



TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2003, Number 6

November 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.



"Formal" Meal at Bitter Creek Western

On October 26, 2003, the Museum catered a "formal" meal event at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad (BCWRR) for the California Chapter of the "Auburn, Cord and Dusenbergl Club of America".

Of course, the event included a ride on the railroad. It's impossible to visit the Bitter Creek Western Railroad without taking a train ride.

The wait-staff of the SMVRHM included Ginnie Sterling, Dinner Master Mind and Coordinator; Ellen Couch; and Flossie Sinclair. Ed Couch served, too. David Sterling and Phil Goble manned the BBQ. 🍷

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

Dick Mininger, Vice President, BoothR8@aol.com

Phil Goble, Treasurer, "CaBoss", Phil.Pam@Prodigy.net

Jamie Foster, Secretary, "Train Orders" Editor, Webmaster, jamie@jf2.com 🍷

Caboose update

Pictured below, Kevin touches up the roadname application in the distance. In the foreground, note that the undercarriage is primed and ready for paint.



Below, Dr. Marcus spray paints as Kevin brushes the platform and Phil watches for missed spots. 🍷



Museum "want list"

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

You might give the Museum a call if you're ready to throw out anything else you think we could use. 🍷

SMVRR colors

by Hal Madson

Most all railroads have well recognized colors that their locomotives and rolling stock wear. Some have endured longer than others. The Union Pacific's yellow and gray has been around it seems forever, while mergers have obliterated others like the SP's "bloody nose". And who can forget the famous "Black Widow".

Closer to home on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, the diesels have worn a number of color variations that may surprise some of you. Most are familiar with the yellow and green stripes. It may surprise you to know that there were two color schemes prior to the one the GE locomotives now wear.

The first five locomotives ordered new from GE were delivered sporting a dark green background on the cab, hood and frame. The frame was set off by reflective caution stripes and the pilots had caution stripes that were a silver/white against the green. GE had a stripe design that was used on several locomotives put out by the company. This stripe pattern was in yellow on the hood and the road's initials and locomotive number were also stenciled on the cab below the windows in yellow. The trucks were black.

The locomotives were repainted in the late fifties and it would seem that they were before the original colors had weathered much. The SMVRR has the luxury of having always had adequate shelter for its locomotives and so they never stood out in the weather. The colors were reversed, making the locomotives much more visible. The background color of the hood and frame became yellow and the stripes green. It was not until subsequent repainting that the frames became black with silver caution marks and black and silver striped pilots. As the black frame appeared as early as 1962, the last green units no doubt were painted with the black frame.

In the late 1980s, the Holly Sugar Company absorbed Union Sugar and put larger five bay steel hoppers into use. The SMVRR then MUed three 70 tonners to handle the thirty car trains from Barsug to Betteravia. After assurance that the Betteravia operation would be long term, the SMVRR made plans to upgrade the locomotive roster to the more powerful GP- type locomotive which was as powerful as three of the GE units. The first one arrived in December of 1992 and two more were planned. The locomotive arrived with red as the background color on the cab, hood and frame with a broad yellow band on the hood broken by the large initials, "SMV". The trucks are silver and the pilots are black and silver striped. Two alternative schemes considered were the yellow with green band and the original road colors of green and yellow band. The red and yellow was to be the new look of the SMV. All of the GE locomotives would have been disposed of in the program. Holly closed the Betteravia plant in the fall of 1993, and so the railroad abandoned the upgrade program. Had management been kept apprised by Holly, the 1801 would not have been purchased.

The present roster consists of two GE 70 tonners, 70 and 80 which wear the yellow and the 1801. There are no plans to paint the 70 tonners the red and yellow.



Circa 1949 and units 10 & 20. The units were at first MUed as shown, but in later days the railroad preferred to combine them

back to back. Note the headlights, pilot foot boards, white flags, marker lamps. Also note that the Hancock air horns have not yet been installed. I am told despite the name there was no connection to Capt. Hancock, then owner of the road.

Units 20 & 30 with the first yellow scheme. The headlights have been up-



graded and the Hancock air horns installed. For those of you that may not know, the horns had the haunting sound of a real steam whistle. The caboose is still red with green window frames.



Number 80 at Miller Street. The frame is now black, and the footboards gone. By now all the locomotives were

equipped with bridge plates between units when Mued.

Newest member of the fleet, the GP-9, 1801 at Miller Street. There were to be two more similar locomotives and this was to be the new look of the roster.



ROW Clearing

Ed Couch clears the ROW along the siding leading to the current location of the caboose. We try to lend a hand whenever we can!



New Merchandise for the Holiday Season

New merchandise is coming to the museum gift shop for the holiday season. Now in stock are high quality videos and DVDs from Charles Smiley Presents. Highly recommended is "SP Scrapbook" which includes a segment on the Lompoc branch and the Cuesta Grade. For all of you SP fans "SP Vintage West" features the last stands of steam and beginning of the first generation diesel action of the Southern Pacific Railroad in California.

Due in shortly are books including "The Pacific Coast Co." by Gerald Best and "Southern Pacific Coast Line" by John Signor and the companion book "Southern Pacific Coast Line Pictorial" also by John Signor. There will be a special price for museum members.

We are expanding our selection of patches and hat pins to include shortline railroads in California. The NWP, Pacific Electric, Yolo Shortline are some examples of our newly expanded patch and hat pin selection due in December. Also museum imprinted items including refrigerator magnets and train whistles are arriving in December. We have plenty of SVRHM t-shirts and hats as well as engineer hats and bandannas in stock. When you are planning to go Christmas shopping, come by and pick up some gifts at our museum store!

SMVRHM logo items (sweatshirts, mugs, etc.) are also available online at <http://www.cafeshops.com/smvrhm>



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. 



We really need you!...

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print out, complete, and mail this form along with payment to:

Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum
PO Box 264
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0264

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephones:

Home: _____

Work: _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Dues (check one):

Member, \$30

Family, \$50

Associate (no vote), \$20_____

Please circle your special interests and/or professional/amateur skills, such as:

full scale gauges or model gauges, SM rail and valley history, operations, preservation/restoration, repair, design, library/archives, publicity, art, modeling and dioramas, railroad or model operations, maintenance, electrical, organization, finance, writing;

or write in others:

