



TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2004, Number 5

September 2004

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.

BBQ at Fly-In a big success

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the SMVRHM BBQ crew under the direction of Phil Goble, the Museum netted about \$900 at the recent Santa Maria airshow held August 28-29, 2004 at the airport. At right, Ginnie Sterling is pictured prepping rolls for the tri-tip sandwiches. Below are pictured two of the planes on display that weekend.




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

Gary Van Aken, President, gary.vanaken@verizon.net

Dick Miner, Vice President, BoothR8@aol.com

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

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



Your \$ contribution is needed urgently

Your Museum has just a couple weeks to raise matching grant funds in order to put a Train Simulator exhibit in the Museum. The Santa Barbara Foundation will match up to \$850 of donations that the Museum raises for this purpose alone (not related to any other event, budget, or campaign).

We hope to raise enough matching funds in the next week or so to order and install a dedicated computer in the Museum to run Microsoft's Train Simulator.

Donors of \$50 or more will be recognized on a permanent display next to the computer in the Museum.


Please mark your contribution "Simulator" and send it to the Museum at the address above AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

By the way, once this exhibit is in place, we may be looking for someone or a team to construct a simulation of one of our local railroads to add on to Train Simulator.

Thank you!

Train Simulator™ is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation.

SMVRHM members invited to Historical Society picnic on September 26th

Members of the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum (SMVRHM) have been invited to the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society's "Picnic in the Park" on September 26th at Waller Park, 1-4pm, Area 5. See included flier for SMVRHM members. The RSVP and payment deadline is the 17th. RSVPs and payment should be sent to the Historical Museum (not the railway museum!). 

2,000 volunteer hours later... Caboose No. 180 is done!

by Hal Madson

On Thursday, September 2nd, historic Santa Maria Valley Railroad (SMVRR) Caboose number 180 was moved by railroad crews back to its old home in front of the depot building at the corner of Jones and S. McClelland streets. Several members of the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum (SMVRHM) went along for a ride in the car they spent several years restoring. This was the first "rail fan trip" over the local railroad since 1958. David Jennings, general manager of the SMVRR had the line's two yellow GE 70-ton locomotives hooked up back-to-back as they traditionally ran when the railroad was in the sugar beet hauling business, handling some nine to ten thousand carloads of beets a year. The sugar refinery, a long time landmark industry of the valley shut down in 1993, ending the beet hauling on the rail line.

The car has spent the last two years on the Larrabee Brother's spur where volunteers from the railway museum, led by "Ca-Boss" Phil Goble, have completely restored it to the way it appeared when it was in use by the local railroad company. Museum members will add some memorabilia from the museum as well as some informational plaques telling the history of the car and railroading in Santa Maria before the car is put on public display, all in time for the celebration of Santa Maria's centennial as an incorporated city.

The caboose was one of two purchased by the SMVRR in 1956 from (it is believed) the St. Louis & San Francisco RR (Frisco), and put into service joining a third caboose, the 170 which is now located at the Oceano Depot. In 1962, the railroad acquired two modern steel cabooses and the wooden cars were retired and disposed of except for the 180, which was used when one of the steel cars was in the shop. The 180 served the SMVRR until 1983 when it was retired.

The car was then purchased by Betteravia Farms and spent many years on the end of a spur track off S. Blosser road, where it had fallen into disrepair. The caboose attracted the attention of the railroad museum in 1999, and when asked, Milo Ferini, owner, donated the caboose to the museum.

Museum members then went to work restoring the car and now their goal of opening it to the public can be realized. During its downtown stay this Fall, the SMVRHM plans to have the caboose open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:30pm (same hours as the Museum itself in the Mall). Two other retired SMVRR cabooses can be seen locally, No. 210 at the Amtrak station in Guadalupe and the other at the Oceano depot.

Those wanting more information on the history of the railroads in the Santa Maria Valley are always welcome to visit the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum, which is open on weekend afternoons in the town center mall across from Robinson-May on the second floor and next to the mall post office. You may also

Plan to attend the October 2nd
Caboose Open House!



As best we have been able to find out, Caboose #180 was built in the Springfield shops of the Saint Louis & San Francisco Railroad, (the Frisco) in 1936 or 1937. The Huntoon Trucks, which hold the wheels, are dated 1936 and are marked with "STL-SFRY." Pictured above is a sample predecessor of No. 180.



This photo taken September 2, 2004 shows the SMVRR Caboose No. 180 now sitting at the downtown depot following the afternoon move. The two 70-tonners are about to pull away after completing the task.



The core restoration crew (left to right): Ed Couch, Kevin O'Roark, Phil Goble, and Dr. Marcus.

purchase the book [Railroads of the Santa Maria Valley](#) at the museum store, or directly from the author, Hal Madson by calling La Joya Management Co. at 922-4165. 