



# Coast Mail

News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum



Volume 11, Number 3

San Luis Obispo, California, Summer 2010

www.slorm.com

## Exciting Railroad Events This Fall

### Central Coast Railroad Festival October 7th through the 11th



Railroad photographer and webmaster Jaime Foster was hard at work during last year's Central Coast Railroad Festival.

The Second Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival will focus on rail excursions, model railroads of all types and history programs. Activities will take place at numerous railroad, historical and educational locations throughout San Luis Obispo County and in Guadalupe and Santa Maria. Attendees will be able to celebrate rail's history and future while experiencing concerts, films, exhibits, ceremonies, historical presentations and special programs. Most Festival events will be free and all will be fun and family friendly. The full schedule of events is constantly being expanded on the Festival's redesigned website: [www.ccrf.com](http://www.ccrf.com).

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2009 Festival excursion passengers wait for the northbound Pacific Surfliner to visit the SLO Amtrak Station and Museum's Freighthouse.

### BitterCreek Western Train Festival, November 7th



Pacific Electric Center Cab locomotive pulls a consist of happy passengers on the BitterCreek Western Railroad.

Listen to the jingle, the whistle and the squeak. No, it's not the Wabash Cannonball, it's the BitterCreek Western Live Steam Railroad in Arroyo Grande, California. Sunday, November 7, 2010, Karl Hovanitz once more opens up his private railroad for the benefit of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Space is limited, so only 175 tickets can be sold for this event. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 13. Checks must be received by October 27th, and it's first come, first served. Make checks payable to SLORRM, and mail to P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Sorry, No refunds, but tickets are transferrable.

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Passengers ride across the east trestle on the BitterCreek Western behind a live-steam locomotive driven by Jeff Badger.



### 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*  
 Karl Hovanitz ..... *Vice President*  
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 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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## TIMETABLE

The following is a list of future meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Business meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. They begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Program Meeting locations and times will be announced in advance. All meetings are open to the public.

**October 7-11, 2010**  
**Central Coast Railroad Festival**  
 October 12 ..... *Business Meeting*  
**November 7, 2010 - Sunday**  
**BitterCreek Western Train Festival**  
 November 9 ..... *Business Meeting*  
 December 14 ..... *Business Meeting*

### 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 all members. To get a copy, send a #10, self addressed, stamped, envelope to SLORRM, Post Office Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

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## Become a Member

Membership in SLORRM provides an outlet for any person interested in railroad history, train travel, railroad oriented entertainment and the value of railroading to the community.

Membership is designed for those who love trains and wish to educate others, young and old, and who share the dream of building the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum in the 1894 SP Freighthouse, at the San Luis Obispo railroad station.

Single members pay \$36 per year. A family can join for \$60 annually, and a sustaining member pays \$100 per year. Mail to SLORRM, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3260. Go to [slorrm.com](http://slorrm.com) to download an application form.

**Life Members** receive an embroidered patch, enameled pin, the Coast Mail newsletter, and have voting rights for one person for life. *Use current age to calculate amount due.*

0-17 years . . . . . \$1200 or 5 payments of \$280  
 18-39 . . . . . \$900 or 5 payments of \$220  
 40-61 . . . . . \$600 or 5 payments of \$160  
 62 and older . . . . . \$300 or 5 payments of \$100

**Family Life Members** receive two enameled pins, two embroidered patches, the Coast Mail newsletter, and voting rights for life for two people residing at the same address. *Use the age of youngest family member to calculate amount due.*

0-17 years of age . . . . . \$1800 or 5 payments of \$420  
 18-39 . . . . . \$1350 or 5 payments of \$330  
 40-61 . . . . . \$900 or 5 payments of \$240  
 62 and older . . . . . \$450 or 5 payments of \$150

If making payments the life membership card will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Until such time as the life membership is paid in full, the member will receive a yearly membership card. All payments made toward a life membership are non-refundable and failure to make a scheduled payment by the due date will result in forfeiture of all funds paid toward the life membership. Payment plans include yearly member dues.

## Company Store

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has a variety of items for sale for your enjoyment and to raise money for the Museum. T-shirts in both adult and children sizes, baseball hats, belt buckles, coffee mugs, enamel pins, embroidered patches and engineer hats are all available by going to the Museum website, [www.slorrm.com](http://www.slorrm.com) and click on **Company Store**.

## Election Day Workers

Again Museum members have come to the aid of the San Luis Obispo County Elections Office by staffing a ballot collection point outside the County Courthouse on Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo. On June 22nd, Arnold Jonas, Agatha Reardon, Brad LaRose, Aron Kahn and Duane Powell collected ballots for the state-wide Primary Election. On August 17th, Arnold and Duane braved the hot sun and collected the ballots for the special election for the district's State Senator. For this civic service the Museum receives a small stipend.

## New Members

Frederick Gamst has joined SLORRM since the last Coast Mail was published and Robin and Carl Dudley have joined as family members.

## Individual Renewals

Bill Barbour, Chris Hurd, Robert Del Pesco, Rick Framme, Tom Mitchell, Hilding Larson, William Cochran, Michael Reneau, Chuck Fellows, Marion Gregory, James Keene and Elaine Dutra have all renewed their membership.

## Family Renewals

Robert and Kathleen Copeland, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Robert and Willi Zilkey, Ed and Donna McCauley, Gary Woolard and Carla Breitner, Robert and Kim Ryan, Michael and Virginia Orcutt-Clenard renewed their Family Memberships.

## Donations

James Keene has made a monetary donation to The Museum.

## Renew your membership

The last line of your mailing address on the envelope states the current expiration date of your membership. Please check this date each time you receive a mailing from SLORRM. If the date is within a month or so of your receipt of the mailing, your remittance of the appropriate amount to renew your membership will be greatly appreciated. Any changes to your contact information should also be included. This will help assure that your membership is always current. Should your mailing address or e-mail address change, prompt submittal of updated information will help achieve this same goal. Thank you for your diligence and cooperation.

# Frank Rheinisch

Frank Oskar Rheinisch passed away on Sunday, June 6, 2010, after a nine-month battle with a malignant brain tumor. He was born in July 1945 to Oskar Rheinisch and Edith Seidel in Jena, Germany. After that country's division, the family escaped from East Germany and came to the United States in 1954. For the first six years they lived in Connecticut.

There, Frank nurtured his love of nature and became active in the Boy Scouts. The family moved to northern California and Frank graduated from Oakland's Fremont High School in 1964. While attending Chabot College, he was drafted and served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vietnam for two years.

Honorably discharged in 1967, Frank worked for fire sprinkler companies in Fresno and the San Francisco Bay area. He came to San Luis Obispo in 1971 to establish and manage the new fire sprinkler division of S & M Fire Protection Company.

Frank married Diana Cavallero of Santa Barbara in 1977. Their family began with the birth of son, Erik, in 1982. In 1990, soon after the arrival of son, Cristian, Frank founded Alpha Fire Sprinkler Corporation. Due to Frank's hard work his company has grown to 35 employees with a second location in Pixley, California.

Frank was one of the most valuable members of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum's Board of Directors. His generosity of both his time and materials was unlimited. He donated one of his crews to mount the "Future Home of" signs on the Freighthouse. He used his great organizational skills to manage the parking problems at the Railroad Roundups at Santa Margarita Ranch. Frank was instrumental in the early development of the Emily Street Yard, donated the materials and crew to erect some of the fencing.

Frank was very much a take charge kind of guy who got things done. He could always be counted on to pitch in on needed work projects. The Museum is better off today because of Frank's involvement and determined spirit. Prior to his death he had offered to install the required fire sprinkler system in the Museum building at no cost to SLORRM.

Frank is survived by his wife of 32 years, Diana Cavallero Rheinisch; two sons Erik and Cristian; brother, Guenther Rheinisch (Debra) of Knoxville, Tennessee; a sister, Ursula Puglizevich (Eli); father-in-law, Vincent Cavallero; sister-in-law, Gloria Cavallero; and brother-in-law, Bruce Belfiore; a niece; two nephews; and cousins in Germany and The Netherlands. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 26, 2010, at the First Presbyterian Church, in San Luis Obispo. Interment was Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at Santa Barbara Cemetery. Donations in Frank's memory may be made to the Boy Scouts of America Los Padres Council, 4000 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 or The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.



Frank and his son Cristian help with the cleanup of the Museum's Caboose #409 at the display site in March, 2002.

## Donations in Frank's name

The following have made generous donations to the Museum in Frank's name: Guadalupe Angeles, Arnold and Gail Jonas, Don and Beverly Mead, Leo and Carol Michaud, Dennis and Patty Moresco, Ray and Sharon Saruwatari, Mark and Peggy Swan, and Western Fire Protection, Inc.

## An Extra Work Day



Howard Amborn, kneeling with impact wrench, and Ted VanKlaveren, with a spike puller, remove a stubborn nut from a rail-jointer plate.

Saturday, August 21, 2010, an extra work party comprised of Chris Hurd, Howard Amborn, Ted VanKlaveren, Brad LaRose and Glen Matteson met at CMC and removed the last 13 pieces of rail at that location.



Howard Amborn uses his helpful tractor to pull a length of rail from the old right-of-way to a spot next to the parking lot for loading and moving to the Emily Street Yard.

Photos by Glen Matteson

## Railroad Tour for Kids



In keeping with the Museum's mission of public education, Brad LaRose conducted a tour of the San Luis Obispo rail yard, Amtrak station and freighthouse for student campers. The 10 to 13 year olds were attending the "Frontier Days" summer camp sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department. This was an outreach program coordinated by the Central Coast Railroad Festival and included displays and programs by the San Luis Obispo Model Railroad Association.

Reported by Curtis Reinhardt

## LaCondesa Work Party



There was a work party June 12th at the car. Brad LaRose, Arnold Jonas, Howard Amborn, John Marchetti and Dave Rohr were there. The upper berth was removed and the kitchen area cleaned up. The rear windows that were broken were taken out and measured for replacement.

John Marchetti ordered safety glass replacements from Arroyo Grande Glass. John and Dave Rohr installed them in the car.

Wayne Yetter has an Amtrak style air conditioning unit he is giving us. It needs a compressor. Wayne thinks he has a compressor in his yard and will tell us the cost to rebuild it. The unit has a compressor and condenser in it. We will need to inspect the evaporator in the roof to see if it will work or will need a replacement.

Dale Blakely has inspected the blower fan motor in the roof and will try to find a replacement. The blower fan is 32 volt DC and he plans to replace it with a standard 110 volt AC motor. The blower fan is the only remaining apparatus in the car that uses the old 32 volt system.

*Reported by Dave Rohr*

## What is this Boxcar Number?

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has a 1200 series, 36-foot long, Pacific Coast Railway boxcar built in 1924. Now stored in the Emily Street Yard, this car was found in a field near the Bar-M Ranch house, south of Los Alamos, California.

Fortunately for future preservation, when the rancher built a new roof over the car, none of the original was removed or damaged. Pacific Coast Railway cars usually had the numbers painted in white on each end and both sides and above the inside of each

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door frame. There are no markings inside the car. The outside numbers were always painted white, so when the rancher

## BitterCreek

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The BitterCreek will be open from 10 am to 4 pm for ticket holders to enjoy as many rides as they want on a variety of trains. Barbecue hot dogs, chips and soda or water will be on sale for \$5 per person.



Museum T-shirts, Baseball hats, Engineer caps, Enameled pins, embroidered patches, coffee mugs and other souvenirs will all be on sale at the Museum table by the entrance.



painted the car white, to match his house, the numbers and car sides blended together creating a nearly impossible car identity puzzle that has yet to be unraveled. Careful sanding has not been useful in finding the car number. Any suggestions as to how to determine the identity of this car would be welcome.

*Reported by Brad LaRose*

## Central Coast Railroad Festival

*Continued from page 1*



San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum members will participate in several of the events and are encouraged to attend all the events. The main event for the SLORRM will be the Rail Celebration at the SLO Freighthouse on Saturday, October 9th, from 10 am to 4 pm. Museum members will reprise many of the activities from 2009 including speeder rides, area tours, music, and informational booths.

Plans are to display the 1926 Baldwin logging steam locomotive #7 in the Emily Street Yard, and unveil the City's new podcast walking tour of the Historic Railroad District. Museum members will also be at the Festival booth during the SLO Farmers' Market on Thursday night October 7th and are encouraged to participate in a pre Festival event on Sunday, September 26th at the Dallidet Adobe in San Luis Obispo honoring local rail historian and author Loren Nicholson.

The Museum and Railroad Festival have received a promotional grant from the City of San Luis Obispo's Promotional Coordinating Committee. The \$5,000 grant will fund Festival and Museum advertising in the September West Ways magazine, the Fresno and Bakersfield newspapers and TV spots in Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties. All these ads will include the SLORRM and the Historical Railroad District logos. The PCC was pleased to fund the promotion of these events which are a collaboration of efforts between many area rail and historical organizations.

Museum members wishing to become more involved with the Festival can contact Festival Director Curtis Reinhardt at 805-773-4173 or director@crrf.com.

**The Great American Railroad Show**, originally planned for Labor Day weekend, September 1 through 5, 2010, has been rescheduled for the last two weekends of March, 2011.