Q: Who was Kate Shelley?
A: Hero that saved many lives! She saved the Midnight Express from a major train wreck. You may read the entire story on “Women in Railroading” at www.womeninrailroading.com Click on FAMOUS WOMEN (Located on the left panel)
Q: Which RR Line was the only steam railroad to adopt a regular mainline electrification as early as 1895?
A: Baltimore and Ohio
Q: Diesel locomotives had an average lifespan of just ____ years.
   1. A.Diesel locomotives had an average lifespan of just 15 years!
Q: It was not unusual for some steam engines to operate for ___ years.
   1. A.40 years.
Q: When (year) were the first female employees to be hired for the railroad?
A: 1838 (See www.americanrailroadwomen.com)
Q: What railroad was among the last railroads to regularly use traditional railcars?
A: The Pennsylvania Railroad -- often called, “Doodlebugs.”
Q: What is the AAPRCO?
A: American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners. www.aaprcocom
Q: What became the new name for the American Orient Express?
A: Grandluxe Rail Journeys (Now out of business due to the massive recession in 2008)
Q: Is it possible to still take a real steam locomotive train tour down a commercial RR track?
A: Your in luck as the Central Coast Chapter NRHS provides this service once in awhile.
Q: Who is Shirley Burman?
A: She is a railroad historian, researcher, lecturer, and photographer.
Q: General Electric, built many appliances, also built?
A: Locomotives
Q: What was the name of the famous luxury train in the 1930, 1940, and 1950’s?
A: The “The Chief” by the Santa Fe. It ran from Los Angeles to Chicago. (Later “Super Chief” was added to the fleet and became the standard for Santa Fe)
Q: Today which AMTRAK train travels from Los Angeles to Chicago?
A: Amtrak’s Southwest Chief.
Q: Who were the Harvey Girls?
A: The women worked for Fred Harvey as waitresses (Fred Harvey Company). You may Google The Harvey Girls for more information.

Q: What became the FIRST railroad in the United States?
A: The Baltimore & Ohio (July 4, 1828, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, broke ground ceremoniously for the start of the FIRST railroad in the United States.)

Q: Where is the LONGEST railroad in the world?
A: Russia. It is called the Trans-Siberian Railway (or Trans Siberian Railroad). It is a network of railways connecting Moscow and European Russia with the Russian Far East provinces (Mongolia, China, Sea of Japan). Today the railroad is part of the Eurasian land bridge. This railroad is 5,763 miles long (9,259 km) Gauge: Broad (1,520mm / 4 feet 11 5/6 in)

Q: What is Featherbedding?
A: (Negative Term) “Fireman” no longer needed for shoveling coal from the tender to the firebox (Steam locomotives) while riding on diesel locomotives. Term was used to poke fun of the position of the useless “Fireman” (Eventually the “Fireman” position was eliminated when the railroads were on the verge of bankruptcy)

Q: What made Hachi (Hachiko) dog so special?
A: He was truly the best friend of Parker Wilson. On the dog collar was a Japanese symbol (Hachi: Japanese “good fortune”) Parker decided to call this dog by the name that was on the dog’s collar. The man and dog were forever bonded until death. The movie, “Hachi: A Dog’s Tale” (2009) is a ‘must-see’ movie for anyone who loves dogs, trains, and drama. Rated “G” and very popular. This movie was based on a true Japanese story of a loyal dog named Hachiko. The dog would always follow Parker to the train station and by 5 pm the dog returned to the train station waiting for Parker. After Parker died, the dog continued to wait at the train station for Parker until he died, a statue was made of this special dog and placed in front of the train station.

Q: [From Jeopardy on 6-1-2011] The Railroad founded in 1859 by a Kansas State Charter reached this state capital on February 16, 1880.
A: The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe [See show images click HERE]

Q: What is the Golden Spike?
A: Last spike (AKA: “The Last Spike”) that was driven by Leland Stanford (ceremonial final spike) celebrating the joining of first Transcontinental Railroad across the United States connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads on May 10, 1869, at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory. Today the “Last Spike” lies in the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.
There is a second “golden spike” that was manufactured alongside the original spike, on display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

Q: What is Hotel power?
A: Electricity coming from a cable provided at the station. (Before the locomotive is attached to the train the electrical power comes directly from the station through a cable)

Q: Train orders are also known as?
A: Track warrants

Q: What is PTC?
A: Positive Train Control (In 2009, the Federal Railroad Administration directed that all U.S. railroads start to implement PTC for better safety. PTC, when needed, automatically override actions by a train’s engineer -- For example, If he or she fails to stop before passing a red signal. This new safety system will be in place by 2015 on all trains.

Q: What are Mileposts?
A: Location markers

Q: What is the horn signal for “approaching a grade crossing”
A: Train horn blasts LONG, LONG, SHORT, LONG (Approaching a grade crossing. Morse code Letter “Q” --- “Dah dah dit dah”)

Q: What horn signal do you hear when the train is about to move forward?
A: Horn blasts SHORT, SHORT (Think about the Morse code letter for “i” -- “dit dit”)

Q: What horn signal do you hear when the train is about to back up?
A: Horn blasts SHORT, SHORT, SHORT (Think of the Morse code letter for “s” -- dit dit dit)

Q: When the horn blasts one LONG sound, what is it saying?
A: It means that the train’s engineer is going to set (meaning to test the brakes. The crew visually inspects the application of the brakes)

Q: When the horse blasts a very LONG sound, what is it saying?
A: “Get back on board immediately” (Passengers and crew must get back on the train)

Q: Where can I get more information on private railcar travel? (owning and buying railcars)
A: American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners  www.aaprco.com

Q: What is another name for “rail fan”
A: Foamers (Railroad employees refer / call rail fans “foamers” because they tend to droll (“foam at the mouth”) when they see a train.)

Q: What is the Ferrocarril Mexicano?
A: They are the largest of Mexico’s freight railroads and own the Chihuahua al Pacifico (“El Chepe” locals call it), and the Tequila Express. These trains take tourists on the Copper Canyon route (A very popular and scenic train ride).

Q: What do you call the distance between between the rails?
A: Gauge (Example: Narrow gauge railroad is referring to a smaller track system designed for trains to climb mountains)

Q: Stoke?
A: The Fireman’s job (shoveling coal)

Q: What was America’s FIRST railroad?
A: Baltimore & Ohio (B & O), which started service in 1830.

Q: Did the United States invent the railroad and trains?
A: No. England designed and operated the first railroads to roll mining cars in and out of mines. This system started sometime in the 16th century (England and Wales).

Q: What U.S. President decided to move ahead with the transcontinental railroad and signed the Pacific Railway Act in 1862?
A: President Abraham Lincoln

Q: What keeps the train’s wheel on the rail?
A: Flange on the wheel at the other end of the axle (Keeps wheel on the rail and train on track)

Q: Are there more than one locomotive with the same number?
A: No. There are no two locomotives that have the same number regardless of which railroad may own them.

Q: HEP
A: Head-end power

Q: What is an “Alerter”
A: It is a safety device that alerts the train’s engineer after a period of 20-25 seconds IF and only if the engineer does nothing (no adjustment to the throttle, apply the brakes, or blow the whistle). A loud horn sounds and a bright light starts flashing in the cab. Then the brakes is automatically applied and the train will soon come to a complete stop. This is especially good if the engineer fell seriously ill such as a heart attack and was no longer able to do his/her job in the cab.

Q: Why are locomotives HEAVY?
A: Traction. The locomotive are deliberately weighted to provide as much traction as possible.

Q: Who developed Air Brakes?
A: George Westinghouse (Air brakes became general use on most trains by the 1880s)
Q: The Pullman Palace Car Company (Chicago), turned out luxury sleeping cars that soon became known as “Pullmans.” Who started this company?
A: George Pullman (The Pullman Company retained ownership of the cars and leased them to the various railroads.)

Q: The conductors and porters were employees of?
A: Even the conductors and porters were PULLMAN employees!

Q: In early railroad work, what was the average DEATH rate?
A: Seven deaths daily, and around 2,500 died a year! (This happened during the years before World War 1--Just thirty years leading up to WW 1)

Q: In the early days of railroading, was there a temperature control in the cab?
A: No. The temperature was a minus thirty in the winter (inside the cab) and between 150 to 160 degrees in the summer inside the locomotive's cab. (Today there is temperature control in the cab)

Q: Were there ever explosions caused by a locomotive’s boiler?
A: Unfortunately it was common that the locomotive’s boiler exploded and killing the head-on crew. This event was always fatal.

Q: What became the first regularly scheduled passenger train in the United States?
A: The Best Friend of Charleston (Steam locomotive). It all began on December 25, 1830.

Q: Where was the first initial run of this locomotive (Best Friend of Charleston)?
A: This locomotive (Best Friend of Charleston) rolled on the first six miles of track of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company.

Q: What year did the Chief (Santa Fe) make its debut?
A: 1926 the Santa Fe's CHIEF made its debut. It also became the choice of movie stars traveling between coasts. This train became very popular.

Q: What was The Scout?
A: This train is not as fancy as the Chief, but it catered to the middle-income families traveling on a budget.

Q: What was the El Capitan?
A: It was an all coach train.

Q: What is the California Limited?
A: This train served only first-class passengers.

Q: When was the Super Chief introduced?
A: In 1936, Santa Fe introduced the Super Chief. This train soon became the standard.

Q: What rail line began to off a once-a-week service between Chicago and Los Angeles on “deLuxe” trains?
A: In 1911, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (AKA: Santa Fe) began offering once-a-week service between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Q: What year did the St. Louis & Detroit The Wabash Railroad Cannonball begin providing daylight service?
A: 1946. Note: The famous song, “The Wabash Cannonball” that has been around for decades, there is NO record of any train with that name before the Wabash got around to using it :-)

Q: What was the GOLDEN AGE of rail travel like? What was the time period?
A: During the “Golden Age” there were dozens of railroads operating hundreds of trains. The period of operation was from 1890 till the outbreak of World War 2. People traveled in style on the trains (various rail companies). Traveling aboard these trains had excellent service, luxury, and many rail companies vied for the passenger business much like today’s airline companies do to get customers to ride on their planes. Many offered special meals (Excellent food choices and the food was prepared aboard the train (Cooked to order) not just warmed up. And private railcars for the wealthy. EVEN TODAY if you have the money you may purchase your own railcar and ride around the country in it (your railcar will be attached to AMTRAK) either renting a locomotive like the American Orient Express did or having your car attached to one of Amtrak’s train routes!

Q: Can I purchase my own locomotive and railcars and hire my own engineer to drive my train?
A: No. Your only option is to call AMTRAK and make arrangements to have your railcar(s) attached and pulled by AMTRAK. The most common choice by most private railcar owners is to have the railcar attached to one of Amtrak’s trains such as the Southwest Chief (for a long run) or the Pacific Surfliner (for a short run). Hiring exclusively the Amtrak’s locomotive (and its engineer) is also possible and very costly.

Q: What does AMTRAK stand for (What is the acronym AMTRAK mean)?
A: AMerican Track (AM-TRACK; however, it is spelled “AMTRAK”) American Travel by Track.

Q: What is the FORMAL name of AMTRAK?
A: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Public and private corporation)

Q: Railpox - What was this?
A: Railpox was the original name of AMTRAK.

Q: Who was the first Amtrak president?
A: Roger Lewis (Fired from his position as head of General Dynamics)

Q: Who is Graham Claytor?
A: Graham Claytor retired at the age of 81 (amazing), passed away in May of the following year (Less than six months after his retirement). He left a legacy. Without this man AMTRAK would have ceased to exist.
Q: Who is in charge of the train? The Engineer or the Conductor?
A: The conductor is in charge of the train. He or she is roughly equivalent to the captain of a ship at sea.
Q: What is the LSA?
A: The LSA is “Lead Service Attendant” (Replaced the traditional “Steward”)
Q: What are bogies?
A: Trucks (bogies is the European term for Trucks)
Q: What are trucks?
A: The entire wheel assembly at each end of a railcar: wheels, axles, bearings, brakes, suspension, and frame.
Q: What is a turntable?
A: It’s much like a “Lazy Susan” contraption for trains that were used to swivel a locomotive in any number of directions and route them down different tracks.
Q: What is the vestibule?
A: It is the area between the two railcars that allows you to enter another car. In old trains this area is wide open and you are literally outside the train on a small platform between railcars.
Q: What is the yard?
A: It’s the area where railcars are moved about, general railroad activity, etc.
Q: What is a work train?
A: It’s a train that is used to transport workers to a place where track is being repaired.
Q: What is the yardmaster?
A: The person in charge of all operations that are carried out in the yard. (The nautical equivalent is the harbormaster)
Q: Yellow eye, what’s that?
A: Yellow eye is slang railroad terminology meaning a yellow signal (caution).
Q: What are those rocks called that are on railroads?
A: Ballast. They are coarse gravel or crushed rock used to form the roadbed on which the tracks are placed.
Q: What is the cab?
A: The compartment in the locomotive where the crew sits and operates the engine, thus driving the train.
Q: Was the caboose used by crew members for rest, sleep, taking a break?  
A: No. The primary function was as a post from which the train was observed so that potential problems can be spotted such as an overheated journal bearing.

Q: What is the consist?  
A: It is made up of all the railcars and locomotive that make up the entire train.

Q: What is the crossbuck?  
A: It is the traditional warning sign seen at railroad crossings on the sign you will see “RAILROAD CROSSING” in black letters over two white crossed boards known as the crossbuck.

Q: What is a cupula?  
A: It is the small observation dome on top of a caboose.

Q: What is the diaphragm?  
A: It is the ribbed fabric shield stretched between passenger cars, protecting you from the weather as you pass from one car to another.

Q: What does the train dispatcher do?  
A: A person who works in a central location and directs and is also responsible for the movements of all trains within a specific area. (The aviation equivalent is the Air Traffic Controller)

Q: Extra Train, what is that?  
A: It is any train that does not appear on the published timetable. The airlines call it “extra section.”

Q: What is a gandy dancer?  
A: Old rail slang for anyone working on the tracks. The word “gandy” came from the brand name that was seen on the specialized hand tools (picks, shovels, and sledge hammers) made by Gandy Manufacturing Company more than a century ago.

Q: What is highball?  
A: This is said (either verbal or a signal) that authorizes the train to proceed.

Q: What is the hot box?  
A: This is an overheated bearing. Can become a major problem.

Q: Is there a quiet car?  
A: Yes. This is a single car on many Amtrak’s short-haul trains that forbid the use of cell phones, and loud conversations!

Q: Red eye, what is that?  
A: No, this is not the night flight! It is a slang term for a red stop signal :-)

Q: What is TGV?
A: Trans di Grande Vitesse (Perhaps the greatest achievement of the French Railways since the SNCF, which came into existence in 1937. TGV -- France’s High Speed Trains)

Q: Where was the first railroad in California?

A: From Sacramento to Folsom (22 miles of track).