



The Interchange

News for the Customers of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Company
The Transportation Gateway for the Central Coast

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Fall 2007

First Year on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad



We have completed our first year since taking over the Santa Maria Valley Railroad and it has been a challenging year! We continue to put capital in much needed infrastructure improvements. Special events and our non-profit Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad continue to promote the railroad to the general public. We will continue to improve our railroad to insure quality service to all of our freight customers.

Company Store



Running out of ideas for Christmas shopping? Come by our company store in the freight depot for official SMVRR logo apparel and items. Jackets, hats, polo shirts, t-shirts, coffee cups are all now in stock!

Third Quarter Updates

Challenges on the Union Pacific

There were several unfortunate incidences that challenged Union Pacific Railroad and they proved to be up to the task once again. These incidences resulted in some cases 24 to 48 hours of delays in service. We salute the UP's MOW forces for working with much dedication and urgency to get service up and running with minimal delays.

Gaviota Fire on the Union Pacific Coast Line

On September 4 a fire in Gaviota spread to the Union Pacific main line and as a result a number of ties burned. Firefighters from the California Department of Forestry and other agencies quickly contained the blaze in just a few days. The Union Pacific MOW gang rose to the occasion working on replacing ties and had the line open the next day.

Mishap at the Guadalupe Yard

On September 9 a derailment of a Union Pacific freight train in Guadalupe affected both the main line and the Guadalupe yard track. Several cars went on the ground and service was disrupted. Once again UP MOW forces quickly cleared the tracks and restored service on the main line.



West Colton Yard

Due to increased congestion, the terminal dwell time in the West Colton yard ballooned to 43 hours in late August. By the end of September UP operations had improved and dwell time was reduced to 36 hours.

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Open House during Grapes and Grains Festival



An open house is held during Santa Maria's Autumn Grapes and Grains Festival celebrating the one year anniversary of the purchase of the railroad.

The well attended open house featured displays inside the depot, displays of the SMVRR locomotives and speeders, and a miniature train ride hosted by the Bitter Creek and Western Railroad and a anniversary cupcakes and train cookies fundraiser sale hosted by the our non-profit Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.

Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Calendar of Events

FRIENDS THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8 MONTHLY PROGRAM

PLACE: SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD YARD

TIME: DINNER AT 5:40 PM PROGRAM 6:00

For this month's special program San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum members Karl Hovanitz and David Rohr will be conducting a tour of the La Condesa, a 1926 Pullman Observation Car donated to the SLORM. Dinner serves at 5:40 pm for only \$4.00.

NO FRILLS SPEEDER EXCURSION

PLACE: SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD YARD

TIME: SATURDAY NOV. 10 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Motorcar Operators West will be hosting a no-frills speeder excursion on the SMVRR.. Two runs in the morning followed by a BBQ lunch. A final run in the afternoon.

FRIENDS THURSDAY DECEMBER 13 MONTHLY PROGRAM

PLACE: SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD YARD

TIME: DINNER AND PROGRAM STARTS AT 6:00 PM

Join us for a Special Holiday Program with a Dinner and holiday treats for only \$6.00. Don't miss our special holiday program!

SMVRR Personnel Changes



Conductor/ Engineer Merrill Haberman rejoins the Santa Maria Valley Railroad after a 12 year stint with the San Joaquin Valley Railroad. Merrill has been looking forward to getting back on to the SMVRR.

Merrill will be assisting with some of the depot work. Some of you may have already talked to Merrill on the phone.

Long time Conductor Vince Martinez decided to take a different career and pulled the pin with the SMVRR. Thank you Vince for all of your hard work and dedication to the SMVRR!

Rail Transportation Services

Through our Cooperative Marketing Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad, we have direct access to any location in North America served by our national railroad network. Contact VP and Chief Operating Officer Dave Jennings for your rail transportation needs.

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