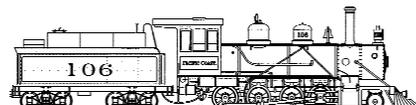


Coast Mail



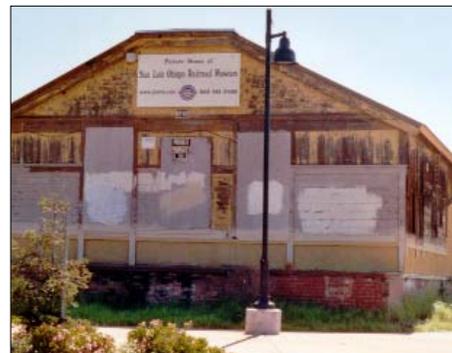
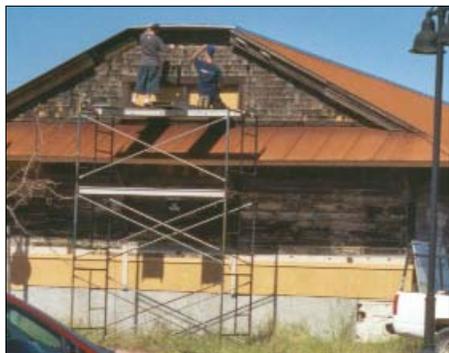
News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

Volume 6, Number 2

San Luis Obispo, California, Summer, 2005

www.slormm.com

Signs of Progress at the Freighthouse



Left to Right: Craftsmen from Frank Rheinisch's Alpha Fire Sprinkler Company install the museum's new signs. Care had to be taken not to damage or alter the structure. Three signs, one for each end, and one for the street side, were created for the museum by David Norton of SLO Graphics. The signs on the building ends were mounted as high as possible for maximum visibility and to protect them from graffiti and other damage.

Using the approximately \$185,000 remaining from the foundation repair and roofing projects, and \$125,000 from the Community Development Block Grant, work will soon begin on the next stage of the Freighthouse rehabilitation.

Museum Secretary Arnold Jonas will submit to the City Project Manager a suggested list of priorities compiled by the SLORRM Board of Directors.

Building the handicap ramp was deemed most important by the Board as this will bring the museum closer to allowing public access to the building. It will also make it easier for museum volunteers and other workers to move large and heavy items in and out of the building.

Second on the list is the repaving the portion of the floor that was removed to repair the foundation and capping the remaining asphalt floor to prevent the escape of harmful asbestos dust.

Third was the removal of lead base paint from the building. This, and the first two items can only be performed by licensed contractors that specialize in those operations.

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Help the Museum Save Money

The Museum's mailing list is now over 1,000. That means that it costs \$370+ every time a newsletter is mailed out. We are attempting to get a non-profit organization mailing permit. If approved, that will save some money.

If you have e-mail, you can receive the newsletter by downloading it from www.slormm.com, the Museum website. If you are willing to do this, please send your e-mail address to info@slormm.com. Each time that a newsletter is published you will be notified by e-mail. You can then download and read the newsletter on screen, or you can print it using your own printer.

Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

More than 1,500 attend first annual event

843 people turned in tickets on Saturday, May 7th at Santa Margarita Ranch, and 683 more showed up on Sunday to ride antique steam trains, listen to music, eat and generally have a good time.

The forecasts of rain and high winds failed to materialize and the weather was nice for the entire weekend. Maybe the fact that KSBY weatherman Richard Gearhart was one of our guests made the difference.

The 1927 Vulcan 2-4-0 pulled two of the ex-Disneyland coaches, and the slightly smaller Porter 2-6-2 pulled the other. At peak times the lines looked almost like people waiting for an E-ticket ride at Disneyland.

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Museum member and Amtrak engineer Jim McEntire worked tirelessly driving the 1927 Vulcan

Jamie Foster photo.



1897 Porter 2-6-2 steams into the station to pick up more passengers at Santa Margarita Ranch.

Jamie Foster photo



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

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Telephone 805-461-3456
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 web site: www.slorrm.com
 Mail to: P.O. Box 13260
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

TIMETABLE

The following is a list of coming meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Business meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Program Meetings are at 7:00 p.m.

Business Meetings are held at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Program Meeting locations will be announced in advance.

August 11 *Business Meeting*
 September 8 *Business Meeting*
 Sunday, September 25, 2005.....

Fall Train Festival

at BitterCreek Western Railroad

November 10 *Business Meeting*
 December 8 *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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How I Became A Real Railroad Conductor in Ten Easy Steps

by Joe Burns



Joe Burns expostulating on the beauty and mystique of Santa Margarita Ranch. Photo by Jamie Foster.

My rail journey began eons ago, but back then I had no idea that I would someday have an exciting career as an unpaid Conductor on Rancho Santa Margarita. The story behind the story is a tale of training, preparation and pure luck. Here is the condensed version, in ten simple steps.

1. Got a job as skipper and guide on the *Jungle Cruise* at Disneyland. I learned how to not dump people in the water while loading and unloading them from the boat. Also learned how to present a spiel and make it look almost natural.
2. Trained on the *Mine Train* through Nature's Wonderland at Disneyland. As an engineer/ride operator on this real railroad attraction, I learned things like forward, reverse, braking and bell ringing.
3. With railroading now in my blood, I began to hop freight trains across the country as a cheap way to visit Mom and Dad. This is where I learned the real value of "Safety First."
4. Inspired by a trespassing episode on *Cops* I decided to go legal and begin work for Santa Fe as an Assistant Engineer. "Turning the Power" at Union Station in Los Angeles was a challenge. Kids in trackside housing projects consider it great fun to bean an Engineer with a rock.
5. Attend a physics class at UCLA to review Newtonian Laws of Motion and see how quantum mechanics might affect train movements. Gravity rules when it comes to train ops.
6. While shopping at the local Goodwill store, I discover a cheap cloth vest

that could easily pass as part of a Conductor's uniform. I begin to think big; with the right costume maybe I could learn to say "Tickets Please" and "Get your feet off the seat."

7. Shopping at a local Costume Store I discover a slightly used Conductor's Hat, for a great price. My official railroad uniform is almost complete.

8. The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum is desperate for volunteers to be conductors. Most of my training and preparation has been unnecessary but, in a zen sort of way, I am not disappointed.

9. I arrive in Santa Margarita in uniform, with my ticket punch, ready to rock and roll. I am told to keep my ticket punching to a minimum, no one wants to see little paper circles littering the floor of historic Disneyland passenger coaches.

10. I welcome passengers aboard the Santa Margarita Ranch Pacific Coast Railroad and attend to their every need. Using tact, psychology and vocal commands, I maintain order. Now I can hardly wait until next year to yell "All Aboard."



Jeff Gallagher, pictured above, along with Pete Ambrose and Russ Sperry, also did journeyman duty working as conductors at the Railroad Roundup.

Jamie Foster photo.

Signs of Progress *continued*

Many of the remaining tasks, such as wiring, plumbing and fire sprinkler installation have been offered at no cost to the museum by local contractors. Many other jobs; painting, repairing windows, rebuilding doors, building interior walls, can be done by museum volunteers.

Life Memberships Now Available

At its July 14, 2005 Business Meeting, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum Board of directors voted to establish specific rates for life memberships.

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 especially 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 Southern Pacific Freight house, at the San Luis Obispo railroad station.

Life Memberships: receive the Coast Mail newsletter, 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

New Members

Tom Barton, the Ferber Family, Jon and Beth Wordsworth, Al Conner, Jack Cashin, Richard Kenville, Leon Fairbanks, John and Anna Fleming, Harold Schuchardt, Peter Nott, David Rowe, Henry and Ann Rible, James Holmes, Jake Mills, James Taylor, Sandra Chase, Jack Morris, Linda Bonnett, Bonnie Adams, Loren Nicholson, and the Norman Johnson family, have all joined SLORRM since the last newsletter was published.

Renewals . . .

Phil Gould, Stan Harkins, Elaine Dutra, Roland Pautz, Karl Hovanitz, Larry Tarpley, Andy and Sue Mc Means, Steve McCarty, Mike Palmer, Ray Craig, Ed Winnewisser, Jim McEntire, Stan Wilson, Jim Thornburg, Dominic Perello, Charles Kinzer, William Bruckart, John Miramon, Elaine LaLanne, Bob and Dodie Williams, Bill Barbour, Fred Paap, Smokey Bass, The Bordeaux Family, Allan Warner, John Turrill, The Jim Batchelor Family, Robert and Olga Harway, Andrew Merriam, Gerard Parsons, William Burnette and family, Mike Marple, Laura Abeloe, Bob

Family Life Memberships: receive special laminated membership cards for all family members, the Coast Mail newsletter, and have voting rights for life for two people residing at the same address. *Use age of youngest 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.

New Coffee Mugs



The SLORRM Company Store has received a shipment of new coffee mugs. These new mugs feature the museum logo on the front and the City of SLO Historic Railroad District logo on the back. They are ceramic mugs, 4 1/2" high by 3" in diameter and hold 12 ounces of liquid. Get yours now. Just \$10 delivered.

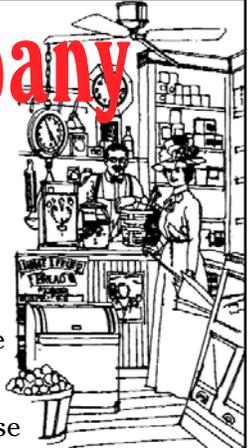
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Sandel, Gunther Mayer-Harnisch, John Marchetti, Frank Rheinisch family and Mark Evans have recently renewed their membership.

Arnold and Gail Jonas and Richard Alberts have become life members of the museum.

If you're not a member, please join now. Your support is needed. Single membership costs \$36 per year. Family membership is \$60, or you can be a sustaining member for \$100 per year. See top of page for information about life memberships. Mail checks to SLORRM, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Company Store



SLORRM has a variety of items for sale to raise money for the Museum. All the goods shown below are available for purchase at any time.

To order, send a check to SLORRM at P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Local orders will be delivered. Outside of SLO County please include \$5.00 for shipping and handling.



T-Shirts \$17⁰⁰

Gray Haynes Beefy-T with SLORRM logo printed on front and the Historic Railroad District logo on back.

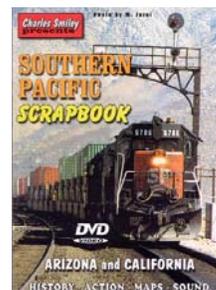
Available in adult sizes, S, M, L, XL, XXL. Children's S, M, L.



Hats \$8⁰⁰

Adult or Child's

Belt Buckle \$25⁰⁰



Videos and DVD's \$27⁰⁰

Southern Pacific Scrapbook. Final look at SP in California and Arizona.

SP Vintage West features many scenes from Bernice Jackson films. Shows SP from 1950 to 1978.

Steam Trains at Santa Margarita!

by Steve DeGaetano

On Saturday, May 7, 2005, I took a field trip to the little town of Santa Margarita near California's central coast. There on the beautiful Rancho Santa Margarita, I got to have a bit of fun with two very unique little steam locomotives and some very special passenger coaches. The event was a fundraiser for the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. On hand was a Model A Ford car club, a brass band, small scale live steamers, antique gasoline engines, hobby displays, and of course, the trains.



Jamie Foster Photo

Powering the two trains were two small 3-foot gauge steamers. A 2-4-0 Vulcan and an ersatz 2-6-2 Porter. One of the real treats of the day for me, however, was a ride in car No. 102, the Navajo Chief, still lettered for the Santa Fe and Disneyland Railroad.

A little history: In 1955 there were only two trains on the Disneyland

Railroad, a freight train, and a passenger train consisting of a combine, four coaches and an observation car.

In the mid 1960s the train was pulled from service, seeing only occasional use during inclement weather. In 1975 Disneyland refurbished the observation car, originally known as *Grand Canyon* and renamed it *Lilly Belle*. That car remains at the park today.

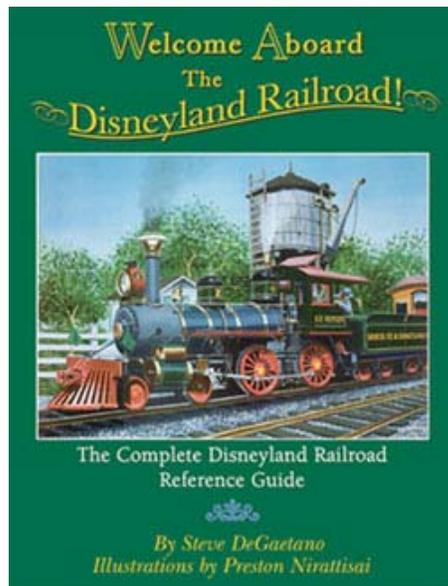
For years, the rest of the train was stored in the Disney roundhouse. Eventually the cars were traded to a local railfan named Bill Norred.

In 1998, Bill Norred passed away, and his family sold the coaches. In 1999, Rob Rossi purchased four of the coaches: No. 102, *Navajo Chief*; No. 103, *Colorado Rockies*; No. 104, *Land of Pueblos* and No. 105, *Painted Desert*. The Norred family has retained car No. 101, *Wells Fargo Express*.

Rob Rossi is restoring the cars. Aside from some chipping and peeling paint they are in excellent condition. The green naugahyde seats are in great shape and the wood grain linoleum floors are only slightly worse for the wear. On the very pleasant ride

I had to remind myself that these cars are 50 years old!

All in all, it was wonderful to once again ride in one of Walt Disney's passenger coaches, lovingly preserved by Rob Rossi.



Steve DeGaetano is the author of "Welcome Aboard the Disneyland Railroad!" a 320 page book on the Disney steam trains, which can be purchased at www.dlrcad.com/book.

Train Festival at BitterCreek

Sunday, September 25, 2005, museum member **Karl Hovanitz** will once again open his **Bitter Creek Western Railroad** for the benefit of the **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum**.

From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. you can ride the trains as many times as you want for a donation of \$10⁰⁰. Children under 13 get in for \$6⁰⁰ and there is no charge for babies under 2 years of age. You can also purchase \$5⁰⁰ Meal Tickets at the same time you order your Tickets to Ride. Each meal ticket entitles the bearer to one hot dog, one bag of chips and one soft drink or water.

Space is limited to 175 guests, so get your tickets early. Tickets go on sale September 1st, and are issued on a first come, first served basis. No checks will be accepted after September 17th. Tickets will be mailed, with a map, on receipt of payment.

Railroad Roundup



Vulcan 2-4-0 steams into the station area at Santa Margarita Ranch. Beautifully restored Model A convertible is on display near the tracks. Many nice old cars were on hand for the roundup.



Museum president Brad LaRose took steps to insure that everything ran smoothly and every body had a good time.



The San Luis Obispo County Band entertained on Saturday, playing vigorous renditions of old favorites.