



Photo courtesy of the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau.

# All's Fair in Ventura!

Break out the sun block and your walking shoes; the 2006 Ventura County Fair is here! Take Metrolink to the "Heart of the Country," this year's Ventura County Fair theme. The fun starts on Wednesday, August 2, and continues through Sunday, August 13, with Metrolink trains providing weekend service from Chatsworth on August 5, 6, 12, and 13.

The Ventura County Fair is fun for everyone with thrilling rides, exhibitions of creativity and artistic prowess, and tasty treats for the whole family. Three stages will present live music acts, competitions, and dancing exhibitions featuring well-known acts such as the Charlie Daniels Band, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Bobby Vinton, and Foreigner.

Metrolink Ventura County Fair train service is a special charter by the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) in cooperation with Seaside Park, which hosts the fair. "It is always a

thrilling sight to see Metrolink trains pull into the fairgrounds after picking up so many happy passengers throughout Ventura County and Chatsworth," said County Supervisor John Flynn, current chair of VCTC. "We look forward to the special trains every year."

A special ticket will be required to ride the Ventura County Fair trains. You can purchase tickets in advance Monday through Friday at the Whistle Stop Depot Café in the Chatsworth Station; in the city halls of Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Camarillo; or by calling (800) 438-1112. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of travel at the train stations on a first-come, first-served basis. Metrolink monthly passes from any line will also be accepted. Children ages 5 or younger ride free.



Photo courtesy of James Lockwood.

TO THE FAIR	Train #	189	191	197
	Chatsworth (Departs)	9:00 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
	Simi Valley	9:15 a.m.	11:47 a.m.	1:45 p.m.
	Moorpark	9:29 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	1:59 p.m.
	Camarillo	9:41 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	2:13 p.m.
	Oxnard	*9:53 a.m.	*12:35 p.m.	*2:31 p.m.
	Ventura	10:20 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	3:00 p.m.

\*Denotes Trains may depart up to 10 minutes early

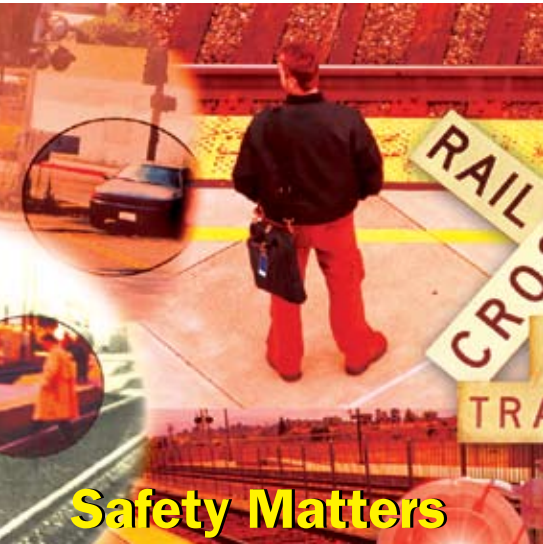
FROM THE FAIR	Train #	194	196	198
	Ventura (Departs)	3:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	10:10 p.m.
	Oxnard	3:45 p.m.	6:45 p.m.	10:25 p.m.
	Camarillo	3:56 p.m.	7:01 p.m.	10:40 p.m.
	Moorpark	4:07 p.m.	7:13 p.m.	10:52 p.m.
	Simi Valley	4:22 p.m.	7:29 p.m.	11:10 p.m.
	Chatsworth	4:40 p.m.	7:55 p.m.	11:30 p.m.

### 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

Please check the daily schedule at [www.seasidepark.org](http://www.seasidepark.org) for fair information. Visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK (5465) for additional Metrolink information.





## Safety Matters

- **ALWAYS** wait behind the line while standing on a station platform.
- **ALWAYS** cross tracks at a designated crossing.
- **ALWAYS** look both ways before crossing train tracks.
- **ALWAYS** store your belongings below your seat or on your lap, not in an aisle or on an empty seat.
- **ALWAYS** collect your belongings and move toward the exit as soon as your station stop is announced. Remind fellow passengers to retrieve items left behind.
- **ALWAYS** hold the handrail when climbing or descending stairs onboard a train and at a station.
- **ALWAYS** secure bicycles at the locations across from the restrooms on each car.



Beach photo courtesy of the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau.

## Great Train Adventure

I couldn't wait for summer vacation! My sister and I made a list of the fun activities we wanted to do to fill up our vacation, including visiting the beach, going to Disneyland, and camping. To kick off our summer, we decided to start with a Saturday trip to the beach on Metrolink.

My sister and I checked the Metrolink website and discovered the new weekend service, which could take us all the way from our house in San Bernardino to the beach in San Clemente. This was going to be an easy trip!

(continued on page 3)

# Inside Metrolink: Union Station

## Railroad Terms of the Month

**Turnout:** A connection between tracks that, when activated by a "switch machine," allows a train to move from one track to another.

**Switch tender:** A trained railroad employee who is responsible for throwing the switch at a turnout at the direction of a train dispatcher when automatic switching is unavailable.

Trains are always on the move at Los Angeles Union Station. Sometimes the volume is so great it creates a traffic jam of its own. Recognizing this, Metrolink is about to begin a major improvement project that will help streamline train service and minimize passenger delays. Funded by the state Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), the \$7.4 million project will include the installation of an additional track as well as upgrades to the train control/signal system that will allow trains easier access to Union Station platforms. The improvements will also replace the most heavily utilized turnouts between tracks that make up the approach to Union Station. Construction began in May and is expected to be complete by the end of December 2006.



## It's a Gas, Gas, Gas

We have all felt the effects of rising gas prices, especially this past spring, when prices were at their peak. To avoid feeling the pinch at the gas pumps, commuters are turning to public transportation more than ever. In May, Metrolink recorded an average of 44,328 weekday passengers. This is a 3.6 percent increase since April 2006 and an 8.2 percent increase since May 2005. With the cost of a regular adult fare priced between \$4.75 and \$12.50, depending on length of trip, Metrolink provides a great money-saving alternative for many commuters.

The recent gas-price increases have had a larger effect on Metrolink ridership than previous price escalations that have hit the Southern California region over the past five years. According to economists, commuters

are most sensitive when gas prices cross a "psychological threshold," which is believed to be when gas reaches more than \$3.00 per gallon. There is also a tangible benefit; Metrolink fares are now less expensive than the cost of driving equivalent distances.

The effect of all of this is that Metrolink trains will continue to fill as people alter their lifestyles to find new ways to offset the price of gas. Southern Californians can expect even greater shifts in commuting behavior if the cost of gas breaks \$4.00 per gallon.

Metrolink is working hard to provide as many seats as possible on our trains. Metrolink does not have a train set in reserve, which means that every locomotive and passenger car, excluding those undergoing maintenance, is out serving our passengers.

# Track Upgrades



Built in 1939, Union Station is the busiest railroad terminal on the west coast. Because of the high volume of train traffic during the day Mondays through Fridays, most of the work on this project will be done at night and on weekends to minimize interruptions or delays in train service. This requires careful coordination among the many people who keep Metrolink trains running safely and seamlessly, including personnel responsible for passenger services, dispatching, maintenance of way, and signals. Passengers may also notice minor modifications to two of the existing platforms that conflict with the new track alignments.

After the new track is laid and signals are installed, engineers will test the new signals. During this testing period, switch tenders will manually guide trains in and out of the station. The signal upgrade will take approximately three to four days; passengers may experience slight delays during this time. Metrolink will keep passengers updated during this time.

Metrolink is excited about these latest enhancements to our operations at Union Station.

We thank all passengers for their patience and understanding as the project is completed.



Beach photo courtesy of the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau.

## Ask Metrolink

**Dear Metrolink,**

For the last few years, my family and I have really enjoyed the Metrolink SummerLink beach train. We have great memories of enjoyable experiences aboard the train on the way to the beach. Can you please tell me if Metrolink plans to operate the beach-train service this summer?

Sincerely,  
*Beach Lover*

**Dear Beach Lover,**

This year, we have replaced the SummerLink beach train with the Inland Empire-Orange County (IEOC) Line weekend service, which will provide weekend service to beach areas. These trains operate along with the new Orange County (OC) Line weekend service to open up whole new worlds of weekend fun for Riverside and Orange County residents. For more information, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com/new\\_weekend\\_service](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/new_weekend_service) or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).

Sincerely,  
*Metrolink*

## Great Train Adventure (continued from page 3)

**We woke up early Saturday morning to catch the San Bernardino train to San Clemente. The train stopped at the San Clemente Pier Station, which is just steps from the beach! While Dad watched us play, Mom took a short walk to all the shops and boutiques up the hill from the beach.**

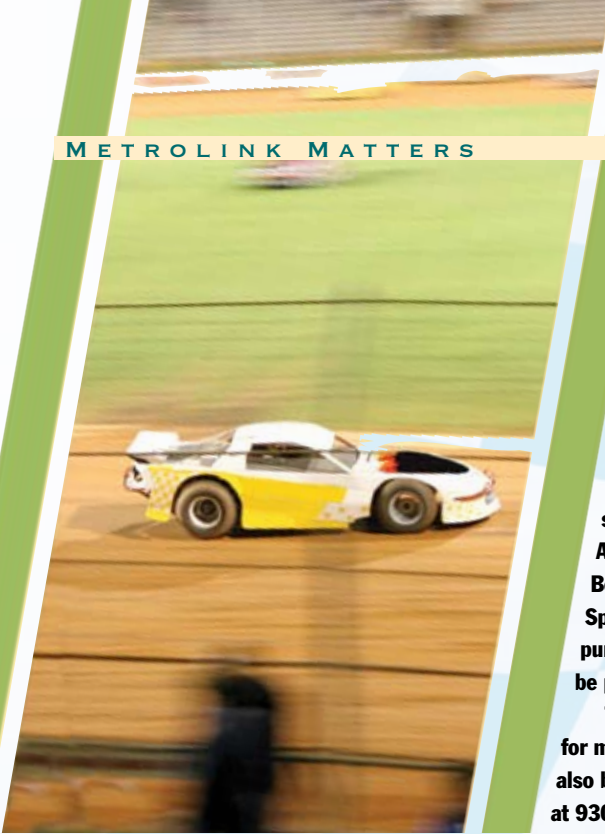
**The cool breeze, blue water, and warm sand were amazing! We had so much fun splashing around, building sand castles, and covering Dad with sand! Mom wanted to leave Dad buried, but we dug him out anyway. After our fun-filled day, we hopped on the Metrolink train and headed back home. My sister and I laughed the entire way home about how her sand castle was washed away by a huge wave...it was hilarious! I love summer vacation, and I can't wait until our next adventure!**

We maintain a stringent maintenance cycle for the upkeep of our equipment and the safety of our passengers. As soon as one car is finished with scheduled maintenance, it is sent out and another is pulled out of service for inspection and rehabilitation. In addition, Metrolink has aggressively pursued other alternatives, including leasing passenger cars from other commuter-rail operators. Those cars are currently operating on trains on our San Bernardino Line. Metrolink also recently placed an order for 87 new train cars and 11 locomotives that will start to arrive sometime in the next 30 months. Another 20 more cars and four more locomotives will likely be added to the order by the time you read this article.



This almost doubles the number of available passenger seats.

For more information and train schedules, call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465).



Take Metrolink to NASCAR

Racing fans, start your engines and get aboard Metrolink for the Sony HD 500 race at the California Speedway! Special chartered Metrolink trains will speed you to all the action in Fontana on September 3. Trains will arrive at the Speedway early enough to allow you plenty of time to enjoy the midway and pre-race excitement, and will depart one hour after the race ends.

Metrolink charter trains to the Sony HD 500 are a special service provided and paid for by the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG). Regular Metrolink San Bernardino Line trains will not make stops at the California Speedway on September 3. Charter-train tickets must be purchased in advance from the California Speedway and cannot be purchased out of Metrolink Ticket Vending Machines.

To purchase charter-train or race tickets, get schedules, or for more information, call (800) 944-RACE (7223). Tickets may also be purchased in advance at the California Speedway, located at 9300 Cherry Avenue in Fontana. Space is very limited, so get your tickets today.

If you are looking to get to the California Speedway on Friday, September 1, or Saturday, September 2, selected Metrolink regular-service San Bernardino Line trains will make stops at the California Speedway on those days. You must buy a regular Metrolink round-trip ticket from the ticket vending machine prior to boarding Friday or Saturday trains to the Speedway. Just select "Round-Trip Ticket" and choose "Fontana" as your destination. Please remember that the California Speedway and the Fontana Station are separate destinations, so pay close attention to your conductor's announcements when riding to avoid missing your stop. You will find Metrolink California Speedway Friday and Saturday schedules at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or by calling (800) 371-LINK (5465). See you at the race!

The Gift of Life

On July 11, Metrolink's employees rolled up their sleeves for a good cause, baring their arms for the American Red Cross. With Southern California hospitals facing the worst blood shortage in six years, the 31 pints of blood collected from Metrolink's employees and contractors is sorely needed. "This will help save up to 93 lives!" said Connie Miramontez, a Metrolink receptionist. "The key to a successful blood [drive] is... communication. Be personal, be positive, be prepared." The next blood drive is scheduled for October 26, 2006, Metrolink's 14th anniversary.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

The scamming, scheming, double-crossing hit Broadway musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* will premiere at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood on August 15 and run for 16 performances only through August 27, 2006.

Based on the 1988 film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is the story of two con men who decide that the French Riviera isn't big enough for both of them. A hilarious battle of cons ensues, and it brings out the best and the worst in both men. It will keep audiences laughing, humming, and guessing to the very end.

For a chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to opening night of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, at 8 p.m., simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by August 10, 2006, to Metrolink Matters, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.



And with Metrolink... everyone is a winner! Save \$30\* on select tickets to performances of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* when you use the promotional code MENTON when ordering online at [www.broadwayla.org](http://www.broadwayla.org), via Ticketmaster at 213-365-3500, or at the Pantages Theatre box office. \*Applies to Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday evening performances and weekday matinee performances. Applies to top-price tickets only, excluding the first 24 rows of the center orchestra sections and the first 8 rows of the center mezzanine (100s, 200s, and 300s). Subject to availability; not valid on previously purchased tickets; no refunds or exchanges; limit 8 tickets per order. Offer valid from 8/1/06 through 8/13/06.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All winners will be contacted by phone.



**METROLINK MATTERS**  
 Editor-in-Chief: Paul Sitkoff  
 Contributors: Tracy Berge and Anja Magnani  
 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](mailto:metrolinkmatters@scrra.net) or to Metrolink Matters, 700 S. Flower St., Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.  
 Published by the External Communications Department.

