

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlarm.org

January 2016

Volume 43, Issue 1

President's Report

By Heidi Bowie



The New Year is upon us and my presidency has now begun. I've really struggled with what to write in my first newsletter article. Focus on the past, the present, the future? Let's start with the

thank yous: Thank you to Bill Yoder for leading the club for so many years, through some very difficult times and for all the help that he will be providing me in the future. My wish for Bill is to see him back on his own engine, enjoying our club, very soon! Thank you to the Board and Committee members (outgoing and incoming) for taking leadership roles, giving their time and energy to a great club. I already appreciate all of you and will continue to do so in the future! Thank you to the SVLS members who support the club in whatever way you can. This club is infinitely better when members are actively involved.

This is a huge leap into the unknown for me. I can easily say that I never saw the presidency of a train club in my future. My knowledge of mechanical devices is not terribly impressive but my passion for this club is what made me take the position. I obviously don't have years of membership (2 1/2 years actually!) but I can see how special SVLS is and I want it to continue, to improve and to thrive. My lack of an engineering degree doesn't stop me from learning and I do want to expand my knowledge about how things work (you just might have to use small words for my non-technical brain). Please feel free to talk with me or send an email if you have any comments or concerns.

Since the first two months of the year are spent out at the facility, doing track, maintenance and other exciting projects (and my husband is the Track Superintendent), I'm pretty sure I know where I'll be spending quite a bit of my time! Public runs and birthday parties will be starting in March, so make sure your train crew qualifications are up-to-date! These two activities provide SVLS with the majority of the funds necessary to function. Nothing says fun like quality time on a train! Find your niche and jump on!



NEW YEARS DAY 2016

Let's start the New Year with a lot of steam, or smelly diesel, and bring out your locomotive, rolling stock and enjoy a member's run day on the first day of the new year. *Bring food to share for potluck lunch.*

Mark your calendar for Friday January 1.

Running starts at 10 AM and lunch about 1 PM.



Thank you

I'd like to thank all the SVLS members who baked and donated cookies for the Santa Train. We couldn't of done it without your help. I'd also like to thank all the gals and guys and especially the kids who helped serve the hot cocoa, hot apple cider, and cookies. A big thank you to the gals who worked in the caboose with me. We definitely got our exercise running up and down the caboose steps. See you New Years Day.

Barbara Moser



Santa Run cookie table



Christmas party 2015

SVLSRM Calendar


Stay tuned for work days in January and February as we work on the mainline and other projects. Help is needed!

- Jan. 1, 2016 New Year Day members run & potluck lunch
Please bring food to share and enjoy the day.
- Jan. 9 Members Work day
- Jan. 12 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Jan. 16 Members Work day
- Jan. 23 Members Work day
- Jan. 30 Members Work day

- Feb. 6 Members Work day
- Feb. 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Feb. 13 Members Work day
- Feb. 20 Members Work day (if needed)

Dates to reserve on your calendar:
 Pacific Regional Meet May 20, 21, & 22
 Fall meet Oct. 14, 15, & 16
 Annual Christmas Dinner Dec. (tbd)

Please volunteer to support the club events.
How will you support SVLSRM this month?



**DUES ARE DUE
 JAN 1, 2016**

Please complete your membership form noting changes. You can download forms at svlsrm.org. Send check or pay on-line at svlsrm.org. Send forms to SVLS P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

THANKS

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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The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.
Member articles wanted.

MEMBERSHIP

by Dean Sheets

We've added 4 new members to the SVLSRM family.

Jelani Hall comes to us from Santa Rosa He showed up Dec 5 during our Santa Run, Joined and got certified as a conductor the same day

Seth Hansen joined during the Santa Run and lives in Dixon Seth is a CPA

David McFarland lives in Rancho Cordova and is a minister

Scott Kennedy resides in Berkeley, has his occupation as Student, has 2 coal powered steamers and belongs to GGSL

As always if you see them walking around at the club go up and introduce yourself and show them around.



Board of Directors - 2015

(##) *Ending year of term*

President: Heidi Bowie (916) 383-1461 (17)

E-mail: president@svlsrm.org

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Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Andy Berchielli

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Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: editor@svlsrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



Track Superintendent Report

By Dennis Bowie

Another installment of looking down the track...

A year in review and what's to come next.

With 2015 coming to a close I would like to

say thank you to everyone that helped out with all the projects that we had around the track.

At the first of the year we undertook a monumental task of replacing the trestle that brings you into Oasis station, this was a wooden trestle. Now we have a new steel frame and I-beam structure that can stand up to the elements. We also replaced the rail that goes up and over Twin Bridges with steel rail. At the same time we re-worked the grade so that it is now a constant 2% grade up and down the hill. We also replaced the two bridges with steel I-beam support.

When Rob and Andy wanted to improve the watering of the trees and plants around the Reverse-o area, we removed the track so that they could get the trencher in. In the process of removing the track panels most of the old wood ties were falling off, so we decided that we would replace the panels and redo the road bed. For 2016 I would like to see the projects finished that were started in 2015. We still need to finish the siding at Reverse-o and also put in the new sidings by the SP caboose.

We will have our members' run day New Year's Day. But after that the track will be closed down. I would like to see the following projects completed before we open the track for our public run days in March.

I want to replace the aluminum rail that runs from MP 20 to the new trestle with steel rail. While working on the road bed, I want to rebuild the berm that the track and road bed are on. I would also like to replace the main line that runs in front of Oasis with steel rail. We are also going to install signals for the mainline at Oasis and leaving the station. Also start work on the new sidings by the SP caboose. We will need to move the switch that turns off into the rock quarry and also bring power over to the SP Caboose. This will be for the caboose and for power outlets for charging points for locomotives.

I know this may sound like a lot, but with everyone's help we can make it happen. We will need to make some new switches for the new sidings and so we will have some classes on making switches. This is also a great time to learn about building up a road bed and laying track. So my plan is that the 2nd Saturday of January (January 9th) we will start pulling up track and getting started. So come one, come all and get involved. Don't just ride the rails, get involved.

Also I would like to give a big thank you to Bill Yoder and Kevin Sach for all your hard work and advice.



Photo at right was during the Golden Spike reenactment celebrating our 30th anniversary (2003). Want to learn more about club history see <http://www.svlsrcm.org/history2.php>



Train Masters Report

By Peter Welch

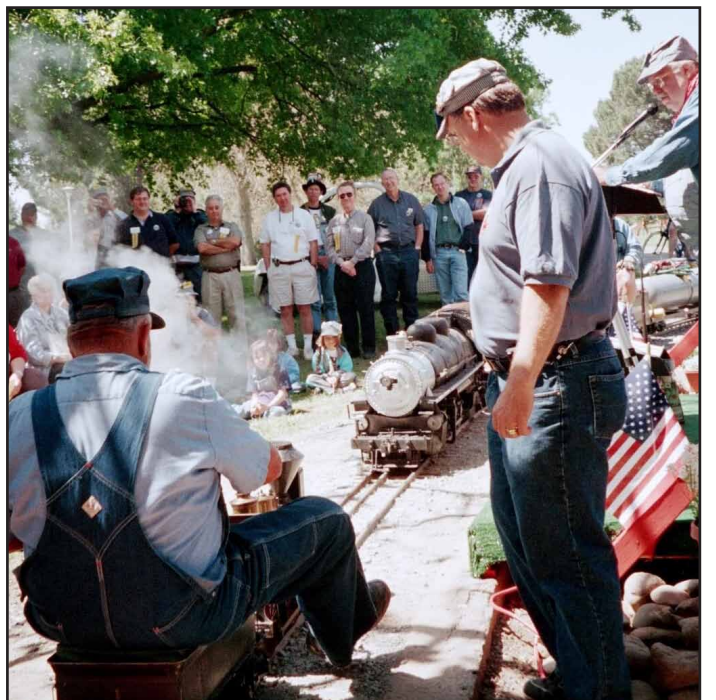
As we welcome in the new year I want to thank everyone that has helped out and made SVLS the great rr club that it is today.

As the new Trainmaster I will strive to improve our equipment and keep everything running as smoothly as possible. The first things on my list of things to do is fix the railings on the UP diesel, repair or replace the power plant in the RS3 locomotive and helping Kevin Sach finish up his projects around the club. If you see anything that needs attention please get in contact with me and I will see about fixing the problem.

Thanks again and I hope to see you out on the rails.



Have leaf blower will travel.



New videos have been placed on club website, several of these were shown at the club Christmas party. Please take a look on line at: <http://www.svlstrm.org/Video.php>
A special feature is our meet in 1974. Enjoy.



Santa run 2015, set up and waiting for first train after the rains stopped on Sunday of the second weekend. Below Dennis, Steve, & Donald trying to re-hang the tarp during strong wind and rain. Thanks to all you helped make the event a success.



Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree lighting with our train running on a small loop at the event. (Photos above and below)





Party & Events Chairperson

Andy Berchielli

2015 was a great year for the club. There were many projects completed to help improve the club. First we rebuilt the trestle leading into Oasis. Also Twin Bridges and the grade was redone too. Adding a irrigation zone to the redwoods was another big improvement. The redwoods haven't looked this good for several years.

A major undertaking for the club was remodeling the WP Caboose, our kitchen! With a new floor, cabinets, paint, electric and an upright freezer provided by Gary Holmes the caboose runs smoother than ever before. Thanks to Gary for providing the freezer. This gives us the much needed extra space for meets and special events.

So what project will you help with this year? We have sidings and mainline planned. More irrigation will be added with a grant we got. Also the ties on Tin Man Bridge need replacing. I plan to tackle the TMB job. I'll be there most Sundays and maybe a day during the week working on it.

Contact me if you want to help so we can be on the same schedule.

Also I'll be looking for more train crews for the party crews. We had 35 parties last year. I expect at least that many this year. It's a great way to spend a few hours to help the club. Get qualified so I can give you a call or E-mail!!!

A **members only area** has been set up on our web server where we will keep a current version of the roster, and other useful documents for our members. To gain access, each *member (now including Associates)* must be a current paid member to register and create a user name and password.

Please use the link on the web page in the top menu section called "Members only." This is a two step process to register as the system will send an E-mail to verify that it is you. You will then use the link sent to complete the process. Please note this is to register so you can then use your user ID/password to view the protected area via the link shown on the registration page.



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Life may be busy but supporting SVLSRM is needed, both monetary and with labor, many projects to be done this year.

Please send your 2016 dues **now!** Send check or pay on-line at svlsrm.org. Send forms to SVLSRM P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

SLVS Dec Board Meeting Summary

Current/Future Projects Around the Facility

- Please find time to help with some of these projects...coming in Jan/Feb!
 - Facility Cleanup projects
 - Improvements to the facility's gate system (Marty & Kevin)
 - Additional signals (Kevin)
 - New sidings (Dennis B.)
 - New perimeter fencing around Cordova Station (Rob)
 - Steel/Aluminum track swap (Dennis B.)
 - Crossing buck installation
- Continuing work on the donated 0-4-0 (Steamer #2)!
- SP Caboose (Andy) - Continuing to plan the remodel.
- New Engineer/Conductor cars (Dennis G.) - Continuing!
- Parts purchased to repair the trencher

Current Issues before the Board

- "Training days" - get more members train certified!
- Additional SVLS signage throughout Hagan Park...Coming soon!
- Pumpkin Train - Thoughts and discussions coming in March.
- Working with local businesses to support SVLS through advertising.

SPIKE editor requests ideas for articles. I am also looking for members who would like to spotlight their projects - in progress or finished. Please call or E-mail the editor. - Thanks.

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with engine stand \$3000.

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9x7x4 \$20. obo - Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



For Sale San Francisco Bridge Units 1 1/2" Scale RTR
I am proud to offer these for sale, since The owner builder says it's time they go to a new home.
They measure around 14' but break down easily for transport. Included are 2 all steel stands for home storage. They operate on (4) 12-volt batteries which I just replaced. Plus (2) 6-volt batteries which are still good. Also included are 3 battery chargers. The 12-volt chargers do 2 batteries at once. There are (6) 24- volt motors that power these units. It also comes with a mercer flat car with mercer trucks plus 2 boat seats.
Price is \$12,500
Bob Morris, at 925-240-9034 or cell 209-743-1300



10 Years ago:
Jerry Thomas showed his progress on a small stationary two cylinder steam engine.



John who painted the Santa background with son and Santa.
The backdrops really made Santa's workshop look GREAT!

20 Years ago:

As we look toward the new year, our thoughts turn to New Year's Resolutions. As you reflect on my long list below, I hope you will think of SVLS resolutions that may interest you.

First: on my list is more trains. One can never have too many trains. Do we as a club have enough engines and rolling stock?
Second: more money for trains. Do we need to make more money as a club, or are we in good shape for our wish list?
Third: more train projects. What would you like to do? Paint the roundhouse, paint the picnic tables, plant flowers, or install landscaping? Would you like to build a town or make a bridge?

30 Years ago:

The Board discussed the location of where the box car and caboose is to be located in our compound. There was considerable confusion as to the location that was picked, so a meeting at the Park was scheduled for Sunday, January 12th at 11 a.m.

We would like the membership to start thinking about a track plan for our new land acquisition. Think about it, but keep your ideas to yourself! BECAUSE we are going to have a contest!!
-- Alan Shelley, President

20 Years ago: "Happy 1976" It was bright and sunny through the morning and all afternoon on New Year's day as plumes of steam and puffs of smoke drifted in the brisk air over the SLVS roadbed. Joel Corbin, Roy Motz, Rallph McChesney, Milton Thorley, Don Yungling, Austin and Mary Knoff, Paul Quiring and Curt Janssen all had engines running and the beaming faces of Al Shelley and Earl McKenzie as their new, as yet unfinished locos, chuffed around the track were almost as bright as the sun. We missed Ken Spicer's engine, which is undergoing repairs, but were delighted to see Ken looking so well after his recent accident. Others present were Ken Yeo, Larry Badger, Larry Edwards, Lori and Dick Esselbach, Barry and Marge Garland, Dick Quiring, Don Sprenger, Ed and Louise Yungling. Hope we didn't miss anybody. It was a fun day and an altogether successful meet. Ed Yungling is giving Ken's engine a "class C" overhaul -- New axles, Main bearings, installation of driver brake rigging and conversion to oil fuel plus whatever else is necessary.