

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

January 2010

Volume 37, Issue 01

President's Report

By Lee Frechette

Happy New Year!

It may have been rainy and cold, but it takes more than a New Year's Day downpour to dampen spirits when the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers are celebrating a long held tradition.

That was not far from our minds as five steam engines carried generations of our club around the track during our traditional New Year's Day run. Barbara Moser pointed out how much fun it was to see her grown son reconnecting with railroad friends made as a boy during the many long hot afternoons spent at the SVLSRM over the years. It was a great reminder to all of us that our club is more than just a bunch of railroad junkies. Many are lifelong friends sharing a common love of trains. Our group that day included club members dating back decades, their children and their children's friends. There were new friends, too.

Trains continued as part of the local Christmas tradition as we hosted another successful Santa Train. Saturday was one of the busiest in memory, and on Sunday we actually had a few genuine snow flurries making it one of the coldest. Many thanks to Gil Beard for bringing out his stunning Berkshire, which pulled families for visits with Santa for two merry afternoons. It was particularly appropriate since it was that same beautiful Berkshire that served as the inspiration of the children's Christmas classic, The Polar Express.

Our Christmas dinner was also a fun evening of holiday spirit served up with great food. A highlight was the

Continued on page 4.



Matt Hall and his kids



Chris Donhost and Vince Barto with his kids



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Life may be busy but supporting SVLS is needed.

Please send your 2010 dues now. \$60 for regular member and \$30 for associate member.

Fill membership form and mail it.

NEW YEAR Greetings



Please take our survey, your input is needed. See page 7.

New Years day run photos. Page 1 and 3.



The Mason Family

SVLSRM Calendar

Jan. 12 Board meeting 6:30 P.M.
 Jan. 15 Membership meeting 7:30
 Jan. 16 Work Day and Run day for members.

Feb. 9 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.
 Feb. 19 Membership meeting 7:30
 Feb. 20 Work and Run day for members.

Mar. 6 Run Day - Public rides Noon to 4 P.M.
 Mar. 9 Board meeting 6:30
 Mar. 19 Membership meeting
 Mar. 20 Work Day and Run day for members.
 Mar. 21 Run Day - Public rides Noon to 4 P.M.

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.svlstrm.org>).

How will you support SVLSRM this month?



Please check the SVLS web site: www.svlstrm.org for current information on SVLSRM activities.



Help us save money.

Save SVLSRM 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.

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 SVLSRM track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: editor@svlstrm.org.



**DUES WERE DUE
 JAN. 1, 2010**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID
 THEN PLEASE DO.
 YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVE A
 RENEWAL FORM TO VERIFY AND
 SEND BACK WITH YOUR DUES.
 (A blank form is included in this news letter)**

Check your mailing label for year DUES are paid through.

THANKS

Remember Feb. 1 is the cut off date for roster and newsletter mailings.



Your editor is looking for pictures or movies of SVLS activities so we can make a copy and add to our Historical collection. If you have some please notify the editor. Thanks - Bill



Board of Directors

- President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791
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- Vice President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
 E-mail: byoder@vfr.net
- Secretary: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154
 E-mail: vern78@onemain.com
- Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
 E-mail: loisjune1@comcast.net
- Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623
 E-mail: dggomes@caltel.com
- Yardmaster: Andy Berchielli (916) 348-7252
 E-mail: ajberchielli@sbcglobal.net
- Trainmaster: Brad Jones (916) 687-4866
 E-mail: actioniron@msn.com
- Committee Chairpersons -----
- Safety Committee: - open -

- Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154
 E-mail: vern78@onemain.com
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 E-mail: editor@svlstrm.org
- Membership: Dale Dennis (530) 406-8600
 E-mail: mailto:denclan2@wavecable.com
- Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**



JAN 1



Continued from Page 1 - Presidents report:

traditional white elephant gift exchange led by Betty Arney. I cannot tell you what a delight that battery-operated doorbell which found its way to my house that night has been. It sings out the Hallelujah Chorus on a regular basis, a noisy reminder of a great night with great railroad friends. It will be a long time before any of us forget the 1970s rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" performed flawlessly by Dale Dennis. Groovy, baby.



Our bank account received a wonderful early Christmas present on Dec. 15 when Lennar Communities, a local development firm, donated \$2,500 to our cause. This generous gift will go a long way in assisting us in meeting our obligations. Many thanks to Rancho Cordova City Councilman David Sander, a great supporter and member of our club, who arranged for this most unexpected windfall.

As the new decade dawned, we had a chilly, but spirited New Year's Day run. Matt Masson introduced us to his new 1" scale train. Karle Mahler had SVLSRM locomotive 1973 on display and said he is shooting to have her back in service by the end of February.



Karle is stepping down as trainmaster after a very busy term, but I am very pleased to announce that he will be staying on as head of steam. Karle has been one of the busiest trainmasters in recent history. During his two-year term he has supervised overhauls or heavy maintenance on every locomotive we have, including two back to back forced maintenance cycles on SVLSRM steamer No. 1973. Shortly after becoming trainmaster, the burner on No. 1973 collapsed after 30+ years of service. Karle researched, designed, built and installed a new burner for the locomotive and had it back in service before the end of the 2008 run season only to have the boiler fail shortly after returning to service.

Of course, had he stopped there, we would all credit him with a prolific term. But instead he went on to design and build new trucks for the tender. Those trucks were the basis for the design of new riding car trucks. The prototypes are now under construction.



Special Thanks to Ken Willes for his generous donation. Ken has given many years of time and labor to SVLS and he continues to support the railroad.



YARD MASTERS REPORT

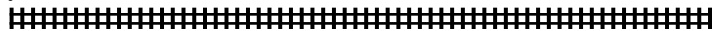
By Andy Berchielli



Happy New Year's to all. We are looking forward to many improvements for 2010. With the help from Americorp, which will be with us for about 8 weeks starting in mid January or February.

Some of the many projects they will work on include repainting Tin Man Bridge, oiling the trestles, finish Sugar Pine Loop, replacing the curve leading out of the station, repainting the caboose area, and help with the grounds.

We are hoping to receive enough donations to lay pavers down for the picnic area and some walkways from the parking area. If you would like to help donate some items, money or time, feel free to contact me anytime. Also, if you can think of any other projects Americorp can work on contact me, thanks. Hope to see you at the track!



Continued - Presidents report:

Welcome aboard to new board member Brad Jones, our trainmaster, and to Dale Dennis our new membership chair. We are sure both will make great contributions as we move our organization forward toward our 40th anniversary.

With a new year dawning, I encourage you to take a moment to get your dues in and make updates to your membership information.

As we look ahead and make plans for 2010, we ask you consider service on our Safety Committee. If you are interested in being part of this important group, please let me know.

And finally, as you begin to fill in your 2010 calendar, please highlight Aug. 13-15 as the days you will be joining our entire club when we make a group trip to Oregon and a special visit to the Willow Creek Live Steamers. We have been invited by Willow Creek to come and spend three great days of railroading at their wonderful facility. They will open their museum, campsites and hospitality to us so please plan to make the trip. Additional details will become available in the months to come, but we want to make sure you are reserving these dates for an unforgettable trip as you make your summer plans.

Yes, 2010 is off to a great start, full of promise for a spectacular year of railroading. See you there!



10 Years ago: I have no idea.... I need several copies of the 2000 year news letters. If you have Jan, Feb, May, June, July, October, or December Please give the editor a call, I can make copies. Thanks Bill

20 Years ago: (1990) From the CAB - (president's comments) - First, I would like to wish a Happy New Year to all.

This year should once again provide your club with a great potential for growth and improvement. We have started receiving fill dirt for the expansion and hope to get enough donated to finish the site work without having to buy any. Our Superintendent Doug Fulton, Secretary, Keith Berry and Trainmaster, John Bailie all sound like they are ready and willing to start some of the new projects for 1990. Please contact Doug or John if you would like to help out. They both have long list of jobs to be done and I am sure there must be one that is just right for your skills and abilities. This year let's try to bring our show and tell sessions, at the General Meeting up to speed. Please bring in something that you have been working on and share it with all of us. Your method may be just what someone else needs to help their project. Don't think that it is not good enough. Everyone must start somewhere and no one will criticize your work. Dennis Gramith!

30 Years ago: (1980) New Year's run was well attended. Some excitement, too, when a prominent member, who shall remain nameless, came without his grates, and he a coal-burner, yet! Glen Strawn was up from Fresno with his 1" Achanback RR Pacific, Ken Willes with his 0-6-0 and black and white gons, Earl McKenzie with his little WP Mike, Erich Quiring and his Atlantic, Chuck Corothers and his Mack electric switcher and of course Ed Yungling and his Cab-Forward.

Guided Tour of SP CTC building in Roseville was arranged by Ken Willes.



RV electrical project

On the wish list of projects is one to provide RV electrical circuits in the current parking area. While we have done some work we do not have the money to finish the project. The total project (FCR#29) was estimated at \$6100. This would provide a breaker circuit for each RV position. We need donations to complete this project.



We now have \$2350 in donations. We still need at least \$3850 to finish. Labor is also needed. Contact Bill Yoder if you have questions or wish to make a donation of money, material, or labor. Thanks.

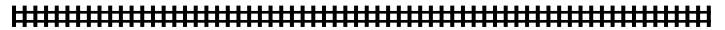


Track Superintendent

By Darrell Gomes

The New Year will start with the completion of the Sugar Pine track. I want to thank Matt Mason for installing the rail to open the track for the 1" scale. Ballast and leveling can be finished in time for our March start up.

Please check our web site for track closures in January and February.



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

Your help is needed. Call a board member and ask for a project, then volunteer.



Safety Rules for the Month



114. All SVLSRM owned material and equipment is for use of members and guests at the SVLSRM facility ONLY, and shall not be removed from the facility without specific permission from the Board of Directors. This includes treated or distilled water, fuel, cars, locomotive, tools, material, etc.

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.

306. STATIONMASTER:

A. Qualifications: any member of SVLSRM who demonstrates to the examining committee that he has the knowledge, judgment, and ability to supervise passengers and scale railroad trains competently and safely and who passes the qualifications test will be qualified as Stationmaster.

B. Responsibilities: the Stationmaster shall have a whistle (police type preferred) and a red flag or light in his possession at all times while acting as a Stationmaster. He shall supervise the loading and unloading of all passengers at the passenger station. He shall discretely refuse passage to oversize passengers who obviously cannot fit or sit comfortably and safely inside passenger hauling car seats. He shall make certain that all passengers have been told and understand the safety instructions before the train leaves the station. He shall work in close cooperation with other operating personnel to keep passenger-hauling trains moving without congestion on the mainline.

419. All steam boilers shall be equipped with a 1/8th inch NPT pipe fitting or fittings sufficient to join either male or female 1/8th NPT pipe fittings for purposes of hydrostatic boiler checks.

for sale

TWO STEAM Trains for sale. Buy one or both.

1: 1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. \$6,500. Engine is a two cylinder double acting 1 1/4x1 1/2". Boiler upgraded from the original 8" diameter water tube to a steel 10" diameter propane fired fire tube boiler with 73 1/2" copper fire tubes. Pneumatic FWD/REV shift and brakes on locomotive. Usual Accessories: working headlight, bell, new whistle, two new relief valves, engine driven feed pump and a hand pump. New body and trucks on riding car. Engine and tender set-up on a single axle trailer for transport.

2: Recently refurbished CRAB locomotive and tender. Loco is about 14" wide and 22" long. Two cylinder double acting engine with a bore and stroke of 1.375 x 2.5". Slip eccentric valve gear, a mechanical lubricator and crosshead driven feed pump. Boiler is about 9" in diameter and 14" tall, propane fired with 8 individual burners in a ring. Burner control manifold is on the tender along with the pilot light control. Boiler feed is by a crosshead pump with a hand pump for back-up.

Tender has mechanical brakes and is about 16" wide by 5 feet long. Holds about 12 gallons of water and a 5 gallon propane tank. Tender is freshly painted.

Asking \$3,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered or will trade for a small diesel loco and riding car. I'm looking for something my grandkids can run, not too big, not too fast, not too heavy.

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

For Sale - Timber Creek Train stuff in 7.5" gauge "make offer and no 'reasonable' offer will be refused"

1. Two #4 turnouts with switch stands \$350.00 ea. Without switch stands \$300.00 ea.
2. One 43 degree crossing, 1/2'x1" steel bar completely machined to accept rail with all connectors and fasteners included @ \$400.00 or make offer.
3. Train carrier with a loading extension for a pick-up that has a 76" bed, This was used in my 2000 Dodge Dakota with an extended cab. Has rails attached for two switcher type engines or two pieces of rolling stock. Not pictured are two flat irons for attaching to the tail gate and body of truck. This saves your tailgate cables from separating from the heavy weight of loading engines.. \$45.00 or offer for the lot.
4. Crane and cradle for sale \$200.00, Capacity of 2 tons for crane, not sure of cradle, but it has lifted any piece of my rolling stock. There is two 3' lifting straps included.

Gordon Briggs @ (530) 273-9145 home, or (530) 615-7256 mobile. E-Mail: timbercreekrr@yahoo.com.
Payment by **BANK CHECK ONLY** or **CASH**.

1/2 scale Brass Bell \$200 It is about 14" high, 12" around - on base about 50lbs. Was modeled after 1930 steam engines bell.

Two manuals (maintenance & operating) for a German ML4000 C' C' Diesel/Hydraulic (in English) \$15. each.

Contact: Charles Williamson (916) 363-2395

Editor note: SP bought several ML4000 models in the mid 1960s - The sole surviving unit (SP9010) is under restoration at Niles Cannon railroad. - from wikipedia.org

Check our web site FOR SALE page for pictures and more details. <http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale.php>

1" scale Pacific. Plus flat cars, tender and the stand that the loco is on are all for sale. Also a box of odds and ends. Asking \$8000 or reasonable offer. Email for pictures or info.

Contact: Michael Savarino email: mssavarino@yahoo.com

An Andy Clarici original one of a kind. Hall Scott car with trailer car 7.5" gauge, roughly 2" scale. Includes 5' x 10' trailer with custom cover. Also includes spare engine. Asking \$10,000 for all. Located in Sacramento area.

Contact Paul or Lois Clifton 916-722-8514

Switch stands, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand.

A complete set-up for \$75.00 (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

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

They operates "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

Ph: (530)272-8531 OR kpjackman@sbcglobal.net

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

#2. Steam oil \$10. per quart.

#3. 6 wheel common wealth passenger trucks for 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 gauge. \$1200. Per pair.

Ross Crawford 916-718-4162



January 2010 Survey.

Everyone Please take the time and give us your input.

Mail to:
Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 273
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

1. Best time for Spring meet:

Suggestion have been to move Spring meet to First weekend of May (May 1 & 2) : What is your suggestion:

2. Best time for Fall Meet:

Last year the meet was the end of September, and it was HOT, but it could also be raining this year.

Suggestion is the second weekend in October (Oct. 8 & 9th)

3. Change to formal three day meet (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday) Yes, _____ NO (stay two day) _____,

Or other suggestion:

4. Halloween run (Ghost Train) - Enhance our track side decorations (static displays, animation displays, lights, noise, spooky things) to provide enough entertainment to make the riders experience enjoyable (worth while). Would you help? Do you have ideas for spooky things?

Suggestions: _____

5. List at least three projects that would make using the facility better for your enjoyment: (track changes, landscape, buildings, run days, usage of facility, or anything else to benefit SVLSRM and your participation and enjoyment of running trains.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Name: _____

**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: REGULAR
 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) _____

List Email on web ____ (Y/N)

List Email on web ____ (Y/N)

Please select one of the following means of receiving your monthly issues of The Golden Spike news letter:

Receive E-Mail notice and read it on line at: www.svls.org (yes) or Send printed edition via snail mail. (yes)

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:

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: _____