

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

October 2004

Volume 31, Issue 10

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

### THE FALL MEET IS UPON US

If you haven't already, mark your calendars to attend the Fall Meet at the SVLS track. The dates are October 15, 16 and 17. Friday the 15th we will have our usual meeting of membership and guests at 7:30 PM in the park buildings and we get rolling for the rest of the time. Bring your equipment to run and display for the enjoyment of all. Meet Chairpersons Ross Crawford and Marilyn Drewes have planned good running, a raffle, T-shirts to buy, a banquet and a great time for everyone. Be sure you have made dinner reservations for Saturday night by calling Lois Clifton now. The cost is \$15 each.

### HALLOWEEN

Once again this year, we are working with Jerry Jewell and his display of scary things and our Ghost Trains. This year, we will operate on two nights, October 30 & 31. Several additions to his displays are going to be offered and the SVLS will ride the families to the ghoulish surprises that await. Members who can help at this event are invited to come out to the track for their assignment. All who helped last time really enjoyed the event and our own special fellowship. We look forward to your participation.

### CHRISTMAS

Once again we will have a special meet for the kids following Thanksgiving when we run for Christmas. As you know we have our own Santa Claus in the person of Paul Clifton so it is only appropriate that Mrs.

*Continued on page 4*



There was a fun time at the Tracks Saturday with the The Sacramento Valley Garden Railroad society setting up two modular tables to run trains on. One table was for the electric while another table was running live steam engines on "G" gauge. SVLS had their steam engine out running on our track and giving rides to all that attended. Many SVLS members who attended brought their "G" scale engines to run on their track and their trains to show and or give rides on our 7.5 gauge track. The response was very good and both groups said it was very laid back and everyone just having FUN. The Garden group would like to do it again next year. They furnish the food and made a donation to SVLS - We thank them.

I want to thank all of the SVLS members who helped.  
Red Hadler



SVLS members attending:

Vern & Clio Geyer - Trolley

Al & Mary Shelley

Les, Cindy & Casey Wilmunder - Train 1.5 & G scale

Paul & Lois Clifton

Dale, Allison, & Madellaine King - Train

Dave & Pat Mattox - Train

Red Hadler - train

Pete Arney - train

Butch & Bill Floyd

Bill Yoder - Train

Gordon & Barbara Moser

Paul Moser - train

Jack Friedman

Richard Lutrel

Joel Corbin

## CALENDAR

Oct 2 Run day (public rides noon to 4)

Oct 7 Board meeting 6:30 at Caboose

Oct 15 General Membership Meeting  
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room

### Oct 16 -17 FALL MEET

Oct 18 News letter deadline

Oct 30-31 Ghost Train and Haunted house

Nov 11 Board meeting 6:30 at Caboose

Nov 13-14 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
MODEL RAILROAD SHOW - Roseville

Nov 19 General Membership Meeting  
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room

Nov 20 Work Day

Nov 21 News Letter deadline

Nov 27&28 Annual Santa Train - come ride and have  
your picture taken with Santa

**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](http://www.svls.org)).

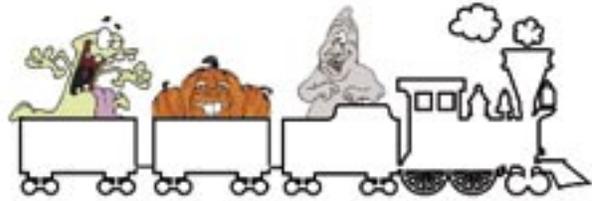
There are always things to be done to support SVLS.

*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.

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Ghost Train

Anyone who would be interested in helping out with the Ghost Train please contact Cindy Wilmunder at (916) 372-2423. We will be running three evenings at the end of October.

October 29 - 5:30pm to 6:30 pm for VIP run.

October 30 & 31 - 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm (tickets required to ride)

## COOKBOOK

### Fundraiser NEED RECIPES

Please Contact Lois

Clifton

E-mail Address

[loisjune1@surewest.net](mailto:loisjune1@surewest.net)

Home Address:

6725 Auburn Blvd.

Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Phone # (916) 722-8514

We would like to get this out before Thanksgiving!



# HURRY ! HURRY !

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](mailto: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.

SVSL FALL MEET  
 Plans for our fall meet are going very well. Carl Mahler will be our official greater on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Lorra Fowler and Clio Geyer will be handling registration and everyone must register. All guests with trains, who are qualified, will be encouraged to haul the public on Saturday and Sunday.



All in attendance on Thursday evening are invited to a lasagna dinner at 6PM.

Many people have volunteered for some of the necessary jobs but we will need more volunteers. There will be sign up sheets for different positions such as train crews and station helpers. Breakfast will be served Saturday & Sunday morning from 8AM to 10AM. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM. Be sure to get your Saturday night dinner reservations from Lois at 722-8514.

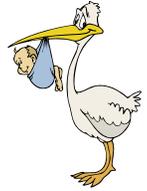
Don't forget to bring your goodies for the bake sale table.

This meet is a party for our guests and the success of the party depends on everyone pitching in to help where you can. If you have any questions or suggestions (greatly received) please contact:  
 Ross Crawford 916 718-4162  
 Marilyn Drewes 916 725-3525

**FALL MEET**  
**CABOOSE NEEDS HELP**  
 Saturday and Sunday  
 if you are interested let  
 contact Barbara or Lois now!

Sunshine Corner

Justin & Jeanette Schade have a new baby boy.

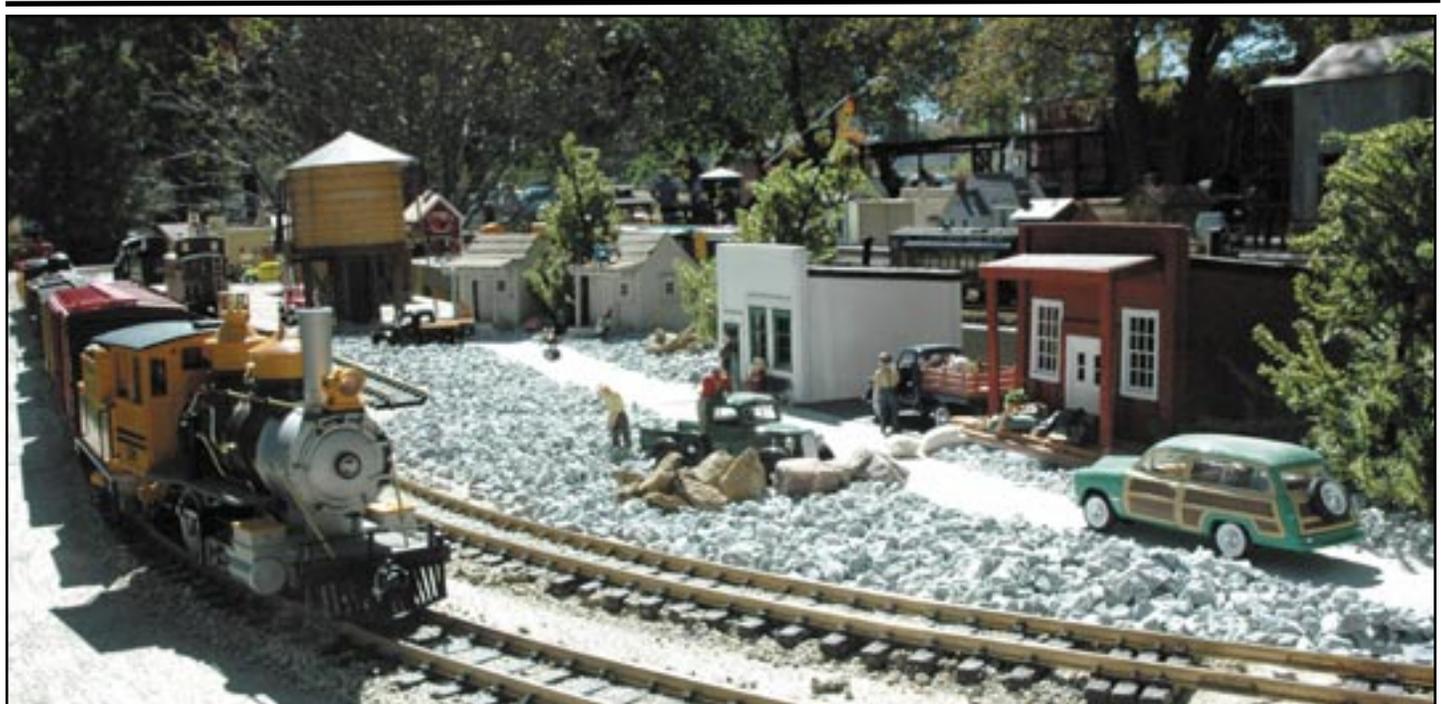


New Member

Ali Mackani	Folsom
Adam Day	Woodland
Garrett Augustus	Woodland
Paul Garcia	Lincoln

**Runday and Workday Volunteer's**

<b>Paul Clifton</b>	<b>Milon Thorley</b>
<b>Pete Arney</b>	<b>Red Hadler</b>
<b>Jack Friedman</b>	<b>Barbara Moser</b>
<b>Bill Yoder</b>	<b>Paul Skidmore</b>
<b>Joel Corbin</b>	<b>Vern Geyer</b>
<b>Clio Geyer</b>	<b>Gordon Moser</b>
<b>Marilyn Drews</b>	<b>Ross Crawford</b>
<b>Butch Floyd</b>	<b>Les Wilmunder</b>
<b>Cindy Wilmunder</b>	<b>Gil Beard</b>
<b>Cassey Wilmunder</b>	<b>Justin Schade</b>
<b>Richard Lutrel</b>	<b>Lee Frechette</b>
<b>Lois Clifton</b>	<b>Dale Dennis</b>
<b>Dave Mattox</b>	



President report - continued from page 1

Claus (Lois Clifton) be in charge of this meet. If you can help her, give her a call. This run day is in the planning stages now.

TRACK CONDITION

The track vandalism mentioned in my last report has been repaired but more has occurred. This will be fixed shortly. As you can see, we need to step up our security plans. As thoughts and plans are made, we will inform you. The key trustee plan is a part of this. Our watchful eyes are important too. Lets all be vigilant.

NOMINATING AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

As required by the by-laws, several members have been appointed to the 2004 Nominating Committee. Those appointees are Bill Yoder, Chairman, Red Hadler and Barbara Moser. They are working to announce the nominees at the October meeting. The vote will be taken at the November Annual General Membership Meeting. The positions to be filled this year are Vice President, Treasurer, Track Superintendent and Yardmaster.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COMMITTEE

As most of you know, when the by-law changes were suggested, there was an agreement to review operating procedures and to determine if administrative rules were appropriate. Most now agree that they are. A committee of Board Members and General Members was recently appointed for this purpose. From the Board, the members are Pete Arney, Chairman, Lee Frechette, and myself (Joel Corbin). Members from the rank and file are Milon Thorley, Bill Yoder, and Gordon Moser. In making these appointments, those most vocal on the issues and those most active were selected.

SECRETARY VACANCY

I regret that I must report that SVLS Secretary Keith Berry has resigned due to increased business demands. We have expressed our thanks to Keith for a fine job as Secretary and his recent efforts as Spring Meet Chairman and wished him well in those difficult business pursuits. Keith has said he hopes to find time to work at the track as he has in the past so he will still be involved. Be sure to thank him when you see him next.

Currently we are looking for a good candidate to replace Keith. The candidate, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board, should have note taking and writing talents to keep good minutes of meetings and to write letters. They should have a good understanding of the issues the Board faces as they attempt to keep the railroad built, maintained and, running as well.

YOUR ACTIVITY

The other day I was thumbing through the roster and saw lots of members I did not know and some I have not seen for a long time. You may not know it, but the SVLS has changed with plans and activities for everyone. If you have not come out recently, you don't know what you are missing. Plan now to come to our meetings and upcoming meets and become an active part of the SVLS. A good time to start is the meeting before the Fall Meet or at a run day. Of course, bringing something you are working on as a show and tell item is a great conversation starter. This can be displayed the next day at the Fall Meet too.

...best wishes for good steaming!



GP40 getting serviced by several members on a Tuesday work day. So just how many does it take to work on the GP40 when Milon is out of town?



A Signal committee is being formed to enhance the signal system at the track. The committee will provide a short range plan to add more signals in critical spots and a long range plan for type of signals to be used, placement, and method of operation with the intent to have CTC operation if wanted.

If you would like to help with suggestion for signal style, placement or design circuit/wiring methods please contact Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 or email [byoder@vfr.net](mailto:byoder@vfr.net)

## Vice President Report

By Pete Arney

### VANDALISM AND SECURITY

The dual gauge rail along our Sugar Pine loop was vandalized during the weekend of our Hot August Nights event as reported in last month's Golden Spike. The rail has been replaced with special thanks for the effort of Dave Mattox.

The theft of aluminum rail was reported in the local newspaper, the August 27th issue of The Grapevine, in an article written by Shelly Blanchard. The article was very supportive of our efforts to keep the track intact and



emphasized that the theft will put a strain on the already thin SVLS operating budget supported by donations. The article ended with a plea for people with information to call the Rancho Cordova Police Department at 875-9600 and also listed our web site, [www.SVLS.org](http://www.SVLS.org).

A year or so ago, Paul Clifton donated six large 1000 watt light fixtures. The fixtures are mainly designed to be installed inside, but can be temporarily mounted outside during our fall events. Two are contemplated for the steaming bays, two for around the box car, and two for along the fence north of the box car. Volunteers are needed to help install the large units and electrical wiring. More permanent lights and wiring are planned as the budget permits in hopes that lights will discourage further vandalism.

### DONATIONS

Special thanks to an SVLS member who requested to remain anonymous for the donation of \$100 towards the work of the organization.

Gil Beaird, on September 18, donated 1000 newly cut and treated ties to SVLS. The 16" ties are nominally 2" x 3" prime treated fir. The plan is to install the ties on the north curve leaving the box car yard where the summer heat has caused some severe kinks. Steel rail has replaced aluminum rail on part of this curve. Gil's ties will provide a firm anchor the ballast to hold the rail in place. Thanks again, Gil. Your work is greatly appreciated and

will provide a lasting contribution for all to enjoy.

Paul Skidmore, in addition to working with Trainmaster Ross on our equipment, also provides SVLS with tie material. Both of these gentlemen spend many hours cutting and bringing the ties to our track. Remember, in our 6300 foot mainline, there are about 20,000 ties. Many have been replaced, but many still need replacing. And that doesn't include our many sidings and spurs.

Neil Heath, who is now in the process of making (64) metal milepost signs for the entire main line. The milepost signs are made out of sheet metal with the mile indication cut out in a vertical line. Neil is donating the signs. SVLS will pick up the tab for powder coating the mileposts, probably less than \$100, and furnishing posts the signs will be mounted to. The mileposts will be placed every 100 feet along the 6300 foot main line. The signs will also be used to clock speed limits as well (100 feet in nine seconds is about seven mph, our speed limit). After they are installed, we can better locate and reference points along the track. We still need to develop a naming convention for our sidings, yards, and spurs.

Paul Clifton arranged for the donation of an electric air valve to be installed along with a timer on our air compressor. The valve was donated by Marc Watson of Hydraulic Power Sales. Installation of the valve and timer will allow visitors to the track to turn on air to the steaming bays for a period of time then shut off. This prevents air from being supplied to leaking connections in the bays causing the compressor to cycle on and off frequently when air is not needed.

### VISITORS

Two gentlemen dropped by our track on Wednesday, September 15: Harold Vollrath and Richard Wilms from Kansas City Live Steamers. They were on their way down from the Train Mountain September meet, passing through on their way to Bitter Creek. Harold had made earlier arrangements for an SVLS member to show them our layout and give a ride around the track on our UP GP40. KCLS has about 2250 feet of track and 20 members. The organization, however, is experiencing trouble locating an insurance provider to cover their operation, let alone at a price that they can afford, and may have to cease operations. Harold is an avid photographer and has been taking black and white pictures of railroads, primarily engines, from all around the country since 1936. He has a collection of almost 50,000 negatives that he just recently inventoried and categorized on a computer. He has made available prints of these photos at a nominal cost to anyone wishing photos of specific roads and engines. Harold can be contacted [hkvollrath@kcnet.com](mailto:hkvollrath@kcnet.com) or 816-942-3423 for

*Continued on page 6*

VP - Continued from page 5

lists of available pictures.

Paul Garcia and son Ryan visited the track on our Sunday run day, September 20, and immediately joined SVLS as new members. Paul is very enthusiastic about being a member. Welcome aboard, Paul. It's a lot of fun (and work!).

Rich, Deb, and Luke Colbert dropped by a few weeks ago. Luke is very interested in G-scale trains, but larger scales are interesting too, hopefully 1-1/2" scale.

**MEMBERS**

Amy Lutrel, besides being seven months with child, developed a severe gall bladder problem. Doctors can't operate to remove her gall bladder just yet due to her condition. For the next month or so, she is confined to John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek. Amy is on an IV, not being able to take food or liquids without a lot of pain. Richard, in the meantime, still must work at the UP out of Roseville and shuttle back and forth to Walnut Creek. Best wishes for a good outcome.

**TASKS TO BE DONE, SOON**

A number of tasks are planned to be completed before the Fall Meet:

1. Install an electrical subpanel in the caboose and rewire the receptacles.
2. Build shelves in the shed donated by Les and Cindy Wilmunder to store our portable track shims.
3. Install temporary lighting.
4. Complete the "Ghost Train" electrical outlet installation at the trestles, bridge, and haunted house locations.
5. Replace ties and reballast Reverso where some furry little vandals have removed both.
6. General MOW attention.
7. Rake and bag all of the pine needles and leaves that are now coming down (Fall is here!).
8. Mow grass.
9. Plus a few more...check out the Projects page on our web site.

Plus some fun stuff: a remote controlled ghost train operating at our Halloween event on special sections of unused track; a new solid state signal system; new mile posts for the entire main line...more to come.



**TRACK STATUS**

Between now and the Fall Meet, extensive watering and track work is planned. Irrigation hoses will be run across our track. Members intending to run should always check the SVLS web site for status.

www.SVLS.org: Under "SVLS Information": Click on "Track information". In addition to the SVLS track plan you will find two new entries. The first is important: a track status indicator in the form of a 3-position signal and some text alongside explaining the signal condition. When the signal is green, track is clear and available for use. When yellow, use caution; there are obstructions such as water hoses across the track. When flashing yellow, track maintenance is scheduled or underway. Slow operating speed may be required. When red, track is out of service or not available as a complete circuit, usually due to major rail replacement.

**POPCORN**

The Board of Directors voted to purchase a popcorn machine from JC Penney. With our success of selling water and ice cream, the popcorn should pay for itself in short order. On July 3rd and 4th, we made more on our sales of water and ice cream as we did on our passenger operation.

See you at the track this fall!



And if the list at the left is not long enough here is a needed project stop the boxcar from sinking. It now take two people to open the doors due to door hanging on retaining fall support piple. - We will need lots of stong people for this!

# FALL MEET DINNER

**All You Can Eat \$15.00**

**Tri Tip**

**Chili**

**Caesar's Salad**

**Mashed Potatoes**

**Grilled Chicken**

**Corn on Cob**

**Garlic Bread**

**Green Beans**

**Dessert/Beverage**

**RSVP: Lois Clifton**

[loisjune1@surewest.net](mailto:loisjune1@surewest.net)

or

**(916) 722-8514**

**Deadline is OCT 8, 2004**

- If you would like a different menu for the Spring Meet 2005. Please drop request in suggestion box at the registration table. Thank You

## Board of Directors

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075

E-mail: [joel@steamtrainjoel.com](mailto:joel@steamtrainjoel.com)

Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000

E-mail: [vp@svls.org](mailto:vp@svls.org)

Secretary: -open-

Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: [loisjune1@msn.com](mailto:loisjune1@msn.com)

Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder

(916) 372-2423

Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820

E-mail: [leefrechette@yahoo.com](mailto:leefrechette@yahoo.com)

Trainmaster: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

Special Events: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: [paulclifton@msn.com](mailto:paulclifton@msn.com)

Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org)

Membership: Lorra Fowlar (916) 962-0718

E-mail: [sphogger@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sphogger@ix.netcom.com)

**Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**

We have several special events over the next few months and help is needed at these events. Also it takes work to get the track and facilities ready before the events. Please volunteer and support SVLS.

**Oct. 16 & 17 Fall Meet**

Ross Crawford and Marilyn Drewes are the meet coordinators so call either to volunteer. (Don't forget help will be needed when people arrive Friday or before)

**Oct. 30 & 31 Terror Train**

**Nov. 27 & 28 Santa run**



Please check the SVLS web site

[www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org) for current information on SVLS activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group.

[www.groups.yahoo.com](http://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	
<b>Drinks / Dessert</b>	
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