

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

March 2004

Volume 31, Issue 03

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

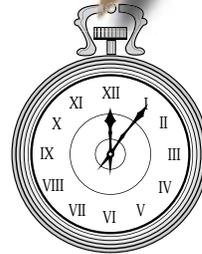
By Joel Corbin

This is the third article for the members since being elected your President. It is probably the most serious also. I was speaking with several members at the track on February 24th and mentioned that last Sunday was the first day I logged on to my E-mail without an SVLS related E-mail. I had no idea that this position would attract so much attention.

As mentioned before, much of the E-mail discussion was related to the past DOSH issues which are now resolved. Further discussions related to our charitable status and our need to maintain our status as a public benefit corporation and include the status of a museum of miniature railroading and an educational facility. These classifications do not fall under the DOSH regulatory rules and this is what we are anyway. You may be aware of the activities last year by Lee Frechette, Dale Fowlar, myself and others in speaking to organizations and holding special educational sessions for the benefit of the public. The school activities currently being overseen by Ross Crawford and others in the past have also contributed to this effort.

Further E-mail attention related to our insurance needs. Due to the accident at LALS that resulted in so

Continued on page 5



NOTICE: Dues were due by March 1st. Please renew now. If you have not paid then this is your last newsletter and your membership will have lapsed. Thanks.



Marilyn Drews and Milon Thorley traveled to New Zealand during January 2004. They have nothing but praise for the whole country. The people are very friendly, the scenery is breath taking, the 14 miniature railroads they visited were outstanding. Between the two of them they took well over one thousand photos. They will collaborate on a presentation at a general meeting in the near future about their experience. All 1000 plus pictures will not be shown.



View from Milon's hotel room at Franz Joseph with the glacier in full view.

CALENDAR

- Mar 6 Club run day (Public rides noon to 4)
- Mar 11 Board Meeting 6:30
- Mar 13 -14 Static display at Woodland Modular Railroad Club show - Call Les Wilmunder to volunteer.**
- Mar 19 General Membership Meeting
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room
- Mar 20 Club Work Day
- Mar 21 Club run day (Public rides noon to 4)
- Mar 22 News letter deadline

- Apr 4 Static display at Train show, at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville - Call Dale Fowlar to volunteer.**
- Apr 8 Board Meeting 6:30
- Apr 10 Club run day (Public rides noon to 4)
Easter egg hunt at Hagan Park.
- Apr 16 General Membership Meeting
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room
- Apr 17 Club Work Day
- Apr 18 Club run day (Public rides noon to 4)
- Apr 19 News letter deadline

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and most Saturdays. Contact a committee member for information on needs. There are always things to be done to support YOUR club.

The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Corporation 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 Corporation to the fullest extent allowed by law as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Golden Spike is the published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The club track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: editor@svls.org.



MEMBERSHIP

It is past time to pay your S.V.L.S. dues for 2004. Pay \$30.00 for Individual membership, or \$15.00 if you qualify for Associate membership.

When you pay your dues please fill out a membership form so we can update our membership records with your current information (form included in news letter).

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Richard & Jacqueline Gordon
Granite Bay, CA

Have a neighbor or a friend who has an interest in Live Steam? Invite them to join SVLS. Take the Membership form on the back page and give to a friend.



Spring meet is just around the corner. We are looking for some volunteers to help out with lunch on Saturday and Sunday (May 22 & 23) If you would like to help you can call Lois at (916) 722-8514 or E-mail loisjune1@msn.com

Notice: The SVLS board of directors meeting dates have been changed to be the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month. The meeting place will continue to be at the Park office buildings at 6:30 P.M. Members are welcome.

Vice President Report

By Pete Arney



Work on the addition of a second transfer table track (FCR #005) is progressing, but slowly due to rain during the last two weeks of February. Forming for the new concrete steps is 90% complete, waiting for some clear weather to finish. About five yards of concrete will be donated for the steps. A concrete foot crossing across the transfer tracks will be installed at the top of the steps to assist in getting to the passenger station. In the meantime, there is no rail access from the transfer table bays to the lower yard except through the "Y" leaving the steaming bays.



Thanks to Bill Yoder, Richard Lutrel, and Lee Frechette for their efforts on this project.

Surplus three inch steel channel has been purchased for the four new transfer table rails from C & C Metals at about 60% of the cost of new steel. Les Wilmunder picked the steel up with his crane truck and is now storing the steel at his shop. Les plans to preassemble the bays on the floor of his shop, welding the components together there then moving them to the track. Les is also donating lengths of six inch channel for the uprights to hold the bays. We will be asking for volunteers to assist in the placement. Look for dates and further news or always feel free to call or email the VP (916-956-2870) to offer your assistance

Jack Friedman is a Tuesday regular at the track, always willing to pitch in and do what is required. During recent weeks, Jack has assisted Ross Crawford working on the riding cars and diesel engines. Earlier Jack has spent much time raking and sacking pine needles from around box car.

Barbara and Gordon Moser have helped as well raking and picking up leaves. Gordon spent all day chipping tree branches that had been removed from some of the mulberry trees felled as required by the Cordova Recreation and Park District.

Thanks always to Paul Clifton for the SLVS work day lunches. If there is ever any reason to show up for work days, it is to sample Paul's skills as a chef and his delicious lunches. Besides being our resident Santa and club steam locomotive engineer, Paul runs a fine caboose.

During the week of February 16, Les Wilmunder delivered the metal shed he donated to the organization. Using his company's crane, Les lifted the shed over the mower building and placed it on the concrete pad that was poured in January. Thanks to Les for the donation of the shed and the use of this crane, and to Richard and Lee in placing the shed. The shed still needs to be fastened down to the pad. Any volunteers?



Milon Thorley applied the first Roundup weed control spray of the season in February, covering most of the right-of-way. He will continue with additional applications after the late February rains let up. Spring must be just around the corner as our layout is turning green and grass is growing. This means that we need volunteers for yard maintenance. Other items of yard maintenance, under the direction of Lee Frechette, will be placing new tree stakes and tying up the newly planted trees. Many stakes and ties have been broken by the winter winds. Again, volunteers?

In the next few weeks, tasks will be posted on the web site (www.svls.org) and in my articles in the newsletters about small jobs that need to be done around the site that can be easily accomplished by one or two people at their leisure. Anyone can sign up and do the tasks by themselves on their own schedule or with the help of others, their choice. The club will furnish the necessary materials (although donations of material to accomplish the task are welcomed). The first task that comes to mind is the installation of a water heater for the restrooms.

Continued on page 4

VP report - continued from page 3

The Cliftons have donated a small heater. Basically just needs to be placed and piped, about a day's effort. I had originally volunteered, but other projects seem to push the water heater task to a later date. Any volunteers?

SVLS has initiated a procedure of issuing a Facility Change Request (FCR) for any activity beyond the normal scope of responsibility for the various board and committee positions. This is a form that lists the project description (including drawings and references), material, and costs the task or project. The project is reviewed by the board of directors and approved. The FCR is forwarded to the general membership for approval if the cost exceeds the board's authorized limit. The management and oversight of FCR's will probably be a subset of the long range planning committee established by President Joel Corbin.

These are the FCR's issued to date, along with their status:

FCR #0008: Install two gravel bins that have bottom gates to dump gravel into club gravel cars; bins are cutoff bottoms of real size hopper cars which have moveable gates. Introduced by Bill Yoder; approved by BOD 2/12/04; not to exceed \$330. Status: pending.

FCR #0007: Acquire a used road crossing gate with all working parts together; possible use in conjunction with upgrade of passenger station on public path. Introduced by Bill Yoder; approved by BOD 2/12/04 at no charge to SVLS; based on \$200 donation by Lee Frechette. Status: pending.

FCR #0006: Add four additional transfer table bays #30-33 in line with the existing bays to complete the bay lineup around the transfer table. Introduced by Les Wilmunder and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 1/5/04; general membership 1/16/04 not to exceed \$700. Status: in progress.

FCR #0005: Add a second lead track from the lower yard to the transfer table. The second track will permit inbound and outbound trains to use the transfer table without tying up the lower yard while waiting for clearance to enter or leave the transfer table area. Introduced by Bill Yoder and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 1/5/04; not to exceed \$700. Status: in progress.

FCR #0004: Add conduit from the new power cabinet east of the boxcar to provide future electrical connections associated with the Jewell Performing Arts' Halloween Terror Train event 1) to the area of the Terror Train event's

haunted house for a permanent sub panel and electrical wiring; 2) an electrical receptacle at the two trestles north of the boxcar yard; 3) an electrical receptacle at the truss bridge north of Midway. Introduced by Lee Frechette and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 12/1/03; not to exceed \$165. Status: in progress.

FCR #0003: Add irrigation pipe from the concrete vault northeast of the boxcar yard south to the RV area. Introduced by Lee Frechette and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 12/1/03; not to exceed \$455. Status: in progress.

FCR #0002: Add conduit from the concrete vault northeast of the boxcar yard south to the RV area with a stub east to Cobble Creek. Introduced by Lee Frechette and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 12/1/03; not to exceed \$300. Status: in progress.

FCR #0001: Install two concrete grade crossings at Oasis south for main line and two sidings. The crossing location was changed early 1/04 to north of Oasis at the south end of the approach trestle to Oasis in order to provide a utility crossing for mower and light vehicle access to the boxcar. Introduced by Lee Frechette and Pete Arney; approved by BOD 12/1/03; not to exceed \$499 with caveat that the project won't proceed until a donation of concrete can be secured. Status: pending.

FCR #0000: Purchase additional relief numbers to update our concrete stamp for years 2004 and beyond. Introduced by Bill Yoder; approved by the Track Superintendent 12/1/03; not to exceed \$40. Status: completed.

Stay in shape and come out for some worthwhile exercise. Give a call or email if you would like to become involved: 916-988-2000 or parney@pacbell.net



President report - continued from page 1

much attention, all policyholders with the same insurance company were dropped, SVLS included. We were to be cancelled in January and this was extended to February 6th. After many calls, suggestions, additional E-mails, dealings with our agent and other groups, we have new insurance and continue to operate. The same insurance carrier that picked us up also picked up others in California. Groups outside California are still looking and working as we did. LALS now has insurance also but not with the same carrier. The LALS cost is significantly more than our insurance premium.

The bullets that we have had to dodge this year coupled with the activities in rebuilding, repairing and upgrading the facility the past two years, have brought forth the discussion on the cost of operating this organization. For example, many projects have been approved and we have the money for them. Some additional ones are needed and are on hold until funds come into our treasury. Normal operating costs continue, such as maintenance of the equipment for normal operation and safety. We have commitments to fulfill and we are doing well as a cooperative group with the Park District. My concern is for the future. We should not take the SVLS existence for granted. If someone does not do the work needed, we have no place to operate the trains. If someone does not pay for the entire operation, it does not exist either. Donations at the gate should continue, but they simply aren't enough.

Where do you come in? First, with your efforts in helping with the projects at the track. Ask yourself, do you do your part? Next, do you have extra that you might be able to donate to the fund? Most of us pay our dues and this is it. If this is all you can afford, we understand. If you have some more, we are open to donations and will provide a receipt that you can use for a tax write off. Remember, we are a tax deductible organization just like many other charities. I just returned from my annual tax accountant appointment and felt good that I was able to write off an amount donated to the SVLS last year. It helped my refund and the SVLS to boot. Lastly, it has been many years since the dues of the SVLS have been reviewed. We are considering this option and currently are open to discussions as to what the majority of members would be willing to pay for being a part of this organization and the use of the facilities. No decision has been reviewed nor even formally discussed. The next meeting of the Board is March 11, 2004. Please call, write or E-mail a Board member with your thoughts. Keep in mind that if we had to pay the LALS insurance premium amount, we would be fully out of business....and this eventuality is not out of the

scope of possibilities.

Back to the usual. At the last membership meeting, Karl Mahler presented his current project and pattern his is making. Hearing and seeing what others are doing helps us in our thoughts on our projects. Once again, I encourage you all to come to meetings and to bring your current RR construction projects for all to see. Also, we will hear an update on the Spring Meet being planned by Keith Berry. Last month he suggested the idea of a tool or railroad gift basket for the raffle. You guys and gals have many good ideas to suggest and to share with other members. Please don't hold back. The next membership meeting is March 19, 2004. I'll see you there, I hope. For now, I offer you my wishes for good steaming in this month when we return to operating our trains on the first Saturday and third Sunday.



Neil Heath showed a new denim jacket he had made with a embroidered SVLS logo which makes a very durable and long wearing jacket. If others are interested in one then contact Neil.

Phone; 209-293-7234

Or E-mail: livesteamnut@volcano.net

FOR SALE:

The club has a Kohler engine and hydro transmission (from the GP40) for sale to the highest bidder. Minimum bid \$100.

Call Ross Crawford at (916) 718-4162.

FOR SALE: Winton Mogul #8
Contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525

**Board of Directors**

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075
mail to: president@svls.org
Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000
mail to: vp@svls.org
Secretary: Keith Berry (530) 642-0742
mail to: secretary@svls.org
Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
mail to: treasurer@svls.org
Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder
(916) 372-2423
Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820
mail to: yard@svls.org
Trainmaster: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
Special Events: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
Caboose Operations: Paul Clifton
(916) 722-8514 paulclifton@msn.com
Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
mail to: editor@svls.org
Membership: Lorra Fowler (916) 783-4251
mail to: sphogger@ix.netcom.com

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

Trainmaster Report

by Ross Crawford

For questions call Ross at 916 718-4162

First thanks to Al Shelley for a new design of lead trucks for the club steam engine and Bill Son for repairing the throttle linkage on the GP40. Thanks for your support.

Here is a list of maintenance jobs that need to be done. If you can help keep our equipment running then please pick a job and call me.

- *GP40: Add braces to dummy fuel tanks, relocate oil drain, add MU gangway step and railings, replace rear universals.
- * 34901 & 34902 Gondolas: Replace trucks, adjust coupler height and side bearing clearance, remove lubricate reassemble and adjust coupler height & side bearings.
- * 2003 riding car: install wider bench seat.
- * Yellow riding cars: last car needs coupler height corrected.
- * Orange riding cars: needs trucks reinstalled and coupler height adjusted.
- * Need a 1 man engine rerailer - I have sketch.
- * Steam engine lead truck needs axle and other parts machined. See Karle Mahler 334-8283
- * Johnson wheel sets re machined.



Please check the club web site www.svls.org for current information on club activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group. www.groups.yahoo.com



SPIKE editor requests ideas for articles. I am also looking for members who would like to spotlight their projects - in progress or finished. Please call or E-mail the editor. - Thanks.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND DUES INVOICE**

To be filled out upon application for membership and/or membership renewal



NEW RENEWAL DATE: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED: INDIVIDUAL
 FAMILY
 ASSOCIATE

YOUR NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILDREN
LIVING AT
HOME
(Names _____
and
month/day
of birth): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

OPERABLE LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT: _____

LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION: _____

Do you have track at home? Yes No Someday Gauge: _____

Special skills and ways you would like to help SVLS: _____

Other railroad club affiliations: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES TO:

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS

Attn: Membership

PO Box 273

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-0273

Make check payable to: Sacramento Valley Live Steamers

DUES RATE: REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (Individual or Family) is \$30.00 per year payable and due on January 1 or \$27.00 per year if paid by December 31st of the preceeding year.
ONE TIME INITIATION FEE: \$30.00 (In addition to the regular membership dues)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 per year (NO initiation fee) Must live 100 miles or more from track or belong to a recognized live steam club. An associate member who moves into the 100 mile radius must convert to a regular membership by paying the \$30.00 initiation fee.

Membership is conditional for a period of six (6) months, at which time acceptance as a regular member will be voted upon by the general members at a regular meeting. In the event of a negative vote, the initiation fee and 1/2 of the yearly dues will be refunded.

Amount Paid: _____ Check _____ Cash
 Name Badge Roster Rule Book Card



Sacramento Valley Live Steamers
 P.O. Box 273
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

210. Trains shall be stopped immediately when any hazard to the passengers or equipment is detected.

301. The chief concern of all operating personnel shall be the safety of visitors, guests, and members of the club.

419. All steam boilers shall be equipped with a 1/8th inch NPT pipe fitting or fittings sufficient to join either male or female 1/8th NPT pipe fittings for purposes of hydrostatic boiler checks..

Caboose Menu

Chili Burger	\$3.00
Chili Dog	\$3.00
Hamburger	\$2.50
Hot Dog	\$2.50
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$2.00
Bowl of Chili	\$2.00
Nacho's	\$1.50
Meal Deal (includes Chips, drink, salad & dessert)	\$4.00
Special of the Day	\$4.00
All hamburgers & sandwiches come with: Tomato, lettuce, & pickle. Onion upon request	
Drinks / Dessert	
Soda	\$.50
Gatorade	\$.75
V-8 Juice	\$.75
Water, Ice Tea, lemonade	\$.50
Hot Chocolate	\$.50
Coffee & Tea	Free
Ice Cream Bar, Ice Cream Sandwich, Crunch Bar	\$.50
Drum Sticks	\$.75
Popsicles	\$.50
Candy Bar	\$.50