

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlrm.org

December 2010

Volume 37, Issue 12

2010 SANTA RUN – by  
Clio Geyer

We will be having our annual Santa Run two weekends this year. We will have train rides to the Santa Village and taking pictures, handing out hot chocolate, apple cider and lots of home made cookies.



The schedule is: Sat. 12/4 and Sun. 12/5 from noon 'til 4pm.  
Sat. 12/11 and Sun 12/12 from noon 'til 4pm.

It would be nice to have some of our newer members, even older members to come out and help us. The public love this time of year and it has been rumored that our pictures are better than those taken at the MALL. Now that 's quite a rumor!

If you have the time and would like to join us as an engineer or conductor, keeping the cookies out not to mention the hot chocolate and apple cider going, we would be delighted to have you.

Please give Clio a call at 916-645-9154 to sign up to help. I know that a lot of the usual folks will be there, but it would be great to see some new faces having fun!



RAIL FAIR VOLUNTEERS – by Clio Geyer

The following people came out to help set up the track at Roseville Rail Fair in November 13-15<sup>th</sup>.

Friday Setup: Butch Floyd, Lee Frechette, Dennis Gramith, Ben Klienwachter, Andy Berchielli, Augie Berchielli, Gerald Thomas, Andrew Sach, Kevin Sach, and Tiphani Sach.

We were presented with a major problem in that a number of travel trailers were parked in some of the area that we usually use and so had to shorten the amount of track we could use for rides.

Saturday Run: Marilyn Drewes, Ross Crawford, Lee Frechette, Butch Floyd, Vern Geyer, Ben Klienwachter, Gordon Moser, Barbara Moser, Ed Zeis, Richard Lutrel, Mark Wentz, Kevin Sach, Carson Wentz, Andrew Sach and Tiphani Sach.

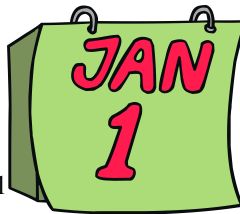
Sunday Run and Teardown: Marilyn Drewes, Ross Crawford, Lee Frechette, Butch Floyd, Vern Geyer, Ben Klienwachter, Dennis Gramith, Carl Kitzmiller, Linda Kitzmiller, Gordon Moser, Barbara Moser, Jack Friedman, Andy Berchielli, Kevin Sach, Andrew Sach, Tiphani Sach, Norman Morris, Ed Zeis and Bill Yoder.

It was a good weekend. The weather cooperated and gave us 80 degree days to play in.



NEW YEARS DAY 2011 - by Clio Geyer

Well here it is the end of another busy year. Now is the time to celebrate (after a night of cheer?) and bring out your equipment and an item for a potluck for all to share.



We will be doing a “Members Only” play date and potluck Sunday January 1, 2011 at the organization caboose and track. Pack up your equipment and come on out and play.

We should all start showing up around 10am and having lunch around 1pm. Then do some more rounds on the track to settle all that good food we just ate.



See you there.

## SVLSRM Calendar

Dec. 4-5 Santa Run Noon - 4 PM  
 Dec. 11-12 Santa Run Noon - 4 PM  
 Dec. 14 Board meeting 6:30 - R.C. city hall  
 Dec. 17 Member Meeting - 6:30 - Potluck dinner

Jan. 1 Annual member run day & pot luck.  
 Jan. 11 Board meeting 6:30 - R.C. city hall  
 Jan. 21 Member Meeting - 7:30

\*Mark your 2011 Calendar\*

Run days for 2011 have been changed to the first weekend of Saturday & Sunday for the months of March through September Noon to 4 PM.

Spring meet is May 20,21,22.  
 July 2,3,4 will be Public run days.  
 Fall meet is September 16,17,18.  
 Santa run December 3-4 & 10-11

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?*



## DUES ARE DUE - PLEASE PAY BY JAN 1, 2011

Check the date above your address on the envelope that is the year you are paid through.

If you have not paid 2011 then you should update a membership form and send with your dues.

Send to: SVLSRM P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

Thanks

*Remember Feb. 1 is the cut off date for roster and newsletter mailings.*



### Board of Directors

- President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791  
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- Vice President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
E-mail: byoder@vfr.net
- Secretary: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
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- Trainmaster: Bradley Jones (916) 687-4866  
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- Committee Chairpersons -----
- Safety Committee: Ed Zels (916) 861-0917  
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- Membership: Dale Dennis (530) 406-8600  
E-mail: mailto:denclan2@wavecable.com
- Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**



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



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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### VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

*By Bill Yoder*

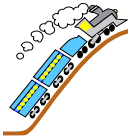
In last months article of the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society's 2010 Convention visit to SVLSRM I was missing several others that brought equipment and made the day a success. These include Keith Jackman who brought his highly detailed GP-9 & C-30 caboose, Karl Mahler who brought his SP mogul (under construction), Victor Owens who brought his GS-4 (under construction), and Chris Donhost brought his SP cow & calf as well as his SP mogul. Also in attendance was John Bailie who brought his non-SP locomotive and hauled many passengers early in the day.

Thanks to Chris Donhost for these added details of the SP groups visit to SVLSRM in Oct. Chris also play a role in helping this event happen. - Again Thanks to all of you.

One of my goals for 2011 is to steam up the Master planning committee to finish our plan, if you would like to contribute please call Bill.

I hope everyone has enjoyable holidays. See you on the Jan. 1 for a fun run day. Lets make 2011 a great year for the railroad, bring your train and lets play railroad. Maybe we should make every 3rd Saturday our Member run day.

Any questions or need something to do then call me - Bill Yoder. Keep it steaming....



### YARD MASTERS REPORT

*By Andy Berchielli*



The landscaping at the park has come a long way. I would like to thank all those who has helped me plant the many plants I brought out there this year and help with the mulching as well. With these improvements there is less grass to take care of and makes the grounds look beautiful and inviting. Now that the winter season is upon us, we direct our attention to picking up leaves. If you want to burn calories after those holiday meals, come rake leaves with us. I would also like to get the memorial garden started to be finished in time for the spring meet.

We will also be receiving the Americorps teams this off-season. We have three weeks scheduled already from January 25 to February 12. They will be here Tuesday to Saturday from 8 to 4pm. Make plans on coming out one or more of those days to help give the teams direction and to work at the facility. Their main task is to replace track. Some irrigation work may get done at the same time to eliminate watering by hoses. I look forward to more improvements for 2011. Contact any board member to get involved. Happy Holidays!



### Track Superintendent

*By Darrell Gomes*

The Holidays are Here and it is time to plan for the track replacement project to start in January. Plastic Tie material has been ordered out of the profit from the Halloween run and gravel will be delivered the first of the year. The track will be closed to thru traffic from January 2, 2011, thru the first of March. The track crew has done a GREAT job in Maintaining the right of way thru this last year. Special Thanks to Paul Skidmore, Jack Friedman, Ben Klienwatcher, Carson Wentz, Dick Patton, And Terry Willes for ALL of their Help. Gail and I want to Wish You All a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR !



SVLSRM volunteers have been know to work themselves to the bone.



How many SVLSRM volunteers does it take to load a trailer? Simple answer Many - Thanks to all that helped at RailFair.



Thanks you Terry Willes for your dedication all year long.

## President's Report

By Lee Frechette

By the time you are reading this it is more than likely that the turkey hangover has passed and you are well on your way to Christmas. Thanksgiving blessings for me this year include all the great help and support the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers have received from both members and the greater community during the past year. We are truly fortunate to be an organization that both gives to and receives from our neighbors and friends as we pursue our passion for railroading.

The list of things and people for which I am thankful is long. Beginning with the Haunted Halloween adventure, heartfelt thanks to each and every member who helped make this our most successful fund-raising event in our history. Whether you took tickets, engineered, dressed in spooky costume or helped out in the ticket booth, your contribution will be long-remembered.

Special thanks go to Pete Arney and wife Betty who went above and beyond the call of duty as leaders of this event. Pete and Betty worked for weeks at the yard, dreaming up spooky attractions then magically making them come to life – or death, as the case may be. Pete and Betty have always been great supporters of all we do at the Live Steamers, but I am sure you would agree that they exceeded their own remarkable accomplishments by the show they helped us put on. Thank you!

Meanwhile, our new acquisition of a caboose is nearly a reality. You will recall that this magnificent artifact was acquired from the estate of our great friend, the late Milon Thorley. In the next week or so, our Caboose Relocation Team will complete their hard work and the caboose will be in place at the Live Steamers yard. Thank you to all who are making that exciting transition happen.

As our newsletter goes to press, we are following up a fun weekend at Roseville's Rail Fair with a holiday visit to Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Festival on Nov. 28. Our temporary track will encircle the 40-foot tree and we once again become part of growing up in Rancho Cordova and an enduring holiday tradition.

As we move into December, please plan to stop by the first two weekends of the month for the annual Santa Train run. Trains run from noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5 and 11-12. This has become a part of local holiday tradition in the community and we are already getting phone calls about it from our enthusiastic fans. Come on out and share the fun and a cup of hot chocolate or coffee as we usher in Christmas and wind up a great year.

Mark your calendar for Dec. 17 for our annual Christmas Potluck. We will be gathering at the Community Center Building at the Cordova Recreation and Park District for great food, fellowship and the White Elephant Gift Exchange. I am personally hoping to top the great gift I went home with last year: that obnoxious musical doorbell I managed to snag. You could be as lucky! See

you Dec. 17.

Our friends at the Cordova Community Council are urging their many contacts to log on to [www.upexcursion.com](http://www.upexcursion.com) and vote for Rancho Cordova to be a stop on the Union Pacific's Steam Train Adventure which will tour the United States next year. It's easy to vote and you can vote once a day every day until the deadline on Dec. 6. For more information on this effort, log on. Follow the prompts and vote for Rancho Cordova!

Finally, congratulations to our board members who were re-elected during our annual meeting. Our winning team remains intact for another year. This vote of confidence on the part of our membership ensures stability and reflects satisfaction with what is happening at the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad. I could not be more proud.

Please accept my sincere thanks for all you do all year 'round in support of the Live Steamers. It's been a successful year, with more great hours of railroading ahead in 2011. Merry Christmas!

LEE FRECHETTE



### Safety Rules Review



113. No one shall stand nor walk within five (5) feet of any track, unless his duties require him to do so. It shall be the duty of any and all SVLSRM members to help keep the public at a safe distance from the tracks. Responsible photographers and persons with recording equipment may obtain permission to get closer to the moving trains under certain conditions.

226. Any train consist with more than seven (7) cars available for passengers shall have at least one half of the cars equipped with operable brakes, such brakes to be operated by the engineer from the locomotive.

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

411. Steam boilers burning solid fuel shall have an ash pan constructed and installed to prevent dropping burning ashes of fuel along the right-of-way while the locomotive is in operation.

## HALLOWEEN THANK YOU TO HELPERS By Clio Geyer

Well Halloween is over (all 14 days!) and there were a lot of people who came out to help with running passengers, setting up the station and all the other little things that come up that need to be done.

The following is the list of all those who helped at the Station and with crowd control as needed:

Andy Berchielli, Bill Floyd, Ed Zeis, Ross Crawford, Marilyn Drewes, Vern Geyer, Barbara Moser, Gordon Moser, Julie Unruh, Collette Freitas, Linda Jones, Brad Jones, Clio Geyer, Karl Mahler, Richard Lutrell, Mark Wentz, Carson Wentz, Mary Mahler, Paul Skidmore, Jack Friedman, Isabella Berchielli, Kevin Sach, Jason Van Horn, Chris Donhost, Mike Drieling, Leonard Houpt, Carl Kitzmiller, Linda Kitzmiller, Lois Clifton, Don Yungling, Dale Dennis, Tim Gubbins, Phil Huntingdale, Stephanie Huntingdale, Dennis Gramith and Ben Kleinwachter.

These are JUST those who came out to help keep the trains on the track, passengers seated properly. Marilyn Drewes dressed as the "Grim Reaper" EVERY! Night and gave her famous "Toe Truck" jokes with the rules, to receive proper laughs.

The trackside events were the work of Pete Arney, Betty Arney, Andy Berchielli and any number of other folks. They were great!

Shelly Blanchard spent every night in the ticket booth selling tickets. The night of the 30<sup>th</sup> was VERY busy so I'm sure they were having a hard time keeping up. I know we did trying to get everybody on the trains.

Those that worked doing all the other chores that needed to be done – Running the skeleton train and getting things that were needed, were Bill Yoder, Lee Frechette, Betty Arney, Hunter Lohse, Andrew Sach, Tiphani Sach, Carson Wentz, Travis Gubbins, Wayne Harmer, Monica Clifton, Codi Clifton and Jordan Clifton.



The Mad Doctor was one of the several trackside events put together by Pete and Betty. The Doc was a real cut-up.



**10 Years ago:** *Point-Point Run.* For the first time in many years SVLS hosted a Point to Point. The turnout was great, and everyone had a really good time. Starting at the typical Railroad time (1 hour late!), the two passenger trains departed in opposing directions. Following them were a total of 7 freight trains. Each train had their orders for the day including General Orders. Track warrants, and schedules w/switch list. A

map of the railroad was also included to inform everyone of station names, though this didn't always help! Confusion reigned for a bit as one car was forgotten by one train and a head on collision was averted! The weather was terrific, and we even had passengers on one of the trains. The dispatcher held it all together and we completed our first Point to Point by scheduling the next one. The highlights of the day were Allison King dispatching, and having her husband, Dale and their train be one of those close to a head on collision. Milon Thorley was kept busy, yet had time out for lunch, and then he shanghaied Jack Rocket for a switchman. Chris Donhost did a wonderful job getting the steamer around on time and still having to make water stops. The best sight was Matt Mason and Lee Frechette on their trains trying to eat lunch, run their locos and talk to the dispatcher all at once. The Tin Man (Dave Mattox) was out with his passenger train and the Taylors, Veronica and Dale, came down to also participate as a passenger train. Paul Moser was on his Mighty Mack and running around everyone, and Gordon Moser came off the extra board to run our last freight. The best was Barb Moser having the caboose open for lunches. It was so terrific to have everyone there and with moral support from Dick Esselbach and John Bailey, we made it. For the future point to point we need more people not necessarily more trains.

**20 Years ago:** *EDITOR request: I need newsletter copies for the months of: 3,9,10,11,12 of 1990. If you have these please call Bill.*  
\*\* Does no one have old copies ?

**30 Years ago:** Service Trophy for 1980 went to the De Freitas brothers, who else? They are in a class by themselves.

Big Day Video. Watch channel 10, PM Magazine, Wed 7 Jan. That's when Diane Damron says they are going to air the seven-minute feature film of SVLS.

April and May are red letter months. SVLS has been asked to run on Sat, Sun 11 and 12 April for the benefit of members of the NMRA, who'll be arriving by the bus load! About the same time in May comes the opening of the California Railroad Museum, in which the club has been asked to take an active part.

The Club Building - Keith is getting grommets to seal the many screw holes, Wally Ripley is designing a sheet metal mount for an overhead fan.



## FOR SALE

### TWO STEAM Trains for sale. Buy one or both.

1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. \$6,500.  
 Engine is a two cylinder double acting 1 1/4x1 1/2". Boiler upgraded from the original 8" diameter water tube to a steel 10" diameter propane fired fire tube boiler with 73 1/2" copper fire tubes. Pneumatic FWD/REV shift and brakes on locomotive. Usual Accessories: working headlight, bell, new whistle, two new relief valves, engine driven feed pump and a hand pump. New body and trucks on riding car.  
 Engine and tender set-up on a single axle trailer for transport.

Asking \$3,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered.  
 Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net) for additional information/pictures. [http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale\\_photos/cody-img046.jpg](http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale_photos/cody-img046.jpg)



Wards (Logan) Power-Kraft Model 25TLC-2136  
 Back Geared Screw Cutting Lathe with Quick-change Gear Box  
 10" Swing - 1-1/2"-8 #3 MT Spindle Bore  
 50" Bed Length - 31" Between Centers  
 Spindle Bore 25/32

Includes: 3-Jaw & 4-Jaw Chucks, Jacob's Chucks for Headstock & Tailstock, Collet Set, 6" Face Plate, 110 Volt Flat belt drive  
 \$1000

Contact: Mike Dreiling 916-729-2200 or 916-201-0888(cell)  
 email [mdreiling@macnexus.org](mailto:mdreiling@macnexus.org)



Cannonball aluminum boxcar ends and doors for 1 car. \$150.

Contact Doug at [dboudrrtrain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dboudrrtrain@sbcglobal.net) or 559-325-9006 evenings.



Cannonball Little Gasser locomotive, 3.5 HP Briggs and Stratton engine, forward/reverse/neutral gearbox with side and rear shifter. Has electric horn, headlight and mechanical bell and lead weight. \$1,500.

Also Railroad Supply Company 5 foot Gondola with Karlson mfg. Bettendorf trucks, Cannonball aluminum couplers, removable/sliding/revolving seats and retractable foot pegs. Has full length steel center sill. \$600.00 (\$500 with loco purchase).  
 View and pick up at Merced California

Bob Silva  
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Check our web site FOR SALE page for pictures and more details.  
<http://www.svlsrcm.org/>