

# The GOLDEN SPIKE

*Celebrating our 40th Anniversary*



www.svlsm.org

August 2013

Volume 40, Issue 8



## Come to the track for a Fun Time Train Run and Pot Luck Dinner.

Join us during the day and run your trains into the night for a good old-fashioned evening of Live Steaming SVLS style. Come early and bring the kids. Bring engine and some rolling stock and your favorite dish. The barbecue will be hot and the lights will be on for ya. So hang FRED on the last car and *come on down!*

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 public run day and weekend

*By Dale Fowlar (Board Member at Large)*

Fourth of July day began with Butch Floyd entering at Ambassador Gate 8:30am followed close behind by Ed Zeis with the keys. The temperature was already in the low 90 degree range. Others continued to gather until we had a full complement of intrepid volunteers.

Right away Trainmaster Kevin Sach went to work on some diesel maintenance and then, bless his soul, fired up the barbecue for hamburgers and hotdogs for the troops. I and many others can attest that Kevin cooks as well as he paints. Our own "Miss 4<sup>th</sup> of July" Tiffany Sach dutifully prepared the lettuce, tomatoes, cheese and condiments for the feast and arranged them on tables under the new cabooses area shade cover.

Chris Donhost with his wife and two boys were on hand and stayed on for the weekend with their motor home. They had their steamer and diesel and an impressive private train of cars. In the early afternoon Karl Kitzmiller and family arrived from Stockton with their two electric locomotives and train, sporting realistic diesel sounds and air brake effects.

Operation began at 12:30 with the trusty UP diesel. Kevin &

*Continued on page 3*



Members were out on our run day learning to run the steam engine with Trainmaster Kevin Sach. Shown is Reed Hickman (top picture) with Reed's dad Jeff looking on. Then Austin Unruh running engine with me on back of tender. Maren Bowie (not pictured) also had a turn running the steam engine.



Shown at left are visitors from Yuma Territory Live Steamers in Arizona. Bob and Ginny Hinkel with their daughters Kathleen Davis and Ann Griffith.

We had a great visit with them.

Run day photos by Barbara Moser

## SVLSRM Calendar

- Aug. 3 Public run day Noon to 4 PM, Train crews needed
- Aug. 4 Public run day Noon to 4 PM, Train crews needed
- Aug. 10 Our train at Truckee River Regional Park.
- Aug. 13 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall.
- Aug. 17 Members run day and Night, bring your train and  
have fun. This is our annual Hot-August-Night run.  
Potluck Dinner bring food to share.
- Sept. 7 Public run day Noon to 4 PM, Train crews needed
- Sept. 8 Public run day Noon to 4 PM, Train crews needed
- Sept. 10 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall.
- Sept. 21 Members run day and Night, bring your train and  
have fun. This is our annual Hot-August-Nights run.  
Potluck Dinner.

Dates to mark on your calendar:  
**Fall Meet: Oct. 18, 19, 20, 2013**

**Don't forget about work days,** Contact a board member for  
information on needs.

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*



This railroad requires teamwork to make it a great place to run trains. While we have a good team that works hard, we don't have enough people on the team. While everyone enjoys running their trains on the club rails, we need all members to work on the rails and other projects that need to be done. Please make time in your schedule to help. You will be glad you did.

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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If you have not watched the video about SVLS then please go to our web site

[http://www.svlsrm.org/SVLSRM\\_story.php](http://www.svlsrm.org/SVLSRM_story.php)



Save SVLSRM some money and read the newsletters on-line. Tell us that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail then read on-line.

**NOTE: The editor is missing 1993 news letters for the months of March, April, May, and June. If you have any of these please let me make a copy. Thanks.**



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

### Board of Directors - 2013

- President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
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- Safety Chairperson: Paul Skidmore (916) 444-6369

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

### Presidents Report

By Bill Yoder

Our Member run days continues to bring members out with their trains, or to the track to enjoy the day running trains. We have our annual "Hot August run" on the 17th of August; come out early and stay into the night. The plan is to have a pot-luck dinner so bring some food to share. The last members' run day had several newer members there and one new (to the owner) steam engine being tried. So come out join the fun.

We should have a permanent station cover in place by the August Public runs. This will be like the Oasis cover but not as long or tall. Dennis Gramith, Butch Floyd, & Bill Yoder were out prepping the ground for the cover.



We are taking our portable track and trains to Truckee for their celebration of "150 years of Railroad History" on August 10 with setup on the 9th. We will be at their Regional Park at 10050 Brockway Rd just 1/2 mile south of Downtown Truckee on Highway 267. These events give us more exposure and a chance to raise money too. It is fun, so join us. If you have questions or want to help then please contact Dale Fowler.

Are you enjoying the club, do you like the things that are being done to improve the use of the track and facilities? Are you making an effort to support the club? Give the board some feedback let us know. It is a club for everyone but it does need everyone to help support and make improvements on track, buildings, and operation of the railroad. Please come out and help support your club. Everyone can do something.

Thanks

Thanks

*Keep it steaming!*

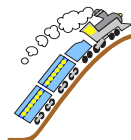


Photo by Donald Yungling



### 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 public run day and weekend

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Andrew Sach and Jeff White fired up the Club steamer about mid-way through the four hour operating session. Some student runs were held followed by Ed Zies at the throttle. By that time it was hotter than blue blazes. 105+ and every so often there was a hint of air movement, bringing with it the promise of delta breezes to come.

Riders merely trickled in as the heat threatened to pop the thermometer. We had only 40 riders by 5 pm. By dinner time it was dead at 110 degrees. No kidding! 6 pm the heat began to subside. With the sun descending, ridership picked up. By 7:15 pm, 114 happy souls had ridden. There was joy again on the rails of the SVLS and the decision was made to operate for an extra hour as the revelers just kept coming. Finally at 9 o'clock the passenger trains were shut down. The tally for the day was 265 riders and over a hundred dollars in donations to the Museum coffers.

Darkness was now descending so all prepared for the fireworks show. A good many Club members had arrived as the evening wore on, so thirty or more of us gathered on the hillside by the waterfall to take in the sky rocket show and annual grass fire. IT WAS GREAT!

My thanks to Ross Crawford, Bill Floyd, Butch Floyd, Chris Donhost, Dennis Gramith, Kevin, Andrew and Tiffany Sach, Karl Kitzmiller and family, Karle Mahler, Steve Perry, Mark Wentz, Jeff White, Ed Zeis, Dennis and Heidi Bowie, Pam Hall, Garrett Garnes. Also Rich and Amy Lutrel, Tim and Ardis Gubbins, Dale & Lorra Fowler, and Park volunteer Glen Thomson.

I hope I didn't miss anybody but DANG IT WAS HOT so I could have.

I also want to thank those who either came back or came out to help over the ensuing public run days that same weekend. Those would be: Ross Crawford & Marilyn Drewes, Dale Dennis, Bill Floyd, Butch Floyd, Dale Fowler, Dennis Gramith, Steve Perry, Mark Wentz, Jeff White, Bill Yoder, Ed Zeis, Dennis and Heidi Bowie, Kevin, Andrew & Tiffany Sach, Gary & Jan Wilson, Dennis Sheets, Don Yungling and engine, Ed Yungling, Rob & Tammy Sharratt with Alexis and Cody, and , back from vacation, Barbara Moser!

Your efforts ARE appreciated. Thank You!



Adam Kessler & Sebastian enjoying Member run day.

**Track Superintendent Report**

*By Darrell Gomes*



The Track Crew took some time off and attended the 2013 Train Mountain Operations Meet. The crew of Western Pacific #726 consisted of Flagmen Paul Skidmore and Bill Hinshaw, Brakeman Nate Hawkins (bottom picture), Conductor Les Gregory, and Me as Engineer. We were able to move 11 cars during the 2 day meet. We also volunteered for a days work ballasting the newly replaced track at Whitcome.

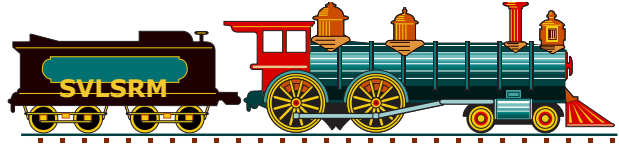
Back at the track, Paul, Jack, and Les have been busy making track panels for our next siding project when the weather cools down. Switch throw maintenance will be on the list for August. Hope to see you at Hot August Night!



**Hot August run day & night is August 17.**

**Pot luck dinner, please bring food to share.**

**Special run schedule**



*Please help by volunteering your time. Call Clio to help.*

Date	Time	Event type	Num.	Engines
Aug. 11, 2013	11-1:00 PM	Coles Party	25	Diesel
Aug. 18, 2013	12-2 PM	Verner Party	25	Diesel
Sept. 22, 2013	10-Noon	Munz Party	25	Diesel
Sept. 28, 2013	2-4PM	Everett Party	25	Diesel



**Train Masters Report**

*By Kevin Sach*

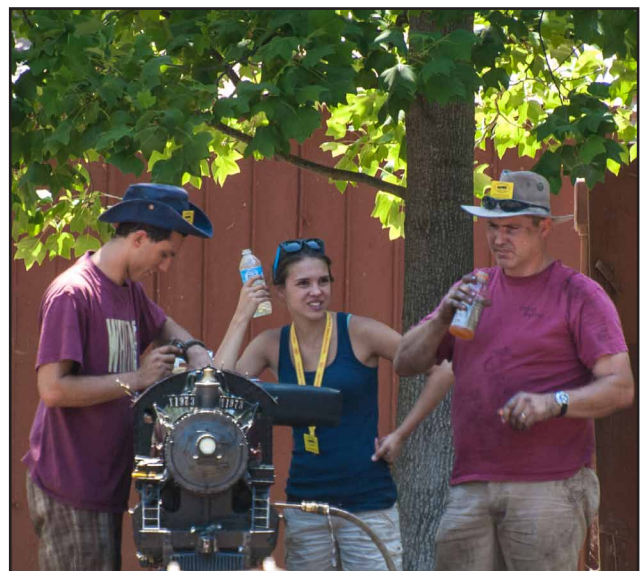


After many years of use I have pulled the RS-3 out of service and have pulled the engine off. It is currently in the middle of a rebuild.

Hopefully it will be back in service very shortly.

It has been nice seeing members coming out for the members run day in the middle of the month. It is a great chance to come out and play with the trains. I hope to see more of you at the next one.

Also we are always looking for people to come and help out with run days. Remember that donations that we receive during run days help fund the railroad to allow us to play at other times. See you on the rails.



It is a family that keeps our steamer running. Andrew, Tiphani, and Kevin Sach.

*Photo by Donald Yungling*



## Safety Rules Review

116. Anyone consuming any alcoholic beverages, including beer, or use of any illegal drugs or narcotics of any kind shall be requested to cease. If they refuse, they will be asked to leave the facility.

201. All train movement shall be under the supervision of the Trainmaster, or a Dispatcher. An engine running light, on regular run days or during specific meets, shall be considered a train and subject to these rules.

### 304. ENGINEERS:

A. Qualifications: Any member of SVLSRM who demonstrates that they have the knowledge, judgment, and ability to operate a locomotive and passes the qualification test and possess a valid drivers license, will be qualified to act as engineer on the type of locomotive for which they have applied (steam, diesel, etc.) on trains carrying the general public. Members of SVLSRM who choose not to test and members of other live steam organizations may act as engineer on trains carrying SVLSRM members and guests only. No one under the age of 18 will act as engineer on any train pulling the general public. Persons between the ages of 13 and 17 may operate as engineer of the locomotive only with permission of the owner, or in the case of SVLSRM owned equipment, by permission of the Trainmaster. They will not carry passengers except a flagman. Children under the age of 12 may operate locomotives only while accompanied by an adult (the owner or another adult who is familiar with and qualified to operate said locomotive). The adult must sit directly behind the child and have full access to and can easily reach the controls in case of emergency. Children under 12 years of age may operate trains in the above-mentioned manner with passengers who are SVLSRM members or family members. Children under age 12 may operate non-steam locomotives such as small electric or gas powered engines with simple controls without an adult supervisor as long as they do not carry passengers except for a flagman. Engineers under 18, at the discretion of the Trainmaster or his designated alternate, may be restricted from operating during periods of heavy traffic such as during invitational meets, birthday party runs, and major holidays such as 4th of July.

410. Before leaving the steaming area operating steam locomotives shall have steam pressure brought up to operating pressure, have safety valves and pressure gauges checked and operating correctly, have water gauges and try cocks blown down, have feed-water devices checked and in working order, have whistle tested and operating properly, and have brakes checked and operating.



*Got a project you would like to show off that is too big to bring to a meeting for show and tell? Then give the editor a call or e-mail and we'll take pictures for a feature article.*



**10 Years ago:** Pres: Dale F. - Whew! What a month July has been. We no sooner had bid farewell to the second of the two West Coast IBLS Rambles and the July 4th weekend was on us. SVLS celebrated the Fourth with, not the usual run day, but with a three day mini meet! Members of Golden Gate Live Steamers were invited to come up during the weekend as part of a joint meet.

SVLS members made a good showing of rolling equipment and SVLS was one of the featured attractions at the first official "City" of Ranch Cordova Fourth of July Celebration. SVLS was in the parade as well with a really impressive float, featuring our good old venerable Club steamer. The Park was wall-to-wall people and our Club trains handled over 800 riders on the 4th of July alone. All in attendance were spellbound by the fireworks grand finale. Rancho Cordova really did the Independence Day holiday up right!

Some 400 members of the Garden Railroad Society visited the SVLS in mid-July as part of their Western Region convention. Tony and Barbara Rohrs entertained a couple of dozen of the group the evening before the main event with a very nice barbeque and private run. Some of the members I met were visiting from as far away as Portland. One of the garden railroads they visited on their tour was that of Matt and Venessa Mason right here in Rancho Cordova. They were impressed. The Garden Railroad Society is a great group of people and didn't hesitate of express their appreciation for our hospitality.

**20 Years ago:** "From the Tender" Common courtesy as well as common sense dictate that when you use club equipment (engines, cars, mowers, welder, etc.), that it should be cleaned and serviced prior to putting it away so it is ready for the next person to use. It is very disheartening for users to find the equipment dirty and out of gas or oil or water when the next person goes to use it. Think of the next user as if he were yourself! Clean equipment not only looks nice but lasts longer. Milon Thorley, Vice-President

**30 Years ago:** "Roundhouse Rumors" "Oriental Express" runs again! Once more, our always accommodating member, Ken Willes is spending his mornings in the park giving train rides to children. This time (as he did last year) it was a group of Japanese Exchange Students. If mud packs really help your complexion, "Wilbur-the-pig" (in the petting zoo) should be radiant soon. It seems that one of our sprinklers created a small mud hole just Wilbur's size. Wilbur entertained us by rolling, diving, rooting and belly whopping thorough Saturday and Sunday (July 30 and 31).

**40 Years ago:** SVLS become a Railroad with 2000 feet of track. Editor request: I am missing any news letters or notes from 1973; if you have info please share. Thanks Bill

# FOR SALE

1.6" scale, 7.5" ga Southern Pacific C-30 Caboose drawing package. Contents: 58 fabrication and assembly drawings (produced using autocad); 11 pages Assembly Procedures; 3 pages List of Materials, Suppliers, Detail items and Paint Specs.; 55 detail photos of prototype and 1.6" scale model caboose. The information contained in this package along with your skills will produce an excellent prototypically correct caboose. Price: \$105.00.



Keith Jackman Ph: (530)272-8531  
e-mail: 2jackmans@gmail.com

1" scale, 4.75" gauge train consisting of : Maxitrack 0-4-0 side rod diesel (new transistor throttle, professionally rebuilt motor, battery) , 2- Scale RR Supply gondolas (50" long with SKF sprung, roller bearing trucks, 1 painted, 1 aluminum) , 1- Little Engines Box Car painted red w/fixed doors, 1- Little Engines old style caboose (32" long w/ hand rails, SKF sprung, roller bearing trucks, red w/ brown roof), approximate 260' aluminum track w/ plastic ties. Asking \$2,750 at Sacramento. Contact Gerald D. Thomas if you would like to see the equipment. samoht-4@att.net. or phone: 916-849-9211



6' gondola built from a Mountain Car kit with added details from Precision Steel Car painted for Great Northern and two seats \$1350 obo



6' custom built mech reefer with Mountain Car trucks hinged roof painted for Pacific Fruit Express \$2250 obo



6' all steel flatcar with oak wood deck and pipe load painted for SP \$1100 obo

Email me at [roger@citadevelopment.com](mailto:roger@citadevelopment.com) or call 661-205-4296 I can deliver within a 150 mile radius



An Andy Clarici original one of a kind. Hall Scott car with trailer car 7.5" gauge, roughly 2" scale. Includes 5' x 10' trailer with custom cover. Also includes spare engine. Asking \$10,000 (or best offer) for all. Contact: Lois Clifton 916-722-8514





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

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇ **WANTED** ◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

SVLS needs a bandsaw. If you have one that you would donate it would be very much appreciated.