



SWANTON PACIFIC RAILROAD SOCIETY

Number 99

Cal Poly

August 2001

On Track

With your director,

Ed Carnegie



July has been quite active with various groups visiting the Swanton Pacific RR. A total of six days of runs were offered! We had more in this one month, than we have had sometimes in a year in the past. To start out, for the July 4 holiday the Redwood 4-H Club held its first annual BBQ and fundraiser at Swanton. Their event was very successful, and they sent us a nice thank you letter to show their appreciation for being able to use the facilities. On July 13, we had Davenport's Youth Resource Center bring a group of young summer school attendees for a train ride and to have an introduction to the Swanton RR. On Friday, July 20, a few members from Cal Poly's College of Agriculture's Advisory Council were visiting the ranch where they were given a tour and train ride. Wally Mark served as Conductor and I was the Engineer. Other groups that we hosted in July for their special occasions were the Scotts Creek Watershed Council on July 21. They gathered for a potluck, and then for a train ride or two. The following day, Swanton hosted another MESA Group, who likewise took a train ride or two. In addition to the rides, they attended a class on the history of Swanton & the Railroad. This class was given by our very own special UCSC, in house, Swanton expertise Professor, Dr. Anthony Pratkanis. The following weekend, the Golden Spikes made their annual visit to Swanton where everyone was treated to a wonderful potluck, good fellowship and several train rides. It was a real treat to see so many of the "old time" friends of both Al Smith and Elmer Stone. Many of us were

able to hear and share some great past memories and stories about Swanton. On behalf of the organization I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frances Stone for providing hamburgers to all the volunteers that helped out on this event, and thanks too to hard working Martha Neilsen. She worked hard at organizing, setting up and keeping track of all the dishes that the Golden Spikes brought to the potluck. The following day, July 29, the CCCC's (Classic Chrysler Car Club) drove onto the grounds with all Chrysler products. The cars ranged from the 1920's to the 1970's. All of which were great show quality. The group was shown the facilities by various members, and given a couple of train rides. So, as you can see, July was a very busy month of runs, it certainly provided good training for our operators and trainees. Having something going on every week brought many of our volunteers to Swanton quite regularly, so I want to especially thank each of you for taking time out from your busy schedules to provide the enjoyment of train rides to our guests. Special thanks goes to Marty Campbell, Randy Jones, Bill Engelman, Steve Huffstetter, Andy McLean, Richard Mehr, Bob Wilkerson, Anthony Pratkanis, and Bill McNab.

In between hosting the numerous runs, we still had two successful work weekends. For the first work weekend, July 14 and 15, work was primarily focused on the cabooses. The dry walling was completed by Richard and I. Fitz, Dennis and Eric concentrated on the plumbing and were able to run both all hot and cold water as well as have it pressure tested. Diann and Kevin Marley, Dick Ross, and Steve Huffstetter made tremendous progress in cleaning out the excess debris in caboose number two. Mark Cooper worked on straightening and organizing tools; Randy worked on the switches, while Geoff conducted minor

repair and adjustments on the Marvel saw. Dick Toulson cleaned up in and around the Cal Barn by removing all the wood in front and planting plants around its perimeter. Martha and her granddaughter, Trillium, worked in the gardens of weedin' by deadheading all the flowers. Mary Ann finished pressure washing, sanding and weather sealing four of the picnic tables in the meadow. She also provided a few dutch oven dinners on both work weekends to the few that stayed overnight. So much was accomplished on the first work weekend that we decided to knock-off a little bit earlier and take a train ride. Many of our members had mentioned that they had not been down to the wye in quite sometime, so off we went. As we approached the wye, a tree had fallen across the track, soooooo, again the engine was not able to negotiate the wye. We returned to the station and had this on our agenda for the next day to go back down there and cut it out. Pete McFall joined in on Sunday with Andy to assist and to mow the right away north of Little Creek.

Between the runs on the following weekend, Richard Mehr and I continued to concentrate on the cabooses. We started doing interior decorating by painting, starting some cabinetwork and installing two lights. The weekend ended but Richard and I stayed on Monday to receive a delivery of ties or so we thought we would. Read on for more details of this adventure.

THE SAGA OF THE LATE TIES

On Monday, July 23, a load of ties were scheduled to come in from Long Beach, Ca in the early morning. However, about 8:00AM we received a call that the truck was over-loaded and thus had to be re-loaded. The trucking company, therefore wanted to know if it would be o.k. to bring them up the following day. I had to say no, as I had other obligations back home on Tuesday. So they put the truck on the road, and we said we would unload it when it gets here, assuming it would be 10 plus or minus hours later. About 11:00AM the truck driver called to say "They were on their way, and were proceeding north up the Grapevine!" About 1:00PM he left a message that he had two flat tires and wanted to know "What he should do?" I tried returning his call, but discovered that the number he left was not a good number. After finally getting the correct cell number from his trucking company I was able to successfully contact him, and told him to "Keep heading north, as we were just waiting on him." About 3:00PM he

called to say he was on his way at Buttonwillow, but that there was an accident on Interstate 5 and he had to detour over to 99. About 8:00PM he reported in to say he was north of Paso Robles at some Army Camp and was wondering "How much longer to get there?" In other words, ARE WE THERE YET?? We re-confirmed the direction to Swanton Ranch and said he still had another 2.5 to 3.5 hours to go to get here. At about 10:30PM, Richard and I decided it would be wise to set up lights to provide vision while unloading. It was pretty obvious by now that we would not be unloading in daylight! Not to mention that the light would help him find the place. The spotlights illuminated the spot. About 12:15AM we got another call from the truck driver saying he had proceeded 2.9 miles on Swanton Road and couldn't find us. I told him to sit tight and I would come looking for him. I proceeded south on Swanton Road and found him heading north about 500 yards south of the CDF Station. I then escorted him to the Swanton RR turnoff, got him situated in the driveway. As he untied his load, Richard and I unloaded the ties. It took us about 45 minutes to unload, sign the invoice, and send him back on his way. Needless to say it was a long day for all, and I guess the trucking company was right in saying they would prefer delivery on Tuesday. We just didn't think it would be one o'clock in the morning, but the long awaited ties finally did arrive.

The second work weekend, in addition to the runs, saw work continue on the cabooses. Randy and Richard Mehr spent most of one day installing lights in the roundhouse.

In the next few weeks, the first caboose will be near completion. We will then need to concentrate on cleaning out the second caboose, leveling the cabooses, and building a deck between the two. Then we would also like to work on sprucing up the grounds around the cabooses. Progress is being made in obtaining the details of logos and numbers. When they are installed the cabooses will really look nice again.

As you can see, July was quite a busy, but very productive, as well as a month for lots of fun and socializing. I hope that you will be able to take part in some more of this fun, perhaps in August. Scheduled work weekends for August are 11/12, followed by a week of work and lots of fun (August 13-18) with a second work weekend on the 25th and 26th. See events/publicity for more details and for further upcoming events.

REMINDER:

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE SWANTON PREMISES PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE WORK LOG KEPT IN THE MACHINE SHOP NEXT TO THE PHONE.

This is the best record we have to keep track of your volunteer hours.

Redhouse Reservations:

The Ranch Director has been working with the Railroad to ensure that we have some space available at the Redhouse for our workdays. However, I do need to know at least one week in advance whether room reservations are needed or not. That way I can better coordinate with Wally Mark to make sure that things move smoothly. If you do not call in to reserve a room you may not have a place to stay.



**PUBLICITY
AND
EVENT COORDINATION**

Mary Ann Carnegie

Calendar of events

**Are You Able to VOLUNTEER your Time and Talents?
And have FUN at the same time???**

Then bring yourself, family and friends to Swanton! Last month, Mark Cooper was able to come to one of the work weekends and instead of just coming by himself and with his son, he called to ask which members live in or around in the same area as he. I gave him a listing and he was able to contact one of our members, Richard Ross. They drove up together from Atascadero. What a great idea! It was nice to have Mark, his son Josh, and Dick share ride and save gas by coming together. Dick had been here in the past to participate in run events, but it was his first time for a work weekend. Besides he said it was good training for him to get ready for his annual trip to work on the Chama RR.

If everyone would perhaps try calling a friend, or try to bring someone with them to the work weekends, our circle of friends would not only grow, but training opportunities could also possibly increase. Try calling someone next month and bring them with you to Swanton.

As most of you realize there is so much to do, and so so little time to get it all done -- what's a person to do? PARTICIPATE, PARTICIPATE and then PARTICIPATE! Check out the schedule below to see when you can come to Swanton and join in all the fun and festivities and help out at the same time. Summer activities are now upon us and there are lots of things planned in the coming months. Mark your calendar with the following dates:

Aug.

- 10/11/12 BAGR Module Event with Picnic/Potluck & Train rides
Contact Bob Wilkinson for further details and see below
- 12-18 Take your "R and R" at Swanton for a week of working on projects, evening bonfires, BBQ's, potlucks, & get togethers
LOTS OF FAMILY FUN!
- 19 Cal Poly Alumni Association New Student Kickoff/train ride
- 25/26 scheduled work weekend

Sept.

- 8/9 work weekend
- 22/23 work weekend and LAND TRUST RUN (SEPT. 23)
- 29 prep day for Cal Poly Day
- 30 Cal Poly Day--BBQ and Train Rides (SPRR HOSTS)

Oct.

- 6 Lonestar Company Picnic
- 13/14 work weekend (return of one work weekend per month)

Additional Notes for events:

August 10/11/12--Bob Wilkinson and other Swanton/BAGER members will be hosting a grand display of their garden scale railroading. Several members will be setting up their **modules, with their trains running** on them, here at Swanton. It will be for the enjoyment of all to see and operate. We will also be inviting all our Swanton Rd. neighbors and their children to come on down and maybe get them involved in either scale. Who doesn't enjoy any size trains

