7th "Choo Chew"
Saturday, April 29
At the Bitter Creek Western Live Steam Railroad
7.5-inch Gauge on the Nipomo Mesa
Enjoy Unlimited Train Rides, and BBQ!
Saturday, April 29, 2006
10:00am to 4:00pm
Santa Maria BBQ served Noon-2:00pm
Tickets: $12/adult; $6/child under 10
Make checks payable to "SMVRHM" and mail to:
SMVRHM, PO Box 264, Santa Maria, CA 93456-0264
Please allow time for tickets and a map to be returned to
you via the USPS. Tickets may also be purchased at the
Museum Gift Shop. Proceeds benefit the Santa Maria Val-
ley Railway Historical Museum.

100 Years of Lionel
In conjunction with the Model Railroad Exhibition
(FREEMO, see article on other side), Ken Kelley orga-
ized a Lionel exhibit at the Museum proper.

2006 Dues
Please remit your 2006 dues to the Museum at your
earliest convenience. The rates are unchanged at: $30/
individual, $50/family, and $20/associate (no vote).

Meetings
General: first Thursday of the month, 6:00pm, at the
Santa Maria Inn.
Museum Development: Thursdays (except first
Thursday of the month) at the Museum, 6:00pm
HO Modelers: Fridays at the Museum, 7:00pm.

Rail Bosses
(Reverse emails to use - sorry, it's a spambot thing.)
Dan Alves, President, juno.com@aim
Chuck O’Hern, Vice President, gmail.com@chuck.joanie
Phil Goble, Treasurer, "CaBoss", Prodigy.net@Phil.Pam
Jamie Foster, Secretary, "Train Orders" Editor, Webman,
jf2.com@pbjrr

Ken Kelley (right) shows Bill Fos-
ter an early standard
gauge Lionel switch.
Ken had hand-
outs and signs at the
event, which are avail-
able online - see the
web page for this
event.

Thank you, Ken!
2006 Third Annual Model Railroad Exhibition in the Mall
February 25-26, 2006

The SMVRHM hosted a huge HO-gauge Free-Mo model railroad layout at the Santa Maria Town Center Mall. This event was proudly sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum, the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce, and the Santa Maria Town Center Mall.

Pictures from this year’s event:

Two back-to-back SMVRR GE 70-tonners sit in the SMVRR yard.

William Martin (left) and Dick Mininger operate trains in the SMVRR yard area of the layout.

Two back-to-back SMVRR GE 70-tonners sit in the SMVRR yard.

Local watercolor artist featured at the Museum

The Museum gift shop now carries railroad watercolors by local artist Scott Hofmann.
Pictured below is Scott’s work entitled “Santa Maria Valley Steam”.

The gift shop carries several of Scott’s pieces, and note cards with his images.

Board election

All SMVRHM members: please do not overlook the enclosed notice of a special election by the membership at the May Board meeting, Thursday, May 4, 6:00pm at the Santa Maria Inn.

N-scale SMVRR layout

Check out the enclosed N-scale layout design for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad system and environs. It’s from this web site by Byron Henderson:
http://home.earthlink.net/~mrsvc/index.html

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Celebrating 100 Years of Lionel Standard Gauge Trains

Standard Gauge: Term introduced by the Lionel Manufacturing Company in 1906 to represent a new three rail track gauge which measured 2 1/8 inches between the rails. The middle rail was used to electrify toy engines with alternating current, that were not at all unlike their real counterparts, which indeed did use the third rail to get in and out of large cities using electric engines in lieu of steam.

Introduced: Production began in 1906, and was the only gauge available until 1915 in which 0-Gauge trains were introduced due to the fact that homes were becoming smaller, and the larger toys were quite expensive for most families. Standard Gauge trains appeared in the Lionel catalogs through 1939, but no new items were developed after 1934. Limited Standard Gauge trains are still being produced today by several manufactures, but for the most part, these large trains are relegated to history.

Development Styles: There are two generally accepted classifications of Standard Gauge Trains. The Early Period (from 1906 to 1926), and the Classic Period (from 1923 to 1939). The Classic period is known for bright paint colors with wonderful number plates, trim, and detailed interiors not usually found on Early Period Trains.

Prices: Lionel’s catalogs always had a wide range of trains and prices from just a few dollars all the way up to one hundred (for Prewar trains, these were expensive). Even the lowest cost trains were built to withstand the abuse of children that is why it is possible to see, and find, good to excellent trains even today. With little exception, all of these Standard Gauge Trains, on display today, have their original paint and motors. NOTE: There are excellent reproduction and restored Standard Gauge Trains on the market, so become knowledgeable of what you may want prior to any purchase.

Trains on Display are from the Ken Kelley collection, who has been collecting trains since 1965.
General Info:
N Scale, Room size 18' X 20'
PECO Code 55 Turnouts
Min. Radius 12" Mains, 10" Indus.
March 26, 2006

Ratification of Board Election
May 4, 2006
Santa Maria Inn
6:00pm

There will be a special election to ratify the results of the January meeting elections. You are hereby notified that at the May meeting scheduled for the 4th of May 2006, an election will be held to reelect the incumbents whose terms expired at the end of 2005: Ed Couch, Jamie Foster, Dick Mininger, and Wayne Peterson. All three wish to continue their service. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.