

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

October 2003

Volume 30, Issue 10

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Dale Fowler*

October 5<sup>th</sup> the S.P. Historical Society will visit SVLS. This is a prestigious group of at least a national, but probably international membership. Their convention is held each year in a different city that was served by the old Southern Pacific Railroad and its subsidiaries prior to the merger with Union Pacific. I know they would enjoy seeing your equipment so, SP or not, bring it on down and let 'em see what you've got. The time will be Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 3:30 so it will be short and sweet. Hope to see you there.

The weekend of September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> SVLS was represented with an indoor display at the El Dorado County Fair in Placerville. We had a joint display along with Keith Berry and the El Dorado Western steam preservation group. Keith was kind enough to bring his live steamer for display along with a couple of cars. I would like to thank Keith for his help as well as Milon Thorley, Pete Arney, and Paul Clifton. That same Saturday the Club had a private run of about 300 people. A separate group came out to take care of that function. A special thanks to all those who turned out to get us through the weekend. By the way, Saturday,  
*continued on page 3*



## OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

The SVLS Fall Meet is upon us and lots of work that has been done at the track so everyone can have good time running trains and seeing friends.

There will be a Raffle on Saturday afternoon and if you have items to donate please call Joel Corbin (916) 990-9432

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 \$15.00 and will include tri tip, grilled chicken, chili, corn on the cob, green beans, rice, caesar salad, grilled sourdough garlic bread, beverage and dessert. WOW...you can't miss this! RSVP to Lois Clifton by October 10th at (916) 722-8514 or [loisjune1@msn.com](mailto:loisjune1@msn.com).

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 Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820 if you have any questions or want to volunteer.



### CALENDAR

Oct 4 Run Day  
 Oct 6 Board Meeting  
 Oct 17 General Membership Meeting  
 Oct 18-19 **FALL MEET**  
 Oct 20 News letter deadline

Nov 3 Board Meeting  
 Nov 8 - 9 Rail Fair at Roseville  
 Nov 21 General Membership Meeting  
 Nov 22 Club Work Day  
 Nov 24 News letter deadline  
 Nov 29-30 Special Santa run

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?*

### International Railfair's annual NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MODEL RAILROAD SHOW!

**November 8 - 9, 2003**

Saturday 10am - 5pm and  
 Sunday 10am - 4pm



SVLS will have inside display and Steam engine running outside. If you are volunteering please contact Chris Donhost (707) 469-9039 to register for a exhibitor pass.

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.

*The Golden Spike* is the 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](mailto:editor@svls.org)

### MEMBERSHIP

*By Cindy Wilmunder*

It's getting to be that time of the year again! Time to start paying your S.V.L.S. dues for 2004. Pay your dues before January 1st, 2004 and pay only \$27.00 for Individual membership. \$15.00 if you qualify for Associate membership. After January 1st yearly dues are \$30.00.

When you pay your dues please fill out a membership form so we can update our membership records with your current information (form included in news letter).

I would also like to thank Lois Clifton, Clio Geyer, and Allison Berry for their help and everyone else for being so patient with me while I learned the ropes.

### **WELCOME new member Bruce**

Bruce Stein from Diamond Springs

*Also welcome back* Roy McInnes who has rejoined SVLS. Roy was at the track this last run day to have his Steveson Rocket pressure tested.

NETTIE GRACE GNEVO, a Life member of SVLS, died on September 2, 2003. Her husband Clifford who worked as an SP engineer was a member and helped in the club for many years before he passed away in 1982.

Nettie continued her association with the club with her kids and grandkids.

Nettie resided with her grandson Bryan until her passing. Nettie will always be remembered for never forgetting to say, "I love you." Her beauty will always shine down on us from heaven. She will forever live in our hearts. She was truly someone special.

The family requested memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741.

*Presidents report  
continued from page 1*

Milon came by to help set up at Placerville and then set off for the Park in Rancho to help our guys down there. Sunday he returned for the second day of the Fair.

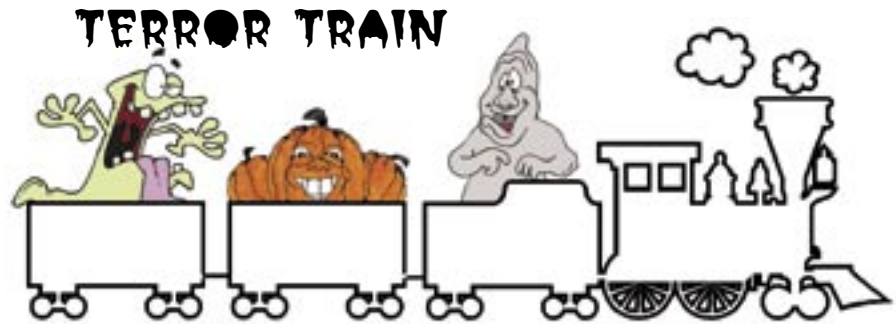
You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the Halloween Night run in conjunction with the Jewel Performing Arts group. The Jewels have been running a Haunted House at their home for a number of years, and each year it has drawn larger crowds to the point where they need a new place. With a joint effort another Rancho Cordova tradition may be taking place at SVLS. Hope you can come out and help.

Finally, more progress is being made on the electrical line which feeds the caboos. A good deal of study and work has taken place already and the volunteers are hoping to have the new system in operation for the Fall Meet. And, speaking of the Fall Meet, I hope to see you there.

### **Special thanks**

to Les Wilmunder who in memory of his father has donated a 40 foot container to be used for storage.

Hal Wilmunder passed away in April 2003.



The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, The Jewell Performing Arts Center and the Cordova Parks and Recreation District jointly announce the first annual "Terror Train".

For 2003 the haunt is moving from a former Rancho Cordova home to the Sacramento Valley Live Steamer's scale railroad yard in Hagan Park. This event is scheduled for Halloween night (10/31) from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. "Victims" will board the train at the SVLS passenger station for a scary ride into the gothic graveyard where they will detrain and enter the haunted mansion. "Survivors" will be allowed to board the train again to return to the safety of the park.

This is something new that SVLS has agreed to try this year. The Park District has asked that we participate and it was hard to say no to the Park District. This will be the first time we have given "public" rides after dark, so safety is of the utmost importance to all those who will be participating in this event.

Those members of the Jewell Performing Arts Center will start with their decorations at the SVLS site the first weekend of October. So, when those of you who will be attending the Fall Meet come out, there will be some surprises in the way of decorations around the expansion area of the track.

This is to be a sanctioned fundraiser for both SVLS and the Jewell Performing Arts Center with the two groups each receiving half of the funds collected. There has been an announcement through the park district that 1000 tickets will be available for this event, so it should be a "spooky" night for all on Halloween.

If there are any members who would like to volunteer to assist with this effort please get in touch with any Board member and they will be more than happy to advise you as to what, where and when your assistance will be required. We will need engineers; flag people and assistance at the passenger station as well as the drop off and pick up points along the track. We will also require some assistance with keeping an eye around the track for anyone playing tricks. There will be police and park rangers as well as some of the park district people helping out as well.

**GRAB A GOUL AND COME ON OUT**

**SANTA RUN** on November 29 & 30th we will be having our annual Santa run for the kids. A great time was had by all last year and we would like it to be as great this year too. If any one has any suggestions on decorations, or anything else your input is greatly appreciated. Please contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525. Also we will need some help on furnishing cookies for the kids - lots of them!!



At the September meeting show & tell we had several steam engine boilers and fire boxes shown as work in progress from Matt Masion, Chris Donhost, & Dale King showing his completed welding. John Bailie showed new gears and photos of his milling setup to make them. Dave Mattox showed a coupler bracket to be used on Vern Geyer new trolley. Thanks ALL for sharing your hard work!

Our last run day had a nice turnout of club members with several engines, see following pictures.



Sidney Madden with his Pacific Cost Lumber #3 (2-8-0 Consolidation)



Veronica and Dale Taylor with family using their U.P. 3514 diesel. Notice the B & O crane and work car.



Paint job on our picnic tables by Clio & Vern Geyer and Marilyn Drewes. Thanks



Robert Harold with U.P. 3710 switcher.



Vern Geyer testing his newly electrified trolley, thanks to Dave Mattox.

## Track Superintendent

by Pete Arney



Ongoing track work includes the completion of tie replacement and right-of-way ballast and alignment to the westbound curve at Memorial Grove. Thanks to Paul Skidmore for helping finish this effort that includes refurbishing the main line from Quarry northbound to the grade crossing at Ponds in the park. Thanks also to Keith Berry and Mike Presson for replacing ties and ballasting the right-of-way between the girder bridge at Cobble to Midway.

Paul Skidmore has donated about 300 redwood ties. His friend, George Bann, is removing three redwood decks. Paul took the deck material from one of the decks and cut it into 1-1/2" square stock by 16" long. Many of these ties were installed near Memorial Grove and at Oasis.

Milon Thorley has completed the replacement of the old poorly operating remote switch throw at the north end of the box car yard with a new throw he machined and welded together. He matched the design to the other remote throws on our track. It works great and is a great improvement to the safety hazard the handle on the old one presented. Milon also repainted the remote throw handle targets to day glow orange for better visibility.

Tie replacement continues with new ties placed under the outbound passenger station switch and outbound box car yard switch to the old loop. Both switches were regauged as they were being relaid. These locations are watered heavily from park sprinklers so plastic ties were used to replace rotted ties. Additional tie work was done in the box car yard as well, both under switches and mainline track. Thanks to Bill Yoder, Keith Berry, Richard Lutrel, and Gordon Moser for their participation in this difficult task on some really warm days.

The gauge of the rail is continually being checked, particularly at switch points and frogs. These spots tend to be narrow causing wheels to ride up and on frog points. The stock rails are being widened and the space between the guard and stock rails being narrowed to recommended standards to prevent the problem.

All of the wood on our bridges and trestles has been treated with at least two applications of a mixture of linseed oil and other additives. Touch up applications will be made in October on several structures that were dry and need additional treatment.

Weed control along all of the right of way continues with another application of Roundup being made on September 20 and 21. This was the fourth application this year. At least one more application will be made prior to the fall meet.

The track improvement and renovation effort so far this year has been concentrated on the mainline pretty much to the exclusion of sidings and passing tracks. While much work remains on the mainline, sidings and passing track will begin to get some attention starting in October. Ballast and leveling will be the primary tasks along with some limited tie replacement. Several siding switches need attention, particularly at Hillview, and will be a priority item. Near future tasks will include ballasting and leveling approaches to all of our trestles and bridges. Other tasks continuing will focus on the north end loops near Reverso with tie bar replacement of Spall rail joiners, tie replacement, and regauging.

Roy McInnes brought an 1-1/2" scale model of the Rocket engine to the track on Sunday, September 21, for a boiler test and certification; it passed ok. The engine was built by his grandfather and is coal fired. Roy had intended to fire it up but lacked some tools he needed to do so. We will be very interested to see it run in the near future.



Work days are usually held on Tuesdays and the scheduled monthly work Saturday. Many other Saturdays are work days as well. Email (SVLS web site) or call the Track Super (988-2000) to confirm a workday if you would like to be involved. 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.



Milon and Pete holding pvc pipe encapsulated by a tree root. The pipe was leaking (or just plain broken) air to the steaming bay racks.

**NOTICE of stolen caboose painted in U.P. yellow.** Caboose was stolen from Jimmy Durham along with a trailer.

### Train Master Report

*by Ross Crawford*



Last month I talked about measuring truck axle parallelism.

This month we'll try to fix the problem. If you have movable journals and pedestal jaws FIRST, make sure your journals have no more than .020 clearance in the pedestal jaws. If these are OK then remove the wheel sets and bearings and reinstall the journals in the jaws.

Before you start, permanently identify the journal boxes and the pedestal jaws because when you finish, the journals will not be interchangeable. Measure the distance (wheel base) between the bearing holes on the right and left side of the truck and write down the numbers.

On the long side, add some braze to the outer end of one bearing hole. Then re-bore the bearing hole to make the wheelbase dimension the same as the other side.

The procedure to correct the wheelbase in a 3 piece cast iron truck frame with integral bearing holes comes next month.

Meantime, I have finished the rear truck on the BP40 and showed it at the Sept. meeting. The front truck will be done in a couple of weeks. Milon Thorley, Jack Friedman & Bill Yoder have been doing lots of train maintenance but there is still plenty to do.

Bill Son has donated a new engineers seat for the RS3. THANKS Bill.

For questions call Ross at 916 718-4162



### SAFTY TIP OF THE MONTH

Use C-clamps or a rod through the drivers when your engine or cars are sitting on the steaming bay racks.



Club steam engine pulling riders with Karle Mahler at the throttle.



I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.

**RUN DAY - SEPT 21.**

**Special run events:**

- Oct. 5 S.P. Historical Society 12 - 3:30
- Oct 11 Birthday run 11:30 - 2:30
- Oct 25 Birthday run 1 - 3

If you would like to help with any of these runs please call Ross Crawford at (916) 718-4162



Charlie Meinershagen with his electric box cab engine. Box cabs require the operator to be relaxed.

**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: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
- 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**



Milon Thorley's Western Pacific 1500 switcher # 610



Matt Schroedle with family running his Shasta Pacific #177

2nd picture shows who is in the caboose.



Please check the club web site [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org) for current information on club activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group. [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com).

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:**

Barry Garland has for sale his 1.5 scale steam engine, cars and many parts, magazines. Call Barry at 916 791-2154.

- Mogul \$20,000
- Gondola with riding seats \$800
- Box Cab electric \$4,000
- Wood Caboose (working doors and windows) \$900
- Wood flat car (circus style) \$800
- Wood cattle car \$250
- Also a real Caboose stove.



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





**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**

# 222. Color signals, lights or flags:

A. Red                    **STOP.**  
 B. Yellow      Proceed with caution, prepare to stop at next signal.  
 C. Green      Proceed  
 D. Blue      Equipment must not be coupled or moved. Workman be in or under the equipment. A blue signal shall never be removed by anyone except the person who put it there.

#310. The Board of Directors may restrict or suspend from duty any operating personnel who consistently violates safety rules.

# 418 Cars used to haul passengers that do not have built-in seats shall NOT have seats improvised with boards and objects laid across the sides of the car, except for the last seat which shall be reserved for the trainman. Passengers may sit on the floor of the car, to keep the center of gravity as low as possible.

<b>Caboose Menu</b>	
Chili Burger	\$3.00
Chili Dog	\$3.00
Hamburger	\$2.50
Hot Dog	\$2.50
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$2.00
Bowl of Chili	\$2.00
Nacho's	\$1.50
Meal Deal ( includes Chips, drink, salad & dessert)	\$4.00
Special of the Day	\$4.00
All hamburgers & sandwiches come with: Tomato, lettuce, & pickle. Onion upon request	
<b>Drinks / Dessert</b>	
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