



NATIONAL TRAIN DAY COMES TO SANTA BARBARA: ALL ABOARD AT THE SANTA BARBARA AMTRAK STATION

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008 FROM 11AM to 1PM!

JOIN YOUR HOSTS – CoastalRailNow and KMGQ 106.3 FM

“I hear the train a comin’...coming round the bend”...and all of Santa Barbara County is invited down to the Santa Barbara Amtrak station on Saturday, May 10th to celebrate the first National Train Day. Why May 10th? It commemorates the day back in 1869 when the Golden Spike was driven to connect the first transcontinental railroad. Trains have played an important role in the history of the United States, and their popularity is on the upswing.

Whether it’s avoiding the high price of gasoline, reducing your greenhouse gas emissions, or putting traffic frustrations behind you, there’s never been a better time to hear the whistle blow and get on board. Amtrak has 12 trains a day serving Santa Barbara: two roundtrips to Los Angeles, and an eagerly anticipated re-launch of the Coast Starlight, north to the Bay Area and on to Portland and Seattle. In addition, by using the luxurious Amtrak Thruway bus connections, there are frequent trips to the Bay and Sacramento as well as to Bakersfield and the San Joaquin Valley and points south.

The celebration on May 10th will take place from 11AM to 1PM at the Santa Barbara Amtrak station, 209 State Street. Of course, kids have always loved trains, and they might bring along a few grown-ups with them! There’ll be refreshments and tasty snacks on hand as well as cardboard engineers caps, folding paper locomotives and a display of scale model trains from the local railroad club. Along with the helpful station agents, your hosts will be available to answer questions and help prospective passengers plan trips. Trains will be arriving and departing at 9:21AM, 12:48, 1:59PM, 4:29PM & 6:17PM.

Residents on the Central Coast are particularly lucky: Our trains traverse some of the most scenic mileage in the world—whether it’s 120 miles along the cliffs and bluffs of the Pacific Ocean to the south, or the twisting mountain passes and lush farmlands to the north—there’s always an eyeful to see from a train. And unlike the plane, they’ll be no seatbelts to fuss with, you can put your seat back and tray table down *any time* you like, and if you desire, you can use your laptop computer from start to finish. The only time you’ll have to take off your shoes is to stretch your toes and relax onboard.

You can also travel “green” on Amtrak: According to data from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and The World Resource Institute, trains are 17 percent more efficient than domestic airline travel and 21 percent more efficient than auto travel on a per-passenger-mile basis. When combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry’s total greenhouse gases. Amtrak has committed to cutting diesel emissions 6 percent by 2010. This represents the largest percentage of reduction committed to in the United States on a voluntary basis, and is the first commitment made by a transportation company.

Drop by the station and find out what millions already know—train travel isn’t just “transportation,” it’s an experience. Whether it’s a joyful homecoming or a tearful farewell, the station is *the* place to meet and greet without the tense sterility of the airport or the isolation of the automobile. Last year over 4 million people rode our Pacific Surfliner and Capitol Corridor trains—making them second only to the Northeast corridor in passengers. Come on down and we’ll see you at the station!

For more information: www.nationaltrainday.com ; www.amtrak.com or www.amtrakcalifornia.com

Also visit www.coastalrailnow.org for the latest news on rail or contact info@coastalrailnow.org