

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlstrm.org

November 2020

Volume 47, Issue 11



**Our annual General Membership meeting is also our general election meeting, and is on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 1:30 PM at the club. Ballots will be cast and absentee ballots accepted. All will be counted to elect five individuals to the Board of Directors positions: Vice-President, Treasurer, Track Superintendent, Yard Master, and Board Member at Large. Ballot and candidate statements are on Page 5 & 6. We want all voting members (regular, family, & life members) to vote. Thanks.**

## VOTE



### TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale

The Fall Meet provided three days of small steam and battery locomotives in action. The weather in the days and evenings was great; those attending indeed had a great time. With the larger locomotives passing by, this was a wonderful event shared by all. A few new members and out of towners joined in with the fun and there was much interest with our trains. Channing with Accrucraft was here selling some of his offerings. I understand at least a Shay and Ruby were purchased in G gauge. Thank you to the club members that made this event possible. We now look forward to next year's Spring Meet.

Again this last month the G gauge railroaders were out having great Tuesday run days. The members show up, some bring locomotives, and some just enjoy the camaraderie.

If you have time the first part of December, come out to help with our Christmas public runs scheduled for the first two weekends. Also, the few days before, we will be out helping with the decorating of the park. If you have a Christmas train, please bring it out on the weekends between 11:00 and 3:00 as the public runs will be passing by, and I know they enjoy our trains.

If you have an interest in steam, electric, or battery locomotives, come out and run. Please plan on social distancing and wearing a mask. See you about!

### President's Report

By Andy Berchielli



October was a bright spot on the year 2020 for us. Instead of our traditional Pumpkin Train we ran two weekends with a Fall decorated track and called it the Harvest Express. Attendance was down as it has been all year. However the donation amount we received for the two weekends was comparable to the one weekend of the Pumpkin Train. So that's good news. I would like to thank all who setup decorations the two days before the event and those who cleaned up after the Fall Meet.

Our Fall Meet this year was specifically designed to be a low key event with minimal setup and contact. Attendance was down as expected. With me being the host I was able to speak with everyone and help them get to their designated spots. Our reservation system continues to reduce the stress of where to stick trains. Everyone including board members enjoyed running trains for three days. This kind of event was enjoyable for all and may be something we think about doing in the future.

This is our election month. Come out to the park November 21 at 1:30 pm to put in your vote.

Next up Santa Train. We will run the first two weekends in December with a modified version of our traditional Santa Train. Come out to support the club.



Meet photos thanks to Robert Forren.



**SVLSRM Calendar**

Club future activity will depend on VIRUS GUIDELINES. *Please check on-line about Public activity.*

Nov 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM  
 Nov 21 Membership meeting 1:30 at club track, elections.  
 Nov 21 Member run day.

Dec 5 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**  
 Dec 6 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**  
 Dec 12 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**  
 Dec 13 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**  
 Dec 14 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM

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



**Help us save money by not mailing your newsletters. Read it on-line.**

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.



See [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.

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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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



**Welcome New Members**

**John Cooper,  
 Penryn**

**Sabrina Carrera,  
 Sacramento**

**George & Lisa Blount,  
 Citrus Heights**



**Board of Directors**

(##) *Ending year of term*

- President: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (21)  
 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: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (21)  
 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 (21)  
 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 (21)  
 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**

**Secretary Board Report**

*By Stephanie Huntingdale*

October Board meeting.

The Board continues to meet by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, contact Andy Berchielli, (916) 752-6697, for how to connect to ZOOM or Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 for an Agenda. Long Range Planning - A committee was established to look into the cost of replacing the hydraulic lifts.

Replacement of the trestle at the lower yard was completed before the Fall Meet.

FCR 2020-03 – Steaming Bay Lights -Two lights were up for the Fall Meet.

Harvest Express – the two weekends were a success and the club made income offsetting some of 2020’s loss of income.

2021 Meet Dates are Set – Spring will be May 14-16, 2021, and Fall Meet will be October 15-17, 2021. Mark your Calendars!

Grant Application opportunities will be explored in 2021 by Chris Donhost.

Board Member Nominations and Elections - The voting Ballot is included in this Newsletter. It is one vote for Member household. Your ballot must be received before the Membership Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Better yet, come to the meeting at the club and cast your vote, 1:30 pm. No pot luck this year, bring your lunch. See you then!

Santa Train is our most productive income for the club. Ways to make it profitable and enjoyable for the public are still being discussed, should be finalized at the November Board Meeting. Volunteers will be needed to help with set up. Set up will begin Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Santa Run is December 5 & 6 and December 12 & 13. No cookies, hot chocolate, cider etc. will be served this year. Kids will not be able to sit on Santa’s lap. Got an idea? Turn it in to a Board Member.



**Director - Steve Milward**



Greetings! As always, I hope that all are healthy and safe. Our Harvest Express trains ran the first two weekends in October. Even without the opportunity for guests to wander around and pick a pumpkin, hundreds of folks enjoyed a train ride. Once aboard they experienced the many Autumn and Halloween decorations. Thanks to those who helped with the decorations and train operations. It’s good to keep the public engaged in our activities, and it helps our financial well-being too.

Well, the 2020 Fall Meet actually happened! As expected, the number of participants and guests was lower than past events. Those who joined us, however, enjoyed beautiful weather, lots of rooms to run and best of all, a chance to see friends again! Thank you to all of the attendees, and to the folks that made the meet happen.

It’s election time! The election for the 2021 Board of Directors/Officers will take place in November. No matter how you vote, your participation is important. How we grow and move forward is determined by those folks you vote for. If you don’t vote, you’ve lost an opportunity to make your voice heard. Please take a few minutes to be a part of the process.

Looking forward – Our annual Santa trains will look decidedly different this year. While kids won’t have the opportunity to talk directly to Santa, be assured that we are working towards an event that will give children and families a way to be photographed with Santa Claus and still maintain social distancing. Details to follow, but please know that as with our other public events, we’ll need lots of help from our members to make this happen.

One last item – For those folks who unlock the various padlocks protecting our gates and lockers, please, please, please zero those locks once you’ve opened them. On several occasions I’ve found a gate padlock open, with the combination still showing. Not much point in trying to keep the facility secure if we’re going to advertise the combination. If you unlock something, zero the lock and make sure you, or someone else assumes responsibility to lock it again at the end of the day.

Thank you, and we hope to see you on the rails soon.





**Harvest Festival Train Crews**  
**10-3-, 10-4, 10-10, 10-11**  
Steve Millward, Dennis Bowie, Dennis Gramith,  
Andy Berchielli, Chris Klavesalh, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Tom Nance,  
Gordon & Barbara Moser, Harry Voss,

Glen Wilson, Dean Sheets,  
Bill & Butch Floyd, Colton Snell, Gordon Durham  
Richard, Amy, Sarah, Brianna Lutrel, Craig Griffin ,  
Christopher Roberts & Chloe, Harald Walker,  
Don & Toy Yungling , Kevin & Andrew Sach

**Tuesday 9-29-2020**

Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Gordon & Barbara Moser,  
Gordon Dunham, Steve Arigotti, Earl Martin,  
Ralph Merrill, Ken Crawford, Andy Berchieli, Colton Snell,  
Leonard Casseri, Bob Dean, Bill & Butch Floyd



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

**1.12 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 permission from the Board of Directors. This includes treated or distilled water, fuel, cars, locomotive, tools, material, etc.

**2.09 Sight Glasses**

Steam boilers shall have a water level gauge located such that water at the bottom of the glass is covering the crown sheet by at least 5/8" for 1 1/2" scale (or larger) when the locomotive is level. The top of the water glass fitting must be connected to the top of the boiler, not the turret. The sight glass must be capable of being "blown down" and shall be checked during the steam up process.

**3.19 Bad Order Cards**

Equipment that is taken out of service shall be tagged for cause. Tagged equipment must not be operated or coupled to any engines or cars except for repairs or corrections. The bad order card shall not be removed until repair is fixed.

**4.10 Passenger Train equipment**

Each public passenger train shall be equipped with proper documentation materials i.e.; clip board, Conductor report, incident/accident forms, operable writing pen, whistle, two way radio, red flag, and current rules book.



**Please stay safe and follow State guidelines to do your part in preventing the spread of this Covid-19 virus.**



**10 Years ago:**

Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society's 2010 Convention was held in Sacramento and we were honored that about 50 from their group came out to SVLSRM to ride the rails.

Dave Stanley - Convention Chairman stated, "Thank you so much for hosting a memorable visit for our group. The SP equipment operating was a real joy, and I, for one, enjoyed

running Ed Youngling's AC12. I know others enjoyed their throttle time as well, especially those highly detailed GP9s. And Chris, I hope I didn't tax your Mogul too badly! That was a fun lap around the park.

We certainly appreciated the barbecue (the food was delicious) and the welcome buttons. Both a very nice touch, indeed. Although I had hoped more of our conventioners would have visited, those that did attend had a ball, to say the least! Thanks again. Special thanks to our members Ed Yungling, Don Yungling, Matt Mason, Casey Wilmunder who brought their SP engines to show and ride. You can visit their web site at: <http://www.sphts.org/>

**20 Years ago:** Engines running out the... The popularity of our club is no more evident than during the Spring and Fall meets. People arrive early in the week and by Saturday morning the Steaming bays are filled to capacity and beyond. This fall meet was no exception. We were able to fill every steaming bay with steam engines and fill the yards with Diesel and Electric type locomotives. Since we had the pleasure of Pete Arney, not one, but two, large mallet locomotives during this meet, the inbound track and one of the lower yard tracks were used to fire up these two behemoths. The larger proliferation of engines is also accompanied with a plethora of cars. It was not an uncommon sight to see sidings as well as yard tracks filled with long strings of cars belonging to our members and visitors.

**40 Years ago:** Thanks, Thanks, thanks for your response to the plea for funds. Including income from the best, certainly most profitable, Fall meet ever, we're back up to \$1450. Contributors were many... plus Clyde Johnson who gave a riding car.

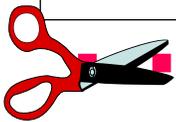
Now an "eyewitness" account of the big day by Bill Fisher, who says it was all started by Ed Spall, who wrote channel 10 TV station in Sacto about a feature on SVLS for their PM Magazine. "All engineers got their batteries charged by a personal interview on camera with tall, beautiful, friendly Diana Damron. Then things began to move...ably directed by Pres Shelley, trainmaster. All went smoothly ...Highlight of the day came (Late in the afternoon) when Diana climbed astride the Jolly Green Giant inbound to the turntable. She was to open the throttle and proceed into the desperately trying to hold the engine from running off the end of the track. Everyone clapped! The whole camera crew were friendly, co-operative and patient. It was a fun day for the SVLS.

**Voting Members if you can not come to the meeting on Nov. 21st, then please mail in your ballot.**

**Vote for each position - Yardmaster and Director vote for only one.**

Vice President	Y / N	Dennis Gramith
Yardmaster		Richard Lutrel
		Christopher Roberts
Treasurer	Y / N	Tom Nance
Track Superintendent	Y / N	Dennis Bowie
Director at Large		Graig Griffin
		Bill Yoder

**Please mail by Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Send to:**  
 SVLSRM  
 P.O. Box 273,  
 Rancho Cordova,  
 CA 95741



**Yardmaster:**

**Richard Lutrel**



Hello I'm Richard Lutrel and I am running for yard master. I have been a member of SVLS for 18 years. I have been an active member and held numerous positions on the board over the years. I enjoy taking care of the grounds and hope to continue doing so. I take great pride in maintaining and up keeping the lawn mower. In closing I look forward to serving another two years as Yard Master.

**Christopher Roberts**



With over two years of experience of lawn care, I have learned how to edge avoid sprinkler heads and mow lawns with intricate patterns. Now that my weekends are free and I have a good paying job money through Friday I am now eager to put more time into Sacramento Valley live steamers. I therefore would like to apply for the position of yardmaster to come in on a weekly, or bi weekly basis to maintain all the lawns and grounds. I have a passion to serve the railroad to maintain a pleasant view for all members and visitors adding to the experience of riding trains. Additionally I have worked on track and switches and also helped build the G scale layout. I have several years ago cleaned up the entire steaming bay prior to the spring meet and I will often have come in with pressure washers to pressurize and wash the caboose and box-car.

*Candidate's statements continued next page.*

**Treasurer**

**Tom Nance**



This organization has come to be a big part of my life, and I have met many great folks along the way. For me, being able to run for Treasurer, means taking on the responsibility to see that we continue to grow in the community, and be a presence for future generations to be able to come out to learn and enjoy our railroad. I have been a member of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers for many years now and while employment opportunities have pulled me away in the past, I have found a new and long term home at UC Davis. I don't believe these past opportunities were a loss for each one taught me a lesson that has allowed me to develop myself and learn new skills. This new opportunity has allowed me to stay close to home and commit many weekends to helping with maintenance, birthdays, special events, and run days, while allowing me to work on my own projects. Now, I am looking to run for Treasurer. I previously served a short time as Treasurer in 2014-15, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve again. Over the last several years, Alison has done a wonderful job developing this position and I hope to be able to keep it going.

**Track Superintendent**

**Dennis Bowie**



Hi! My name is Dennis Bowie, I have been the track superintendent for the past 6 years ( at the end of this year it will be 6 years) I took on this job to make sure that our track is safe and enjoyable to ride on. I have agreed to run for one more term, there are projects that have been started and I would like to see them completed. The one this that I would like to complete is to have the main line complete with steal rail. When track project come up I look forward to working with anyone that has a desire to work, learn and have a great time fellowshiping with one another.

**Vice President**

**Dennis Gramith**



My name is Dennis Gramith, and I am once again running for the position of Vice President on the board of directors of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum. I have been a member since around the time of the first Golden Spike ceremony (over forty years). During that time, I served as President for seven years, and Vice president for longer than that.

While retiring from the board sounds tempting, I feel the long duration of my involvement still has value for bringing a historical aspect to the current operations of the board. Additionally, over the years, I have developed good working relationships with the park district, the city and the community council, which are of great value to our organization. If you would like me to continue serving, I would be most grateful for your vote.



**Director At Large**

**Craig Griffin**



I don't join clubs normally, but I love the atmosphere of Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. I've never left feeling like "Well that was a waste of a day or time!" I look forward to helping to improve all aspects of the club, whether I'm on the board or not.

I helped build Redwood Flats g scale layout and now I love to see people enjoying it.

I get to take care of Levi which is a true honor!

And yes, I have been converted to the other side of 7.5" ride on.

I know I will have a positive influence if elected onto the board. Being on the board will just be a bonus for me and hopefully the club.

**Bill Yoder**



Sharing the joy of railroading, educating others about this fascinating hobby and celebrating history are important goals of SVLSRM. Together we grow our organization by having member run days, by further developing the track and facilities and encouraging others in the community to experience what we enjoy when we build and

run our engines and trains. Why? Because it's fun, and that's why we are here!

I am currently on the SVLS board as Director at large (nothing to do with my size). I have been the Golden Spike editor for 17 plus years, maintain our web site, and continue to work on club projects and special events. What does it take to be on the board? The ability to be a leader, to communicate with the membership - to listen and inform, and promote this Live Steam organization. These things I do.

Thank you for your support in the past. If you share these goals, please vote for me.

