

Coming Up...

May 13, 2017**SMVRR Exhibit/Talk at Train Day in SLO**

SLO Train Day at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum in San Luis Obispo, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. At 10:00 the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Exhibit will be unveiled. At 10:30 Rob Himoto, President of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad will give a presentation on the Vision of the Future for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. At 12:30. Cindy Ransick, Executive Director of the Santa Maria Valley Historical Museum, will be presenting the new book, Historic Santa Maria Valley. Historic Santa Maria Valley is a community effort with assistance from the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce.

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.

June 11, 2017**Santa Maria Valley's Electric Railroad**

We'll explore the electrified branches of the Pacific Coast Railway and, ideally, gain some insight to the sometimes conflicting published material about them. Meet at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad office at the corner of A Street and La Brea in Santa Maria at 10:00 a.m. and we'll carpool from there. Bring lunch money as we will stop for lunch in Guadalupe on our tour. You must be a Friend member to participate. RSVP early as seating is limited.

June 24-25, 2017**Friends Railroad Academy**

Are you interested in a railroad career or want to know what it is like working on a railroad? This is a comprehensive two-day workshop covering many aspects of the railroad industry including history of the industry, the business structure of railroads, train operations, maintenance of way, signals, car accounting. This is meant to be an overview of the industry and career opportunities. Cost is \$100.00 for the weekend, includes books, materials and lunches. Friends members only and you must sign up and pay in full one week prior.

August 26, 2017**Annual Friends BBQ at the Railroad**

Santa Maria style tri-tip and chicken, tours and presentations.

Friends of the

Santa Maria Valley Railroad

**Chinese Rail Workers**

On March 22 Phil Tillman held a talk about the role of the Chinese workers who built the local railroads including portions of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for the Friends Quarterly Program at Shepard Hall in the Santa Maria Public Library. It was a very interesting talk covering the Chinese migration to the United States and their roles in the west not only building railroads but other tasks such as cooking and laundry. Phil talked about the Chinese Exclusion Act and how that came about and the trials and tribulations during that political climate.

**THANK YOU TEACHERS!**

On Wed. April 5, Rob Himoto, President of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad gave a presentation about the SMVRR to the California Retired Teachers Association during a luncheon at the Elks Lodge in Santa Maria. He covered the history, present day operations and vision for the future of the railroad. He also covered the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and the role they play in historic preservation of the SMVRR and public education about the railroad and its economic impact on the Santa Maria Valley. We'd like to thank the California Retired Teachers Association for their generous donation to the Friends.

Thanks to our Sponsors**Murphy Bank**

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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.

Work Day at the SMVRR

On Saturday February 11 Friends members got a chance to volunteer for various hands-on tasks such as sorting and inventorying parts and equipment, restoring equipment, and sorting and cataloging documents at the Osburn Yard. Afterwards they were treated to a BBQ lunch. If you are interested in volunteering for hands-on activities, check the website for work dates in the summer. Volunteers must be a Friends member and must have the appropriate work clothing and work shoes for activities in the yard or shops.



**Support our May 20th
Annual Fundraiser Dinner
RSVP Now!**

See details on reverse side.

PRIVATE CAR EXCURSION, April 8, 2017

The behind schedule departure from San Luis Obispo on Saturday April 8 did little to dampen the spirits of the Friends members who boarded the private cars, Tioga Pass, an ex-CN business car and the lounge car Overland Trail, for a trip to Los Angeles. The friendly, top notch onboard staff assured first class service as we made our way south. The delicious dinner, dessert and good conversation made the hours pass all too quickly! After our arrival at Union Station in Los Angeles we made our way to the Miyako Hotel for our overnight stay. After breakfast the next morning we had an escorted tour of the Japanese American National Museum. The return trip by charter bus was punctuated by an enjoyable late lunch stop at the Firestone Brewery in Buelton. We arrived in San Luis Obispo at about 6 p.m. bringing our short but memorable getaway to an end.

