ON TRACK with your Director
Ed Carnegie:

As we have combined our Jan./Feb. newsletter I would like to say Happy New Year to all as we look forward to a very successful 2006. This last year was very productive, and I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their vast contributions. It is very encouraging to have our volunteers take on projects with their own initiative and with minimal supervision.

Accordingly to our 2005 work log, 44 volunteers, approx. 40% of our membership, DONATED 6348 HOURS towards the management and operation of the railroad. The only year, that more hours were donated by our volunteers, was during 2000, when we did the construction of the washout, and in 1998, during the bridge construction. Not only did our volunteers contribute their time, but our cash contributions were up, as well in '05, by 49%. We also gained 20 new volunteers, over the year, to bring our total active participation to 110.

So—please be sure to fill out the monthly work-log, as that is the only means of keeping records of all of our volunteers’ contributions.

A major milestone, the Cal Barn, received a final inspection, which removed another red tag. Having the building refurbished, made for a very pleasant New Year’s Eve celebration in which many of our friends and neighbors joined us in our annual potluck before the train rides. We could not have asked for better weather. The rains cleared out by noon; the temperature stayed in the low 50’s; and by midnight it was estimated that approx 200 people had participated in Swanton’s annual New Year’s festivities. Train rides started in the late afternoon, and as usual the last train of '05 left the station around 11:30, arriving back at the station in time to welcome in 2006, followed by SPRR’s own “Midnight Express”. It is a beautiful sight to see the steam linger in the sky amongst the trees as the steam engine passes through the still, dark night. Our engineer, fireman, and crew worked a consist of 8 cars filled with over 100 passengers per trip.

January’s workday weekend started out bright and sunny on Friday, rained off and on all day Sat. with clearing on Sunday. Needless to say, activities concentrated on inside projects, as it was too wet to work outside. However, earlier in the week the storms brought down a tree that landed on the track resulting in a huge divit in the rail. After about an hour’s work the rail was straightened and was once again safe for passage.

We are looking forward to a fun, safe and successful year. The next few work weekends will be spent sprucing things up and getting things ready for opening our train run season with the celebration of Al Smith Day on April 9. Pending the weather’s cooperation, the track crew has some maintenance and track alignment that needs to be done following winter storm damages. Construction continues on the 1500 and 1913; CL&E still has some work to do on their project; so, meanwhile “back at the ranch” opportunities for participating remain wide open. Join in on the fun—bring your friends and spend a day with all at Swanton. See you in Feb.
REMINDER: Anyone wanting to have an article/photo printed in the SPRR newsletter should have copy sent to ecarnegi@calpoly.edu by the 20th of the month.

Are you a cabinet maker? We would like to have some display and storage cabinets made and installed in the Cal Barn to better protect our historical archives. Come see me or Ed if you are willing to take on this project.

Geoff and Randy have completed design and material testing for the brake foundation for the Keystone passenger cars. Now the trucks have to be disassembled, cleaned, painted and reassembled. While I’m applying shingles you could be cleaning trucks. EdSki, I promise this year we will have the Keystone skeleton cleaned, primed, and painted so you may work on rebuilding it.

The ever industrious Pete still has some passenger cars that require installation of the public address/brake system wiring and could use some help and a bill board he wishes to install.

Bob is working on the 4hp motor for a chipper and may need adult supervision or a Go-Fer.

As always this time of the year contributions to the Society are gratefully accepted.

And looking way forward, the year 2009 will celebrate thirty years of Al’s bringing this railroad together. Wouldn’t it be sweet to have all our locomotives up and running? What can you do to make that happen?

Hope to see you in February. Fitz

My Fellow Swantoons:

Welcome to the new year. As you noticed, this is a two month issue of the newsletter mandated by the press of holiday festivities. Capricorns and Aquariums (sic) rejoice! Still, Janus has opened the door to prosperity and joyous celebrations, the first of which for us is Al Smith Day on Sunday, April 9th.

Of course this means a lot of spring cleaning, preparation, and participation. Think of what you can do to help make the day another success.

Randy Jones reports that the Cal Barn has passed its final inspection, has all its doors and windows installed, and was blessed with a workday lunch. A few things left to do; insulate and panel the interior walls; I’ll be up on a ladder finishing off the shingles on the west side, and perhaps on the roof to fill the ridge with foam, (Odd work for an Air Monkey, eh?), and an exterior wash and paint to complete the job.

Down Behind the Railway
With your President, air monkey, & car-barnist.
Reynold 'Fitz' FitzPatrick
RGBFitz@aol.com 650.737.9584

Dec. work day lunch

Wreath making party
Wreath on the roundhouse

New Years Eve dinner in the Cal Barn

UPCOMING EVENTS/PUBLICITY
Mary Ann Carnegie

Feb. 11/12** work weekend-fun, fun, fun
Mar. 11/12 more fun on our work weekend
April 8 last minute prep work for run
April 9 AL SMITH RUN DAY

Now that the holidays are behind us, and routines are fast settling in we will remind all of you that Valentine’s Day is fast approaching, and Christmas is only 11 months away! Time does fly, but we always look forward to our weekends at Swanton with all of you.

Dec. we had our wreath making class and those who participated displayed a wealth of talent. Unfortunately because of the pitch canker and sudden oak disease within the county—wreaths made were not able to leave the county. However, they all adorned the grounds of Swanton. The festive spirit was everywhere—on the Cal Barn, the roundhouse’s every door, machine shop, car barn, neighbor’s homes, engines, etc. etc. We thank you all. Thanks to Steve, Swanton’s forestry specialist, we will work with the Ag. Office earlier next year to see what tree branches can or cannot be used so one’s creative artwork perhaps might be able to be taken home.

Bond fire New Years Eve

First train ride for 2006

As with any new year, we look to new beginnings, new things. So— all you volunteers out there that might have some great ideas on things to do or try—please bring forth your imaginations to either Bob Wilkinson or I for things we might like to try in the way of Saturday night dinners, places to go as a group interest. We will gladly accept any suggestions, or ideas within reason and work on
bringing it to a reality. We hope many of you might step forward with your gourmet talents to share with all in the way of our Sat. night dinners. This task should not fall solely on the hands of a few all the time.

**FYI**—for the Feb. workday we will provide steak sandwiches for all in attendance—just bring your own beverage. Salad and a desert of sorts will also be provided.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE—REMEMBER: anyone wanting to stay overnight for work weekends should call or e-mail reservations in ASAP. Facilities are limited & we want to make sure we can accommodate everyone. Call (805) 995-3659 or e-mail ecarnegi@calpoly.edu.

It also helps in trying to successfully plan for how many people are staying for a Sat. night dinner!

NEW SOCIETY SUPPORTERS received over the last month were as follows:

- Tom Conci Redwood City
- Bob Cornely Redwood City
- Ernest Falk Redwood City
- Glen Arbor School Ben Lomond
- Rodger Mastrude Capitola
- Robert Ritchey Aptos
- Shannon Weckman Felton

On behalf of the entire organization, we welcome each of you into our "train family" & we certainly look forward to seeing you at some of our next events. Many of our supporters may not recognize you right away so please introduce yourselves so that we can get to better know you & vice versa. Also be sure to introduce yourself to both Pete McFall, Secretary to obtain your membership book with bylaws, etc. & then to Bob Wilkinson so that he can make up your very own “gold”, laminated nametag with all pertinent information.

SPRS Archive No. 1940-1944 LMM-0012b
Overfair #1913 locomotive and cars at the Oakland Zoo, about 1941-1943.

The 1913 operated at the Oakland Zoo with out a pilot truck because of the tight curves.

SPRS Archive No. 1940-1944 LMM-00113b
Karl Hovanitz Collection
Overfair No. 1913 locomotive and cars at the Oakland Zoo, ~ 1941-1943.

Note the young engineer in training leaning out of the cab.

What is the pre-WW-II auto in the left background?