

Train Riders Association of California

Elected: 7 November 2009 @ Rail 2020 Conference – 1 year term

Officers and Board Members

Laura Balderree (President)

Like many Americans, I grew up without the opportunity to ride passenger trains; I was born in July 1955 and the last passenger train left the depot in my hometown in August 1955. Fortunately, on a youth study trip to Europe I discovered the many advantages of quality public transportation and I have been a rider and advocate ever since. I have ridden most of Amtrak's routes at least once, commute to work on the Capitol Corridor trains, and am a member of TRAC and National Association of Rail Passengers.

On the local public transportation level, I have worked on campaigns for transportation sales tax measures and served on the board of the Alliance for AC Transit. As a state-wide organization TRAC has a wider focus and I welcome the opportunity to be an advocate for improved passenger rail service in California as well as better rail connections between California and our neighboring states. I have been TRAC's representative to TRANSForm (formerly TALC) and have represented TRAC at many regional fora.

Rich McLaughlin (Vice-President)

A native of Chicago, IL, I grew up in Southern California watching sugar beet trains along Southern Pacific's Coast Line. Graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in Aero Engineering, I spent 22 years as a Naval Aviator, flying in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters. Since retiring from the Navy I've been employed by a Defense Contractor in San Diego and am currently serving as the Director of Strategic Business Activities.

I've been interested in rail transportation my entire life and use AMTRAK's California and long distance trains at every opportunity. I've been a regular user of the Coast Starlight for the last ten years, riding between SoCal and Seattle to our corporate headquarters.

Several years ago I joined TRAC in attempt to become more involved in the future of our rail systems. Two years ago I was elected to the Board only to find out we were involved in very contentious issues. This past year has been interesting to say the least. As an organization we have gone through some stressful times. I'm convinced that as an organization we have learned this year what we can accomplish when we work together and I look forward to serving on the board for another year and returning TRAC to an effective force for improvement of California Rail.

On a National level, I believe we are in a holding fight trying to guarantee we don't lose anymore ground in our struggle to preserve the current National route structure. Across the country local and state organizations are again discovering the importance of rail. It is extremely important at this juncture that we maintain our route system and work towards improved service to give our Federal and State agencies the time to develop sound and workable rail strategies. We have some tough times ahead but the future is looking bright and rail, as the only environmentally sound choice for mass transportation, again gains support across all levels of Government. I would be honored to be reelected to the TRAC board or to the position of Vice President.

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Bob Reynolds (Secretary)

Bob Reynolds is a second-generation Californian and fourth-generation rail man. His ancestors and relatives have worked on American iron horses since the mid-1800s, some getting killed during the notorious early days. He has traveled on the rails in Europe and Asia and has visited many of the US's steam excursion operations over the last twenty years. He travels on the West Coast's commercial rails frequently. He started volunteering at TRAC after 2003's RAIL 2020 conference with an interest in California's evolving rail passenger network. He joined the Board in 2006 on a unanimous vote. (Okay, all the votes were unanimous by acclamation.) He was elected Secretary of the Board in 2007 and would like to be reelected to that position.

He is a 1966 St. Mary's College of California graduate with advanced degrees and study from the University of Utah and the University of Texas. He has taught college and high school, flown Navy carrier jets, and managed several military programs over a 37-year career. In 2003 he retired from Air Force civil service as the business manager for the F-117 Stealth Fighter program office. He fills his retired days baby-sitting three avid railfan-toddlers, supplemented with volunteer activities and teaching religion to fifth graders.

He married Kathy in 1974 and they have two adult daughters. She served thirty years as an Air Force nurse, retiring in 2001. Her father and grandfather (also killed in the railroad line of duty) were railroad men, too.

Al Shadbourne (Treasurer)

I retired after over 30 years of product design and development work in the diesel engine business. The last twenty years of my employment was with what was the Garrett Corporation Automotive Products Division, the world's largest turbocharger manufacturer (now known as Honeywell). I held many engineering positions including Chief Engineer, Passenger Car Division.

My involvement and interest in passenger rail started as a child with weekend trips to the rail yards with my father and daily travel to high school on the "red car". I have been a member of the Pacific Railroad Society for over 20 years. I even carry my interest in rail to the point of investment wherein my wife and I are the proud owners of several railroad tank cars currently in revenue service.

My involvement with TRAC has been in the distribution of our newspaper in the southern California area. My main retirement activity has been animal assisted therapy with my three certified therapy dogs, Rico, Kip, and Rusty. On the average of three times a week we visit all types of hospitals, childrens' homes and rehabilitation centers.

I have always been a promoter of energy conservation. We drive a Prius®, make over 9 kilowatt-hrs of electrical power each day with PV panels on our home and have had a solar hot water system for over 20 years. The promotion of passenger rail is a key element in reducing our nation's energy consumption.

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Robert H. Huddy (Board Member)

I have over forty years of continuous experience in transportation history, economics, operations, safety, analysis, planning, and advocacy, in the private and public sector. Retired Transportation Program Manager-Regional Transit and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Planning-Responsible for over \$3 million in annual planning studies, demonstration projects, and special grants. I served as Manager for SCAG's annual Transit Summit, transit operator issues, coordination with Transit Oriented Development, and traffic operations Issues and as SCAG's designated representative for the LOSSAN Corridor, the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee Technical Advisory Committee, and the ITS Regional Architecture Working Group. I was a project manager assigned to assess alternative solutions for 710 Gap Closure issue, including tunnel options and innovative finance strategies.

My previous employment includes experience in environmental and air quality planning. This involved special projects dealing with freight and rail passenger issues. In addition, I was employed by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company with 17 years in rail operations experience, including certifications up to railroad engineer. An early member of CRC as a representative from the United Transportation Union, I urged the Union's involvement in supporting the growth in rail passenger in California from the 1970's to what we have today.

I also had extensive public service as Transportation Commissioner for the City of Pasadena and lead many activities that resulted in final completion of the Gold Line, as well as other transportation policies and actions (e.g. ARTS Bus, Dial-a-ride, Transit Oriented Development) that make Pasadena an example of a transit-friendly city.

I have served on numerous task forces, committees, professional organizations, and have published numerous presentations and professional papers in transportation.

I am a graduate of California State University Los Angeles, BA Economics. I have been married 25 years to Denise Aronow.

Mike McGinley (Board Member)

I am a native of Glendale, CA, and a registered civil engineer. My career spans three stages of rail transportation: operations and maintenance of way for the Southern Pacific (18 years), design and operations consulting (5 years) and construction and maintenance operations for Metrolink in Los Angeles (14 years). All three of these have provided a broad background on California transportation infrastructure, engineering principles, and practical economics of railroad operations.

I believe that advocacy for practical, incremental, affordable public investment in transportation infrastructure and operation must be based on sound knowledge of the existing conditions, the best current practice for design, construction, maintenance, and operations, and with a vision of how planners in future decades will utilize and build upon the projects we develop. Preserving the existing rights of way for the transportation needs of the future is a starting point.

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Bart Reed (Board Member)

Bart Reed is the Executive Director of The Transit Coalition; a San Fernando Valley based nonprofit dealing with transportation policy, planning and land use issues. In this capacity, he is a nationwide advocate for effective transportation systems and solutions. Reed, an often-quoted transit advocate, addresses citizen and community groups about public transportation issues, including autos, rail, bus, bicycles, roads, goods movement, ADA and pedestrian safety. He frequently travels to Washington, DC and Sacramento to educate elected representatives on rail and bus transportation issues. He produces and conducts outreach programs and meetings to demonstrate support for public transit initiatives.

Reed has developed and promoted the MetrolinkMax project, in conjunction with Numan Parada, Richard Tolmach and Michael McGinley. The objective is to see Metrolink service increased with service running every 30 minutes on four Los Angeles county routes. To move this forward, Reed has spoken before numerous public groups (Valley Vote, Economic Alliance), public events (Santa Monica Alt Car Expo, Santa Monica College classes) and the program has a public face with staffing of tables (Alt Car Expo, Buena Park Metrolink Station Grand Opening).

Reed has served on many Boards and understands how to develop and mentor a growing organization. Additionally, Reed goes to Sacramento on a regular basis to support CA High Speed Rail, the Green Line Construction Authority and public transit funding. Along with Jerard Wright, Reed has promoted the Metro Downtown Regional Connector, which is currently undergoing Alternatives Analysis. Additionally, he helped promote the ongoing study of the Harbor Subdivision, which could bring Metrolink service to the South bay and Los Angeles International Airport.

In September 2008, Reed was appointed to the eleven member Metrolink Peer Review Panel following the tragic accident in Chatsworth, to review and recommend safety policies.

Ron Lewis (Board Member)

I was born and raised on a farm in Northern Colorado. My first exposure to railroading was the Great Western Railway crossed through my dad's farm. I first rode Great Western Engine 51 when I was around 6 years old. While hanging out by the corrals, next to the tracks where 51 was doing some switching work in Windsor, CO the engine stopped, the fireman asked me if I wanted to ride and the rest is history...

I am now retired from a 45-year career with State Farm Ins. Co. in management and as an agent in Woodland Hills. I earned my BSBA Degree at the University of Redlands and I also hold a CPCU Designation in insurance and other degrees in insurance as well. In addition, I have been an active member in the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society since 1995 and currently serve as President of the Society for my third year.

My hobbies include rail travel, photography, G Scale railroading and of course anything to do with the 1 to 1 scale. I am committed to assisting the Ventura County Transportation Commission and Metrolink to increasing and improving rail travel in Ventura County. I am intensely interested in seeing the completion of the extension of the old Southern Pacific Branch line from Montalvo to Santa Clarita and the addition of Metrolink access on that line.

I bring much experience in business management and a strong love for railroad travel. I am committed to improving our rail transportation system in any way possible.

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Rich Tolmach (Board Member)

I have had over 30 years experience in planning and analyzing rail passenger service, and participated in many of the key decisions that brought new train service to California in the 70's, 80's and 90's. In 1984, I helped found TRAC and since that time I have devoted about 600 hours annually to TRAC's efforts to promote and improve California's rail services. I would like to continue to help lead the organization, because the momentum we are gaining from efforts by volunteers and supporters is very satisfying.

As editor the revival of the *California Rail News* has been my top priority. From an early period featuring black and white copy only and a run of only 5,000 copies we have regained a regular publication schedule, introduced color photos and graphics, and expanded our circulation to 25,000 copies each edition. The Rail News is again widely read by decision-makers and is having an impact on public opinion and legislation.

TRAC has again become a leader in promoting new services, such as regional commuter improvements for the Marin-Sonoma corridor, Santa Barbara area, and Altamont Pass, and we are having success at getting our representatives placed on key study committees. Ideas we have advanced like hourly timed connections at Los Angeles and a regional network of timed service throughout Southern California have gained currency.

I am also proud of the progress TRAC has made in making alliances with key environmental groups including Friends of the Earth, the Planning and Conservation League, and Resources Legacy Fund, which promise future concerted action regarding high speed rail, rail capital funding, and smart growth efforts. TRAC's active stance has been noticed and we are back on the radar of politicians and decision-makers. TRAC needs board members and officers who are focused on the opportunities to grow California's rail system, and who contribute physically and financially to TRAC's efforts. I intend to continue to do these vital efforts.

Justin Walker (Board Member)

Justin Walker, born and raised in Southern California, has been subject to the same transportation problems others face. As a transportation advocate, he has been involved in several major transportation projects. He has promoted a more balanced transportation system, integrating the complementary elements of freeways, urban rail, intercity rail, buses, bicycles, and pedestrian facilities. Justin is himself an avid transit user and bicyclist.

For the past four years, Justin has been a member of the Train Riders' Association of California (TRAC), the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), and The Transit Coalition. When NARP announced its intentions to launch grassroots campaigns for each of Amtrak's long-distance trains, Justin was recommended to lead the Coast Starlight team, today known as the Coast Starlight Communities Network (CSCN). The group has been involved with the recent relaunch of the Coast Starlight and is constantly in contact with legislators to help improve rail travel within and between California, Oregon, and Washington.

Justin has been recognized for his work with the Coast Starlight team by the leadership of several transportation advocacy organizations. Due to his involvement in Southern California transportation issues, Justin is the most recent addition to the Board of Directors of the Transit Coalition. He has testified before the Los Angeles City Council in support of California high-speed rail and the recent Amtrak reauthorization bill.

As a current student at the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering, Justin will graduate in 2012 with a B.S. in civil engineering. His experience with

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transportation policy prompted an instructor to have Justin compose and lead a recent lecture in transportation. Most recently, Justin, as a local college student, doubled his efforts for smart transportation policy by joining his campus chapter of the California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG) as a transportation advocate. His extensive campaign efforts contributed to the victory of the Prop 1A high-speed rail measure and Measure R rail improvement. Justin will remain with CalPIRG after the election as a transportation advocate on ongoing needs for our transportation system.

Art Brown (Board Member)

Art is a first time candidate for the TRAC Board. Buena Park Mayor Pro Tem Art Brown was selected as the Fourth Supervisorial District city representative on the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors in January 1995. Director Brown is a retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff who brought a long career of public service to the OCTA Board. Prior to his election to the Buena Park City Council, Director Brown served as an elected member of the Savanna Elementary School District Board of Trustees.

As a member of the OCTA Board of Directors, Director Art Brown serves as a member on the following committees: Transit, Finance and Administration, State Route 91 Advisory, Transportation 2020, Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Security Working Group.

Bill McGeehan (Board Member)

I'm Bill McGeehan and I'm running for the TRAC Board. To give you some background on myself, I grew up in Hazelton, Pennsylvania. I studied at the John Miller School For Arts and Sciences and then moved to Kansas City, Missouri to study audio engineering at the University of Missouri. I moved to California in to escape the weather conditions that plague other parts of the country. I've worked in the fields of disabled adaptive technology and design, within the transportation industry, for almost twenty years. My love of trains probably started years ago, as a child with my first train set. Now I work both as an advocate for TRAC and for myself as a train passenger. I think the passenger rail system is going to see some of the best innovations and changes over the next several years, with progress and push from the train riding community, leading many other forms of transportation.

Having served as a board member from 2004-2005 and having served as TRAC President these last two years, I'm looking forward to continuing as Past President and board member. This last year, we, the board, have represented you in many ways. I had the opportunity to work with the design team at Amtrak on new sleeper car bathrooms. I was able to point out problems and positives with the design that will hopefully help passengers with mobility issues once those cars end up on the rails.

Personally, I can't think of any other way I'd like to travel than by train. It is the ONLY way I travel outside of California. I've logged about 370,000 miles so far by Amtrak and can't wait until I hit the half-million mark, which I'm determined to do. I want you to know that representing you, working with the board and the executive director, meeting many different folks and traveling throughout California as President of the Train Riders Association of California has been an honor and a thrill and I hope you re-elect me as your President so we can do it all again. Thank you.