

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

February 2018

Volume 45, Issue 2



## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

Hello fellow members! My goal for our Winter Work Projects is to get as much done as needed before the run season begins in March. Watch out for the E-mail "Sign Up Genius" from Alex.

This will keep you in the loop of activities for the weekend. The first two weekends we had a flurry of activity going with many members pitching in. The third weekend we hit a yellow light, I guess, since few members came out that weekend. However we have made tremendous progress and on track for completion of many of the items including 600' of mainline track. Many thanks to Tom for bringing out his equipment to get the job done in a clean and timely manner. So far, the first three weekends we had 41 members come out and give a hand. Thank you to each and everyone of one. Did you know, if you come out for a work weekend we feed you lunch? Yes that's right, we like to keep our members happy and full, thanks to the wonderful people in the caboose.

A new electronic lock has been added to one of the bathrooms. It's the same combo as the gate code and uses the existing key. If all like it we will get one for the other bathroom too.



A reminder to all members that our monthly board meeting is held at Rancho Cordova City Hall the second Monday at 6:30 PM. All members are welcomed to attend. In order to keep the meetings under 2 hours, any new motions/actions/concerns should be sent to the secretary to be added to the agenda beforehand. This will keep the meeting running smooth and follow proper order.



With the help of Tom Reese & his excavator the old mainline road bed was cleared for new base.



SVLS volunteers were seen on one or both of the following January 2018 Workdays.

**January 6-7th** Kevin & Andrew Sach, Steve Milward, Keith Berry, Chris Roberts, Dennis Gramith, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Chris, Eli & Paul

Donhost, Alison Berry, Peter & Jim Welch, Bill Yoder, Paul Skidmore, Dave Geo, Richard Lutrel, Marshall Post, Julie & Austin Unruh, Evan Guinta, Tom Reese, Andy Berchielli, Chris Smith, Dennis Bowie, Rob Sharratt, Marty Carapiet, and the Sheriffs Crew.

**January 13-14th** Steve Milward, Glen Wilson, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Andy Berchielli, Tom Reese, Richard Lutrel, Peter Welch, Paul Skidmore, Bill & Butch Floyd, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Marshall & Dylan Post, Rob Sharratt, Colton Snell, Dennis Bowie, Alison Berry, Ben, Jeremiah, Xavier Shell, Bruno Carr, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Dennis Gramith, Chris, Eli, Paul Donhost, Bill Yoder.

**January 20-21st** Dennis Bowie, Paul Skidmore & son Rick Fideyement, Bill & Butch Floyd, Chris Roberts, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Dennis Gramith, Alison Berry, Rob Sharratt, Andy Berchielli, Bill Yoder, Marshall Post, Kevin & Andrew Sach.

SVLS 2018 Winter Projects still need your help! In an effort to keep members informed and request your help, our Secretary Alex Wilde has been using an E-mail process called "Sign Up Genius" to contact members. If you are not getting these E-mails, then please contact Alex at [secretary@svlsrcm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrcm.org)

**Your help on your club's projects is needed.**

Over the last few weeks of track construction, our old tractor has only been useful part of the time, due to starter problems and ring gear missing teeth.

For years, we have spent lots of time and money trying to keep it running. *It is time to move on!*

The club needs a newer tractor - one that will run and be easy to use around the track and trees to do the work we need done. Therefore we are asking for donations to buy a good tractor. Please donate at:

<http://www.svlsrcm.org/donation-tractor.php>

Thanks!

## SVLSRM Calendar

Feb. 3 - 4 Members Work day  
 Feb. 10 - 11 Members Work day  
 Feb. 12 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
 Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.  
 Feb. 17 - 18 Members Work day  
 Feb. 24 - 25 Members Work day

Mar. 3 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 Mar. 4 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 Mar. 12 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
 Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.  
 Mar. 17 Member work day and run day. Please help in the AM  
 then run your train in the afternoon.

Dates to reserve on your calendar:  
 Pacific Regional Meet May 18, 19, & 20  
 Fall meet Oct. 19, 20, & 21

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



and password.

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 including associates** must be a **current paid member** to register and create a user name

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.

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 the 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@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org). **The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.**  
**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

### Welcome to New Members:

Dale Sasenberg  
 Roger Wise, Shyla & Eliza

Remember 2018 dues are due right now. Please remember to send in a completed membership form with your renewal. You can find a form easily on-line:  
<http://www.svlsrm.org/documents/membership-form.pdf>

Any questions, contact the Membership Chair.



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlsrm.org](http://www.svlsrm.org) for current information. If you have not looked for a while, then you will have missed news or for sale items that are not in the newsletter.

**Be a volunteer and enjoy the fun of sharing the hobby.**

## Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term

President: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (19)

E-mail: [president@svlsrm.org](mailto:president@svlsrm.org)

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (18)

E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrm.org)

Secretary: Alex Wilde (530) 919-5026 (19)

E-mail: [secretary@svlsrm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrm.org)

Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (18)

E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrm.org)

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (18)

E-mail: [tracksuper@svlsrm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlsrm.org)

Yardmaster: Rob Sharratt (916) 631-8963 (18)

E-mail: [yardmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlsrm.org)

Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (19)

E-mail: [trainmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlsrm.org)

Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (18)

E-mail: [director\\_bill@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_bill@svlsrm.org)

Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (19)

E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_steve@svlsrm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

E-mail: [membership@svlsrm.org](mailto:membership@svlsrm.org)

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: [caboose@svlsrm.org](mailto:caboose@svlsrm.org)

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Stacy Reese

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlsrm.org](mailto:Events@svlsrm.org)

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org)

**Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM**

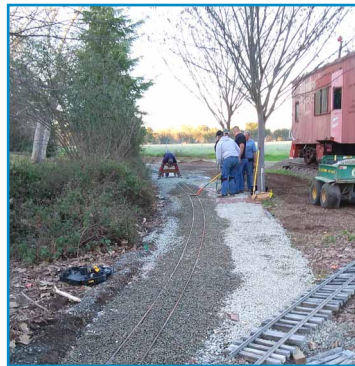


### Track Superintendent Report By Dennis Bowie

Another installment of looking down the track...

With the start of the New Year we took on a monumental task of replacing track. We have pulled up the main line that is aluminum rail from 40 feet before the switch that takes you in to the oasis yard all the way to the level crossing. Also the main line track from the same level crossing that runs along the SP caboose, past the gravel quarry to the steel track going up to twin bridges. This is about 600 feet of main line with switches included. This will all be steel rail and switches. We are also installing conduit in the ground for signals in the future. We are also extending the passing siding at the SP caboose and installing the switches that will be used in the new SP yard.

As you can see in the pictures in just 3 weekends we have replaced the road bed on the sections that we are going to replace the track. The base is a 3/4" crush granite and we will use 1/2" crush as fill and ballast. We have replaced the main line from the crossing to the new switch that is past the SP caboose.



And last Sunday with the help of Kevin and Andrew the track and switch that will lead in to the Oasis yard have been bolted together.



The Switch that will lead out of the Oases yard back to the main line will be installed this week end and we are hoping to have all of the new track panels in place also. I would like to thank everyone that has come out so far to help and hope to see more people come out. There is always something to do.

*See you on the rails*



### Yard Masters Report By Rob Sharratt

Hello fellow club members. So far this month we have been very busy. I approached Tony Cincotta with a request for a green waste dumpster, once again Republic services came through with a 40 yard container. On the 6th of January we had the Sheriffs work party out to the track; they were able to fill most of the dumpster with 5 tons of leaves and branches. I would like to thank all of the members that helped with this venture. In the weeks to come there will be more projects to complete track work, yard work, and house keeping. I would love to see more volunteers to help out. There will be some thing for everyone.

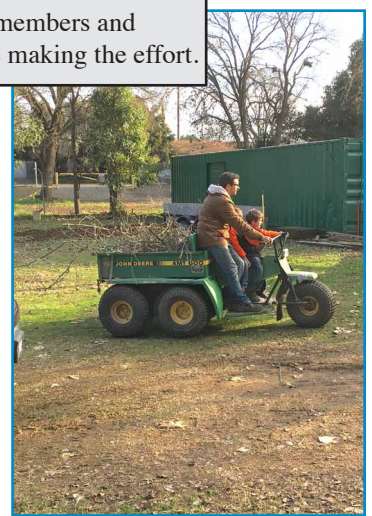


### Train Masters Report By Peter Welch

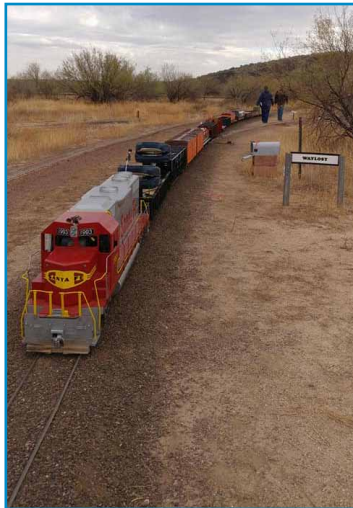
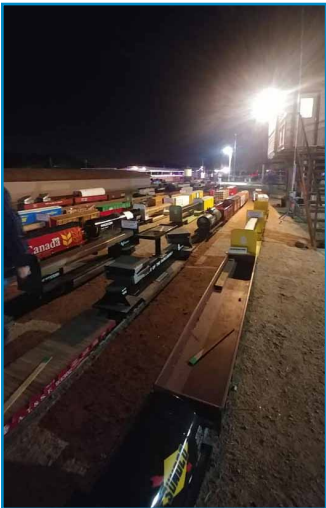
The RS3 is running really good. The stairs to the GP38 are still in the repair. The SW1500 need a new charger and a new battery. I haven't had time to fire up the steam engine and test out the lubricator. I will be making time this week. I have a few spare injectors to try out on little blue the 040.



Track replacement project



Thanks to the members and friends that are making the effort.



### Having Fun by Peter Welch:

Well we just got back from Maricopa live steamers. We attended the operations meet this year and what a treat. Richard Lutrel and my dad Jim Welch joined us as we braved the rails switching cars and making up trains in the many division of MLS. If you haven't had a chance to attend this meet, I recommend you do. They have over 15 miles of track and over 250 rolling pieces of stock with hundreds of siding to switch in. A operations meet is meant to take a built train out of the yard to deliver and pick up car according to the switch list you are giving. No rolling stock can be moved by hand as it is treated like real railroading. Hope to see you next year.



A big thank you to all our members who have not only donated their time and talents, but have also provided a monetary donation to SVLSRM. If you need a written receipt for your donation for your tax records, please contact Alison Berry (Treasurer) and she will be happy to send you a form. Did you know you can make a reoccurring donation to SVLSRM? It is very simple to set up via PayPal.



Go to the svlsrm.org website and click on the "Donate" button on the upper left side.

You can specify if you want your donation to go to a certain project such as "Track" or "New Tractor"



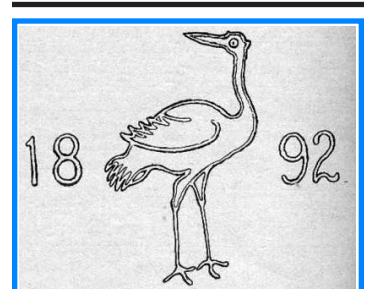
### January Board Summary

by Alex Wilde, Secretary

- President Berchielli proposed that our club work days be better planned out, including the specific scope of work to be performed on a given day.
- Due to rain there should not be any vehicles parked in the RV area unless unloading materials.
- A club member graciously donated 7 boxes of new plastic ties with tie plates molded in place for a test section of track which has proven to be a big time saver in track panel building.
- Peter reported that the lubricator on the 1973 has been rebuilt and assembled. The trucks on the UP are back together.
- Stacy stated that we already have 3 parties booked for 2018.
- A lot of the old aluminum rail and switches removed will be reused to build sidings and storage tracks.
- Dennis G. will work with Ed Y. to work on the trucks for the riding cars.
- Last month a motion carried unanimously to make Lisa Moser an honorary member for 2018.
- Donations from public runs increased last year. The new pumpkin train was a success along with the Santa train.
- A master plan committee has been formed to lay out a vision for the future of the club which will help align the budget with our goals.
- The club will soon undergo its annual financial review.
- Motion carried unanimously to update the executive board members' bank card information.
- Gate opener is no longer working. The gate will now be manually opened and closed.
- Motion carried unanimously to appoint Bill Yoder to vacant board position.
- The rule book is being reviewed. Revisions will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Motion carried unanimously to spend up to \$400 to rebuild the compressor in the roundhouse.



SP caboose library starting to fill up.



QUESTION? What is a "stork mark"? What did it mean to the railroad boss man?  
See page 6 for the answer.

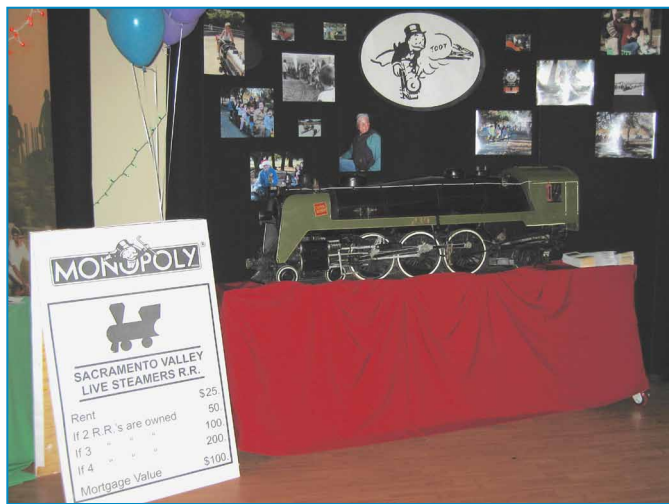


**10 Years ago:**

Photo of Pete Arney, Richard Lutrel, and Bob Lovell during the operations meet at Maricopa Live Steamers in January 2008.



SVLSRM participated in the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce 2008 Annual Dinner on Thursday, January 24th. The dinner was chaired by outgoing chamber president Shelly Blanchard, editor of the Rancho Cordova Grapevine newspaper. The theme of the dinner decorations was the Parker Brother's



game Monopoly and was the dinner was attended by the many businesses that serve the Rancho Cordova area. We, of course, were one of two railroads as represented in the board game. Regional Transit was the other. Lee Frechette put together the display booth using pictures supplied by Bill Yoder, Lee Frechette, and Pete Arney. The Central Vermont Pacific locomotive was the center piece of the display. Handouts of our trifold and 2008 schedule were provided as well. Our participation is part of our 2008 strategy to make ourselves more visible in the community and the Greater Sacramento area.

**20 Years ago: FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Well, it is February already----it seems that just yesterday was November and our last run day of the season. Soon it will be Sunday, March 1, and our first run day of the 1998 season. And the Spring Meet coming close behind. Are you and your equipment ready? Have you been putting off those small repairs on your locomotive and/or rolling stock? I challenge you to put on the work clothes and get those repairs done so you and your equipment will be ready to run and you will have no reason that you cannot come out and run your equipment and enjoy the

beautiful property we have. I am looking forward to meeting you, if I have not already. All ABOARD for run, fun and fellowship!

**30 Years ago:** "Making Steam" Since your last Golden spike, there has been a lot of activity at the track. On Saturday, January 9, track repairs were hot and heavy in three area. The first location was Ed Yungling's machine shop, where the steel Bars were cut to length, holes drilled and rail joiners welded on, as well as channel iron ties being cut and drilled for anchor bolts. These materials were then transported to the second work area in the steaming bays where they were assembled and welded into 20' lengths of dual gauge track. The third work area was located along the back straight-of-way where the actual theft of the track had taken place. In this area approximately 100' of track immediately north of the stolen track, had to be removed from the roadbed and re-laid on new ties. Before this track was re-laid the roadbed was scraped clean to match the area where the steel track would replace the stolen aluminum track. The entire work force consisted of: Amadus Drewes, Henery Stefani, Darrel McWhirk, Dick Esselback, Dick Quiring, Ed Spall, Milon Thorley, John Bailie, Bob Lovell, Warren and Robbie Sharratt, Rodney Spurr, Ed Yungling, Don Yungling, Vince Barto and friend Quinter, Stan Hindsley, Don Juergenson, and Dennis and Judy Gramith.

**40 Years ago:** "Puffs of smoke" Museum news - at the last general meeting, Barry Garland gave us a run down, complete with sketches, on the general plan for the interior of the museum (California Rail Museum). A turn-table with six radiating bays will house engines and old cars. There will also be an elevated display and getting the engine up there is going to be quite a challenge. Ken Yoe reports that progress on the restoration of three old passenger cars is coming along beautifully. Ground breaking ceremonies for the new 90,000 sq. ft. Museum History building are scheduled for late March, possibly on a Friday. There's a possibility that the 105 year old Genoa (Jupiter) will be steamed up the day after the ceremony. We sill keep you informed as the information is released.

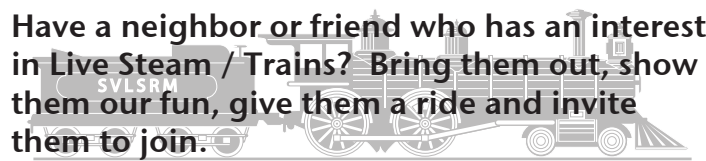


I cannot forget to pay my dues. Life may be busy but supporting SVLSRM is needed, both monetary and with labor, many projects to be done this year.

Please send your 2018 dues **now!**  
Send check or pay on-line at svlsrm.org.  
Send forms to SVLSRM P.O. Box 273,  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



**Have a neighbor or friend who has an interest in Live Steam / Trains? Bring them out, show them our fun, give them a ride and invite them to join.**



# FOR SALE

**You can be on the rails in steam for only \$5000/offer.** I am offering my complete, RTR train consisting of a 7.5" gauge INVICTA locomotive, tender, engineer riding car, and tool car. Loco has a propane fired steel boiler with copper tubes, axle driven feed pump backed up by a hand pump in the tender as well as a axle driven mechanical lubricator. The engine is a twin cylinder double acting with a bore and stroke of 1"x 2.2" There are hand operated mechanical brakes on the engineer's riding car. Tools for firing up and change out the propane tank, lubrication bottles, foot peg bar for tool car and misc. fittings.

Contact Bill Cody at 775-674-6512, cell 775-233-1429 or Email to: [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net)  
 Engine is located in Reno, Nevada and can be delivered for a fee. To see and hear a video on the engine being fired and run on the bench, click on this [Video link](#)

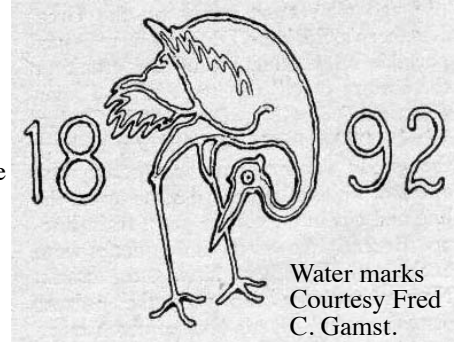
Two RRSC 6 wheel pullman commonwealth 1/8 scale trucks - reconditioned. The pair \$2000 or best offer.  
 Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



**Trolley for Sale.** Price \$1500 OBO, plus engine stand for sale. Call: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

## WHAT IS A STORK MARK?

Answer: From the tale of "the crane with the broken neck," the fabled punishment for taking part in the Great Pullman Strike and Boycott of Eugene V. Debs, in 1894.



The paper used for letters of recommendation by some railroads carried

a watermark in the form of a lanky crane, a well known mark of a large paper company. But on some of the stationery, the crane had a "broken neck" only noticeable if you held the page up to the light. Trainmen miscalled the bird a stork. A discharged employee was given a letter of recommendation, but if he was an undesirable employee the interviewer had only to hold the paper up to the light and the broken necked crane watermark warned him against hiring this man.

The practice came about after the abortive 1894 Pullman strike. Each employee of the struck railroads was blackballed and service letters were refused them. One brakeman sued and won his case, so the railroads appeared to capitulate but actually still blackballed former strikers -- and even employees of the struck railroads that did not walk out -- it was the most vicious of anti-labor tactics used by Pullman and the railroads officials. And of course, the infamous Pullman strike was a black mark in U.S. history that set fair labor practices back 50 years. Many men never got another railroad job.

(Thank to Bill Fisher for information on this - from Spike Feb. 1978)



## SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH



1.02.14 Property of SVLSRM Material and Equipment  
 All SVLSRM owned material and equipment is for use of members and guests at the SVLSRM facility ONLY, and shall not be removed from the facility without specific permission from the Board of Directors. This includes treated or distilled water, fuel, cars, locomotive, tools, material, etc.

3.04 Safety Chains  
 All trains running are required to have steel safety chains or cable (1/8" minimum thickness) connecting the locomotive and any car behind the engine, whether occupied or not. Draw bars are acceptable in place of chains or cables.



The club needs more members to be active with our public ride days, and our special events like Parties, Santa Run, and Railfair. **These events provide our main source of income so please come out and help.**



Got Something for Sale?  
 Send to [Editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:Editor@svlsrm.org)

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

