



# TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2003, Number 2

March 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.

## Choo Chew Saturday, May 17, 10am-4pm

Here's the scoop on this year's Choo Chew Saturday, May 17, 2003 at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad...

**Saturday, May 17, 2003**

**10:00am to 4:00pm**

(BBQ served Noon-2pm)

**Tickets:**

\$12/adult and \$6/child under 10

Make checks

payable to "SMVRHM" and mail to: SMVRHM, P.O. Box 264, Santa Maria, CA 93456-0264. Tickets may also be purchased at the Museum Gift Shop.

Your tickets and a map to the location will be sent to you via the USPS, so please allow sufficient time.

**Enjoy Unlimited Train Rides, and BBQ!**



What's new, you ask! How about Kevin's brand spankin' new 7.5" gauge model of No. 1801, Santa Maria Valley Railroad's low-nose GP-9! It's pictured above. 🐞

## 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 Miner**, Vice President, [BoothR8@aol.com](mailto:BoothR8@aol.com)

**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) 🐞

## SMVRHM acquires a baggage cart

Another one of those lucky days!...

The railroad baggage cart pictured below was recently (February 2003) donated to the Museum by Ed Couch's brother, Dick Couch. And the wood to repair the deck comes with it! The original hard rubber tires are still on it!

The cart is from Patagonia, Arizona (southeast of Tucson). The Southern Pacific Railroad ran through Patagonia into the 1920s, and the cart is circa 1920. It's in great condition! Mining and timber were big railroad freight items in the Patagonia area at the time, too.

We'll try to dig up more on its history. By the way, the cart is already in Santa Maria!

Thank you, Dick! 🐞



## Kids' Day April 6

The SMVRHM will have a model train exhibit and hamburgers at Waller Park. The Kids' Day theme this year is "Railroading"! Set up starts at 9:00am. Let us know if you can help. 🐞

# Caboose's "mulehide" roof is near completion

Pictured at right is the caboose crew preparing to put the last large piece of "mulehide" (actually 12-ounce canvas) on the roof of the cupola. Once the piece is cut, it's centered on the roof surface, and rolled back on one side. A coat of latex elastomeric is applied to the roof



surface, and the canvas is rolled out onto the latex covered roof area. A coat of latex is then rolled onto to the



top of the canvas after it's been "glued" to the roof. The white edges in the picture above indicate where roof canvas has already been applied. 🐞

## Corporate sponsorship

Your SMVRHM has just created a Corporate Sponsorship program.

### **\$200 - \$499 Bronze Spike Level**

Bronze benefits include a line listing in Train Orders (newsletter) and on the SMVRHM web site, a listing on the corporate sponsorship banner at all museum functions, discounts on museum events, and 2 invitations to a sponsorship reception.

### **\$500 - \$999 Silver Spike Level**

Includes everything in Bronze Spike Level plus a business card size ad in Train Orders and on the SMVRHM web site, and 2 free tickets to Choo Chew Saturday.

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999 Golden Spike Level**

Additionally includes 1/8 page ad in Train Orders and the SMVRHM web site, and two museum t-shirts and hats.

### **\$5000 and above Platinum Spike Level**

Additionally includes 1/4 page ad, a copy of Hal's Book, 6 free tickets to Choo Chew Saturday, and 10 invitations to sponsorship reception.

Please contact Rob Himoto for more information: smvrrfan@aol.com, or 545-8977. 🐞

## 7.5" gauge No. 1801

You had to be there to appreciate Kevin's excitement during the inaugural run of his SMVRR No. 1801 low-nose GP-9. All he would keep

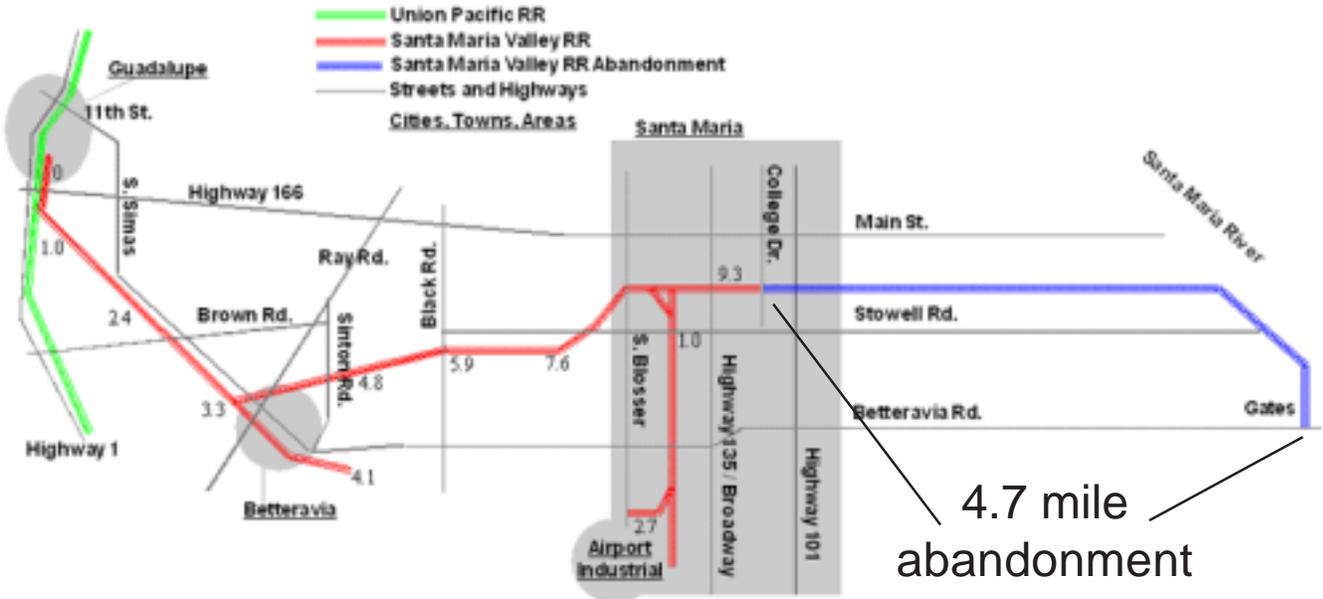


saying is, "This is pretty cool!" This No. 1801 is 1.6" to the foot and is powered by a V-twin, 16-horsepower gasoline engine that runs on regular gas. The engine runs a hydraulic pump which in turn runs hydraulic motors on each truck that drive each axle by chain and sprocket. This No. 1801 will be at SMVRHM's Choo Chew Saturday on May 17 (see page 1 article). Hop on board! 🐞

## HO model progress

Recent efforts have concentrated on decorating the ends and back side of the layout that make the running loop possible. In keeping with the Santa Maria Valley's history, an agricultural theme is presented. This layout of the Santa Maria Valley railroads remains in the front window at the Museum. The front portion is of the SMVRR downtown yard. 🐞





4.7 mile abandonment

# SMVRR abandonment

Phil Goble, SMVRHM Board Member and Treasurer, made a presentation to the Santa Maria Rec and Parks Commission at their regular meeting of February 11, 2003 regarding the SMVRR abandonment of approximately 4.7 miles of right-of-way from College Drive east to Gates (see map above). He expressed the SMVRHM's desire that the rail corridor be preserved as the Captain Allan Hancock Rail Corridor, and be made open to the possibility of tourist rail activities along its length. Phil's closing slide stated, "Together, let's pursue the vision of preserving the Captain Allan Hancock Rail Corridor as a Community Asset."

Pictured at right are the red rail stops at the point

that is now the eastern end of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad on the west side of the College Drive crossing. The view beyond, to the east, is the beginning stretch of the 4.7-mile abandonment. The rail is in its best condition here. The further out along the 4.7 miles, the worse it gets. In some cases, the rails are beneath 2-3 feet of crop land. Beyond Rosemary Farms, the track has been closed to locomotives for decades due to the condition of the tracks.



Nearly a dozen people spoke representing farmers, bike and trail groups, cultural groups, and individual citizens. More than a handful of SMVRHM members were present as well.

The Commission was genuinely interested in visioning what that rail corridor might look like and be surrounded by in the decades ahead. Their ultimate action at this meeting was to direct staff to continue pursuing the preservation of the rail corridor and to pursue additional ideas and details of ideas from the various local groups that expressed an interest.

**On March 11, 2003** the Recs and Parks Commission approved a staff recommendation to forward a request to the City Council that this process be pursued and that some City staff time be made available to a community group trying to make this happen, led by the SMVRHM!



# 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 afternoon really does fly by. Contact Dan to sign up!

# Work day at Bitter Creek - April 19

Mark your calendar now and plan to be there with us for some workin' 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.



# We Need Your Help!

**Please Renew Your Membership with the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum!**

## The past year was a banner year for the SMVRHM!

We moved into our new home at the Santa Maria Town Center with the museum open every weekend and progress continues on the model of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad yard. Work continues on our restoration of the SMVRR no. 180 caboose. The second annual Choo Chew Saturday fundraiser at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad was a major success.

We capped off the year with our Christmas Open House at the museum complete with media coverage. And to top it off our SMVRHM Members' Christmas party was held at Ken Kelley's extensive Lionel layouts and vintage rolling stock. The wonderful opportunity to view Ken's train room was a treat in itself.

**Please renew your membership now to keep the museum's throttle full speed ahead on Run 8!**

This year we are starting out with a bang as we explore the possibility of acquiring 4.87 miles of track from the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for a future site of storing and displaying rolling stock and operating an excursion train. Work continues on the caboose as the roof is nearing completion. The museum is currently working on acquiring a Southern Pacific sugar beet car from the Portola Railroad Museum. The museum's dynamic displays continue to grow as the modelers are installing the model of the railroad yard in the prominent front window and work is being completed on the hood of SMVRR 70 ton diesel No. 10 for display in the museum. Plans to revamp the museum gift shop and add new and exciting inventory is underway. Long term plans for a permanent museum location continues.

**With many exciting projects in the pipeline, we need your support more than ever!**

**Don't miss out on the fun, there are many opportunities to volunteer at the museum.** We have a myriad of fun activities for volunteers, from being a museum docent to restoring a real SMVRR wooden caboose to building HO models for the museum displays to serve on one of our steering committees including right of way acquisition, fundraising, sponsorships, museum displays.

Thank you if you have recently renewed. Please pass the flyer to an interested friend, colleague, or relative and get them on board the SMVRHM Express!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephones: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30.00 Member, \$50.00 Family, \$20.00 Associate – no vote)

Additional Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total (Make check to "SMVRHM") \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Circle any activities that may be of interest:**  Publicity  Art  Writing  Electrical  Computers

Caboose Restoration  HO Scale Modeling  Museum Docent  Fundraising  Library/Archives

Sponsorship Drive  Artifacts Acquisitions  Excursion Train Planning  Preservation/Restoration

School Programs  Gift Shop  Santa Maria Rail History  Right of Way Acquisition  Finance

**Get On Board the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum!**