The Coolest Ride of the Summer

What is the best way to beat the California summer heat? Hop on a SummerLink train and get ready for a day full of surf and fun!

Summertime, and the livin’ is easy, so it’s time to relax the Southern California way—at the beach. Metrolink, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) have teamed up for SummerLink, weekend service on the Inland Empire–Orange County (IEOC) Line from Saturday, July 16, through Sunday, October 9. Grab your swimsuits, family, and friends and get this summer’s hottest ticket—SummerLink!

Metrolink trains steer clear of traffic jams, long car rides, and beach-parking fees so you can enjoy a relaxing ride directly to the sand and surf of Southern California’s beautiful beaches.

SummerLink tickets will be available for purchase from ticket vending machines (TVMs) at all Metrolink IEOC train stations! Metrolink monthly-pass and 10-trip-ticket holders are welcome on SummerLink. Passengers should arrive at the station at least 30 minutes in advance to purchase a ticket prior to boarding. Save time and purchase your ticket beforehand using any IEOC station TVM.

And there’s good news for seniors and children boarding the SummerLink! All seniors 65 and older and youths 6 to 18 get a 25 percent discount with valid ID. All children under the age of 5 can travel for free when accompanied by a paying adult.

As an added bonus, many businesses in San Clemente will be holding contests you can enter just by showing your Metrolink ticket!

For more information on SummerLink train service, please call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit www.metrolinktrains.com for full SummerLink details and schedules.
Weekend Adventure

We had been planning this family day trip for what feels like forever. Mom said she hadn’t really thought about using Metrolink for fun until now, and she’s letting me choose where we’re going to go. Since the Metrolink San Bernardino Line runs on both Saturdays and Sundays, my parents told me that I could pick an activity for a weekend family adventure on the train.

There are so many exciting places to visit by taking the train. So many options, what was I going to choose? Should we go to China Town, or the Los Angeles Central Library, or maybe even Old Town Pasadena? I finally decided on Universal Studios and CityWalk.

The train schedule worked out perfectly to get us to L.A. Union Station from San Bernardino by 8:15 a.m. As we boarded the train, I sat back and enjoyed the ride to Los Angeles. When we got to the station, I was surprised to find out that our Metrolink ticket was good for our trip on the Metro Red Line subway, too! We took the North Hollywood Line on the subway, and then took a free shuttle to Universal Studios to arrive right when they opened the gates at 9:00 a.m.

After the theme park, we shopped at Universal CityWalk and ate a really excellent dinner before heading back to the Metro Red Line subway, again included with our Metrolink round-trip ticket. Once back at Union Station, I tried to convince Mom and Dad to run over to Olvera Street, which is right across from the station, but they said that’s a trip for another day. Now I can’t wait until my next San Bernardino Line weekend adventure. I’m going to e-mail all of my friends about Metrolink. It’s way better than sitting in traffic! Thanks Metrolink!

For complete Metrolink San Bernardino Line weekend schedules, please call (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit www.metrolinktrains.com.

Last month, Connex took over from Amtrak as the operator of Metrolink service. On the eve of the change over, Amtrak sent our passengers this letter.

June 23, 2005

Dear Metrolink Passengers,

As this Saturday marks the last day Amtrak will operate Metrolink Commuter rail service, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your patronage. It has been an honor to serve you for the past 13 years and I hope that you’ve been pleased with the service provided by our crews. We’ve had the pleasure to get to know you and look forward to crossing paths with you again.

Starting Sunday, June 26, Connex Railroad will be responsible for providing Metrolink service, following the expiration of our contract.

Thanks again for trusting us with your commute.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Phelps
General Superintendent
Southwest Division

Take a Ride to the Wild, Wild West

A high-profile visitor recently rode into Metrolink’s Chatsworth Station wearing a bronze hat and shiny spurs. Unveiled during a ceremony last December, Los Angeles’ 12th District City Councilman Greig Smith presented the Chatsworth Cowboy statue to the Chatsworth Depot and the community as a gift from sculptor Joy Ballin.

The Chatsworth Cowboy has been on the community’s wish list since Metrolink began service to the Chatsworth Depot in October 1992. In addition to serving as a Metrolink station, the Depot houses the Hal Bernson Community Room, offices for the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce, a field office for Councilman Smith, a childcare center, a travel agency, and a coffee kiosk.

The Chatsworth Cowboy adds a beautiful touch to the station’s Western theme. The Depot also contains a gallery of movie memorabilia that pays tribute to the many Western movies filmed at the foot of Rocky Peak and Stoney Point in the Santa Susana Mountains, where the Depot stands.

So saddle up, jump on a Metrolink train to the Chatsworth Depot to take a look at the newest visitor to ride into the station and get back to the Wild West!
Bike On Board!

Many Metrolink riders bring bicycles on board the train. As a safety reminder to all our passengers, the following rules apply to everyone who brings a bicycle on board:

- Bicycles must be secured with the straps on the lower level of each car. You will find these straps located on the far end of each car, away from the restrooms. In order to secure your bike, you must first flip up the bench seat if it is in the down position. Please note that space is available for only two bicycles per train car.
- Cyclists may be required to relocate to a different car or wait for a later train due to crowding.
- Gas-powered and three-wheel bikes are not permitted.
- Some areas are designated for priority seating for seniors and people with disabilities. Cyclists may have to relocate their bikes to another car in order to accommodate a senior or disabled passenger, especially passengers who use wheelchairs.
- If a passenger boards with a bicycle and there is already a passenger seated on the bench over the securing straps the conductor may also request that the passenger relocate to another vacant seat but cannot require the seated passenger to move. If there is no space in any other car the cyclist may need to wait for the next train.

We respectfully ask that passengers cooperate with cyclists when securing their bicycles for the safety of all riders.

Safety Matters

Pedestrian Crossings

At-grade pedestrian crossings are locations where passengers can cross a set of tracks to reach a boarding platform. Several Metrolink stations, such as Pomona (North), Glendale and Downtown Burbank, have them. When approaching this type of crossing, it is important to remember that, when the lights and bells are activated, you must stop and wait until the train passes. When you arrive at your station and exit the train, 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.

Along most of Metrolink’s rail lines, and at many of our stations, there are at least two sets of tracks. When crossing tracks at a pedestrian crossing, watch for trains and be aware that trains may be running on any track in any direction. After the last car of a train passes, do not cross until the warning devices are no longer activated and there is no train approaching from the opposite direction. Be aware that freight trains and maintenance vehicles run on the same tracks as Metrolink trains and neither follows a set schedule or stops at Metrolink stations. They are also not required to sound their horn as they approach the station.

Safety rule of thumb: When you approach any crossing, always expect a train—on any track, at any time, from any direction.

Meet Your Metrolink Board Members

Art Brown

Chairman Art Brown has served on the board of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) since February 2002 and was appointed chairman in January 2005. He is one of two members representing the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA,) where he serves as Vice-Chairman. Previously he served as an ex-officio member representing the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

In addition to his duties as Metrolink chairman, Brown is also the current mayor pro tem for the city of Buena Park. He has faithfully served the city of Buena Park continuously since 1990 in the role of mayor, mayor pro tem, and city councilmember. Brown also currently serves as chairman of the NAFTA Subcommittee and the Surface Transportation Committee for SCAG.

During his distinguished career, Brown has received the 2002 Orange County Section American Planning Association’s Distinguished Leadership Award for Elected Officials and the 2001 Buena Park Boys & Girls Club Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chairman Brown is a retired Los Angeles deputy sheriff who attended Cerritos College and Cypress College and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. His personal interests include golf, reading, travel, and photography.

Ron Roberts

Ron Roberts serves as the vice chair of the board of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), where he is one of two current board members representing the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). In addition to his duties as vice chair, he is currently serving as mayor pro tem of the City of Temecula, where he served as mayor in 1994, 1998, and 2002. Vice Chair Roberts is also currently the president of the Temecula Redevelopment Agency and a member of the Temecula City Council.

Since retiring from a distinguished career as a California Highway Patrol sergeant, Roberts has remained very active in his community-service efforts. He has participated in and chaired numerous committees, including the Temecula-Murrieta Library Task Force, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley Board of Directors, City of Temecula Traffic and Transportation Commission, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and SCAG Truck Lane Task Force.

Throughout his career, Vice Chair Roberts has received many distinguished awards, including the 1990 Temecula Valley Peace Officer of the Year Award. In his spare time, Roberts enjoys a good round of golf and his pet horses.

(800) 371-LINK www.metrolinktrains.com
Station City News

Santa Ana—The largest and most comprehensive collection of ancient Egyptian funerary material outside of Cairo is housed at the British Museum. As part of its joint venture with the British Museum, the Bowers Museum has drawn upon this world-famous collection of mummies and funerary objects to present Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt... Treasures from the British Museum, from April 17, 2005, through April 15, 2007.

This extensive exhibition features 140 objects, including 14 mummies and/or coffins, and is the largest exhibition of its kind to be shown by the British Museum outside of Britain.

Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt focuses on embalming, coffins, sarcophagi, shabti figures, magic and ritual, as well as the process of mumification. Immerse yourself in the fascinating world of Egyptian rituals for preparing and sending the dead to the afterlife, complete with spectacular gold jewelry and a wooden boat to transport the dead into the underworld.

The Bowers Museum is located at 1802 N. Main Street, Santa Ana. For more information, call the Bowers Museum at (714) 567-3600 or go to www.bowers.org.

Ventura—Alive After 5 will be more alive than ever in the upcoming summer months for the Summer Night Sounds Series. Downtown Ventura will be the place to be on the first Thursday of each month with jam-packed summer nights filled with lively beach music on the Santa Clara and California Street Tiki Stage and on streets and parks throughout downtown. Put on your flip flops and Hawaiian shirts and come out and enjoy great summer evenings filled with the sound of music in your vibrant Downtown Cultural District. For the entire schedule, please visit www.venturaaliveafter5.com or call (805) 658-4760.

Burbank—Downtown Burbank presents Swingin’ Sounds from Downtown, eight Thursday nights in July and August of swing, salsa, and jazz. The summer concert series in the revitalized downtown Burbank district will feature eight free concerts with public dancing to the tunes of leading live bands on the AMC Plaza at Palm Avenue and San Fernando Boulevard.

Events will kick off 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.

Lancaster—Lancaster mayor and Metrolink board member Frank Roberts, along with Palmdale mayor and former Metrolink board member Jim Ledford, will host a celebration that will honor all Antelope Valley active and retired servicemen and servicewomen at the July 10 JetHawks baseball game, 6:00 p.m., Clear Channel Stadium, Lancaster.

The evening will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display jointly sponsored by the Lancaster and Palmdale Auto Mall dealers. In addition, guests at the stadium will be able to purchase hot dogs and soft drinks for only $1 each.

Free tickets to the July 10 baseball game will be reserved for active military and veterans at the Lancaster Clear Channel Stadium box office, 45116 Valley Central Way, Lancaster. Tickets must be picked up in person at the box office between Wednesday, June 1, and Thursday, June 30. Tickets for military and veteran family members may be purchased for $1 each during the month of June.

Box-office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Beginning July 1, any remaining tickets for the July 10 game will be sold for $1 each to the general public.

Did You Know…

- Metrolink’s Lost and Found is headquartered at Los Angeles Union Station.
- If you think you’ve lost an item on the train, call (800) 371-5465 to file a report.
- If you’ve found an item on the train, turn it in at Metrolink’s Union Station Info Booth or to your conductor.
- If you lose your cell phone, consider SUSPENDING rather than canceling service first so we can use the phone to find you. We have had hundreds turned in to us over the years!
- Secure your name and daytime phone number on your personal property to increase your odds of getting it back if it is turned in.

Due to renovation, the Union Station Metrolink Information Booth, including the Lost and Found and Ticket Window, will be closed from 6:30 p.m. on July 7 to 6:30 a.m. on July 18. The Ticket Window at the Gateway Center (at the east end of the Union Station tunnel) will remain open for all Metrolink information and transactions from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

(800) 371-LINK

www.metrolinktrains.com

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