

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

January 2005

Volume 32, Issue 01

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we enter a new year, I trust it will be a happy one for you and your family. Of course, happiness is enjoying the activity of Live Steam Railroading! As you develop your resolutions for this year, be sure to include building some new equipment and running what you have more often. The SVLS is here for you in helping in this effort. Another good resolution is one of helping at the track in many different ways. Not only do you give the benefit of your contribution, you learn more, make friends and become more actively involved to make Live Steaming and Railroading more enjoyable.

With an organization like ours, with as many diverse opinions and methods of doing things as we have, we should further resolve to work together for the good of the group. Although some had disagreements this past year, we trust that this year we can work closer together for the benefit of all.

THE PROGRESS OF THINGS

As you may be aware, the Park Department has a number of plans for improving their grounds and offering more to the public. If we continue to work with them positively, we can be a significant part of this. We must, however, show that we are together as a group and will, indeed, work with them. We have been advised that several members have visited with the Park Director without the knowledge of our Board of Directors or our appointed representatives. This cannot continue since it does not present positive

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Good food and time with friends at the December pot luck dinner. Many thanks to all that took the time to bring food for all to enjoy.



Milon Thorley made a special presentation of framed pictures to several members as a token of appreciation for their efforts on our behalf.



Special guest speaker Ken Yeo will be at our January General meeting. He will have a slide show on the history of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad and their Narrow gauge museum. This railroad built in the late 1800s provided a link from cities of Nevada city and Grass Valley to the Central Pacific line at Colfax. Ken is a wealth of information on this railroad and you don't want to miss this presentation.

7:30 Jan 21 at the Hagan Park community room.

CALENDAR

*NOTE: BOARD meeting date changed.

Jan 1 Run Day (Members & Guests only)
 Jan 7 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 4 Board meeting 6:30 at Park meeting room
 Feb 18 General meeting 7:30 at Park meeting room
 Feb 19 Work Day
 Feb 21 News Letter deadline

Mar 4 Board meeting 6:30 at Park meeting room
 Mar 18 General meeting 7:30 at Park meeting room
 Mar 19 Work Day
 Mar 21 News Letter deadline

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).

There are always things to be done to support SVLS.

How will you support SVLS this month?

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 the published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, 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.

Dave Mattox' father died several weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers to the families.

Board meetings have been changed to the first Friday of each month except for April which will be on the 8th and October which will be a week earlier on September 30th.

The SVLS cookbook is still simmering and needs a few more recipes to complete. This is to be used as a fund raiser so please help by sending in your recipes to Lois Clifton.

2005 public run schedule

Trains run Noon to 4 p.m. (weather permitting)

March	5 & 20
April	2 & 17
May	7
	21-22 Spring Meet
June	4 & 19
July	2
	4 Mini Meet
	17
August	5 & 21
September	3, 9 & 18
October 1	
	8-9 Fall Meet
	29-30 Ghost Train
December	3-4 Santa Train

Board of Directors

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E-mail: vern78@onemain.com

Trainmaster: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

Special Events: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

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Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

DECEMBER WORK DAYS AT THE TRACK



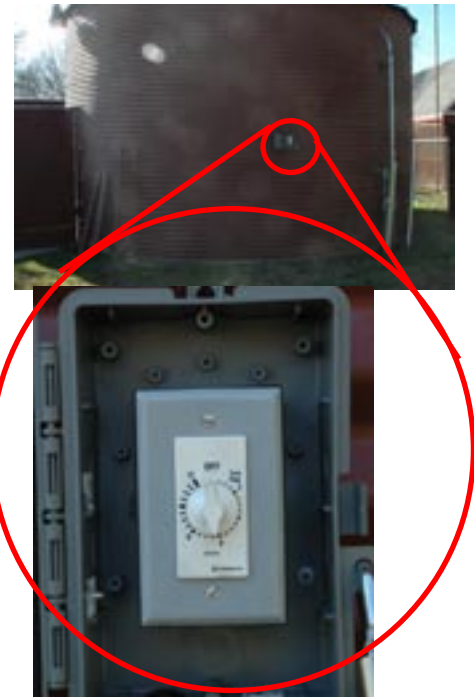
On Tuesday's work day (Dec. 21) Milon fished up our two new engineer cars. One is now coupled to the work SW1500 and the other will be coupled to the GP40. This will free up the first riding car from having the engineer ride on it and allow better passenger seating. The seats are on a swivels and Ross is planning to add a tool box behind each seat.

The second photo shows a method of using safety chains so that each car always has one attached and any car can be coupled to a side on the attached car. This method was seen in use on Milon's last eastern railroad tour.



Ross Crawford seen laying down on the job.

But he and Jack Friedman were inspecting the GP40 after engineers were experiencing lack of traction hauling people. It was found that the drive shaft key was missing for the 1st universal joint. It was noted by Milon that there should be the key at each end of the shaft but only one end should be secured in the universal joint so that there is some allowance for flexing during running. The other end of the shaft has the key silver soldered - and it was still in good shape. It was noticed that the key slot (where the key was missing) was worn, so Ross will be making that fit correctly.



Air now available to steaming bays with out the need to unlock the roundhouse. A timer switch is now on the outside of the roundhouse to provide air as needed. An electric valve acquired by Paul Clifton through a donation was added to the airline so that the manual valve did not need to be accessed. The reason for having the air be controlled is to prevent the air compressor from running due to leaks in air chucks and pipes. The timer box has the same combination as the gate locks.

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images of us in the park arena. Also, park officials have asked that this not continue as well. The SVLS has been requested to have all contacts with the Park Department come through me or my appointed representative. Please work with this plan so we do not alienate those who do so much for us.

ROLLING STOCK AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

At the last board of Directors meeting, it was mentioned that four gondolas were not operational due to problems with the trucks. As a result, approval was given to purchase two new pair of trucks. Those cars will be operational soon and then we will address the plans for the other two.

Several months ago, I mentioned that I had a goal of standardizing all of the equipment, such as trucks, so when some wear out or are damaged, we can easily switch in a new part without major modification. It will take a long time for this to be fully realized but progress is being made. As new trucks are needed, we use those made by Mountain Car. Another goal of mine was "everything always works" and it was in this spirit that the new trucks were ordered. If this keeps up, we will have fully operational equipment for members own use or for public hauling purposes. No one likes to show up and find cars not functional, electrical not working or other needed services out of order. Great effort toward this goal has been made but, again, we could use your help in keeping up the facility and the equipment.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING POSSIBLE CHANGE

Bill Yoder mentioned that he would like to have guest speakers or special presentations at our monthly meetings. We have discussed this several times and several of us have agreed. Bill will be working on some ideas for this and more will follow. This plan is to help us in building our projects by involving those with the expertise. We can also include things like Milon's slide show reviews of trip to bring us up to date on the rest of the world. Do you have something to offer? Contact us with what you can do. As always, our "Show and Tell" feature will continue to be a part of meetings, so bring your projects to display your talents.

SECRETARY APPOINTMENT

Several months ago, Keith Berry resigned from the position of SVLS Secretary for business reasons. Shortly thereafter, downsizing cost Keith his job. He is now working again and I spoke with him about resuming his duties and he agreed to do so. At the December Board meeting, Keith was appointed as Secretary and will re-assume his duties this month. Keith also was re-appointed to his position on the Master Plan Committee.

COOKBOOK

Hey you guys, Lois has a cookbook plan and has received about 40 recipes when 75 are needed. Talk this around your family and come up with your favorite dishes and send "the plans" for them

to Lois Clifton for inclusion on the book. You may get better meals once the book is published and I understand you get name credit too!

...Hope to see you soon and often this year.

Yardmaster News

By Vern Geyer



Welcome 2005...I have been out to the park looking over our inventory of lawn mowers, etc. It appears that the mowers are in fair shape overall. There is one mower that will be scrapped this year and a new one purchased to take its place. It also appears that there is a need for a new leaf blower. I plan to ask the Board to approve the purchase of a new backpack model. It is much easier to handle and can make the job of clearing the track much easier. I will be checking of prices for these new items so that I can give the Board a better picture of cost of these items as well as including them in my budget for this year.

There are still some Mulberry trees that need to be removed. I will be working with the Park District to see about help from them in clearing out a couple more before the Spring Meet if possible. One is the smallest one in the picnic area that will be the easiest to remove.

I will try to schedule the necessary work well in advance so that I can get those who are willing to volunteer to have plenty of time to schedule their time. I hope to see more of you out as the weather clears and starts to warm up. There will be much mowing, weed eating, setting up sprinkler times, clearing brush from the track, etc. Not to discourage those who are willing to come out and HELP!

Thank you for your support in the coming months.



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Life may be busy but supporting SVLS is needed, both monetary and labor.

Please send your 2005 dues now.
\$60 for regular member and \$30 for associate member. Fill membership form in and send to:
SVLS
P.O. Box 273
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



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.

Vice-President Report

By Pete Arney

On Saturday workday, December 18, Charlie Meinershagen and your VP installed shelving in the shed donated by Les Wilmunder to store about ten bins of wood shims. The shims are used when SVLS sets up the portable track at special events such as the Roseville Railfair. Thanks to Charlie for coming down from Redding to take on this project. The round house now has much more space in it.



The SVLS library received a donation of a new book recently from the San Leandro Historical Railway Society, <http://www.slhrs.org/>. The book is Railroad Track Standard Drawings, and covers subjects such as ballast, roadbed, ties and tie fasteners, road crossings, signs, switch points, frogs, and turnouts. Thanks to our new associate member, J. J. Carbino, for the gift.

At our November, 2004, membership meeting, a new Yardmaster was elected. I personally want to thank outgoing Yardmaster Lee Frechette for the many years of donated time, material, and money (in the thousands) for the betterment of SVLS. Lee's

enthusiasm about being at the track doing even the most menial jobs, always for the good of the club, and his life-long love he has of trains has inspired many members to become involved with SVLS. He leaves a legacy of an underground irrigation system, an electrical distribution system, and more than a hundred new trees installed over his tenure as Yardmaster. The SVLS Master Planning committee will continue to be chaired by Lee. The committee is instrumental in providing planning and direction for both current and future projects for SVLS for years to come.

On another note, I, like many of our members, am trying to find time to put together a steam engine. This coming year, I plan to submit a few short articles about my steam engine project. Basically, the locomotive is a Little Engines Pacific, with some major modifications. My LE Pacific project started 43 years ago with the purchase of drivers, axles, journals, and other parts from Mrs. Lewis in Lomita, California, who owned Little Engines at the time. Hopefully, and necessarily, it will take less time than that to complete. The main direction of the articles will be to demonstrate that someone with a passion for live steam but with minimum skills in machining techniques can assemble an engine (with a lot of expert advice from other SVLS members). Some articles on a series of riding cars, built from scratch and also a Mountain Car Company kit, will also be presented.

Happy steaming in 2005.

2004 in review

2004 was the year that Our GP40 finally was ready to roll. The GP40 had been rebuilt with a new engine, hydro static unit, trucks, gearboxes and a great new paint job.

Thanks to all that put in their time to complete the rebuild.



2004 had several sections track stolen. The spur from the yard, the rail into the Pine Grove section, and River view.





New steps and 2nd lead track from transfer table was completed. Thanks to Lee Frechette, Pete Arney, Richard Lutrel, and Bill Yoder for their efforts and time on this project.



Thanks to Karle Mahler and Al Shelley for the design and machining of a new lead truck for the steamer.



Matt Schroedle with son Kyle enjoying helping dad run his engine on his 4th birthday. This is what make the hobby great!



Pete Arney - putting finishing touches on new pad for storage shed. Just one of the many projects that Pete completed in 2004 for SVLS . Thanks Pete for your dedication to make the SVLS facility a great place.



Winning a ribbon in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July parade. Thanks to Les and Casey Wilmunder.



Santa Run volunteers. Thanks to all for two days of trains and Santa.



The Rotary Clubs and guests having a dinner enjoying rides on our trains. - Thanks to all that helped.



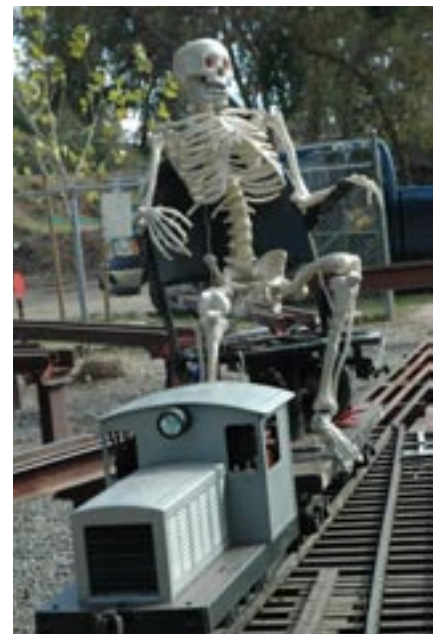
Two famous members given Life membership. Thanks for your years of support Ed Yungling and Al Shelley.



Steamer pulling public at Roseville International rail fair. Two days of trains of all sizes.



The "G" gauge was present at SVLS track thanks to the Garden Railroad club on two occasion in 2004. It was fun for both groups playing with both scales of trains.



Skeleton crew working Ghost train for Halloween event. Crews work three nights to make this event a success.

SVLS 2004 Spring Meet



Don Cure
Registration
Rick Zobelein
Joe Yetter &
Craig Craddock

Henry Aguirre
Don Yungling
engine bays



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

217. Hand signals may be given with the hand, flag or light, as follows:

- A. "STOP" . . . swing at arm's length down from the shoulders across the track; any object waved violently on or near the track.
- B. "PROCEED" . . . Raised and lowered vertically
- C. "BACK UP" . . . Swung vertically in circles across the track.
- D. "REDUCE SPEED" . . . Arms held horizontally with slight motion of hand

403. Dummy or solid type couplers shall be constructed so they operate with the standard working knuckle coupler. Coupler height shall conform to I.B.L.S. standards.

404. Couplers or drawbars between engine and engineers riding car, or between any combination of engine, riding car and fuel car shall be of a drawbar with lockpin type or equivalent that cannot become accidentally uncoupled nor disconnect any fuel lines in case of derailment.

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