

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlstrm.org

December 2011

Volume 38, Issue 12



The Santa Run is just around the corner. We are doing the Santa Village on the Slab that was used for the Haunted House. The slab is 40' X 40' so we need a lot of decorations. I am asking for the loan or donations to decorate this area. The decorations that we have used before were donated by our members from their decoration collections.

They are getting to the point of needing to be replaced. I hope that you will be able to come to our aide. We are going to start decorating on Tuesday November 29 and hopefully be finished on Friday the 2nd of Dec. We are running the first and second weekend of December. Hopefully you will come out and join us for some family fun. There will be cookies, hot Cider, hot chocolate and Santa. We will be taking pictures with Santa.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

Lois Clifton



November Elections Results

By Pete Arney - Election Committee

For the first time in a few years, we had more than one candidate for some of the offices. This was a bellwether election: the membership proactively chose a different direction for the club to take instead of just rubber stamping names on a ballot. Members are urged to reread the candidates' statements in last months (November 2011) newsletter, particularly those for President. Their statements were specific and informative, but outlined different thoughts on the future of our organization. This information will be good for the new incoming officers to review as well – that's why they were elected and now they must deliver.

We all need to thank those who have just served and those newly coming to the Board of Directors. They have given and will give of their time to make SVLSRM a place that the rest of us can enjoy. Our membership must provide support and contributions

Continued on page 3.

President's Report

By Lee Frechette

I am happy to report that I spent the morning taking delivery of donated light poles and fixtures from friends at Wilson Construction. There are seven 30-foot light poles that could be installed and used in a variety of ways – to light up the steaming bays, the RV areas, parking area or anything else we deem appropriate. It is a wonderful donation from a great company which will enable us to continue to improve our railroad.

Our Christmas dinner is just a couple of weeks away. We will be having a wonderful catered dinner in the American River Room at Rancho Cordova City Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Turkey and ham with all the trimmings is on the holiday menu, along with some special presentations and traditional White Elephant gift exchange. We are hoping to assemble a special slide show, so please email photos to shelly@cordovacouncil.org. Tickets are \$12 per person and may be paid at the door, but once you make a reservation you are on the hook for the ticket! We need to get a headcount for the caterer, so please make a reservation by calling Shelly at 273-5704 (feel free to leave a message) or email your plans to attend to shelly@cordovacouncil.org. We will honor our potluck tradition for dessert, so please bring something sweet to share. Please come! This will be a very special night to be together and you won't want to miss it.

As I write this, it is two days before Thanksgiving, and a good

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NEW YEARS DAY 2012

Lets start the New Year with a lot of steam, or smelly diesel and bring out your locomotive, rolling stock and enjoy a members run day on January 1.

Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch. Mark your calendar for Sunday January 1, 2012 running starts at 10 AM. with lunch about 1 PM.



SVLSRM Calendar

Dec. 3-4 Santa Run Noon to 4 PM
 Dec. 10-11 Santa Run Noon to 4 PM
 Dec. 13 Board Meeting 6:30 - Rancho Cordova City hall
 Dec. 16 Christmas Party at Rancho Cordova City Hall. We will be meeting in the American River Room for dinner. See details in President article.

Jan. 1, 2012 Annual New Years members run day and pot luck lunch. Bring your engine and let's start the New Year with a lot of Steam.

Jan. 10, 2012 - Board Meeting

Jan. 20, 2012 - Membership Meeting - Hagan Park Meeting Room

Public run day calendar available on-line.

Don't forget about Tuesday work days, 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?

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Gil and Janet Dominguez! Gil joined just in time to assist with our setup for Railfair. Thanks, Gil, for your help!

Dale Jay Dennis

Membership Chair



It's Membership Renewal Time!

The forms for renewing your membership have gone out in the mail, so please check the information for accuracy or needed changes and submit, along with your dues payment, as soon as possible. Only those members who have renewed by the end of February will be included in next year's directory, so please be prompt! Those who have already paid will not receive renewal forms, as they've already taken care of it.

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

We look forward to seeing all of you at the track during the coming year!

* The year your dues are paid through is printed on your news letter envelope.

Board of Directors - 2011

President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791

E-mail: leefrechette@yahoo.com

Vice President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: byoder@vfr.net

Secretary: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

E-mail: vern78@onemain.com

Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: loisjune1@comcast.net

Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623

E-mail: dggomes@caltel.com

Yardmaster: Andy Berchielli (916) 348-7252

E-mail: ajberchielli@sbcglobal.net

Trainmaster: Bradley Jones (916) 687-4866

E-mail: actioniron@msn.com

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

Safety Committee: Ed Zels (916) 861-0917

E-mail: drgw463@aol.com

Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

E-mail: vern78@onemain.com

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RFE - Steam: Karl Mahler (916) 334-8283

E-mail: karlemahler@sbcglobal.net

RFE - Diesel: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM



Please check the SVLS web site: 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.

The Golden Spike is published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The SVLSRM track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles & Pictures may be submitted to: editor@svlstrm.org. The deadline is 4 days after Membership meeting.

Track Superintendent Report

By Darrell Gomes

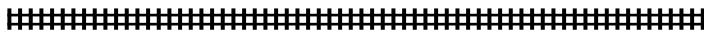


The track crew has another year of accomplishments to be proud of. We have replaced 1,000 + feet of track, built 8 switches, and installed 3 more signals at Midway. Paul Skidmore has been very busy with track projects this last year. He has been doing the machining and fabricating

for all of our projects. Jack Friedman has cut so many ties, that he wore out the cutoff saw! Bill Yoder has been working on the Signals at Midway and out at Riverview. I don't want to forget the Many members who have come out thru the year and helped when they could. Thank You!!!!!!

We will be starting the next part of track replacement after the New Year's day Run. We will replace track from the girder bridge at Cobble Creek to the South side of Hill View. We will not have Americorps this year to help, so I will be scheduling week end work days in January and February so more members can come out and help. Hope to see you all at the Christmas Party!

The Track Crew, Gail & I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We had good support from the members to run our train at the 2011 Rail Fair in Roseville. While the crowds seem smaller at the fair we still had many riders and took in over \$700 in ride fares.

Thanks to Andrew Sach, Barbara Moser, Clio Geyer, Gil Beard, Gordon

Moser, Kevin Sach, Lee Frechette, Leonard Houpt, Brad Jones, Linda Jones, Dale Dennis, Lois Clifton, Tiphani Sach, Vern Geyer, Dennis Gramith, Red Hadler, Marlyn Drews, and Ross Crawford

Below is pictured some of those that helped. Thanks All !!



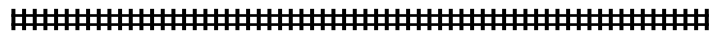
Election report continued from Page 1.

of time and ideas to our board members - not elect and forget for another year.

This year we had 92 eligible voters, 55% of whom cast ballots. This is an improvement in participation compared to last year where 44% of 99 eligible voters cast ballots.

Percentages based on total votes for the specific office. Not everyone voted the entire ballot except for the office of President where all did. * = Incumbent; **Bold** = winner

- President: **Bill Yoder: 61%**;
*Lee Frechette: 39%
- Secretary: ***Clio Geyer: 86%**
- Train Master: **Kevin Sach: 45%**;
*Brad Jones: 41%;
Ed Zeis 14%



VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Bill Yoder

Happy Holidays

I hope this holiday season brings joy to you and your family.

I look forward to serving our members as SVLSRM President. I want to help grow the organization by increasing our membership and by improving our facility where our members and friends bring their trains and share the joy of railroading.

As a first step, our planning committee needs to review our current projects and establish a master plan for the railroad. Your input is absolutely vital to making this plan workable.

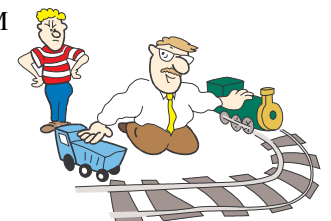
I continue to seek your suggestions about where and when our monthly membership meetings should be held. For example, last July our club membership met on a Sunday, brought their trains and shared a potluck lunch. More members than usual attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Would you prefer to meet this way in 2012? We would need to meet elsewhere in January and February as our crew will be doing major repair work. Improving attendance at our membership meetings is essential to our success; please give me your suggestions.

As your newsletter editor, I always need new articles or ideas. Sometimes in the past, we've had interesting and informative articles about different members - does anyone want to volunteer or make a suggestion for a member spotlight?

Members and other volunteers have made SVLSRM a very successful organization this year. We will look forward to another very successful year. I particularly want to thank Lee for his hard work and contributions to SVLSRM as president and long time member.

Thanks to all.

Keep it steaming!



YARD MASTERS REPORT

By Andy Berchielli



We have completed another busy and successful year. Over this past year many things has happened to the yard and the track.

We completed the new memorial area around the flag pole which includes a monument and new landscaped beds. Cobble creek is starting look more like cobble than grass.

And in my pursuit to eliminate as much grass as possible I have added more plants along the track that cuts down on mowing and makes the train rides more enjoyable. Also, with the help from Americorps this year, most of the water main is complete which will enable us to install laterals off the main so we can have in-ground irrigation.

Hopefully that will get started next year. I look forward to seeing more help next to help us maintain what we have worked so hard to accomplish. Thanks to all for dedicating your time to the club. Happy Holidays!



10 Years ago: (From the Yardmaster - Gordon Moser) Many different projects were completed this past year. Some that were started, will be completed next year. A lot of these projects were finished without any fanfare or recognition. I want to thank everyone that helped me with all of the work that is necessary to make our area of the park look nice. This includes Lee Frechette, Hans and Barndon Feickert, David Arrol, Dale

Fowler, Barbara Moser, Pat Mattox, Pete Arney, Dick Esselbach, Paul Clifton and many others. I could not have done it without your help. Thanks. Our biggest project this year has been the Sprinkler project. This project has come a long way and will continue next year. Once the water project is completed, many man-hours will be freed up for other things that need attention. Many of our trees have become stressed from the lack of water. This allows insects to attack the trees and eventually kill them. We are presently looking at every individual tree and mapping a plan on what needs to be done to keep them healthy.

20 Years ago: It must have been around the sixth or seventh grade when I would bundle up against the icy fog of the valley and trundle down to the yards. Every Saturday I repeated the ritual, and the reward was usually a steamer or two waiting for orders or for the Daylight to come streaking through. If I stood around long enough and close enough (partly to stay warm), I might get a glimpse of the Engineer through the cab window. I may even get a chance to talk to him! At the time I didn't realize that there was someone else on the other side of the cab that made the whole thing go. Nothing's changed! It's still the "someone" on the other side of the cab that make your club go. Someone to fill the coffee pot, pick up the mail, dump the trash, call for track bids, replaced ties, provide raffle prizes, tell you about dues, and a hundred other things that keeps us on track. To all those people I offer my admiration and my humble thanks. It has been a privilege to serve as your President that past year. - Don Juergenson, President

30 Years ago: Our outgoing eagle eye, Alan Shelley, feted new and old board members at a sizeable Chinese food bash the evening of Tue. 1 Dec. Al thanks board and club members for the tremendous measure of support extended him during the two-year stint as Pres. Al has guided the organization through some of the best and some of the most trying times since it was incorporated. With the grace of God, he'll be with us many, many years exerting his quiet but constructive influence in all the club's efforts. That Al, he's all heart...the kind of fellow who'll delay paying his dues until after 1 Jan. just so he can throw in that extra two dollars!



Coupler repair

by W. Ross Crawford

If you want to repair that broken coupler knuckle here's how you do it.

Get a replacement knuckle from the manufacture or sometimes a knuckle from another maker can be made to fit.



Here's how to make the new knuckle fit the old shank.



You might have to modify the draft key so the knuckle will latch easily. Also, if you buy a new coupler that has the shock absorber draft pen and the hole in the shank does not match the hole in the car so to provide 2 inches from the end sill to the center of the opening (as shown).

Knock out the springs and sleeve. Replace them with a block of hard plastic or aluminum . Press fit into the hole with approximate. 40 lb. press. Then you can drill a hole for the pin at the correct location and mount your coupler.



Did you know we have the SPIKE news letters available from 2003 on the SVLSRM web site?

Older news letters can be scanned if there is an interest to have them on-line. Comments?

Presidents report continued from Page 1.

time to reflect on those who have been so helpful during my time as president of SVLS. Thank you to:

- Pete Arney, who has contributed more to our organization than most people know, in time, money and resources. Pete will be honored as a lifetime member of SVLS, and nobody is more deserving. Thank you Pete, and congratulations.
- Andy Berchielli, who has been tireless in his demanding board position. Andy has been at the track every week and devoted countless selfless hours to the care of your yard.
- Brad Jones, who has taken time away from his business, and offered up materials and equipment from the same. Thank you for your voice of reason.
- Dennis Gramith, for friendship, wise counsel and important historical perspective.
- Karl Mahler, who has given outstanding attention to our steam engine. Karl has devoted an untold amount of time and commitment, putting club projects ahead of personal projects, and it is greatly appreciated.
- Ross Crawford, who has spent much effort on the balance of rolling stock.
- And to every member and guest who has come down to the track to work, play or just visit over the last several years, your involvement has helped sustain this great organization.

The world around us is changing. There are more and more threats to our existence each year. Responding requires a great deal of vigilance and understanding of our unique position of operating on public lands.

The state our organization is sound, and I leave my term as president with well over \$30,000 in the treasury and plenty of goodwill banked with city, county and park officials. We have a railroad that is the envy of many and a membership that is diverse, with resources to see us through challenges ahead.

I wish incoming President Bill Yoder the best as he takes the wheel. I will certainly remain active in our organization. But my focus for the next year will shift to getting my own three steam engines running... at last.

Happy Steaming!



**DUES ARE DUE BY
JAN. 1.**



Safety Rules Review

110. Passengers must remain seated, facing forward, in the cars at all times, unless directed to do otherwise, until the train returns to the station. Arms and legs must be kept inside the cars at all times while the train is in motion.

209. Engineers and conductors are equally responsible for proper alignment of switches (turnouts). All mainline switches must be returned to normal position as soon as the train has cleared the fouling point, except for remote switches that are operable by the engineer while seated on the locomotive. Normal position is for through mainline traffic.

306. STATIONMASTER:

A. Qualifications: any member of SVLSRM who demonstrates to the examining committee that he has the knowledge, judgment, and ability to supervise passengers and scale railroad trains competently and safely and who passes the qualifications test will be qualified as Stationmaster.

B. Responsibilities: the Stationmaster shall have a whistle (police type preferred) and a red flag or light in his possession at all times while acting as a Stationmaster. He shall supervise the loading and unloading of all passengers at the passenger station. He shall discretely refuse passage to oversize passengers who obviously cannot fit or sit comfortably and safely inside passenger hauling car seats. He shall make certain that all passengers have been told and understand the safety instructions before the train leaves the station. He shall work in close cooperation with other operating personnel to keep passenger-hauling trains moving without congestion on the mainline.

404. Couplers or drawbars between engine and engineers riding car, or between any combination of engine, riding car and fuel car shall be of a drawbar with lock pin type or equivalent that cannot become accidentally uncoupled nor disconnect any fuel lines in case of derailment.



Come out and Help at the Santa Run. Please call Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

FOR SALE



Allen Consolidation Steam engine and Tender
Coal burner
\$15,000 includes about 500 pounds of coal (in 50lb. bags)
Call Wayne Thorley 530-295-5518



Canadian Switcher for sale, with riding car. \$3750.00
-Tecumseh engine, with push button electric start
-fresh battery, with charger included, -recently painted
-all axles driven -new hydro-static transmission
Please call Roy at (hm)916-6820816 (cell) 916-2571298
for all inquires and/or more info



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

Metal working lathe (Harbor freight brand) - \$300
Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



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

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 we'll take pictures for a feature.



1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car.
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.

Asking \$6,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered.
Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net for additional information/pictures.
<http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale.php>