February 28, 1994

This is a reminder that the SPRS will be having its monthly workday at Swanton Ranch on Saturday, March 12, 1994. The red house is available if you chose to stay over Saturday night. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m. in Shop 7.

The main thrust of this workday will be to work on the "train order board" that will be placed next to the roundhouse in memory of Al Smith. Last month the entire pole was wire brushed cleaned and had a fresh coat of primer applied. The base for this pole is being made at Cal Poly and it also has a coat of primer on it. Now everything has to be painted and installed. This memorial will be dedicated at our April meeting.

Since our last meeting a major rain passed over the area. This left a wash out down by the wye. So that will have to be repaired. Also with this rain, came a lot of new plant growth and a lot of weeds. So if you have a weed eater, either gas or electric, why not bring it with you this weekend. I'm sure it (and you) will be put to good use.

The crane that was built at Poly has arrived at Swanton. It's first job was to pick up the fuel-oil tank by the roundhouse and relocate it near the machine shop. A catch basin, (concrete slab) will have to be constructed before the tank is permentantly installed.

As of now, the ranch which includes the train, is being overseen by the Cal Poly Foundation. A budget has been proposed and if it is approved the Swanton Pacific Railroad Society will be well maintained. A board of directors will have to be elected soon and they will have to lead the decisions on the future of the SPRS. As the details unfold we will pass on the information to you. Early April, is the date that everything has to be finalized legally here at Cal Poly. Currently there is a lot of speculation and rumors so we don't want to say too much until everything is finalized, but everything looks very promising.

As previously mentioned, there will be a dedication in memory of Al Smith at our April 9th meeting. We hope that you will be able to attend. Plans call for a barbecue that afternoon which will be provided by the SPRS. Right now the biggest concern is how many people will attend and how much food to order. So if you plan on attending will you please call one of the numbers listed below and let us know.

Martha Neilson  (408) 257-2683
Jim Matheny  (305) 756-2432
Ed Carnegie  (305) 756-2578

Times and more details will be mailed to you as soon as they are available. Currently, plans call for some clean up and minor work that morning and then we will set aside the afternoon for the dedication, food, stories, train rides and hopefully some entertainment. If you have ideas of how to make this a successful dedication or would like to help, let us hear from you. The more people involved the better.

In the mean time, we hope to see you this Saturday, March 12, at 9:00 a.m. at the round house.