

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

August 2004

Volume 31, Issue 08

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

BY-LAW CHANGE

At the July meeting the suggested by-law changes were reviewed and amendment motions were made to put the document in its final form. Three issues were modified. The first was to give two months notice of a by-law change vote in the future instead of one month as we currently have in the by-laws. We discovered that the mails are not what we would like them to be and sometimes notice is short. The second related to a detailed explanation of what changes will be put in place with the vote. In the current case, there are four changes but the format and explanation is different to comply with the law and to avoid lots of future changes. Administrative rules are to be voted on just after the by-laws are approved so the membership will see little difference in the way the SVLS operates. Lastly, it was voted on to have the changes explained in writing by mail and not to use the internet alone. As is currently required, a full copy of the revised by-laws will go to every regular member when approved. Before the July Membership Meeting ended, all present agreed to vote on the new by-laws at the August Meeting. Although business is usually suspended then, they agreement was to have a one item vote on the approval as it was agreed that all recommended changes were addressed.

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

On August 20, we will have Hot August Nights at the SVLS track. All members are invited. A barbecue dinner will be provided by the Rancho Cordova Rotary Club at no cost to SVLS members. Other

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Standard Gauge Steamer visited SVLS on July 3rd. - Pg 3.
Hollywood movie star (now retired) is seen at the track. - Pg 7.



Casey and Les provided a float for SVLS in the Rancho Cordova parade on the 3rd of July. The parade was quite long with many bands, floats, kids, and people watching.



Gordon Moser using a self propelled lawn mower donated to SVLS by Don Yungling.

Thank You



COOKBOOK fund-raiser.

So please share those favorite recipes.

You can E-mail them to me, bring out to the track, or mail them to me:

Lois June Clifton
6725 Auburn Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

CALENDAR

Aug 7 Run Day (public rides noon to 4)

Aug 12 Board Meeting 6:30 at Caboose

Aug 20 General Membership Meeting

7:30 **Hot August Night Run**

RSVP to Lee or Pete
if you want to eat.

Aug 21 Work day - all members invited

Aug 22 Run day (public rides noon to 4)

Aug 23 News letter deadline

Sept 6 Run Day - Labor Day (public rides noon to 4)

Sept 9 Board Meeting 6:30 at Caboose

Sept 17 General Membership Meeting

7:30 Hagan Park meeting room

Sept 18 Work day - all members invited

Sept 19 Run day (public rides noon to 4)

Sept 20 News letter deadline

Sept 25 Garden railroad meet

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and most Saturdays. Contact a committee member for information on needs. Check the Project page at the SVLS web site (www.svls.org).

There are always things to be done to support SVLS.

How will you support SVLS this month?

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 SVLS track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: editor@svls.org.

A dual small meet.

The Sacramento Valley Garden Railroad society, will be having a party and run of equipment, on September 25 2004. They will have steam and electric tables for use of both Railroads. With a large modular set up in the trees east of the caboose. bring out your equipment to run with them. And share our side with them on the larger scales. I will be looking for some equipment to show or just to run, for them. A good time to check out your equipment be for the fall meet. They will be serving a catered food setting and we are invited. Please give me a call if you would like to help or run Red Hadler (916) 455-7072

All members who plan to help at the station, work as trainmen or run the public are required to take tests. Even those members who plan to help run the public with their own equipment will be required to take the tests so that there is documentation covering their knowledge of the rules set forth in the Rules and Bylaw handbook.

Please see Vern Geyer to set up a time to take the tests, or come out during a Run Day and take the tests. Vern can be reached via E-mail at vern78@onemain.com or call 916-645-9154 to set up a time.



NOTICE:

Hagan Park has added a gate on the road to our facility. This is by the petting barn on the dirt road. This was added to stop the public from dumping trash in and around the dumpster.

The gate must be locked when we leave our facility.

Keys are available to any member that needs one. There is a \$5. fee for the key so please see Lois to obtain one.



Special Thanks to Karle Mahler for fixing the lead truck of the steamer quickly after being damaged from a derailment on July 3rd. It was running again on July 4th.

Darrel McWhrick donated \$100 to SVLS in memory of Dick Esselbach. The board voted to use that toward the tender trucks. Keith and Gloria Berry donated \$100 and Les Wilmunder donated \$100 toward the purchase of new tender trucks.
SPECIAL thanks to these people for their support.

4TH OF JULY

I would like to thank the following people for helping out at the train station this 4th of July weekend. Frank dollosso and his guest Joshna, Barbara & Gordon Moser, Butch Floyd, Gill Beard and his beautiful Berkshire locomotive for hauling the public, Richard Lutrel, Justin Schade, Paul Clifton, Vern Geyer, Kevin Sacks, Les Wilmunder, and Casey Wilmunder who kept our water jug full at the station. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

Cindy Wilmunder - station master



Les and Casey Wilmunder sitting on the float they put together for the parade to advertise the SVLS organization.

Thanks again for your dedicated efforts to help the SVLS organization.



Marilyn Drewes and Milon Thorley selling Water (and we had lots of it), ice cream cones, & soda during the July 4 weekend.



Les Wilmunder and Pete Arney working on our track getting a few heat kinks adjusted to provide a safe and smooth ride for all while under some strange watchful eyes.



Thanks Guys !!!!



Standard gauge steamer. This 1919 Stanley Steamer was at our track this weekend after being in the parade. Several members were privileged to have a ride and reported the car had good power and was very very quite. Note the water gauge on the floor board.

President report - continued from page 1

than the vote mentioned above, there will be no business meeting and we encourage all to run your trains. If you were not at the July meeting, call Lee Frechette or Pete Arney to advise of your attendance to be sure the Rotary group plans for enough.

JULY 4TH WEEKEND

The weekend event at Hagan Park over the Independence Day weekend was a great success and was financially rewarding for the SVLS. Many thanks to all who participated. Without all of you folks, the days would never have been as successful. The park provided a fireworks display to wrap up the weekend and it was a great show and a time for relaxing and enjoyment for our crew. We gave over 1,500 rides, had a float and sold lots of bottled water, soda and ice cream.

GP - 40 AND STANDARDIZATION

At the last meeting of the Board, the status of our engines and rolling stock was discussed. I mentioned that my personal slogan for the SVLS is "Everything Always Works" and we reviewed the fact that the GP - 40 had not been in regular service for about two years. When kids put rocks on the rails on July 3rd, the steamer derailed in late afternoon and was out of service until the next



day. This meant that 50% of our engines were not available for the public trains. By fixing the GP-40 we would not be in that position again. Milon Thorley was appointed to be the person to take on the effort to fix the engine without the involvement of others unless he requested them to help. He now reports that the job is done and the engine is available for public hauling service. Many thanks are extended to Milon for his efforts and for getting us fully operational.

The Board agreed with my suggestion that truck and coupler standardization be implemented over time. Although our rolling stock is operational now, our goal is to use the same trucks under those cars in the future so parts are interchangeable and a whole truck, for example, can be changed out in minutes if one fails in service. This will keep the trains running at all times. This is not something to do all at once due to cost and effort but is a long range plan. We have started with one train and with trucks under the tender of the steamer.

SHOW AND TELL

For several months I have asked anyone with ongoing projects to display them at membership meetings. For the last several months, it has happened! Most notable was Milon Thorley's completed box car that he displayed at the July meeting. He says he has worked on it for two years and it is a beautiful job. Watch for it running at the track.

Take a clue from those who have displayed projects and bring yours. Completed equipment can be run at Hot August Nights and unfinished items can be shown at the September meeting.

MEET CHAIRPERSONS

Several meets are coming and we need some help with the planning. Lois Clifton will be handling the Christmas run, Lois and Cindy Wilmunder will work together on Halloween and Paul Clifton and Les Wilmunder will be working on Rail Fair (Paul outside and Les Inside). This leaves the Fall Meet and the anticipated Handicapped Special Meet. If you would like to take on either of these, please let me know ASAP.

VEHICLES, TRAINS AND BIKES

Due to several calls and comments, I asked the Board members and others attending the Board meeting what they felt the rules should be about vehicles on the track. This includes any kind of railroad prototype, handcars, speeders, bicycles with flanged wheel assemblies, lawn mower powered assemblies, etc. The consensus of opinion is that anything that meets wheel standards so as not to cause damage to the track is okay to use. The only exception to this rule is that human powered equipment or equipment of any type can be ruled off the track by a board member if there are perceived safety issues or during the time public hauling trains are in use. Also, when the public is on trains, kids should not operate equipment on the rails.



The GP-40 pulling a load of passengers after 2nd day of testing and all seems great with the rebuilt engine. THANKS to all that have helped make this happen.

Vice President Report

By Pete Arney



Workday turnout has been good the last few weeks. Thanks to all that took their time to contribute to the organization.

The Sacramento Tree Foundation has donated (8) trees to replace those that didn't survive after last year's planting of 130+ trees. These eight are specific types for specific locations. If you would like to help with this task, contact me at 916-956-2870 or parney@pacbell.net.

Irrigation is underway. Volunteers are needed to spend a few hours several times a week to change hoses. The addition of more hose bibs on the high pressure lines and additional large area sprinklers has made watering easier but still time consuming. We are obligated to water the park portion of our area per agreement with Cordova Recreation and Park District. This system is a series of standpipe receptacles and plug-in quills with sprinklers. The park currently has problems with their irrigation pumps so we are sometimes restricted to evening watering.

Justin Shade bought a 4-4-0 locomotive and brought it to the track for a boiler certification, which the engine passed. This is the locomotive that appeared in the Ghost Busters II movie; towards the end of the film it ran down subway tracks. I understand that Justin has that movie. With a little urging, maybe he would show that scene as part of show and tell at our monthly meeting.

During public run on Sunday, July 4, children set a fire along fence by the bike trail; 911 was called for fire dept. help; Richard Lutrel and his nephew Jacob put fire out using one of our irrigation hoses. Interesting, the Sac Metro fire engine response was headed by SVLS member Skip Nance. Even though the irrigation hoses are always present during the summer, future meets will have the hoses equipped with nozzles and positioned strategically near the dry grassy areas.

Sun kinks are still plaguing our north end. These hot July and August days play havoc with the track. A couple of months ago, the outside aluminum rail was replaced with welded steel ribbon rail. While this has eliminated sharp bends at the joints previously connected with Spall joiners, kinks have been developing during the heat of day. A project is scheduled to replace the inside rail with steel as well during August. Ultimately, our accepted standard is steel rail mounted on plastic ties using Kadee tie plates will be installed. With this standard and with stakes through the ties every ten ties or so, rail walking and kinks can be controlled.

See you at the track.

Saturday Work Day



Dale Dennis helping with mowing during Saturday work day.



Warning bell installed on transfer table by Bill Yoder.



Paul Skidmore bringing another load of cut ties he has cut and donated. That is the smallest MOW car seen anywhere.



Storage Cabinet donated by Marilyn Drewes and being assembled by Gordon Moser.



Tony Price was a visitor to our track on Tuesday (7/20) from Bridgend of Wales in the UK.

Milon and Paul gave Tony a tour and a ride with witty commentary along the way.

Tony said he really enjoyed seeing our facility and stated it was one of the better ones he has ridden on.

He took several still pictures of how we were doing things and a video of his train ride.



Barbara Moser planting flowers along the fence of the storage container - You are making the place look great!



Milon's new box car is a replica of a B&O class M-53 box car. So called Wagon Top due to the rounded roofs. They were built in the 30's & 40's mainly by the B&O RR. They were supposed to save metal as compared to conventional construction. This method of construction was also used by the B&O and Penn in some classes of cabooses. Some Wagon Tops were not new construction but were rebuilds of older cars on the old frames. There were over 5,000 of them built by the B&O. The new under frames were supplied by Bethlehem Steel Co. as were the trucks and couplers. The B&O built the rest of the car parts in there Cumberland Maryland shops But the cars were actually assembled at four other shops beginning in 1937. This may be more than you wanted to know but at least you should do well at the next trivia conversation.

Movie star is seen at SVLS



Justin Schade with his 4-4-0 American (from Little Engines) that was used in a variety of movies. Its first debut was in Ghostbusters II as the ghost train. It has been in other movies as well. It was purchased from William Klinger who is a special effects artist in Hollywood....or at least was. He retired the day before Justin bought the engine. The engine was set up to run primarily by remote control so some rework will be done to make it suited for engineer operation.



For sale: 1" scale new 60 ton steeple cab electric locomotive, two trucks, two axle motors to each truck, much THRUST. \$3250 F.O.B. The unit is patterned after a Pacific Electric 60 ton GE steeplecab. (If buyer pickup unit then batteries are included.)

OTHER items: Pacific Electric interurban, UP gondola, and 1" scale trucks.

CALL: Ray Reiff 559-738-8447 Visalia, CA.

Board of Directors

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Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

BIG SMOKEY FOR SALE - Older 4-6-2 PACIFIC in 1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge. NO ALUMINUM CASTINGS. New oil fired boiler built by LE - Colorado in has a steam driven compound air compressor and a 12VDC air compressor for train brakes. Steam operated brakes on engine. Engine and tender have lights for night running. Tender holds 7.5 gallons of diesel fuel and about 15 gallons of water. Exceptional runner, easy to fire and run. Powerful - Has hauled 28 cars with 12 passengers. Includes custom canvas cover and prints. Asking \$18,00 and I will consider reasonable offers. Engine and tender are located in Reno, Nevada. Additional pictures available via internet upon request.

Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or
steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net for additional details.



Please check the SVLS web site
www.svls.org for current information on SVLS 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
P.O. Box 273
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

215. When visibility is limited and after sunset, all trains shall have a lighted headlight (white) showing to the front on the engine and a marker on the last car showing red to the rear. Trainmen shall have a lighted lantern suitable for giving hand signals. Such lights shall be visible for a distance of at least one-hundred fifty (150) feet.

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

417. All equipment shall be built to clear all track side clearances as shown in these rules and standards. Any equipment on which the engineer, trainmen, or passengers ride with their feet outside the equipment shall have foot boards or bars to hold the feet of all riders in a position to clear all track side objects such as: switchstands, signals, mileposts, etc.

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