

C



Socorro County Historical Society

Post Office Box 921
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Membership News • Summer 2024

Printed periodically

SCHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

OCTOBERFEST

October 5, 2024

Plans for this year's Oktoberfest are well underway. The same family-friendly fun, food, and entertainment as always with a few new twists this year. This year's Oktoberfest flyer is on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Board of Directors have been busy this past year trying to improve the facilities and offerings at the Hammel Brewery and Museum.

NEW PATIO AREA. Just a few days before last year's Oktoberfest, Edward's Construction framed and poured a nice concrete pad behind the brewery building. This was to give our bands a better area in which to perform instead of standing on the dirt. And, they loved it. We hope to cover it in the future to blend in with the motif of the building. If you didn't attend last year, it looks like this:



Your SCHS Board of Directors:

President	Chuck Zimmerly
Vice President	Claudette Gallegos
Treasurer	Prescilla Mauldin
Secretary	Paul Harden

Board Members:	
Jon Spargo	Mary Ann Lucero
Donna Voelker	

Bob Eveleth – Past President Ex-officio

BODEGA BURGER CO. Beer sales at Oktoberfest legally requires a special event permit and a licensed Beer Service provider. For the past several years, beer service has been performed by **Bodega Burger Co.** After 12 years of service, Bodega closed their doors in February 2024. Their dining restaurant and lounge was a favorite to many Socorroans and sorely missed. SCHS wishes to thank **Deborah**



Deborah Dean serving last year's Oktoberfest brew.

and Joel Dean for their years of service to Socorro – and in helping Oktoberfest be a success. They ordered a special Oktoberfest brew each year and the tap equipment for the kegs. They also donated their time or that of their employees to provide our beer service. Many thanks for your valuable assistance and best wishes on your future endeavors.

Jess Landers passed away in April 2024. He was a life member of SCHS and known by many for his various business ventures in Socorro. Jess was always helpful to the Historical Society, preferring to keep a low profile and contribute "behind the scenes." He often purchased the two kegs of beer that was served at Oktoberfest as a donation and other financial assistance when the need arose. Jess was a friend to SCHS and will be missed.



Jess Landers 1934-2024

Continued on next page

OKTOBERFEST 2024

The **Capital Bar & Brewery** has agreed to be our licensed beer servers for this year's Oktoberfest. The Capitol Bar has recently added their own brewery facilities for making custom beers. Owners **Joanna and Earl Debrine** are brewing a custom Oktoberfest brew in their new brewery, located in the Capitol Bar's basement. Before refrigeration, cooled cellars and basements were used for brewing lager beers. This will be the first time a locally brewed beer has been served at the Hammel since 1920 Prohibition. The custom beer will be available on-tap at this year's Oktoberfest. To commemorate the rich history of the Hammel Brewery, etched beer glasses and coasters will be available with the authentic pre-Prohibition Hammel Beer logo.



Joanna & Earl Debrine

For more information on the history of Socorro's Territorial Saloons, read this history article: https://socorro-history.org/HISTORY/PH_History/201010_saloons_1.pdf
The history of the Capitol Bar, now a Registered Historic Landmark, is here: https://socorro-history.org/HISTORY/PH_History/201011_saloons_2.pdf



The 2024 Oktoberfest brew is "cooking" in the Capitol Bar's new brewery, located in the naturally cooled basement.

For those with a different taste, the Capitol Bar will also be providing several varieties of wine this year at Oktoberfest as well.

Thank you Joanna and Earl Jr. for stepping up to allow Oktoberfest at the Hammel to continue with traditional beer service.

For more information on the history of Socorro's Territorial Saloons, read this history article: https://socorro-history.org/HISTORY/PH_History/201010_saloons_1.pdf
The history of the Capitol Bar, now a Registered Historic Landmark, is here: https://socorro-history.org/HISTORY/PH_History/201011_saloons_2.pdf

New Parking Lot. Parking has always been a problem at the Hammel Brewery building during Oktoberfest. To partially alleviate this problem, SCHS Board of Directors authorized to build a parking lot in the normally unused portion of the Hammel property. **Savedra Construction** was hired to perform the earthwork and leveling the ground, plus installing the entrance gate on Neal Ave. Our thanks to Savedra Construction for donating much of the labor involved.

Also many thanks to the **City of Socorro** that furnished the crushed chip rock and the "road work" for the parking lot surface. The City ensured it conformed to traffic standards. The exit will be through the gate on 6th Street.

Frankly, we don't know yet how many cars will fit in the new parking area. We're hoping about a dozen. The new lot is intended for those with Handicap placards or to make it easier for those



GoogleEarth image showing location of the new SCHS parking area at the Hammel Museum.

with difficulties walking long distances. Parking is also available along the south fence along Neal Ave. Both Savedra Construction and City of Socorro helped save SCHS a lot of money on this needed project. Again, many thanks,

OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2024

Hammel Brewery & Museum (behind NAPA), 601 N. 6th Street, Socorro, N.M.



FOOD FROM THE GRILL

Served 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Your Choice of -

- Traditional beer brats & sauerkraut meal, or
- Hamburgers

\$10

PER MEAL

Plain or with green chili
Including condiments
and other goodies

OKTOBERFEST BEER

\$7⁰⁰

PER GLASS



Oktoberfest

Served
11 a.m.
to
3 p.m.

Special Oktoberfest brew and wines
served by the Capitol Bar



Authentic pre-Prohibition
Hammel Brewery coasters and
etched beer glasses available

PLUS ... Socorro Garden Club,
Socorro Train Gang model railroad displays,
tour the old brewery, and visit with
your neighbors and friends.



MUSIC AND DANCE

FREE ADMISSION
FUN
for the whole family



11:00 a.m.

Dr. Comstock's

The Oompah Band

Official, authentic, and authorized
Bavarian Oktoberfest tunes

12 o'clock Noon

Socorro's Et Alia

Belly Dancers

For Oktoberfest??? You bet!

1:00 p.m.

The Sax Quartet

Enjoyable music with "sax appeal"

2:00 p.m.

Variety music at it's best

Tyler Lam

3:00 p.m.

George Murillo

Favorite local New Mexico music

Thanks to all for your support • Oktoberfest sponsored by your friendly
SOCORRO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Santa Rita (Riley) Schoolhouse

Santa Rita, or Riley, is one of New Mexico’s favorite ghost towns, located in Socorro County north of Magdalena, One of the remaining landmark buildings is the old schoolhouse. It was built by the WPA in 1937. The original school was built around 1887 though nothing is known about this first school.



Santa Rita School 1887-1936



1937 built to present day

SCHS was contacted by a Paula Vallejos in Albuquerque whose grandmother taught school at Santa Rita in the 1920s and provided a photograph. This photo is a true treasure. It shows the original schoolhouse with the students and many of the townspeople. This is the

only known photo of Riley before the 1950s. The photo reveals the appearance of the original school and explains why the WPA built school also has the Alamo style belfry and the variety of dress in the 1920s.

The next newsletter will contain an article on Riley and the old schoolhouse. Thank you Paula Vallejos.

Thank You, Roy!

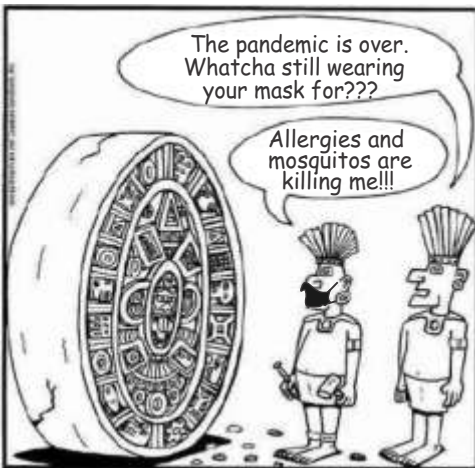
Board Member Roy Heatwole has resigned from the SCHS Board of Directors for personal and health reasons. Roy has been involved with SCHS and the Socorro Train Gang for many years. There just are not the words to express our appreciation for his years of service to the Society. When something needed to be done done, no matter what it was, Roy was always the first one to roll up his sleeves



Roy manning the Oktoberfest table

and get the job done. He was often a host at our monthly Open House and making the model trains available to children and guests. Roy performed much of building maintenance needs over the years from woodworking and repairing windows to painting. Even climbed ladders to clean out the bees (some still alive) in the top floor. The only thing I recall he refused to do was to climb on the roof! (Nobody else would either).

Thank-you Roy for your years of service to the Socorro County Historical Society. The historic Hammel Brewery and Museum is in very good condition thanks to your efforts.



Plenty of history, interesting reading, and gobs of photographs on our website at:

www.socorro-history.org

SCHS MEMBERSHIP DUES

SCHS is busy trying to improve the condition, maintenance and offerings of the Hammel Museum as our budget allows. Your continued support with your \$20 annual membership dues is greatly appreciated to accomplish these endeavors.

Membership dues can be sent to:

SCHS
P.O. Box 921
Socorro, NM 87801

or via PayPal, debit or credit card on the SCHS homepage, upper left corner at:

<https://socorro-history.org/>

Dues may be given to our treasurer, Prescilla Mauldin, at Oktoberfest.