



Speeder Run Nov 1-2, 2008

Friends assisted in a two day speeder event on Nov. 1 and 2. On Saturday Nov. 1 Friends cooked a breakfast burrito breakfast and hosted a chicken barbeque lunch. The MOW Speeder excursion hosted three runs, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one at night. During lunch MOW had their annual board meeting.

Friends volunteers worked long hours but all enjoyed it. Saturday morning Karl Hovanitz and Dennis Thurman marshaled up an impromptu MOW gang as a broken guard rail needed to be removed out of the Ray Road Crossing on the main line. Greg Benson, Harry Harlow, Mike Orcutt-Clenard, Nathan Paul, Dave Rohr, Marcus Riese, Gary See and Friends President Kevin O’Roark had to do some early morning Gandy Dancing to open the line for the speeders.

Jamie Foster ran both breakfasts and was the event photographer. Harry Harlow, Mary Harlow, Mike Orcutt-Clenard and Rob Himoto ran the lunch BBQ’s and Cathy Larsen, Nick Machado, and Leah Figaro served.

Friends assisted the MOW event by flagging crossings during the speeder excursions. On Saturday Greg Benson, Kevin O’Roark, Nathan Paul, Marcus Riese, and Gary See flagged the crossings. On Sunday Greg, Kevin, Dr. Marcus, and Gary flagged the two runs.



Flangeway Cleaning Party

On October 25th, a Friends work party dug out and cleaned flangeways at the speeder set on area in the Betteravia Industrial Park. Rails on what was known as Track 7 during the Union Sugar Plant days have not seen action since 1993. Jamie Foster, Dr. Marcus, and Gary See attacked the flangeways while Nathan Paul and Dennis Thurman cut down weeds on the Betteravia Main Line between Betteravia Junction and the Betteravia Industrial Park. Also assisting was Rob Himoto, President of the SMVRR, and several employees of Betteravia Industrial Park owner Ed Sutti. In fact Ed Sutti’s workers completely mowed and leveled a camping area for the speeder participants.



Packing Up the Railroad

Packing up a railroad with accumulation of parts and equipment from 1911 was a big job. A big thank you to Friends volunteers Walt Figaro, Jamie Foster, Harry and Mary Harlow, Jarret LaRose, Patti LaRose, Dini and Kevin O’Roark, Gary See, and Dennis Thurman for their long hours in moving the shop equipment and inventory in September. The railroad was under a tight deadline to move all of the equipment and materials out of the downtown facilities and with the help of Friends everything was moved. Thank you all once again in helping us get a big job done.

Here’s a picture as the downtown yard is cleaned up and left behind...



Upcoming 2nd Thursday Programs

January 8: SMVRR Track System

Presentation of the present 14-mile mainline track system of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Sidings and spurs and present day operations.

February 12: SMVRR in the 1950s and 1960s

A peek at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad in the 1950’s and 1960’s when Captain Hancock was still at the throttle and the SMVRR was one of the busiest shortline railroads in the west.

March 12: Operation Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver presenter Bill Schertle will lead this presentation about making communities safer at railroad crossings and railroad right of ways.

April 9: Walking Tour of Betteravia

The first phase of a walking tour of Betteravia. This short easy walk features buildings nearby the SMVRR corporate office.

May 14: Maintenance of Way Equipment

Tour of the MOW equipment used by the SMVRR to maintain and build railroad track. Demonstration of MOW equipment by the SMVRR MOW Gang.

June 10: SMVRR Locomotives

Tour of the SMVRR locomotives, featuring a talk about how a locomotive works and explanation of the mysterious machinery behind the doors of the GE 70 ton locomotive.

Recent Volunteer Activities

We have a very dedicated group of volunteers who have done an outstanding job. Our work days and events have been very successful because of our dedication of our volunteers. We like to thank all of our volunteers for a very successful 2008 and we hope that all volunteers have found the experience to be enjoyable and rewarding. See the stories throughout this newsletter.

Blacksmith Shop

On Saturday September 13, 2008 Friends volunteers Michael Quinette, Gary See, Gary Van Aken, and Kevin O’Roark packed up the blacksmith shop. Ed Sutti, owner of the Betteravia Industrial Park, will be storing the contents of the blacksmith shop for the Friends until a facility is secured to set up the blacksmith shop. By the way we are over half way there in purchasing the blacksmith shop from the SMVRR!



Friends Program Commissary

Leah Figaro, Rob Himoto, Cathy Larsen, Patti LaRose, Kevin and Dini O’Roark, Gary and Stella Van Aken, and Dennis Thurman have all volunteered the past year preparing the dinners for the monthly Friends Programs. We are seeking volunteers for the next year for preparation, serving, and clean up. Anyone who would like to assist with the commissary let Kevin O’Roark know.



Friends Forge Deal to Acquire Blacksmith Shop Equipment

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad recently forged a deal with the Santa Maria Valley Railroad (SMVRR) to acquire the contents of the old blacksmith shop for preservation and future display.

So, now all we have to do is raise the \$4,000 we have agreed to pay the railroad for the equipment and supplies. That's about the scrap value, by the way.

The equipment and supplies will be moved to and stored at the railroad's new facilities at the old sugar mill location in Betteravia until such time as the Friends can prepare and make a public display.

Our goal is to raise the \$4,000 over the next year with various activities and fundraisers. As of this printing, we're half way there!

Donate now!

The first eight \$250 contributors to this cause will be named "Forging Founders" of the project and will be prominently thanked in all materials including the final display.

Of course, any amount is welcome and will be acknowledged.

Forging Founders so far:

- Jamie and Lynn Foster
- Kevin and Dini O'Roark
- Keiko and Gordy Nungesser



SMVRR Roster

A roster of current and historical power on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad was recently posted on the Friends web site in the History section:

<http://www.friends-smvrr.org/history.html>

Road #	Type	Drvr. In.	Bldr	Bldr #	Date
1	4-6-0	57	Schen	1588	Sep 188:
1 (2nd)	2-8-0	50	BLW	31418	Aug-07
2	2-6-0	50	BLW	29312	Oct-06
12	2-6-0	50	BLW	29312	Oct-06
15	2-6-0	50	BLW	31418	Aug-07

Programs

Monthly programs are now held at the SMVRR corporate office located at the Betteravia Industrial Park, 2820 W. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria.

September's program was a two year anniversary program, members were treated to a slide show of Friends events and SMVRR events since the purchase of the railroad in October 2006.

The SMVRR hosted an open house at their new corporate office at the Betteravia Industrial Park for the October program.

Friends member Dave Rohr presented a program on private rail cars in November. Dave talked about the history of private cars and the heyday of private cars, and the formation of the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners.

December's program covered current facilities and future planning for the Betteravia Industrial Park, and a slide show of pictures from the Santa Trains run on December 6, 2008.

**Working on the Railroad
2nd Saturdays, 9:00am
Starting January 10, 2009
Friends Work Party**

Message from the President

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Friends who have volunteered over the past year, with various activities and projects, and especially with the SMVRR move from downtown to the Betteravia Industrial Park. I know the Railroad is very appreciative of all the help they received from you Friends. Thanks so much.



2009 will have come by the time you read this, so it's a good time to be making plans. We have several Friends event dates already locked in. We'll have our "Valentines Special" dinner excursion on Sat. February 14th, the Friends trip to the Fillmore & Western Railfair on Sat. March 28th, the MOW Rails Big and Small event with the Speeder excursions on Sat. April 4th and the BitterCreek Western on the 5th, and then the 98th Anniversary Celebration of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad on Sat. July 11th. That's just the first half of the year!

I know many of you, like myself, have enjoyed past events and excursions, so encourage family and friends to become members so they too can join in the fun! By continuing to grow our membership, we can expand the rail activities and events available to our members. I'm looking forward to seeing you all aboard in 2009!

Kevin O'Roark, President

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad

Santa Claus Train

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad ran four Santa Train Specials on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Children of all ages boarded the 1926 Pullman Cafe Observation Car La Condesa at the Betteravia Industrial Park, home of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for a four-mile trip to the Guadalupe Interchange where Santa came in from the North Pole. Santa visited with all of the excursion guests on the ride back and gave out candy canes. Afterwards excursion guests were treated to hot cocoa, lemonade, and cookies.

Friends volunteers assisted with all phases of operations. A thank you to Dale Blakey, Ernie Blakey, Harry Harlow, Mary Harlow, Cathy Larsen, Dini O'Roark, Kevin O'Roark, Ginny Orcutt-Clenard, Mike Orcutt-Clenard, Walt Figaro, Nathan Paul, Dave Rohr, Gary See, and Gary Van Aken. Paul Deis did a terrific job of arranging to bring Santa Claus from the North Pole. From the SMVRR Jim McEntire served as engineer and Rafael Sanchez as conductor along with Leah Figaro and Rob Himoto.

Photo credits go to Gary Van Aken, Ray Himoto, and Rob Himoto.

Santa Train excursion guests included Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad families and families from several of SMVRR's freight customers.



Join Friends of the SMVRR

Join the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad! Our mission is to preserve, improve, and interpret the historical aspects of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. We will provide our members and the public with rail-roading experience and educational opportunities such as dinner train excursions and open house events. We also preserve and interpret the historical, economic and cultural impact of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad on the Santa Maria Valley and California.

Membership Program

To fully participate in the activities surrounding the railroad, one must be a member of the Friends. This includes the opportunity to buy tickets for excursions, volunteer for railroad work, tour railroad facilities, etc.

Basic Membership is \$15

First notification of SMVRR events. 10% discount on any regular purchase at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company Store.

Family Membership \$25

Includes all family members living in the same household.

Gandy Dancer Membership \$50

Includes everything in Family Membership and an 8" x 10" SMVRR color picture.

Engineer Membership \$100

Includes everything in Gandy Dancer Membership and a SMVRR t-shirt.

Conductor Membership \$250

Includes everything in Engineer Membership and an SMVRR hat and 10% discount on two tickets to a dinner train excursion. Two consecutively paid memberships at this level is convertible to Trainmaster/Lifetime level.

Trainmaster/Lifetime Membership \$500

Includes everything in Conductor Membership and a private group discount on a lunch or dinner train excursion.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email address: _____
 Level of Membership (amount):\$ _____
 Additional Donation: \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Send form and payment to:

Friends of the SMVRR
 P.O. Box 1031
 Santa Maria, CA 93456-1031
 Thank you!