

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

November 2022

Volume 49, Issue 11



President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

The new format of the pumpkin train was a huge success. We had over 1300 attendees who enjoyed the new layout and most spent the day with us. Of course it doesn't

happen without all our volunteers who make it happen. Thank you to all.

Our Fall Meet was one of the most attended in recent memory. Five days out I had all the steaming bays full. That's 32 steam engines. We will most likely add a few more bays in the future. We enjoyed a full weekend of running trains and enjoying each others company.

Next event is the annual Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree lighting at Village Green Park. We setup the portable track on Nov. 26; bring the trains over on the 27 and run from 4-7pm. Help is always needed for this event.

Finally we end the year with our Santa Train the first two weekends in December from 11-3pm. Decorations will go up the 1st and 2nd as need be. Volunteers needed in many areas. For those wanting to bring their personal train out to help please let me know so we can plan accordingly. Ideally we have 3 trains running, maybe 4 if we have the crews.



Our annual General Membership meeting and election is November 19th. Nominations were accepted at the October members meeting. See page 3 for list of candidates.

Members Please vote.

Our Santa Train

event is our most popular event. Every year we are overwhelmed by the attendance. In order to achieve an efficient flow we are expanding our ticket



reservations to all day. Last year we designated one train for presale and it worked great. This year we will make ticket reservations available for all 3 trains. The flow of the event will be three trains running for the day. Each train will have a time that they will depart. We are allowing 1/2 hour for a complete lap with photo and Santa visit. Trains will leave in 10 minute intervals with the first train leaving at 10:30; 2nd train at 10:40; + 3rd train at 10:50. The 10:30 train will arrive back at the station for the 11am departure. 10:40 train will leave at 11:10. Then just repeat that process for the rest of day. This means those with private engines need to be ready to leave before the first departure. Otherwise we are behind all day which we are trying to avoid with this format.

I will contact those that help with private equipment to schedule what day you are available. I know of 6 trains willing to help. We can't run all 6 in one day. Three a day will be scheduled. If you want to help and haven't talked with me let me know so we can make plans on what day is best. Three trains will allow Santa more time with each train instead of being rushed.

Santa Train is \$8 a person. 2 and under free. Includes train ride with free digital download. Tickets go on sale on November 8. Santa Train Dec 3+4 and 10+11. First departs at 10:30 Last train of day will depart at 2:30.

Have questions then please call Andy Berchielli

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

Nov. 14 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom
 Nov. 19 Work day, & Annual General Membership meeting and Elections at 1:30PM.
 Nov. 20 Member RUN day.
 Nov. 26 Rancho Cordova Tree Lighting – Saturday, set up portable track and level,
 Nov. 27 Sunday – tree lighting rides begin at 4 pm to 7
 Nov. 28 Take down of track and return to the park.

Dec. 1 & 2 Set up for Santa.
 Dec. 3-4 Santa run 11AM to 3PM
 Dec. 10-11 Santa run 11AM to 3PM

Jan. 1, 2023 New Year day members run

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



See 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.

The Golden Spike is 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@svlstrm.org.

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

MEMBERSHIP

by Stacy Reese

The Fall Meet was a great success! A big "THANK YOU" to all who contributed their time and energy. We had almost 30% of the membership pay their dues for the upcoming year at the Meet. Those of you that still need to pay can do so by sending a check or with a credit card through the website. We also had a few people join and I would like to welcome I would like to welcome:

**Barbara and Michael Schoellkopf
 Dennis and Brenda Long
 John Broughman
 Joel and Melissa Hartwell
 Ted and Donna Marcopulos
 Skip and Linda Nance
 Spencer Ferrington, Jr**

Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term

President: Andy Berchielli (916) 752-6697 (23)

E-mail: president@svlstrm.org

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (22)

E-mail: vicepresident@svlstrm.org

Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (23)

E-mail: secretary@svlstrm.org

Treasurer: Tom Nance, (714) 795-4630 (22)

E-mail: treasurer@svlstrm.org

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (22)

E-mail: tracksuper@svlstrm.org

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (22)

E-mail: yardmaster@svlstrm.org

Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (23)

E-mail: trainmaster@svlstrm.org

Director1: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367 (22)

E-mail: director_larry@svlstrm.org

Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (23)

E-mail: director_steve@svlstrm.org

Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850

E-mail: membership@svlstrm.org

Librarian Chairperson: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: librarian@svlstrm.org

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: caboose@svlstrm.org

Birthday & Company Events Chairperson:

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: Events@svlstrm.org

Safety Chairperson: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367

E-mail: director_Larry@svlstrm.org

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder

E-mail: editor@svlstrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM

Voting Members if you can not come to the meeting on Nov. 19th, then please mail in your ballot.

Vote Yes or NO on each.

Vice President	Y / N	Tom Nance
Treasure	Y / N	Stacy Reese
Track Superintendent	Y / N	Steve Milward
Yard Master	Y / N	Chris Klevesahl
Director at large	Y / N	Larry Curtin

Please mail by Nov. 15th. Send to:

SVLSRM
P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

ELECTION



Tom Nance

As this organization’s Treasurer, the last two years have been a very educational and rewarding experience, and I am proud of the work our membership has done to provide a positive atmosphere for those who visit our railroad. As we continue to develop and grow, our vision for providing a place where anyone can come learn and experience our hobby and railroading, will continue to hold true. While we strive to improve the visitor experience during our most popular events, we hope this will encourage more people to get involved, and learn about what makes this railroad so special. At a time when a pandemic and uncertainty has overshadowed our daily lives, we have successfully been able to provide a place where families can momentarily escape reality, and enjoy a train ride.

For this upcoming election, I will be running for Vice President of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum. It is well known that Dennis Gramith has dedicated YEARS to this organization, and his experience and knowledge holds tremendous value. If elected, it is my goal to learn as much as I can from Dennis, and to continue this organization’s positive influence in the community, for years to come.



Stacy Reese

Hi everyone! I'm running for the Treasurer position and would like your vote. As the only one running, I guess you have limited choice. LOL. I can find words and dollars in the books, do the tax returns and give meaningful reports to the Board and membership.

Thanks for your consideration.



Larry Curtin

My name is Larry Curtin, and I would like to continue to serve on the board as Director at Large. I am also currently serving as Safety Officer I am knowledgeable in electronics and computers. I am also currently qualified as diesel engineer and conductor. I really enjoy being a part of the community of Sacramento Valley Live Steamers and would like to continue to be an ambassador of this club and to share my knowledge of the club to new visitors and promote membership opportunities. In my spare time, I enjoy drumming in my band and kayaking on the American River and photography. Thank you in advance for your consideration for this position. Sincerely, Larry Curtin

Continue with more Election information on next page



Steve Milward

I have been a member of the SVLS since about 2012. It only took one visit to the railroad to be hooked on live steam. Almost from the beginning I wanted to do more than just run trains. I felt that was a privilege that required me to give back to the organization that gave me such joy. Nowadays, I regard many members of our organization as friends and part of an extended family.

That said, I sort of gravitated towards trackwork. There was a sense of progress and accomplishment. For the last few years, I've worked under the tutelage of Dennis Bowie. His work ethic and desire to improve our railroad was not lost on me.

As Dennis Bowie has decided to step down, I offered to run for the position of Track Superintendent. My hope is that I will be able to uphold the high standards that he has established. Please know that this is not a one-man job. Maintaining and improving our railroad right of way will require the knowledge, assistance and participation of our many members. If I am elected to this position, I will hope that our members will answer when called upon to assist with projects that will make a great railroad even better. I am only one person, and our organization is truly the sum of all its parts.



Chris Klevesahl

For those not familiar with who I am, I joined the Live Steamer in early 2020. Since then, I have enjoyed meeting and developing relationships with the members and learning the “ins and outs” of this great hobby of model railroading. Being new and wanting to know everything about everything, I began to participate on the “workdays”. Being one of those people who goes around asking others “What is that?” “What does it do?” “Can you show me how to do that?” The members have been very patient with my questions, showing me how to safely operate the club’s equipment, locomotives. In taking part in many of the club’s public events and meets, I have become to appreciate what the SVLS founders accomplished in creating this wonder railroad for the public and members to enjoy. To see the expressions on the faces of parents and kids as they experience a ride around the railroad is really something. Hearing comments like “This is great! I never knew this was here” or “We come to see Santa every Christmas. It’s our family tradition” gives this railroad a real purpose and importance to the community. As Yard Master I will make every effort to keep the appearance of the SVLS railroad as the founders intended. A peaceful place allowing riders to briefly escape back to an earlier childhood time when they loved trains as I did.



FRIENDLY FACES GREET VISITORS RIDING OUR PUMPKIN TRAIN SEARCHING FOR THE GREAT PUMPKIN.



HELP! Volunteer for Santa Train.

Santa Train is our biggest fund raiser of the year. It is two weekends, December 3 & 4 and December 10 & 11. Your help is needed to make this a successful event for our attendees. Take a look at this schedule; see if there is an area that you can help. Thank you to those who already signed up at the Fall Meet!

Trains and Train Crews- Contact Andy Berchielli, 916-752-6697

Park Decorating/Set-up – we will be putting out Christmas decorations at the park the week before, November 30th, December 1st & 2nd. Need many helpers.

Ticket Sales, Saturday Dec. 3, Sunday, Dec 4, Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11 10am - 12pm - 2 people
12pm- 2:30pm - 2 people

Jobs could be: sell tickets to walk ups, check in pre-sales, verify times, direct to the correct line.

Pre-sale Lines- Saturday Dec. 3, Sunday, Dec 4, Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11: 3 lines, 1 volunteer each line 10am - 12pm 12pm - 2:30pm 3 people needed each time, total 6. Job could be: clipboard to check off names, verify time, give ticket, and send to correct line.

Sales of walk ups will need a Monitor for the line. 1 person

Santa's Village & Photos Same 4 days and times

Job could be: Help with photos, give picture UPC code to passenger cars, hand out candy canes, help cabooses with crew lunches, entertain waiting trains, be a reliever for breaks.

Please know that jobs and times are flexible with changes still in the planning process. For those volunteering for the morning times, we would appreciate it if you could arrive at the park by 9:00 am for a meeting to review the plan and do a walk through.

If you can do any of these jobs, please let a Board Member know, or you can call Andy or Stephanie Huntingdale 916-580-7377



TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale

The Fall Meet provided three days of small steam, electric, and battery locomotives in action. Several ran under the lights in the evening, and Andy and Brandon I understand were running G gauge locomotives past midnight on Friday night. The weather in the days and evenings was great; those attending indeed had a great time. With the larger locomotives and passengers passing by, this was a wonderful event shared by all. Channing with Accrucraft was selling several of their G gauge offerings. Channing announced he was leaving for other endeavors; he will be a great loss to our hobby. Thank you to the club members that made this event possible. We now look forward to next year's Spring Meet.

Next up, is Santa Train. Your help is needed the first two weekends of December for our Santa Train. Prior to the first weekend we will be out helping with decorating of the park and raking leaves and branches. Do you have any Christmas decorations you can loan the club for the first two weekends? Many volunteers are needed for this task. This is one of the club's main fundraiser's. Support the club with your time. Contact me or a Board member if you can help. 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.

See you about!



	<p>60¢</p>	<p>Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy.</p>
<p>Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters on-line. Average price per mailing over \$2.</p>		



10 Years ago: We had a good turnout at the Colfax railroad days event. UP had some equipment to show and we had some equipment to give rides. This event does provide some revenue but also helps promote this hobby and find new members so it is well worth it.

Special thanks to the following for taking the time to help setup the day before and run trains and get us back to our home track. Ann & Kevin Sach, Barbara & Gordon Moser, Ed Zeis, Ben Kleinwachter, Dick Patton, Gene Meyrs, Gil Beaird, Tim Gubbins, Lois Clifton, Dennis Gramith, Mary Ann Ward, Doug Fulton, Mark & Carson Wentz, Andy Berchielli, Butch Floyd and I can't read my writing, but a BIG THANKS.

Boys will be boys when it comes to watching trains roll through Colfax. How many cars did you count now?



Craig made use of his sleeper car during the Fall Meet.



Director - Steve Milward

Hello! It is with great pride and satisfaction that I say that our two big October events were absolute successes!

We welcomed large, happy crowds to our Pumpkin Trains. Many folks visited our railroad to enjoy great weather, lots of activities in a relaxing, family friendly, affordable environment.

Next up was the 2022 Fall Meet. Once again, our many members and visitors enjoyed 3 days of trains, comradery, good food and a chance to be together.

These events were successful due to all the members and guests who volunteered to pitch in. Our thanks to each and every one of you!

Coming up at the end of November will be the Christmas Tree lighting at the Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova. This is our opportunity to give back to the City of Rancho Cordova. Following that is our big event of the year - The Santa Trains!

These events are an opportunity to let the SVLS shine. In short, we will need your help! Traditionally, Sundays at the Santa Train bring the biggest crowds. Often those are the days we have fewer volunteers. Any help you can provide will be most appreciated.

Until later, we'll hope to see you on the railroad.



Don't say you are all tied up at home, come out and support your club.

Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is November 14th, 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. October Pumpkin Train attended by 1,318

FCR 2020-03 Steaming Bay Lights – second light will be lowered and pole painted.

The Election Committee presented the Nominations for the Board positions. See article in the November Gold Spike. Winter Project Proposals – suggested for further discussion:

- Trestle leaving out of main station completely rebuilt.
- Steel rail into Oasis station
- Steaming bay addition, 4 more tracks – Andy will show ideas at Fall Meet. Steel and posts needed. Stacy told Andy to contact Tom Reece.
- Secondary passing tracks at Oasis.
- Shade structure for Steaming Bays

2023 – 50th Anniversary for SVLSRM Gold Spike – will be celebrated at Spring Meet
Rule books and updating of train crew tests will be worked on over winter.

SVLSRM still needs volunteers for the Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree Lighting – set up on November 26th. Help will be needed for set-up and take down. Contact a Board member if you can help. The event is Sunday, November 27th, take down on Monday, November 28th. Volunteers still needed for Santa Train – first two weekends of December. Contact Andy or a Board Member if you can help.



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

1.08 Mode of seating

Passengers must remain seated, straddling seat, and facing forward, on the cars at all times until the train returns to the station. Arms and legs must be kept inside the cars at all times while the train is in motion.

2.10 Brakes

All locomotives or engineers' riding cars shall have the means to do a control stop in a safe manner.

3.02 Responsibilities of the Conductor

Each conductor shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light in their possession at all times while acting as conductor. They shall assist in loading or unloading passengers on the train. They shall be certain that all passengers on their train have been informed of the safety rules before signaling to the engineer to proceed from the station. They shall enforce all passenger safety rules while the train is in motion. They shall enforce rules and shall prevent any passengers from throwing any trash, garbage or other refuse from the train along the right-of-way. They shall align all switches (turnouts) for the mainline after use of such switches by their train. They shall assist the engineer when necessary and shall call for help when necessary to enforce any rules.

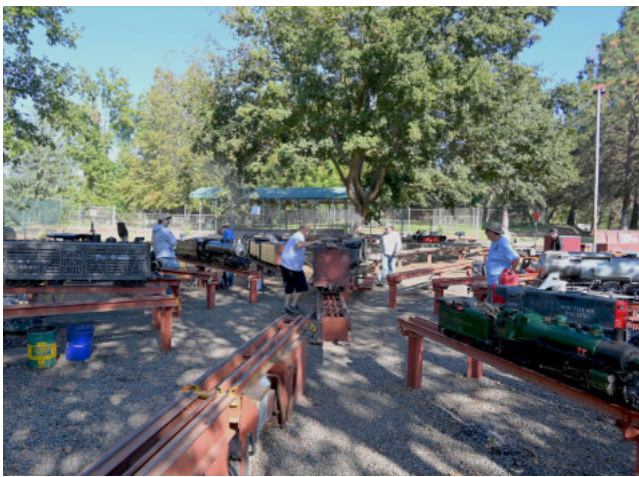
4.10 Passenger Train equipment

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.



Fall Meet - Electric trains, Combustion engines trains, and Steam trains. Great fun for all.

FALL MEET PHOTOS



Newsletter photos taken by:
Barbara Moser, Andy Berchielli, &
Bill Yoder.