

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

December 2005

Volume 32, Issue 12

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

### ELECTION MEETING

I would like to thank all of you folks who voted for me as I was reelected President for the next two years. Also elected was Keith Berry, again as Secretary, and Dave Mattox as Trainmaster. The Board Members continuing their terms are VP Pete Arney, Treasurer Lois Clifton, Track Superintendent Les Wilmunder, and Yardmaster Vern Geyer. All of us desire to do the best job possible. Be sure to speak with us if you have suggestions for things to improve or things to implement for the betterment of the organization.

You might like to know that the newly implemented voting procedure resulted in the most voters in the history of SVLS(RM). In this way we were able to have an outcome that represents the thinking of the majority of voting members. Thank you for getting on board and sending in your ballots. In addition, the business meeting (our annual corporate meeting) was the best attended in some time. I may have missed a couple, but I counted thirty-eight attendees. Refreshments were provided by Clio and Vern Geyer and were enjoyed by all (Thanks Clio & Vern). Several items were reviewed during the show-and-tell session, one of which was some SVLS historical information brought in by Red Hadler from the collection of the late respected member, Al Shelley.

### DECEMBER MEETING

During the November Meeting, the upcoming December Pot-Luck Meeting was announced. It will be held on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. (Notice the

*Continued on page 6*



Rail Fair in Roseville. Many people enjoyed seeing our trains and taking a ride. We had great weather and a great turnout.



Several items were on display thanks to Ross. He had his engine a Pennsylvania B6 (0-4-0) and the SVLS Box car for our visitors to look at and understand what this hobby is all about. - Thanks Ross.

**CALENDAR**

- Dec 2 Board meeting  
 Dec 3 Santa Train - Noon to 4 PM  
     Call Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
 Dec 4 Santa Train - Noon to 4 PM  
 Dec 16 Annual POT LUCK 7 PM Park building  
 Dec 17 Work Day  
 Dec 19 News letter deadline
- Jan 1 New Year's day run 10 AM and pot luck lunch  
     Bring your train and have a fun day.  
 Jan 6 Board meeting 7:00 PM  
 Jan 20 General Meeting - Park building 7:30 PM  
 Jan 21 Work day  
 Jan 23 News letter deadline

2006 public run day calendar available on-line.

**Don't forget about work days**, every Tuesday and Saturday after meeting. 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?*



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).

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.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Amy Lutrel

*It is time to renew your membership - Please fill out the membership form, attach money and mail - THANKS*



*Got a project you would like to show off that is too big to bring to the meeting for show and tell. Then give the editor a call/email and we'll take pictures for a feature.*

**Board of Directors**

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Trainmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 244-8989

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----- Committee Chairpersons -----

Special Events: call

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Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: [Paul.Clifton@comcast.net](mailto:Paul.Clifton@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

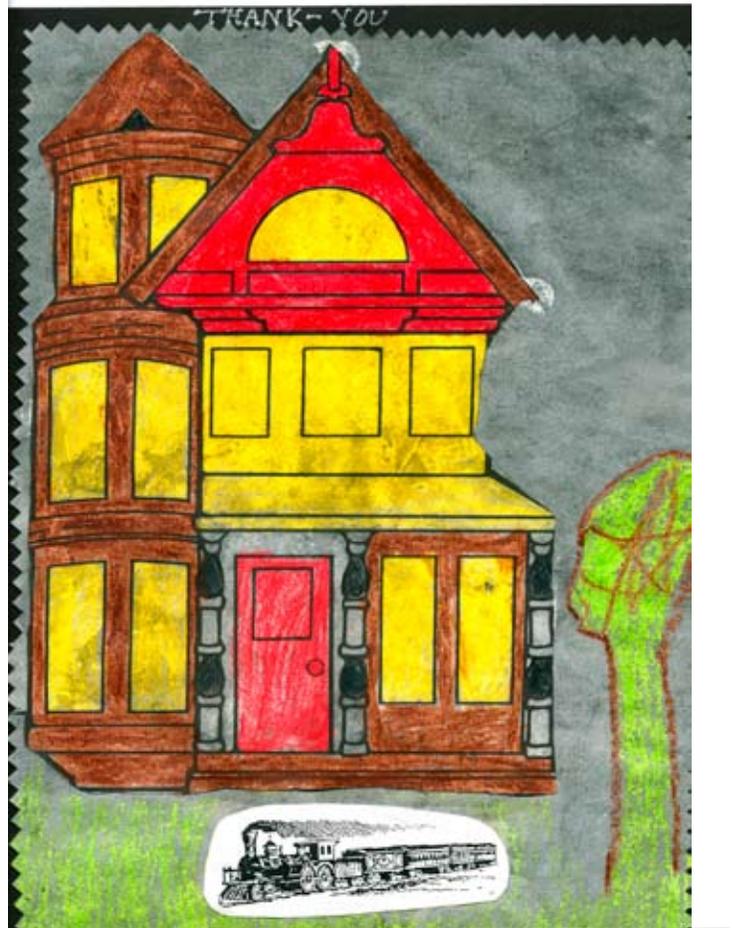
E-mail: [editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org)

Membership: Amy Lutrel (916) 344-8989

E-mail: [amyl1979@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amyl1979@sbcglobal.net)

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

# Thanks From special events



Vern and Cleo,  
Thank-you for  
the fun train ride  
and our gifts. We  
all had a great  
time.  
Sincerely,  
C-9  
Cordova Meadows  
Elementary

*Michael Mendelsohn*

**Eureka!**  
Admission Day  
Weekend

October 11, 2005

Celebrate  
California's  
Heritage!

Mr. Joel Corbin  
Sacramento Valley Live Steamers  
Railroad Museum  
4480 Plantation Drive  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Dear Joel:

The Eureka! Admission Day Weekend festival was a huge success in part because of you and the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum's participation. Simply put, we could not have done it without you!

You raised a lot of awareness about the Steamers and its activities. Please extend our thanks and appreciation to Pete Arney and all the others, who helped to set up the track and railroad equipment, as well as to staff your booth. It proved to be one of the most popular at the festival.

Visitors found the festival exciting, fun-filled, as well as educational because of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamer's participation. You helped us to link the past with the present for the official public opening of the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park.

Thank you again for your contributions to the event's success.

Best regards,  
*Mary A. Helmich*  
Mary A. Helmich  
Interpretive Programs Manager  
California State Parks

704 "O" Street

### GETTING READY FOR SANTA

*by Clio Geyer*

With the Santa Run fast approaching, we were able to obtain the talents of a professional local artist to paint the canvas backdrop for the Santa area. Hopefully John has been given enough time to finish before the run date.

Pictures of work in progress below.



A very special THANK YOU!!!! goes to the following people that made Railfair 2005 possible.

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Pete Arney     | Keith Berry             |
| Lois Clifton   | Joel Corbin             |
| Ross Crawford  | Dale Dennis             |
| Marilyn Drewes | Butch Floyd             |
| Bill Floyd     | Lee Frechette           |
| Jack Friedman  | Clio Geyer              |
| Vern Geyer     | Gail Gomes              |
| Darrell Gomes  | Bill Yoder              |
| Richard Lutrel | Amy Lutrel              |
| Red Hadler     | Milon Thorley           |
| Kevin Sacks    | Ann Sacks               |
| Les Wilmunder  | Casey Wilmunder         |
| Frank Presley  | Jason Van Horn & Friend |

If I have missed anyone please excuse me. Thank you again for a great 2005 Rail Fair.

Paul Clifton  
Rail Fair Chairperson

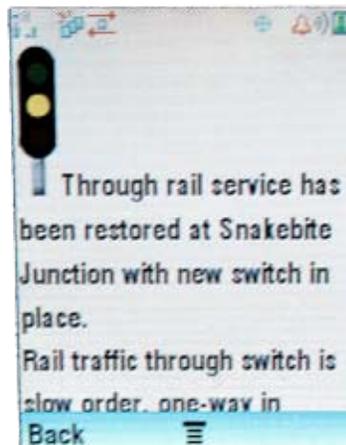
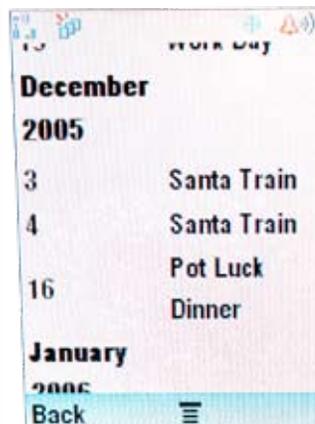
### Got a web enabled cell phone?

Those with Web enabled phones now can check our web to view the Calendar, News, and Track status.

Set your phone browser or your provider's web interface to the URL:

<http://webphone.svls.org/>

Have fun.



KGO weatherman Lloyd Lindsay Young and Marilyn Drewes' niece Jennifer, which was taken at the meet. She is a college professor from Idaho. She saw Lloyd on TV in Idaho Falls when in Jr. High school and was excited to meet him many years later.

## Vice Presidents Report

by Pete Arney

### ELECTION

This year absentee balloting was available for the first time in a while as a result of new rules provided by the Administrative Rules Committee and Board approval. Out of a voter base of 115 regular and lifetime members a total of 74 ballots were cast including 62 absentee and 12 in-person voters. Congratulations to President Joel Corbin and Secretary Keith Berry for continuing in their present positions, and to Trainmaster Dave Mattox who will be taking over for interim Trainmaster Richard Lutrel.

### Winter fix-up projects:

Our last regular run day was in October at the Fall Meet and with the exception of the Halloween, Santa, and New Year's day runs, the next regular run day starts up in March, 2006. This give us an opportunity to catch up and spruce up our equipment and grounds. There are a number of jobs and projects to do.

For instance: our portable track needs straightening, improving, and repair after many years of use. The right-of-way needs ongoing attention, especially leveling and tie replacement. Switches need to be rebuilt and regauged. Trestles and bridges need to be treated. The Yard needs new trees, an irrigation system installed, trimming, and pruning. Weed abatement must be performed during the winter and spring. The caboose needs cabinets installed. The library needs a permanent home at the track. The signal committee will be proceeding with their project to install signals. Mile posts furnished by Neal Heath will be installed. Keith Berry is painting the restrooms. Security lights should be installed. Much to do!!

The SVLSRM web site has a "Projects" page (<http://www.svls.org/>) where jobs and tasks are listed. This web page will be updated during the first part of December with current tasks. The January newsletter will also contain a summary and status of the more important tasks to be done. Check the website and the January newsletter for ways to help keep our railroad up to snuff. It will be a goal of ours to set up the tasks so they can be accomplished by individuals. Pick a task. We'll set it up and lend a hand. Our official work day is the Saturday after the regular membership meeting each month. This isn't enough time to get everything done. Every Tuesday and many other Saturdays are also informal workdays. If you would like to do a task by yourself, any day is a work day this winter. Out-of-towners: we can work around your schedule if you want to spend a day or two helping out. Call the VP or one of the other board members.

### Donation to preschool:

Early in 2005, SVLSRM received a request for a donated ride day at SVLSRM for auction at the annual Carmichael Presbyterian Preschool spring fund raiser. This seemed to be a first in that one charitable organization was asking for donations

from another charitable organization. President Joel Corbin and Vice-president Pete Arney agreed to provide a ride day for their event on a trial basis for community outreach.

SVLSRM received a thank you letter from the preschool and stated that "Sacramento Valley Live Steamers will be listed as one of the generous supporters of our preschool". Carmichael Presbyterian is a large organization and hopefully the outreach has already generated some support for SVLSRM.

We have received a request to participate again for a second year. Consideration will be given to do so, however no decision to proceed has been made at this point in time.

# Happy Holiday



**Long-time member Darrel McWhirk** had a stroke several weeks ago. He is improving each day. He is currently doing rehab in a convalescent hospital and should be coming home in December and continue recovery. Please keep both Darrel and Anita in your prayers for his speedy recovery.

Everyone should know Darrel's name, as he was the one who started the SVLS steam program with the no-strings attached donation of his ten wheeler to the club. Now SVLS 1973, the club steamer has always been a semi-"club engine." When still painted as Rutland 70, Darrel would let many members run his engine to share the live steam experience. Kids were especially famous on his engine, as he would ride behind or on the tank car and let them run the 1800' loop on passenger trains.

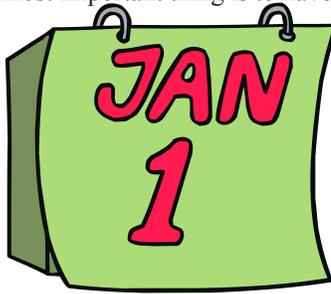
-- from Matthew Mason

*Presidents Report - Continued from Page 1.*

time change). Since we will be in the middle of the holiday season, we will just have a party for members and their families. Bring a dish (salad, dessert, casserole, etc.), and the SVLSRM will provide a ham. No business will be conducted except for a couple of announcements. We would like you to do one additional thing, however, so we have a

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Bring a special show-and-tell item. This could be a part you are working on, an unusual tool (homemade or otherwise), pictures you shot of a railroad activity, a quilt you made, a family cookie recipe, a historical item with a story you can tell, etc. Anything you want to show to the members, and if you are shy, have someone tell the story for you. We have done this in the past with much interest and fun and hope we can do it again. The most important thing is to have you there, so come even if you can't find a thing to bring.



### **NEW YEAR'S DAY MEMBER ONLY RUN**

Once again we will try to have a special day for members, their families and invited guests. We will try to show up January 1, 2006 at 10:00 AM and run our

trains as long as we want. No public rides, this is our way to ring in the New Year. So, if you have recovered from the night before, come out to the track with your trains and fellowship with other members who will do the same thing. Bring your own lunch since we have no idea how many will come and cannot plan food. Check the weather reports, it is often cold.

### **RAILFAIR SUMMARY**

The International Railfair at the Roseville Fairgrounds went off with great success. A good group of members came to install our snap track, operate the railroad for the weekend and to remove the equipment at the end of the day Sunday. I will say thanks to Paul and Lois Clifton for coordinating the event and getting the crew together, and to everyone else. You know who you are and so do I. We rely on you and you came through again.

### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

On Saturday, following the November meeting, I went to the track and reviewed the progress of things and what is needed. First, Vern Geyer is doing a fine job of seeing to it that the place is watered so grass, trees and plants will grow. Also, he has, for most of the year, worked with the Sheriff's officer that comes to the park with a group of offenders. They mow our lawns, rake the facility, and do miscellaneous jobs for us. These guys even helped prepare for the Halloween Terror Train event. A special thing being done by one of the guys, working off his traffic penalty, is a mural being painted on a large backdrop canvas as his contribution to our Santa Run. Several members are preparing for the Santa Run as I write this message. Thanks

to Lois Clifton, Clio Geyer, Marilyn Drewes and others for their efforts to get ready for this activity.

Secondly, Keith Berry has painted the restroom and at this writing is close to being done. I was there when the primer was being applied and our "Cat Lady" friend Diane said she thought the building was too visible since she did not notice the redwood color restroom, but with gray primer it was too obvious to her. BUT, the final color is Southern Pacific Railroad station yellow with brown trim. This color was researched in detail and was computer matched to the original. The first coat of yellow is on the restroom now and I am wondering if it has scared away Diane and the cats since reflections from the building illuminate the entire neighborhood. If anyone asks for the location of the restroom now, it will be easy to send them to the yellow building. Keith has done a great job with power washing, linseed oil, two primer coats, two yellow coats (so far), and finishing to come. Be sure to thank him for his efforts.

Following the November meeting, we were advised that a section of track near Oasis was torn up, possibly by someone driving over it. I was still at the track when Pete Arney showed up Saturday to inspect the damage. I offered to help, but, ...he spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, unloaded some new ties; then turned with a jerk, and removing some worn track, everyone knows, and installed a new section not stopping to doze. Then he sprang to his loco and to his train gave a whistle, and went to the barn like a guided missile. But I heard him exclaim as he rolled out of sight, ....

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS RUNNING TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

....My wishes for you exactly.

Joel



Where North meets South and in this case a little West and East. The crew had it completed after a few tugs to straighten the alignment it was ready to run on. THANKS to all that helped.



**10 Years ago:** (Apr. 1995)  
 "FROM THE CAB"

After a minor set back last month, I am pleased to report that the electrical hookup is complete. We are now operation on our new transformer. We are also operating our own independent air supply. We owe many thanks to Larry Davis for the donation of the compressor.

By the time you read this, we will have only five weeks remaining until the Spring Meet. We have a lot to do in very little time to ensure a successful event. I am

therefor soliciting help from as many members as possible at the remaining work parties. Weather permitting, we gather every Tuesday until dark and there are people working most Saturdays. May and June are going to be busy months for us with our May Meet, The Rail Festival at the California State Railroad Museum, and our hosting of the Garden Railway Society at our Track.

If you can help with any of these endeavors, your Board and fellow members will appreciate it. Milon Thorley, President

**20 Years ago:** (Jan. 1985) "FROM THE CAB"

Now that the New Year is here, and the Holidays behind us it is time to stoke the fires, adjust the Johnson bar, and pull the throttle for the 1985 plans and projects. High on the list of priorities is the acquisition and placement of a Box Car for rolling stock storage. Before we can place the Box Car, we must move the coal pile. Before we move the coal pile, we must move the fence and build the new gates, which will also allow us to build a Maintenance shed for mowers, etc. and the leg bone connects to the ankle bone! The Bathroom project has made a definite step forward with a generous offer by new member, Vernon Guess, To help with the plans and required approvals. It seems that Vernon is a contractor and this is right up his track. While we are on the subject, of getting things moving, may I take this opportunity to remind you one and all that YOUR Club will need YOUR help to achieve even the smallest of goals in 1985. So please plan to lend a hand on some of the work day projects. You and your club will both gain from your attendance at work parties.

**30 Years ago:**

If you'd like to exchange personal Holiday Greetings with your fellow railroaders there's no better time than the December meeting, Friday the 19th. Come and enjoy a fine program of sound movies taken by Barry Garland, Ed Yungling and Ken Yeo over a considerable period of time of the 4449. Also another exciting chapter of "Hurricane Express". You'll also have a chance to win a fine door prize and partake of refreshments and conversation with our happy group. New Year's Day, 10 a. m. to 4 p.m. will find trails of smoke and steam hanging over the tracks; maybe some frosty breath, too, but there's always a hot boiler to warm your hands over and there'll be hot coffee and donuts. You'll have to bring your own lunch. See you there.



**Hudson Steam Locomotive**

1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge, Diesel Oil Fired, New Boiler in 2002  
 New Paint, 6 riding cars, Partially completed caboose  
 Price reduced to \$19,500

Train located in Costa Mesa, CA

Phil Halverson 503-474-4426

[PCHalverson@hotmail.com](mailto:PCHalverson@hotmail.com)



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

115. No one under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or illegal drugs of any kind shall be allowed to ride on any train.

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.

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

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

410. Before leaving the steaming area operating steam locomotives shall have steam pressure brought up to operating pressure, have safety valves and pressure gauges checked and operating correctly, have water gauges and try cocks blown down, have feed-water devices checked and in working order, have whistle tested and operating properly, and have brakes checked and operating.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM  
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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Children living at home (names and birthdate):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Operable live steam equipment or under construction:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Special skills and ways you would like to help SVLS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliations with other railroads:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES TO:

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM, INC  
Attn: Membership  
PO Box 273  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-0273

Make check payable to: Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc.  
DUES RATE: REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (Individual or Family) is \$60.00 per year payable due on January 1.  
ONE TIME INITIATION FEE: \$30.00 (In addition to the regular membership dues)  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00 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.

---

Membership use:

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge  Roster  Rule Book  Membership Card  Car sticker  Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

SVLSRM 051024