

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

December 2004

Volume 31, Issue 12

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

### ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual General Membership Meeting the election took place for Board members for the next two years. As you know, the nominating Committee recommended the incumbents for the positions they held for the last two years. Pete Arney was reelected to the position of Vice-President, Lois Clifton was elected Treasurer once again, and Les Wilmunder was elected as Track Superintendent for the next two years. For the position of Yardmaster, Vern Geyer was nominated from the floor to run against outgoing director Lee Frechette. Vern was elected by a majority of several votes and has agreed to serve in this position for the next two years. Many thanks to those who served for the last two years and who will serve in the upcoming year.

### BYLAWS

I have been advised that the member - approved new bylaws have been filed and accepted by the Secretary of State's office. We will now operate under these new rules and the Administrative Committee, under the direction of Pete Arney, will meet shortly to put in place any rules discussed as possibilities in the past.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND RUN DAYS

In the recent past, a number of members participated in the International Railfair in Roseville, four special runs for schools, and the Santa Run. Paul Clifton planned the Roseville Railfair and we attended with our "snap track" and rolling stock

*Continued on page 4*



*Doug Fulton with his steam engine pulling a loaded train of little and big kids at the rail fair.*

See page 3 for more pictures and story.

### Santa Run 2004

Saturday we were almost rained out, but some one was looking out for us, because it did clear up.

Sunday was beautiful all day. We had a nice crowd of people on both days, and they all were having a great time.

*Continued on page 3*

*Milon's great granddaughter Ashley having a great time with Santa.*



### CHRISTMAS POT LUCK

By Clio Geyer

Remember our December meeting is our annual Christmas Pot Luck. Bring your favorite hot dish, dessert, drink, salad, etc. to share with everyone. Hopefully we will have a good turnout with lots of good food to share, as well as good conversation.

If you have never been to one of our Christmas Pot Luck dinners, now is the time to find out what it is all about. If you live near, or far, please mark your calendars for Friday, December 17, 2004 at 7 p.m. and come on out!

See you there!

## CALENDAR

Dec 9 Board meeting 6:30 at Park meeting room  
 Dec 17 annual Christmas Pot Luck 7 p.m.  
 Dec 18 Work Day  
 Dec 20 News letter deadline

Jan 1 Run Day (Members & Guests only)  
 Jan 13 Board meeting 6:30 at Park meeting room  
 Jan 21 General meeting 7:30 Hagan Park meeting room  
 Jan 22 Work Day  
 Jan 23 News letter deadline

Feb 10 Board meeting  
 Feb 18 General meeting 7:30 at Park meeting room

**2005** public run day calendar available on-line, or hand-outs at caboose.

**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.

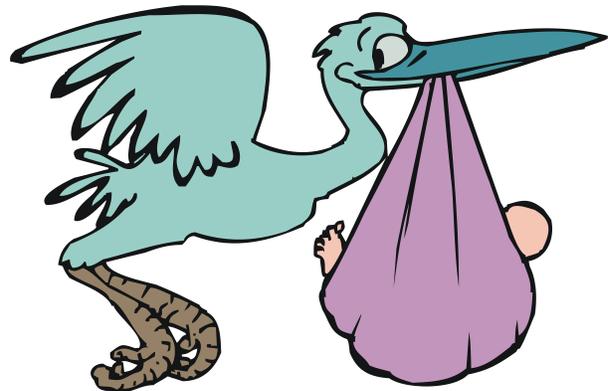
*The Golden Spike* is the published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The SVLS track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: [editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org).

## Sacramento Valley Live Steamers in the news.

The *Sacramento Bee* (Nov. 14, 2004) published an article and pictures of us giving rides at the Rail Fair in Roseville. It was a great write up and pictures. For those that did not see it, check the link from our web site under "News".

The *Rancho Cordova Grapevine Independent* published a letter from a local resident thanking SVLS and two of its members Dale and Lorra Fowler for taking the time to fix his wheel chair.

Great work Dale and Lorra!



Amy and Richard Lutrel are the proud parents of Sara Elizabeth Lutrel. She was born on Thursday 10/28/04, 6:02pm 7lbs 7oz. and 20 1/2 inches long.



### Rail Fair 2004

*Paul Clifton, Chairmen*

A hardy **THANK YOU** to all who helped in the 2 day effort plus setup day. Everything went off without any problems.

We had a good turnout on Saturday and with the Sacramento Bee's article on Sunday. Sundays turnout was fantastic. Next year can be better if we start to work on it now. Cooperation and communication are the big secrets. Once again a thank you to all for the many hours spent to make it work for SVLS. Lois Clifton, Pete Arney, Lee Frechette, Les Wilmunder, Bill Yoder, Gordon Moser, Barbara Moser, Marilyn Drewes, Joel Corbin, Paul Skidmore, Vern Geyer, Clio Geyer, Cindy Wilmunder, Les Wilmunder, Casey Wilmunder, Milon Thorley, Gil Beird, Doug Fulton, Lorra Fowlar, Dale Fowlar, Rich Lutrel, Dale Dennis, Butch Floyd, Jack Friedman, Red Hadler, Frank Presley, Justin Schrade, Ross Crawford, Bill Floyd.



Jack Friedman the happy conductor



Doug Fulton ready to provide rides to the public at the Roseville Rail Fair. - Thanks Doug!



Even at closing time the crowds were willing to wait to ride the steam train.

Thanks again to all that made this a good event.



#### *Santa Run - continued from page 1*

We received a lot of nice comments. One came from Wayne & Carson Chubb; they wrote, "With Santa and all the cookies... This is the first time in 30 years that I felt like I'm back in Aunt Rose's kitchen at Christmas time." Paul Stark from Folsom was the winner of our raffle prize. Thanks to everyone who helped, because without you there would have never been a Santa Run; Paul Clifton, Lorra Fowlar, Dale Fowlar, Marilyn Drewes, Ross Crawford, Les Wilmunder, Cindy Wilmunder, Casey Wilmunder, Butch Floyd, Bill Floyd, Dale Dennis, Sid Madden, Vern Geyer, Clio Geyer, Barbara Moser, Gordon Moser, Jack Friedman, Mary Neville, Milon Thorley, Bill Yoder.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Lois Clifton, *Chairman*

*President report - continued from page*

for a successful day. (Did you see his picture in the Sacramento Bee?) Ross Crawford set up the school events and Lois Clifton planned the Santa Run. This article is being written prior to the Santa Run so specifics are unknown but I would like to thank all who helped on these events. Without the participation of many folks, these things never come together.

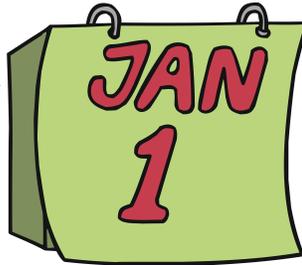
This brings up the question of SVLS participation. If you are not active, now is the time to get on board. Those who do help get the most out of the organization, not only learning much about our operation, the equipment, and what our goals are, but they make good friends also. Plan to come to meetings, work days and special run days. You will benefit by the experiences.

**DECEMBER POT LUCK**

To celebrate the holidays, the SVLS will have a pot luck dinner at the Hagan Park buildings where Membership Meetings are usually held in lieu of our December regular meeting. Bring a dish and come to the get together with the rest of us. This should be a good time for celebrating the season. Friday, December 17, 2004 at 7:30 PM is the date and time.

**NEW YEARS DAY RUN**

Get on your warm clothing and bring out your engines for a run day at the track for members only on January 1, 2005. Ring in the New Year's Day behind your equipment and with fellow Railfans. Why watch a parade when you can be doing what we all enjoy the most.

**Ghost train special**

People who attended the Ghost train event on October 30 & 31 experienced a spooky train ride and a scary haunted house put on by Jerry Jewel's performing arts students. The haunted house had great effects with moving creatures and several characters created that would talk and move to tell their story. This was done by using Animaltronics.

On the train ride to the haunted house the riders, experience of a train chasing them (on a parallel track) from the trestle going north. This train was run by a "skeleton crew" which approached them from behind in the dark and blowing a loud horn and then turning on a bright headlight. The skeleton would glow in the dark by being lit with black light and having lighted red eyes. All the train functions, sound and light effects were controlled by the use of a 9 channel radio control system.

The skeleton engineer also was sitting on a real engineer chair - the skeleton version with no padding.



Oct 24, 2004 - Vandalism again on SVLS track. During the previous week rail was cut and removed from the track along the curve by the bike trail (RiverView). In addition more rail was damaged with the bolt cutters as they were trying to cut the rail but did not complete the cut.

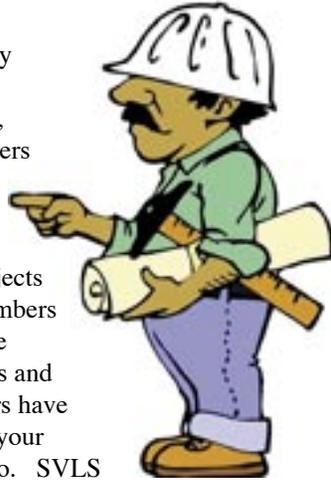
Oct 26, 2004 - Track fixed thanks to the good work by Pete and his crew.



## Vice-President Report

by Pete Arney

Our Winter break from public runs is underway. We traditionally use this period to refresh, repair, and replace our equipment, track, buildings, and yard. SVLS officers for the Trainmaster, Track Superintendent, and Yardmaster board positions, especially, should have lists of tasks and projects that they feel need attention. Members are encouraged to contact both the present and new incoming officers and volunteer for tasks that the officers have identified to be done. Whatever your interest is, there will be a job to do. SVLS operates and has requirements that very much are like the real railroads rather than like a model train layout. That's what many of us find fascinating and fun about our hobby and about our large scale railroading. Please help.



Your vice-president was appointed by president Joel Corbin in September to chair a rules committee. This committee will consider rules that will augment our new by-laws and define how our organization will function. As many will remember, a lot of the minutia of day-to-day operations were removed from the by-laws. This detail will, instead, be defined as rules. Rules can be defined and modified in a single membership meeting as the needs of the SVLS organization dictates rather than by refileing the by-laws with the Secretary of State. .

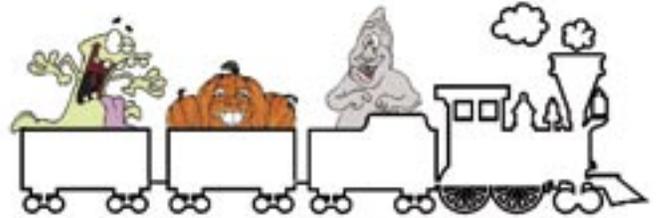
The rules committee consists of Pete Arney (chair), Lee Frechette, Bill Yoder, Milon Thorley, Gordon Moser, and Joel Corbin. The president selected the members based on a varied cross-section of interests represented by those named. The first meeting was initially postponed until Milon returned from his eastern trip in late October. With the by-laws now apparently approved by the California Secretary of State, a meeting date will be set soon. Input for suggested rule changes or additions are welcomed, in writing. Please contact me by email at [parney@pacbell.net](mailto:parney@pacbell.net), by a note, or send a fax to 916-989-0448.

Bill Yoder has provided a new link to a new page on our website. It is titled "News" under "SVLS Information" on the left column on the home page. The purpose of the News page is to highlight late breaking news, such as the Sac Bee article covering our participation at the Roseville Railfair, track vandalism, the Halloween event. Check it out.

Neil Heath provided samples of the new mile post signs we talked about in the October 2004 newsletter. Neil is donating the cost of the signs to SVLS. The signs are 2" x 4" 16-gauge sheet metal through stamped with numbers 0 - 65. Neil will have the signs powder coated white for one dollar per sign. The SVLS

BOD voted to reimburse Neil for the powder coating costs. In addition, Neil will also provide whistle signs to be installed at grade crossings. Thanks, Neil, for your efforts and donation.

Congratulations to Richard and Amy Lutrel on the birth of Sarah Elizabeth on October 28. Sarah was born at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek, weighing in at 7# 7oz. and 21". Amy was confined to the hospital many weeks due to problems awaiting the birth of Sarah. Mother, baby and Dad are home doing very well.



Thanks to those who helped make the Halloween Ghost Train event a success:

Cindy, Les, & Casey Wilmunder - chairperson, train crew, spooky character  
 Paul & Lois Clifton - steam engineer, popcorn & chocolate sales  
 Lee Frechette - dispatcher, set up & take down, flood lights, PA system, large inflatable pumpkin  
 Joel Corbin - train crew, set up & take down  
 Bill Yoder - remote control skeleton, set up & take down  
 Butch Floyd - departure station, set up & take down, screen for skeleton  
 Bill Floyd - set up & take down, screen for skeleton  
 Justin Shade - train crew  
 Dale Dennis - train crew  
 Vern & Clio Geyer - train crew, station master  
 Gordon & Barbara Moser - train crew, popcorn & chocolate sales, set up & take down  
 Marilyn Drewes - ticket sales  
 Pete & Scott Arney - stuff  
 Sat train crews: UP: Dennis & Justin; RS3: Les & Vern; Steam: Paul & Gordon  
 Sun train crews: UP: Pete & Joel; RS3: Les & Vern; Steam: Paul & Gordon



Thanks to Red Hadler and Lois Clifton for taking pictures at the Rail Fair and Santa Run for the *Golden Spike*.



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).

# RAIL FAIR 2004





Here are a couple of inside pictures of the characters in the haunted house. Visitors would ride one of several trains from the SVLS station around the track where characters were providing a scary adventure to the riders. The train would stop at the haunted house to let the visitors go into and most came out to ride the train back to the station. This was a well attended event and fun was had by both the visitors and the SVLS volunteers.

### Board of Directors

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075  
 E-mail: joel@steamtrainjoel.com  
 Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000  
 E-mail: vp@svls.org  
 Secretary: -open-  
 Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
 E-mail: loisjune1@msn.com  
 Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder  
 (916) 372-2423  
 Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820  
 E-mail: 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  
 Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
 E-mail: editor@svls.org  
 Membership: Lorra Fowlar (916) 962-0718  
 E-mail: sphogger@ix.netcom.com

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



**RAFFLE WINNER**



Paul Stark from Folsom was the winner of our raffle prize.

Thanks to all who supported our Raffle.



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



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

216. Trainmen should use hand signals whenever practical. Several trainmen in the same area using whistles can easily be mistaken for one another. The use of hand signals makes it necessary for the engineer to see the signal intended for him, eliminating possible error and danger of mistaking another trainman's whistle for that of his own trainman.

303. All Trainmen and engineers must be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of basic rules of safe operation to the satisfaction of the Trainmaster or his designated alternate and in addition all engineers shall be thoroughly briefed on the individual engines they are to operate.

420. Car and truck bolsters shall be constructed to provide three or four point suspension for the car body. Side bearing clearance shall allow trucks to swivel freely, and provide stability for the car body with maximum load shifting. King pins for unequalized trucks shall be loose enough to allow equalizing with respect to the car body.

<b>Caboose Menu</b>	
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