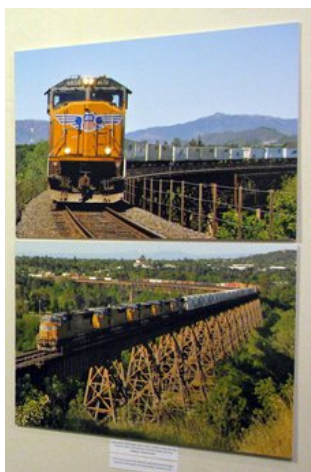
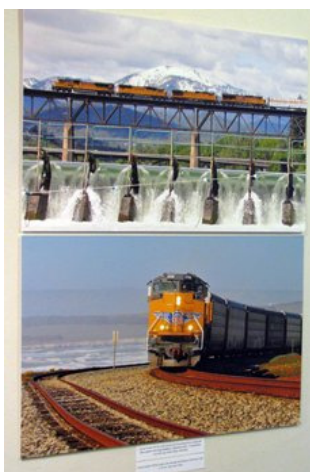


### Art After Dark - Roskoski Photos

Tartaglia Realty hosted Friends-member John Roskoski's photos of the SMVRR and UP Coast Line for San Luis Obispo's "Art After Dark" from 6-9pm on Friday, June 7, 2013. Tartaglia Realty is located at 968 Monterey Street, SLO. About 200 people visited throughout the evening, and enjoyed some of the roughly 30 other venues in downtown SLO that also had special art exhibits. The event included a reception at Tartaglia Realty for Friends members.

Photos of this event courtesy of John Roskoski.



# Friends of the



## Santa Maria Valley Railroad

### Coming Right Up

We've got several activities coming right up...

#### September 14, 2013

**Betteravia.** Enjoy this Saturday morning at Betteravia, once the location of a thriving sugar refinery and small town. We'll tour about the property including the old town site and the sugar mill itself (or what's left of it). Meet at 9am at the railroad's offices at Betteravia. You must wear closed-toe shoes appropriate for irregular surfaces. MEMBERS ONLY (for insurance purposes).

#### October 13, 2013

#### Presentations at the Railroad Festival.

Join us in this special set of presentations by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the Federal Railroad Administration talking about the current state of the railroad industry in the Central Coast and California. The presentations will be held at the San Luis Railroad Museum's opening weekend on Sunday October 13 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This is open to the public so bring your friends and prospective Friends members. Details about these presentations and all Festival activities are available at [CCRRF.com](http://CCRRF.com).

#### October 19, 2013

**Salad Bowl Festival (Guadalupe).** The 4th annual Salad Bowl Festival will run from 11am to 4pm including arts and craft vendors, a car show, lots of music entertainment, and the Salad Bowl Run. Get all the information at their website: [saladbowlfestival.com](http://saladbowlfestival.com)

#### November, 2013

**PCRY Tour Reprise.** We're willing to re-run either of our two PCRY/SMVRR tours of right-of-way remnants. This will be by appointment for those who contact us. Standing by...

### Sponsors

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad is a sponsor of our newsletter and our quarterly programs. The Mortgage House is a sponsor of our meeting room for Friends Board Meetings. We are always looking for sponsors to expand our programs and tours and fund educational activities.

### Thanks to our Facilities Sponsors



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### A Message from the Railroad

These are exciting times for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. The last several years the railroad has gone through a turnaround and a transformation that was well documented by Tom Murray's article in the May issue of Trains Magazine. The railroad saw its highest traffic count since the closing of the sugar beet plant in 1993. Track crews continue to rehabilitate the line and building track to accommodate the increasing traffic. Mechanical forces are updating the locomotives and refurbishing equipment.

We are completing an economic impact report of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and the numbers are astounding. Captive shippers, shippers who are captive to rail service and would have to relocate their businesses if rail service ceased to exist, accounted for over 900 jobs representing about \$34.6 million in wages in the Santa Maria Valley. Rail served customers saved an estimated \$15.6 million in transportation costs and saved over 7,200 tons of greenhouse gas emissions by shipping by rail. Needless to say, the Santa Maria Valley Railroad has a huge economic and environmental impact on the Santa Maria Valley and the Central Coast.

The downside to this is with the railroad being so busy and with all resources to focus on railroad operations, maintenance, and track and equipment rehabilitation, we can no longer offer special events and excursions on the railroad. Many of the popular Friends activities have been curtailed for now along with speeder excursions and open houses.

Despite this, the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad have been growing their programs with fantastic presentations and tours. The Friends have not veered from their original mission of preservation of history and educating the public about the benefits of rail transportation. Tom Murray's article in Trains Magazine had a nice mention of Friends in the early days of the turnaround. The article sparked interest as new members have signed up after reading the article. Another result of that article, Friends member John Roskoski shot photographs for the article and had numerous photos published in the article. One photo won first place at Winterail, a national event held in Stockton, California that showcases railroad photography from the best railroad photographers in the nation.

Even though we cut down the programs from monthly to quarterly, we have had some absolutely fabulous programs and outings. We were thrilled to have Jane Brennan, great granddaughter of Captain Hancock, give a presentation of her memories and family history of Captain Hancock. Kevin O'Roark's tour of the remnants of the Pacific Coast Railway in the Santa Maria Valley was fantastic and we will repeat those by appointment for those who missed them.

We are putting together a fantastic set of presentations on Sunday October 13 at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum for the Central Coast Railroad Festival. The SMVRR, Friends of the SMVRR, Union Pacific Railroad, and the Federal Railroad Administration participate (see front page). The railroad industry is alive and well on the Central Coast, and this is an opportunity that you do not want to miss. This will be in lieu of a Friends program and everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and any prospective Friends members!

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends, and we hope that you will continue to be a part of these exciting times.

### Recollections of Captain Hancock

On June 19, 2013, Jane Brennan, great-granddaughter of Alan Hancock, presented "Recollections of Captain Hancock". This program was held at the Santa Maria Library's Shepard's Hall. Jane's slide show and narration started back in time with Captain Hancock's grandparents and marched forward to today, including a look at what his descendants own today and what plans they have for the future.

Capt. Hancock's history covers much geography and many industries. He bought the Santa Maria Valley Railroad off the courthouse steps in 1925 and built it up along with the entire Santa Maria Valley. A brief rundown of Hancock's history is available on the website of the community college that bears his name, Allan Hancock College.



Jane Brennan, Capt. Hancock's great granddaughter spoke about her recollections of life with the Captain.



Rob Himoto, president of the SMVRR, briefed the group on recent railroad activities and trends.

