

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual BBQ at SMVRR
Saturday
August 17, 2019
- Field Trip - Pacific Coast
Railway - Santa Maria to
Los Alamos
September 28, 2019
- Excursion Trip - Sacramento
October 25 - 28, 2019

5th Annual Friends Dinner Gala was a Success!

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad is pleased to announce the success of their Fifth Annual Dinner Gala. The event was held on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Santa Maria Fairpark.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad's Fifth Annual Railroad Public Safety Award went to Chief of Police Phil Hansen and the City of Santa Maria Police Department in recognition of their efforts to promote railroad safety in the community. City streets cross railroad tracks throughout the City of Santa Maria. They represent a serious safety issue, as motorists and pedestrians regularly disregard the lights, bells, and gates that protect these crossings. Santa Maria Police produced a public service announcement aimed at educating the public about the importance of obeying the signals at railroad grade crossings. Chief Hansen and his department worked with the Santa Maria Valley Railroad on this public outreach, as well as enforcement efforts to curb crossing signal violations.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad's Fifth Annual Railroad Public Safety Award was presented by Rob Himoto, President and Nathan Paul, Director of the SMVRR. Accepting the award on Chief Hanson's behalf was Commander Dan Cohen. Commander Cohen commented



that this is a great example of an entity working together with the Police Department to improve public safety.



The Fifth Annual G. Allan Hancock History Preservation award was presented to the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association (SLOMRRRA). The SLOMRRRA supports the interpretation of historical and contemporary aspects of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad through their museum-grade modeling. The Friends of the SMVRR recognize value in their participation at the County Fair bringing awareness of railroading on the Central Coast.

Accepting the award on behalf of the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association was CFO Harry Shade and Membership Director Phil Coutu.



Presenting the award was Jane Brennan, great-granddaughter of Captain Hancock, and great-great granddaughters Sidney and Brenna McGovern. Mr. Schade talked about the history of the SLOMRRRA and the concept of a modular model railroad where members can reach more of the public by scaling their display to fit a small venue or a larger one, such as the Santa Barbara County Fair.



***Friend's BBQ
Osburn Yard
Santa Maria
August 17, 2019***



Annual Santa Maria Valley Railroad Open House and BBQ for Friends of Santa Maria Valley Railroad

Join us for the annual Santa Maria Valley Railroad Open House and BBQ at the Osburn Rail Yard on Saturday, August 17 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be yard and shop tours along with demonstrations. Come see the progress on the continuing expansion of the Osburn Yard.



We will once again have our popular Santa Maria style tri-tip and chicken BBQ for a donation of only \$10.00 per person. Also the company store will be open with SMVRR apparel and unique items for sale.



RSVP to info@friends-smvrr.org or call 805-614-7093.

***Field Trip
PCRY
Sept 28, 2019***



**Pacific Coast Railway Field Trip
Santa Maria to Los Alamos**

Join us for a Pacific Coast Railway Field Trip from Santa Maria to Los Alamos on Saturday, September 28, 2019. We will explore the less-celebrated portion of the PCRY right of way from the Santa Maria River crossing south to Los Alamos. The old right of way is clearly visible in many areas with a few other unexpected treats along the way! We'll meet at 9:00 am at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Offices at A Street and La Brea Ave. We'll leave our cars in the yard and car pool from there. Bring lunch money as we'll stop for lunch in Los Alamos and visit the only remaining Depot of the Pacific Coast Railway. We should be back at the railroad yard around 2:00 pm. You must RSVP as space is limited. Membership in Friends is required.

OUR SPONSORS:



**G. A. Hancock
Family**

We are always looking for sponsors to expand our programs and tours and fund educational activities.

Historic Photos are from the archives of the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society (santamariahistory.com) unless otherwise noted.

Where Are They Now? SMVRR Caboose - No. 170

This is a new column in which we will select a piece of equipment from the past roster and look at it's history, time on the SMVRR and it's current status.

Our first selection for "Where are they now" is SMVRR Caboose #170.

Caboose No. 170 originally went into service on the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railway as No. 3317 around 1907. Acquired by the Santa Maria Valley Railroad in 1926 it went into service as No.170 and was retired in 1963. Purchased by John Loomis, it was moved to his Tar Springs Ranch near Arroyo Grande and remained there until 2004 when he donated it to the Oceano Depot. It was then restored and remains on display at the depot.



Photo taken on Oct 1, 1955 by John Hungerford (Trainorders)



SMVRR's 108th Anniversary is July 11, 2019!

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad was founded on July 11, 1911 by an English syndicate to serve Roadamite, which at the time was the world's largest asphalt plant. The original plan was to build the line from Betteravia and head east to Roadamite. Citizens of Santa Maria persuaded the founders to head north east into the City of Santa Maria. The rest is history as Captain Hancock eventually acquired the line and used the railroad to develop the City of Santa Maria and the rest of the Santa Maria Valley.

Join us for a trip to the California State Railroad Museum and Historic Downtown Sacramento!

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad members will travel aboard the Amtrak Coast Starlight to Sacramento and visit the **State Railroad Museum**.

We'll depart San Luis Obispo on Friday afternoon **October 25** at 3:35 pm on the northbound Amtrak Coast Starlight arriving in Sacramento at 11:59 pm. We'll stay on a historic riverboat, the **Delta King Hotel** for our 3 night stay. On Saturday we'll take a tour of the **California State Railroad Museum**. On Sunday morning we'll take a walking tour of some of the historic sites downtown, tour the **Crocker Art Museum** and the **State Capital**. Our return trip home on the southbound Coast Starlight leaves Monday morning at 6:35 am arriving back in San Luis Obispo at 3:07 pm **Monday October 28**. You will be purchasing your own Amtrak tickets and room reservations allowing travelers additional flexibility. The member cost is \$25 per person to participate in this exclusive rail adventure. **Please RSVP** to info@friends-smvrr.org or call 805-614-7093. **DO NOT DELAY! Space is limited.** The price for an Amtrak round trip coach seat as of July 1st is \$92 per person. We have blocked out rooms at the Delta King Hotel at a special "Friends" rate of \$172.10 per night (including breakfast) for the 3 nights. Amtrak rates may rise. There will be additional costs for museum admissions, meals, etc. We can utilize Uber to get to and from our Hotel as needed and share the costs. Upon receiving your RSVP and payment, we will assist you in making your Amtrak and Delta King reservations.



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