

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

August 2003

Volume 30, Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dale Fowlar

Whew! What a month July has been. We no sooner had bid farewell to the second of the two West Coast IBLS Rambles and the July 4th weekend was on us. SVLS celebrated the Fourth with, not the usual run day, but with a three day mini meet! Members of Golden Gate Live Steamers were invited to come up during the weekend as part of a joint meet. SVLS members made a good showing of rolling equipment and SVLS was one of the featured attractions at the first official "City" of Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Celebration. SVLS was in the parade as well with a really impressive float, featuring our good old venerable Club steamer. The Park was wall-to-wall people and our Club trains handled over 800 riders on the 4th of July alone. All in attendance were spellbound by the fireworks grand finale. Rancho Cordova really did the Independence Day holiday up right!

Some 400 members of the Garden Railroad Society visited the SVLS in mid-July as part of their Western Region convention. Tony and Barbara Rohrs entertained a couple of dozen of the group the evening before the main event with a very nice barbeque and private run. Some of the members I met were visiting from as far away as Portland. One of the garden railroads they visited on their tour was that of Matt and Venessa Mason right here in Rancho Cordova. They were impressed. The Garden Railroad Society is a great group of people and didn't hesitate to express their appreciation for our hospitality.

As you know the weather has been beastly hot with day after day hovering around 105 degrees. Even so July also saw several special runs for corporate and school groups and work at the track has continued

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July 16th run day, A warm day or was it HOT (103+) temperatures but people still enjoyed the rides. On the plus side since the boiler water was closer to boiling temperature it must have saved on fuel.



Frank Dollosso came to run his two engines on run day from Nice, CA. (near Clear Lake). One engine pictured here is gas and the other is electric - see photo inside with son John as the engineer.

CALENDAR

Aug 2 Run Day
 Aug 4 Board Meeting
 Aug 15 General Membership Meeting
 Hot August **Night Run**
 Aug 16 Club Work Day
 Aug 17 Run Day
 Aug 18 *News letter deadline

Sep 1 Run Day
 Sep 1 Board Meeting
 Sep 19 General Membership Meeting
 Sep 20 Club Work Day
 Sep 21 Run Day
 Sep 22 *News letter deadline

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and most Saturdays. Contact a committee member for information on needs. There are always things to be done to support YOUR club.

How will you help your club this month?

*Note: New letter deadline for articles will now be the Monday following the general meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

By Cindy Wilmunder

WELCOME new member Justin

Justin Schade of Rancho Cordova
 Justin says he has no equipment at this time but is open to learning how to run and maintain the equipment and track.

The following conditional members were voted in as regular members at the last meeting. **WELCOME:** Aran Alexander, Pat White, Karl Riechhold, Butch Floyd, Bill Floyd, Frank Higdon, and James Lerza.

The Golden Spike is published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The club track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: editor@svls.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

with Pete Arney renovating and repairing track, Paul Clifton servicing the gasoline motors and preparing lunches, Ross Crawford renovating the UP diesel and several other member out mowing and trimming trees and bushes. I even managed to place most of the insulation in the bathroom ceilings.

Then, as things happen, right in the middle of all this activity the roundhouse air compressor motor finally gave up. The motor was removed and taken to Apparatus Unlimited, an electric motor repair facility at McClellan for a good inspection, a thorough cleaning and some new bearings. Back in place, and sporting a new paint job, the old motor is better than new and runs cool as a cucumber.



Last but not least, Milon Thorley has been down this month with lower abdominal pain. He was treated at the hospital and has been resting at home ... something Milon rarely does. He says he has not really felt bad but can't get around very much on account of some recurrent discomfort. We all wish Milon a quick recovery.

With that we move on to August. Be sure to come out August 15th for the Hot August Nights potluck, barbeque and run night. And don't forget to contact me about the Placerville Harvest Fair if you can help. Happy Summer Steaming!

CABOOSE notes:

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the caboose a big success over the 4th & 5th of July. Matt Hall you can come and manage the grill any time. Fantastic job done by all who helped. If you weren't there for the fireworks on the evening of the 4th you missed a great show. Marilyn & Cleo, your breakfasts were great as usual-thanks. From what I could see everyone had a great time.

Lois

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS Friday, Aug 15th SVLS SPECIAL RUNS
Evening Fun Run and Pot Luck

No Business Meeting!

Join us for a good old-fashioned evening of Live Steaming SVLS style. Come early and bring the kids. Bring some rolling stock and your favorite dish. The barbeque will be hot and the lights will be on for ya. So hang FRED on the last car and COME ON DOWN!

If any one would like to place an order for steaks like we had for 4th of July let Lois know. Price is \$5 for an 8 oz center-cut sirloin steak. Call Lois 916 722-8514 to place steak order and I need to know by August 11. When you bring your special dish to share would you please bring your recipes to share with everyone. I know that I have tasted so many good things that I wished I had the recipes to make them at home later. Hope to see you all there for a fun evening.

PLACERVILLE HARVEST FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, September 13th & 14th.

SVLS has been invited to participate in the 2003 Placerville Harvest Fair at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. We will have an indoor static display and are planning to feature some private rolling stock, some information about Live Steaming, and a video tape presentation of our equipment in action. PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED. If you can make either day please contact Dale Fowlar at (916)962-0718 or e-mail sphogger@ix.netcom.com. Thank you.

Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society Convention special run

SVLS has agreed to have a special run for the SPH&TS on Sunday, Oct. 5th. All SVLS members who have SP equipment of any kind are asked to contact Dale Fowlar at (916)962-0718 or e-mail sphogger@ix.netcom.com to coordinate our event. WE NEED YOUR SP ROLLING STOCK!

Orange County Model Engineers will be hosting its thirteenth Annual Fall meet the weekend of Sept. 19-21. For details contact Kevin Tolan 714 969-9845 or Bob Platfoot 949 631-3418

Glen Bell - Run Coordinator

Our July special runs have been a resounding success thanks to our cadre of volunteers: Les and Cindy Wilmunder, Paul Clifton, Pete Arney Bill "Cannon Ball" Son, Bob ...uh, Bill's buddy (sorry Bob, I can't remember how to spell your last name), Pres. Dale Fowler, John Wallace, Karle Mahler, Rich Lutrel, founders Dick Esselbach and Milton Thorley, Gordon and Barbara Moser, Vern and Clio Geyer, Marilyn Drewes, and finally, Butch. Always there ready to help. If I have forgotten someone please call me and let me know.

We have a very busy August ahead of us. We have our two regular runs on Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 17th. Then we have six special runs on the 3rd (10:30 – 11:30, B'day), 5th (10:30 – 11:30, school), 9th (4 – 5 pm, B'day), 13th (11:00 -1:00, school), 14th (10:00 – 11:00, school), and the 24th (Rohr's picnic). If you can help on any of these please call me at (916) 362-3078.

Now for our July runs. On the 2nd we held a run for 27 homeless kids of the Mustard Seed School at Loaves & Fishes. The kids loved it and each sent us a unique "Thank You" card in the shape of a train. We will have it on display at the next general meeting on August 15 (our Hot August Nights run). On the 8th we ran for the Portland "Rose City Garden Railroad" and on the 10th we ran for the "Garden Railroad Society" picnic. Both groups were thrilled and just loved our railroad. And on the 19th we ran for Rex Moore Electrical Contractor's company picnic (thank you Les and Cindy Wilmunder, and you too, Casey).

Again, many thanks to all of you that help with our runs. Please be sure to come on out to the Hot August Nights run on the 15th so I can personally thank each of you.

Have a neighbor or a friend who has an interest in Live Steam? Invite them to join SVLS.

Take the Membership form on the back page and give to a friend to join SVLS.

WATER, WATER, WATER ...

*by Glen Bell
SVLS Irrigation
Engineer*



I volunteered last year to help Lee Frechette and Pete Arney the watering.

This year Pete is Track Superintendent and Lee is employed full time. So guess who is now in charge of watering?! Last year I was a lowly irrigation technician and I couldn't even spell irrigation. This year the Yardmaster (Lee) promoted me to Irrigation Engineer and put me in charge of keeping the grass green and the trees alive. The Park District has designated our high volume watering times to be between 4 and 8 pm during the weekdays and no restricts on Saturdays and Sundays.

Justin Schade (Shada, shada da da da, it's pronounced "Shada", folks), and enthusiastic new member and nearby resident has stepped forward to assist with the watering during the week. His presence is only required for 1/2 hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to turn specific valves on and off. If any of you members out there live close to the park and are willing to contribute an hour or two during the week after work, I would sure like to hear from you. You can call me at 362-3078.



John Dollosso with Kimberley and Capri enjoying Frank Dollosso electric engine.



Casey keeping the tracks polished with his handcar.



Guests enjoying the train ride through the park during run day. Les and Butch running the train.

Track Superintendent

by Pete Arney



Suggestions and/or areas of track that members feel need attention should be forwarded to the Track Superintendent. SVLS Web site Track Superintendent email is checked daily and is the preferred choice, but feel free to call 916-988-2000 and report directly.

Ongoing track work includes tie replacement along the north to westbound curve at Memorial Grove, installation of plastic ties under the outbound passenger station switch, replacement of a damaged rail panel on the inbound main to Oasis, and leveling, regapping, and ballasting the primary track at Reverso (Reverso sidings yet to be done). Milon Thorley is putting the finishing touches on a new remote throw mechanism for the Sugar Pine switch at the north end of the Box Car yard.

August tasks:

- Linseed oil and mineral spirits will be applied to bridges and trestles.
- Complete Memorial Grove rail leveling.
- Complete leveling and ballasting of Reverso sidings.
- Complete installation of plastic ties under passenger station switch.
- Install new remote switch throw at north Box Car yard mainline to Sugar Pine loop switch.

As we stated last month, there is an ongoing effort to find an alternative to wood ties by using plastic tie material. Plastic Wood Depot, Montreal, Canada, has supplied a quote for plastic tie material. 8000 feet (1000 - 8ft sticks) of 1-1/2" square stock would cost \$2.90 each (approximately \$0.36/ft.) for black or gray. Brown stock costs \$3.65 each (approximately \$0.46/ft.) due to the different types of plastic required to make it. Shipping for this quantity is \$495 (approximately \$0.06/ft.) and should be added to the cost per foot for evaluation purposes. Still, this quote is about half of what we have paid before for

premium plastic tie material. The quoted material is standard utility grade, not premium, but would suffice for our application. Remember, it takes four feet of tie material for each linear foot of track. We can order any amount less than that quoted, but the price will be higher and the cost of shipping would be proportionately higher. This is just for our information only, no order will be placed without approval. Samples are being sent and will be made available at the next general membership meeting.

The track has had heavy usage this year with numerous special events, meets, rambles, and run days (over 700 riders on July 4th) but has withstood this onslaught well. Thanks to all who have participated in the track maintenance this year. While the recent hot weather and summer activities have slowed us down a bit, we have received numerous favorable comments from members and non-members alike on the condition of the track. These kudos are to be shared among all those who have worked very hard in upgrading our track. Our track is always a work in progress.

Work days are held on all Tuesdays and the scheduled monthly work Saturday. Many other Saturdays are work days as well. Email track@svls.org or call the Track Super (988-2000) to confirm Saturday workday. Emphasis will be on tie replacement, tie screw tightening, gauging, and roadbed leveling with some limited rail replacement and switch repair for the rest of this year. All easy stuff to do. Cooler weather will be here (soon?) so come on out and give us a hand.

Congratulations to Ross Crawford for his 40 years of continuous membership with LALS.



What is it?
Where does it live?
What do you feed it?

Send answers to the Editor.

Board of Directors

President: Dale Fowlar (916) 962-0718
 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: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
 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 PM

SPIKE editor request ideas for articles.
 I am also looking for members that would like to
 spotlight their projects - in progress or finished.

Please call or email the editor.
 Thanks.

FOR SALE: Winton Mogul #8
 Contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525



SECRETARY REPORT

by Chris Donhost

July Board Meeting

*Note: Minutes were recorded by Bill Yoder in the Secretary's absence.
 -The external auditor resigned; we need a new auditor.
 -Motion passed to acquire two full size railcars
 -Air compressor motor is in need of repair, currently using park air
 -SVLS Liability insurance will not be renewed by our carrier.
 Our current policy will remain in effect until August 17, 2003; Joel will investigate
 -A special budget meeting will be held to work on the reports
 -Board approved several plumbing invoices, totaling \$1594.14
 -SVLS will have a static display at the Placerville Harvest Festival, Dale will chair.

July General Meeting

-The Air compressor motor has been repaired
 -Our Oregon insurance agent no longer wants to insure in California;
 Joel is trying to locate a California agent so that we can stay with
 the same insurance company we currently have.
 -Milon Thorley is recovering following treatment for serious abdominal pain.
 -A budget meeting was held, details to be published following August Board Meeting
 -Allison has an appointment to meet a new potential auditor next week
 -Motion passed to participate at International Railfair in Roseville Nov. 8 & 9. No shirt sales this year, static display and portable track only.
 -Les and Cindy Wilmunder made donations to the club including a hydraulic lift and wiring for outdoor overhead lighting.

Please check the club web site www.svls.org for current information on club activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group.



www.groups.yahoo.com.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND DUES INVOICE**

To be filled out upon application for membership and/or membership renewal



NEW RENEWAL DATE: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED: INDIVIDUAL
 FAMILY
 ASSOCIATE

YOUR NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILDREN
LIVING AT
HOME
(Names _____
and
month/day
of birth): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

OPERABLE LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT: _____

LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION: _____

Do you have track at home? Yes No Someday Gauge: _____

Special skills and ways you would like to help SVLS: _____

Other railroad club affiliations: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES TO:

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS

Attn: Membership

PO Box 273

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-0273

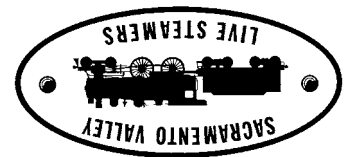
Make check payable to: Sacramento Valley Live Steamers

DUES RATE: REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (Individual or Family) is \$30.00 per year payable and due on January 1 or \$27.00 per year if paid by December 31st of the preceeding year.
ONE TIME INITIATION FEE: \$30.00 (In addition to the regular membership dues)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 per year (NO initiation fee) Must live 100 miles or more from track or belong to a recognized live steam club. An associate member who moves into the 100 mile radius must convert to a regular membership by paying the \$30.00 initiation fee.

Membership is conditional for a period of six (6) months, at which time acceptance as a regular member will be voted upon by the general members at a regular meeting. In the event of a negative vote, the initiation fee and 1/2 of the yearly dues will be refunded.

Amount Paid: _____ Check _____ Cash
 Name Badge Roster Rule Book Card



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

SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH



202 All engines must be run at a safe speed and under complete control at all times. (ref.#228 Absolute maximum speed of any train shall be 7 m.p.h. actual - i.e.: 100 feet per 9 seconds).

302 All members share equal privileges in the club and use of the club facilities. All members also have equal responsibility for the safety and maintenance of the club facility, club equipment, and the observance and enforcement of these rules. Every member is responsible to, and for, every other member. There are no so-called "privileged" members.

414 All locomotives shall be equipped with a sounding locomotive signals. Such sounding device be powerful enough to be heard distinctly for at least 150 feet.

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