying Spanish linguistic and grammatical errors in everyday print. During a commute on the San Bernardino Line, he couldn't help but notice a few grammatical errors on some of the on-board safety signs posted in Spanish. In his letter, Mr. Medina provided details about the errors and gave suggestions for correcting the Spanish-language signage. Since receiving Mr. Medina's e-mail, Metrolink has taken the initiative to correct every sign that contained errors. Thank you, Mr. Medina, for your keen grammatical eye!

If you have any suggestions or comments for Metrolink, please call (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit www.metrolinktrains.com.



Olvera Street photos provided courtesy of the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau (LACVB) - Olvera Street Signs and Souvenirs Charis - Photographer: LACVB; Gazabo at Olvera Street - Photographer: Glenn Comber/LACVB

Meet Your Metrolink Board Members

Keith Millhouse

Metrolink Board Member Keith Millhouse represents the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC). Millhouse is the immediate past chair of the VCTC, the Channel Counties Division representative on the League of California Cities Transportation and Communications Committee, and a current member of SCAG's Transportation Committee.

Board Member Millhouse is a graduate of Pepperdine University and Pepperdine University School of Law. He specializes in environmental law and maintains his practice in Ventura County. He is a resident of the City of Moorpark.



Brian Humphrey

Known as the voice of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Brian Humphrey is often referred to as "the busiest man in Los Angeles"—and no wonder!

Brian just celebrated his twentieth year as a firefighter/paramedic with the Los Angeles Fire Department. Brian was named

Paramedic of the Year in just his second year on the job, becoming the most junior member of the LAFD to ever be awarded such an honor.

An avid off-duty participant in local government, Brian is a past chairman of the Ventura County Transportation Commission and was recently reappointed to another term as a citizen member of the Commission. He is now in his eleventh year as a member of the Metrolink Board of Directors.

When not overseeing the direct safety or transportation needs of millions, Brian serves on the faculty of the Criminal Justice Department at Ventura College and as an adjunct instructor for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Up and Coming in Upland

Metrolink ridership from the Upland Station has spiked within the past year, partly as a result of rising gas prices.

To accommodate the increase in riders, the City of Upland will add a new parking lot as part of its renovation project on the north side of the station. The city has cleared the land between the empty Sante Fe Depot building and the Lemon Grower's building for parking. These two buildings are currently being renovated and will be available for lease to business tenants.

The Metrolink project is part of a bigger plan to rejuvenate Upland's downtown area and make it a destination stop for visitors. City officials are planning for restaurants and a coffee bar, and aim to eventually bring professional businesses into the Lemon Grower's building.

The renovations are being conducted in partnership with San Bernardino Associated Governments and are scheduled for completion in early 2006. The estimated cost for each building renovation is approximately \$600,000; costs will be shared equally between the city and county agencies.

"This is the first step toward a dramatic new impact on the town center," Councilman Ken Willis stated. "The city is planning to bring in townhouses and high-quality restaurants and create an affluent neighborhood, with Metrolink providing an easy, affordable mode of transportation."



Long, Long, LONG Commute

Do you think you have a long commute? Meet Metrolink rider Kathleen Brown, who has the mother of all commutes. A dedicated Metrolink rider since 1995, Ms. Brown commutes from Moreno Valley to Los Angeles five days a week, a trip that takes her five to six hours a day.

Before becoming a Metrolink rider, she would take a vanpool to work, but found that it was not always convenient for her schedule. When Metrolink began running trains, Ms. Brown jumped at the chance to ride because it offered her a more convenient and flexible commute schedule. "If I have to work late or I need to run errands after work, I know that the Metrolink schedule is flexible enough that I will always be able to catch a train to get home."

So, what does Ms. Brown do during her long commute? She usually catches up on her sleep or reads the daily newspaper or a book to pass the time. The main reason Ms. Brown is willing to make long commute is because of her wonderful job. Ms. Brown is the administrative director for the Sugar Ray Foundation, an after-school program for at-risk children ages six to 16. Ms. Brown has been working for the foundation since 1978 and finds her job so satisfying and fulfilling that it is worth the long commute. "Being able to make a difference in even one child's life makes it all worthwhile."

Metrolink thanks Kathleen Brown and all Metrolink riders for their continued support aboard our trains!

Station City News

Lancaster—Celebrate Downtown Lancaster, a free street festival, will take place Friday, July 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., in downtown Lancaster. The festival will include a farmers' market with fresh produce, a wine tasting, an antique car show with vehicles from the 1920s and '30s, fine arts, and diverse cuisine. The Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band will perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m., and festival guests can watch a silent movie under the stars next to the Western Hotel at 9:00 p.m. Free public parking is available north and south of Lancaster Boulevard. For more information, call the City of Lancaster at (661) 723-6080.

Burbank—Downtown Burbank has announced this year's lineup for the popular outdoor music series, *Swingin' Sounds from Downtown*. *Swingin' Sounds* will feature eight free concerts with public dancing to the tunes of leading live bands on AMC Plaza at Palm Avenue and San Fernando Boulevard.

The series, which attracted thousands last summer for fun-filled, energetic dancing outdoors, is bolstered this year by a lineup of stellar artists. Several have toured internationally and performed at top venues to wide acclaim.

Each night will start at 6:00 p.m. with free swing or salsa dance classes. Bands will strike up at 7:00 p.m. Concerts will run for approximately 2 hours and will be free and open to the public.

August 4The Jazz on the Latin Side All-Stars

August 11Johnny Polanco y su Conjunto Amistad

August 18The Jumpin' Joz Band

August 25Rickey Woodard

For further information, call (818) 238-5173

Newhall/Santa Clarita—Dust off your spurs and pony up to the Silver Horseshoe Saloon at the Golden Oak Ranch on August 20, 2005. The third annual Old Town Newhall Association fundraiser will kick off at 5:00 p.m. for a fun-filled evening of entertainment with music by the Riders of the Purple Sage and casino poker featuring no-limit Texas Hold 'Em. The Golden Oak Ranch is located at 19802 Placerita Canyon Road in Newhall. For tickets or further information, call Suzie Szabo at (661) 253-0730.



Corrections

In the July 2005 *Metrolink Matters*, the Safety Matters article noted that: They (Freight and Passenger) "...trains are also not required to sound their horn as they approach the station." Trains are always required to sound their horn when approaching a station if there is a pedestrian crossing present. Also in the same issue, the *Take a Ride to the Wild Wild West* article incorrectly stated that the Chatsworth Cowboy statue was a gift of the artist, and failed to credit the City of Los Angeles' Department of Transportation which commissioned the statue for \$27,000 using a METRO grant and local transportation funds.

LINK Event Winners

LINK Events let passengers meet and talk to Metrolink staff members on board the train. The following lucky passengers have won a complimentary Monthly Pass from the June 14 - 16, 2005 Ventura County Line LINK event.

Please help Metrolink congratulate these lucky passengers!

- Santiago O'Leary
- Jennifer Tran



METROLINK MATTERS

Editor-in-Chief: Paul Sitkoff

Writers: Charlene Ariza and Tracy Berge
 Designer: Harlan West/HWDS
 Writing Consultants: Rogers & Associates
 C.E.O.: David Solow
 Director, Communications and Development: Steve Lantz
 Manager, External Communications: Francisco Oaxaca
 Send comments or story ideas to metrolinkmatters@scrra.net or to *Metrolink Matters*, 700 S. Flower St., Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.
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