



Message from the Railroad

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad wrapped up one of its busiest years in 2012 in 20 years. We have experienced increased freight traffic from many of our customers as we are operating 6 days a week and sometimes 7 days a week. When trains are not operating MOW crews have been working on track replacing ties and rail and signal crews cleaning and servicing signal equipment.

The downside of all of this business is the increase in rail traffic. The railroad is simply too busy to host special events such as speeder excursions and Friends programs. Since we are no longer able to host these events, there are fewer opportunities for Friends fundraisers. In order to fund the newsletters and Friends programs and tours for 2013, the railroad is sponsoring the production of the newsletters and sponsoring the Friends programs and tours. We hope this will continue to enhance the value of your Friends membership.

The railroad will also continue to donate historical items and documents to the Friends. Some of these items will be loaned to the San Luis Railroad Museum for rotating displays.

Last year we lost our company historian and a founding member of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, Hal Madson. Hal was a valued advisor when we were purchasing the railroad and continued his role as an advisor and company historian. Hal was a great friend of the railroad and we all miss him.

Recently another ally of the railroad passed away, Ray Deutsch. Ray was a local architect and had formed the Economic Alliance of Northern Santa Barbara County last year. Ray was a visionary who always felt that the Santa Maria Valley holds great economic potential and the railroad was a part of that plan to bring economic prosperity to the Santa Maria Valley. Ray spoke at one of our first programs in 2007 about his vision for downtown Santa Maria and Jones Street.

We expect 2013 to be a banner year. We hope that by sponsoring programs for the Friends we can continue to bring quality programs and tours for Friends members. We hope all of you will continue to renew your memberships and join us for a fun and educational year. Happy New Year!

Friends of the



Santa Maria Valley Railroad

Coming Right Up

We've got several activities coming up in just the next few weeks. Please join us for any or all!...

February 9, 2013

Friends tour of the SLO Railroad District.

This walking tour will meet at 10:00am at the San Luis Obispo Freight House, the new home for the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. We will take a tour of the SLO Railroad District including the Amtrak Station, sneak peak of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, the site of the old turntable, and the Emily Street Yard.

March 12, 2013

Surf. John Roskoski will reprise his famous presentation on historic Surf depot and town. This program will be held at the Santa Maria Library's Shepard's Hall. Doors open at 5pm. Admission is \$5, or free if you grab dinner from the Cafe right next to the Hall. The program will start at 6pm.

May 4, 2013
Pacific Coast Railway Tour. We'll head out to trace the trail of the PCR in the Santa Maria area. We'll gather at 10am at a Santa Maria location (TBA).

June 7, 2013

Art After Dark (SLO). Tartaglia Realty is hosting Friends member John Roskoski's photos of the SMVRR and UP Coast Line for Art After Dark from 6-9pm. The address is 968 Monterey Street, SLO. Feel free to visit any of the roughly 30 other venues in downtown SLO that will also have special art exhibits that night. A reception will be held at Tartaglia Realty for Friends members.

June, 2013
Friends presentation, at the Santa Maria Library. Details TBA.

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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 Sponsors

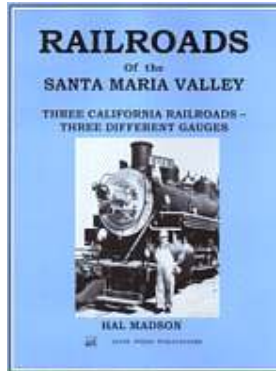


San Luis Obispo



Hal Madson passed away

Since our last newsletter, Friends lost one of its founding members, Hal Madson. Known to many of you, Hal was a valued railroad historian for our valley. He was most well known for his two books about the area: **Railroads of the Santa Maria Valley**, and **Betteravia, a Modern California Ghost Town**.



Hal was the SMVRR company historian and had served as an advisory director of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Hal was a founding member of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and served as its president the first year. Hal assisted the current company with the purchase of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad in 2006. Hal was a walking encyclopedia on the history of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, yet he was always looking at the future of the railroad.

Hal was a very valuable advisor to the railroad, excellent friend to Friends, and a great guy who will be greatly missed.



White Hills Branch Field Trip

October 20, 2012

We explored the Union Pacific White Hills Branch in Lompoc. This interesting line starts at Surf next to the beach, travels through agricultural land, rare street running in Lompoc, and then climbs up Miguelito Canyon to the Celite (Imerys) mine.

The group met up at the home of the Lompoc HO Model Railroad Club, and then headed out to various stops along the White Hills Branch under the able guidance of Nils Gustavson and John Roskoski. Afterward, the group had lunch at Jalama Burger in Lompoc.

