

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

Vol. 1

March, 2008



Message from the President

Wow! What an incredible first 12 months for the "Friends" organization! We've had opportunities to participate in Dinner Train Excursions, Speeder Events, and several Open House Events at the Depot. Fun, Fun, Fun!

The Friends Monthly Program, hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad at the Depot, has also been very successful with a variety of interesting speakers and presentations. The food's not bad either! We also managed to get in tours of the Machine Shop in the Engine House and the Blacksmith shop.

This year looks to be as action packed as last, with many event dates already locked in! I encourage everyone to check out the Web Site at www.friends-smvrr.org, come on down to the Monthly Program, and pop in at the next Open House Event. We're off to a great start!

Kevin O'Roark
President, Friends of the SMVRR

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Railroad**
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Message from the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company

On the behalf of Coast Belle Rail Corp., the parent company of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, I would like to thank every member of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for your support.

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad has really grown beyond our expectations for the first year! The Friends have actively worked to preserve history of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and also provided much appreciated support for special events. Raising the public awareness of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad helps preserve the rich history and insures the future prospects of the railroad.

We are very happy to sponsor the monthly Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad program every second Thursday of the month. Members learn about the history of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and to learn about the present day railroad industry and the railroad industry's future prospects.

Thank you again to all of the members of Friends for all of your support and hard work this past year. We look forward to supporting the Friends programs for 2008 and hope for your continued support for the upcoming year.

Rob Himoto
President, Santa Maria Valley Railroad

Calendar of Events

Thursday March 13, 2008 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Program sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

6:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Dinner for \$5.00 served at 5:40. All about Speeders presented by Bill Schertle

Saturday March 15, 2008 General Orientation Training Session for Volunteers

10:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Required for all volunteers and prospective volunteers.

Saturday April 5, 2008 MOW Speeder Event – Central Coast Rails, Large and Small

8:00 to 4:00, Santa Maria Style BBQ lunch for \$10.00 prepared by the SMVRR crew starts at 11:30. Silent auction to benefit the Friends of the SMVRR.

Sunday April 6, 2008 Bitter Creek & Western Railroad open for Central Coast Rails, Large and Small

10:00 to 3:00, BBQ hot dog lunch for \$5.00 to benefit the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

Thursday April 10, 2008 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Program sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

6:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Dinner for \$5.00 served at 5:40. Alvin Elementary School Railroad History Class presentation by Jamie Foster.

Thursday May 8, 2008 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Program sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

6:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Dinner for \$5.00 served at 5:40. All about railroad locomotives. Types of diesel electric locomotives and how they work. Includes tour of the SMVRR locomotives.

Thursday June 12, 2008 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Program

sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

6:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Dinner for \$5.00 served at 5:40.

Thursday July 10, 2008 Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Program sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

6:00 at the SMVRR freight depot. Dinner for \$5.00 served at 5:40.

July 11 – 13, 2008 SMVRR 2008 Rail Fair

Dinner Excursions, miniature train rides, speeder rides, fundraising booths, more.

July 18 – 20, 2008 SMVRR Summer Dinner Excursions

Fine dining aboard the Silver Lariat.

Volunteers

There are many opportunities to serve as a volunteer for Friends. Everything from depot clean up to preserving historical documents to assisting with excursion train operations. Last year Friends volunteers assisted with the SMVRR's events such as the speeder excursions, dinner excursions, open houses, and Friends programs.

The first step to be a Friends Volunteer is to attend the General Orientation Training Session required for all Friends Volunteers on **Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 at the SMVRR freight depot.** The General Orientation Training Session takes just over an hour and will be repeated throughout the year.

There will be advanced training sessions for volunteer positions for excursion train operations and special events. Also before each special event, volunteers are required to attend a safety briefing. There is a possibility of a volunteer program that will eventually lead to train crew volunteers.

Members

As of December 31, 2007, the membership totaled 76 members! All members who joined in our first year will receive a special certificate as charter members of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Members who joined in our first year of operation are:

Kevin & Dini O'Roark, Dave Jennings, Leah & Walt Figaro, Jesse Flores, Anthony Torres, Vince Martinez, Rafael Sanchez, Jim McEntire, Merrill Haberman, Cathy Larsen, Laurie Olvera, Jeff Karsh, Michael Fitzgibbons, Ray Himoto, Sarah Smith, Donna Wright, Nancy & Gordy Nungesser, Brian & Jami Wampler, Cara Goodell, Clay Appleton, Bill & Anita Schertle, Jamie & Lynn Foster, Bill Foster, Hal & Susie Madson, Mark A.S. Riese, Nancy Bull, Rob Himoto, Skip & Emiko Purper, Terry Fibich, Gill Paszek, Don & William Martin, Richard Mininger, Gary Van Aken, Edward Jim Zemaitis, Greg & Robin Benson, Alice Simas & Michael Quinette, Jim Glines, Michael Knolls, William Baldwin, Bob & Carol Tuck, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Woods, Eric Booker & Rayleen Wight, Charles Van Nortwick, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan & Chantel Paul, Richard & Anne Anderson, David Rohr, Michael Senn, Gary See, John Portune, Glenn Geissinger, Nat D. Fast, Chris O'Roark, Dan Thompson, Brad & Ronda Strauch, Tami Rabska, Karl Hovanitz, Cindy Figueroa, Gina Keough, Jim & Stephanie Palomarez, Tom Murray, Jack Bodenmann, Harry & Mary Harlow, Mike Orcutt-Clenard, Christopher Smith, Dale Blakey, Aron Kahn, Dennis Thurman, Matthew & Tracy Regusci, Glenn Blosser, Norman & Cheryl McDonald, Bonnie Hall, Mike and Heidi Christianson and Family, Liz & Rob Nast and Family, Linda Rodrigues, Ken & Karen Emigh and Family, Casey Appell.

Officers

Kevin O'Roark, President
Cindy Figueroa, Secretary
Jamie Foster, Treasurer

Board

Jeff Karsh, Chairman
Michael Fitzgibbons
Jamie Foster
Gina Keough
Kevin O'Roark
Skip Purper

Board Elections

Board elections are coming up! Board members who are up for reelection are Kevin O'Roark, Jamie Foster, and Gina Keough. If you would like to elect a nominee to run for the board please submit your nominee in writing by mail or email by April 15.

Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

The weekend of May 10 – 11, 2008 the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum will be hosting the annual Pacific Roundup at Santa Margarita Ranch. There will be steam train rides on Rob Rossi's Pacific Coast Railroad and a railroad exhibition in the historic barn. Tickets will be available at the freight depot.

Friends Website

www.friends-smvrr.org

2nd Annual MOW Speeder Event

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad will host the second annual Motorcars Operators West Motorcar Excursion on Saturday April 5, 2008. Maintenance of Way cars, or affectionately called speeders, are railroad motorcars used by railroads for track inspections and to haul tools and workers to work sites. Speeders have been replaced by hy-rail vehicles, standard pickup trucks with railroad wheels. In fact the Santa Maria Valley Railroad is one of the last to use speeders.

This year features the fully restored Santa Maria Valley Railroad Rail bus No. 9 to be leading the excursion. The Pacific Southwest Rail Museum will be bringing the SMVRR Rail bus #9 home for this special excursion. SMVRR Rail bus #9 was built in 1932 by Fairmont Railway Motors and served as an inspection car and auxiliary section car for hauling workers. Rail bus #9 was retired by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad in 1962. It was acquired by the Pacific Southwest Rail Museum in Campo in 1965 and was fully restored in 1991. SMVRR Rail bus No. 9 was featured in a Huell Howser California Gold segment on the California and Arizona Railroad a few years ago.

As like last year, the SMVRR crew will be preparing a Santa Maria style tri-tip BBQ for lunch for \$10.00. There will be a silent auction as a benefit for the Friends. Although this event is not open to the public, Friends volunteers will be running guided tours of the speeders and the SMVRR maintenance of way equipment. Also the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum's private car La Condesa will be available for tours. Come on out and check it out!

The next day Sunday April 6, the Bitter Creek and Western Railroad will be hosting the speeder participants from 10:00 to 3:00. Friends are invited to attend, please contact Rob Himoto or Kevin O'Roark for tickets. Friends will be hosting a BBQ hot dog lunch for \$5.00.

Sponsors

Brian Wampler of Star Automotive sponsored the printing of this newsletter. Star Automotive is a specialized Independent Mercedes-Benz Service Shop located at 645-F Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, phone (805) 543-STAR. Star Automotive's website is www.starautomotiveSLO.com.

Weyrick Lumber donated lumber and materials throughout the year for displays and paint for the freight depot deck. Weyrick Lumber is located at 320 North D Street, Lompoc, CA 93436, phone (805) 736-5661 and 628 North Main Street, Templeton, CA 93465, phone (805) 434-4800.

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