

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlslrm.org

February 2022

Volume 49, Issue 02

## Director - Steve Milward

Greetings, and Happy New Year!

I trust that all managed to get through the holidays safely and in good health.



Now that the activities of November and December are behind us, we're diving headlong into 2022. Thanks to many volunteers, in the first two weeks of January we've accomplished the following – Removed all the old main line, center siding and spur track. Built four new turnouts, plus two more being rebuilt. Excavated and graded the roadbed, trenched for water power and signals. Built additional track panels.

But wait, there's more! – Club locomotives and rolling stock are receiving much needed attention. Planning and design work for capital improvements are underway. General maintenance and clean-up continue.

How is all of this happening? It's a dedicated crew of volunteers. Folks who understand that in order to run trains, we all need to pitch in towards making it happen. Some help with their time and labor, others with ever important monetary contributions. I've said it before – This organization is the sum of all its parts, and all of its members.

Looking ahead, we got a lot to accomplish in the next 6 weeks. Track to be laid. Ballast to be dropped. Track aligning, leveling and tamping. If you can spare some time, you'll be helping us make a great railroad even better!

Hope to see you at the park. - Steve



HillView after Old tracks removed.



## Members working in January.

Alan Shifley, Alison Berry, Andy Berchielli, Bill & Butch Floyd, Bob Ress, Craig Griffin, Dave Cladianos, Dave Silvernail, Dennis Bowie, Dennis Gramith, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Harry Voss, John Bailey, Larry Curtin, Mike Skums, Richard Corbell, Steve Milward, Tom Nance, Toy Yungling, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Keith Berry, Paul Skidmore, Chris Klevesahl, Richard Nelsen



Now ready for roadbed

### SVLSRM Calendar

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

Jan. 29 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Jan. 30 - Club work day - Winter Projects

Feb. 5 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 6 - Club work day - Winter Projects

**Feb. 7 - Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom**

Feb. 12 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 13 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 19 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 20 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 26 - Club work day - Winter Projects  
Feb. 27 - Club work day - Winter Projects

Mar. 5 Public run day 11AM - 3PM - **check on-line**  
Mar. 6 Public run day 11AM - 3PM - **check on-line**  
Mar. 14 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom  
Mar. 19 Work day.

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



See [www.svlstrm.org](http://www.svlstrm.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@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org).

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



### New Year's Day Members Run Day

Andy Berchielli, Rich Nelsen, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Dennis Gramith, Bill & Butch Floyd, Dennis, Heidi, Maren, Ryan Bowie, Barbara & Mike Schoellkopf, Michael Fitzgerald, Alison Berry, Michael Duffy, Chris Klevesahl, Les, Cindy, Casey Wilmunder, Richard, Amy, Sarah, Brianna Lutrel, Chris, Paul, Eli Donhost, Don, Toy Yungling, Terry Willes, Tom Nance, Larry & Terri Curtin, Dale Dennis, Jim & Peter Welch

### Board of Directors

(##) *Ending year of term*

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

### President's Report

By Andy Berchielli



January and February is our offseason when we address track upgrades. In 2009 we started the process of replacing the mainline track from aluminum rail on wood ties to steel rail on plastic ties. This year we are finally completing that goal with the replacement of Hillview track. Once complete our mainline will be all steel on plastic ties. This month of January we have removed the old Hillview track; did some ground work to expand signal system and water expansion; got four new switches built along with all the steel track panels Steve has been working on last year; and will end the month laying down the road bed and hopefully start connecting track panels. Main workdays are on each Saturday. Some are out there on Sunday too.

Board meetings continue to be hosted via Zoom. The month of February the board meeting will be hosted on the 7th to avoid the conflict for all the sweethearts on the 14th.



Paul Skidmore working on another turnout as he has been volunteering for years at SVLS.



Dennis Bowie, Don Yungling, & Dennis Gramith

### FLOOD AT SVLSRM

**On Saturday, February 5th, 2022 Please come out to the park and help us pick up the FLOOD of leaves that have fallen! Your HELP IS NEEDED! Everyone can rake. Bring a rake with you. 10 AM till ?**

**Hamburger BBQ for all volunteer workers.**



### G Scale Equipment Donation

An Alco Unit A & B painted in Southern Pacific colors, many freight cars and three Southern Pacific passenger cars. LGB engine, some track and a trestle.

Robert Nielsen donated on behalf of past member Harry Harwood's G Scale equipment. The equipment was given to Robert's mother when Harry passed away in 2006. They had plans, however never did anything with the equipment. Robert thought that SVLSRM should have the equipment because Harry had enjoyed his time at the club.

The passenger cars were hand made by Harry. They are wired for lights, and the dining car has tables.



*Thank you*



**10 Years ago:** The start of this year has been a rough on our facilities and tools as we have had several break-ins and theft. The first occurrence was discovered Dec. 20, as the roundhouse had been broken into and several tool boxes, band saw, and garden cart were taken. The locks were busted, and some had been cut with what looked like a cutoff wheel (hurrah for battery tools). I found that they had cut the lock at the corner of the yard by the

Animal fence. On New Years Day we found the double gate lock had been broken but did not discover anything missing that we know.

These occurrences were reported to the Rancho Cordova police, who then came out.

A written report was filed. We also had more vandalism as the north gate chain was cut, the Sugar Pine gate was taken off the hinges and an attempt was made to get into the box car. A vandalism report was also filed with the police. Suggestions has been to put up motion lights and not leave the yard lights on, or motion triggered cameras.

**20 Years ago:** Tree pruning continued under the careful direction of Yardmaster Gordon Moser with an able crew consisting of Lee Frechette, Pete Arney, Jack Friedman, and Frank Dolosso. Nearly all the tree crowns have now been brought under control. We want to thank these guys as this has involved many man-hours and several weeks of steady work to accomplish. Track Superintendent Dave Mattox led Will Jordan and John Wallace in rehabilitation of the track at Midway. President Dale Fowlar worked on the transition joint between the aluminum and steel track in the same area, and Club Secretary Chris Donhost walked the track joints. Barbara Moser and Mary Neville gave the garden planters a much needed face lift, while Paul Clifton performed the all important cooking duties for the crews.

Ross Crawford and Karle Mahler repaired and serviced the Club band saw and also assisted Trainmaster Don Juergenson with completion of repairs to the green riding car set. By the way, Don worked out a solution to the side play problem on these cars. I think you will be amazed at the difference. They ride like new! -- Dale Fowlar

**30 Years ago:** I am happy to report that we are making very impressive headway with our expansion program. We had an excellent turnout at our January work day with well over twenty people in attendance, too many to credit each individual in this note. I would however, like to give special thanks to Bill Roscoe and Jeff Calbreath for driving long distance to attend, coming from Modesto and Corning respectively. Bill Roscoe also deserves recognition for the fine job he did in constructing 9 very heavy duty switch throws for the club. Also would like to thank Al Shelly and anyone else that worked with him, for constructing the switch which will connect the expansion area to the existing track. Ed Spall continues to devote much time to panel track construction with 13 more panels completed since the January work day. Speaking of panel construction, 30 kits went out to various members on the last work day. At that rate, we will have no problem meeting our goal of completing the first 800 foot loop of

track by the Spring Meet. On the January work day, the right-of-way from the existing track to the bridge was graded and ballasted, ready for track. On February 3, Milon and Ed Spall installed the switch to cut into the expansion areas as well as about 30 feet of track. Plans are set to pour the cement for the bridge abutments on Saturday, February 8, if the weather will allow. Again, a special thanks to all of you who have devoted so much time to make all of this happened. - Doug Fulton, Superintendent

**40 Years ago:** Progress A recent weekend found Alan Shelley's shop at full production. Wheels, switch and track parts were emerging from piles of metal chips at a surprising rate. Track Chairman Warren Rose reports that Al has brought the new switches to the point of "frog machining". Perhaps Ed Yungling will have the frogs ready for show and tell at this meeting.

Chuck Corothers and his non-stop shovel were busy on the January 16 work day. Earth moving fro the new passenger loading siding was started. (Lots left to move...bring shovels and wheelbarrows this month). In addition to Chuck, others working in the area included: Al and Joe DeFreitas, Darrel McWhirk, Don Juergenson, Amandas Drews, Warren Rose, Earl McKenzie, the Gramith's and several youngsters led by the Rosen boys. Weeds were sprayed, leaks were sealed, trees were trimmed, and hamburgers were washed down with coffee and hot chocolate around a small bonfire to chase the chill.

A P.R. boost. Local free-lance writer hopes to have S.V.L.S. feature in this Thursday's Sacramento Union with more to follow.



How many people does it take to fold up a table?





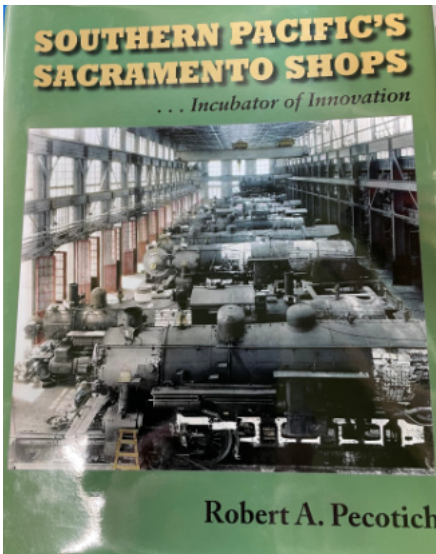
**Librarian - Alison Berry**

The featured book for February is "Southern Pacific's Sacramento Shops. . . Incubator of Innovation by Robert A. Pecotich. This description is from the front flap of the book. "The largest and oldest of SP's General Shops, Sacra-

mento built or rebuilt hundreds of steam and diesel locomotives, and thousands of freight and passenger cars, along with extensive work on passenger and official cars, in its history from 1868 to 1990.

This was one of the largest and most productive railroad shops in North America. In the 19th century, many new locomotives for Central Pacific and Southern Pacific were produced at the Shops, along with much rolling stock. From 1890 until the 1920s, SP turned primarily to commercial builders for rolling stock and locomotives, but an outgrowth of assembling a few locomotives during the USRA period was a new spurt of locomotive building, until 1937.

After the end of steam, the Shops were reconfigured for diesel locomotive repair, and in 1969 an immense rebuilding program commenced which was to renew during the 1970s and 1980s more than 500 diesels for further service. Closure of the Shops came in 1990.



Author Bob Pecotich has extensively researched the Shops and many of its products, particularly locomotives and official cars, as well as the story of the many thousands of craftsmen who worked there through the decades. The result of thorough study, this is a complete, detailed and well-illustrated his-

tory, with many previously unpublished images of work in the Shops and of the many locomotives and rolling stock which the Shops produced, repaired, or rebuilt.

Coverage in this book ranges from the earliest days, before the driving of the Gold Spike at Promontory, through most of SP's history, to the final closure.

Containing 496 pages, the book contains over 600 photos, along with 21 drawings and maps, and has both a bibliography and an index. The dust jacket image is a 1930s image of the Erecting Hall at the Shops."

**MEMBERSHIP**

by Stacy Reese

**I would like to welcome our new members:**

**Michael Duffy**

**Chuck Maley**

It's that time of year when membership dues need to be paid. Yearly dues cover the period from January 1 to December 31. You can pay with cash, check, or PayPal.

I would like to update the list of members that would like to help with the birthday parties. The parties are very popular and we are always looking for help. Please send me an email or give me a call if you would like to help.

The Train Crew List is another thing that might need your attention. If you need to update any of your test, they are good for two years, please come down to the park and re-certify. Copies of the tests are available on the website.



**TRACK UPDATE**

By Phil Huntingdale



This January has brought some beautiful days of steaming on the table. The steam exhausting from the stacks in impressive on those brisk mornings,

however, the days turned pleasantly warmer. No rain has helped the day's attendance as well. Several members have been down on Tuesdays to play trains. Some are early in the morning and others arrive later in the day, so, come at your convenience. The electric and battery locomotive are operating as well. Come share the table.

Just a reminder, during the months of January and February the club closes down the public run days, however, each Saturday is a work day. All hands can help with cleaning leaves and branches from the property. Dennis Bowie has had a great crew working on the building and replacement of steel rails along Hillview East and West and siding between on the 7.5" railroad. His crew can use added help.

If you can find some time on Saturdays, come on down. Others are working on other projects in the park and can use help.

Keep in mind that the club is there for all members, either to run trains or for socializing. See you about!



Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters 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.

### Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is November 8, 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.

Park Department reviewed our plans for a storage building and sent a letter to Dennis Gramith with conditions. Basically accepted our plan. Chris Donhost will look into application for RC Measure H.

Purchased 4 new switches from Allen Works for Hillview track replacement project. Working on fabric and ballast for track replacement. Members are encouraged to attend Saturday work sessions.

The main loop is closed. If members want to run trains they could use Sugar Pine loop.

Pacific Tender has new brass and copper tubing.

Safety Chairman, Larry Curtin is looking into the best security camera, without internet for our location.

Bylaws – Chris Donhost presented the Membership revision for the Bylaws. Target date for mailing would be February 10, 2022, April 16, 2022 - Special meeting on Saturday at the club to discuss the changes. May 20, 2022 - Spring Meet General Meeting - Bylaws will be voted in by a simple majority of the members present.

\$3,000 is being transferred from our General Fund to the Track Business Fund

Larry Curtin was nominated by Andy B. to complete Craig Griffins term as Director at Large. Board accepted the nomination.



Mike Skums mowed the steaming bays area and station area.



### SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

1.07 Cargo Weight  
Cargo weight should be evenly distributed between the trucks of each car.

### 2.12 Boiler Inspection

All steam boilers operated at the SVLSRM facility shall carry a current boiler inspection tag, or card. This tag or card shall state the hydrostatic test pressure, the maximum operating pressure and the safety valve settings. The SVLSRM will accept valid current boiler inspection tag or card issued by recognized Live Steam Clubs for operation of steam locomotives and equipment on the SVLSRM facilities.

### 3.01 Responsibilities of the Engineer

The Engineer is responsible for the safe handling of the train and the cars at all times. They must be in close cooperation with all other operating personnel, observing all rules and signals (whistles, hand, flag or light) given by the conductor and stationmaster. They must run their engine in conformance with SVLSRM safety rules at all times. They must see that any SVLSRM equipment used by them is returned to its proper storage space at the end of their run, unless another engineer takes over the responsibility of such equipment and agrees to see that such equipment is properly stored after its use.

### 4.01 Qualifications of Crew

Trains hauling General Public must be operated by qualified Engineers and Conductors who are members of SVLSRM.

All operating personnel, while on duty, shall have a copy of these operating rules in their possession or on the train.

The Board of Directors may restrict or suspend from duty any operating personnel who consistently violate safety rules.



Mike Skums, Leonard Cassieri, Bob Ress, David Cladianos