

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

August 2007

Volume 34, Issue 08

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

It is time once again for our Annual Membership get together HOT AUGUST NIGHTS. As usual, we will have a potluck dinner. Friday, August 17th is the date. Come early if you can, but we will begin the food and activities officially at 6:30 PM. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for suggestions on what to bring. Be sure to consider bringing your engine to add to the fun. We will have SVLSRM trains for all to ride, but remember, this night event is only for members, their families, and their guests. No business meeting will be conducted. If you plan to come, be sure to stay long enough to have good conversations with your friends, and have a relaxed evening. Also, any "show and tell" project you would like to bring is welcome.

CONTAINER ARRIVES

After much preparation, the new container has arrived. Although a repair to the roof is needed, plans are being made for the best use of the unit. As you know, the existing box car uses are being considered as well. Between the two units, we hope to efficiently use the available storage space and rolling stock storage. With twelve new riding cars on the horizon, six to be completed this year, good planning must be done. The Board has made preliminary suggestions to handle the coming cars, but nothing has been finalized. WE will take suggestions and keep you updated.

JULY 4TH WRAP UP

Many thanks to all who helped for the

Continued on page 4



Ed Yungling at the throttle of Don's SP GS-1 #4403 engine. Thanks goes to Don for sharing this great photo that he took.



SVLSRM float with our steamer and supporting TAP members in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July Parade. Thanks to all the volunteered to build the float and be in the Parade.

CALENDAR

Note: Board meetings for 2007 have changed

Aug. 4 Public run day Noon to 4 PM
 Aug. 17 HOT AUGUST NIGHTS (POTLUCK, Trains & Fun)
 Aug. 18 Work day
 Aug. 19 Public run day Noon to 4 PM
 Aug. 28 Board meeting 6:30 (Raley's, 4840 San Juan Ave., Fair Oaks, CA)
 Aug. 30 News letter deadline.

Sept. 1 Public run day Noon to 4 PM
 Sept. 15 Garden railroad meet & pot luck 12 noon to 4 PM
 Sept. 16 Public run day Noon to 4 PM
 Sept. 22 General members meeting at track 9:30 AM
 Sept. 22 Work day
 Sept. 25 Board meeting 6:30 (TBD)
 Sept. 28 News letter deadline.

Public run day calendar available on-line.

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

How will you support SVLSRM this month?

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE IN CABOOSE OPERATIONS - by Lois Clifton

Due to lack of attendance - affective in August the Caboose will no longer be preparing hot dogs and hamburgers on run days.

For those of you who come out to help on work days and run days - lunch will be provided. Lunch will be served at 11:30 on run days. Work days lunch will be served at noon.

This does not affect our Spring or Fall Meets. It will be business as usual during these times.

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR AUGUST - by Clio Geyer

Aug. 7 10-12 Rainbowland Pre-school will be out for their last outing of the year. This will be the 15th year the children from Rainbowland will be out. We need 2 trains (diesel) for this event so extra helpers would be nice.

Aug. 11 10-12 Birthday Party - Diesel
 Aug. 12 10:30-12:30 Birthday Party - Diesel
 Aug. 18 10-12 Birthday Party - Steam

There is also a big Chili Cook Off happening in the park that day. It has been suggested that even though Sunday is our regular Run Day, We might want to add an extra day and run the public after the party. This is dependent on the number of people that come out as well as how Many people show an interest in train rides that day.

Aug 24 - 5:30-7:30 Birthday Party - Diesel
 Aug 25 - 1 - 3PM Birthday Party - Steam and Diesel

Again we will need two crews for this event.

Any of you who would be willing to spend a couple of Hours helping with a special run, it would be most appreciated. Please give me a call at 916-645-9154 if you would be willing to help.



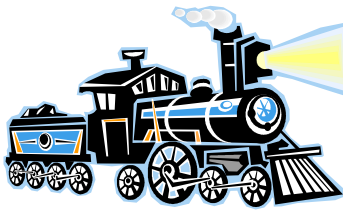
To no surprise during a recent review of the Master Plan of enhancements to SVLSRM we found we have many more tasks than people.

We are in need of those that will help build / fix our facility. Skills needed: Sprinkler system, Electrical, Carpenter, Welding, & Shovel worker.

Please call Bill Yoder or Pete Arney and offer your help.

Board of Directors

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- Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**

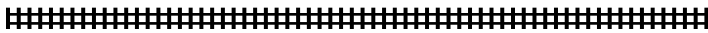


HOT AUGUST NIGHTS
8/17/2007 - 6:30 PM

Everyone is invited to join us at the caboose for our annual “hot august nights” pot luck.

Bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. Plates, napkins, forks, knives, spoons, etc. Will be provided. Drinks are available if desired.

Bring your equipment out and have fun sharing rides with others in the cool of the evening.



Fond memories and why we find railroading romantic



“It was your typical rural Midwest, summer scenario in Indiana down at the tower. And when the trains weren’t around, I could hear the crickets or watch a rabbit bound off in the near distance. But then it was train time. The operator would muscle the “armstrong” levers to line the plant and eventually the buzzer and light on the board would herald an approaching train. He would grab his hoops and I would follow down the stairs to trackside.

The train could not be seen around the curve but the bells at the distant crossing signals would sound—ding-ding-ding... The train whistles for the crossing, a headlight appears and the sounds of an approaching locomotive stir my senses. The home semaphore signal drops down, the engineer notches off on the throttle and his train thuds across the diamond. The operator hands up the trainorder and the engineer plucks it in the crook of his arm without even flinching. The deafening “bam-bam” of the freight cars continue as this young railfan marvels at the moving bill board and variety of rolling stock screeching and groaning its steel foundations: Great Northern, Pennsylvania, Wabash, Lehigh Valley, Boston & Maine, Seaboard Air Line, Southern Pacific, Reading, “Way of the Zephyrs”, “Be Specific, Ship Union Pacific, “Southern Gives A Green Light To Innovations”, “The Dixie Line”, “Ship and Travel Santa Fe”... And finally the little caboose appears on this seemingly endless train. The operator hands up the second set of orders to the conductor on the caboose and they wave at each other. Are they oblivious to the “kid” standing nearby with the camera or do their smiles secretly acknowledge his presence? Then the caboose becomes smaller and smaller as it drifts off into the distance. And when the trains weren’t around, I could hear the crickets or watch a rabbit bound off in the near distance. Fond Memories of summer in rural Indiana down at the tower.”

Victor B.

(Used with permission)

Below are some more great meet pictures taken by Don Yungling



Presidents report - continued from page 1

three days covering Park activities over the Independence Day holiday. Amy and her TAP crew helped Pete and me build the float for the Rancho Cordova parade. Our float, with its loud steam engine bell, was heard by all. On the three special public hauling days over the holiday, our crews worked hard to make the time a success. Although we had warmer days, the whole event was a success, not only for SVLSRM but also the Community Council park activities, including the Clydesdale horses that we all enjoyed seeing up close. Two nights of fireworks went off well and Richard Lutrel took all of our rolling stock, coupled the cars together, and pulled us out for a clear view alongside the track.

THANKS MARILYN

The SVLSRM says many thanks to Marilyn Drewes for her years of selling shirts and hats at the Spring and Fall Meets (and sometimes other events). Her efforts are greatly appreciated. She has elected to resign from this responsibility and the future of the clothing sales will continue under the direction of Lois Clifton. We are considering adding a procedure for ordering to meet your specific needs. The items still on hand are still available, but the quantity is limited. Thanks again Marilyn.

INVENTORY PLANS

One of the responsibilities of our Secretary is to inventory our property. Recognizing this, Bill Yoder has presented a plan to put inventory stickers on SVLSRM belongings, from locomotives to shovels. In the near future, this checking and labeling will be done and lists prepared. We need to have these items valued for IRS requirements and this is part of his process. This tracking will reduce and, hopefully, eliminate questions of ownership and disappearance of property.

RIDING CARS

Anyone wishing to help build parts of our new riding cars are invited to contact either me or Pete Arney. The steel cutting for six cars is done, couplers have been ordered, welding is partially done, and trucks are on order. The bench seat remains, as does more welding, and assembly. If you have the needed talents, please let us know.

SPECIAL DAY

Our regular Sunday run day for August is on the 19th. The day before, Saturday August 18th, the park will be filled with folks participating in a chili cook off. Parking for this event will be \$5.00 inside the park. If you come out, be sure to ID yourself to the booth operator as an SVLSRM member to avoid the charge. Since so many people will be there, and Clio has planned a birthday party for the day, we will stay open after her party to see if a supplemental run time will be beneficial. If not, we will close, but you are invited to help if you can.

CABOOSE FOOD

The Board reviewed our food and meal procedures for our activities. We have felt that workers are entitled to a meal, but knowing what, when, and how much to fix has been reviewed. Lois advises of wasted items. From this point forward, we will provide free lunches for those workers who come out on Tuesday's, and food for purchase, as usual, at Meets. Since there have been limited takers, no prepared lunches will be available on run days (but we may have things that can be microwaved). At these times, bring your own. Other special events will be reviewed as they come up. Remember the free food is available for workers only to say thanks for their contributions. If you are not volunteering for the benefit for SVLSRM, please pay for what you take, including drinks, in the "honesty" cup in the refrigerator door.

.....I will be away on vacation until August 11th, but I hope to see you soon.



TRAIN MASTERS REPORT

by Karle Mahler



Thank You, John Bailie,
For some time now it has been obvious that something was wrong with the SVLSRM steam engine. It would not maintain pressure when running with out liberal use of the blower and a high fire.

During this year's boiler certification, Ross and I had the smoke box door off. An inspection of the blower ring and exhaust nozzles revealed what was amiss. The engine did not have a petty coat pipe, the exhaust nozzles were of different heights and not aligned with the stack bore, and the blower ring was both plugged and of a greater diameter than the stack. I know that this may read like ...blah...blah...blah...but it was a big deal.

During the spring meet I had a chance to talk with several knowledgeable live steamers, including John Bailie, who volunteered to help resolve the problem. I met John at the track the following weekend. He took a look at the engine, applied some of Dick Bagley's smoke box proportions, went home and fabricated a petty coat pipe, came back, and installed it. In the mean time, I cut down the exhaust nozzle, removed the old blower ring, and then we aligned everything up the stack. A job that I thought would take several weeks to finish was completed in one afternoon.

So I am giving John a Big Thanks and a Tip of the Hat for his assistance and perspicacity in fixing our steam engine.

P.S. Just so's you know...since this repair was made, the fuel consumption of the steamer has dropped 26 %.

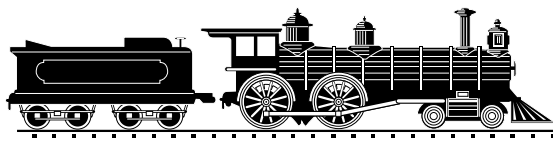


GARDEN RAILROAD MEET & POT LUCK
SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
12 NOON TO 4 PM
 The garden railroad is having their annual meet and Pot luck at the SVLSRM

facility again this year. It has always been a lot of fun for those of us who attend.

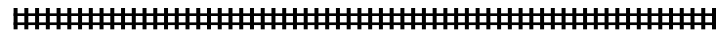
SVLSRM members are cordially invited to come out and bring their equipment and join in on the fun as well as the pot luck.

The garden railroad is providing the main course (meat) so all you have to do is bring a side dish to share with everybody else.



TRACK SUPERINTENDENT
by Darrell Gomes

Track improvements ongoing with rail joint upgrades, tie replacement and leveling . In August we will be replacing worn aluminum rail with steel on the out side of the curve at Memorial Grove. I want to thank Paul Skidmore, Jack Friedman, Jim Colby and Dave Morgan for there help and to Matt Mason and John Bailie for starting the track work to help get the one inch scale running soon. Jim Colby has been battling the weeds and the right of way is looking good thanks to his effort. Hope to see you at **HOT AUGUST NIGHT !!**



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH



110A. A maximum of 5 persons will be allowed on each straddle car including the engineer and conductor. If all persons are adults, only 3 persons per car is the maximum allowed.

224. No person shall consume or use any alcoholic beverages, including beer, or any narcotics or illegal drugs while acting in the capacity of conductor or operating any equipment within the SVLSRM facility. Violations of rules 223 or 224 may be cause for immediate suspension of all rights of membership pending a hearing of the case.

305. Conductor:

A. Qualifications: any member of SVLSRM who demonstrates to the examining committee that he/she has the knowledge, judgment, and ability to supervise passengers and scale railroad equipment competently and safely, and who passes the qualification tests, will be qualified as a conductor. No one under the age of 18 will act as a conductor on any train pulling the general public.

B. Responsibilities: each conductor shall have a whistle (police type preferred) and a red flag or light in his possession at all times while acting as conductor. He shall assist in loading or unloading passengers on the train. He shall ascertain that all passengers on his train have been told and understand instructions for passengers before signaling to the engineer to proceed from the station. He shall enforce all passenger safety rules while the train is in motion. He shall align all switches (turnouts) for the mainline after use of such switches by his train. He shall enforce Rule #111 and shall prevent any passengers from throwing any trash, garbage or other refuse from the train along the right-of-way. He shall assist the engineer when necessary and shall call for help when necessary to enforce any 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 conductor. Passengers may sit on the floor of the car, to keep the center of gravity as low as possible.



Celebrating 135 years of the invention of the track circuit by Dr. William Robinson. His fundamental unit which made possible our present automatic block signaling and interlocking systems. (From American Railway Association "THE INVENTION of the TRACK CIRCUIT" 1922)

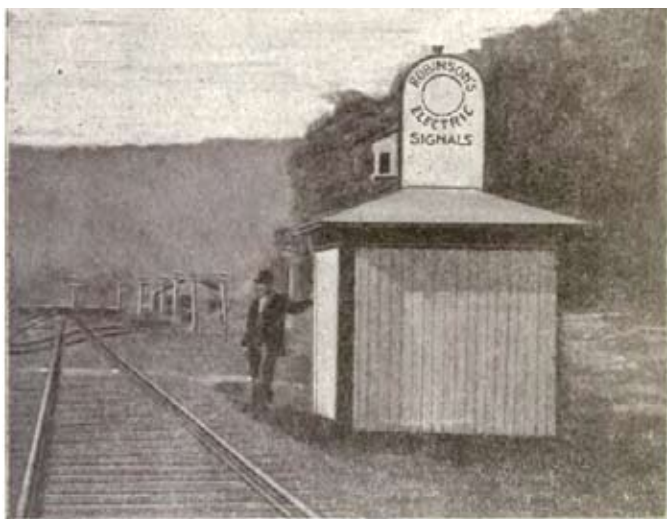
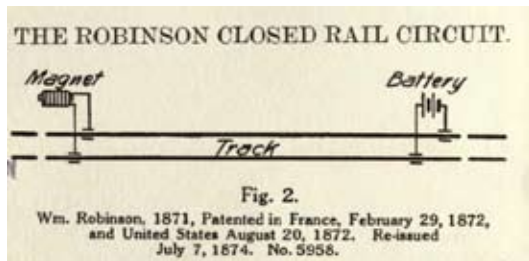


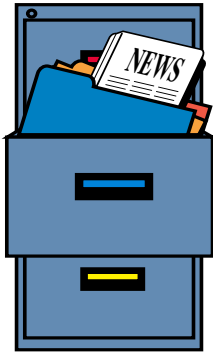
Fig. 1.
 Robinson's Closed Rail Circuit System.
 Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, 1872.

For those that like history and old books there is a great resource at the Open Library which has made a number of texts available on-line. Their web address is: www.openlibrary.org.



Fourth of July parade, lots of horse power here.

Maybe the strangest things to visit SVLSRM. The Alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) is a domesticated species of South American camelid (reference wikipedia)



10 Years ago:

FROM THE 7/18/97 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All Board members were present.
Other attendees:

Henry & Rose Stefani, Barbara Moser, Clio Geyer, Tony & Barbara Rohrs and Jordan, Dale & Lorra Fowlar, John Bailie, Peter Wilbert, Dale Taylor, Annette Long, Don & Jeri Juergenson, and one guest David Arrol.

Minutes from June Membership meeting were read and approved.

Dale Fowlar said the UP Insurance Co. will probably send us the bill again this year to cover their picnic in Royar Park. We will just give Dale the bill and UP will pay it.

Red reported that we are down 2 lawn mowers, one is the new one.

The report on the Ramble was given. Everyone feels that it was a success and everyone had a good time while here.

Milon said that we will be having visitors from Austria here in September. Date yet to be determined. Don Juergenson volunteered to do the static display this year at the November Placer County Rail Fair. John Bailie reported on his trip to Nevada the previous weekend to Ken Schroeder's.

Tony Rohrs reported on a TV program that will be shown 7/22 on Channel 13 at 10 p.m. on our hobby and will approximately 6 minutes. Keith brought up the investigation he and Milon had done while Mt. Car Co. was here with the Ramble. They looked at the cost of trucks with brakes for the riding cars. For \$1380 we can get 3 sets of trucks with brakes to start upgrading the riding cars. He asked for a vote or discussion to approve spending the money. Motion was made, seconded and approved to go ahead. Dale Fowlar gave an update on the upcoming UP picnic. All seems to be in order. Volunteers are scheduled to start arriving at the park at 7:30.

Show & Tell

Red had pictures he had taken during the Ramble.

Clio had a Thank You card from Diane, our neighborhood watch, for our donation to her charity.

Don Juergenson told of the problem he had with leaks on his small shay. Found that Loctite would seal leaks. This was recommended by John Bailie.

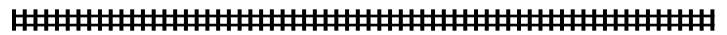
Meeting adjourned to buffet table and drawing.

20 Years ago: "Club Locomotive" this is it!! Several months ago, when the membership was asked to share their feelings about the purchase of a new large Diesel Locomotive, there was substantial support voiced. At the time, we received promises of almost half of the approximately \$7,000.00 needed, in the form of shares. The shares will be repaid from the revenue earned by using the locomotive for extra run days. As of 1st of August we have approximately \$3300.00 in the Locomotive fund. Of this amount, \$3000.00 is in the form of shares, with

the remainder from donations on non-scheduled run days. Now is the time! The shares are \$100 each. This dependable Locomotive will be a great help on run days and will attract new members who do not own equipment. Let's face it, it is fun to run a train!

30 Years ago: Bring a lunch and beverage, shovel, back hoe, pick, sledge hammer and a strong determination to GET THE JOB DONE. Please mark your tools for easy identification. We are going to replace the track and ties and black top the one bad crossing; also take the sun kinks out and fill along the bad back stretch. This is a big job and ALL members are needed. We haven't had a work party since prior to our spring meet and the fall meet is coming up. Mark your calendar now. September 17th.

We're on display - August 13th and 14th at the Sacramento Railway Museum in Old Sacramento. We have been invited to take part in the park districts history displays. There will be many interesting and varied displays and we will have an engine or two (running stationery) and some other equipment. It will be set up something like the booth we had at Cal Expo. Time - Noon to 4:00 P.M. both days.



Pictures from the past



Your editor is always wanting pictures for our news letter and our archives. If you have pictures of our activities that you would share please contact the editor. editor@svls.org

for sale

FOR SALE the first 3 sections of my 1 1/2 inch scale 4-4-0 American by Railroad Supply. The 3 sections are the frame, the drivers, and the rigging. I also have a complete set of prints

I am asking \$500 or best offer thanks.

I can be reached at 209-614-1566
Mike Murray
Valley Springs Ca.

FOR SALE Rail systems 1.7 sw-1500 16 hp V twin will pull



like a pacific! Custom painted & lettered & Mountain car co. 6 ft gondola trucks & couplers custom painted & lettered , NEW cannonball 6ft gondola trucks & couplers I want to sell every thing including eng. storage stand & hauling system set up for pickup truck \$9000.00

call Dave 916-315-9574

FOR SALE:

Figure "8" MARS LIGHTS are available again and have been upgraded with an "LED" in stead of the incandescent bulb. These LED's put out over 50 lumens of light and the LED's have a reported life span of 100,000 hrs...



\$300.00 ea. plus shipping.

Switch stands, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand. A complete set-up for \$85.00 plus shipping. They may be viewed on my website under photos in the for sale album:

<http://www.timbercreekrr.zoomshare.com/>

Contact me by phone or e-mail for questions and quantity discounts.

Gordon Briggs timbercreekrr@yahoo.com (530)273-9145



FOR SALE - Bill Conner designed and built (1999) 4+4 Beam Engine, tender and two 7.5 foot riding cars of my design. Pneumatic brakes and parking brake on riding cars and tender. Recently refurbished and updated from original configuration. Current SVLS boiler certificate on a 12" diameter vertical steel boiler, propane fired with 306 half inch diameter copper fire tubes. Power is two cylinder double acting with a bore and stroke of 2x2.75" driving 4.375" wheels through a 20% overdrive. Engine weighs about 400 pounds, dry with eight driving wheels arranged in two four wheel trucks. There are no springs on this engine or riding car, trucks are equalized so springs are not needed. Engine and tender are rock solid on the rails, NO side to side rocking. The engine has a functional headlight.

Asking only \$12,000 - RTR

The engine, tender and both riding cars can be carried in a standard size PU with an 8 foot bed.

Contact Bill Cody at steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net or (775) 674-6512 (Home) or (775) 815-2263 (Cell) for additional information/pictures.

Have something to sell, send photos, & description to SVLSRM editor. (editor@svls.org)

Don't forget to volunteer to help on public run days. Train engineers, Conductors, Station master, and other helpers are needed to provide rides for the public. The more the better to make a great day for all to enjoy.

WANTED:

Ready to run 7.5 inch gauge / 1.5 scale cars, looking for Flat car, Box car, and Tank car. Contact Les Wilmunder at (916) 372-2423

I am looking for a well built 2-6-0 or 4-6-0, 1 1/2 inch scale, 7 1/2 inch gauge. Preferably Winton or Allen type locos. It must run well, and be a turn key loco. An Allen 4-4-0 would also work. Please call John Bothwell at (949) 294-5719 or write to john.d.bothwell@biola.edu if you have or know of an engine.