



# TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2003, Number 1

January 2003

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/> School/Club groups by appointment.

## Work day at Bitter Creek, April 19

Mark your calendar now and plan to be there with us for some workini on the railroad - the Bitter Creek Western Railroad (BCWRR), that is!



What could be better than a work day that involves trains!

Let's turn out in force to thank Karl Hovanitz and all the wonderful people at the BCWRR for the great support they offer us throughout the year. Let Dan

Alves know that you'll be there.

Caboose activities will be cancelled this day so that everyone can help out at the BCWRR. 🐞

## Choo Chew Saturday, May 17

Speaking of the Bitter Creek Western Railroad and marking your calendar, do not miss this year's Choo Chew Saturday, May 17, 2003.

Let us know to set aside some tickets for you! 🐞



## Meetings

**General:** first Thursday of the month, 6:00pm, at the Santa Maria Inn.

**Museum Development:** Thursdays (except first Thursday of the month) at the Museum, 6:00pm

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

**Caboose Crew:** Saturdays at the caboose, 8-11am.

## Rail Bosses

**Dan Alves**, President, [aiim@juno.com](mailto:aiim@juno.com)

**Dick Minninger**, Vice President

**Phil Goble**, Treasurer, "CaBoss", [Phil.Pam@Prodigy.net](mailto:Phil.Pam@Prodigy.net)

**Jamie Foster**, Secretary, "Train Orders" Editor, Webmaster, [jamie@jf2.com](mailto:jamie@jf2.com)

## Holiday Open House at the Museum

On December 14, a great time was had by all at the Museum's first Holiday Open House! We even got a little press coverage of the event by KCOY-TV!...



Kids - it's what Christmas and trains are all about! This Thomas the Tank hands-on attraction (pictured below) was made possible by a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, and was a big hit with the younger set during our Open House!



Punch and cookies were provided as folks strolled around the museum enjoying the various displays. 🐞





# Yuletide tour a Lionel extravaganza!

Many, many thanks to SMVRHM-member Ken Kelley for inviting us to his Lionel wonderland this past December 22nd. Having never seen Lionel's own museum, if they have one, we could imagine that this collection of static and operating trains could well be better! The ancillary displays in the garage as you approached the train room, as good as they were, did nothing to prepare you for what you were about to behold...

Presented here are a few of the pictures taken that day. If you want to see more, visit the SMVRHM web site at: <http://www.smvrhm.org/021222.html>

The first layout you encounter in the train room (pictured below) is an O-gauge Lionel set built upon a baggage cart. The red train in the higher, center portion of the layout has run every Christmas since the children of the house were born - 40 years!



Lionel only made one war train (pictured below). It was set #203 and was made from 1917-1920. This collection boasts one of the rare running sets known. Note the detail in the WWI background scene painted by Wayne Scarpaci (whose work is throughout).



Amidst the displays are tidbits of detail to offer, particularly focused upon for school groups. On this layout (above), depictions are made of the various modes of communication used during WWI, including carrier pigeons, dogs, and radios (hard to see in the picture, but there!).



Among the more impressive single accessory items is this 5-unit standard gauge roundhouse (pictured above) - all original (as most of the collection) including the paint!

Pictured below is a longer shot of the standard gauge layout at the opposite end from the roundhouse. Standard gauge was started in 1906, and was last seen in the Lionel catalogs in 1939 (no new products after 1936). Today there is some standard gauge being offered once again: Hiawatha and a NYC Commodore Vanderbilt. 400Es, like the one in the foreground below, first appeared in 1931 pulling the stunning Blue Comet passenger train of the New Jersey Central Railroad. There were several Blue Comets in the dozen or so wall displays around the room, each with more and more complete trains.



There is a second O-gauge layout in the train room. Pictured below is a bussling train station on that O-gauge layout with some interesting characters milling about - like Charlie Chaplin! 🎬





# HO Model - Ready for the Front Window!

Pictured below is the HO model as it's placed in the Museum's front window. This section is of the downtown yard. It will soon be connected with other sections to make "a loop" and get the trains running.



Men at play:



Above is a close-up view of the downtown yard with the depot in the background and, in the foreground, an SMVRR caboose behind an SMVRR mikado. Notice, too, the Southern Pacific RR sugar beet gondola in the lower left.



Below are pictured most of the HO modeling crew: back left to right: Don Loats, Chris Palomacez, Skip Purper, Chuck O'Hearn, Lou Robbins; front left to right: Gary Van Aken, Kevin O'Roarke, Dennis Leatham, Dick Minninger.



## Swapping for a sugar beet gondola

Looks like the SMVRHM is close to a deal that would trade away the Sacramento Northern boxcar that the Museum now has for a Southern Pacific sugar beet gondola that the museum in Portola has. The Portola group has already inspected our boxcar, so now it's time for us to go select a gondola, assuming that the UPRR will make the transfer at little or no cost.

Speaking of our boxcar... We recently (December 2002) discovered that our boxcar's original number is still stenciled on an inside wall, albeit under a layer of paint. It can still be read by positioning yourself just right - no. 2129!

Your Museum Board has a number of other acquisitions in mind or in the works, some closer than others, that include an ex-SMVRR GE 70-ton locomotive. 🚂



# Cross-wise

Here are the answers to the puzzle published in the November 2002 issue of Train Orders. The original puzzle is still available on the web site under the Train Orders section. 🚂

## Be 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! 🚂

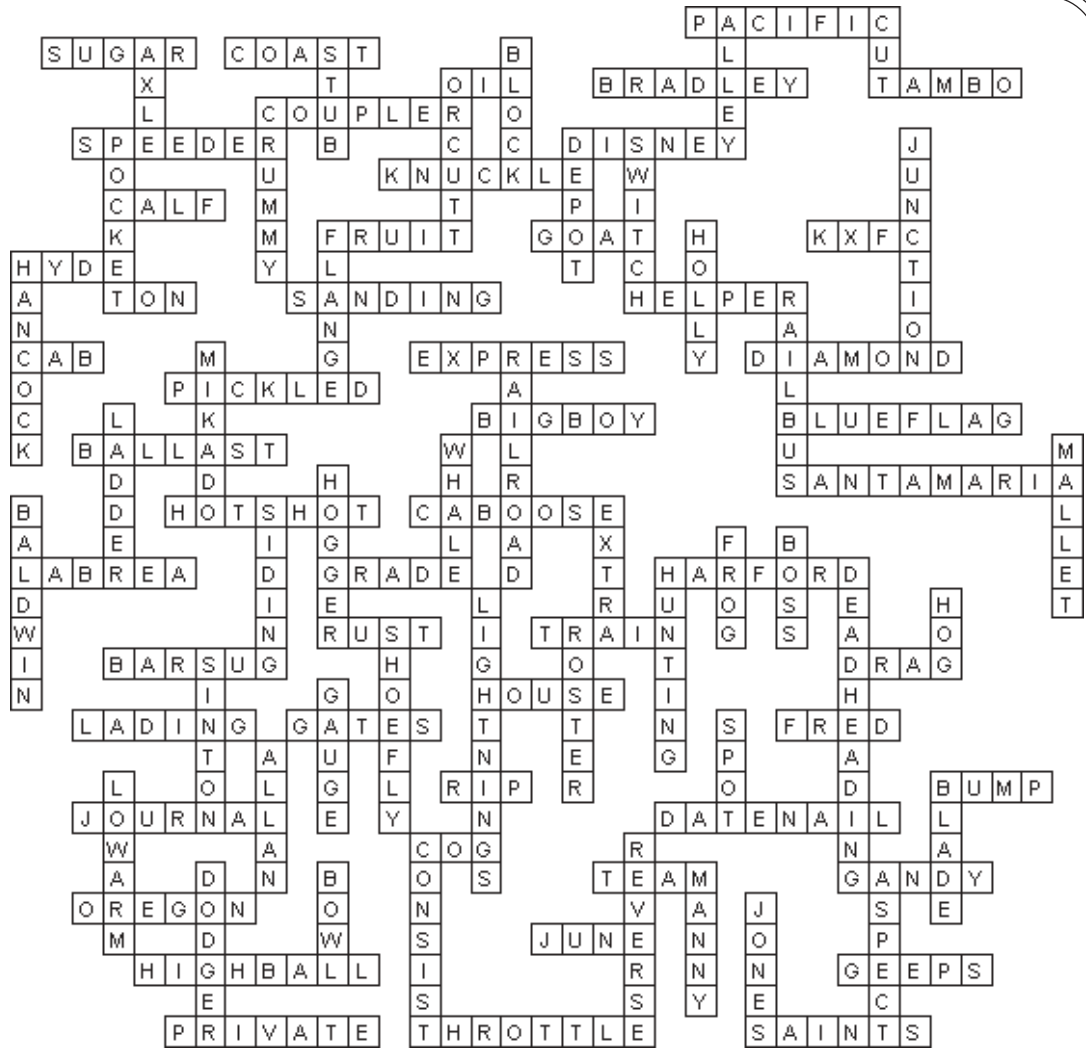
## 2003 dues

Renewing members are encouraged to send in their 2003 dues as early as is convenient. Dues are: \$30 Member, \$50 Family, or \$20 Associate (no vote). 🚂

## Please track your volunteer hours

Please remember to log your volunteer hours for all SMVRHM activities. This helps to document the contributions by all of you, and supports our requests for grants and other funding.

An Excel spreadsheet is available on the web site for those of you who would like to do this electronically. Visit the Museum page: <http://www.smvrhm.org/museum.html>  
Paper forms are also available at the Museum. 🚂



## Museum "want list"

The Museum could conceivably use some of that stuff you've got collecting dust in the attic or garage. Here's a list of items that are being sought at the moment. You may have some other ideas, too - make us an offer we can't refuse!

1. throw pillows
2. free standing room dividers, on wheels preferably
3. manikins
4. carpet pieces

We'd like to say **Thank You!** for these recent contributions:

1. **Le Bard's**, a "new" (to us!) printer
2. **Galaxy Lighting**, track lighting fixtures 🚂

## SMVRR ROW update

The SMVRHM continues to work with community groups and the City to make the best use of the right-of-way (ROW) that the SMVRR is abandoning east of the downtown yard. We attended and spoke at a community meeting on the subject on January 15, and will continue to pursue any possibilities that surface. 🚂

