

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

September 2011

Volume 38, Issue 9



**SEPTEMBER 16-17-18TH.**

I hope the Fall Meet is on your calendar and that you will attend it with your friends and family. Please bring your engines and other projects. We always enjoy seeing others equipment. Please be a part of it.

Please check in at the registration tent before you unload.

We should have the new North Midway yard done which will give a few more engines a place to park. It also has electricity for electric engines to charge their battery.

For additional information or questions call Lois Clifton.

Fall Meet meal menu:

**Friday**

Lunch- Sandwiches, Chips, Drink \$5  
Dinner Lasagna, French Bread, Green Salad, Iced Tea



**Saturday**

Breakfast- French Toast, Ham, eggs, Biscuits & Gravy \$6  
Lunch- Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Italian Sausage w/peppers & onions \$6  
Dinner- Pork Loin, Chicken Breast, Beef, Salads, Dessert, Drink \$10  
Please call in your dinner



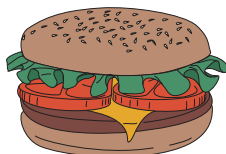
**RSVP by Sept. 12 th**

Lois Clifton (916)722-8514 or  
Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

**Sunday**

Breakfast – Continental \$3  
Lunch- Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken \$6

We will need help in the Caboose and in other areas, anyone interested please contact Clio Geyer or Lois Clifton



WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR HALLOWEEN by Clio Geyer

Last month I submitted an article asking for the teens in our organization to step up if they were interested in being scary for Halloween. At the time I asked them to call Pete Arney if they would like to sign up....well no one called.

Pete has since said that there is something at the track that does not like him! In fact it LOVES him so much he has been told to stay away. In his stead Lee and Andy have said if Pete is willing to give them instructions as to how to do the sound effects, etc. they will take on the track side.

That still leaves the question of getting additional help around the track during our runs and help to set everything up each weekend. If the teens or not-so-teens would be willing to spend some time helping with the events, I'm sure Pete, Lee and Andy would be very happy to have you.

Let's try to make this a GREAT event this year.



We took our portable track to the Travis Air show at the end of July. We had a great time and a very good view of the show. Thanks to Karle, Lee, Pete, Dale, Ed, Mary, Mark, Carson, Isabella, and myself for making this event possible. We did this show to show our appreciation of the Military. Thanks to all Those that serve!  
- Andy Berchielli

## SVLSRM Calendar

Sept. 3-4 Public run days - Noon to 4 PM  
 Sept. 10-11 special event at Capital Air Show  
 Sept. 13 Board meeting 6:30 - R.C. City hall  
 Sept. 16 General Membership meeting  
 Sept. 16-18 Fall Meet

Oct. 1-2 Special event at Colfax Railroad Days.  
 (no public runs at the park)  
 Oct. 11. Board Meeting 6:30 - R. C. City hall  
 Oct. 21 General Membership meeting  
 Oct. Halloween runs - dates being planned.

Nov. 8 Board Meeting 6:30- R. C. City hall  
 Nov. 18 General Membership meeting - Elections.

**\*Mark your 2011 Calendar\***

*Fall meet is September 16, 17, 18.*

*Santa Run December 3-4 & 10-11*

Public run day calendar available on-line.

**Don't forget about Tuesday work days,** 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?*

Save SVLSRM some money and read the newsletters 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.



**Editor request:** This is your newsletter. I am sure you would like to see more news and train related information. I welcome any and all articles and news from the members. Please contact me if you have anything to add to the SPIKE. Deadline is 4 days after Membership meeting.

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.

Bill Yoder

### Board of Directors

- President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791  
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- Secretary: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
E-mail: vern78@onemain.com
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E-mail: dggomes@caltel.com
- Yardmaster: Andy Berchielli (916) 348-7252  
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- Trainmaster: Bradley Jones (916) 687-4866  
E-mail: actioniron@msn.com

### Committee Chairpersons

- Safety Committee: Ed Zels (916) 861-0917  
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- RFE - Steam: Karl Mahler (916) 334-8283  
E-mail: karlemahler@sbcglobal.net
- RFE - Diesel: Ross Crawlford (916) 718-4162

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



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



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 & Pictures may be submitted to: [editor@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org). The deadline is 4 days after Membership meeting.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Bill Yoder

Gee it feels like just yesterday I was finishing last months news letter and as they say time flies when we are having fun. Are we having fun?. As Editor I try to find things of interest and information to pass on to all members. So this means I am always needing an article to publish and information from the membership. Feedback is also important. This is my 116th issue of editing the Spike, either I am doing things OK or no one is reading it or no one wants this job?

Ok now to some needed information. The lock combination has been changed for the gate access to the track. This was due to non-members having the lock numbers. Please call one of the board members to get the new lock combination. - Sorry for the inconvenience but is necessary.

At the last board meeting the primary focus was on upcoming events: 1. Fall Meet Sept. 16-18, please contact Lois Clifton for details or to volunteer to help at the meet. Don't forget to call in your Saturday dinner RSVP.

2. Colfax Railroad Days Oct. 1-2. This should be a fun event to go to as they will have the Western Pacific Engine from Portola. There will be speeders running, other model railroad setups, and some special train videos showing at the Colfax movie theater. Help will be needed the day before (Friday Sept. 30) to set up the portable track and during the two day event. Please give Bill Yoder a call to volunteer. I think this is a good way to let more of the world know about us and our hobby of live steam trains.

3. Halloween event Oct. This is a busy event and also takes lots of people to make our end work. Help is needed to setup and maintain the track side spooky events and crews to run and monitor the trains to haul people to and from the haunted houses. This was a good fund raiser last year and could be this year also. I hear good reports on the new rail & ties used to replace the old track. Well it takes money to do this and this is one way to achieve the goal of replacing the old track. Please call Lee Frechette to volunteer.



The board committed to a requested that the club run a train (portable track) at the Capital Air Show Sept. 10 & 11. Yes help is needed to setup on Friday Sept. 9th and run trains during the two day event. Please call Lee Frechette to volunteer.

The RS3 engine is still being worked on by Ross and Karle to repair the engine trucks.

September concludes our normal first weekend run days for the year. Now there are still special events (birthday parties and the like) that Clio continues to coordinate. Please give Clio a call

to help.

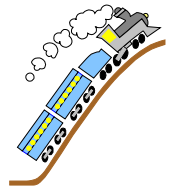
The previous month we had our membership meeting on a Saturday and made it a club run day which seem to work out fine for everyone. While the next couple of months have our membership meeting date during the Fall Meet and the Halloween events we will still have a short meeting. We should evaluate when we want our membership meeting for next year now so we can set the schedule before January.

There is a small group of members that continue to unselfishly give of their time every week so that we can all enjoy our facility and our Club. You have seen their names listed many times in the newsletter what I am asking is that if you do not participate, then there is still a way to help. Either find one of those hard working members and tell them how much you appreciate what they do OR ask them how you can get more involved with your club.

To quote part of a previous club president article, it was suggested that: "Somewhere between the end of the 20th century and beginning of the 21 century, this great nation of "we, the people", began to become, in a way, dyslexic and the "we" became "me" -- What is in it for me? How will it benefit me? Why do they bother me? Why do they keep asking me for things?"

I know I am preaching but this club will not survive without more members working to maintain the facility and equipment. Remember our Club directive. *"The purpose of this corporation shall be to promote among its members and the public an appreciation of the construction and operation of live steam engines; preserve railroad history and to promote education and appreciation of the many interesting aspects of live steam operation, railroad lore and history, through exhibiting various types of live steam engines and railroad equipment in operation and static displays."*

Ok, now go and clean and polish your engines and train cars to bring them to the Fall Meet. I hope to see you there.  
- Keep it steaming!



Matt Hall and Kevin Sach at August members run.



We had between 50-60 people turn out for Hot August Nights. People were running their engines as early as 8:00AM. There was a variety of locomotives, including a few steam engines. Tom Mercer brought out his new speeder and he about wore out the wheels with his grandson. The weather cooperated with temperatures in the low 80's. The potluck was a success with plenty to eat for everybody. After several runs around the track, in the dark, it was after 10:00PM when the last good nights were exchanged and the last of the holdouts went home.

- Barbara Moser



Tom Mercer with his Grandson riding his new speeder.

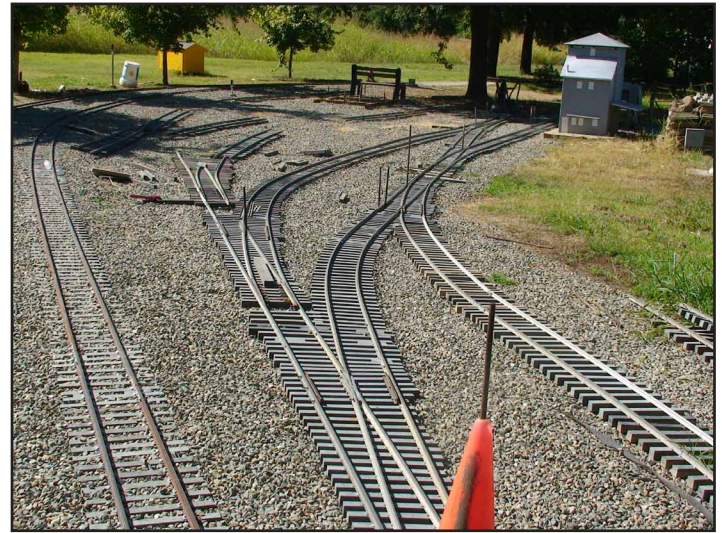


## Track Superintendent Report

*By Darrell Gomes*

The track crew has been busy working on North Midway Yard. The weather has been HOT, but All the switches have now been installed and we are working to complete the 2 tracks that will run on each side of the Midway warehouse. I want to thank Paul Skidmore for his time and effort building the switch throws and for machining and rebuilding switch frogs for this project. Bill Yoder is busy finishing up the signals at Midway, installing insulators, pulling wire and mounting hardware to complete the project.

Hope to see you at our Fall Meet.



## YARD MASTERS REPORT

*By Andy Berchielli*



The yard work is continuing along. I was gone most of July so the yard was neglected a little but a BIG thank you goes out to Pete for helping me get the place back in shape for the first weekend of the month. I appreciate all the help I can get. It really takes more than one person to keep the yard in great shape. General yard work that can be done by anyone are picking up cut branches under tree, raking pine needles by box car, and blowing leaves off the track in various locations.



At Fall Meet, if you run at night please have flashlight, an engine headlight, and end of train light. - let's be safe.



**10 Years ago:** It has been a busy month what with our Hot August Nights weekend run, some work days and a couple of special runs. During the month Milon Thorley designed, constructed and installed an extension of the upper storage track racks in the boxcar. The extension gives us much needed additional space for Club riding cars. He also has conducted what amounts to annual cleaning of sprinkler heads, due to the green muck generated from the Park water source.

**20 Years ago:** The action in the park has been fantastic! A lot of projects are being completed by the club members, new potential members, and friends of S.V.L.S. For example, last Sunday (9/8/91), Bill Roscoe and Doug Fulton came out, poured concrete pads and installed electrical circuits for the working semaphore signals Bill made some time ago. During the afternoon run, a gentleman came out of the crowd with six (6) target signals, complete with base, electrical and ladder. A friend of the club, but not a member. What a Gesture!

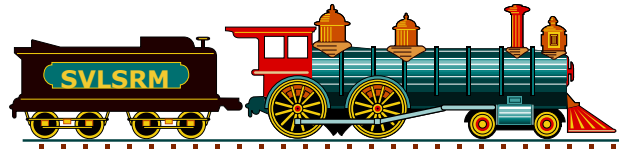
The outbound elevated has been re-aligned to smooth the low yard tracks. Switches are being re-tied by Ed Spall. Milon Thorley and Dennis Gramith have revised the elevated superstructure. The outbound main line has been re-tied past the box car. A new outbound main is graded into the expansion area. A lot of work thanks to many other members has been to maintain the right-of-way, grass areas, and picnic sites. This includes elevating the meadow run-around siding plus ballast.

The following projects are active and will be worked on next work day: steaming bay electrical, security light on caboose towards bathrooms, lower yard track ballasting, and general clean-up. A special task will be to install the crossing signal (donated by Dolbus Trucking ) off the Placerville branch near the transfer table rails in the lower lawn area. This unit will be operable with track circuits on the transfer table/outbound yard lead. Nice work, Milon, in acquiring this appliance.

**30 Years ago:** Run Day. We carry the bullion for River City Bank's annual family picnic. Come out with your engines and shotguns. We need the motive power...gold weighs heavy. Spall, Yungling, McWhirk and Shelley have promised to be there with theirs.

Old-Time Railroad Movies at Big Top Pizza at 1 and 4 pm. Donation adults \$4, students through high school and those over 62 \$2. Half net take to SVLS, Half to Sierra Chapter - American Theater Organ Society. Bob Vaughn will create the moods for the silent films about trains of yesteryear.

*Special run schedule*



*Please help by volunteering your time. Call Clio to help.*

Date	Time	Event type	Num.	Engines
Sept. 10	11-1	Canavera Party	?	Diesel
Sept. 11	4-6PM	Nielsen Party	25	Diesel
Sept. 24	Noon-2	Bratchar Party	25	Diesel
Sept. 25	2-4	Domico Party	25	Diesel



**Colfax Railroad Days 2011**

Sat/Sun October 1&2



**Featured events:**

Visit by the Western Pacific Train from the Portola Railroad Museum

Motor car rides on the UP Colfax Yard Wye

Modular Railroad Layout Displays

Railroad Memorabilia and Modelers' Sales Booths

Railroad Film Fest

Sacramento Live Steamers Portable Layout

For more information visit:

**Placer Sierra Railroad Heritage Society - psrhs.org**



**FOR SALE**

Metal working lathe (Harbor freight brand) - \$300  
 Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



Wards (Logan) Power-Kraft Model 25TLC-2136  
 Back Geared Screw Cutting Lathe with Quick-change Gear Box  
 10" Swing - 1-1/2"-8 #3 MT Spindle Bore  
 50" Bed Length - 31" Between Centers  
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Includes: 3-Jaw & 4-Jaw Chucks, Jacob's Chucks for Headstock & Tailstock, Collet Set, 6" Face Plate, 110 Volt Flat belt drive \$1000

Contact: Mike Dreiling 916-729-2200 or 916-201-0888(cell) email [mdreiling@macnexus.org](mailto:mdreiling@macnexus.org)



1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. 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.

Asking \$6,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered. Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net) for additional information/pictures. <http://www.svlsm.org/sale.php>



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



**Safety Rules Review**

107. The Station Master will have complete charge of the station. He may appoint any qualified assistants needed. All passenger loading and unloading, and the arrival and departure of the trains, will be under his supervision.

206. An engine approaching a stopped train on the same track must come to a complete stop no less than fifty (50) feet from the stopped train. The stopped train may then be approached slowly with caution.

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

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

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.



**Fall Meet Sept 16-17-18**

SVLS special events with portable track.  
**Capital Air show Sept. 10-11**  
**Colfax RailRoad Days Oct 1 & 2.**

*Help will be needed the day before to setup the track.*