



Holiday BBQ and Excursion

On December 17, 2011, Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad enjoyed a Holiday BBQ Lunch and Train Excursion.



Much work had been done on the Right-of-Way by the time this trip took place - and the railroad was looking might fine!

It was a particularly good day to see the various industries that the SMVRR serves. Tank cars, oil racks, lumber cars, centerbeams, and box-cars and reefers were abundant.

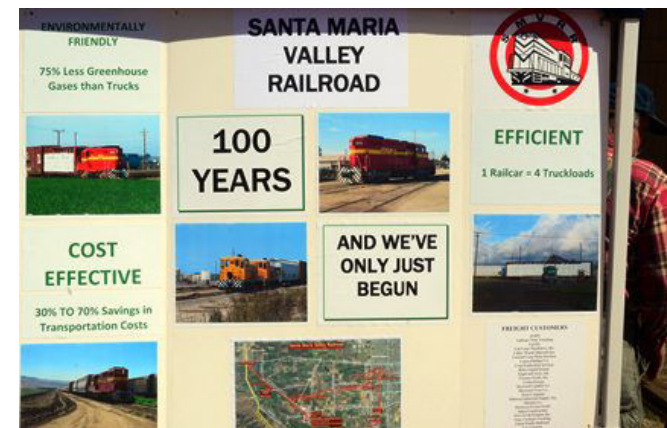
Many thanks to the BBQ crew that did a fabulous job of feeding

ing the gang! And thanks also to Al, Rob, and Nathan who crewed the train for us.



Friends/SMVRR Exhibit at SLO Freight

The Railroad and the Friends of the SMVRR exhibited together at the SLO Freight House during the Central Coast Railroad Festival last October. Visitors were treated to the first look inside the freight house in a very long time.



Speeder Run

July 9, 2011

Today saw the Motorcar Operators West's (MOW) Speeder Run on the SMVRR.

Friends who came out to support today's MOW Speeder Run on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad included: Harry and Mary, Kevin and Dini, Karl, Gary, and Dale. And Rob, of course!

Thanks to Lonnie and Debbie Hughes for the photos!



Roadamite Field Trip

August 13, 2011

A rugged, brave, (and, may we say, most handsome) bunch of Friends ventured into the wilds east and south of Santa Maria under the able leadership of Kevin...

As much as 100 years later, evidence of the Pacific Coast Railway's (PCRY) presence, and a little more recently, evidence of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad's (SMVRR) presence is still visible out in this area. But, you do need to know what to look for...

Pictured at the top of this page is the old SMVRR downtown yard with the enginehouse on the right and the freight house in the distance on the left. We started the day's journey at this point...



Above, Kevin describes the railroad right-of-ways as we drive alongside. At left, Harry examines the Pacific Coast Railway building that Skip has modeled on his layout. Thanks to Skip and Emiko for the delightful lunch and layout tour!

At lower left, the group looks out over Cottonwood Canyon Winery where the old right-of-way goes by just on the other side of the vineyard.

Immediately left, Skip points out the freight building he is modeling in a Pacific Coast Railway book photo.



National Train Day - May 12, 2012

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad will again host a National Train Day (NTD) event in Guadalupe at the Amtrak station. This year promises to be bigger than ever! The City of Guadalupe has gotten fully behind it to make it a full blown community affair! There will be activities and exhibits both at the train station and downtown, with transportation available so attendees arriving by train can take advantage of downtown Historical Walks, Live Music and of course, great Local Restaurants. If you are coming from the Santa Barbara area you could ride the Pacific Surfliner up to Guadalupe and have over two hours to enjoy the event and lunch before returning on the south bound Surfliner. Another way to include a train ride from the local area would be to come out earlier to the event, catch the north bound Surfliner at 12:10 p.m. in Guadalupe and take a ride up to SLO and return a little after 2p.m. with plenty of time for activities and dining afterward.

Guadalupe is a unique little city with its downtown much as it was 100 years ago. Railroads have always played a large part of life in Guadalupe. The Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad will all be participants at this year's event. The Friends will host an open house at SMVRR Caboose 210 and the Guadalupe Historical Society will have displays with photos of the Southern Pacific years of railroading in Guadalupe when the Cab Forwards, F-units and Daylight plied the main line! Bring your family and come on out, Saturday May 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and enjoy National Train Day in Guadalupe.

Below are photos from last year's NTD...



2011 Friends Programs in Review

- February - How Companies become Railroad Customers: Getting into the System
- March - Railroad Crossings, Public and Private Partnerships
- April - Freight Cars: Ownership, Inspections, Repairs, Reporting Marks
- May - The CA Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) and its Reno UPRR Special
- June - Signals
- July - SMVRR Update
- August - SMVRR and the Jones Street Corridor: Present and Future
- September - Report from the Union Pacific's Shortline Conference in Omaha
- October - Overview of Central Coast railroading opportunities, including photos from the Railroad Festival weekend
- November - A report from the CA Shortline Railroad Association meeting last week, an update on other shortlines, and an update on SMVRR operations

"Night on the Town in Guadalupe"

**Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction
 Friday, May 11, 2012, 5:30pm**

Join us for a night on the town dinner, silent auction, live auction, exhibits and displays, and live music at the historic Muse Building at 910 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe on Friday May 11th. Silent auction starts at 5:30 and dinner starts at 6:00. Tickets are \$100.00 per person with proceeds going towards Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Educational fund for Operation Lifesaver.

The historic Muse Building harkens back to the days of prohibition and when Guadalupe was the major railroad and agricultural town on the Central Coast. Be sure not to miss the fun for a Night on the Town at Guadalupe!

2012 Calendar

Date	Event/Location
March 14	Friends Program - National Train Day and Mission Goals of Friends, at Petra's
April 11	Friends Program - Santa Maria Valley Railroad Green Marketing
April 14	Friends Workday - Prepping caboose for National Train Day
May 9	Friends Program cancelled
May 11	A Night on the Town at Guadalupe Fundraiser
May 12	National Train Day at Guadalupe
June 9	Friends Workday
June 13	Friends Program
July 11	Friends Program - 101 Anniversary of the Railroad
July 14	Field Trip - Roadamite Field Trip repeat
August 8	Friends Program
August 11	Pacific Surfliner Trip - Friends Workday
Sept 8	Field Trip - Lompoc Branch
Sept 12	Friends Workday

Message from the Railroad

We are excited that the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad are fully embarking on a mission of education for 2012. Educating the public about safety around railroads, and about related industries as future employment are very important to the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, as is the preservation of the history of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. These programs will require continued support from all of our members and we need to encourage new members to join the cause.

As the economy recovers and freight customers are realizing the cost effectiveness of rail freight transportation as well as the environmental aspects, freight traffic on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad continues to increase. The railroad now operates 6 to 7 days a week and as a result we have had to curtail special events. Also, with many problems with vandalism and stolen equipment, the railroad has no tolerance for trespassing. Being a member of Friends is now the only opportunity to have a close-up look at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Special events are now only run for Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad is a unique organization with programs not only about the history of the railroad but also current operations and current business. As a result we have built a nice cross section of members who are not just rail fans but people interested in the present and future operations of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. We thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and we encourage all of you to encourage your friends to join and support the Friends' mission.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad also recognizes the Friends as the repository for the preservation of the history of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. We hope that all of the Friends members continue to support Friends efforts as they preserve the history of our 101-year-old railroad.

We hope that all of you can make it to National Train Day in Guadalupe on May 12. Discover the historic downtown Guadalupe, one of the few Central Coast towns with the original downtown preserved. Guadalupe continues to be the Central Coast hub for railroad activity, with four Amtrak trains per day making stops at the Amtrak Guadalupe Station, and Union Pacific Railroad has a local train based in Guadalupe along with the area's maintenance-of-way crews, and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad interchanges with the Union Pacific in Guadalupe. The Santa Maria Valley Railroad is fully supporting this event as well as the Friends fundraising dinner, "Night on the Town in Guadalupe" on Friday night May 11.

Thank you and be safe!
 Rob Himoto, President



Goleta Railroad Days

September 17-18, 2011

Kevin and Jamie staffed the booth on Saturday, and Kevin and Dini took Sunday. Our message this year was, "The Santa Maria Valley Railroad, 100 years, and we've only just begun! And by the way, if you want to engage with a real railroad, join Friends!"

The event was held at the South Coast Railroad Museum which is located in the Goleta Depot.



Message from the President

In addition to historic preservation, part of the Friends mission is education. One of the things that come to mind is safety. Operation Lifesaver, which many of you are familiar with, is a non-profit that offers a national safety program aimed at public awareness of the dangers at RR crossings and along the right of way. We've all seen kids (and adults) walking, riding bikes or playing along the right of way, unaware of the inherent danger. It would be great to get Operation Lifesaver presented in our local schools.

Along with public safety education, what about railroads as a career? I've read that with the emphasis on software engineering and computer technology in the last couple of decades many industries are lacking mechanical engineers, machinists, welders etc. A Friends scholarship fund for students pursuing industrial arts could be set up.

Like most ideas they will take some time, and more importantly funding! The Santa Maria Valley Railroad has offered to help us in this endeavor by hosting a fundraiser dinner and silent auction to support the Friends. That's an offer we can't refuse! I encourage you all to reserve Friday, May 11th for a great time and a good cause! Hope to see you there.

Kevin O'Roark, President
 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

