



Coast Mail

News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum



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www.slormm.com

Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup Returns



1896 Porter 2-6-2 Steam Locomotive at Santa Margarita Ranch in 2008. Photo by Jaime Foster

Saturday, April 30th

will see the return of the Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup to the Santa Margarita Ranch, after a one-year hiatus.

Rob Rossi has generously offered his *Pacific Coast Railroad* on the Santa Margarita Ranch to be used as a fundraiser for SLORRM.

Visitors will be able to ride in the ex-Disneyland passenger coaches pulled by an 1896 Porter steam locomotive. There will be BBQ food available and vendors of Railroad Memorabilia will be on site.

Ticket Prices Reduced

Ticket prices for this Roundup have been reduced to \$10⁰⁰ for adults and \$6⁰⁰ for children 12 and under.

Please turn to Roundup on page 4

Great American Railroad Show Chugging into San Luis Obispo

The Great American Railroad Show will premiere in San Luis Obispo in late March 2011. This unique, *steam powered* live stage show will be presented at the **Unity Theatre**, 1490 Southwood Drive, on March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. Showtimes are 7:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees at 2:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The show was been crafted by Writer/Creator **Joe Burns** and is co-produced by **Curtis Reinhardt**, Director of the Central Coast Railroad Festival. Joe is a Disney veteran and Curtis is a music and events industry professional. Theatre professional Jake McGuire will direct.

Welcome and "All Aboard" for The Great American Railroad Show! Train enthusiasts, theatre buffs and music fans will not want to miss this entertainment experience. It is a show that will be intriguing for adults of all ages as well as fascinating for younger family members. Every passenger on this theatrical railroad show will be served a full menu of railroad history and railroad humor. The performances will include dancing, singing, railroad films, movie clips and an old fashioned melodrama. Historical elements

will be woven into the show including the creation of the Transcontinental Railroad as well as focuses on the Southern Pacific, Central Pacific, Union Pacific, Santa Fe and Disneyland Railroads. The program will be staged as a live radio show taping similar to "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor. Ten great singers and actors have been cast in the show.

The Great American Railroad Show will include a "preshow" environment in the lobby which will feature model railroads and exhibits about Central Coast railroad history. The SLORRM will offer an information table as well as display some artifacts and the Museum's Velocipede.

SLORRM Member Night is Friday, March 18. A \$4⁰⁰ discount per ticket is offered to Museum members and their guests. Enter **SP1894** discount code when ordering tickets. That show will probably sell out, so advance purchase through the show's website: **www.americanrailroadshow.com** is recommended. Tickets cost \$19⁰⁰ for adults and \$14⁰⁰ for children. Show details can be found on the website or by calling the Central Coast Railroad Festival office at 805-773-4173.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are sorely needed to help with the Railroad Roundup, on April 29 and 30, and with the Spring Railroad Festival, April 2 and 3 at the BitterCreek Western Railroad. Liability insurance limitations make it necessary that all volunteers be Museum members. If you can help, please call **John Marchetti** at 550-8124, or e-mail **janddmarchetti@aol.com**

Train Festival at BitterCreek Western Sunday, April 3rd



Come and enjoy riding the 7½" gauge BitterCreek Western Railroad in rural Arroyo Grande. Go to the website, **www.slormm.com** for details.



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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Telephone 805-544-6531
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 web site: www.slorrm.com

Mail to: P.O. Box 13260
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Bill Pyper, *Newsletter Editor*
 rrbill10@comcast.net

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.

March 8 *Business Meeting*

April 3rd, Sunday
BitterCreek Western Train Festival

April 12 *Business Meeting*

April 30th, Saturday
Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup
at Santa Margarita Ranch

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 Southern Pacific 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 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 and click on **Company Store**.

Individual Renewals

Howard Amborn, Angela Bruckart, Jim Chernoff, Vincent Cipolla, Edward De Leonardis, Thomas Ennis, Ralph George, Beverly Hardy, Karl Hovanitz, Curt Johnson, Kent Kenney, Charles Kinzer, Glen Matteson, John Miramon, Steve Mott, Beverly Murray, Paul Pedroni, Curtis Reinhardt, Gary See, Patrick Sullivan, John Turrill, George Wilson, and Stan Wilson have all renewed their membership.

John Feliciano, Henry Myers, and Ken Schwartz have renewed as sustaining members.

Family Renewals

Gordon and Manetta Bennett, Luther and Betsy Bertrando, Jon Paul and Jenny Curzan, Thomas and Carolynn Peterson, Dwight and Joyce Peterson, and Bob and Dodie Williams have renewed their family memberships in SLORRM.

New Life Member

Richard Dickey has become a Life Member of SLORRM.

Donations

Patrick Sullivan, Ed Winnewisser and The Hind Foundation have made monetary donations to The Museum.

Correction

The Fall 2010 edition of Coast Mail contains an error that needs explanation. The honor for Loren Nicholson was not held at a City historical park. The Dallidet Adobe and Gardens are privately owned by the History Center (formerly the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society.) Maintenance and operation of the gardens and adobe is entirely by volunteers without any City funding. We are proud of our accomplishments and happy that we were able to help honor Loren.

Submitted by Betsy Bertrando

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.

Museum Interior Construction Moves Ahead



Freighthouse interior looking south.



Freighthouse interior looking north.

Wednesday, December 29, 2010 marked a milestone for the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum's interior construction program. With Museum President Brad LaRose in attendance, Museum Building Committee members John Marchetti and Andrew Merriam held a preliminary walk through with 4 potential contractors to discuss installing supplemental trusses so that the Museum can occupy the interior. This is a major step in occupying the building and converting it from a warehouse to a museum. The installation of these trusses allows us to hang the fire suppression systems (fire sprinklers), lighting and power as well as provide insulation at the roof level. The new trusses, while having the same configuration as the existing historical trusses, are to be painted black and have the bottom member raised about nine inches so that visually the historic open-shed character of the museum space will be retained. - see photos above.

In order to clean up the space prior to construction, our Saturday workday focused on clearing out the main floor. It was a great success, with a peak workforce of 14 helping to muscle the collection either to the Emily Street storage area and/or relocating it to the north end of the freighthouse for future evaluation and possible use. We have so much stuff, it's sort of exciting and exhausting.

The result of the bidding process was an award to RK Builders, Inc. of San Luis Obispo for the installation of the trusses which were fabricated by Hayward Building Systems of Santa Maria. Construction started in early

February, and will be closely followed by the Phase I installation of the fire sprinkler system.

Parallel to our effort is the City's commitment to complete the exterior ramp and railing system to meet safety and disability access standards as well as initiate work in the restroom area. At that point, City funding through the development block grants is complete. The Museum will then continue with tenant improvements using its own funds and donations from the Hind Grant.

Photos and Report by Andrew Merriam



Ryan McKinley of RK Builders, Inc. supervising the unloading the trusses at the freighthouse on February 1st.

Generous Donation Received

On Thursday, February 3, 2011, SLORRM President Brad LaRose, met with Greg Hind, owner of GH Sports and president of the Hind Foundation, at Greg's office in San Luis Obispo.



Greg presented Brad with a donation check for the Museum in the amount of \$50,000.00. This money is specifically directed to be spent on the 1894 Southern Pacific Railroad Freight house restoration project.

Construction on the final Phase IV of this 12 year project, has already started. See story above,

The Hind grant will pay for trusses, electrical work, construction of restrooms and walls in the freight house. Without this substantial donation, the restoration of the building would not happen. The Museum building committee, made up of professionals in the building design and construction fields, is working hard to make every dollar go as far as possible.

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum Board of Directors and membership sincerely thank Greg Hind, Jane Hind and family and the Hind Foundation for this generous donation. The Hind family appreciates the preservation of historic resources. Their commitment to help preserve this historic building ensures that it will be here for many decades to come.

Roundup *Continued*

The price of admission includes one train ride. Additional rides can be purchased for a nominal fee.

Tickets will be available at:

Central Coast Trains
7600 El Camino Real, Suite 3
Atascadero

SLO Chamber of Commerce
1039 Chorro Street
San Luis Obispo

5-Cities Tax Service
1238 East Grand Avenue
Arroyo Grande

Mike's Trains & Hobbies
111½ South H Street
Lompoc

UPS Stores
793 Foothill Boulevard
1241 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo

Tickets will also be available by mail at SLORRM, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 and online. Visit the website www.slorm.com for details.

Museum souvenirs including belt buckles, baseball hats, engineer hats, adult and child's T-shirts, coffee mugs, embroidered patches, and enameled pins will be available for sale.

Many Generous Donations Bolster Museum's Collection

- John Marchetti donated an original first style Amtrak uniform.
- Karl Hovanitz donated a 1925 SP book of "Instructions to Accountants," which will make a good display and archival item..
- Brad La Rose donated a slide projector and screen, a milk can, a coal hopper, coffee mugs, three spike malls, welding equipment and other railroad hardware.
- Cal Poly donated a 9' x 9' motorized projection screen which can be hung in the meeting area of the Museum.
- Tom Veronese donated three Western Union telegraphers' keys.
- The family of H. E. Hawley has donated his entire railroad collection to The Museum. This is the largest single

4 donation of artifacts that the Museum has received in a long time. It took eighteen pages of donation forms to record it all.



L-R: Ted VanKlaveren and Chris Hurd supervise while Tom Cooper, Howard Amborn and Glen Matteson unload ballast for the display track on the

February 5th work day.

Below: Gary See and Chris Hurd spread the ballast delivered by Howard Amborn near the north end of the freighthouse.

Photos by Curtis Reinhardt



Work Day, January 8th

Construction is to begin very soon on the final construction phase of the 1894 Southern Pacific Railroad freight-house restoration.

A crew of 10 museum members assembled in the freighthouse on Saturday, January 8, 2011. They moved or removed almost every artifact and many other items from inside the building. For the first time in many years, the floor is virtually void of stacked artifacts, etc. This had to be done so that the adding of new roof trusses, fire sprinkler piping and other rehabilitation related work can be accomplished. Many of the items were taken to the Emily Street Yard for storage until they can be restored and exhibited. A few items that are very heavy and difficult to move, were left on pallets. The museum recently purchased a pallet jack so that those heavy pallets could be moved easily during construction.

Future work days will involve our display track project. The next part of that project will involve moving more rock ballast from the California Men's Colony and placing it onto the track. Work at CMC is progressing on a new building and our time frame to obtain the rock ballast at that location will end in the near future.



Howard Amborn, in the bed of his truck, is assisted by Chris Hurd moving the Museum's Sheffield Velocipede from the freighthouse to the 1200 series Pacific Coast Railway boxcar in the Emily Street Storage Yard.

New Water Tank

On the right in the above picture is a water tank that was recently added to the Emily Street Storage Yard to provide water for concrete mixing, washing, etc. It was donated by the Estrella Warbirds Museum, restored and installed by Ted VanKlaveren.

Reported by Brad LaRose