

SILVER LARIAT

A CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR VISTA-DOME

Built in 1948, *Silver Lariat* ran in service for the original California Zephyr for 22 years until that train was discontinued in 1970. Amtrak purchased the Vista-dome in 1971 and used it for long-distance service until 1980, when it was retired by the arrival of the Superliners. The present owners purchased the car from Amtrak in 1985. During its lifetime of regular service, *Silver Lariat* has traveled over 9 million miles.

In the early years of the California Zephyr, *Silver Lariat's* priority was designated women's and children's meaning that unescorted ladies and mothers with young children occupied the forward end of the car where the mural is located. Accordingly, *Silver Lariat* was placed directly behind the baggage car, thus it was usually the first Vista-dome in the train.

The mural was painted for this car by Mary Louise Lawser in 1948. Titled Pony Express, it is one of the very few original California Zephyr murals extant. The mural is oil on canvas and was cleaned in 1989 by a professional art conservator.

Reflecting its elegant heritage as a CZ car, the interior of *Silver Lariat* is redecorated from Amtrak colors (red and blue) to emphasize burgundy and grey, with silver and rose accents. Blending today with the past, our gourmet prepared dinners are served on table linens from the original California Zephyr.



CalifORNIA ZEPHYR RailCAR CHARTERS
1146 CHARLESTON STREET · COSTA MESA, CA 92626
(714) 751-2032
www.CalZephyrRailcar.com

SILVER LARIAT

OWNING A CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR LEGACY

The current owners, Al Bishop and Burt HermeY purchased *Silver Lariat* from Amtrak in 1985. Over five years have gone into reconditioning it mechanically, along with adding the self-contained facilities necessary to provide premier rail service. *Silver Lariat* is equipped with a modern galley, wet bar, lounge and dining facilities, and a stereophonic sound system using compact discs and cassette tapes.

Silver Lariat is one of the most extensively rebuilt and well-maintained private cars in service today. Each of the trucks, on which the car rolls, have been completely overhauled to modern standards. In addition, the owners installed a modern climate-control system, diesel generator, couplers and draft gear.

Constructed of stainless steel, including most structural members, *Silver Lariat* features a depressed floor under the dome. This meant traditional car-building techniques were not feasible. Consequently, major structural loads are cantilevered through the dome structure to make up for the loss of a center sill. The soundness of this design was proven by the manufacturer when the car was hydraulically squeezed, without deformation, to 1,800,000 pounds of force.

Silver Lariat is over 85 feet long, 10 feet wide and 15 feet, 10 inches tall above the rails. It carries 500 gallons of water. The car weighs approximately 155,000 pounds. It seats up to 24 passengers at lounge tables in the vista-dome, and up to 42 people in reclining chairs on the main level. *Silver Lariat* is home-ported in Los Angeles or Oakland, California when not on charter.



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