

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

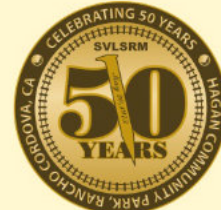
February 2023

Volume 50, Issue 2



Gold Spike Ceremony
And
Celebration of 50 Years

Spring Meet, May 19-21, 2023



Dear Members, Live Steamers and Railroad Enthusiast's:

You are invited to attend the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum (SVLSRM) Spring Meet on May 19-21, 2023, where we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the driving of the gold spike and the completion of the original route at Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova.

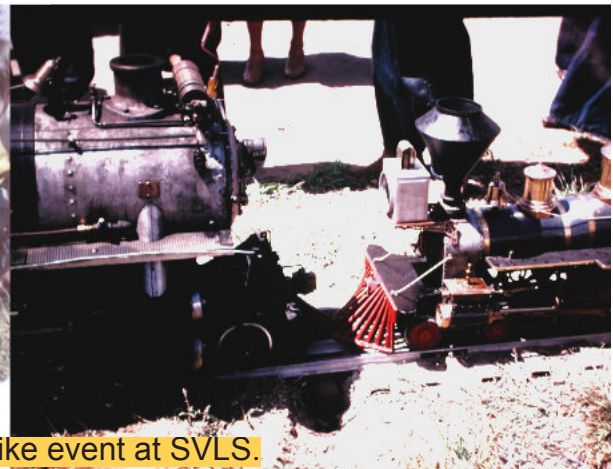
As part of the celebration, a ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 2:00 p.m. to recognize the achievements of SVLSRM's 50 years of operation. Dignitaries from the city of Rancho Cordova will be in attendance as well as members of the Park District. After the ceremony, we will invite everyone to participate in a parade of trains. There will be photos, videos and history to share throughout the weekend.

While our weekend celebration is in full swing, there will be steam, diesel, battery, electric and G-Gauge trains running all day and into the evening. There will be plenty of good food and camaraderie for all.

Mark your calendars now as this is a meet that you do not want to miss!

Registration will open on March 1, 2023 so plan to check our website, www.svlsrcm.org on that date for more information on how to register for track assignments, RV spots, food and merchandise.

We look forward to welcoming you to our grand Gold Spike celebration!



1973 The Golden spike event at SVLS.

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

Feb. 4-5 Club work day - Winter Projects
 Feb. 11-12 Club work day - Winter Projects
 Feb. 13 Board meeting 6:30
 Feb. 18-19 Club work day - Winter Projects
 Feb. 25 Club work day - Winter Projects

Mar. 4 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
 Mar. 5 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
 Mar. 13 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom
 Mar. 18 Work day.

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



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.



Dues are due.
Please stay onboard.

Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term

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

E-mail: president@svlstrm.org

Vice President: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (24)

E-mail: vicepresident@svlstrm.org

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

E-mail: secretary@svlstrm.org

Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850 (24)

E-mail: treasurer@svlstrm.org

Track Superintendent: Steve Milward
(530) 559-2472 (24)

E-mail: tracksuper@svlstrm.org

Yardmaster: Chris Klevesahl (916) 517-9347 (24)

E-mail: yardmaster@svlstrm.org

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

E-mail: trainmaster@svlstrm.org

Director1: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367 (24)

E-mail: director_larry@svlstrm.org

Director2: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884

E-mail: director_dennis@svlstrm.org (23)

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



President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

January has been a wet and crazy month of weather with winds up to 60+ mph.

Fortunately we only lost two trees. One in the park

crossing the main and one by Tin Man Bridge. There is currently no major construction project. However there is still plenty of track maintenance work to do. Contact Steve to see when you can help. The Tank Farm building received a fresh stain coat and we will also be adding four more steaming bays in time for our meet.

Our Spring Meet will be the 50th anniversary of our golden spike. We will have special shirts and commemorative coins available. We expect to be at full capacity. In order to have enough shirts, coins and food we will start registration in March. This also includes steaming bay and track assignments. I will collect your information and give your assignments closer to the meet. It is not first come first served. I'm sure I'll be moving things around for all to fit. Be prepared to share bays and sidings.



Tuesday Crew - Mike Sturms, Richard Corbell, Gloria Berry



Rob & Andy removed tree that fell down on "Tin Man Bridge"

MEMBERSHIP

by Stacy Reese

Happy New Year! We got off to a very wet and windy start to the New Year!

We had only one new member join, welcome Reece Albrecht.

Dues were due January 1. If you still need to pay, please do so. Our club depends on your dues and your contribution of time.

We would like to wish everyone celebrating birthdays this month a very Happy Birthday! Those celebrating this month are:

Robert Anzar, Garrett Augustus, Steve Blanor
Sabrina Carrera, Mike Epstein, Michael Fitzgerald,
Thomas Holthus, Stephanie Huntingdale,
Steve Mahnke, Ted Marcopulos, Andrew Maret,
Gordon Moser, Bernard New, Stacy Reese,
Kenneth Schroeder, Robby Smith, Tim Willard.



Chris blowing leaves away from the track.



Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

February 2022 – Secretary’s Report

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is January 9, 2023, 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.

Dennis Gramith has been appointed to fulfill Steve Milwards term as Director At Large.

2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the Gold Spike ceremony to be celebrated at the Spring Meet. A “50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin” has been designed and ordered. A committee has been formed to put together a formal program and celebration activities.

An additional 4 steaming bays will be added before the Spring Meet.

Mural project for Work Container – proceeding with member Brian Schaubmayer, an art teacher at Vista Del Lago High School, Folsom CA. Work to be completed before Spring Meet.

Birthday Parties for 2023 – Each weekend one party will be scheduled on Saturday or Sunday, times available 10, 11, 12, 1. Current blackout dates, 4/29, 6/17 & 18, May and October 2nd and 3rd weekends.

Board purchased the Christmas blow ups from Matt Abrue.

SVLSRM will participate in Rancho Cordova Kid’s Day – April 29, 2023.



Steve Milward track superintendent and his bridge replacement volunteers.



TRACK UPDATE
By Phil Huntingdale

This January has brought some very cold and damp days, and some beautiful days of steaming on the table. As a result several Tuesday's only Steve, Jim, and Colton had steam exhausting from the stacks. As the month progressed several others showed up to pleasantly warmer days. Those running trains have found the sunny side of the railroad to be a great place to stage and stand. The electric and battery locomotives are operating as well. What the days of February bring, it can only be fun at the park playing trains. 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. Steve Milward has had a crew working on the tie replacements and leveling track on the 7.5" railroad. His crew can use added help such as placing and tamping ballast. If you can find some time on Saturdays or Sundays, come on down. Others are working on other projects in the park and can use help.

Upcoming in the month of May at the spring meet, the SVLSRM will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of laying the Gold Spike. Its time to plan ahead to free up the third weekend of the month for a great time.

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

See you about!



Steve Arrigotti's Steam Train

Trainmaster Report
by Craig Griffin



Well we have had a fun beginning to our winter work with lots of wind, rain but no snow!!

With the help of Andy and Peter we have found the lubrication problem with "1973". It was a blocked oil feed lines in the lubricator. Peter is tearing it down and rebuilding.

The Pacific has had injector issues on and off for about 6 months. We had Brandon and then Anthony Duarte, " the Injector Whisperer," take a look at the Fall meet. Debris and dirt issues coming from the tender water tank. Thanks for the help and advice Anthony! The water tank is getting another coat of sealant and filters added. Brandon also found we have a suspension problem on the fireman's side. We are looking into rebuilding the problem area.

All the public ride on cars are getting numbered this winter break, so now if there is an issue with a certain ride on car, the car number can be written down and I will know which car to look at.

All four club steamers will be getting their boiler tests done over the next couple of weekends too.

And a big thanks to Titan Trains. We broke one of the red ladder rungs on the Dash 9. I called Titan Trains to see if I could buy a replacement. They went one better and sent us one for free and even had it painted before it came. Again ,thank you Titan Trains.

Don't forget, always report or record any issues with any club equipment and let me know so we can get it fixed.

Thanks



		<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>		

Facts & figures of the past.

The Track was laid well before the incorporation of The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Corporation. "The track was finished in May of 1973. A ceremony was held for the completion of the 1700 foot oval", at the East end of Cordova Park later Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova, California.

"The first passenger siding was located along the man made creek in Hagan Park just in about 15 to 20 feet from the sidewalk. We pitched an open tent or awning to keep the sun off.

At that time one-inchers (one inch to the foot scale) were allowed to haul the public. Ed Yungling's engine was run by his son Don. He had a 0-6-0 type engine."



"We had only 5 steaming bays at first and one turntable. All of the steel for this project was paid for by Doc Harris," author of the national best selling book, "I'm OK, You're OK". "Doc was a very interesting character and twice rear ended other trains." (Maybe the title should have been I'm OK, You're in My Way!)

"Doc Harris and Ken Spicer had engines that could pull the public." (Note: the Doc Harris engine was later purchased by Darrel McWhirk who later donated it to The SVLS Corporation. This engine is was renumbered as SVLS 1973



New Year's Day Attendees:
Victor and Anita Owens, Don & Toy Yungling, Toy Wilkinson, Steve Milward, Dave McClain, Michael Fitzgerald, Barbara Schoellkoph, John Bailie, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Chris, Paul, Eli Donhost, Chris Klevesahl, Craig Griffin, Jeff Burke, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Tom Nance, Larry & Terry Curtin, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Rob Sharratt, Terry Willis, Colton Snell, Glen Guillet.

January 1st - 31st Work Day Helpers:
Steve Milward-Track Superintendent, Tom & Stacy Reese - Treasurer, Chris Klevesahl-Yard Master, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale-Secretary, Andy Berchielli-President, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Keith & Gloria Berry , Mike Skums , Larry Curtin - Director , Richard Corbell, Kaden Prudhomme, James Prudhomme, Craig Griffin-Train Master, Tom Nance-VP, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Dennis Gramith - Director , Alan Shifley, Harry Voss, John Bailie, Rob Sharratt, Glen Wilson, Dennis Bowie, Seth Hansen & family, Colton Snell



The Tank Farm building received a fresh stain coat



10 Years ago: This year's projects have been started with the removal of 180 feet of track starting at the south end switch at Reverso to West of the curved trestle. Paul Skidmore and Jack Friedman have pulled up the rails and started stripping the damaged wood from the trestle.

Paul has machined the frog and is assembling the switch. I am waiting for the trench to be dug so we can start on the roadbed. I will need help the rest of the month.



View of Trestle west of Reverso switch.

30 Years ago: From the Cab: I have concluded that live steam hobbyists are a "half-bubble" off level. Certainly not in the pursuit of machinery requiring precision tolerance, precise alignment, and exact location. But more in the way we allow our passion for trains to alter our everyday lives. We are indicative of "Railroad Reality", a unique sense of priority and value compared to the non-hobbyist.

The term "Half-bubble" is not unique to railroading, referring to a plumb/level in the construction field. I became acquainted with the term upon joining the students of track geometry, ably taught by the team of Doug Fulton and Amandus Drewes. Elevation track required a level bubble, quarter-bubble, half-bubble, or bubble something. A tiny bubble in a metal stick ruled my life. To the casual witness of such work, we all appeared to be more than a half-bubble off.

it as we like seeing what other are doing.

Within our hobby, I see a lot of people assuming the half-bubble position. We become accepting and uninvolved with values, assignments, and activities other would consider unique. What rational individual would pay dues to mow acres of lawn, rake millions of leaves, and trim a forest of trees? Who would contract to have a riverbed created out of level ground, then spend months building bridges over this great chasm? What type of people relocate a right-of-way with shovels and determination in the middle of winter? Where do you find people to spend a week creating a newsletter to expose our thoughts to the world? I accept my condition. I am at least a half-bubble into "Railroad Reality". I have track panels in the front yard, a box car lives

Keep it steaming!

in my hallway. A new boiler resides under the porch, the trains are in the garage, and my vehicles out in the driveway. Nothing worn here, it all seems pretty level to me, I'm just half-off! I hop you are to! - Keith Berry, President

40 Years ago: The railroad tie retaining wall around Dick and Lori Esselbach's home recently met its first challenge and won: Wall 1, Drunk Driver 0.

The original siding for passenger loading

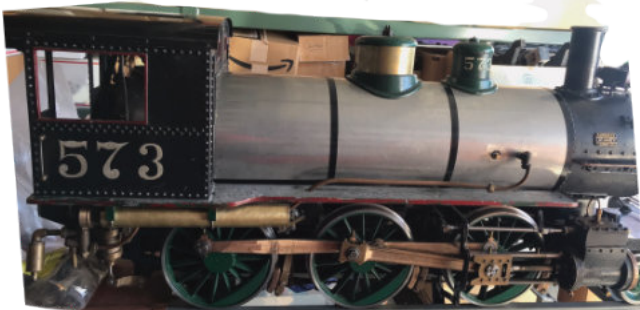


For SALE: contact Robert Morris Leave message at 925-240-9034
Item 1: 1/2" Brass Atlantic and Tender \$2500.
Item 2: 3/4" scale Tich 040 \$1250.



Item 3: 1 1/2 inch Allen 2-6-0 Mogul and Tender \$13,500.

#5 2 1/2" D&RGW gondola Denver & Rio, scale trucks. \$1500.

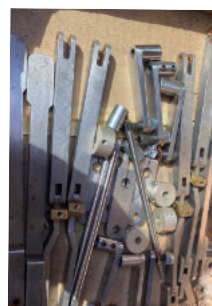


#4: 2 1/2" Scale Passenger car - baggage combo, top comes off 3,000.

#6: 1" Scale Coles 040 \$1500



Two new-old-stock West Valley Live Steamers 2-8-0 project locomotives. Complete with boilers. One chassis assembled, the other in kit form. Some minor filing and drilling is required to complete these locomotives. Drawings and notes come with them. \$4,000 each obo. Delivered within 100 miles of SVLS at no cost. Send inquiries to Gaugustus@comcast.net (916) 494-2432 (Despite my 916 phone number, I am near Santa Rosa if you want to see them)



[Look on line for more photos.](#)