



TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2002, Number 2

March, 2002

The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum

P.O. Box 264, Santa Maria, CA 93456-0264; (805) 714-4927

The Museum: Santa Maria Town Center Mall, Sat./Sun. 1-4:30pm

<http://www.smvrhm.org/>

June Elections

Elections for Board Officers of the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum will occur in June. Directors should watch the mail for further information, and be considering this opportunity to serve and/or continue serving. 🚂

Dates to Track

April 7 - The Memories Car Club will sponsor a car show at the Santa Maria Library Parking lot. The Museum will be operating a food booth with burgers, hotdogs and sodas and we will share the proceeds with the Friends of the Library!

April 20 - 11:00am to 3:00pm - Earth Day will be held on South McClelland. We will be operating the food booth with burgers, hotdogs and sodas!

May 18 - Museum work party event at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad (BCWRR). This is to provide our support to the BCWRR's maintenance effort as a thank you to Karl for all of his support!! Please call Dan Alves and let him know that you will be there! Caboose work will be suspended this Saturday in favor of the BCWRR.

June 8 - The Museum's Annual Bitter Creek Choo Chew Saturday with Barbecue and Train Rides. We will need lots of help on this one! This is our big event for the year! See page 2 article.

Meetings

General: first Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm, at the Santa Maria Inn.

Museum Development: Wednesdays (except first Weds. of the month) at the Museum, 5:30pm

HO Modelers: Fridays at the Museum, 7:00pm.

Caboose Crew: Saturday mornings at the caboose.

“Rail Bosses”

Dan Alves, President, aiim@juno.com

Ginnie Sterling, Vice President, dsterling@thegrid.net

Phil Goble, Treasurer, “CaBoss”, Phil.Pam@Prodigy.net

Jim Zemaitis, Secretary, Museum Storekeeper, Ezemaitis@aol.com

Jamie Foster, “Train Orders” Editor, Webmaster, jamie@jf2.com

First “Official” Classroom Visit to the Museum, Jan 25

Wayne Peterson asks the 3rd grade class from Alvin Elementary School, "What might these black

chunks of material be called that fuel the fire of a steam locomotive?". Coal, of course, is the correct answer, and he had samples of the rather rare rock (for this area) to



pass around. This class is just beginning an entire unit of study that will ultimately lead to an HO layout coming to their classroom. The project is called the Alvin All-Star Railroad: <<http://www.jf2.com/aasrr/>>.

One of the more popular stops on the Museum tour was the switching puzzle track. Here, Skip Purper



is helping a youngster spot railroad cars at different locations around the platform. As the young engineer said, "It's not as easy as it looks!"

Conducting Museum tours such as this is a major part of this organization's

outreach efforts. President Dan Alves has put out an “All Aboard!” call for mid-week volunteers to staff this activity. If you're willing and able (we'll help get you ready!), please contact Dan.

Another favorite attraction is Skip's HO layout based on the Sedona, Arizona landscapes (pictured at right). 🚂



Second Annual "Chew Choo Saturday" set for June 8 at the Bitter Creek Western RR

Mark your calendars now for the June 8, 2002 "Chew Choo Saturday" at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad (BCWRR) on the Nipomo mesa! If you've been to the BCWRR before, you know how great it is. If not, DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE!

Over 160 enthusiasts came last Fall to enjoy the fabulous BBQ lunch and take unlimited train rides all day (10am to 4pm).



Here's what a happy railfan had to say from last year: "Hi, everyone. Just wanted to let you know that my family and I had LOADS of fun at the BCWRR last Saturday. We must have ridden trains at least



eight times apiece. We arrived at about 10:20am and all rode the first train together. After that, there were

more people there so we had to split up and ride different trains. But that was great because we were able to wave to each other at different points along the route. Enough trains were running to result in multiple over/under train meets at a few spots. The layout is very well designed and landscaped. The view from the long curved trestle out toward a small valley bordering the property is really nice. I was impressed with the realistic way the signals work, and with the real working steam locomotives. Perhaps the only down side was that I was starting to get saddle sore from riding on the cars with wooden benches, so the padded seats on other cars were much appreciated." (Paul H. & Family from Atascadero)

Watch for further details... 🐞

Caboose Update

With the exterior work about complete, the focus shifts now to the interior.



One of the first tasks will be to re-install the oil heater which was sorely missed on some of those cold Saturday mornings. Kevin is pictured here last Fall painting the Union Oil drum that will store the heater's fuel. The chimney pipe of the heater can be seen over the top of the drum. 🐞

Final Run of Old 21

The Museum recently acquired a copy of the program from the February 1962 final run of engine No. 21.



Dues are Due

If you haven't already, please pay your 2002 dues.

Become a Docent

It's easy, it's fun, you meet lots of people, and you get to run trains as much as you'd like! The Saturday or Sunday afternoon really does fly by. Contact Dan to express your excitement to serve in this capacity! 🐞

More Chandeliers!



This chandelier hangs above the counter in the entrance area of the Museum. Soon more just like it will hang in other areas of the Museum that could use a little more light. Do you recognize these from a previous life?... 🐞

Leadership Group Tours Museum



The Santa Maria Valley Leadership Group recently toured the Museum. This is an effort undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce to familiarize leaders of the area with local businesses and organizations. 🐞

Train Exchange

A bulletin board is available at the Museum for modelers to advertise buy/sell/trade items. 🐞