

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

October 2008

Volume 35, Issue 10

## President's Report

By Pete Arney

**Elections:** Our next membership meeting is on Friday, October 17. Paul Clifton, chairperson of our nominating committee, will present the slate of candidates that have agreed to run for the four of seven Board of Directors positions up for election this year. Those positions are: Vice-president, Treasurer, Track Superintendent, and Yard Master.

Floor nominations will be taken at the October meeting as well. Floor nominees need not be present but the nominating person must be seconded and have the assurance in writing that the nominee will run. Nominations will be closed at the October meeting and none will be taken at the November 21 annual meeting and election.

Following the October meeting, a ballot will be prepared with all nominees listed plus write-in votes. Each position will also have a box to check off "NO" as well. Ballots will be mailed along with instructions to all eligible members. Ballots may be returned by postal mail using the addressed envelope provided or brought to the November meeting and placed in the ballot box. Mailed ballots must be received in the SVLSRM post office box by the day of the November annual meeting.

A complete description of the revised election procedure used since 2005 is covered in the September 2005 Golden Spike, available in the Newsletters Archive List on line at [www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.org).

**Fall Meet:** The Fall Meet was moved up a month this year for the first time to the weekend of September 28 - 29. Lee Frechette was the event coordinator. Lee and Shelly Blanchard provided a catered Mexican meal from Rubio's on Saturday evening. Lois Clifton coordinated the Friday meal and breakfasts and lunches for the meet. Clio and Vern Geyer coordinated the soft drink table. Kristi Hall ran the raffle. Karle Mahler and Ross Crawford handled the welcoming of guests and members at the steaming bays. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the meet. Thanks to Bill Cody



*Continued on page 5.*



### Tyler's Train

Tyler Berchielli presented a picture he drew as a *thank you* to Pete for the help we provided in setting up his train which was provided by Make-A-Wish. The drawing shows his train, the Sun and a Deer that he had seen in the park.



It was expressed by Andy (Tyler's dad) that Tyler had a great time at the Fall Meet and was honored by those that allowed Tyler to drive and ride on other trains.



Engineer Tyler pulling several cars during Fall Meet.

### Ghost Train rides to Haunted House

Friday-Saturday  
October 24-25, and  
Friday-Saturday  
October 31-November  
1. Dark (7) to 10pm.

Please contact Lee Frechette or Pete Arney with your volunteering commitment to make and install the events and to run trains on Halloween.



## Calendar

Oct 4 Public run day Noon to 4 PM.  
 Oct 12 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Oct 17 Membership Meeting  
 Oct 18 Work Day - come out and help with the railroad  
 Oct 19 Public run day Noon to 4 PM  
 Oct 24-25 Halloween ghost train to Haunted house  
 Oct 31-Nov 1 Halloween ghost train to Haunted house

Nov 1 Halloween ghost train to Haunted house  
 Nov 8 - 9 Rail fair in Roseville - Train rides  
 Nov 11 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Nov 21 Membership Meeting - ELECTIONS  
 Nov 22 Work Day

Dec 6-7 Santa train & Pictures

Public run day calendar available on-line.

**Don't forget about work days**, Every Tuesday also Saturday after members' meeting. Contact a committee member for information on needs. Check the Project page at the SVLSRM web site (<http://www.svlsrcm.org>).

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

## Membership

By Amy Lutrel

Hello everyone, It was nice to see you all out at the track. We had a lot of trains out and even a few new faces too. For those of you who still need to pay for your 2009 dues I will be mailing out your 2009 Membership Renewal forms in November Look them over make changes as needed and mail them back with your 2009 dues.... Next year at the fall meet remember to plan ahead if you can and bring you dues for the next year with you and take care of everything while your there!! anyway, It was so nice to see you all and I cant wait to see you again at the 2009 spring meet.

### Welcome new members:

Ken and Pat Henderson of Woodland, CA  
 Michael Jakel and Kerri Godfrey of Gold River, CA  
 Bill Conner of Sheleyville, TN  
 Roger and Cari Frymire of Bakersfield, CA



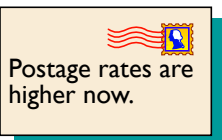
We will need help in setting up the portable track on Friday Nov. 7th. A dozen people will be needed to sort through shims, get new containers, check on bolts and nuts. Lay track and level. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

### Board of Directors

President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000  
 E-mail: [parney@pacbell.net](mailto:parney@pacbell.net)  
 Vice President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791  
 E-mail: [leefrechette@yahoo.com](mailto:leefrechette@yahoo.com)  
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 E-mail: [byoder@vfr.net](mailto:byoder@vfr.net)  
 Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
 E-mail: [loisjune1@comcast.net](mailto:loisjune1@comcast.net)  
 Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623  
 E-mail: [dggomes@caltel.com](mailto:dggomes@caltel.com)  
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 E-mail: [rjl1974@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjl1974@sbcglobal.net)  
 Trainmaster: Karle Mahler (916) 334-8283  
 E-mail: [karlemahler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karlemahler@sbcglobal.net)  
 ----- Committee Chairpersons -----  
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 E-mail: [jjcarbino@msn.com](mailto:jjcarbino@msn.com)  
 Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
 E-mail: [vern78@onemain.com](mailto:vern78@onemain.com)  
 Caboose Ops: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
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 E-mail: [amy11979@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amy11979@sbcglobal.net)  
**Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**



Please check the SVLS web site [www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.org) for current information on SVLS activities.



Save us some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail so you can read it on-line.

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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# 2008 Fall Meet Photos





Our new storage yard was in use during the Fall Meet.



The new concrete pad which raised the loading area by 6 inches made the process much easier.

## 2008 Fall Meet Photos



*Continued from Page 1 - Presidents report:*

who provided his diesel engine for the entire public run day on Sunday and to the station and train crews who provided rides to a larger than normal number of public riders.

Simply saying thanks doesn't really cover the massive efforts of Lee and Lois, and the volunteers who came the Saturday before the meet as a result of Tia Skidmore activating her phone tree people to call for volunteers. Lee spent many weeks prior to the meet irrigating, spraying Roundup, pruning, and mowing, as did many other volunteers. Lois made countless trips to Sam's Club, Costco, and other stores gathering up food and dry goods for the meet. Darrell Gomes and his track crew have done yeoman's work replacing ties, rail joiners, leveling track, and rebuilding switches all summer. Our track is the best it has been in a long while. New concrete loading/unloading pads were poured to raise the level to that of our new asphalt as well.

Hope all had fun. Now on to Halloween, the Roseville Railfair, and the Santa Run and winter maintenance.

**Steam Engine:** Karle Mahler, our Train Master, will be replacing the boiler on our #1973 steam engine. Karle obtained several estimates for boilers and recommended one from Boschan Boiler & Restorations, Inc. <http://www.boschanboiler.com/>. The Board of Directors approved \$4500 for the purchase of the boiler from BB&R. The boiler will be completed around the end of December and shipped to Karle for reassembly. Karle will have more information in his article.

**Halloween:** Jerry Jewell Performing Arts Scary U will be providing their award winning haunted house again this year as in the past. A break-in of the Haunted House was perpetrated on Monday night, September 29. A number of items were taken that were critical to the operation of the event. A comprehensive investigation is being conducted by the Rancho Cordova PD. Fund raising events are being planned to recoup money to cover the loss.



In the meantime, SVLSRM is going ahead with plans to provide the trackside scares we started doing last year. Tentative dates

for this year's event are Friday-Saturday October 24-25, and Friday-Saturday October 31-November 1. Volunteers mark your calendars. Any last minute date changes will be posted on our website, <http://www.svlsrcm.org>.



Installation of new electrical service to Jerry's Pirate Town and performing stage area is underway. Trenches have been dug and pads and conduits have been placed for the electrical equipment and wiring. There is still a lot of work to be done, though.

Volunteers are needed. Watch the SVLSRM web project page for further information and status.

Along with the "creature box" we used last year, a new "ground breaker" creature from Jerry Jewell, the covered truss bridge with floating eyes and creature strobes, and the Yoder skeleton car, we have several new events purchased and planned. We will need volunteers to help install and then on the public nights, maintain and operate.

Please contact Lee Frechette or Pete Arney with your volunteering commitment to make and install the events and to run trains on Halloween.



**Roseville Railfair:** We will again be at the Roseville Railfair this year on November 8-9. With our steam engine out of service for repairs, we are looking for a member or members with steam engines that would like to donate their time and equipment to operate on our portable track during the Railfair. We are primarily still a steam railroad club and would like to represent steam to the public. We will need volunteers to set up on Friday, November 7, operate on Saturday and Sunday, and tear down on Sunday. Please contact Paul Clifton or Pete Arney if you would like to help out.

*See you at the track. Keep on steaming!*



*I would like to give a huge "thank you" to all that helped set up and take down the raffle. Special appreciation goes out to all those who donated prizes: the Mosiers, the Wilmunders, the Bruner-Welches, Marilyn Drews, Leonard Houpt, the Arneys, and Dennis Gramith. The raffle wouldn't have been half as good without all of you!*

*Kristi Hall*



### Safety Committee

*by J.J. Carbino*

Well September is now behind us and I hope the spooks and goblins are ready to have their way with the folks on the Halloween trains. The President reported that the firm setting up is a little behind. I do hope all is ready for a scare night.

The fall meet went on and it was reported that there were a few mishaps. I investigated these mishaps and it seems that there was a very long train that did not stay on the rails due to what some say was too long a train. As it was one of the yellow chair cars had problems which had Ross on his toes in repairing this car.

I am going to put together an inspection log book. It will contain a list of the equipment and the day they were inspected top and bottom. This log should include the power equipment as well. I have looked at the past equipment books and all they show is what car/engine had a problem and how it was fixed. I will include report sheets to be filled in by the inspector like on the real railroad and if a repair is made it will be logged and placed in the binder for a record. A lot of problems will result in a tear down and a complete go through. We need to inspect all the public riding cars for unusual wear. I want to thank Karle and Ross for a great job so far and staying on top of the repairs of each car. However, we all know how much work is involved to inspect our enormous amount of equipment and we need members to help out. Please step forward and let's go through and inspect our equipment. If you can help, email me at [jjcarbino@msn.com](mailto:jjcarbino@msn.com).

On a different note, the fire extinguisher problem is resolved and all extinguishers are back up to date on inspections and in their mounts. Lets take this off the "to do" list please. Along the same safety items to be removed from the list is the fuel storage cabinet. Many thanks to the bridge painting crew for taking time from painting bridges and assisting me in painting yellow safety markers on the ends of steaming bay storage tracks and on the steps all around the park. Lets take that from the "to do" list as well. Now that we have some bricks over by the Oasis storage tracks it is suggested that we paint them yellow as well and then we will have our own yellow brick road. Smile!!!!

Darrell, Pete, Lee and the track committee folks, Thanks for maintaining the track and switches. I had smooth ride driving Pete's electric. Thank you again Pete.

The holidays are approaching. Let's be safe at home and at the park.

Let us all remember,  
Safety is now Job # 1



**Darrell Gomes** your Track Superintendent has been in the Hospital this last week and should be home Monday Oct. 6.

Darrell has been responsible in repairing the track and switches over the last two years. If you were at the Fall Meet then you saw and felt a much better ride on our tracks.

We wish Darrell well and have a great appreciation for his time and efforts given to SVLSRM.



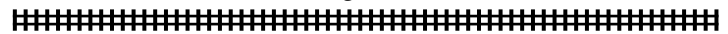
### YARD MASTERS REPORT

*by Richard Lutrel*



First I would like to say that I had a great time at the fall meet and it was nice to chat with everyone.... There are Some very big THANKS I need to give out to everyone that help in getting the grounds looking so great for the meet. Thanks to the following Lee Frechette, Shelly Blanchard, Betty and Pete Arney, Gorden and Barbra Moser, Andy Berchielli, and who ever gave time to help make SVLSRM look so good.

As most of you know I work for the UP and cant always be there to do work so I thank everyone and anyone who is willing to come down to the track and give a hand.



### Special Runs/Events

*By Clio Geyer*

Well now that the Fall Meet is over, and it was a good one, we can go on with what is going to happen in October.

First I want to thank Barbara and Gordon Moser, Paul Skidmore and Lee Frechette for helping with the parties in September.

- Oct. 9 - Edward Kelly School  
Two classes - 9:30 am and 1 PM
- Oct. 10 - Birthday Party 3 - 5 PM
- Oct. 11 - Birthday Party noon - 2 PM
- Oct. 18 - Birthday Party 1 - 3 PM
- Oct. 19 - Birthday Party 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Then let us not forget the Haunted House on Oct. 24 and 25 as well as Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. We will need as many volunteers for this event. We will be running two pick-up points, at the main station and down by the Haunted House to bring back up after seeing everything. We are also going to be adding some of our own events along the track and help would be very appreciated on weekends to help put all that together as well.



**2008 Fall Meet Photos by Greg Lewis.**  
See the SVLSRM web for more of Greg's great photos



**TRAIN MASTERS REPORT** - *By Karle Mahler*

In the last report I informed the membership that the boiler of the 1973 had given out after 30 years of yeoman service. Over the last month, after talking with some of our members and contacting several boiler makers I recommended that we have our replacement boiler built by

Boschan Boilers and Restorations, Inc. The Board of Directors gave their approval and we have forwarded the deposit requested by BB&R. The agreed upon price was \$4500 for which they agree to build an all steel, welded, extended wagon top boiler.

The term wagon top refers to the shape of the boiler which is what our old one is. The boiler's photo gives some idea of its condition. Water has gotten under the insulation and started corroding the surface metal.



On the good news side of the maintenance ledger the GP-40 is back in service after having its power trucks rebuilt. This time around the trucks received new steel wheels, replacing the cast iron ones. They had worn to the point that flat spots had developed and flange chipping

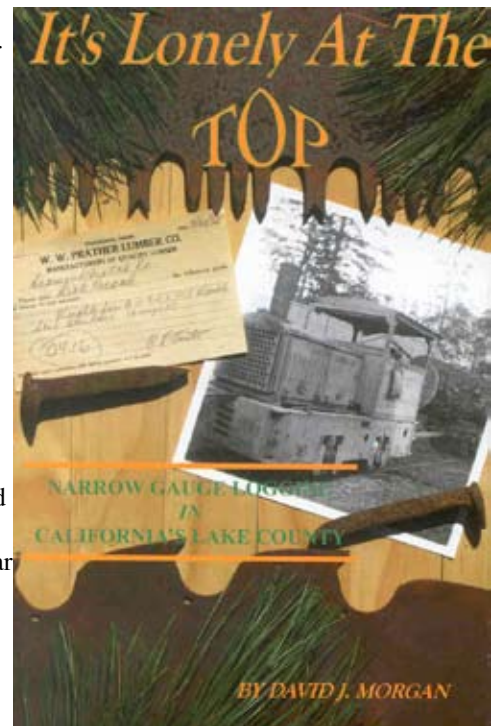


was already occurring. No two seemed to be the same diameter. The original design had the wheels pinned to their axles. The advantage to that was the ease of removing the wheels if the gear box needed to be rebuilt. The disadvantage was that the pins would shear allowing the wheels to move out of position and derail the engine. This time around the wheels were pressed onto new axles. The intermediate drive shafts were also showing signs of wear and were replaced. The photos show one of the trucks before it took up residence back under the engine and, the engine with its rebuilt shoes. My next project will be to replace the missing hand rails.

I hope everyone had a good time at the Fall Meet.

**Book review:**

SVLSRM member Dave Morgan has just published his first book, "IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP, Narrow Gauge Logging in California's Lake County" (David J. Morgan, DJM Books, September 2008). Dave covers the very interesting history of the only railroad ever to be built in Lake County (Clear Lake), California. The 3-foot narrow gauge railroad operated in the Mendocino



National Forest range northeast of Upper Lake near Elk Mountain at an elevation of 3,000 to 3,500 feet from the early 1920's through the early 1940's. The railroad described in the book was built as a tool to move logs. The innovative talent of Wilbur Prather to put together the railroad out of disparate parts to make his lumber mill work gives great insight to the spirit of early day entrepreneurs.

Wilbur Prather, who had no previous lumbering experience, bought property and built a mill and box factory at Elk Mountain in 1920. Early tree harvesting was done by horse teams and steam hoists. By 1923, tree harvesting near the mill was logged off, and a railroad was needed to reach further into the woods. There was no connection to another railroad; finished lumber was trucked down to the valley below. A history of the Colusa and Lake narrow gauge railroad out of Colusa is included in Dave's book. In the late 1930's a used Heisler locomotive was purchased to augment the gas locomotives. At the end of operations in the 1940's, the Heisler was put out to pasture. In the 1950's, it was rescued by a group of railroad enthusiasts and eventually purchased by Hal Wilmunder. Hal's son, Les Wilmunder, also a member of SVLSRM, now has the Heisler stored on his property near Oroville.

The softback, 106 page, book is rich in photographs and contains a map of the operation. Dave and wife Mindy have done a fine job of documenting the Prather railroad plus background on the Prather family as well. The book would be a valuable addition to any railfan's library but especially for those interested in California narrow gauge lines.

The book can be purchased from Dave Morgan, DJM Books, P.O. Box 548, Orangevale, CA, 95662; \$19.99 ea. plus 7.75% tax, plus \$5.50 s/h





**10 Years ago: THE TRACK GANG**

Many thanks to Keith Berry and his "Track Gang" for all their hard work. Given the list of things to do, this group is right on schedule and everything needing attention will be completed by meet time. We thank Keith for his organizational skills and diligence in getting the work done. Since the last newsletter, members who have

labored on the "Track Gang" are Don, Ann and Kyle Bruner-Welch, Matt and Kristi Hall, Bernard Clifford and Tony Rhors. Also a big thanks to Don Jurgenson who quickly responded to a need mentioned at the

September meeting and came out and did some much needed tree trimming.

We thank everyone for their fast response to the work that needs to be done. There is more to do before the meet and some after as well. So please take some time and give Keith Berry a call and see when the crew will be working and help out. A few hours is all we ask.

Below are two photos from about 10 years ago. Double header running at the park, and a triple header running at Rail Fair in Roseville.



**20 Years ago:** From the CAB: Visible progress at last. During this past month, the heat has let up and we are starting to see some results from all the begging for help. As listed above, much work has been, and is being done. The facility and track are once again starting to look like somebody cares. Thank you to all who have helped. We still need more volunteers to be ready for the Fall Meet. Please step forward and pitch in.

Pits and Pieces: Please, Please do not leave the combination on the locks when they are opened. Also, please check to see that all locks are locked when you leave the track. Some of the locks are being left open and some are being left with the combination on them. Please be careful!

**30 Years ago:** "One of the Best" The Fall Meet was one of the best for the SVLS. There were 20 engines running during the two days, over 1,000 passengers hauled (lost count), 16 prizes won, guests from GGLS, LALS, Model RR clubs, hobby manufacturers and we showed a net income of \$377.55.

The weather was just great, the new water lines, parachutes and tent for shade, track condition, publicity by the Union and The Bee, Channel 13 and 3, and most of all "the people" made for a very pleasant week end of railroading. Space limits our giving thanks to all of the folks, who brought engines, cars and displays, individually, and to all who worked so hard before the meet and during the meet. THANK YOU ALL. Don't forget the New Years Day Run for Fun. One more thing - the nice green look of the steaming bay area was complimented by many who had see it before.



There are plenty of projects to work on at the railroad so you need to come out and give time to your organization.

Come and help. Your help is needed. Don't know what to do then call a board member and ask, then volunteer.



**Safety Rules for the Month**



118. Visiting engineers, trainman, and their guests are to observe these rules and abide by them. Copies of these rules shall be made available to visiting engineers while they are operating on SVLSRM tracks. Visitors may purchase copies of these rules to keep.

218. Engine whistle signals shall be used by the engineer whenever practical to give, ask for, or acknowledge information about train movement. When double heading, the lead engine will give the whistle signals when possible. The whistle shall not be used unnecessarily. The whistle is a signaling device and should be used as such.

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

414. All locomotives shall be equipped with a whistle, horn, or sounding device for sounding locomotive signals. Such sounding device shall be powerful enough to be heard distinctly for at least 150 feet.

# for sale

**7 1/2" Gauge 4+4 Beam Engine** and tender with two 7 1/2 foot bench type riding cars equipped with Tom Bee trucks and couplers. Pneumatic



brakes on all cars. Current SVLSRM boiler certificate on a 12" diameter vertical steel boiler, propane fired with 306 3/8" diameter copper fire tubes. Twin cylinder double acting engine with Stephenson valve gear and a bore and stroke of 2"x2.75" driving 4.375" diameter wheels through a 20% overdrive. Drive chains are tight at all times. There is a constant speed universal joint in the center of each truck to allow movement while keeping the drive chains tight. Engine weighs about 400 pounds with eight driving wheels arranged in two four wheel trucks. I haven't found a track or turn I couldn't handle at normal track speed. The suspension is very flexible, rock solid on the rails and the engine has a working headlight. This engine is a runner, fast, with exceptional pulling power and is very easy to run, very forgiving. You can check and adjust either firing or water level in about two seconds. Because of having a vertical boiler the engine does not require any additional inputs to fire up, just open the valve on the propane tank and light the burner after you fill the boiler and the water tank with water.

The train is set-up on a new two wheel trailer for towing with a car or small pick-up truck. I estimate the weight of the complete train and trailer at about 1000 pounds. The train and trailer are located in Reno, Nevada.



**Asking \$10,000**

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

**1.5" scale Pyle National extended case or flush mount dual GYRALITE.**

They operate "True to scale" from the prototype and is constructed primarily of brass. The light operates on 2.5vdc. Price \$395.00 allow five weeks receipt of order. 12vdc to 2.5vdc voltage regulator/reducer for GYRALITES. \$30.00



Keith Jackman  
636 Linden Ave.  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Ph: (530)272-8531  
kpjackman@sbcglobal.net

**For Sale: 2-6-2 Steam Engine** Little Engines chasis, propane fired. Professional built boiler, double ram axle pump, injector, and tender hand pump. Low hours on engine, excellent condition. Contact Keith Berry at 530-642-0742 \$12,000

Roll Models locomotive for sale. This locomotive has never been run as it was bought in 2000 by a friend and stored. I acquired the locomotive last year and now offer it for sale. This locomotive can be yours FOR ONLY \$3,500!!!!!! This model now sells from Roll Models for OVER \$7,500!!!! YOU SAVE \$4,000!!!!!! The locomotive is complete except for wiring harnesses, controller, and one side rod. These parts were unfortunately lost in storage by the former owner, but these parts are all still available from Roll Models and would cost only \$900.00. The locomotive is currently painted in grey primer with black frame and striping. Locomotive is located in Stockton, CA for pickup or viewing. Here is your chance, own a great locomotive for a fraction of the price. Contact:



Stathi Pappas 209 603 7363  
soupac@aol.com

**5 ton hydraulic car lift**, great for use as train lift/turntable. Gil Beard 530-823-8142

Mechanical cylinder cocks for 1 to 4 inch cylinder. 1/8 NPT. Four per set, \$80 per set.

6 wheel common wealth passenger trucks for 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 gauge. \$1200. Per pair.

Ross Crawford 916-718-4162

**SALES: Switch stands**, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand. A complete set-up for \$85.00 plus shipping. <http://www.timbercreekrr.zoomshare.com/> Contact me by phone or e-mail for questions and quantity discounts.



Gordon Briggs timbercreekrr@yahoo.com  
(530)273-9145

## Wanted Broken Couplers.

Price based on condition.  
Contact Ross Crawford 916-718-4162