THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 659

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

www.ncry.org

July 2018







Niles Canyon Railway Father's Day Train 2018

Photos by Dan Sarka



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OUR MISSION: To be an operating railroad museum for standard gauge railroading, past, present and future, with emphasis on the Western United States and special emphasis on Northern California.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY CALENDAR

July 1 Regular Operation (D) July 8 Regular Operation July 18 MOW

July 4 Members 4th of July partyJuly 11 MOWJuly 20 General Mtg. 7:30pm Sunol SchoolJuly 4 MOW 7:30 - 4:00 pmJuly 14 Wine tasting 1 - 3 pmJuly 20 Niles Summer Train 10:30a & 12:30p

July 5 Sunol Summer Train 10:30 a & 12:30 p July 14 Board of Director Mtg. Sunol 3p July 21 Wine & Beer Train 1:00p & 3:00p

July 7 MOW Building East 7:30 a - 4:00 p July 15 Tea on the Rails July 28 Brush cutting 8am - 4pm

Most General Meetings take place at the Sunol Glen School in Sunol, meetings are held in January, March, May, June, July, and October, but can be subject to cancellation.

Every Wednesday and Saturday is a WORK DAY at the Brightside Yard

= = = = = BOARD OF DIRECTORS = = = = = =

President	Henry Baum	(925) 447-7358	president@ncry.org	
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Station Agent - Sunol	Donna Alexander (510) 996-8420		station-agent@ncry.org	
Trainmaster	Mark Miller	(510) 502-8521	mmiller510@aol.com	
Yardmaster	Gerry Feeney	(408) 739-9347	spb-gerry@comcast.net	

The Club Car

The deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's issue of The Club Car is the 20th of the current calendar month. Simply submit artices by e-mail in MS Word[™] text format. Send email to: clubcar@ncry.org Digital photos may also be submitted on digital media or by email. Electronic images should be saved as PC format . Jpg files with minimal compression. A text file with the photo number, description of the photo, and identifying the people in them is required. To send documents, articles or photos by U.S. Postage, contact the editor at (510) 260-7967 for mailing instructions. The editor reserves the right to hold or edit material as necessary.

The Club Car is an official publication of the Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. P.O.Box 515 Sunol CA 94586-0515 The Club Car is distributed monthly to members, sponsors, and friends of the Pacific Locomotive Association. The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. is an IRS 501©(3) non-profit charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The PLA's Federal Tax ID is 94-6130878, the State of California Tax ID is 0501445. General Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of January, March, May, June, July and October, beginning at 7:30 p.m.at the Sunol Glen School, two blocks east of the Depot on Main Street in Sunol, CA. Members, Sponsors, and Guests are welcome. Items in this publication are Copyright 2018, Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. and may be reproduced only by permission with credit to the source. Views expressed herein are those of the author unless specifically noted by the editor as official policy.

President's Report

President's Report –July 2018

I must be psychic! The PLA Board of Directors election did happen, and the results were exactly as I predicted. Jim Evans remains as Recording Secretary, Paul Veltman is still our Treasurer, Kent Hedberg remains an At-large director, and I am still the President. Since everyone was running unopposed, I guess that isn't an amazing prediction.

I want to thank Jim Evans for efficiently handling the mailing and collecting of the ballots, and I will thank Nominating Committee members Dave Burla and Mark Miller again for tabulating the election results at the last membership meeting. The meeting went very quickly because there were not a lot of members in attendance, and the reports were short. We concluded all our business and ended up waiting for the results. Dave Burla felt the envelope opening and ballot unfolding were part of the reason it took so long. Maybe it is time to investigate online voting.

I'm kidding when I say that, but it is time for the organization to look at revamping its methods and processes. I remember when

there were as many as 3 people running for some positions on a ballot. People wanted the opportunity to be part of directing the organization's future. Now, the prevailing feeling appears to be "I just don't have the extra time".

Success can be a double-edged sword. We currently are in great shape, financially as well as from a business perspective. Our 'products' are in great demand and we can now be a driving force in meeting the needs of the different 'communities' we serve. We have a good relationship with our neighbors and the various government agencies we deal with. We are held in high regard in the Museum and Railroad Preservation community. That may be why the membership doesn't want to get involved with running the organization – a fear of screwing up what we have accomplished in 50+ years. That fear makes it possible to be successful because the Board is extremely conservative whenever we contemplate the decisions we make.

It is not so much an attitude of 'That's how we always did it' but more of 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'. The Board must be proactive though, monitoring the little rip-

ples and identifying those that can become an issue in the future. The current focus on volunteers is a good example. We still have a good number of members who volunteer regularly, but those numbers must keep pace with the organization's growth. We realize the number of volunteers is not currently meeting those requirements. We also realize the even with an increase in the number of non-member volunteers, we still need to do more.

We seem to have finally developed a business model that has earned the right to consider ourselves a corporation rather than a club. We do want to ensure that we do not completely wipe out the Club Mentality, because it was that banding together of likeminded individuals that allowed us to grow into the organization we are today. We probably need to rethink how best to do that in today's environment. The member's meetings used to be popular events, with 50 to 60 people in attendance, out of a membership of maybe 300. Now we have a membership of 1000, and our membership meetings attract 10 to 15 people. Not efficient.

It is also becoming increasingly

Continued on next page

apparent to me that we need to do a better job of communicating with our members and keeping them well-informed. For decades the Membership meetings and the Club Car newsletter were the principle means of formally communicating with the members. That was supplemented by the lively discussions held amongst the volunteers while working in the yard or on the trains, discussing the issues and ways to solve them. In fact, the MOW crew used to cap off their Saturday with a quick refreshment break to wash up and relax in the SP1101, where we hooked up with the locomotive and car crews. This was usually followed by a trip to the sorely missed El Urge Taqueria in Niles, where we would plan the following week's activities and discuss what is on the horizon. Steve Jones would then recap the day's events in a memo filled with facts and humor that was highly anticipated by many, both inside and outside our little group.

We now have the NCRy website where people can find some of the information they need. There is a members-only section, but it is underutilized. We know many do have trouble finding what they want on the site, and we are working on improving it. We also have an Email group that has

enough subscribers to make it a good way to disseminate information and ideas, but I know many who complain about the content of some of the emails and quit the group. Then they complain if they don't get information they feel they should have. Every member with an email address should be connected to this group. And if the subject matter isn't up to your high standards, just delete the email. No need to reply, or even finish reading it. But quitting the Email group means you will probably miss out on some important information.

We also are on Facebook. I especially like seeing our railroad's postings when I visit, and especially to see the comments. I also enjoy visiting other similar organizations Facebook pages when they have something going on.

The Club Car will continue to be an important source of information for the members, but it will also continue to be a chronicle of the activities that all our members can take pride in. It is one of the most outstanding newsletters within the museum and railroad community, especially since it is also all put together by volunteers.

The Board will be addressing ad-

ditional methods of communicating with our members going forward. We may use a service like Constant Contact which can send an email "blast" to all members at one time. We will provide the opportunity to opt-out for those who can't stand this method of one-way information sharing.

The Board will also be discussing the need for Volunteer Enticements. These are things we can do for our volunteers to let them know how much we value and appreciate them. We critically need to increase the number of members who come out to volunteer. We must follow strict guidelines on this, or else our volunteers become employees. Having some employees is inevitable for a group our size, but once we cross that line the organization will need to split so that volunteers and employees are managed differently.

As always, if you would like to discuss any topic in further detail, please contact me by phone at 925.447.7358 or by email at president@ncry.org

Respectfully submitted Henry Baum



ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The year is moving on fast. It is July again and it is time for all of us to come together for the Fourth of July Picnic.

This always is a fun event. Along with good eats, it is time to present the Whistle award and the Volunteer of the Year. We also hold a great none rigged raffle. That is only if you don't win. Doug Debbs and crew do a great job in getting this picnic together

While we have the guest out on an outstanding train ride. This year we will have both Black Widows that will mean we will have one engine on each end. This means we will have some new stuff for you to enjoy together. I hope we have a good day. If we do, the cars on the train will pay off for your comfort. The articulated will be with the lounge car, maybe diner. Depending the cars configuration it is in at the time. Both cars are air conditioned and have climate control. Although the restroom is in full operation. It will be only for a look and see basis. In other words, don't use the Articulated restroom on this train run. This run for the fourth will have a run-by for photo takers. Lunch was planned for noon with the program to follow.



Photos by Dexter Day

Happy 4th, we have a lot to celebrate on the NCRY. We are doing great.

Turning to new changes on the engine front. The SP 1195 is coming along, and it is beginning to look like a SP switcher again. We will have one of very few bloody nose switchers running. Got to say, it runs very well. It carries the full SP light package. In other words, it is a complete SP stuff grouped for shove out to

switcher. Not many looking as good as this one and running as

well. Greg although a contractor to us for painting is doing a super prep and paint job. You don't find this quality laying around on the street corner. This guy is a professional painter when it comes to painting engines from various railroads. He does it all. Yes, we are paying for the paint job. But what we get is

something that we would be hard to duplicate in the time frame that Greg takes to complete a job. It is a nice job also.

The GGRM was switched out by Gerry Feeney for a major air test on the NCRY. This was bigger than the TOL. Thanks to a lot of work on the GGRM part and Jim Green doing air brake tests, the GGRM consist pasted air test except one box car, which got a new service portion to the valve. This is all fed into Larry Gomez that is coordinating the move. If all goes well the UP will pick up the train on June 30th.

Gerry Feeny has got the GGRM

Continued on next page



Hearst. We are looking for an engine and UP crew for Friday the 29th to put train together on passing siding for pick up early Saturday morning June 30th by UP assigned road units. When the GGRM stuff has departed. It is time for us to clear each yard track and inspect it. Also repair walk ways between

the tracks for a safer footing in the toe path. That means also getting the weeds out of the toe path. We will bring cars into the yard that have been out in E. Sunol and the Spot for better protection. Also try to clean some of them up if we can.

Yes! SP 1949 is under restoring on its interior. That means the seats that were in the car will be replaced by high back seats. Another interior Recondition of seats are underway. We have four seats being done at this time. Two cars, the SP work 2101 and WP 315 have their interiors completed as it goes for seats. If you haven't sat in these new



seats, go ahead and give it a try. You will not want to get up. Those bench seats in the SP 2101 are great and comfortable. The SP 1949 is to be ready in some form for the TOL. If not, we will need to find a substitute for this car. Also, the Commissary car is to come out of service

in Aug for a roof sealing job around the hatch and a paint job. It really needs one. Hope the timing works out. If it doesn't we are into the Fall and it needs to be back on the train.

We will be holding a Brakeman training class on July 14th at 900 am in the White House at Brightside. Any member that wants to be on train crew, call Crew caller at 1 650 369-0414 or E mail at traincrews@comcast.net to make a reservation for this class.

That should do it for this month. Hope everyone had a good 4th of July. Until next month, work safely and hope to see you along the right of way.

Want to volunteer with the Niles Canyon Railway? START HERE!

YOUR VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

BRUSH CUTTING - Clearing the RoW of bushes and trees - Steve Jones - fcocompost@aol.com

CAR MAINTENANCE - Maintenance and repair - Tom Crawford - tom@thecrawfordfamily.net

COMMISSARY - Food service on the trains - Bob Bradley - ncry.commissary@yahoo.com

GIFT SHOP - Work in the Sunol Gift Shop - Gail Hedberg - giftshop@ncry.org

MOW CREW - (WEDNESDAY) - Work on track repair, etc. - Joe Peterson - wedmow@ncry.org

MOW CREW - (SATURDAY) - Work on track repair, etc. Michael Strider - michael.strider@hdrinc.com

SIGNALS - Install/Maintain signal systems - Curt Hoppins - curt@ncrysignal.com

STATION - (NILES) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - John Fenstermacher - johnnsherif@aol.co

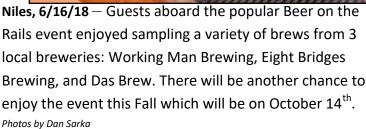
STATION - (SUNOL) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - Donna Alexander - station-agent@ncry.org



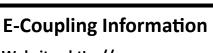
While Roger McCluney is rounding up the mustard and relish in the Commissary car pantry for the famous Niles Canyon hot dogs, Linda Best is ready to spring into action to serve the passengers aboard the first run of the day on Regular Ops.











Website: http://www.ncry.org E-Mail: pla@ncry.info Twitter: @toots4ncry







Wednesday Maintenance of Way Update

This months Gandy Dancing Class consisted of; Steve Jones, Dee Murphy, Gregg McNaughton, Greg LaFramboise, Ron Thomas, Pat Stratton, Joe Romani, Jim Stewart, Mystery Mike, John Zielinski, Bob Pratt and yours truly.

Mongo has come back to life and is performing great feats of daring do as part of his normal routine.

Some of the missions engaged in were painting over the graffiti on the Mission Bridge, repair/tune the flange oilers (which on this occasion was not an easy assignment), trimming the trees behind Blake's Palace (to get the limbs off of the Commissary Trailer) and along the ROW where markers had been dropped to call attention to scratchers. And what gets trimmed, gets chipped. The Bandit really gets the job done!



Pat Stratton and Bob Pratt combine forces to get the wheel off of Big Bird. Those nuts haven't been turned in many a year! Photo by Joe Peterson

John pulled his Blue Magnet around the yard searching for treasure and did he find it.

We continued putting patches on the Arroyo Bridge walkway, painted them and then used the two leaf blowers to clear more ROW of nature's droppings. The Stairway to the Stars is ready for the 4th of July runbys.

Big Bird needed to be re-shoed and, at 20", it



Joe Romani is caught in the act of painting a protective layer onto the new Arroyo Bridge walkway patch. Photo by Joe Peterson



Dee and Steve are feeding the Bandit with a limb that would have choked the old Pro-Mark! Photo by Greg LaFramboise

took a while to find a proper fit. Now to find and gather a couple of spares for when re-shoeing is necessary again.

Bob and Mike finished up on the Scarifier! Works like new! They have also brought the Spud Aligner back to life! What's next?

All-in-all, another good month workin' on the Niles Canyon

Railway! As always, you are welcome to join us any Wednesday (and/or Saturday). Just show up in Brightside at 8 am with lunch and join the fun!

Clear blocks to all!

Joe Peterson

Niles Canyon Railway presents SPEEDER RIDES



August 11, 2018
Niles/Fremont Station
37029 Mission Boulevard

9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

\$25.00/person

Please reserve tickets online at ncry.org

handcar



also available for \$5.00/person



questions? 510-996-8420

velocipede















Sunol, 5/20/18 - A time: for old friends to meet again, to make new friends, to recount our progress, and to plan for a bright future during the celebration of "30 years in the Canyon".

Pioneer Specials were the orders of the day with founding members riding the restored M-200 between Sunol

and Verona. This very special day went smoothly with fine weather and because of the farsighted board members, department heads, committee members and participants in thoroughly planning and executing the event. There are far too many individual names to honor in a single article, other than to say "Thank You" to each and every one. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop #912 for presenting the colors, St. Gabriels Celestrial Brass Band for the music/entertainment, Chef Doug Debs and Laura Bajuk for the lunch at Sunol Gardens, and the M-200 Train Crew. *Photos by Dan Sarka*

May Volunteers

by Paul Veltman

The following is a list of the people who helped run your railroad in May. Names in **Bold** are new members, first timers, or the first time in a long time. If you are new to volunteering on the railroad, please print your name clearly on the sign in sheet so it can be read. You can also send hours by e-mail to stumpie1@sbcglobal.net. Note that if I can't read your writing, you may not get credit for the hours you worked.

<u>Administrative</u>	Rich Alexander	Don Gholson	
Henry Baum	Henry Baum	Rob Giles	Laura Engberson
Dexter Day	Dave Burla	Pete Goodier	Armano Giovacchini
Jim Evans	George Childs	Jim Green	Bonnie Harrington
Don Gholson	Jim Evans	Dave Lion	Jack Harrington
Joe Scardino	Tim Flippo	Ken Lippman	Dee Murphy
Linda Stanley	Glenn Fountain	Dan Loyola	<u>Special Events</u>
Paul Veltman	Zona Fowler	Dennis Mann	Gail Hedberg
Jackie Vlasak	Zonker Harris	Jim McDaniel	Steve Jones
<u>Meetings</u>	Gail Hedberg	Bob Moore	Dee Murphy
Rich Alexander	Kent Hedberg	Denis Murchison	Charles Smith
Henry Baum	Steve Jones	Tony Peters	Leslie Smith
Dexter Day	Peter Midnight	Joe Scardino	Linda Stanley
Jim Evans	Mark Miller	Phil Stone	Sue Thomas
Gail Hedberg	Linda Stanley	Don Stuff	Brian Wise
Kent Hedberg	Jim Stewart	Steve Van Meter	Train of Lights
Dennis Mann	Paul Veltman	Marshall Williams	John Burnside
Roger McCluney	Jackie Vlasak	GGRM Projects	Dexter Day
Al McCracken	<u>Car Department</u>	Dexter Day	Depot Crew/Operations
Peter Midnight	Rich Alexander	•	Donna Alexander
Linda Stanley	Bob Bailey	<u>Commissary</u> Donna Alexander	Rich Alexander
Jim Stewart	Jeff Brazelton		Bob Bailey
Doug Vanderlee	Tom Crawford	Laura Bajuk	John Burnside
Membership Meeting	Gerald DeWitt	Bob Bradley	Gwen Davis
Donna Alexander	Norm Fraga	Doug Debs	

List continues on Page 13

July Volunteer Profile

What was your first impression of the NCRy?

Our first impression was how welcoming and enthusiastic everyone is. We have been to our share of museums and small railroads and nothing compares to the diversity of talent, assets and organization. NCRy is impressive and we are blown away.

What do you find most challenging about volunteering here?

The most challenging thing about working here is **Time.** We are only able to come one day a weekend at most and there are so many varied things to do. We want to do all of them but have to pick something each time. Personally, it's also challenging for me to get our son Jon to think about heading for home after a great day of volunteering!

Tell us about some of the people you've met while volunteering.

Well, let's put it this way. Bob, Gail, Donna, Rich, Steve, Gerry, Kent, Mark, Dennis, Doug, and Laura have become household names at the Engberson house. Are your ears burning? LOL. Jon remembers every single thing everyone has said and the backstories of everyone! It's only been a couple of months but it feels like family.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

You can be 8 or 80; reserved or outgoing and there is a job for everyone. From gift shop to ticketing, to commissary, to brush clearing, to car repair, to steam shop, to TOL. So rewarding at the end of the day for our family to share this unique experience and to be productive and appreciated.

Any other comments?

Thank you everyone for welcoming Jon and explaining each week what it takes to operate a heritage railroad museum. He has arranged to do a school internship with NCRy next year. I've never eaten so well for Saturday lunch! - Thanks, Doug!



Laura, Robert and Jon Engberson

Dexter Day	Keith Johnson	Eric Wright	Gerry Feeney
John Fenstermacher	Lee Thwaits	John Zielinski	Jeff Haslam
Glenn Fountain	<u>Switching Crew</u>	<u>Docents</u>	Chris Hauf
Norm Fraga	Rich Alexander	Bob Bailey	Kent Hedberg
Jim Gilmore	THEIT / HEXALITIES	Mike Bozzini	Steve Jones
Steve Jones	Rich Anderson	Jim Evans	Chuck Kent
Ken Lippman	Gerry Feeney	Fred Krock	Justin Legg
Derek Lyon-McKeil	<u>Train Crew</u>	Ken Lippman	Dennis Mann
Dan Mills	Rich Anderson	Joe Peterson	Dee Murphy
Sally Mills	Ed Best	Jim Stewart	Bill Ross
Ed Noble	Dave Burla	Bridges and Buildings	Conner Schwab
Linda Stanley	Scott Crislip	Rich Alexander	Jeff Schwab
Pat Warren	Gerald DeWitt	Joe Scardino	Alan Siegwarth
Pete Willis	Gerry Feeney	Electrical & Signals	Linda Stanley
Gift Shop	Warren Haack	Curt Hanning	Bill Stimmerman
Donna Alexander	Kent Hedberg	Curt Hoppins Dave Lion	Brian Wise
Gail Hedberg	Donald Kirker		Howard Wise
Patrice McDonald	Greg LaFramboise	Derek Lyon-McKeil Joe Romani	Bob Zenk
Roger McCluney	Jorg Linke	Jim Stewart	John Zielinski
Charlene Murrell	Gregg McNaughton		MOW / Track
Sue Thomas	Mark Miller	<u>Mechanical Dept</u> Rich Alexander	Rich Alexander
Training	Bob Pratt	Rich Anderson	Bob Bailey
<u>rrunning</u>	Andrew Roth		Steve Barkkarie
Dave Brown	Jim Stewart	Tom Anderson Henry Chandler	Ed Best
James Brown	Pat Stratton	•	James Brown
Lynn Brown	John Sutkus	Steve Coon	Tom Crawford
Michaela Brown-	Ron Thomas	Doug Debs	Dexter Day
Henderson	Ted Unruh	Gerald DeWitt	Frank Fontes
Glenn Fountain	Jackie Vlasak	Jon Engberson	Brian Hitchcock
Michael Henderson	Jon Williamson	Laura Engberson	DITALL HILLIICOCK

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Jon Williamson

May Treasurer's Report

Paul Veltman, Treasurer

In May, \$6,035.00 in donations were received. Donations year to date for our fiscal year are \$88579.69.

\$5,000 was received for the Mechanical Department, \$100 for the engine house and \$935 for the General Fund.

Donors were:

Rich Anderson

Tom Crawford

Andrew Goodson

Charles Jellison

Jorg Linke

PG&E

Jean-Pol Zundel

We thank all of you for your generosity in helping the Niles Canyon Railway and its many projects.

Membership Report

This month I have just ten new members to report. They are Subrata Behera, Uta Shimizu, Doc Bailey, Dennis O'Brien, the family of Venkat Morramreddigari, Srinidhi Yellala, and Samarrvitha ly of Heather, John, and Cash, Balthazar. Though not as many as we often get in a month, stronger organization.

Every new member should get a membership card in the mail within about two to six weeks. Unfortunately, it seems like the Postal Service. isn't quite as perfect as it used to be. In just the past week, as I write this, three cases have come up of cards that were mailed out and just disappeared into the void. Fortunately, this is most unusual. However, there may be other cases I have not heard of, because a new member might not

even know they were supposed to get a card. If, about six weeks after joining or renewing your membership, you still have not received your new membership card, please let me know. If, like most, your Morramreddigari, and the fami- renewal comes due on December 31, it will take longer. The back log gets pretty deep around the end of the year. In every one of them makes PLA a that case, better make that ten weeks. Even at the end of the year, the complete renewal process from end to end should not take that long.

> But that was then and this is now, the middle of summer. Whether riding or providing, you will find no better time of year to be a part of, to enjoy, and to grow with your railroad. And, as at any time of year, please do it safely.

Peter Midnight

Board of Directors Meeting July 14, 2018 3:00 pm Sunol Depot

General Meeting July 20, 2018 7:30 pm Sunol Glen School

May Volunteers

Steve Jones

Greg LaFramboise

Gregg McNaughton

Dan Mills

Dee Murphy

Sierra Murphy

John Pelmulder

Joe Peterson

Bob Pratt

Joe Romani

Bill Ross

Linda Stanley

Jim Stewart

Pat Stratton

Mike Strider

Ron Thomas

Doug Vanderlee

John Zielinski

Other

Zonker Harris

Gail Hedberg

Brian Hitchcock

Paul Veltman



Brakeman Class
July 14, 2018

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Brightside Yard at White House

Materials provided

Must be in good physical condition to complete the following tasks:

Climbing ladders, walking on uneven terrain, bending, throwing switches and coupling up air hoses.



Greg LaFramboise assists Bob Pratt as he cuts another patch to go on the Arroyo Bridge. Photo by Joe Peterson

PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Time Sensitive Material



Sunol, 5/27/18 – The Young American Patriots Fife & Drum Corps from Pleasanton providing music of 1776 during the 2018 Memorial Day weekend. *Photo by Dan Sarka*