

April 8, 2017

Friends Private Car Excursion from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad will be chartering business cars for a business excursion and the final leg of the trip will be opened to Friends members. On Saturday April 8 at 3:00 pm you will board the special charter on the Business Car Tioga Pass and the Lounge Car Overland Trail in San Luis Obispo on the rear of the Amtrak Coast Starlight. A gourmet dinner will be served on the ride to Los Angeles. We will stay overnight at the Miyako Hotel in Japantown near Union Station. The next morning you are on your own until early afternoon. A private bus will take us to Traveltown in Griffith Park where we will visit SMV 1000 steam locomotive. We will be back in San Luis Obispo by 7:00 pm. These are tentative plans subject to change and space, is very limited, if you are interested reserve ASAP. Costs are \$450 per person with checks made out to Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Costs include private charter ride with full meal service and private bus from the hotel back to San Luis Obispo. Hotel is not included, the Miyako Hotel will have a special group rate of \$179.

SMVRR BBQ and Open House

On Saturday August 27 the Santa Maria Valley Railroad hosted an Open House and a fundraising BBQ for members of the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad in the new Osburn Yard Facilities. Earlier this year the railroad moved its entire operation including offices, shops and yards from Betteravia to the new facility located at the corner of A and La Brea Street. The railroad showcased its new offices and shops as well as the new spur for transloading. Over 75 Friends members toured the new facility and enjoyed a Santa Maria style trip tip and chicken BBQ cooked by the employees of the railroad.



Thanks to our Sponsors



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Sponsor Support

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad is a sponsor of our newsletter and our quarterly programs. Murphy Bank is a sponsor of our meeting room for Friends Board meetings. AgLand has supported Friends BBQs at the railroad's headquarters in Betteravia. We are always looking for sponsors to expand our programs and tours and fund educational activities.



Coming Up...

January 25, 2017

SMV Railroad's Vision for the Future

Santa Maria Valley Railroad's President Rob Himoto will be revealing some of the long term visions and goals of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. This program will be held at the Santa Maria Library's Shepard Hall (421 S. McClelland Street). 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.

February 11, 2017

Work Day at the SMV Railroad

8am-1pm. Friends members get a chance to volunteer for various hands on tasks such as sorting and inventorying parts and equipment, restoring equipment, sorting and cataloging documents. Must be a Friends member, wear appropriate clothing if working outside or in shops, come early to check in.

March 22, 2017

Chinese Workers build local Railroads

Phil Tillman will be speaking about the role of Chinese workers who built local railroads on the Central Coast including parts of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. Phil discusses some of the trials and tribulations the Chinese went through. This program will be held at the Santa Maria Library's Shepard Hall (421 S. McClelland Street). 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 20, 2017

Friends Dinner Gala at SM Fairpark

This year's event we will be honoring George Lavacot and his restoration of the SMV Steam Engine 205, which was on display at the Fairpark for many years. See pics taken July 2015 on the website. Also the Santa Maria Valley Railroad will be presenting the 3rd Annual Railroad Public Safety Award. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for acquiring an SP sugar beet car, the lifeblood car for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for many years. Doors open at 5:30, event starts at 6:00. Once again a Santa Maria style tri-tip, chicken and rib dinner will be catered by Cool Hand Luke's. Tickets are \$75.00 per person, a reserved table of 8 for \$600.



Fundraising Gala Dinner - June 18, 2016

The 2nd Annual Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Fundraising Dinner was held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Fountain Pavilion at the Santa Maria Fairpark, 937 S. Thornburg Street, Santa Maria. A tri-tip, chicken and rib dinner was catered by Cool Hand Luke's. The program included a "History of the Friends" Presentation, the Railroad Public Safety Award presented by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, the G. Allan Hancock Historical Preservation Award presented by the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, and a silent auction. Fundraising proceeds go towards new storage containers as the railroad is moving historical railroad artifacts to their new transload yard and to acquire other historical artifacts and equipment.

Thanks to Gary See for the photos.



Rob Himoto (L), President of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, accepted the Friend's G. Allan Hancock Historical Preservation Award on behalf of the recipient, Hal Madson, presented by Kevin O'Roark (C) and Jeff Karsh (R). Scott Daniels looks on. Hal passed away last year. He was the railroad's historian and author of the book, "Railroads of the Santa Maria Valley." He was also a founding member of the Friends of the SMVR.



Santa Maria Police Chief Ralph Martin (not pictured) received the Railroad Public Safety Award. Accepting on his behalf is Lieutenant Marc Schneider (pictured here).



There were four tables with 30+ items for the Silent Auction. The O'Roarks donated the flowers which were purchased from Glad-A-Way Gardens, Inc.

Scott Daniels from KSBY-TV emceed the event.

New Storage Container

Thanks to a very successful Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction in June, the Friends have acquired a storage container for the many Santa Maria Valley Railroad artifacts and hardware we have saved. We are now in the process of sorting, counting, sizing and cataloging the hardware from the blacksmith shop as we return them to the wooden bins from whence they came. Besides nuts, bolts and rivets from the era of steam locomotives and wooden cars we have many tools some of which were fabricated on site by the railroad. Recently the railroad donated a couple of vintage platform scales, wooden hand trucks, and more tools! Now with secure and weather tight storage we'll continue our effort to preserve the past.

