



Coast Mail

News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum



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Railroad Festival Shows Off Museum's Potential

The 2nd Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival is in the books. It was highly successful and grew in stature and content from its first presentation in 2009. The Festival is laying the groundwork for a major railroad event and tourist attractor on the Central Coast of California. The Festival had 50 events and displays. Webmaster Jamie Foster has compiled a 2010 Festival photo index page at: <http://ccrrf.com/photo-index.html>.

The Rail Celebration at the Freight House included tours of the Historic Railroad District and the Emily Street Yard led by Museum President Brad LaRose and speeder rides which yielded more income than similar rides in 2009. Plans are being made to expand activities within and around the Freight House during the 2011 Central Coast Railroad Festival. The Freight House should be one of the Festival's anchor venues once the interior is available for displays and events.

Highlights of this year's Festival included a large turnout for the model railroad tours including a record crowd at SLORRM Director Andrew Merriam's home layout. The Amtrak Wine-Train excursions, concerts and history talks were well received. The Festival had an increase in out of town visitors and family participation.

Press coverage of the Freight House event was very positive and included



On Saturday, October 9th, Museum President Brad LaRose addresses visitors to the Emily Street Yard while standing in front of the Museum's Baldwin 0-4-2T steam locomotive #7.

a KCOY TV interview with Brad LaRose in front of the Baldwin steam locomotive in the Emily Street Yard. The Sunday Tribune's Local Section featured two Freight House photos on its front page. One photo showed Board Member Karl Hovanitz in his orange speeder giving a ride to a dad and his son and the other showed Board Member Aron Kahn waiving to the passengers on a Coast Starlight. The SLORRM logo was used in an ad in the AAA Westways magazine which was proved to be very effective. The

Freight House was also shown on TV spots in Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

SLORRM member and CCRRF Director, Curtis Reinhardt, thanks everyone that attended various Festival events and helped with the activities in many ways. He welcomes your input to critique the 2010 Festival and your suggestions for future festivals. He can be reached through the Festival's website: www.ccrrf.com

Last Rail Removed from CMC



Monday, September 20, volunteers Tom Cooper, Chris Hurd, Brad LaRose, and Glen Matteson, along with Damon of Superior Crane Service, moved the last 16 sections of salvageable rail (totaling about eight tons). The picture at left shows Damon, Tom, and Brad securing the load. The rails had been removed from the former Southern Pacific spur to Camp San Luis Obispo on previous work days when Howard Amborn, Karl Hovanitz, Aron Kahn, and Ted Van Klaveren also helped.

Photo and report by Glen Matteson
For more on this subject go to page 3

Save Some Green

The end of the Year is approaching fast and tax time is not far behind that.

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

Post Office Box 13260
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

is certified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



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*
 Aron Kahn *Secretary*
 David Rohr *Treasurer*
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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.

December 14 *Business Meeting*
 January 11, 2011 ... *Business Meeting*
 February 8 *Business Meeting*
 March 8 *Business Meeting*
 April 12 *Business Meeting*
 May 10 *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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New Members Peter Brazil, Skyler Cappelli, Vincent Cipolla, Richard Terry and Don and Lynne Maddy.

Renewals Bonnie Adams, Jack Cashin, Dennis Cementina, John Falkenstein, Michael McGinley, Martin Gombert, Dwight Hudson, Brad LaRose, Bob Sandel, Ted VanKlaveren, George "Smokey" and Janice Bass, William and Jacqueline Burnette, Michael and Virginia Orcutt-Clenard, and Pierre Rademaker (Sustaining) .

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.

Single members pay \$36 per year. A family can join for \$60 annually. Mail payment to SLORRM, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3260.

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.

New Life Members Bill and Bev Kluss have become Life Members of SLORRM.

Donations John Falkenstein has made a monetary donation to SLORRM. Bill and Shirley Seaver and Linda Swain donated in memory of Charles Van Nortwick.

Charles Van Nortwick

On Tuesday, October 19, 2010, museum supporter Charles Van Nortwick, 76, passed away unexpectedly. He was born in Belleville, Kansas in July, 1934 to



Leonard and Lucille Van Nortwick. He grew up in Republic, Kansas, where he graduated from Belleville High School in 1952. He moved to Camarillo, California, where he worked for Adohr Farms. He married Anna Janousek in 1953. Charles had been self-employed since 1954 providing landscaping and weed abatement services. His love for trains led him to work with the Union Pacific Railroad on the Central Coast. In the spring of 2006 Charles took on the task of weed abatement at the Museum's Sears Storage Yard.

Charles is survived by his wife, Anna Van Nortwick; 2 sons, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 2 greatgrandchildren, a brother and a sister. Condolences can be sent to 1491 Frances Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, or the charity of your choice.

Museum Presented to Historical Society

Friday, October 8th, Brad LaRose and Aron Kahn presented to the *Conference of California Historical Societies* a talk and Power Point show about the history of railroading on the Central Coast, the development of SLORRM, its present status and its future. The presentation was well received by the society members and many of them were able to take the *Historic Railroad District Walk of History* tour on Saturday, October 9th.

The tours were 1 hour 15 minutes in length and included the Amtrak Depot, REA building, water tank, freight house, caboose and Emily Street Yard. Museum member Baron Smith facilitated the event as he is also a CCHS member.

CMC Track Donation Finally Completed



Ted VanKlaveren scrapes ballast from the Museum's dump car onto the display track.

On Saturday, October 16, 2010, a dedicated and hardy crew of seven Museum members embarked on the final phase of the prolonged CMC track donation project. The donation from the state prison resulted in the Museum acquiring approximately one-half mile of track. This included the rails, track hardware, wooden ties and rock ballast. Initially, inmate work crews dismantled the track and delivered the rails and track hardware to the Museum storage facility at the San Luis Obispo Sears Yard. After that initial transport of rail, the work crews continued to dismantle the track, but it was up to museum volunteers to go to CMC, load and transport the track. As this project was extremely large, this has taken several years.

The removal of rock ballast was the final phase, although there may be some clean up of miscellaneous materials in the future. Ballast is the rock that goes under, between and on the sides of wooden crossties. It allows water flow through so that moisture does not cause the ties to rot. Ballast differs from gravel, in that it has been sifted to a uniform 1½" diameter. There are no small rocks or sand to hold moisture or running water.

The work day started at 8:00 a.m. with a crew of: Howard Amborn, Ted VanKlaveren and his son Mark, Chris Hurd, Duane Powell, Glen Matteson and Brad LaRose. Howard dropped off his John Deere tractor before driving to the Emily Street Yard to pick up a United Rentals dump trailer. He

returned to CMC and loaded ballast into the trailer. When he arrived at the display track in front of the Freight house, the load was dumped and he drove back to CMC for more.

At the display track, Duane Powell used his tractor to load ballast into the push car that Ted Van Klaveren and Tom Cooper had constructed. This modified push car/pick up truck bed vehicle is not beautiful; its beauty is in its function. It worked flawlessly. Once loaded, the crew pushed it along the track, stopping between each pair of ties. A chain fall, donated by Tom Cooper (who also donated the pick up truck bed/box), was used to raise the box. A precise amount of ballast was then dumped between the ties.

The crew used track jacks to level the track as the ballast was tamped into place, under and around the ties, using shovels, lining bars rakes and other assorted tools. After a long, hard day of work, ballast had been placed between the rails of approximately 200' of track. This was a good start, and a good initiation to this type of work for our track crew.

Future plans call for delivering the ballast rock with a dump truck prior to the work day. This will allow the entire crew to work on placing and tamping the ballast, making the process faster and more efficient. Once the ballast between the rails has been installed, the dump car will be modified to spread the next loads of rock to the ends of the ties. Ballast along the side walk will be kept in place by a *curb rail* that we will install.

Story and photo by Brad LaRose

The Winner at the Election is the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum!

Museum members, as volunteer elections officials, staffed the drive up and drop off polling location at the San Luis Obispo County Government Center. Absentee ballots could be hand delivered, without getting out of your car. Over 400 votes were cast at this busy location during the morning shift staffed by Agatha Reardon and Aron Kahn. More votes were cast during the afternoon shift staffed by Brad LaRose and another volunteer.

The county clerk recorder's office seeks volunteer non-profit organizations to staff polling places. A stipend is given for each volunteer, and this money is sent to the nonprofit organization. This is a small, yet important fund raiser for the museum. We receive funds for the organization, meet friends and contribute to the community we serve.

This is the 6th year the museum has worked with the County election officials at a polling location. We intend to continue this very worthwhile and enjoyable activity.



Aron Kahn and Agatha Reardon staff the Ballot Drop-off station on Monterey Street on Election Day, November 2nd.

Baldwin Locomotive Moved to Emily Street



After being in storage in Northern SLO County for several years, The Museum's Baldwin 0-4-2T locomotive was moved to the Emily Street Yard in San Luis Obispo. On Friday, September 24, Museum members Brad LaRose, Tom Cooper and Karl Hovanitz along with Dwight Peterson, owner of *Dwight Peterson Low Bed Service*, a trucking company in Atascadero, California, accomplished the move.

Dwight donated his time and use of his truck and hydraulic trailer for the move. Dwight placed narrow gauge track panels (sections of rail welded together) on his trailer. Using a winch and cable hooked to the coupler, he pulled the locomotive from the track on the ground onto the track on the trailer. This was a very smooth operation that saved the cost of hiring a crane for lifting the engine.

Dwight and his truck arrived in San Luis Obispo at the Museum's Emily Street Yard, pulling in and backing to a temporary track ramp constructed by Chris Hurd, Tom Cooper and Brad LaRose. The unloading went quickly and without any problems. Once the locomotive was at ground level, on flat track and disconnected from the trailer winch cable, it needed to be moved approximately 10 feet closer to Pacific Coast Railway narrow gauge boxcar #706.

Without a switch engine available or the locomotive being under steam, Chris and Tom had to use lining bars to lever the locomotive down the track. Brad LaRose rode in the locomotive cab using the hand brake to bring the locomotive to a stop.

Given the Museum's constantly growing presence in the San Luis Obispo Historic Railroad District, and the upcoming Central Coast Railroad Festival involving Walk of History tours, this was a good time to bring the Baldwin locomotive #7 to its new home in San Luis Obispo.

Story and Photo by Brad LaRose

Loren Nicholson Honored at Dallidet Adobe

On Sunday, September 26, 2010, local dignitaries, Museum members and members of the public gathered at the *Dallidet Adobe*, a city historical park, to pay tribute to *Loren Nicholson*, local author, historian and Cal Poly Journalism Professor Emeritus.

The event was sponsored by the *Central Coast Railroad Festival* as a special preview and reception event. Loren is probably best known among Museum members and history buffs as the author of *Rails Across the Ranchos*, a 210 page, limited edition, history of railroading on the Central Coast in the nineteenth century.

Speakers lauding Loren for his many accomplishments included Jim Keating, President of the SLO Model Railroad Association, SLO Mayor Dave Romero, SLORRM President Brad LaRose, Ken Schwartz, former Mayor of SLO, Gary Hoving, President of the South County Historical Society and Craig Kreowski, President of the History Center of SLO County. Music was provided by Craig Kincaid.

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Pictured at left are Loren Nicholson and Museum President Brad LaRose, standing in front of the horse-drawn street car used by the San Luis Obispo Street Railway in the late nineteenth century. The street car is housed in the historic Ramona Depot at the Dallidet Adobe, 1185 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo. Museum members are encouraged to visit the adobe and check out these rare railroad artifacts.

Story by Bill Pyper, Photo by Jaime Foster

