

SMART TRAIN RIDE

On May 12 about 40 of the members of the current Marin County Grand Jury and of our supporting Chapter were invited to ride along on a test drive of the new SMART TRAIN.

We all parked in the Civic Center lot and walked down to where the train was hiding under the 101 underpass at the Civic Center train stop.



The traffic stop lights and the drop down arm have been completed so that is safe for the train to operate.

However, this stop is not yet finished, with no platform hand rails or other normal train stop functions.

The train is “Double Ended”, meaning that it can travel in either direction.



The Operating Crew were standing by.

We were treated to coffee and pastries.



The first to arrive was Al Lozano, our oldest member – who served in the 1984 Grand Jury.

He was soon joined by Gene Dyer, your web master and photographer – enjoying the coffee and a pastry.



Then others started to arrive.

Nadine Muller & Tom Borden.



Patti Church and friend.



Jay Hamilton-Roth rode his bicycle.



And was able to store it aboard.



Reva Saper with aide.



Paul Premo was also an early bird.



Foreperson John Mann made introductions.



General Manager Farhad Mansourian described our route for the day.



John was invited to blow the horn.



The engineer starts us off to the South.



We approach the Puerto Suello tunnel.



Going back north across highway 101.



We see the townhouses on the left.



The crossing for the McGinnis Park entry.



The Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District.



St Vincents School from the rear.



The double tracks where trains can pass.



The back side of COSTCO.



Across the tracks from COSTCO.



Marshalls Department store.



The incomplete Novato North station.



Buck Institute for Research on Aging



The old book store.



A little farther North.



The Mira Monte Slough

SMART had to make an environmental “offset” since they made some limited damage to environmental sites along their route. As a result they purchased this land for \$4 million and then spent another \$2 million on improvements.



Just one more last picture.

Lastly, here is a group picture of all of the gang who went along for the ride.



The end.