

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
SLORRM.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2023

Contact: media@slorrm.com or (805) 548-1894

13th Annual Central Coast Railroad Festival

October 6-8, 2023

Full steam ahead!

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum will host the 13th annual Central Coast Railroad Festival (CCRFF) October 6-8, 2023, to celebrate the rich history of trains and tracks on the Central Coast. Several rail-related locations throughout the region will be open with displays and activities throughout the weekend. The main event at the Museum itself begins at 10am Saturday, October 7th, and concludes at 4pm.

The complete Railroad Festival Schedule with all the details for all venues is here: CCRFF.com/schedule.html

Many thanks to KSBY-TV6 and SLO New Times for being Major Sponsors!

We have two new railroads participating this year!

First is the Pacific Coast Railroad Company (PCRR) at the Santa Margarita Ranch in northern SLO County. It is a steam-powered, narrow-gauge railroad including 5/8th scale original 1950s Disneyland coaches, a center-cab diesel locomotive #7, a Model A rail bus, and other restored rolling stock. Passengers will enjoy a loop ride around the ranch headquarters, offering wide-open views of the surrounding meadows and mountains. The Ranch is also the new home of the Overfair Pacific Railroad (what remains of the Swanton Pacific Railroad since the 2020 fires). Overfair equipment and materials are already arriving. The PCRR will operate on Saturday of the Festival from 10am-3pm.

The second new railroad participant is the Halter Ranch Railroad located on the 2700-acre Halter Ranch in Paso Robles. The railroad consists of three hand-crafted Swiss locomotives, eight passenger cars, two flat cars, and a caboose running on over two miles of mainline track. Shop Tours (no rides) will be available; see the Schedule at CCRFF.com for details.

The SLO Railroad Museum's main event, on Saturday only, features vendors and displays, children's activities, a model railroad for kids to operate, Operation Lifesaver, music on the platform by Ted Waterhouse, presentation of new exhibits, and the Museum's world-class model railroad which has developed substantially. Details about the big day Saturday and

minimal operations Friday and Sunday at the Museum are here:

SLORRM.com/231007.html

The second annual San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum Photo Contest is being held in connection with the 2023 Railroad Festival. First prize is \$100. Submissions are due September 15, 2023. Winners will be introduced at a brief presentation on October 7, 2023, at 10:25am at the Museum and the winning photos will hang in the Museum for one year. Details are here: SLORRM.com/2023-Photo-Contest.html

The Oceano Depot will have all areas of their facility on tour Saturday and Sunday and the SLO Model Railroad Association will have several model railroad layouts operating at the Depot Friday through Sunday.

Hosted by the City-County Library, the Orange County N-Gineers will have N-scale layouts running in the Community Room of the SLO downtown branch on Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, and Sunday 10am-3pm

A key feature every year is the annual Model Railroad Layout Tour of public and private layouts in the area that runs from Thursday through Sunday. Already on the tour are about thirty layouts spread across the Festival area. Details are available on the Festival Schedule web page.

Throughout September, all SLO County Library locations will distribute coloring contest pages (for ages 0-12) by which you can enter a drawing to win a round-trip Amtrak train ride for five people from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara. The deadline to submit to this drawing contest is September 30th. The drawing will be at the Museum on October 7th at 2:15pm.

The Railroad Festival will be the culmination point for a BBQ and Online Auction event held as a fundraiser for the SLO Railroad Museum. BBQ orders and online bidding began September 1st and will close October 1st for the BBQ orders and October 6th for the auction. Details are here: SLORRM.com/231007-auction.html

All the details, including dates, times, admission fees if applicable, and food service, for all venues and activities are on the Festival Schedule page: CCRRF.com/schedule.html

Many thanks to these 2023 CCRRF Sponsors: KSBY-TV6, SLO New Times, Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo, ToShinyRails.com, the City of San Luis Obispo, and the San Luis Obispo Library. Please visit CCRRF.com for descriptions and links.

The CCRRF Committee may be reached at Conductor@CCRRF.com or by calling (805) 548-1894.

You may use the photo below. The high-res version is here:

<https://SLORRM.com/2022/2022-Photo-Contest-1st-Place-Eric-Peterson.JPG>



Caption: 2022 First Place Photo by ERIC PETERSON. Taken March 20, 2022. Location: Gaviota, CA. "Put the Coast in Starlight": Amtrak 14(20) skirts along bluffs above the Pacific Ocean. Seen in the background are the Gaviota pier, the Gaviota trestle, and the semi-green rolling hills of the Coast Range. Running along the ocean and the coastal areas in general gives the train its name.