

THE GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

April 2003

Volume 30, Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dale Fowler

First of all I have some sad news to report. Long time SVLS member Roxanne (Roxy) Bonville passed away on Friday morning March 28th from complications of surgery following a long illness. Her husband Curtis and several friends were by her side. I know we all share the sorrow that comes at a time like this and that each of us extends our condolences to Curtis. (A celebration of her life was held at the Bonville residence Sunday, April 6th with a reception that followed.)

Milon Thorley has been traveling in Cuba, not only seeing but also running full size narrow gauge steam! Lucky buzzard! Not only that, but he went to Maricopa as well, where he met up there with the Mattox's, the Kings, the Masons, and Marilyn Drewes. Sounds like they had a ball.

Work continues on renovation of the UP diesel. Kevin Sach of Chico Pacific Locomotive Painting has completed a beautiful repainting of the body shell. Ross Crawford has discovered that each of the journals is made up of two pieces. One casting is for visual detail, and the other is the actual journal. Ross has determined that he can save the Club a bit of cash by machining the journals out of stock instead of having to purchase castings.

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Tree Planting Project

By Glen Bell

Our Tree Planting Project was a huge success, with many of our members showing up, some coming from as far away as Merced.



Volunteers getting instructions from Luanne Leinke

But it was the volunteers who made it happen. We had 20 volunteers from Cordova High School who worked their tails off for us, many staying the entire day. A group of six from Americorp arrived early and were there the entire day. Another group, (Men's division International), came from out of town (Elk Grove, Concord and Santa Rosa) with six members. This group is made up of men dedicated to improving themselves and serving the common good through service work. Boy Scout Troop 363 and Cub Scout Pack 28 came with ten scouts and scout leaders and worked energetically through out the day. The Rancho Cordova Rotary had three members show up and plant trees along with Eric Lund, the newest member of the Park District Board of Trustees, and Bob Werner, representing the Metro Fire Department, who put in a full day along with Greg Fell, Assistant Administrator of the Park District. Special thanks to Luanne Leinke of the Sacramento Tree Foundation for supplying tools, her expertise and supervision. Greg, Luanne and our own Yardmaster, Lee Frechette, put together the project and made it happen. Kudos to them and everyone that helped. And special thanks to the ladies who prepared a hearty lunch for us all so that we could continue throughout the day.

Special Thanks

I would like to thank Barbara Moser, Marilyn Drews, Cindy Wilmunder, Meilon Thorley, Cleo Geyer, and anyone else I may have missed, for all the great food donated and help on Saturday March 22. Everything was great.

Lois Clifton



See page 5 for additional pictures of our tree planting day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued from page 1

Pete Arney and Lee Frechette spent a couple of weeks leading a large group of volunteers in installing cement grade crossings for yard maintenance and Park Department equipment. The amount of materials used caused member Glen Bell to pursue a new source of ballast for us. He contacted Teichert Construction who agreed to furnish us both coarse sub-bed and fine ballast at no cost. And as if that weren't enough, Teichert also offered to donate pre-mixed cement for any of our other projects from now on. Accordingly, Teichert has already delivered one cement truckload of ready mix, and the remaining three crossings have been poured. Way to go Glen, Teichert, and our SVLS crew!

Our March 22nd workday was very productive. A large number of community volunteers helped us plant about 130 new trees at the track. Yardmaster Lee Frechette lead the effort and Lois Clifton organized lunch for the troops. Thank you Lee and Lois and all the volunteers!

Spring Meet dinner Reservation

RSVP to Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514 or
loisjune1@msn.com.

With:

Your Name & Number Attending

Cost \$13.00 per person

RSVP By May 3, 2003

Money Due by May 10, 2003

All you can eat Buffet of Tri Tip, Chicken, rice, corn on the cob, green beans, ceasar salad, garlic bread, Chili, dessert, coffee, ice tea

WORD FROM THE SHOP

Trainmasters Report

By Don Juergenson



The second prototype riding car is at the track... painted UP yellow, and ready for testing. Preliminary trials seem OK. Complete plans for this "Bailie design" version will be placed on the club web page for those that are interested in building one, or a fleet of them.

Kevin Sachs returned the newly painted body for the GP 40, and it is a work of art!! Kevin researched the correct colors for UP engines and had paint specially mixed for the job. He also added the correct lettering and UP shield to the unit. After the chassis for the engine is done and running, Kevin will complete the paint work on that unit and the locomotive will be completely refurbished... mechanically and cosmetically. Kevin is a professional painter, and yes, he does custom work. Find him in the roster.

Ross Crawford is currently rebuilding the trucks: new wheels, tramming in the frames, reconditioning the gearboxes, etc.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I have resigned the trainmaster position. This, however, provides an interesting opportunity for a club member to step up to the workbench.

In the meanwhile, spend some time in your shop.

New ridding car prototype. Plans are available on the SVLS web - click on the Document link.



First Special Run Day

By Glen Bell

The first Special run of the year was on the Tuesday following the tree planting. The tykes from the Rosemont Preschool and Playschool enjoyed the rides though our newly forested grounds. The next special run will be for the Park District Preschool on April 8th and 9th. A birthday party is scheduled for Casey Wilmunder in June.

Please contact me if you or someone you know would like to schedule a special run.

Glen Bell
Special Events Coordinator
(916) 362-3078



CALENDAR

- April 18 General Membership Meeting
- April 19 Park's Easter Egg Hunt
- April 26-27 Riverside Live Steamers Spring Meet
Steam only For more information please call John Nobe at (909) 783-3726
- April 30 News letter articles due to editor
- May 3 Club Run Day
- May 5 Board Meeting
- May 16 General Membership Meeting
- May 17-18 SVLS Spring Meet and Golden Spike 30th Celebration

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and most Saturdays. Contact a committee member for information on needs. There are lots of things to be done before our Spring Meet.

Mark your calendars for May 17 & 18. Join our celebration! Many activities are being planned.



RAFFLE!

The Spring Meet will also include a raffle for adults and children - the kids in the afternoon and the adults later. We are in the process of collecting NEW and NEWLY MADE items for this portion of the Meet. If you want to donate to this popular event, please contact Ross Crawford at (916) 718-4162 or Paul Clifton at (916) 722-8514.

FOOD FOOD FOOD

Breakfast will be served, once again, by Marilyn Drewes. She will also be handling the bake sale table and is looking for your donations of baked goods. If you will be able to contribute, call Marilyn at (916) 725-3525.

Lunch will be supplied at the caboose by Lois Clifton. We never overlook your food needs and they will be met well this time by Lois and her helpers.

Dinner: Saturday night, there will be an "all you can eat" dinner at 6:00 PM at the track. The cost is \$13.00 and will include Tri Tip, Chicken, rice, corn on the cob, green beans, ceasar salad, garlic bread, Chili, dessert, coffee, ice tea

WOW...you can't miss this!

RSVP with NAME and Number attending Dinner to Lois Clifton by May 3rd at (916) 722-8514 or loismjune1@msn.com.

NOTE: Money due by May 10th

HOW CAN I HELP?

Volunteers are needed at the train station both Saturday and Sunday. If you can help with this need for crowd control and train loading, contact Meet Chairman Joel Corbin at (916) 990-9432 or joel@steamtrainjoel.com.

MEMBERSHIP

By Cindy Wilmunder

NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Lutrel of Sacramento, CA.

David Luther of Columbia, CA.

Shane David of Rancho Cordova, CA.

We are glad to have you with us and looking forward to seeing you out at the track.

Mechanical Department

By Ross Crawford

OK Railroaders, here is where we are on April 1st.

- New switch points installed on the incoming station track - by Mahler, Shelley, Corbin, Arney, and myself.
 - Track bars being drilled for 7 1/2 inch gauge - by Dick Easelback and Jack Friedman.
 - Jaw liners for GP40 trucks - Karle Mahler
 - Design steel journals - Ross Crawford
 - Finish fuel tanks and GP40 air tanks - Ross Crawford
 - Rebuild gear boxes and wheel sets - Don Juergenson
 - Guard rail for new station switch - Ross Crawford
- Thanks all! If you would like to help on any of these projects give me a call - Ross (916) 718-4162



Jack Friedman with a steady hand drilling track bars used to join the rail together.

Track Superintendent

By Pete Arney

The outbound lower yard switch at the boxcar is being rebuilt using new points made from steel rail. New stock and closure rails have been installed as well. Thanks to Al Shelley, Karle Mahler, and Ross Crawford for their time and effort.

The three remaining grade crossings in the addition were completed on March 13. This was a joint effort with Yardmaster Lee Frechette. Thanks to all that helped pour the concrete, including Bill Yoder, Glen Bell, Butch Floyd, Richard Lutrel, Will Jordon, Paul Clifton, Red Hadler and his friend Ron. Bill Yoder made a neat concrete stamp "SVLS 2003" that was used to imprint the three crossings. Special thanks to Glen Bell who arranged for Teichert to donate about ten yards of concrete for the project at no charge, saving the club over one thousand dollars.

The remaining crossings near Oasis, the two Oasis sidings and main line through Oasis, may have construction started later in April, time and weather permitting. Planned construction will be in two phases: the first phase will consist of the removal of the track panels, installation of concrete and rebar for the rail base pad, and replacing the ballast and original track panels; the second phase will add the steel rail and final concrete pad for the grade crossing. The second phase will be done sometime after the spring meet, possibly this fall.

Two track panels were removed on the southbound mainline along the east side of the addition along Hillview hill to allow Yardmaster Lee Frechette to excavate a trench for irrigation pipe installation from Midway to the east fence line. The panels are back in place with a temporary bridge over the trench. This will be a slow order portion of track until the pipe installation is completed. Watch for the caution sign when running in this area.

Rail joiner bars are continuing to be made by Jack Friedman and Ross Crawford. Thanks to both for their involvement in this important task. It is tedious and

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Left to right: Eric Lund, member of the Park District Board of Trustees moving trees with Glen Bell driving. Bob Werner, representing Mills 1 association (old R.C. Fire department). Chris from Troop 363 with his Granddad and friend Roger.

Below: The many hard working volunteers that made this work day a great success. - THANKS TO ALL !



TECHNICAL NOTES

By Ross Crawford

TRAMMING YOUR TRUCKS:

Tram comes from the word trammels which is a tool for checking distances accurately using two sharp points on a bar which is set with a steel rule. This method was widely used in industry during the industrial revolution.



Now, we all know how to check wheel set back to back and gauge but there are two other considerations that seriously affect wheel and rail wear and also truck performance.

These are axle parallelism and wheel alignment. Axle parallelism is established when the holes are drilled equidistant in both side frames. However, you can check it by measuring the distance between the front and rear wheels on each side of the truck. A large inside caliper is good for this measurement. Wheel alignment is checked by placing a straight edge along the inside of the front and rear wheels on one side. If you can't push them into alignment, then you must rework the truck. If you can push them into alignment, then you can install washers between the wheel and side frame on the axle or axles. This procedure presumes that your back-to-back dimensions are close to the same. Also you should shoot for approximately .020 total end play on each axle. If you need help, see me at the railroad on work days.

TRACK continued from page 4

exact work to cut, drill, and deburr dozens of bars. All new and replacement rail installations use the rail joiner bars instead of the Spall-type joiners.

Milon Thorley and Keith Berry have sprayed the entire right-of-way with pre-emergence weed control. Spring is here and everything is growing, especially the weeds. Keith has also been busy replacing ties where needed. Thanks to both for their time.

Track tasks to be done between now and the Spring Meet in May will be: bridge and trestle lind seed oil application (volunteers needed), tie replacement, switch point installation, light track ballasting and alignment, switch throw renovation and installation. Several areas of track need immediate attention, including the northbound main at Hillview yard, the upper/lower yard switch road base in the park area, removing a hump in the inbound lower yard track, elevation of the outside rail on the north hill curve into the park from the addition. Particular attention will be paid to rail joints on curves using the Spall-type slip connectors and their replacement using bar type rail joiners.

Work days are held on all Tuesdays and many Saturdays. Saturday work days planned for April and May are: April 19 (coincident with the Easter Egg run day), April 26, May 3 (coincident with the SVLS run day), and the afternoon of May 10. Other days are available as well. Contact the Track Superintendent if you would like to contribute your time and expertise to a worthwhile and important effort for the club.



New steel rail making "Derail corner" leading to Oasis a better & safer ride.



Track Gang: Richard, Gordon, Casey, Pete

From the Secretary's Desk*By Chris Donhost***March Board Meeting**

- Milon has completed putting the engine and hydraulic pump on the UP.
- Public trains not allowed in the expansion area for the first run.
- West bathroom broken into; Lee had some of his tools stolen.
- An itemized letter will be sent to Curtis that will list those "Hill Track" items that must be returned to the club by the April General Meeting.
- SVLS will provide a static display at the Placerville Train Festival.
- Up to \$200.00 approved to fix bathroom damage.
- An IBLS wheel standard certificate for wheel compliance will be offered.
- Old checking account will be closed.

March General Meeting

- The Golden Spike is now offered on the web site in full color, thanks to Bill Yoder.
- Glen Bell will be taking over for David Frank as Special Runs Coordinator.
- Tomorrow's work day we will be planting 150 new trees with lots of help.
- The new club prototype car is almost ready to go.
- Chris Donhost resigned from the golden spike re-enactment.
- Vandals lifted a section of track the night before the first run day; it was replaced.

NOTE: The preceding are not minutes, for a copy of the minutes see the secretary.

FOR SALE: Winton Mogul #8

Contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525

**Board of Directors**

President: Dale Fowlar (916) 783-4351

mailto:president@svls.org

Vice President: Joel Corbin (916) 990-9432

mailto:vicepresident@svls.org

Secretary: Chris Donhost (707) 469-9039

mailto:secretary@svls.org

Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

mailto:treasurer@svls.org

Track Superintendent: Pete Arney

(916) 988-2000 mailto:track@svls.org

Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820

mailto:yard@svls.org

Trainmaster: -open -

mailto:train@svls.org

Speical Events: Glenn Bell (916) 362-3078

mailto:event@svls.org

Caboose Operations: Paul Clifton

(916) 722-8514 paulclifton@juno.com

Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

mailto:editor@svls.org

Membership: Cindy Wilmunder (916) 372-2423

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 P.M.



Here is a picture of SVLS from the early days.

No roundhouse, few steaming bays and few trees.

More old photos and features in next months issue of the Golden Spike.

Photo by Dick Esselbach



Sacramento Valley Live Steamers
 P.O. Box 273
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

203 Any engine about to back up, must give the correct signal from the trainman or switchman. All engines backing up shall run at reduced speeds.

303 All trainmen and engineers must be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of basic rules of safe operation to the satisfaction of the Trainmaster or his designated alternate and in addition all engineers shall be thoroughly briefed on the individual engines they are to operate.

415 All locomotives operating during periods of low visibility or after sunset shall be equipped with a working headlight that may be seen clearly for a distance of at least 150 feet and sufficient lighting in the locomotive cab to read the gauges and see the controls clearly.

Caboose Menu

Chili Burger	\$2.75
Chili Dog	\$2.75
Hamburger	\$2.00
Hot Dog	\$2.00
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$1.75
Bowl of Chili	\$2.00
Nacho's	\$1.50
Meal Deal (includes Chips, drink, salad & dessert)	\$3.50
Special of the Day	\$4.00
All hamburgers & sandwiches come with: Tomato, lettuce, & pickle. Onion upon request	
Drinks / Dessert	
Soda	\$.50
Gatorade	\$.75
V-8 Juice	\$.75
Water, Ice Tea, lemonade	\$.50
Hot Chocolate	\$.50
Coffee & Tea	Free
Ice Cream Bar, Ice Cream Sandwich, Crunch Bar	\$.50
Drum Sticks	\$.75
Popsicles	\$.50
Candy Bar	\$.50