

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

November 2008

Volume 35, Issue 11

## President's Report

By Pete Arney

**Election 08:** Our annual General Membership meeting, also our general election meeting, is on Friday, Nov. 21. Ballots will be cast and absentee ballots accepted. All will be counted to elect four individuals to the Board of Directors: Vice-president [Lee Frechette], Treasurer [Lois Clifton], Track Supt. [Darrell Gomes], Yard Master [Richard Lutrel]. The nominees for these offices were presented by our nominating committee to our October general membership meeting with an opportunity for floor nominations for these offices. No floor nominations were made so nominations were closed. Be sure to vote either absentee or in person on Nov. 21.

**Halloween:** The four nights of scary things and a haunted house brought fun and fright to hundreds of "ghost busters". Halloween at Hagan Park is a joint venture between SVLSRM and the Jerry Jewell Performing Arts "Scary U". We did the trackside events and Scary U does the Haunted House. Scary U is a non-profit group of school-age students who design, build, and operate the award-winning haunted house under a tent in the SVLSRM area with the guidance of Jerry Jewell and his associates. Several local TV stations covered the event during its construction for presentation on their newscasts throughout their broadcast days.

The Live Steamer's goal this year was to increase the number and quality of our own trackside events. Train riders were greeted by a talking Gargoyle atop a stone arch that warned train passengers about entering at their own risk. Riders passed several creatures that jumped, moved, screeched, and lit up in surprising ways. A skeleton engineer on a radio controlled engine and car passed by the passenger train on a parallel track cackling and laughing as he did so. Our truss bridge became a creepy, covered, fog-filled tunnel complete with demonic sounds, creatures, and strobe lights. Eerily lit ghosts floated high overhead and a graveyard with deathly sounds and chanting completed the ride experience.



Thanks to Lee Frechette, Shelly Blanchard, Bill Yoder, Pete and Betty Arney, Dennis Gramith, Kevin and Andrew Sach for the

construction of the props, sound systems, pneumatics, lighting, fog, sensors, aerial tramway, and all else needed to make the trackside events a success.

However, none of this would have been possible without the participation and dedication of the volunteers that coordinated the ticket sales, operated Cordova Station, sold popcorn, and ran the trains as conductors and engineers, including several days doing so in the cold and rain. Clio Geyer lists these great volunteers elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks, too, to Marilyn Drewes and Ross Crawford for the use of their trailer on site for the 24-hour security volunteers during the week of our event.

We learned a lot more this year about the construction and operation of an event like this. We will take this knowledge

*Continued on page 3.*



Above the flying ghosts that moved above the tracks and at night (below) they glowed. (yes its dark, but so was the night)



## Calendar

Nov 8 - 9 Rail fair in Roseville - Train rides  
 Nov 11 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Nov 21 Membership Meeting - ELECTIONS  
 Nov 22 Work Day

Dec 6-7 Santa train & Pictures  
 Dec 9 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Dec 19 Membership Meeting  
 Dec 20 Work Day

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 (<http://www.svlstrm.org>).

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

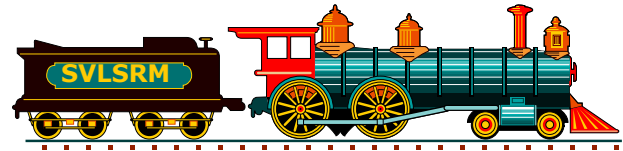
## Membership

By Amy Lutrel

### Welcome new members:

Jean Baker - Sacramento  
 Gary Van Damme - Sacramento  
 Viloa and Tom Spence - Shingle springs

Please join us at the meeting on the 21st and vote, also please send in your 2009 dues.  
 The mailing label shows the year you are paid through.  
 Send any change in membership information like email address, phone numbers etc...



We will need help in setting up the portable track on Friday Nov. 7th.  
 A dozen people will be needed to sort through shims, get new containers, check on bolts and nuts. Lay track and level.  
**PLEASE VOLUNTEER.**



Please check the SVLS web site [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org) for current information on SVLS activities.

Postage rates are higher now.

Save us some money and read the news letters on-line.

Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail so you can read it on-line.

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.

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**Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**

*Continued from Page 1 - Presidents report:*

forward to the 2009 Halloween event, beginning the planning shortly for next year. One of our goals is to meld our events into that of the haunted house for a seamless guest experience. The Pirate theme of the past two years will be gone and a new theme, yet to be finalized, will appear.

Besides providing involvement in the Rancho Cordova community as an attraction to be enjoyed, the money we earn from this one event pays for our liability insurance and some of our general operational expenses as well.

**Roseville Railfair:** As this is being written, the Railfair is coming up next weekend on November 8-9. With our steam engine out of service for repairs, we will this year operate SVLSRM diesels with our riding cars instead of our steam engine which is out of service for a new boiler. Paul Clifton has made calls for volunteers to help set up our portable track and run the trains over the three day Railfair at the Placer County fairgrounds in Roseville.

**Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony:** SVLSRM, under the guidance of Lee Frechette, will set up our portable track for the first time at Village Park on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29. This will be in preparation for the annual lighting of the City of Rancho Cordova Christmas tree on Sunday, Nov. 30. The Live Steamers will be doing this event as a public service to the local community. Volunteers are needed. Please call Lee to volunteer. Tear down will be on Monday, Dec. 1.

**Winter 2008-2009 Projects:** Several projects have been approved by the Board of Directors and the General Membership. Some are underway and others soon to start. All are scheduled to be done over the downtime of the Winter 2008-2009 season. Specific tasks and workdays will be developed and published so all members, close by and from a distance, can participate in the volunteer effort. Details, work days, and tasks will be posted on <http://www.svlsrcm.org/projects>. Some of the expenses will be offset by donations and grants.

FCR #029: Electrical for Halloween haunted house and stage, RV area: \$6100. Approved, BOD: 10/14/08; General Membership: 10/17/08. *FCR in progress.*

FCR #030: Concrete unloading pads, steaming bays: \$3000. Approved, BOD: 10/14/08. *FCR completed.*

FCR #031: Irrigation water main expansion, north: \$2300. Approved, BOD: 10/14/08; General Membership: 10/17/08. *FCR in progress.*

FCR #032: Roadbed aggregate removal and replacement, track upgrade to steel and plastic, approx. 1000ft: \$26,520. Approved BOD 10/14/08; General Membership: 10/17/08. *FCR to be started soon.*

**Volunteers:** Every non-profit organization has them, from churches to civic groups to service organizations. We can't exist without them. By definition, non-profit groups are non-profit, a no-brainer. That means that the majority, if not all, of the monetary resources go to the stated purpose (mission statement) of the non-profit organization, with little or no employee expense. Unlike many service organizations, SVLSRM is rich with physical assets requiring constant maintenance and improvements. We are a dynamic organization constantly changing. We require continuing participation from our membership in the day-to-day operation and ongoing expansion and change.

SVLSRM dues for a regular member is \$60 annually, about the price of one hamburger meal per month at a fast food place. Included in the dues is the monthly newsletter and postage, voting materials, much of the membership materials for each member. Little is left for the maintenance and operation of the facility. Those funds come from our events: public run days, Fourth of July runs, Halloween, Santa Run, Meets, etc. All of these activities require member participation. In other words, \$60 doesn't pay for your participation in our organization, your presence does.

This winter, as outlined above, we begin some aggressive projects that must complete before we start up again in March, 2009. Volunteers are needed, especially from beyond our local area. And during the summer months, the Yard Master needs help with mowing and watering. The Track Superintendent always needs help with the never ending regimen of track maintenance year long.

In the August, 2008, Golden Spike, an admonition and plea made by past president Dennis Gramith 20 years ago in July, 1988, was reprinted and is still applicable now: "... *In most organizations, 10 to 15 percent of the members do most of the work. With our membership at well over 100 people, we should see 10 to 15 people helping with the work of running our railroad. Wow! That would be double what we usually get. ...while this sermon business may seem to be a poor way to get help, what little help it brings is vital to the task at hand and to the morale of the tiny team who are struggling to keep your club functioning. It's never too late! You can still come out and contribute your share.*"

Thank you, Dennis. It can't be said any better.

See you at the track. Keep on steaming!



There are plenty of projects to work on at the railroad so you need to come out and give time to your organization.

Come and help. Your help is needed. Don't know what to do then call a board member and ask, then volunteer.



## Track Superintendent

by Darrell Gomes

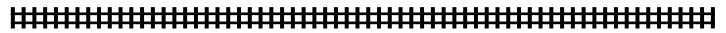
My first term as Track Superintendent is nearly done and I want to thank the track crew and all others that have helped me maintain the

track. With their help, we have been able to upgrade and repair the right of way as needed to maintain a Safe operating track for all members to enjoy. Serving on the board and being an active member has been very rewarding.



I am running for another term as Track Superintendent and would like your vote !

Darrell Gomes



## Safety Committee

by J.J. Carbino



Well the October fright night run is over for this year. I was not informed of any horror problems (no pun intended) so I hope all went well. I am sure the weather held some visitors back. My thanks to all who helped keep this event safe for all and donating equipment to make it a success.

I trust the Museum had enough equipment to shuttle the public to the haunted house. I will wait on the news letter to see the photos. I hope the rain did not put too much of a damper on the crowds and the show.

This fall will see some heavy duty work being carried out. I know the track boys are going to take on a monumental task swapping out the old wood for plastic ties and steel rail for aluminum. I understand other major projects will be started as well.

Work on the new riding cars continues and also on the Gator. I will be taking inventory of the equipment use to give the public rides and putting together a maintenance log book on this equipment. I hope to start having each riding cars completely check out prior to our new season of giving rides to the public. This also includes the motive power units as well. The President has agreed that this has been needed for some time and now it will happen. I will be looking for volunteers to assist in this under taking. If you're interested please contact me. I am not sure what funds will be available for parts and tools but I am sure the board will inform me (I hope) soon.

I must remind all that while at the park, working on projects, please work safe and let's make sure we count 10 fingers and 10 toes before we go home. I can not stress this enough.

Also, I would like to take this time of year to remind all that the holidays are approaching and I wish all happiness and joy. Be safe at the park and at home.

Safety is Job # 1



TERROR TRAIN/HAUNTED HOUSE HELPERS			
FRIDAY 10/24	SATURDAY 10/25	FRIDAY 10/31	SATURDAY 11/1
Darrell Gomes	Barbara Moser	Barbara Moser	Gordon Moser
Gail Gomes	Gordon Moser	Pete Arney	Barbara Moser
Barbara Moser	Pete Arney	Betty Arney	Vern Geyer
Pete Arney	Betty Arney	Vern Geyer	Clio Geyer
Betty Arney	Lee Frechette	Clio Geyer	Kevin Sach
Dennis Gramith	Ed Zeis	Lee Frechette	Anne Sach
Pam Hall	Butch Floyd	Ed Zeis	Andrew Sach
Ed Zeis	Richard Lutrel	Butch Floyd	Tiffany Sach
Butch Floyd	Lois Clifton	Paul Skidmore	Pete Arney
Ross Crawford	Ross Crawford	Tia Skidmore	Betty Arney
Marilyn Drewes	Marilyn Drewes	Phillip Huntingdale	Lee Frechette
Vern Geyer	Vern Geyer	Stephanie Huntingdale	Butch Floyd
Clio Geyer	Clio Geyer	Ross Crawford	Bill Floyd
Anne Sach	Anne Sach	Marilyn Drewes	Andy Berchielli
Kevin Sach	Kevin Sach	Kevin Sach	
Andrew Sach	Andrew Sach	Anne Sach	
Carl Kitzmiller	Tiffany Sach	Andrew Sach	
Linda Kitzmiller	Karle Mahler	Tiffany Sach	
Karle Mahler	Mary Mahler	Dale Dennis	
Mary Mahler	Christine Mahler	Bill Yoder	
Lee Frechette			
Phillip Huntingdale			
Stephanie Huntingdale			
Andy Berchielli			
Bill Yoder			

## SANTA RUN

Will be the first weekend in December. We will be setting up on Friday and Running Saturday and Sunday. We will need help setting up, at the station and in Santa Village you can dress up if you like.





### 10 Years ago: Did You Miss the Fall Meet????

*Well, did you? Now I am not asking those members who could not make the Meet because of schedule conflicts or prior commitments. I am asking those members who WERE in attendance sometime during the weekend.*

*Personally, I almost missed the Meet! I got involved on Saturday with all the equipment which was present that I almost missed the Meet. I got involved on Saturday with all the little details that help a meet go smoothly that I almost missed the Meet. It was not until Sunday that I realized what was happening at the Meet.*

*It was great to see all the different engines and rolling stock out on the track. We had quite a turnout for this gorgeous weekend. Steam clouds, chugging, whistles and horns filled the air with their kind of music at our wonderful facility. Yep, that was great. But they caused me to almost miss the Meet!*

*Because of all of the equipment and the excitement of the first day of the event. I almost missed the event! The meet was the people -- that's right you and me and everyone else who was there! As you know the last few months, I have been actively trying to get more people involved in our hobby and facility. I have been trying to get our members to envision with me the history and the future of our club. Again, I say, I got so involved in other things that I almost missed the Meet!*

*On Sunday morning I finally noticed what was really happening around me. People smiling and laughing and interacting and admiring and relaxing. There were young Hogheads out on the track running equipment -- young boys and girls. There were a couple of young men in our club with pretty young women on their arms who are anxious to get involved in the Club. We had several toddlers and young grandchildren riding trains going "woo-woo" and playing with the toy of choice at the park --- the rocks. And last, but certainly not least, evidence of our next youngest member who is expected to arrive in January was apparent as well as another new one following later in the Spring.*

*Eureka! It was all there in front of us -- the history and the future. So again, I ask you-how about it, did you miss the Fall Meet?*

TONY ROHRS - - PRESIDENT

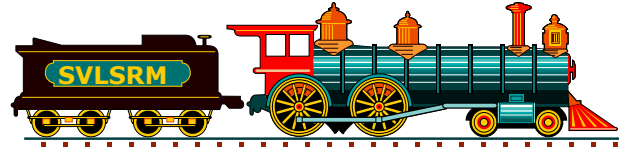
**20 Years ago:** Share Club Loco Pay Back - If you have purchased a share or shares in the Club Locomotive, your pay back for 1988 is enclosed with your "Golden Spike" this month. Please make a notation on the back of the Share Certificate to indicate this pay back. Thank you for supporting your club in a time of need. Those of you who have converted your share or shares to a donation, please surrender your share certificate to the Treasurer, and THANK YOU for your most generous donation.

### 30 Years ago:

"PUFFS OF SMOKE OOOOoo"

Hey You! I don't know your name or I am just too embarrassed to ask your name since we've met before and you've been a member for 10 years or are a newcomer, but I know it would

save us both some red faces if EVERYBODY WORE A NAME TAG OR BADGE at ALL railroad functions. It happens to me (the member had grown a beard) and it happens to you. Mystery of who put the weed killer along the track route is solved - those de Freitas brothers get all the thanks for an excellent job. We'll let them do it again.



### Safety Rules for the Month



101. Locomotives and equipment shall be unloaded and loaded only at the facilities provided for such unloading and loading. All vehicles shall be removed from the loading area as soon as possible after loading or unloading.

### 219. Engine whistle signals:

O = A short blast - = A long blast

- A. O Apply brakes; STOP
- B. OO Answer to any signal not otherwise provided for.
- C. OOO When standing back up; answer to 221C. When running, answer to 221D.
- D. OOOO Call for signals.
- E. -- Release brakes; proceed.
- F. ---- Flagman return to train.
- G. -OOO Flagman protect rear of train.
- H. --O- Approaching public crossing, area of restricted visibility or a train on adjacent track.
- I. OOOOOOOO (8) Warning to people or animals on track; general alarm.

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

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.

# for sale

Mechanical cylinder cocks for 1 to 4 inch cylinder. 1/8 NPT.  
Four per set, \$80 per set.

6 wheel common wealth passenger trucks for 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 gauge. \$1200. Per pair.

Ross Crawford 916-718-4162

**5 ton hydraulic car lift**, great for use as train lift/turntable.  
Gil Beard 530-823-8142

**7 1/2" Gauge 4+4 Beam Engine** and tender with two 7 1/2 foot bench type riding cars equipped with Tom Bee trucks and couplers. Pneumatic brakes on all cars. Twin cylinder double acting engine with Stephenson valve gear and a bore and stroke of 2"x2.75" driving 4.375" diameter wheels through a 20% overdrive. Engine weighs about 400 pounds with eight driving wheels arranged in two four wheel trucks. The suspension is very flexible, rock solid on the rails and the engine has a working headlight. This engine is a runner, fast, with exceptional pulling power and is very easy to run, very forgiving. You can check and adjust either firing or water level in about two seconds.



The train is set-up on a new two wheel trailer for towing with a car or small pick-up truck. I estimate the weight of the complete train and trailer at about 1000 pounds. The train and trailer are located in Reno, Nevada.



**Asking \$10,000**

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

**1.5" scale Pyle National extended case or flush mount dual GYRALITE.**

They operates "True to scale" from the prototype and is constructed primarily of brass. The light operates on 2.5vdc. Price \$395.00 allow five weeks receipt of order.

12vdc to 2.5vdc voltage regulator/reducer for GYRALITES. \$30.00



Keith Jackman  
636 Linden Ave.  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Ph: (530)272-8531  
kjackman@sbcglobal.net

For Sale:  
**2-6-2 Steam Engine**

Little Engines chassis, propane fired. Professional built boiler,



double ram axle pump, injector, and tender hand pump. Low hours on engine, excellent condition. Contact Keith Berry at 530-642-0742 \$12,000

Roll Models locomotive for sale. This locomotive has never been run as it was bought in 2000 by a friend and stored. I acquired the locomotive last year and now offer it for sale. This locomotive can be yours FOR ONLY \$3,500!!!!!! This model now sells from Roll Models for OVER \$7,500!!!! YOU SAVE \$4,000!!!!!! The locomotive is complete except for wiring harnesses, controller, and one side rod. These parts were unfortunately lost in storage by the former owner, but these parts are all still available from Roll Models and would cost only \$900.00. The locomotive is currently painted in grey primer with black frame and striping. Locomotive is located in Stockton, CA for pickup or viewing. Here is your chance, own a great locomotive for a fraction of the price. Contact:



Stathi Pappas 209 603 7363  
soupac@aol.com

**SALES: 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. <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



## Wanted Broken Couplers.

Price based on condition.  
Contact Ross Crawford 916-718-4162