

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

April 2023

Volume 50, Issue 4



President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

Our spring meet registration filled up fast. Currently we have 23 RVs; 36 steam engines and 40 requests for a siding. So with 32 steaming bays and 37 sidings things get a little tight. We added 3 more steaming bays from the extra donated material from the bridge making that 35 usable bays. We also extended a few bays as well. We also will be adding another drill track in the boxcar yard making one more siding available. I believe I responded to everyone that registered stating their assignments will be given out at least a week out from meet. If you didn't hear from me then contact me directly.

With the projects mentioned above, March has been a very busy month working around the weather. The rain did make digging the steam bay holes much easier. Help from several people including Bailey, Reese, Chris K, Steve, and Glenn made installing the bays much easier. We also completed the trestle #1 rebuild. Many thanks to all involved. Steve would also like to replace the ties on the Y trestle to the steaming bays. Work on that begins as I write this article.

Along with all this work, Alan Shifley has been busy working on the signal system from the diamond thru Hillview. Progress is looking great with plans for electric switches for Tank Farm and Hillview.

So why not one more project for March. We ran a water line to the G gauge layout. In doing so we also added a steam water spot in the Oasis siding making that three fill spots. Just like gas stations, pull up to the furthest spot to allow room behind you.



Work will continue most weekends leading into the meet working around scheduled parties.

If any of you are available during the Spring Meet **I will need help** in the caboose making up Sandwiches on Friday morning (5-19).

I will need servers during Spaghetti dinner Friday night(5-19) & Saturday & Sunday during lunches. (5-20,5-21)



Please Contact Barbara Moser

Cordova Community Council Presents
33rd Annual
Kids Day
All Aboard!
11 am - 3 pm **FREE Admission and Activities**
Saturday, April 29
Hagan Community Park
2197 Chase Drive
Rancho Cordova
FREE Giveaways
LIVE Animals
PARENT Resources
Fun!
CORDOVA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
cordovacouncil.org
SACRAMENTO
SOUTHERN PACIFIC
STATION
TICKETS

April 29th - We are running for Kids Day in the Park from 11-3 pm.



Stay a Member and pay your dues!

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

- Apr. 1 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- Apr. 2 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- Apr. 10 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom
- Apr. 15 Work day.
- Apr. 16 Member run day.
- Apr. 29 We are running for Kids Day in the Park from 11-3 pm.

- May 6 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- May 7 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- May 8 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom
- May 19 Pacific Regional Meet
- May 20 Pacific Regional Meet & 50th anniversary of our Golden Spike
- May 21 Pacific Regional Meet

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



See www.svlsrm.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@svlsrm.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@svlsrm.org
- Vice President: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (24)
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- Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (23)
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- Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850 (24)
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- Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (24)
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- Yardmaster: Chris Klevesahl (916) 517-9347 (24)
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- Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (23)
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- Director1: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367 (24)
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- Director2: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (23)
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Committee Chairpersons

- Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850
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- Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425
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- Birthday & Company Events Chairperson:
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- Safety Chairperson: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367
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- Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder
E-mail: editor@svlsrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM

Our trestle #1 heading into the expansion area has now been rebuilt. Thanks to all that helped.



Steaming bay with 3 more bays and some extended.



Facts & figures of the past.

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Letter from the Editor Pat Mattox (copy from June 2002)

On May 1, 1973, a letter went out to Live Steamers inviting them to the Annual Spring Meet and Golden Spike Ceremony, Saturday May 19 and Sunday May 20. The letter was sent out by SVLS Secretary Curt Janssen.

The response was amazing, approximately 200 people signed the Register for the Golden Spike Ceremony. Ken Spicer's Mikado and Milon Thorley's American were the trains meeting when the Spike was put into a ceremonial walnut tie. Many years of organization and hard work went into SVLS before that ceremony.

I recently sat down with Mary and Al Shelley, Francis Quiring, and Dick Esslebach, with Milon popping in and out of the discussion, to get some of their memories and thoughts on the early years of SVLS.

The original group which started SVLS were Ed Yungling, Al Shelley, Milon Thorley, Dave Hall, Dick Galaday, Dick Quiring, Earl McKenzie and Ken Spicer. They met at their homes to make plans.

Ed Yungling (I hope I have this right) worked at the Rancho Cordova Fire Station and with Paul Hagan found the area in which the Club laid their track. Milon Thorley put together a presentation to give at a Park meeting, but even with all his charts and speech never got to give it. Before he was able, Neil Orchard took the floor and had the project approved.

The Derby hats came out, (this was before the Polka Dot hats) and track work began.

Al Shelley cut ties at home and rail was bought at approximately \$0.30 a foot per 1000 lb. As track was laid Milon with the help of his father Irving and others would carry them out to be placed. Milon was the youngest of the group and said they never got more than half way before a rest and nitro pill taking period was taken.

The club had alot of publicity thanks to the Rancho Cordova weekly the "Grapevine".

By 1973 more people were involved with the group, Earl Swart, the Yungling kids, Curt Janssan from GGLS, Larry Badger, Joel Corbin, Barry Garland were a few.

The original siding was the passenger station (lower yard now), and part of the agreement with the Park was to give rides, which happened on Saturday and Sunday, twice a month, they got 25 cent donations. Everyone built track panels and switches, laid track and got it all together. Porta potties showed up later in the 70's and no caboosie - box car - round house or mower shed were there. A pear orchard was where the expansion area is now.

Mary Shelley, Francis Quiring, Louise Yungling helped with refreshments. They used to have hot-dogs, soda and beer. The refreshments were at a card table next to Mary's Nova, which had hot-dog buns warming in the back window.

The ladies of SVLS were always involved, and never felt excluded from the club, but did mention it was the "boys" playground. SVLS, though taking alot of work was also a group of people who enjoyed socializing after the work with a Happy Hour.

Over the years alot of people have passed on and new members have taken their place. These original members don't always come out but they do keep an eye on the doings of the club. They realize that "times have changed" along with the "fun" they so enjoyed. They mentioned that the problems seem to repeat themselves, yet everything keeps on. Their words to us now are: **Don't criticize, Straighten up and fly right, Don't be Self Centered, (Don't forget) The Good old Days**

The good old days when a few had a vision and built it and we are the lucky recipients! Thank you all for your vision.

TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale



March turned to be wet and cold. Not much G layout running. However, several of the members installed permanent underground electrical service to the table. There is a disconnect switch located below the table near the northwest corner. If you find the electricity is not working, the disconnect is shut off or the GFI duplex needs resetting. Additionally, we have irrigation water in the trestle landscape area. Hopefully, this will help keep the plants happy.

Have you signed up for the Spring Meet, May 19-21 with a special 50th Anniversary celebration at 2:00 pm on Saturday? You don't want to miss this weekend. Lights will be on and you can run in the evening, the table is very special at that time. Go to the website and reserve your food and merchandise.

This may be a good time to remind members how the layout came about. Several 7.5 members, Andy, Peter and Jim Welch had suggested the club needed a G scale layout. Many members donated money and materials to the project. Track was donated by folks that removed their home layout, including Chuck Sanfilippo, Mike Falkenstein, Paul Brink, and Jim Welch. Steel pipe post's by Tom Reese. Labor came from several members and most specifically Craig Griffin and myself. Stephanie Huntingdale and Alison Berry helped paint the table. Bob Dean built and installed the beautiful trestle and landscape area.

Don't forget the first weekend of the month are the public run events, and the member third weekend. The guest families are inquisitive of the G layout, and they definitely wish to discover the operations of these smaller locomotives and cars. April 9 is Easter, if you're not doing family events, bring your locomotives out and enjoy. Remember you may use the park on your schedule. We can hope that April, will be warmer and dryer.

The SVLSRM needs you on Public Run Days and the third Saturday for members work day and on birthday events. Learn to be a conductor or engineer by showing up on these weekends. Review the Safety and Operating Rules, and take the appropriate test. Learn by being there to develop these skills. Be involved!



See you about!



Anniversary hats will be available at the meet in May. They are \$25 each. (They are not available for pre-sale)



Remember join us for three days of sharing your hobby with others that love trains.

Please go on-line at SVLSRM.ORG to Register. Let us know you are planning to attend the meet please, also you can buy your meals and merchandise like the special T-shirt and anniversary coin.



Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

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.

Measure H application has been submitted.

5 steaming bays have been added and work continues on extensions.

Work begins on irrigation and electrical to the G scale area.

Trestle work completed with some cement work to complete.

A design has been chosen for the work container mural. Work to begin this month.

A second drill track will be added to the box car, work to be completed this month.

Members not renewed by April 1st will not be included in the Roster of Members for 2023.

Continued planning for Spring Meet and 50th Anniversary. Program will start at 2:00 pm on Saturday. RC Mayor Linda Budge will make a presentation. Registration opened on March 1, 2023 on the website. Currently all steaming bays, sidings and RV spots have been reserved. Pre-orders still being taken for merchandise and meals.



Bell donated by Lee Frechette.

Looking to mount in memorial area

Facts & figures of the past.



Orange colored shade tree to stay cool.



The celebration drink!



Testing the completed track in the park.



10 Years ago: Many people have been helping with the track upgrades and maintenance but there is still more to do. Currently the new sidings are being added for Oasis train parking. With this addition of sidings we will have over 1200 feet of train parking. Please come out and help. If you can not do track work then help run the trains on public run weekends the next one is April 6 & 7th.

In May we will celebrate 40 years of having our railroad here in Hagan Park. Actually, we named ourselves the "Sacramento Valley Live Steamers" in honor of the original railroad, the Sacramento Valley Railroad, which was planned in 1852 by Theodore Judah to run through the area which is now Rancho Cordova, along the route of today's Folsom Boulevard.

20 Years ago: President Dale Fowlar reports: Work continues on renovation of the UP diesel. Kevin Sach of Chico Pacific Locomotive Painting has completed a beautiful repainting of the body shell. Ross Crawford has discovered that each of the journals is made up of two pieces. One casting is for visual detail, and the other is casting is for visual detail, and the other is the actual journal. Ross has determined that he can save the Club a bit of cash by machining the journals out of stock instead of having to purchase castings.

Our March 22nd workday was very productive. A large number of community volunteers helped us plant about 130 new trees at the track. Yardmaster Lee Frechette lead the effort and Lois Clifton organized lunch for the troops.

40 Years ago: The "Golden Spike" ceremony is our chance to celebrate the first 10 years of operation by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. The ceremony is scheduled to start shortly after 12:00 noon and should be finished by approximately 12:30 P.M. Our pot luck late lunch/early dinner, as well as plentiful desserts will be available following the ceremony and on into the afternoon. Coming Soon Spring Meet 1983.



March Run Days,
Work Days, Birthday
Parties:
Volunteers &
Helpers

- Alan Shifley
- Tom & Stacy Reese
- Rob Sharratt
- Kevin & Andrew Sach
- Andy & Augie Berchielli
- Larry Curtin
- Dennis Gramith
- Craig Griffin
- Gordon & Barbara Moser
- Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale
- Darron & Dane Huntingdale
- Tom Nance
- Harry Voss
- Don & Toy Yungling
- Jeff Burke
- Austin Unruh
- Chris Klevesahl
- John Bailie
- Kaen Prudhomme
- Richard Corbell
- Steve Milward
- Mike Skums
- Troy Wilkinson
- Keith & Gloria Berry
- Dave McClain
- David Cladianos
- Paul Skidmore
- Jim Hearn
- Glen Wilson
- Leonard Cassieri

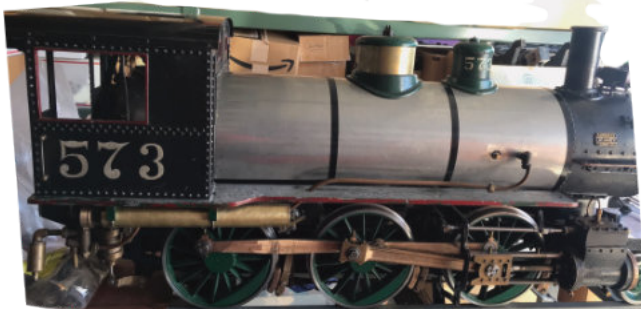


For SALE: contact Robert Morris Leave message at 925-240-9034

Item 1: 1/2" Brass Atlantic and Tender \$2500.



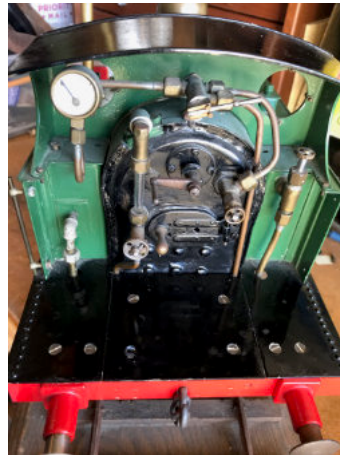
Item 3: 1 1/2 inch Allen 2-6-0 Mogul and Tender \$13,500.



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



Item 2: 3/4" scale Tich 040 \$1250.



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



#6: 1" Scale Coles 040 \$1500



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