



## **Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc.**

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

[www.scrvrhs.com](http://www.scrvrhs.com)

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Santa Clara River Valley Railfest 2006 Set for Weekend of March 18 and 19**

The non-profit 501(c)(3) Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS), in conjunction with the Fillmore & Western Railway (F&W), presents the eleventh annual "Santa Clara River Valley Railfest 2006" on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year Railfest is "Railroad History Rolling By". SCRVRHS is expanding the former "Fillmore Railfest" to include Piru and Santa Paula, California, to become a regional event. The center of activities will be held at Central Park in Fillmore, California, and other activities will be held in Piru and Santa Paula, California. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Admission and parking are free, however, there is a charge for the railway excursions.

In order to accommodate the expansion of the "Railfest", the Fillmore & Western Railway will offer a \$20 Adult one day "RailPass" for travel from Fillmore to Piru and Santa Paula, where additional railroad Railfest activities are being planned. The trains will depart from Fillmore at 10:00 am, 12:30pm, and 3:00 pm with return departures from Santa Paula at 11:20 am, 1:50 pm and 4:20 pm. Train return departures from Piru at 11:20am, 1:50pm and 4:00pm. These vintage trains will consist of traditional pre-1940 vintage heavyweight passenger cars.

Following the SCRVRHS's tradition of providing Southern California with a family fun event, Railfest 2006 offers railroad-related venues such as miniature steam train rides by the Ventura County Live Steamers; 'speeder' rides; and informational displays from various railroad-related organizations. Additionally, unique food vendors, including the SCRVRHS's very own Tri-Tip Bar-B-Que will ease any hunger. Other attractions include performances by the famous Frontier Gunfighters; antique farm equipment demonstrations; vintage tractor and automobile displays; and arts and crafts.

The SCRVRHS will have their 1956 Union Pacific Pullman Sleeping Car and Santa Fe cupola caboose open for public tours at the depot in Santa Paula. The sleeping car, designated by Union Pacific as the #1205 'National Embassy', is one of only twelve flat-sided aluminum 'National' cars built for the Union Pacific Railroad. The interior is untouched and virtually original in every detail, right down to the Union Pacific blankets and Pullman soap bars. It has roomettes, staterooms, and a rare open section - a real step back into the closing days of the golden age of passenger train service!

The #474 Santa Fe caboose, nicknamed the 'Vickie V', once belonged to the late Ventura County developer Bud Smith and the interior has been restored to its original condition. You won't want to miss the rare opportunity to go inside both of these special railroad cars.

A MetroLink consist will also be available for a 'climb aboard, hands-on' inspection.

The SCRVRHS Railroad Visitor Center, located across from Fillmore's Central Park at 455 Main Street, contains many historical railroad artifacts and displays, an educational railroad and video library, a Lionel model train layout, gift shop, and a 20 seat digital theatre with surround sound.

Most of the Festival proceeds benefit the non-profit, one hundred and sixty (160) member Railroad Historical Society and its railroad restoration efforts, which include the current ongoing installation of our 1906, eighty three ton, 95' long railroad turntable; a 1907 Baldwin Steam Locomotive and a future roundhouse/Railroad Interpretive Center/exhibit hall. Donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Fillmore is located 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County on California Highway 126 between Interstate 5 at Magic Mountain and the 101 Freeway in Ventura. For more information visit the internet at [www.scrvrhs.com](http://www.scrvrhs.com) or [www.fwry.com](http://www.fwry.com).