

The GOLDEN SPIKE



VOLUME XI

JULY 1984

NUMBER 7

TIMETABLE

Monthly Meeting - Friday, July 20, 1984, 7:30 P.M. at the Cordova Recreation and Park District Building, Rancho Cordova, California (Chase Drive next to the High School). The "Buffet Car" will be hosted by Rose Stefani and Bonnie Brinker. The program for the evening will be presented by Dennis Gramith on assorted railroad subjects.

Work Day(s) - The Work Days will be July 21, August 4 and 18, 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. When you attend, please bring mowers, weed eaters, pruning saws, pick-ups, etc.

Run Days - Saturday, July 21 (after the work party we will play) and on Sunday, July 22, our regular Run Day.

Board Meeting - The Board Meeting will be on Thursday, August 2, at the home of Ken and Nadene Willes, at 7:30 P.M.

FROM THE BOARD

The Board discussed the planting of additional trees, the club's area of responsibility for mowing, the need for track maintenance, the urgency of a Tax Status change, and riding car maintenance. The Board also discussed at great length several drastic approaches aimed at increasing membership participation.

CIRCUS MODELERS AT S.V.L.S.

On Sunday, July 22, 1984, the "Yankee Robinson Ring" of the Circus Model Builders will hold their meeting at our track in conjunction with our scheduled Run Day. Be sure to attend so that you won't miss their interesting displays.

S.V.L.S. DAY AT G.G.L.S.

The Golden Gate Live Steamers have invited us to be their guests for the 3rd Annual S.V.L.S. Day at G.G.L.S. on Saturday, August 25. It will be a Pot Luck/B.B.Q. as usual. Please plan to attend for a fun day of railroading.

MAKING STEAM

On Saturday, June 30, a published work party was held. Those in attendance were: Gerry Carney, the Durham's Lovell's, Hlas', and Gramith's. This small, but very hard working crew accomplished a great deal for so few, between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Working at home: Alan Shelley (switches), Dick Esselbach (Graphics), Jimmy Durham (Switch Throws), Dennis Gramith (Mower repairs, plus). There was a small but fun filled turnout for S.V.L.S./G.G.L.S. Day. Each member from G.G.L.S. brought up some equipment that was not only eye pleasing but also performed well. Sunday, Father's Day/Railroader's Day, was exceptionally hot but those who attended still managed to have a good time with several retired railroaders re-living fond memories. On Wednesday, July 4, two "tea pots" and a lawn mower (Willes, Gramith and the Club Engine) gave rides for approximately 7 hours, joined in the evening by Terry Willes' Electric. The Fireworks were exceptionally beautiful this year!

ROUNDHOUSE RUMORS

Craig Craddock would like to know why the Rancho Cordova Fire Protection District allows off-duty Chief Officers to go around starting grass fires with steam locomotives? Even though someone else was running the engine, at the time, Dennis has accepted the responsibility and thus installed a smoke-box screen. Finally we got something on the Pres. It has been over-heard that Durham's dog "Joby", is recognized as the "Club Dog". We could do worse. He attends every Work Party and never complains. He kills gophers for us, and is ever-faithfully at his owners side (one of our hardest workers, Jimmy "D"!

FROM THE CAB - (President's Comments)

What can I say? HELP PLEASE! The attached Editorial by Vice President, Dick Estelbach pretty much says it all.

ROSTER ADDITIONS

ALFRED R. COPELAND
19848 Highway 108
Sonora, Ca. 95370

GARY BERNSTEIN
11256 Flint Avenue
Hanford, Ca. 93230

JIM STRAWN
705 W. Pontiac
Fresno, Ca. 93705

ROSTER CHANGES

RUSSELL TURNER
11017 Wabash River Court
Rancho Cordova, Ca. 95670

CRAIG CRADDOCK
(209) 924-2400

HELP WANTED!

1. Person to design and build a large Redwood sign for Park/Railroad
Contact Dennis (363-9045) for details.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q. *What is a tandem compound Locomotive?*

- A. One in which the high pressure cylinder is in direct axial line with the low, and there is no receiver, the high and low-pressure piston-rods being attached to the same crosshead, and both cylinders having their steam-distribution managed by one link; sometimes by but one slide-valve.

"Locomotive Catechism"

By Robert Grimshaw, M.E.

1902 Edition

CLINKERS!

The scheduled Run Day for July at the West Valley Live Steamers track has been canceled.

The Pacific Northwest Live Steamers will hold their annual meet on July 21, 22, 28 and 29, at the Club grounds at Shady Dell, just outside Mollala, Oregon.

Someone has lost a Polaroid Camera. Contact Judy (363-9045).

Dennis and Judy Grasmith

DO YOU WANT THE SVLS TO
CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER?
IF SO - DON'T PUT THIS DOWN -
READ IT!

We have a club with tremendous potential, an interesting and very usable present facility and the unlimited possibilities when the extra ground is aquired in a few years. However we are approaching a crisis. We haven't reached it yet, but it is coming rather rapidly. Some drastic measures have been proposed to the board. I'm writing this in the hope that those measures or other radical proposals won't have to be implemented to keep things in shape.

This is a very difficult message to write because anything I say could step on someone's toes. I find that I can't quite get my own feet out from under the heavy weight of the undone task, for this is a problem of member participation; or rather the lack of it. Now, please, don't say, "The hell with it." and stop reading. Bear with me. The physical work of keeping up the track and the grounds, even working the run days, has come to rest upon the shoulders of the same 8 or 10 people who are just getting burned out. If they have to give up the grounds will be full of waist high weeds in no time at all, the track become impassable and run days a mess. I'll not insult anyones intelligence by assuming that's what you want. Neither do the people involved, but the burden is becoming much too heavy. So, what can you do? Well, as a member of the SVLS we know you are an intelligent, ingenious, ambitious, outgoing, helpful person; so you decide what you can do to help!

I'll oblige with a list of things that have to be done if the Club is to continue successfully. First of all one thing that every man, woman and child who can walk fifty feet without help should do at least twice a year. Attend a work party!!!! If you carry tools or water or pull a weed or sight track or feed the crew or whatever it helps. Our work parties are down to nobody and it has to change. We've heard all the excuses, we don't need more. TWENTY PEOPLE CAN DO A LOT MORE IN 1 HOUR THAN ONE PERSON CAN DO IN TWENTY. Think about it.

WORK DAY LIST

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Track work as needed | Running supplies |
| Tree trimming | Feeding the crew |
| Grass cutting and trimming | Straightening and sorting |
| Weeding | Equipment repair and maintenance |
| Clean up and hauling | New things to do pop up all the time, be creative! |

RUN DAYS AND MEETS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Switch tending | Policing the grounds (Cleaning up) |
| Track lookout | Emptying trash cans |
| Flagging (These are sit down jobs) | Informing the public |
| Passenger loading | Doing whatever else needs doing |
| Fuel supplies | AND very important - putting away |
| Setting up- hoses, etc. | when it's over. This always falls |
| Loading and unloading equipment | to a few. If many would help it |
| Messenger service | would be quick and easy. |

So, enough. If things don't improve I might make this a MONTHLY harangue, then where would you be?

We welcome suggestions, even constructive criticism. Put it down on paper, verbals are soon forgotten.

Dick Esulbach

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF GETTING
PEOPLE OFF THEIR POSTERIONS