



# TRAIN ORDERS

Volume 2005, Number 1

January-February 2005

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.smrhm.org/> School/Club groups by appointment.

## Model Railroad Exhibition set for February 26-27, 2005

The Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum (SMVRHM) will be hosting the 2nd Annual Model Railroad Exhibition February 26-27, 2005 in the Santa Maria Town Center Mall. In this year's "Centennial Exhibition", participants from three California Freemo groups (San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles and Northern California) will assemble what is hoped to be the largest "Freemo" layout ever assembled in California. The two-day event is again expected to be held in conjunction with the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Maria Town Center Mall.



The train simulator is up and running at the Museum!



## 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](mailto:gary.vanaken@verizon.net)

**Dick Mininger**, 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, Webman, [jamie@jf2.com](mailto:jamie@jf2.com)



## Annual Member Dinner Meeting at the Santa Maria Inn January 6, 2005

About 30 people attended this first annual member dinner meeting at the Historic Santa Maria Inn.

The only business for the evening was the election of 1/3 of the Board of Directors, and officers for 2005 (see back page article).

At right, "CaBoss" Phil Goble received a plaque and a model of Caboose No. 180 in recognition of his leadership and energies poured into that multi-year restoration project.



The evening's guest speaker (at left) was Darwin Sainz, a Union Oil man and expert in the oil history of the area. He told a fascinating history in story and pictures.

Visit the SMVRHM web site for a few more pictures and a few tidbits from Darwin's talk.



## Exchange students



On December 28, a group of 28 Japanese teenagers toured the Museum under the guidance of Phil and Wayne. They were particularly excited to have their pictures taken with the velocipede operator!

# Lionel Open House December 11

Everyone who dropped by the Lionel Open House at the Museum on December 11th was treated to some great holiday goodies and lots of Lionel action



## SMV's oil history

Here are some snippets from Darwin Sainz's presentation at the January 6th member dinner meeting. The full compliment of tidbits is on the web site.

1. We saw a picture of a railroad gondola on tracks on the sand at Avila Beach. For a period of time, sand was mined off the beach and sent to Los Angeles.

4. We saw pictures of a Union Oil tanker, the Montebello, that was sunk just off of Avila Beach by a Japanese submarine just a few weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack. Everyone on board was rescued by local fisherman and other boaters. 55,000 barrels of semisolid oil remain to this day on the ocean floor, apparently safely encased in a surprisingly intact hull.

6. We heard of William Warren Orcutt, the "Father of Geology" after whom the local area is named. He was in the first graduating class of geologists from Stanford University, and his room-mate went on to be President of the United States, Herbert Hoover.

8. "Old Maude" put Santa Maria on the map when that well struck oil on December 2, 1904 and became one of the best producers in the area. It was actually drilled 350 yards off target because the buck board carrying the boiler for the rig hit a hole and broke an axle. Rather than repair it and carry on with the journey, they simply chose to dig at the spot of the accident.

12. Oil was discovered in this area and on its way by ship to the east coast before the first oil well was dug in the eastern United States at Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859. 🌳

## Board elections

At the January 6th member dinner meeting, the following SMVRHM members were elected to the Board of Directors for a 3-year term (2005-2007): Dan Alves, Phil Goble, Hal Madson, Kevin O'Roark, and Ginnie Sterling.

Additionally, Hardy Hearn was honored as a lifetime ex officio Board member.

The entire Board and its officers are listed on the web site. 🌳

## RailroadRadio.net

Here's your chance to listen in on live railroad radio dispatching at any of several dozen spots across the country. California locations include: BNSF Gateway Sub (near Crescent Mills), BNSF Stockton Subdivision west end, Caltrain SF Peninsula, and UP Roseville.

<http://www.railroadradio.net/> 🌳

## 2005 Dues

Please submit your 2005 dues to the Museum at your earliest convenience. The rates are unchanged at: \$30/individual, \$50/family, and \$20/associate (no vote).

