

Coast Mail

News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

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San Luis Obispo, California, Fall 2002

www.slorm.com

Fall Train Fest was a Big Success!

About 500 friendly, happy people crowded into **Karl Hovanitz' Bitter Creek Western Railroad** on Sunday, October 20th for the Fall Train Fest.

Children of all ages, from babes in arms to senior citizens, enjoyed all the train riding that they wanted. Karl and his friends ran as many as eleven trains at once during the peak demand.

Agatha Reardon and **Duane Powell** took charge of feeding soda, hot dogs and Polish sausage to the starving hordes. Conductors **Frank** and **Christian Rheinisch**, **Jarret** and **Brandon LaRose**, and **Philo Weir** rode the circuit so many times that they must know every tie and turnout on the line. **John Marchetti** and **Aron Kahn** did journeyman duty boarding riders and insuring passenger safety. **Bill Pyper** and **Dave Rohr** had the easy job of selling T-shirts, pins and hats. **Brad LaRose** circulated among the visitors, talking up the museum. The museum probably benefitted over \$3000 although the final accounting is not in yet.



On Saturday, the day before the event, all the previously mentioned museum members were at *Bitter Creek* raking leaves, oiling switches, and generally helping spruce the place up for our visitors.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to **Karl Hovanitz**, owner of the *Bitter Creek Western*, and to all the **train owners** who not only donated their time and their equipment, but paid for all their own fuel as well.

Program Meetings Draw SRO Crowds

At the Museum's first *Program Meeting*, held on July 10th at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** in San Luis Obispo, 125 people vied for the 99 available seats. Undaunted, veteran railfans adapted by leaning on the wall, sitting on the floor, or just plain standing. After the two hour meeting, no calls for Paramedics or massage therapists were needed. Railroad experts were pleased to report that the meeting was considered a "Safety Success."

Guest speakers at the July meeting included **Barry Howard**, museum designer, the man behind the design of Sacramento's *California State Railroad Museum*. **Jeff Hook**,

Associate Planner with the *City of San Luis Obispo* talked about the *Freighthouse Restoration Project*.

Union Pacific Railroad Special Agent **Terry Masters**, spoke on the subject of railroad safety and *Operation Lifesaver*. Prominent local designer **Pierre Rademaker** explained some of his ideas for the *Historic Railroad District*.

Entertainment was provided by the *San Luis Obispo Little Theater*, with **Darryl Templeton** and **Dean Koker**, singing a rousing medley of railroad songs. At the end of the evening a drawing was held and well over 50 donated prizes were given away.

The October 9th Program Meeting featured **Michael Broggie**, author of *Walt Disney's Railroad Story* and recognized expert on the career and personal history of Walt Disney.

Michael's connection to Disney began when his father, Roger Broggie, became Disney's first *Imaginer*. As a child, Michael took rides on *Uncle Walt's* backyard railroad, the *Carolwood Pacific*. After college, Michael worked as a writer at the Disney Studio marketing department.

The highlight of Michael's talk was the showing of *some movies* of Walt playing with his backyard railroad.

Broggie explained how it was that
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Our Youngest Museum Member

Jacob Strasser Mills lives and plays in Morro Bay, California. He celebrated his third birthday August 10th and has already displayed a serious interest in trains of all types and sizes.

Beside his growing collection of small scale toy engines, Jake has had several opportunities to ride on trains as well. His exploits include the BitterCreek Western, two trips on the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, a visit to the Skunk Train at Fort Bragg, and many small theme trains including the Santa Barbara Zoo, which is a favorite. Jake was present at the Fall Train Fest in October and hopes to make a trip to Filmore, California soon. Jake looks forward to joining us on the rails and giving us rides on his own engine someday!



Mission Statement

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, founded as a non-profit, public benefit educational museum, will preserve the railroad history of California and the Central Coast by collecting, restoring, displaying and operating historic railroad equipment.

SAN LUIS OBISPO RAILROAD MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad LaRose *President*
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Board Meeting or Business Meeting?

At its March 2002 meeting, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum Board of Directors, exhibiting a great example of finite wisdom, voted to have monthly Board Meetings and Quarterly Meetings. This occurred because some board members had the feeling that most of the meetings were too boring for a majority of the members, causing people to lose interest in the organization. After much discussion, it was agreed that it is not possible to make every meeting entertaining for all members. Therefore it was decided to have quarterly meetings at which an entertaining *program* would be presented to the membership and the general public. It was never intended to exclude any member, or member of the public from the board meetings. This was brought to the fore when several members who had faithfully attended monthly meetings mentioned that they missed them. So much for boredom.

Therefore, the Board has decided that in the future, the regular monthly meetings will be *Business Meetings* and quarterly meetings will be *Program Meetings*. This system is used by other organizations in the area. All members are encouraged to attend all meetings. *Business Meetings* will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The time and place of future *Program Meetings* will be announced as they occur.

Joe Burns almost single-handedly organized the first two highly successful program meetings. We need a volunteer(s) for the next one(s).

Bernice Jackson Films To Become Videos

Two years ago SLORRM received ten reels of 16mm movies taken in the early to middle 1950's, showing various Southern Pacific, Hammond Lumber and Northwestern Pacific Railroad operations at many locations in northern California. The films were taken by and for the late Bernice Jackson, an employee at SP headquarters in San Francisco.

At the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Club annual show on October 5-6, 2002, **Bill Pyper** spoke to **Gino Pagliaro**, of **Charles Smiley Presents**, a railroad video production company in Northridge, California.

Charles Smiley Presents has agreed to pay SLORRM \$1000 for the exclusive right to use Bernice Jackson's films for the production of railroad videos. The museum will also receive archive quality VHS tapes of the films and VHS and DVD copies of any videos produced using the film.

TIME TABLE

The following is a list of coming meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. All meetings are at 6:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel unless otherwise noted.

- December 12 *Business Meeting*
- January 9, 2003 *Annual Meeting*
- February 13 *Business Meeting*
- March 13 *Business Meeting*
- April 10 *Program Meeting*
- May 4, Saturday, *Spring Train Fest*
at BitterCreek Western Railroad
- May 8 *Business Meeting*
- May 14 *Showcase Mixer*

Program Meetings . . .

Walt Disney became interested in railroading by having worked as a newsboy and vendor on passenger trains as a youngster.

The audience was entertained by *SLO Little Theater Members Ryan Bello, Karen Kahn, Aiyani Mersai,* and local adman *Cliff Stepp* performing railroad commercial spoofs inspired by *A Prairie Home Companion*, and written and produced by *Joe Burns*.

The *Gold Coast Chorus* serenaded the group and led a sing-along of *I've Been Workin' on the Railroad*. *Dr. Magic*, Gary Elem, performed acts of prestidigitation and other tricky stuff.

A prize drawing was held at the end of the evening.

SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS

The success of the Program Meetings was due to the generosity of many friends who believe in the museum project.

Please reward these sponsors by being a customer. Let them know that you appreciate their help.

- Embassy Suites of San Luis Obispo
- Big Sky Cafe ☉ Bon Temps Creole Cafe
- Campbell's Restaurant Equipment
- Cafe Roma ☉ Central Coast Printing
- Del Monte Cafe ☉ Fanny Wrappers
- Foothill Hobbies ☉ Farm Supply Company
- Firestone Grill ☉ F. McLintock's
- Galaxy Framers ☉ Golden China Restaurant
- Goodwill Industries
- High Street Market & Deli
- Kevin Main Jewelry ☉ Law's Hobby Center
- Mike's Copy & Graphics
- Oreck Vacuum & Floor Care
- Pacific Home Do-it Center
- Penelope's ☉ Pete's Southside Cafe
- Quality Suites of San Luis Obispo
- RC's Automotive
- Rod Aszman Railroad Art
- San Luis Obispo Little Theater
- Silverado Stages
- Spectrum Color Images ☉ Studio 23 Salon
- Sylvester Estate Winery
- Tom Merrin's Hardwood Toys
- Toyota of San Luis Obispo
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Upper Crust Trattoria
- Uptown Espresso & Bakery
- Utopia European Bakery
- Z Pies

STATUES INSTALLED



On October 18, 2002, statues honoring laborers who built the Pacific Coast Railway and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks down Cuesta Grade into San Luis Obispo, were placed at the Osos Street entrance to the railroad station. *Iron Road Pioneers*, created by internationally renowned sculptor *Elizabeth MacQueen*, was paid for by a \$50,000 grant from the City of San Luis Obispo Public Art Fund and more than \$75,000 in private donations. Additional money is needed to light the bronze statue. The official dedi-

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San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Levels: ___ \$60. Family ___ \$36. Individual

Complete form and mail with your check to: **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum (SLORRM)**
Post Office Box 15260, San Luis Obispo CA 93406

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Night Telephone _____

E-mail _____ FAX _____

I would like to help the museum by: _____

BOARD ELECTION and Annual Meeting

According to the By-Laws of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, members of the Board of Directors serve two-year terms. The terms are staggered so that the whole Board isn't changed each year. A Call for nominations was mailed out to each paid up member. Nominations were due back to the Secretary by November 15th. The terms of five directors will expire January 2003. Jim Horton, Karl Hovanitz, Aron Kahn, Brad LaRose and Dave Rohr are all standing for re-election. Also nominated for election are Frank Rheinisch and Joe Burns.

The Secretary will mail ballots by December 10, 2002 to all members who were in good standing as of October 31, 2002..

Ballots must be returned to the Secretary no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2003, the ballots will be counted.

Once the winners have been determined, the new Board of Directors will elect the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

Every member in good standing is entitled to have a copy of the By-Laws. In the interest of economy we have not automatically distributed them to everyone. To get a copy of the By-Laws, send a self-addressed, stamped, #10 envelope to SLORRM, Attn: Bill Pyper, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

STATUES *Continued*

cation ceremony will be held on Saturday, January 18th, at 10:00 in the morning.

Sometime in the future, public art will be placed in the traffic circle near the Freighthouse. The City is soliciting ideas for art to be placed in this area. Public artwork must be original, and must be appropriate to the area where it is placed. For more information contact Betsy

Steam Locomotive Restoration . . .

Imagine the sight of our own steam locomotive running up and down the museum track along side the restored 1894 *Southern Pacific Freighthouse*. Just think of how tourists will feel as they step off the Amtrak Coast Starlight to the sounds of a clanging bell and the steam whistle of the museum's 1927 Baldwin 0-4-2RT steam locomotive.

As their attention is drawn to the sounds, they will see San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum's #7 with steam slowly rising from the stack. Soon the beast (the locomotive, not the engineer) comes alive. It moves with puffs of barking steam shooting skyward. A small train follows the locomotive to the end of the track near the station. People move toward this unexpected diversion. Excited children with parents in tow yell, "Can we ride on it? Please!" What a sight to see!

How does the above scene happen? What's it take to put it all together? The answer is simple: museum volunteer workers. Plenty of hard work, lots of money. Simple, right? These are the ingredients for the steam locomotive restoration.

The museum steam locomotive, a Baldwin 0-4-2RT (rear tank) is operational and is occasionally run for testing purposes. It is not yet restored to the level that is necessary for public presentation. The long, ongoing process of disassembly, cleaning, repair, painting and replacement, is a big and expensive project. It is well worth the effort.

There are many museum members who appreciate steam locomotives and donate their time toward the restoration of #7. Most of this time is really hard work. The only component that is missing is lots of money. We need cash! No doubt about it! We have the gigantic gift of the steam locomotive from Phil Goldman. Many museums never realize the dream of having a steam locomotive, operational or static. We have one that is operational. All we need to do is restore it.

To further this goal, we have completed a survey of needed materials and repairs for the full restoration of #7. Jim McEntire, SLORRM Engineer, Brad LaRose, President of SLORRM, and Duane Powell, SLORRM Director, along with outside professional sources have determined that the following are necessary: Boiler tubes replaced; injectors restored; smoke stack restored; sand boxes made serviceable; upgrade steam piping; replace steam valves in the cab; replace wood floor boards; paint locomotive inside and out. Estimated cost of complete restoration \$10,000.00.

This is where we really need YOU! The hard working volunteers are trying to restore this locomotive for you, your children, and your grandchildren. They cannot do it without YOUR MONEY! We have received many small cash donations at our various meetings and fund raising events. Thank you to those donors. WE NEED MORE! Please send a check today to the museum and attach a note indicating that it is for the restoration of #7.

Jim McEntire, Art Laidlaw, Duane Powell, and Brad LaRose have just completed the restoration of the water tank/fuel bunker. The tank is a 300 gallon riveted steel U shaped container for water that the locomotive uses to make steam. The fuel bunker is within the U and was originally designed to hold either coal or wood. Built in 1927, the tank was rusted, leaking, and had been damaged in an accident.

In order to perform the restoration, the tank had to be removed from the locomotive. The damaged portion on the back of the tank was cut out, leaving the original hot rivets around the outer edges. While the tank was open the men laboriously cleaned the rust from the inside. The entire inside was then sprayed with a plastic sealant. The tank has been replaced on the locomotive. The water tank sight glass in the cab has been restored.