

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

SMVRR Master Plan 2050

Connect to this Friends Presentation via Zoom. SMVRR is developing long term goals and policies as a commitment to further utilize its right of way to further reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions as our local communities continue to grow and become carbon neutral. Hear about some of these visions in a summary of the draft SMVRR Master Plan 2050.

Date: Thursday April 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID:

967 5089 2694

Zoom Passcode: 704494

Zoom link for this event is on the Friends website home page at

www.friends-smvrr.org.

Annual Fundraising Gala

Virtual via Zoom

Santa Maria Fairpark

Date: Saturday May 22, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Details in article at right.

Dana Adobe Tour and Walk

Saturday, June 5, 2021, 10 AM

Meet in Dana Adobe parking lot.

Advanced RSVP required.

Details in article at right.

Friends Annual BBQ

Pick-up BBQ and Drive-thru Tour

Osborn Railroad Offices

August 21, 2021

Details to come in next newsletter.

6th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER GALA AND AUCTION!

Join us online on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM for our Annual Fundraiser Gala and Auction live from the Fountain Pavilion at the Santa Maria Fairpark. You can join the fun via ZOOM and help raise much needed funds for the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad as we continue our mission to preserve, improve and interpret the historic and contemporary aspects of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. We will have our annual Awards Presentation for the G. Allan Hancock Historic Preservation Award and the Railroad Public Safety Award. Since we missed last year's gala, we will also honor the 2020 award winners. We will have Silent Auction Items to bid on during the event and you can make donations online any time! Due to Covid-19, last year's event was cancelled making the only fundraiser this year so important!

Sign up now for \$25 per person on the Friends website at www.friends-smvrr.org.

When you sign up, you will then be sent the online Zoom connection information.

Check back to our website Gala page for auction items as they are added!

Sponsorships are also available – more info is included on the Gala page of our website.



HISTORIC DANA ADOBE TOUR

On Saturday June 5th the Friends will take a docent lead tour of the Historic Dana Adobe with an opportunity to take a short hike along the **Pacific Coast Railway** right of way. The Dana Adobe dates back to the days of the California Ranchos and is a California State Historic Landmark. To participate you **MUST** be a Friends member and you **MUST** RSVP in **ADVANCE** as the group size is extremely limited. We'll meet at the Dana Adobe for a 10:00 a.m. tour. Please bring your mask and we will social distance as needed. The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center is located at 671 S. Oakglen Ave, Nipomo. RSVP to info@friends-smvrr.org or call 805-614-7093.

SM Fire to the RESCUE !

Fortunately it was not a real emergency but a training session! Captain Kyle Dodds of the Santa Maria Fire Department contacted the Santa Maria Valley Railroad about the possibility of conducting some training at the railroad. The railroad was able to accommodate the request with access to the Osburn Yard and rail equipment as needed. In February on three separate days the SMFD conducted CONFINED SPACE training using a rail car at the Osburn Yard rail facility.

Here is a general overview of the training sessions, but in no way captures all the necessary steps, skills, equipment and preparations needed to conduct this training safely. The scenario is make believe, but the hazards such as ladder use, working at heights, and entering a confined space are real and all the same precautions must be used. Pre task briefings were conducted before and during each session.

SCENARIO: A worker using oxy-acetylene equipment working on a rail car has not been seen by his coworker in a couple hours.

RESPONSE: Upon arrival at the scene, the SMFD contact the train crew/railroad to assure no further movements of rail cars. Fire personnel secure the observed oxy-acetylene equipment. They erect and secure ladders to gain access to the top of the rail car where a person is observed in the car through an open roof hatch. Sensors are lowered into the car to check for toxic, explosive or a low oxygen atmosphere within, while exhaust fans and ducting are set up to improve the survival profile within the car. Meanwhile rigging is set up, referred to as the "elevator", to lower and raise rescue personnel into the car. In the photos you can see in one case they used the ladder truck to suspend the rigging and in another session they used the Vortex, that tripod apparatus on top of the car. Air tanks and hoses are set up, along with communication lines that will be utilized by the rescue personnel that enter the car. The rescuer and a backup rescuer don harnesses and breathing apparatus in preparation to make entry. Another briefing is held prior to entry during which it was said the victim is heard to be groaning and a viable rescue is possible. The atmosphere in the car is continually

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Team Briefing



Tripod setup to lower rescuer



Urban Search and Rescue Truck at work



Ladder truck lowering rescuer

OUR SPONSORS:

We welcome new sponsors to expand our programs and tours and fund educational activities.



**G. A. Hancock
Family**

Where Are They Now?

Steam Locomotive Headlight

. . . . “It came back somehow!”

In October we were contacted by Mr. Russ Foster, living in Santa Cruz at the time, about a headlight he had from a Santa Maria Valley Railroad steam Locomotive. Here's the story, although a bit abbreviated, in his own words:

“As a 12 year-old model railroader in 1950 visiting my grandparents John and Florence Foster in Santa Maria, I heard that the SMVRR was scrapping out a locomotive and offering parts for sale. I walked down to the yard and purchased the headlight in the accompanying photo for a few dollars.

Back in Pasadena where my family lived, my childhood friend John and I removed the powerful 24V (editor's note - it was 32v) light bulb and replaced it with a lesser 110V 250W lamp of the same focal length that nevertheless produced a powerful beam! We had fun playing all sorts of practical jokes such as shining it into houses hundreds of feet away.

I recently moved to Idaho and realized I'd been lugging it around for 70 years thinking I was going to restore it. I researched and found the Friends of the SMVRR and am happy to return it to its rightful place. The headlight is a National brand and looks identical to the ones I see in photos of #205 and its tender. It could be from another sister Baldwin loco, however. I will leave that to members to decide. Best wishes to you all!”

Russ put us in touch with his sister Karen Wells and her husband Rory who generously drove to Santa Cruz to retrieve the headlight. They invited us to their home in rural Templeton for the hand off of the headlight to Friends and the final leg of its journey home. The Friends of SMVRR greatly appreciate Russ, Karen and Rory for their effort to save and return this piece of history.



Russ with his beloved headlight



Rory and Karen make the final handoff

Friends Supporter John Marchetti Passes

On February 7, Friends of the SMVRR member John Marchetti passed away at the age of 83. John was truly a friend to both the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and the Santa Maria Valley Railroad. As a long time board member of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, John was committed to preserving the history of the railroads on the Central Coast. John served as a Board Member, President, and Membership Chairman for the Railroad Museum.

John was instrumental in bringing the La Condesa, now the La Cuesta, private car to the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and later to the final spot at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. John and his wife Diane were the guiding forces for the popular Santa Maria Valley Railroad exhibit at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

John was a very talented modeler and some of his beautiful work can be seen at the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum's model railroad. John had headed up the construction of two of the scenes depicting the Santa Maria Valley Railroad, the Union Sugar Plant in Betteravia and the Guadalupe rail yard. The Friends recognized his work and he was awarded the G. A. Hancock Historical Preservation award in 2020. Unfortunately we could not present the award to him publicly at the Annual Friends Dinner Gala in 2020 due to COVID, but made the presentation at his home last October.

As Friends members, John and Diane volunteered and participated in various Friends activities including volunteering at the Annual Friends Dinner Gala through the years. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Diane and the rest of John's family and his many friends. He will be truly missed.



Diane and John Marchetti

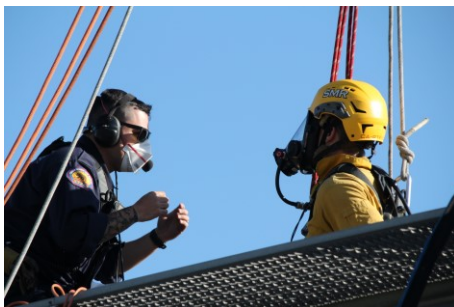
SANTA MARIA FIRE DEPARTMENT Urban Search and Rescue

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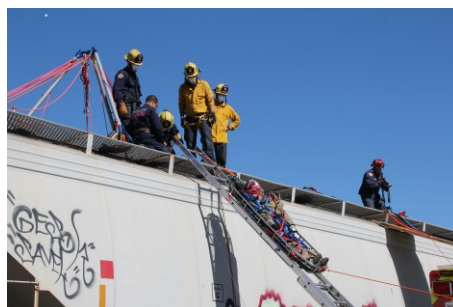
monitored and has been determined to be within allowable parameters to make entry. The rescuer is lowered into the car and the backup is standing by if needed. Within the car the victim (a dummy) is placed in a harness and attached to the "elevator" to be lifted out. After the victim is safely lowered to the ground the rescue person is lifted out.

In addition to Ladder Truck 1, the Urban Search and Rescue Unit was involved with each training session allowing different Engine Companies and crews from stations throughout the city to participate. Besides these actual entry sessions the firefighters take a week of classroom training to fulfill their annual CONFINED SPACE training requirements.

Friends of SMVRR greatly appreciate the information that Battalion Chiefs, Tony Clayburg, Jim Clayton and Mike Farmer, shared about the SMFD training regimen and some of the challenges faced by our first responders. The Santa Maria Fire Department expressed their thanks to the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for the opportunity to conduct their annual CONFINED SPACE training at the Osburn Yard as it offers some unique experience outside their regular training facilities.



Rescuer with protective gear



Victim lowered to ground



Crew attend to victim

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All photos are from
the archives of the
Santa Maria Valley
Railroad unless
otherwise noted.