

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlarm.org

March 2019

Volume 46, Issue 03

## Track Superintendent Report

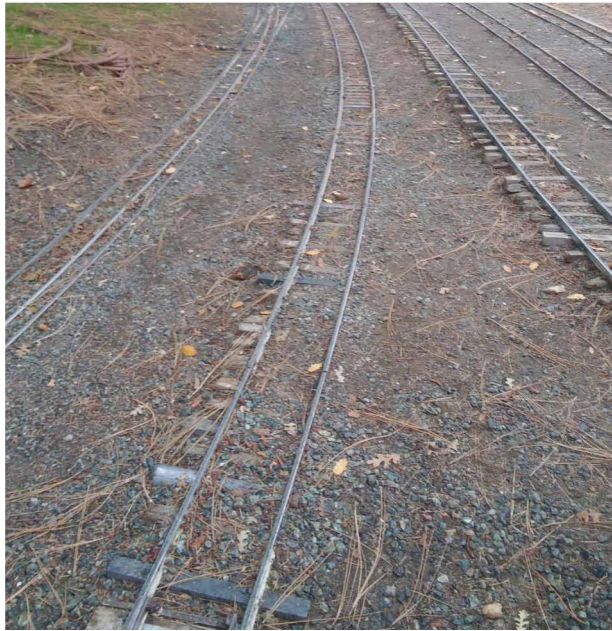
By Dennis Bowie



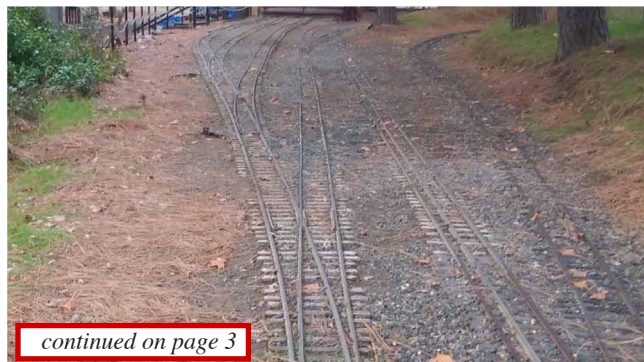
Another installment of looking down the track...

For everyone that came out over the last 2 months and helped with the new box car yard

I would like to say thank you very much. This was a project that needed to be addressed; the yard was in need of help. We had tracks that were on ties that were close to non-existing, and switches that needed rebuilding.



But with the help of any and all that wanted to get their hands dirty, we were able to remove the entire track and re-grade the box car yard. Also in so doing we replaced the road bed for the track that comes off the transfer table and the track that has the one inch track as well. We replaced the ties with the preformed plastic ties.



continued on page 3

## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli



March is here! The official beginning of our run season. Even though most of us have been at the park each weekend the past two months working on several projects. There really is no off season for the railroad family. Why do we do this? For all to enjoy our trains and the facility. All projects are done to make volunteering a more enjoyable experience.

This winter project was to rebuild the boxcar yard. Thanks to Trackmaster Dennis for being there each weekend, even with a bum knee the last few weeks and several others working on the weekends and throughout the week, the boxcar yard rebuild is complete. With four tracks inside the boxcar allowing for us to keep riding cars on the floor level of the boxcar.

The other major project is the addition of a permanent G Gauge live steam layout. The initial plan is an oval between Oasis and Midway located near the dry riverbed with room for expansion. The oval frame work is near completion. There is still lots of work left to finish it but the plan is for it to be available for the Spring Meet. Donations can be made specifically for the G Gauge layout.

Some may have noticed a new building on the railroad. I finally had a few days available to build a pump house to cover the waterfall pump. So now you see this house instead of the pump. The roof is removable to turn the falls on. Hopefully this year we will see some more buildings sprout up. Next on the list is the Twin Bridges Lumber Mill.



## SVLSRM Calendar

Mar. 2 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 Mar. 3 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 Mar. 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
 Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.  
 Mar. 16 Member WORK day - please help on club projects.  
 Mar. 17 Member RUN day - bring your train to  
 run all day.

April 6 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 April 7 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM  
 April 8 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
 Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.  
 April 20 Member WORK day - please help on club projects.  
 April 21 Member RUN day - bring your train to  
 run all day.

Please volunteer to support the club events.

**How will you support SVLSRM this month?**

There are plenty of projects to work on at the railroad so you need to come out and give time to your organization.

Come and help, Your help is needed. Don't know what to do? Then call a board member and volunteer.



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.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.

Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line.

Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail so you can read it on-line.

**Rates have increased again and again.**



**Help us save money.**

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@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).

**The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.**

**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

It is that time of year! 2019 dues renewal are being accepted. Regular - \$60; Associate - \$30. You can pay by a check in mail or Paypal (please mail in renewal form also). Please find a renewal form at the end of this newsletter that you can print out to mail in with your payment. New this year is an on-line form to submit, go to Membership web page and follow instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Membership.



## DUES ARE DUE NOW

Please complete a membership form noting changes. You can renew on-line or download form at [svlsrcm.org](http://svlsrcm.org) then send check or pay on-line.

Send forms to SVLS P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

## Board of Directors

(##) *Ending year of term*

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

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

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (20)

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

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

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

Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (20)

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

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (20)

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

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (20)

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

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

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

Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (20)

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

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

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

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

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

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

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

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson:

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

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

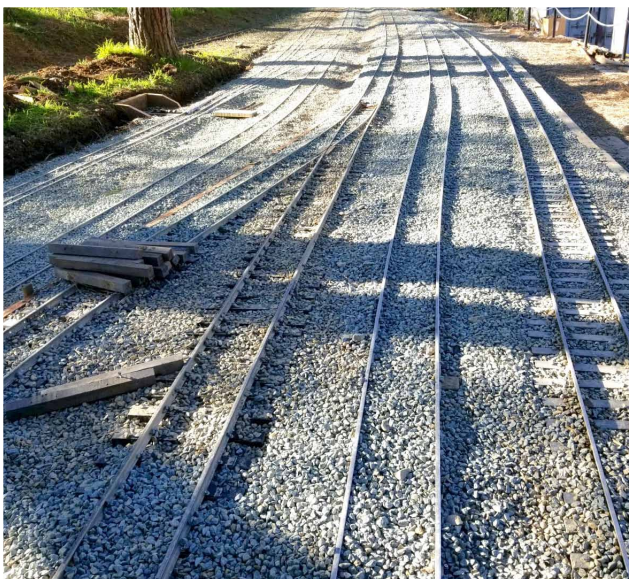
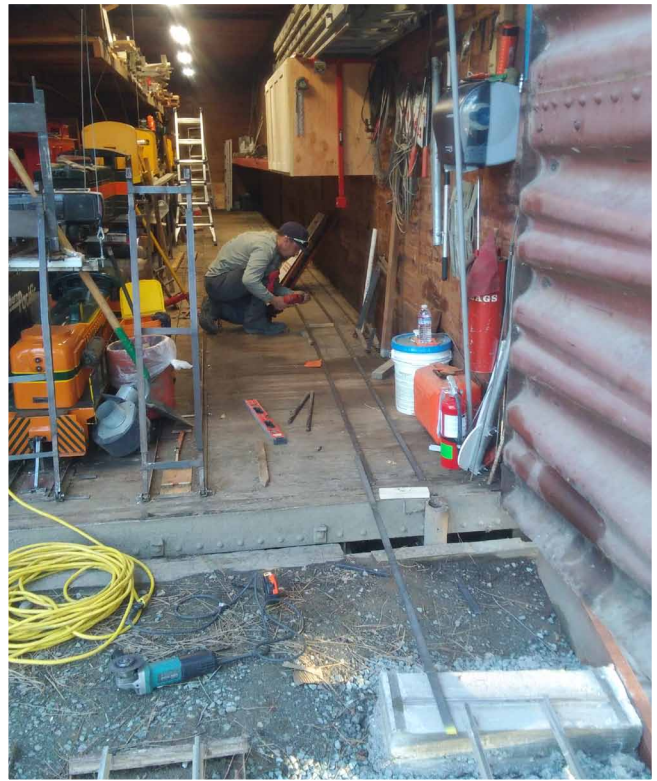
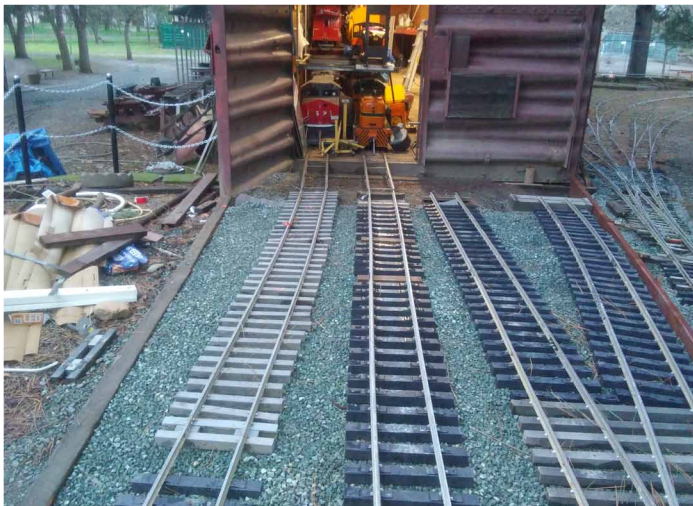
E-mail: [editor@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org)

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





In addition to the box car yard we also moved track 3 in the box car over to make room for a 4<sup>th</sup> track for more rolling stock storage. This is accessible with a switch on track 3 to line up with track 4.







Helpers seen most February work days:

Saturday or Sunday:

Dennis Bowie-Maren & Ryan, Dennis Gramith, Craig Griffin,

Gordon & Barbara Moser, Harry Voss,

Alison Berry, Steve Milward, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Paul Brink, Bill & Butch Floyd, Richard Lutrel, Rob & Cody Sharatt, Andy Berchielli, Paul Skidmore, Gordon & Peggy Dun Ham, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Eth Hansen & family - Arron, Snow & Kari, Colton Snell, Tom Reese, Jim & Peter Welch, Bill Yoder, Brandon Feickert.

Tuesdays Work Days

Bill Yoder, Harry Voss, Dennis Gramith, Steve Milward, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Alison Berry, Richard Lutrel, Peter Welch.



NEW G SCALE TRACK FOR SVLSM.

During the month of February, the G scale track platform has taken shape. The main Unistrut framing is in place, and you can see the shape of the finished track . We will be hopefully placing the Hardie Backer Board on the frame during the next dry weekends, if we have funding for the continuation of the project.

We are currently short of funds to purchase the board and beyond. Please step forward if you can! Please make donations specifically for the "G Scale Project" thru the club Treasurer, Alison Berry, address as listed for the Club.



Many volunteers have been helping with this project when not working on the main track projects. We can always use more. We will need help with painting and installing the board. Please come out on the weekends if you have the interest.

This track when completed is intended to be used by all members having G scale 45 mm (Gage 1) equipment. This includes battery, steam, or electric locomotives. We hope to have track in place by the Spring Meet!

Questions, contact Phil Huntingdale 916-408-1747.



Director - Steve Milward

A stroll around the railroad will quickly show what can be done when dedicated folks pitch in to help! When an E-mail request for help was sent, a good number of members and friends responded. The results of the work session on Saturday the 23rd were amazing! I won't name names, lest I unwittingly leave someone out, but here's what was accomplished.

The refurbishment of the boxcar yard is now almost complete - a few odds and end left to do. Lots of people were aligning, leveling, tamping, installing retaining walls, adjusting and repairing turnouts. Two of the locomotives and a number of the passenger cars received a thorough washing. Cleaning, organizing the boxcar, gathering and disposing of a lot of accumulated trash. Tree branches, sticks and debris were picked up and disposed of. Using the backpack blower, a member cleaned the right of way. The track panel near Oasis yard removed for tractor access was reinstalled. The G gauge folks took time away from their new project (which, I might add is looking really nice!) to assist with getting the big railroad ready. I expect that lots more was going on in the background. All of this happened because people got involved. For me at least, part of the enjoyment is working with a bunch of folks with a shared interest. The work goes faster, there's a feeling of camaraderie and accomplishment. So, if you're of the opinion that your participation doesn't really matter, or that you don't possess the skills to contribute, I'd say "Don't underestimate yourself". Everybody brings something to the table, and we're all better when we all work together.

Thanks to all for pitching in!







**10 Years ago:**

**Community Service Award:**

The Cordova Community Council (CCC), a support group of local non-profit organizations in the Rancho Cordova area, has selected SVLSRM to be the winner of the 2009 “Community Service Award”. This award was made, along with awards to other groups, on Friday, February 27th, at the Rancho Cordova City Hall. It was noted

that SVLSRM has long supported community activities, the most recent was the lighting of the community Christmas tree in a new venue last December. Our presence in the community for over 35 years was noted and our involvement in school, park, and community events was lauded.

**Winter 2008-2009 Projects:**

The work continues on three major winter projects: Road base removal & track replacement (FCR032); Relocation of approach track to station and lower yard to the west into park area - phase two (FCR020); Steam engine boiler replacement.

Road base removal & track replacement: Darrell Gomes and his crew have completed the major portion of the road base removal and track replacement project in the public park area. One foot/ bike path concrete crossing near Ponds hasn't been constructed yet due to the winter rains. The track has been temporarily laid on a rock base for now, pending better weather for final construction. The mainline will be operational for our first run day on Saturday, March 7.

Remaining to be done: The Sugar Pine bypass loop and the 1-inch rail on the mainline. Again, winter weather has delayed the Sugar Pine loop, but it will be put back into service when the weather permits.

Relocation of approach track to station and lower yard: Fill dirt is continuing to be placed and shaped to grade. There is much remaining to be done including compacting, final grade leveling, construction of a bridge, placement of base gravel, and track.

Steam engine boiler: Due to be completed by Paul Boschan in March. Installation information and time line will be provided by Train Master Karle Mahler.

**20 Years ago: WE'LL BE STEAMIN' AHEAD AGAIN!**

After months of anticipation by our SVLS club members, and many labor hours of love by John Haines, No. 1973 was out shopped on February 19, 1999. Steam trials for the engine will begin after all the track work in the meadow is complete. I bet many of our new members didn't even know that the club had a steam engine! No. 1973 is 4-6-0 Ten Wheeler which was donated to the club by Darrel McWhirk.

It has been decided that this engine will be used in support of Article II of the SVLS Bylaws - it will be used strictly for revenue service on trains carrying the general public.

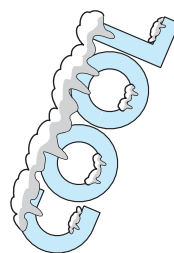
If you are a club member and would like to operate this piece of equipment, it will require a commitment on your part to the club. Any Member wishing to operate No. 1973 must attend

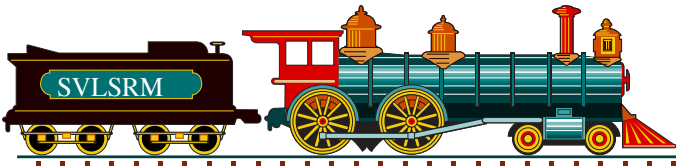
training classes on how to service, fire and operate the engine. At the end of the last class each member with 100% attendance wishing to continue on in the qualification process must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the class instructor that they know how to service, fire and operate the equipment. This is the first part of your commitment. The second part is that while you are operating the engine and it develops a mechanical problem, you will be required to assist the Superintendent of Motive Power (Steam) in the repair of the engine.

**30 Years ago:** The old fence posts were pulled out to make way for the new 20' rolling gate that Ed Spall acquired for us last year, the electricity for the lights in the Box Car was started, Air and water pipes were installed in the new steaming bays, the Maintenance Building was totally emptied and cleaned out, and even some track work was done. Warren and Robby Sharratt have put in many long hours digging trenches and installing the pipes for the air and water for the new steaming bays. Jon Bailie has been welding the top rails for the new steaming bays and putting our Boiler Testing Equipment in tip top order. Doug Fulton and his crew (Keith Berry, Eric Dunn, Gordon Moser) have been working many, many extra hours re-doing the old track. Dick Esselbach has been working on the many graphic projects that the club requires. Ed Spall has built us a very sturdy metal stand to hold the new copy machine this club has just acquired, Milon made 12 new aluminum track gauges, and he also picked up all the rail that is being used to construct the new steaming bay supports and delivered it to the track.

**40 Years ago:** “NUTS & BOLTS” The track realignment project west of the creek bridge has been named “Thumbs Cut”. It seems Al Shelley sliced both thumbs while sawing the ties for the new switch! This goes along with “Hall’s Cut”, the first curve leaving the steaming bay area, named for Dave Hall, originator of the SVLS.

We hear that the Corothers' battery operated switcher is coming along well in spite of a defective motor that has to be returned.





**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**



2.13 Duration of Inspection  
Boiler tags or cards are valid for a period not to exceed 12 months from the date of issuance. Pressure tests for the purpose of tag or card shall be conducted under the supervision of an appointed member.

3.09 Whistle

Engine whistle signals shall be used by the engineer whenever practical to give, ask for, or acknowledge information about train movement. When double heading, the lead engine will give the whistle signals when possible. The whistle shall not be used unnecessarily. The whistle is a signaling device and should be used as such.

4.02 Requirement of Conductor

All trains hauling passengers shall have at least one qualified Conductor on the last car of the train, or facing backward on the rear seat of the Engineer car. It shall be their responsibility to protect the rear of the train and to assist the Engineer in the operation of the train. Each Conductor on duty shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light on the train.

- Qualifications/Restrictions of an SVLSRM Conductor 15 years of age or older.
- Member of SVLSRM or child of SVLSRM member in good standing.
- Passes a current Written Qualification test showing knowledge to supervise passengers and scale railroad equipment.
- Passes a current Practical examine demonstrating the judgment and ability to competently and safely supervise passengers and scale railroad equipment.

Do you like running trains? We are in need of conductors, engineers and hostlers for both steam and diesel. If you are interested in joining our operating crew, please contact Alex Wilde at [secretary@svls.org](mailto:secretary@svls.org) to be added to our email list. We are providing a **training day for all club engines on February 23 and 24**. If you did not take a test last year, come out and learn the proper way to operate our equipment.

**FOR SALE**

**7.5" gauge Morris EMD style switcher and car.**

This is a Morris EMD profile locomotive and gondola riding car. The locomotive is rigged to run cab forward moving the noise, heat and exhaust away from the engineer. This is totally ready to run and needs nothing. The locomotive has been painted with prototypically correct, professionally applied automotive paint and fresh vinyl graphics. An upgraded hydrostatic drive has been installed as well as a pressure driven air brake system using a GAST 12 volt compressor. Mountain Car Company brakes are installed on the engineer's car using Tom Bee controls. The brakes have proved a must for handling trains with five adult passengers down the grades at Train Mountain.



Features included: Rigged to run cab forward, may be changed to hood forward. Head lights Horn Reliable Honda motor, very fuel efficient. Upgraded Eaton hydrostatic transmission. Prototypical correct automotive paint, applied by body shop. Fresh Miracle vinyl graphics. Marine quality wiring Brake system compressor system using premium Gast compressor. Air brakes installed in engineers car. Battery charging by magneto and installed charging port Trickle charger included. Safety cables.



Includes everything pictured including dual seats in gondola and storage rack. Shows some wear from normal use. \$9,500.00 or best offer. Contact Tom Via E-mail "maybelater65@yahoo.com" or 707-257-6464



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/>

