

Between the Lines

OCTA employees working together to move Orange County forward.

SUMMER 2008



35
YEARS
PROUDLY
SERVING
ORANGE
COUNTY



The Dog Whisperer Helps ACCESS

OCTA Mechanics Take 1st Place at International Rodeo

The Latest from OCTA



Thoughts for the road

If you have worked at the Orange County Transportation Authority for a while, you have probably heard of PEROW, the Pacific Electric Right of Way. Do you know the history of this 11.75-mile corridor?

This very same corridor was used by Henry Huntington for the Pacific Electric rail service between Los Angeles and Santa Ana. Opening more than 100 years ago in November 1905, the “Red Cars” offered passenger service between the Watts Junction on the Long Beach Line and downtown Santa Ana. This passenger service sparked growth in Santa Ana and Garden Grove, and played a role in the development of Stanton. The service reached its peak in 1926 and finally stopped in 1950, driven out of existence by the increasing popularity of the automobile.

With help from Measure M, the half-cent transportation sales tax approved by Orange County voters in 1990, OCTA purchased the Pacific Electric Right of Way. The purchase was made to ensure that the property was protected while being evaluated as a future rail system route. The rail corridor averages 100 feet in width and extends through the cities of La Palma, Cypress, Buena Park, Anaheim, Stanton, Garden Grove and Santa Ana. To date there are no set plans on what to do with the PEROW although there have been many suggestions over the years ranging from a transit corridor (bus or rail) to a linear park.

In 2001, OCTA began a program to enhance the corridor and improve its aesthetics. Drought-tolerant plants, along with railroad ties to highlight the property’s historic significance, were incorporated into the improvements. On other portions of the land, OCTA has negotiated lease agreements for parking, nurseries or other uses. The Orange County / Los Angeles County Mobility Study currently underway by OCTA and our partners to the north includes analysis of the PEROW for a potential transit use. Obviously, whatever is ultimately decided must include input from the cities and communities the PEROW runs through. Funding of improvements is also a consideration.

The goals I established for 2008 included calling for developing a common vision for the ultimate utilization of the former Pacific Electric Right of Way. The irony that a former rail line long forgotten and unused could once again support a transportation use has not escaped us. We have begun to evaluate potential options for the corridor and are making progress toward recommending the best utilization of the right of way. All of this is part of our goal to keep Orange County Moving!

Sincerely,

Chris Norby
Chairman

2008 OCTA Board of Directors

Chris Norby	Chairman
Peter Buffa	Vice-Chairman
Jerry Amante	Director
Patricia Bates	Director
Art Brown	Director
Bill Campbell	Director
Carolyn V. Cavecche	Director
Richard T. Dixon	Director
Paul G. Glaab	Director
Cathy Green	Director
Allan Mansoor	Director
John Moorlach	Director
Janet Nguyen	Director
Curt Pringle	Director
Miguel Pulido	Director
Mark Rosen	Director
Gregory T. Winterbottom	Director
Cindy Quon	Governor's Ex-Officio Member

Chief Executive Office

Arthur T. Leahy	Chief Executive Officer
-----------------	-------------------------

In this issue

Published by OCTA

Editorial Board

Ellen Burton
Cozette Hanich
Jim Kenan
Stella Lin
Bob Nathan
Lori Parsel
Ken Phipps
Adam Raley
Laura Rhoads
Peggy Wandeleary
Nora Yeretzian

Between the Lines is published for OCTA employees and their families.

Do you have a story to share with your fellow employees? Care to comment on something you've read in *Between the Lines*? Here's how to contact us:

Call Lori Parsel at (714) 560-5829
or e-mail us at internalcommunications@octa.net



Thoughts for the Road	2
The Dog Whisperer Helps ACCESS	4
OCTA Mechanics Take 1st Place at International Rodeo	5
The OCTA Store	6
New Hires, Promotion & Retirements	6
The Latest from OCTA	8
Rodeo Reminder	9
OCTA in the Community	10
Off the Clock	11
Big Wheels – Recent Employees of the Month	12



On the cover:

OCTA's 2008 APTA International Rodeo team received special recognition at the May 23 Board meeting. Pictured left to right: Mechanics Ray Consiglio, Anders Holst and Ernie Booe; coach operator Alonzo (Al) Valenzuela; and Senior Maintenance Instructor Frank Scholl.

ACCESS

Dog Whisperer Makes ACCESS Debut

OCTA employees worked with the hit television show, "The Dog Whisperer" in late February to help an ACCESS customer and her four-legged friend named Beau. The chocolate Labrador suffered anxiety attacks while riding on our ACCESS buses with his human companion, Anita Brandenburg, 62.

After several hours of counseling from Cesar Millan, a world-renowned dog behavior specialist and star of the National Geographic TV show, Brandenburg felt more comfortable and confident riding the bus with Beau. "It will be nice to ride the bus without all the blood, sweat and tears," Brandenburg said.

Millan successfully rehabilitated Beau by modeling "good behavior" with repetition and positive reinforcement. The Dog Whisperer said he was impressed with our bus services for members of the disability community.

A special thanks to coach operator Laura Mendez, Gaile Raymer, Sarah Swensson and Ted Nguyen for setting up this special TV taping that will feature our ACCESS buses. The show will air later this summer.



ACCESS passenger Anita Brandenburg listens to pointers from Cesar Millan during his session with Anita's chocolate Lab, Beau.



Cesar Millan, the Dog Whisperer, gathers with Anita Brandenburg, Beau and OCTA staff before beginning the training session. Pictured from left: coach operator Laura Mendez, Cesar Millan, Anita Brandenburg and Beau, Gaile Raymer, Sarah Swensson and Ted Nguyen with his dog, Maddox.

The Dog Whisperer TV program is on Friday nights at 8 p.m. ET/PT on the National Geographic Channel. Check your local cable listings for details. The episode with Beau is scheduled during June.

ROADEO

Mechanics Take 1st Place

Imagine your car's air conditioner just stopped working. Could you figure out what's wrong, describe it in writing, and fix it in 10 minutes? That's just one of the challenges that OCTA's Maintenance Team of Ernie Booe, Ray Consiglio and Anders Holst faced during the Maintenance Competition at the 2008 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Bus Rodeo.

Held in Austin, Texas, 47 maintenance teams from around the United States and Canada

participated in the Bus Rodeo Maintenance Competition. Working in teams of three, the transit mechanics had to diagnose and repair performance related problems using proper diagnostic and troubleshooting techniques.

The Maintenance Competition Events

included: a 50-question written test, vehicle inspection with 14 defects, Detroit Diesel/Allison power train with seven defects, Cummins/Voith power train with seven defects, truck trailer transit/Bendix air brake system (ABS) with seven defects, Thermo King HVAC IntelligAIRE with seven defects and MCI multiplex module with seven defects.

For the Thermo King test, the team had ten minutes to inspect, troubleshoot, diagnose, and legibly record the seven planted defects, as well as correct the defect that prevented the air conditioning unit from starting. Commenting on what it was

like to perform under pressure, Anders Holst said, "You just do your best to solve



Ray Consiglio checks the internal bearings clearance while performing a transmission rebuild at the Santa Ana Base Maintenance facility.



OCTA Vice Chairman Peter Buffa recognizes OCTA winning mechanics (left to right) Ray Consiglio, Anders Holst and Ernie Booe at a recent Board meeting.

the problem you've found." That's what the OCTA team did as they went on to win the Thermo King event.

The Bendix air brake event consisted of two parts with a seven minute time limit: 1) to correctly diagnose and record any or all of the ABS/ Antilock system defect(s), and 2) to use a DVOM (digital volt-ohm meter to diagnose an electrical component. OCTA's team of Booe, Consiglio and Holst scored a second First Place win in this event.

OCTA's maintenance team went on to take First Place overall in the 2008 APTA International Rodeo Maintenance Competition. "After coming in Third Place for the last few years, it was nice to take First Place and get congratulated by the MTA team from Los Angeles," Ray Consiglio said.

To mark their outstanding achievement, OCTA's winning Maintenance Team received special recognition at the May 23rd Board of Directors meeting. Congratulations to Ernie Booe, Ray Consiglio and Anders Holst for their hard work and a job well done!



Back at work, Anders Holst uses a laptop computer and diagnostic software to monitor a bus air conditioning system at the Santa Ana Base.

Stop by the OCTA Store

It's summer, and the OCTA Store has a variety of items to help you enjoy warm weather activities and the great outdoors. Create your own shade with an OCTA baseball cap in white with blue logo or black with blue logo. For picnics, boating and family outings, keep your favorite canned beverage cool with a collapsible can cooler – just \$2.00 each. For the golfer in your family, the OCTA Store has golf balls in packs of three emblazoned with the OCTA logo.

Summer is theme park time, and you can buy discounted tickets to many of Southern California's finest attractions at the OCTA Store. These tickets are available to employees at a reduced price through the Employee Recreation Association (ERA). You'll need to show your OCTA employee ID when purchasing these tickets and the tickets must be paid for by cash or check. Credit card payments are not accepted for ERA ticket purchases. However, credit cards are accepted for all other transactions at the Store.

From bicycle water bottle to duffle bags, you'll find items to make your summer more enjoyable at the OCTA Store. Stop by soon and see the selection. The OCTA Store is conveniently located at 550 S. Main Street, Orange. The Store is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.



New Hires, Promotions & Retirements

New Hires

February

Sechler, Robert	Conts Admr Sr	2/18/08
Minion, Cheryl	Executive Secretary	2/18/08
Mamaradlo, Carolyn	College Intern	2/18/08
Lovko, Nancy	Svc Worker II	2/18/08
Gonzalez, Gabriela	Office Sp Asst EH	2/18/08
Cao, Tung	Svc Worker II	2/25/08

March

Shirey, Kasey	Office Sp Asst EH	3/3/08
Iimenez, Gina	Customer Rel Rep	3/3/08
Teel, Laura	Community Rel Sp Assoc	3/17/08
Schwartz, Ronald	Special Projects Admr	3/17/08
Fenner, Linda	Special Assignment	3/17/08
Chavira, Antonio	Department Mgr	3/17/08
Ramsay, Tyra	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08

Price, Samuel	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Pham, Danny	Cert Journey Mech II	3/19/08
Norman, Kevin	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Murray, Shvone	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Leanos, Sinuhe	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Lanctoe, Paul	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Kvist, Nicholas	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Gonzalez, J. C.	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Gillen, John	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Flemate, Gerardo	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Bui, Phuong	Svc Worker II	3/19/08
Bourhim, Nabil	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Alamia, Anthony	Coach Op Trainee	3/19/08
Riva, Belinda Ann	College Intern	3/31/08
Mathis, John	Conts Admr Sr	3/31/08
Hough, Roy	Svc Worker II	3/31/08
Campbell, Glen	Transp Anlyst Pr	3/31/08

April

Wood, Audrey	Office Sp	4/14/08
Todd, Enita	Conts Admr Sr	4/14/08
Gould, Linda	Fin Anlst	4/23/08
Tu, Minh	Public Info Sp	4/28/08
Dorado, Amanda	Fin Anlst Assoc	4/28/08
Caldwell, Bradley	Coach Ops Instructor	4/28/08
Aguirre, Cassandra	Office Sp Sr	4/28/08

Promotions

Toutouchi, Mahrokh	Department Transfer Project Manager	2/3/08
Rogers, Erin	Department Manager Asst General Manager	2/17/08
West, Andrea	Com Rel Specialist Local Govt Rel Rep	3/30/08
Watson, Christopher	Cert Journey Mech II Maint Supervisor	3/16/08
Slocum, Marie	Office Sp Office Sp Sr	3/16/08
Rodriguez, Baudelio	Coach Op Field Supervisor	3/2/08
Kirby, Darryl	Cert Journey Mech I Maint Supervisor	3/16/08
Hart, Kelly	Local Gov Rel Rep Sr Trans Anlst Sr	3/16/08
Dyer, Christine	Busn Intell Anlst Asst Busn Intell Anlst	3/30/08
Donovan, Craig	Cert Journey Mech II Maint Supv	3/16/08
DelRosario, Antonio	Office Sp Asst Office Sp	3/2/08
Chung, Wai	App Mech Cert Journey Mech II	3/16/08
Armstrong, Ryan	Public Info Sp Web Developer	3/16/08
Yeretzian, Nora	Admin Asst Exec Dir Mktg Program Adm Assoc	4/13/08
Thomas, Vanessa	College Intern Office Sp Asst Eh	4/27/08
Rodriguez, Moses	IS Proj Mgr II IS Proj Mgr III	4/13/08
Ripalda, Ana	Asst Base Mgr Base Mgr	4/13/08
Kulkarni, Anup	Section Mgr II Section Mgr III	4/27/08
Ibarra, Blanca	Asst Base Mgr Base Mgr	4/13/08

Retirements

Wong, Tommy	Coach Operator	Start Date: 2/22/93 Retirement Date: 2/3/08
Noyes, William	Maint Supervisor	Start Date: 11/03/77 Retirement Date: 3/3/08
Hernandez, Javier	Coach Operator	Start Date: 4/24/78 Retirement Date: 3/12/08
Regnier, Gerard	Coach Operator	Start Date: 7/7/80 Retirement Date: 3/28/08
Lassey, Sharon	Coach Operator	Start Date: 11/4/74 Retirement Date: 3/27/08
Cosby, Eva	Base Manager	Start Date: 7/6/81 Retirement Date: 3/29/08
Coleman, Thelma	Window Dispatch	Start Date: 7/10/78 Retirement Date: 3/31/08
Bridenball, Stuart	Coach Operator	Start Date: 6/16/97 Retirement Date: 3/31/08
Wahlberg, Robert	Cert Journeyman Mec	Start Date: 8/16/87 Retirement Date: 3/29/08
Layton, Joel	Coach Operator	Start Date: 12/29/97 Retirement Date: 3/28/08
Flores, David	Equip Parts Clerk	Start Date: 11/12/79 Retirement Date: 3/29/08
Campbell, Glen	Transp Analyst PR	Start Date: 11/19/76 Retirement Date: 3/28/08
Gould, Linda	Fin Analyst	Start Date: 10/14/85 Retirement Date: 3/28/08
Fountain, Michael	Coach Operator	Start Date: 3/17/80 Retirement Date: 4/10/08

The Latest

The Latest from OCTA

OCTA is Orange County's primary transportation agency and each one of us is an OCTA transit ambassador. Whether you're a coach operator or a customer relations representative, as transit ambassadors it's our job to keep the public informed. So, fellow ambassadors, here's a new feature to let you know about upcoming OCTA promotions and new services. Read on and you'll be up to speed on the latest from OCTA.

Youth Summer Bus Pass

Summer will be here soon, and OCTA has a great way to make it the perfect summer for youths ages 7 to 18. It's the Youth Summer Bus Pass, one of the best transportation deals around.

The Youth Summer Bus Pass is the perfect ride. Youths ages 7 to 18 can ride the bus all summer long from June 1 until August 31 for just \$40.00. Instead of mom or dad chauffeuring kids to the beach, to the mall or to friends' houses, kids with a Youth Summer Bus Pass can ride whenever they want, wherever they want. They can also ride as many times as they want each day the pass is in effect.

Youth Summer Bus Passes are available at many schools, at the OCTA Store, online at www.octa.net or by mail. Tell your customers, friends and neighbors about this great summer deal for kids.

Five OC Flyer Routes This Year

Based on the success of last year's OC Flyer service to the Fair, we've added a new OC

Flyer route for 2008. This year there will be five special OC Flyer routes on Saturdays and Sundays from convenient locations around the county directly to the Orange County Fair.



The newest route, OC Flyer Route 671, will run from the Anaheim Canyon station. Anaheim residents can also catch OC Flyer Route 671 at the Lincoln Park-and-Ride. Route 671 will stop at both these locations and then take the Costa Mesa Freeway (SR-55) to the fairgrounds. This OC Flyer route is great for Metrolink riders coming to the Fair from Riverside on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line. OC Flyer fare is free with a valid Metrolink Weekends ticket.

Fairgoers coming from Los Angeles Union Station or from a station along the Metrolink Orange County Line can ride a Metrolink Weekends train to the Depot at Santa Ana and then catch OC Flyer Route 662 directly to the Fair. Metrolink riders coming from Riverside on the Inland Empire-Orange County (IEOC) Line can also ride to the



Rodeo

2008

Depot at Santa Ana and take OC Flyer Route 662 to the Fair. Remember to tell your customers and friends that OC Flyer fare is free with a valid Metrolink Weekends ticket.

Three additional OC Flyer routes will serve the rest of the County. North Orange County fairgoers can catch OC Flyer Route 633 at the Fullerton Park-and-Ride. For the west section of the County, OC Flyer Route 670 serves the Goldenwest Transportation Center in Huntington Beach. From South County, OC Flyer Route 691 will take passengers to the fair from the San Juan Capistrano Park-and-Ride.

Bread, Milk and Bus Passes

Did you know that OCTA bus passes are now available at all Orange County Ralphs supermarkets?

That's right. Now it's easy to pick up a bus pass along with your milk, bread and eggs at any of the 53 Ralphs supermarkets in Orange County.

Our bus customers can experience the added convenience of buying bus passes when they shop for groceries. Customers can buy a regular or senior/disabled 10-pack of day passes or 7, 15 and 30-Day Passes at the Customer Service counter located in the front of their local Ralphs.

Advertisements alerting our customers to the availability of bus passes at Ralphs ran in the Orange County Register. Remember to tell our bus customers that getting regular bus passes is now as easy as picking up groceries at Ralphs.



OCTA's Annual Bus & Maintenance Rodeo is coming! Mark your calendar now for Saturday, July 26. Come out to the Construction Circle Base in Irvine and cheer on your favorite coach operator in the bus competition. Watch highly skilled operators compete on a challenging course designed to test driving ability and perception.

Come cheer for your favorite team of mechanics, too. Teams from each base will compete to diagnose and solve mechanical problems as the clock ticks down.

Add in a chili cookoff, and you've got the recipe for a day of fun and excitement. Plan now to be at the 2008 Annual Bus & Maintenance Rodeo on Saturday, July 26. Don't miss it!



OCTA in the community



Attending the Earth Day celebration at the Boeing facility in Seal Beach, OCTA Outreach staffers Judy Leon (left) and Joanne Jacobsen get ready to inform commuters about different commute options to help reduce emissions.



The I-5 Gateway Project, which is widening and improving the last two miles of the Santa Ana Freeway (I-5) in Orange County through Buena Park, recently won the Caltrans Partnering Success in Motion Award. The award was presented to the field construction team (pictured from left to right): Caltrans Senior Structures Representative Ju Kim; prime contractor - FCI/BBCL Engineering Manager Sean Tarp; Caltrans Office Chief Construction Saeid Asgari; FCI/BBCL Engineering Manager Sean Tarp; Caltrans Office Chief Construction Saeid Asgari; Caltrans Senior Resident Engineer Da Ken Bui; OCTA Program Manager Charlie Guess; and project management consultant - Caltrop Project Manager Derick Sukow.



OCTA Director Art Brown, Ted Nguyen, Manager, Public Communications, and California Transportation Commissioner Marian Bergeson (in foreground) accompanied local officials and members of the media during the I-5 Gateway Project Milestone Tour in March.

Enjoying Life After OCTA

Paul “Doug” Bokosky is a retired OCTA coach operator. Do you remember Doug? He retired on March 30, 2003. In response to those of you who have asked Between the Lines to follow up on OCTA retirees, we caught up with Doug by e-mail and asked him to fill us in on how he is spending his retirement.

BTL: Where do you call home now that you’re retired?

Doug: I’ve lived in Fountain Valley since 1985 and in Orange County since 1963. However, we are looking forward to relocating to a small town, perhaps in the mountains, in about 5-7 years from now.

BTL: What was your favorite route while you were a coach operator?

Doug: My favorite route was 80. It went from Portola Hills to Laguna Beach.

BTL: Why did you like this route?

Doug: I enjoy the scenic views in south Orange County. On occasion, in the early morning, I’d see deer and coyotes in Laguna Canyon. And while I was having a layover in beautiful Laguna Beach, I’d walk along the coast and had many choices of nice places to shop and eat.

BTL: How are you spending your “free” time in retirement?

Doug: I do a lot of traveling. Even before retiring, I knew that I wanted to travel. One of my favorite places is Yosemite National Park, so I took a job there during the summer of 2003 as a shuttle bus driver. Eventually, I began thinking about the travel benefits that airline companies provide. I then joined Jet Blue Airways in October 2003, as a part-time Crewmember. I take full advantage of my benefits and travel quite extensively. As a matter of fact, I’m flying to Fort Lauderdale in a few days and will be taking a cruise to the Caribbean.

BTL: Do you have any hobbies that you are enjoying in retirement?

Doug: I enjoy both gardening and web page design. Each year I plant tomatoes, and have grown various cycads and palm trees from seed. Additionally, I own and maintain the largest online directory of sports camps on www.LocalSportsCamps.com.

BTL: What do you like best about retirement?

Doug: The best thing about retirement is the freedom and flexibility to do whatever I choose.



Former OCTA coach operator Doug Bokosky spends time in his garden tending a new crop of tomatoes.

BTL: What do you miss about working at OCTA?

Doug: I miss my friends and coworkers. While working there for twenty-five years, I met many wonderful people.

BTL: Any advice for employees who are thinking about retiring?

Doug: For anyone thinking about retirement, I’d say it’s all about time management. Keep yourself busy with family and friends and do those things that you enjoy the most.

Big wheels



Congratulations to our Employees of the Month!

March

Coach Operator – Ricardo Serna
Maintenance – Marc Brekenfeld
Administrative – Sarah Swensson

April

Coach Operator – Robert Green
Maintenance – James Pugh
Administrative – Cathy Davis

May

Coach Operator – Robert Hall
Maintenance – Toan Le
Administrative – Dana Wiemiller

Quarterly Transit Police Services Employee

Sergeant Mike Gavin



First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
Paid
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 985