Fun in the Sun
More New Metrolink Weekend Service

If you’re looking for a way to put the adventure back into summer, Metrolink has your answer!

On July 2, Metrolink will introduce Sunday service on the Orange County Line to complement the Saturday service we began offering in June. Three round trips between San Clemente and Los Angeles (two originating in Oceanside and one originating in San Juan Capistrano,) will now run on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Starting July 15, trains from the Inland Empire will make the trek from San Bernardino to Oceanside—just in time for the San Clemente Ocean Festival, which begins that same day. Two round trips from San Bernardino and one from downtown Riverside will make stops all along the Inland Empire–Orange County (IEOC) Line, including at the San Clemente Pier, where the Metrolink station is right at the beach, just steps away from the sand and surf.

The new weekend IEOC Line service also gives Orange County residents a whole new world of options for getting down to the beach with plenty of time to soak up some rays and hang ten in the surf. The IEOC trains will make OC stops starting with the Anaheim Canyon Station.

Check out the complete schedule for the new weekend service on page 4.

And the beach is just the beginning! San Juan Capistrano’s shops and historic mission are just a Metrolink ride away. In Orange, you can visit the antique stores nestled around historic “Orange Circle” and even hop on the Anaheim Resort Transit (ART) bus, which will take you from the Orange Station to the Disneyland resort. ART buses require an additional fare.

Visit www.rideart.org for schedules, routes, and fares.

Need another reason to get on the train? If you travel between June 3 and December 31, 2006, and purchase a one-way or round-trip ticket for weekend service on the IEOC or Orange County line, you’ll get 50 percent off the regular weekday price (discount will automatically be applied at the Metrolink Ticket Vending Machine). And each paying adult may bring up to three children, ages five and under, on the OC or IEOC weekend service, for free!

For more information on Metrolink’s new weekend service, visit www.metrolinktrains.com/new_weekend_service or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).
Inside Metrolink: Sharing Tracks

Railroad Term of the Month

**Shared use agreement:** An arrangement in which multiple railroads operate on tracks owned by one of the railroads.

**Slots:** Available positions for trains to operate on a section of rail line during a certain period of time.

As you ride Metrolink, you may notice Amtrak and freight trains running alongside your train. This is done through a “shared use agreement,” an arrangement in which railroads and operators cooperate to make rail transit possible. Metrolink trains operate not only on publicly owned rights-of-way, but also on tracks owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) railroads. Metrolink is not the only commuter train to share tracks. Amtrak and many other commuter railroads throughout the country also utilize track owned by other entities.

Metrolink depends on sharing the tracks to pass through areas where there are no publicly owned tracks. For example, Union Pacific owns the tracks Metrolink uses between Moorpark and Oxnard, and BNSF owns the rail on which Orange County commuters ride when they travel between Los Angeles and Fullerton.

Any given stretch of rail has a maximum number of “slots,” or positions for trains to operate, in any given twenty-four-hour period. Metrolink must contractually negotiate for slots with both BNSF and UP in order to operate on their tracks. The three parties, all of which have a vested interest in the smooth operation of the system, work out a schedule that meets Metrolink passenger needs and allows the other railroads to operate their own trains.

But sometimes even the most careful planning is challenged by real-world events. Both BNSF and UP run long-haul trains, which travel for hundreds, or sometimes thousands, of miles across the country to and from the Southern California coast. Traveling so far over so many days increases the chances that unforeseen circumstances may delay a train and throw off the railroads’ carefully negotiated schedule. When that happens, it can cause a disruption in track sharing, which can result in both commuter and freight trains’ being caught in a railroad form of rush-hour gridlock.

Metrolink is constantly working with UP and the BNSF to ensure safe and efficient operations, and to help minimize the impact when things run less than smoothly. We never forget that you depend on us to get you where you are going safely, and on time.

For more information on Metrolink, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).
Tunnel 26

Have you ever wondered about the tunnels you travel through on your daily commute on Metrolink? Many of the tunnels being used today were built way back in the early twentieth century. One of the busiest is Tunnel 26, which is on Metrolink’s Ventura County Line just north of the Chatsworth Station.

Thousands of passengers pass through Tunnel 26 each year. This tunnel is located on the track that connects San Jose and the Central Coast region of California to Los Angeles. The Southern Pacific Railroad started construction of the tunnel in 1905 and finished in 1907. The 7,369-foot-long tunnel shortened travel time for passengers traveling on those tracks by more than an hour. Since then, the tunnel has been in constant use by the Southern Pacific from 1907 to 1996, and currently by Union Pacific, Amtrak, and Metrolink trains. Originally, the tunnel was built with timber frames to restrain the rock. In 1922, Southern Pacific enlarged the tunnel and lined it with concrete to reinforce the structure.

This past April, Metrolink began a seismic-enhancement project on Tunnel 26. To avoid any interruption in passenger-train service, the work for the entire safety-upgrade project is being conducted during the late night hours, after the last Metrolink train uses the tunnel. Each night, project contractor Johnson Western Gunite brings equipment into the tunnel for about six hours of work. The process involves drilling holes into the wall every eight feet and then pumping a high-strength, very fluid cement grout into the spaces and cracks between the concrete lining and the native rock. Once the project is completed, more than 600,000 bags of grout will have been pumped into the wall. When the cracks and voids are filled solid, there will be no differential movement between the concrete lining and the mountain in the event of an earthquake. The improvement project will be completed by December 2006.

For nearly one hundred years, Tunnel 26 has survived earthquakes without any damage. Metrolink’s improvement project will allow the tunnel to remain safe and secure for many years to come.

New Metro Rapid Bus-Metrolink Connection

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will launch a new Metro Rapid bus line in the San Fernando Valley on June 26. Metro Rapid Line 734 will run on Sepulveda Boulevard between Ventura Boulevard and the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink station.

It will operate every 10 minutes during morning and afternoon weekday rush hours and every 20 minutes during other times of the day and evening. For more information, visit the Metro website at www.metro.net.

Meet a Metrolink Board Member

Maureen Micheline

Maureen Micheline has been a Metrolink board member for almost two years. Ms. Micheline started her career 23 years ago with MTA (formerly the Rapid Transit District [RTD]). For the last six years, she has been a board deputy to the north corridor representative of the League of Cities. Prior to her career with RTD, she worked at ABC News in New York as an entertainment researcher and writer.

While working as a project manager in MTA’s planning division, Ms. Micheline was involved with numerous “first” projects for various Southern California cities. She was involved in developing Bikestation Long Beach, which was the first facility of its kind in the United States. The station is a nexus for light-rail trains, buses, pedestrians, and a local shuttle that services neighborhoods and key attractions. Micheline also helped develop the Smart Shuttle, which was the first Los Angeles alternative-fuel shuttle to help provide easy connections with the Metro rail system. Ms. Micheline also did the preliminary work on the Southeast Los Angeles Counties I-5 expansion and the I-710 corridor study.

Micheline holds a bachelor’s degree in public administration from the University of LaVerne. Her hobbies include traveling, genealogy, and fashion.
Station City News

San Clemente Ocean Festival — The San Clemente Ocean Festival will celebrate 30 years of “The Greatest Show on Surf” on July 15 and 16. Come join the fun with swim competitions, fishing derbies, the Ocean Art Show, a children’s pavilion, and much, much more! Don’t miss the Rubber Duck Race on July 15 and 16. Come join the fun with swim competitions, fishing derbies, the Ocean Art Show, a children’s pavilion, and much, much more! Don’t miss the Rubber Duck Race on July 15 and 16.

Rancho Cucamonga — See the 7th Annual Fireworks Spectacular, “The Spirit of America,” at the Rancho Cucamonga Epicenter on July 4. Live entertainment, food, and fireworks await you in this city tradition that keeps getting better every year. The kids will love the Fun Zone which opens at 4:00 p.m. The stadium will open at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment leading up to the 9:00 p.m. fireworks display. Tickets are $7.00 per person if purchased before July 4, and $10.00 per person the day of the event. Children 2 and under may attend for free if seated in an adult’s lap. For more information, visit www.rcpark.com. For pre-recorded information, call (909) 919-2658.

Little Women

A remarkable new production based on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott will appear at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood for only $7.00 per person from July 2 through August 13, 2006. Little Women: The Broadway Musical follows the adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy March as they grow up in Civil War America. For the first time ever, this wonderful narrative has been brought to life as an exhilarating new musical.

Little Women offers the complete theatrical experience, guaranteeing a night filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirit. For a chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to opening night of Little Women on Wednesday, August 2, 2006, at 8:00 p.m., simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by July 17, 2006, to Metrolink Matters, Little Women 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 Little Women when you use the promotional code CONCORD when ordering online at 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 section and the first 8 rows of the center mezzanine (100s, 200s, and 300s). Subject to availability; not valid on previously purchased tickets; purchase deadlines may apply; no refunds or exchanges; of the center mezzanine (100s, 200s, and 300s). Subject to availability; not valid on previously purchased tickets; purchase deadlines may apply; no refunds or exchanges.

All winners will be contacted by phone.

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