

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

September 2005

Volume 32, Issue 09

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

MEMORIAL CORRECTION

It has been brought to my attention that the SVLS dedicated their library to Earl McKenzie some years ago, following his passing. I was not aware of this and other Board members were not either. This means that references to dedicating the library to Dick Esselbach were misplaced. I was personally acquainted with Earl and Dick and do not wish to slight either of them. The matter was discussed at the last Board meeting and the resolution is that the library will be dedicated to Earl as previously decided. In order to honor Dick, the public passenger station will be dedicated to him. The temporary structure will be named the Dick Esselbach Memorial Passenger Station and when the park finishes its plans to install the permanent building, the name will shift to that new building. We regret any difficulty our misunderstanding has caused.

STATION CANOPY, ETC.

The park staff has asked that any structure we build of a permanent nature be discussed with them. They are spending a great deal of money on park upgrades and want everything in the park to look good to the public. We will be submitting our station canopy plans for discussion in this regard. We will be reviewing metal and wood structures in addition to the RV idea mentioned in this newsletter last month.

We have been advised that the fence along our sugar pine route will be moved to the top of the hill just above it. This will accomplish park goals and will keep our recently vandalized track behind the fence. This will be a good idea for both the park

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HOT AUGUST

NIGHTS *By Clio Geyer*

We had a nice turnout for the Hot August Nights potluck on August 19th. Those in attendance were: Pete Arney, Paul & Tia Skidmore, Jason Van Horn, Darrell Gomes, Milon Thorley, Bill Yoder, Red Hadler and his friend Diane, Clio & Vern Geyer, Ken, Nadine & Terry Willis, Cindy Wilmunder, Lynn Wetter, Matt & Vanessa Mason with Daniel, Dave & Pat Mattox, Dale & Allison King with Maddie, Butch Floyd, Rich & Amy Lutrel with Sara and Rich's nephew.

Bill Yoder, Dale & Allison King and Dave & Pat Mattox brought out their equipment plus the club engine was used to ride around the track.

One of the ladies left their light jacket when they left. It is now in the caboose when they want to pick it up.



Vice-President's report

by Pete Arney

SVLS Special Interest Group (SIG):

Last month, formation of a Special Interest Group was announced to help those of us with beginning machining skills and those with accomplished skills alike to join with Karle Mahler to tackle a machining project. Suggested was another steam engine for SVLS. Other suggestions are welcome. We will get started later this fall. Members interested to date: Pete Arney, Joel Corbin, Lee Frechette, Bill Yoder, Dale Dennis, Jerry Thomas. For further information, contact Pete Arney.

Rail restoration:

Dual gauge track has been installed at Riverview to the new switch at Snake Bite Junction. Thanks to Matt Mason and Dale King for installing the 4-3/4" gauge rail on Sunday, August 21. Guard rails are being made for the frogs, also a switch point tie bar, ground throw, and glide plates for the points. These components will be fabricated to be vandal resistant. The switch is usable by the mainline now, in the normal direction of travel. The switch throw will be enclosed in a box secured by a combination lock. The same arrangement will be installed soon for the ponds siding in

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CALENDAR

Sep 2 Board meeting 6:30 at Park meeting room 3
 Sep 3 Public run day - noon to 4 PM.
 Sep 16 Members meeting - Park building 1
 Sep 17 Work Day - come out and help
 Sep 18 Public run day - noon to 4 PM.
 Sep 19 Newsletter articles due to editor
 Sep 30 October Board meeting 6:30 park rm 3

Oct 8 - 9 FALL MEET

Public rides - noon to 4 PM.

Oct 21 Members meeting - Park building 1
 Oct 22 Work Day - come out and help
 Oct 24 Newsletter articles due to editor
 Oct 29-30 Ghost Train

2005 public run day calendar available on-line, or hand-outs at caboose.

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and Saturday after meeting. Contact a committee member for information on needs. Check the Project page at the SVLS web site (www.svls.org).

There are always things to be done to support SVLS.

How will you support SVLS this month?



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

The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc. is organized and operated exclusively for public benefit charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C.) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donors may deduct contributions to The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc. to the fullest extent allowed by law as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

MEMBERSHIP

by Amy Lutrel

Welcome new members:

Reece Emlaw Sacramento, Ca.

Darrell & Gail Gomes Valley Springs, Ca.

Roster corrections:

updated E-mails:

Dale King the-kings@sbcglobal.net

Amy Lutrel amyl1979@sbcglobal.net

Richard Lutrel rjl1974@sbcglobal.net

Special Events will be coordinated by Vern Geyer (916) 645-9154 for July through September while Ross is on vacation.

Please help Vern with our special events.

Board of Directors

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075

E-mail: joel@steamtrainjoel.com

Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000

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Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: loisjune1@surewest.net

Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder
(916) 372-2423

Yardmaster: Vern Geyer (916) 645-9154

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Trainmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 244-8989

E-mail: rjl1974@sbcglobal.net

----- Committee Chairpersons -----

Special Events: For July through September call
Vern Geyer (916) 645-9154

Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

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Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: editor@svls.org

Membership: Amy Lutrel (916) 244-8989

E-mail: amyl1979@sbcglobal.net

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

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the park area, replacing the screw-down covers now used.

Keep up to date on the status by linking to the Projects and Track pages on www.svls.org.



New irrigation pump and connection to SVLS

The Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) at Hagan Park is nearing the completion of their new irrigation water well project begun last March. The new pump is in place, electrical connections made, and the security fence installed. Scott Lindvall, Park Foreman, has decommissioned the old pump that was located near the gate leading to Sugar Pine loop. Previously, the park used another pump located near the bike trail to operate a water fall that fed into the ponds in the park. The water fall and other pumps would fill up the ponds during the day and then the park pumped from the ponds to irrigate the landscape at night using the recently decommissioned pump. The new pump will supply irrigation water directly from a well capable of delivering over 1100 gallons per minute eliminating the need to pump from the ponds.

Lindvall has already connected the new pump to the park's 6-inch water main. The park has also stubbed out a 4-inch water line from the new well and the park will supply a gate valve and demarc point to SVLS for our irrigation needs. During the first weeks of September, SVLS volunteers Lee Frechette, Pete Arney, Vern Geyer, Richard Lutrel, and others will extend this new 4-inch line under the tracks of Boxcar Yard into the meadow just east of Boxcar Yard, about 100 ft. Connections to the existing 2-1/2-inch lines east to Midway, south to Oasis, and the present stub-out to the future north end line will be made. The north end stub-out will be extended about 200 ft. towards the bike trail along the park fence and a



riser with hose bibs installed to more easily water the landscape just north of the two trestles.

Soon, we will have a virtually unlimited supply of water for irrigation and can begin to green up our area. Vern Geyer, our Yard Master, has been frustrated by the lack of water, hot weather, and dry landscape. Despite this, Vern has done an outstanding job of putting to good use what little water we were able to obtain to keep the young trees alive and much of Oasis green.

2004 Scary U Halloween Program an Award Winner:

The following is an excerpt from an announcement posted on the Cordova Recreation and Park District web site (www.crpdc.com):

“Scary U, a production of Jewell Performing Arts, Inc. won a major award at the Haunt Industry’s annual Golden Bucky awards February 19 during the annual Deathfest convention in Southern California. Haunts from all over the nation submitted their videos for judging in four categories: Rookie Haunt, Indoor Haunt, Outdoor Haunt, and Pro Haunt.

“Mike Fox of Scary U edited our local haunt video and sent it in just in time to be judged. Since the local event held at the train yard in Hagan Park as a part of “Haunted Hagan” Halloween festivities charges an admission, the entry was in the Pro Haunt category. The local program, planned and run by teens and supervised by adult volunteers won first place, “Best Pro Haunt” !

“Those of you who attended last fall’s Scary U Haunt had to take note of the creative way live steam engines and sophisticated automation were utilized. Rancho Cordova can be proud that the Haunt Industry is equally impressed by our innovative, hard working local crew headed by program originator Jerry Jewell.”

Reminder: The 2005 SVLS/Jewell Ghost train is coming on October 29 and 30. Check the SVLS web site for updates.



Got a project you would like to show off that is too big to bring to the meeting for show and tell then give the editor a call/email and will take pictures for a feature.

President report - continued from page 1

and us. In addition, we may have a permanent concrete slab installed to aid with the Jewell Performing Arts Haunted House and Terror Train. When not being used for a haunted house, we can use it for other things, like a picnic area. This is a cost to be handled by the park and the haunted house people.

STANFORD MANSION REOPENING

The SVLSRM has been asked to participate in the grand reopening of the Stanford Mansion and celebration of California Admission Day. The dates are September 9, 10 and 11, 2005. Originally, we were asked to use our "snap track" and pull passengers but after our survey on where we could do it, running was nixed. We still plan to have a display and the arrangements are being worked out. Contact me if you can help on this project. The location is 8th an O Street in downtown Sacramento. There will be free admission to every downtown museum that day.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

The administrative committee under the chairmanship of Pete Arney has met and set up a procedure for the next election. This plan has now been approved by the Board. This new procedure was discussed in order to avoid disenfranchising members who cannot attend the election night meeting. Please note these steps which will start at the October Membership Meeting.

1. The Nominating Committee will present their suggested slate for available Board positions at the October meeting.
2. If anyone wishes to nominate others from the floor, they may do so then. Additional nominees will not have to be present but the nominating person must have assurance from the nominated person that they will accept the nomination. Nominations will be closed at the October Meeting and none will be taken at the November Meeting.
3. Following the meeting, a ballot will be prepared with all nominees shown as well as a place where write in votes can be added.
4. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters only. Instructions will be sent with the ballot to insure the vote will be counted correctly, no duplications will be involved and confidentiality will be maintained.
5. Ballots must be received in the SVLSRM Post Office Box by the day of the Annual Meeting in November.
6. After verification of no duplicate ballots, those present will cast their ballots and these will be added to the mailed ballots. The Election Committee will announce the results.

BALLOT PROCEDURE

1. The Ballot will be mailed to each eligible voter with two return envelopes.
2. The first return envelope will be marked "BALLOT" and have no other markings. When the Ballot is completed, it should be sealed in this envelope.

3. The second envelope will be preaddressed to "Secretary, SVLSRM" at the P. O. Box in Rancho Cordova. The "BALLOT" envelope will be inserted in this mailing envelope, the signature of the voter must be added to the back side of this envelope to verify who is voting and to avoid duplicate vote, postage should be affixed and then the ballot should be mailed. A ballot mailing received without a signature will remain unopened and will not be counted.
4. The mailed Ballot will be unopened until the November Annual Meeting. At that time, the name on the rear of the envelope will be read. If that person is not at the meeting, the mailing envelope will be opened by the Secretary and the unopened BALLOT envelope will be deposited in the ballot box for handling by the Elections Committee. A person who mails their ballot and attends the meeting may decide which ballot to use, either one done in person or the one mailed.

The Board trusts that this new procedure will allow everyone who wishes to vote to do so, even if they cannot attend the meeting. The nominating Committee will be announced at the September Meeting.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

Here is a quick summary of other things discussed at the Board Meeting and things that are being done now.

1. The vandalized track is almost done. See Pete article for latest update. Call Pete Arney and advise when you can help with this last step.
2. A security plan was reviewed as submitted by Bill Yoder. The cost for this extensive idea is prohibitive and the Board questions the usefulness and response time of authorities. Additional alternatives are being investigated.
3. An irrigation plan was reviewed. A new hose expense was approved. New underground plumbing plans are being considered. The park is providing a new high pressure line which will require our installation of a new valve. A future automated system is being developed.
4. The Administrative Rules Committee recommended a spending limit of \$2,000 without membership approval. The Board agreed and this procedure is now in place.
5. With the agreement of Membership Chairperson Amy Lutrel, and our electronics guy, Bill Yoder, a database software program is being purchased. This will allow an ongoing complete listing for each member with the ability to capture information by several categories. If you have changes to your roster listing, contact Amy so correct entries can be made. As time goes on, you may be called for verification of the information we have.

Hope to see you soon running your trains.....Joel

YARDMASTER REPORT

By Vern Geyer

It has been a long HOT summer so far. With the new well going in by the Park, we have had to improvise using what water we could get. Sometimes the only water was city water, so we could at least keep the potted flowers watered.



Thanks to Pete Arney, Bill Yoder, Milon Thorley and Paul Clifton for working to keep the broken, disconnected and otherwise unusable pipes replaced, repaired, etc. so that we could use our irrigation water.

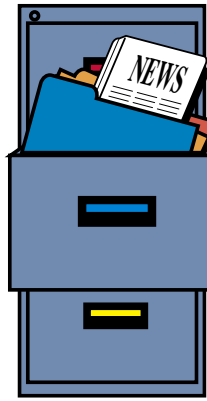
We also used the services of the Sheriff's crews whenever we could to keep the lawns mowed, leaves raked up and branches hauled off. They also helped a lot with setting up the sprinklers and watering the trees out in the expansion area around the memorial grove and other places where new trees were planted last year. Despite the efforts we have lost a number of trees.

New member Darrell Gomes has been coming out during the month of August to help where he could with tree watering and anything else where help was required. He joined SVLS and then went out on Ebay and bought himself an engine and riding car in So. Calif. He has had it out once and spent a few hours after work was completed running around the track. We will be seeing more of him and his train in the months to come.

As the weather cools off there will be the need for people to come out and help remove dead trees and to trim those that need it. I will be putting out messages and phone calls to those that can come out when I can see a scheduling opportunity.



Vern had some unplanned clean up when the Pine tree on the main line into the station decided to block the track. Thanks to Dave & Pat Mattox and Allison King for coming out to clear the mess up. Picture courtesy of Allison King.

**10 Years ago:**
"SUPER SCOOP"

Over the summer, the caboose siding has been the focus of attention. It now has a second through track and of this new track, there is a stub track for storage. What we still need to do is extend the stub track, ballast, level the siding, and install switch throws. This will complete the project. I want to take a moment and thank all of those that helped cut ties, made the track panels, laid the track, and/or ballasted. I want to especially

give an attaboy to both Bob Lovell and Milon Thorley for spear-heading this project. THANKS GUYS - Curtis Bonville, Superintendent.

20 Years ago: "April 1985"

From the Board:

The Board discussed the acquisition of a Box Car, purchasing of additional hand tools and supplies, approved a donation to the "Fire-works Fund", and the Board also discussed the priorities of future projects.

ROUNDHOUSE RUMORS:

Bob Lovell recently informed a reliable source that he is now an expert at design and construction of unusual lawn sprinklers. The only draw back is the difficulty of moving his new boiler around the lawn for even watering. If at first you don't succeed, hydro-test, hydro-test, again. After seeing Danley's railroad, Earl McKenzie is attacking the 1 1/2" scale Mikado in his shop with new vigor. It seems that he likes those hills. John Bailie has been doing Turbo generator research. So Far he still has to light a match to see if the blub is lit. His theories sound good and we are sure that his next attempt will be a brilliant glowing success.

30 Years ago:

"PUFFS OF SMOKE"

Ed Yungling, Doc Harriss, Ken Spicer and Larry Edwards were out at the track Labor Day. They did some maintenance work on the track and had three engines running.

Barry, Marge and Allen Garland and Mrs. Phillips (Marge's mother), Rosemary Pilcher, Ken Yeo, Larry Badger, Ed and Don Yungling, and Ken Spicer all went to Gerber for the big Steam Thrashing Fair. They had three big steam traction engines operating along with a lot of other equipment and demonstrations. Quite and interesting day with lots of steam power, a parade of equipment and friendly folks at the Humman Ranch. One of these nights we'll see it through the lens of Barry's movie camera. Incidentally, Railroad Magazine will be running a feature story about our own Mr. Garland. We'll let you know when as soon as we find out.

Milon Thorley and Earl Mc Kenzie have been appointed to the nominating committee to select next year's club nominees.

SUNDAY RUN DAY – AUGUST 21

There was a nice turn out for the last Run Day in August. Paul & Lois Clifton, Pete Arney, Vern & Clio Geyer, Jason Van Horn, Cindy Wilmunder, Barbara Moser, Butch Floyd, Don Yungling with his steamer, Ed Yungling, Milon Thorley with his steamer, and Rich & Amy Lutrel.



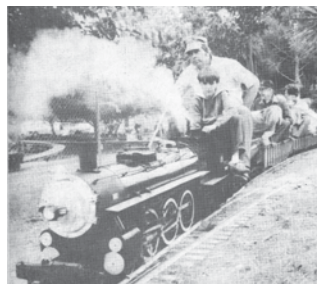
Matt Mason had been out earlier in the day with Dave Mattox and Dale King to work on the third rail. They were finished before noon, but Matt came back later with Daniel to visit for a little while.

A group of car collectors came by with their vehicles and took some rides and shared their root beer floats with us. They also left us a nice donation.

There were not a lot of people in the park, but enough to keep the trains running most of the time. There was enough help however that people got breaks to come down and rest up a bit and to eat.

Mystery photos from last month's SPIKE got several people putting on their thinking caps to guess who these people were.

The one on the right is our famous Craig Craddock with his Pacific steamer - Spring 1985.



The second picture several people thought they knew who but did not remember the name. The Engineer was thought to be the wife of another member who was a dentist about 1982-83 time frame. She was involved in the train project for about a year. She actually was doing some of the machine work and she realized she had turned more than her 8 drivers as the story goes.

Anyone have a name?



SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT

By Clio Geyer

I would like to thank the following people for coming out in the heat and helping with the IBEW Special Run on July 30th.


Butch & Bill Floyd, Skip, Linda & Thomas Nance, Milon Thorley, Mike & Claudia Drieling, Barbara and Gordon Moser, Les, Cindy and Casey Wilmunder, Lynn Wetter, Paul Clifton, Paul Skidmore, Dale & Allison King, Pat Mattox, Pete Arney and Jack Friedman. We could never have completed this run without all your help. The day was over 100 and with so many helpers no one was left working in the heat without a break. The misters also helped in the picnic area.

August was a busy month for parties. We had two school runs and five birthday parties. Butch Floyd, Bill Floyd and Barbara Moser came out and helped with all the special runs.

September is starting off with few new events. The one that has been approved is the joint potluck and run day with the Garden Rail Road group.

They will be providing the hot dogs and drinks so any that would like to come out and join us on Saturday Sept. 17 bring a dish to share with everyone else. Salads would be good. Not to forget the desserts! How about chips and dips? Maybe a veggie tray or two?

Put Saturday Sept. 17th on your calendar to come out and run your trains and see what the Garden Railroad people have been up to with their equipment! If there are any questions give us a call at 916-645-9154 for more details.



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

216. Trainmen should use hand signals whenever practical. Several trainmen in the same area using whistles can easily be mistaken for one another. The use of hand signals makes it necessary for the engineer to see the signal intended for him, eliminating possible error and danger of mistaking another trainman's whistle for that of his own trainman.

301. The chief concern of all operating personnel shall be the safety of visitors, guests, and members of the club.

403. Dummy or solid type couplers shall be constructed so they operate with the standard working knuckle coupler. Coupler height shall conform to I.B.L.S. standards.



SVLS in the early years (1972-73).
While this photo has been seen before we do not have all the names for the faces shown.
Please send your list of names to the editor. Special prize for the name of the guy behind
the loco with the white shirt and beard.

FALL MEET

Mark your calendars for OCTOBER 7th and 8th for our annual Fall Meet. It's time to meet friends and show off your engines. So make your plans now to join SVLS at the track for the Fall MEET.

Help will be needed to finish several projects prior to the meet so please come out to the track and help your club. There will always be a need during the meet for engineers and conductors to give rides to the public from Noon to 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Look for a good time of running your trains in the evening and into the night (make sure your lights work).



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Well lets see how good we can do this month.



I have no date on these photos so your help is needed.



Please forward your correct answers to the editor.

Thanks

