

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrm.org

January 2014

Volume 41, Issue 1



**Thank you**, to all of our SVLS members (you all know who you are) that found time from their busy schedules to bake, buy and donate lots of Christmas Cookies to our Santa Train. Because of you, all the kids and their parents got cookies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider, and kids got a chance to talk with Santa Claus and have their picture taken.

A special "Thank you" goes out to Christina Barnett (Community Outreach Specialist) from the L.D.S. Church in Rancho Cordova for arranging for donations of cookies from their members. Then I can't forget the 3 families who have made it a tradition to attend our event every year and brought cookies to donate to us.

Barbara Moser - Cookie coordinator



Extra Special Thanks to Wayne Harmer as Santa again for the 4 days of Santa train and his sister Sheree as his cute Elf helper.

Santa trains waiting at the Santa station to return guest back to Rancho Cordova station. Many thanks to Andy Berchielli for scheduling members to work the Santa train and construction of the Santa station setup. - The Pres.

On behalf of SVLSRM I would like to thank all of you for your participation in our Santa Train event. We pulled about 1600 riders the two weekends. The community really enjoys this event! Without everyone's help we could not pull this off. Thank you for donating your time and energy to make this event successful! - Andy Berchielli

## NEW YEARS DAY 2014

We did start the New Year with a lot of steam, and smelly diesel plus some quiet electric locomotives. With over 60 people of all ages enjoying the great weather, food, and running trains.



From the Masons family running a 15 car train with 3 engines, to a few steam engine only running (at least a half lap), to many trains hauling family and or friends, count was 15 guest engines running plus our own club engines.

With that much traffic on the track we need to enhance the railroad with some passing sidings so we can run bidirectional. It only take members with an interest to make it happen.

Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed the day together!.

## SVLSRM Calendar

Jan. 14 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.

Jan. 18 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Jan. 25 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Feb. 1 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Feb. 8 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Feb. 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.

Feb. 15 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Feb. 22 Work Day, help needed for track work and more.

Please volunteer to support the club events.

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*



Save SVLSRM some money and read the newsletters on-line. Tell us that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail then read on-line.



Please check the SVLS web site:  
[www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.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@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).

*The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.*

*Member articles wanted.*

## MEMBERSHIP

by Dennis Bowie

### *Welcome New Members:*

Dan and Lynne Pillus Oroville, CA.

Tom Butler Napa, CA.

As the new Membership chairperson I would like to thank everyone that has submitted their membership renewal so far. With the start of this New Year, I would like to extend the invitation to all our members to make sure to return your renewal forms as soon as possible.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be reviewing the membership records to familiarize myself with the club database, so please bear with me if I call or email any of you with questions.

If you are in need of name badges, car stickers or other membership items please feel free to contact me. Best regards and see you on the rails!

### Board of Directors - 2014

President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [president@svlsrcm.org](mailto:president@svlsrcm.org)

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884

E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrcm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrcm.org)

Secretary: Heidi Bowie (916) 383-1461

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

Treasurer\*: Adam Kessler (916) 706-1373

E-mail: [adam\\_kessler@yahoo.com](mailto:adam_kessler@yahoo.com)

\* Completing Lois Clifton term.

Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623

E-mail: [dggomes@caltel.com](mailto:dggomes@caltel.com)

Yardmaster: Rob Sharratt (916) 631-8963

E-mail: [RTSharratt@yahoo.com](mailto:RTSharratt@yahoo.com)

Trainmaster: Kevin Sach (916) 541-5718

E-mail: [chicopacific9@yahoo.com](mailto:chicopacific9@yahoo.com)

Director: Dale Fowlar (916) 962-0718

E-mail: [sopacengr@att.net](mailto:sopacengr@att.net)

Director: Gordon Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: [npgp9308@netscape.net](mailto:npgp9308@netscape.net)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Dennis Bowie (916) 383-1461

E-mail: [membership@svlsrcm.org](mailto:membership@svlsrcm.org)

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Andy Berchielli

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlsrcm.org](mailto:Events@svlsrcm.org)

Safety Chairperson: - open-

Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

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

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

### Train Masters Report

By Kevin Sach



Well I hope everyone had good holidays. Now, is the time to get down to the maintenance of the railroad and its equipment. On the Saturday workdays over the next two months, I will be needing helpers to help me cut metal, grind the cut metal and weld the metal, so we can get the new riding cars built in time for the run days in March. I will be out there on most Saturdays doing some work on the cars. Email me if you can come out and help and we are always looking people who are willing to come and help in any way they can.

I also have planned during the off season is to replace the rings on both the piston and valve spools as of many years of running they are starting to wear down and allowing some blow by. See you in the maintenance area.



### Track Superintendent Report

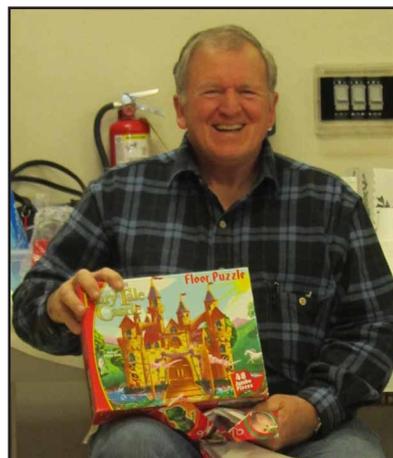
By Darrell Gomes



HAPPY NEW YEAR ! I have plans for 400' of track replacement north of Cordova Junction towards Placerville in the next 6 weeks. This project will require a firm commitment from the membership before we start. We have chosen Saturdays as work days to get more membership and volunteer participation. Contact me by January 10 at 209-629-2542. How much we do depends on You!



Darrell really puts out a nice train around the tree layout each year. Looks great Darrell - thanks for sharing. - Editor



Gift exchange game had some great White-Elephant gifts. Finally I got a puzzle that I can put together as it has 48 JUMBO pieces so I don't need my glasses. Thanks ( See you next year)



### President's Report

By Bill Yoder



to all the members that have made this a great year for the club. We had an outstanding Spring Meet celebrating our 40th anniversary. It was the biggest and best meet that SVLSRM has had. There were several off site trips (using portable track) that were well received and events at our facilities in Hagan Park.

Our Fall meet was full of trains and people; again the members helped and we had the best Fall meet.

Our Santa Run was a great success, and ending the year with members having a good time at the Christmas dinner. The "White Elephant" gift exchange provide the unusual assortment of gifts; some just keep coming back each year due to their popularity.

I want to thank the board of director members for their support of the club and activities as they all made an extra effort too in this ongoing need to grow the interest of the members in the club. I presented each (those present) with a metal artwork of a steam locomotive - made by Doug Fulton and his CNC cutting machine.

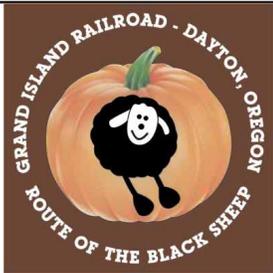


Barbara Moser was honored for her hard work at the Caboose for the meets and work days with a painting inspired by our own SVLS train giving rides to people in the park. The painting was done by Heather McCray. For a close up of the painting see the July 2013 Spike news letter.



Now we need to look forward to this year

Continued on page 4



**SAVE THE DATES AUGUST 8th, 9th, & 10th, 2014**

We would like to make a special invitation to Sacramento Valley Live Steamers to celebrate Pacific Northwest Live Steamers 60th Anniversary open meet in Molalla Oregon on the 9th & 10th. Come and help us celebrate and dedicate PNLs's new roundhouse facility. Pacific Northwest Live Steamers (Shady Dell) is Oregon's oldest live steam club in Oregon. We have 3800 feet of track, 60 foot radius, several large trestles & bridges and a 15 foot unloading lift.

PNLS President Patrick Duling  
GIRR Head Ram Mike Baker



New Year run day 2014.

Thanks to Robert Forren for the photos.



*Continued from page 3 - president.*

needs. As you read this new letter you see we have two needed projects to be done over the next several weeks (deadline end of February). These are build some new riding cars, and replace some main line track.

We will need at least 10 people working on the track each weekend (Saturdays for now - starting on the 18th, and several more to help Kevin with the riding cars (starting now).

While Darrell has asked for help in prior months new letters there has been little response, so I will ask here for you to volunteer as many days as you can but please pick your task by calling either Kevin Sach or Darrell Gomes asap. If you feel you don't have the special skill needed, then there are other general repair work needed at the club. One could help fix food for the workers, do trash clean up, cut/mow weeds, fix the fence, paint, inspect the track and re-ballast and level track as needed, there is over 6000 feet that need this done.

Current list of projects:

1. Riding cars
2. Track replacement (400 feet)
3. Fence around propane tank
4. Property fence fixed in several spots
5. Additional security enhancements (welding, add cameras)
6. Fix steps by boxcar
7. Add signals circuits
8. Build remote switch units.
9. Paint (boxcar, caboose)
10. Fix SP caboose (secure, make usable)
11. Landscaping improvement (sprinklers, trimming, etc)

These would do wonders to make the railroad better for all.

I want to welcome our two new Board members: Heidi Bowie as Secretary and Gordon Moser as Board member at large. Also we have changed three committee chairpersons. Our new Membership chairperson is Dennis Bowie, He and his wife Heidi joined us this year and have been great help on our recent events. Our Birthday/Event chairperson is now Andy Berchielli so if you want to reserve the place for a birthday party then call our new event number: (916) 572-7857. All parties/events need to be coordinated with Andy this includes members wanting to use the facility so that we do not run into conflicts. Your attention is needed for this process.

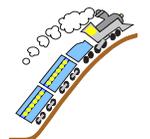
I am also looking for a chairperson for Safety committee.

The board has approved a policy on advertising in the new-letter: for business ads, there will be a charge of \$1.50 per vertical inch of column each month published. This is to help offset the rising cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Please come to the track to work then play.

Thanks - Bill

*Keep it steaming!*





**10 Years ago:** Our GP40 is now ready to roll. The GP40 over the last year has been rebuilt with a new engine, hydro static unit. The trucks and gearboxes have been rebuilt and now it looks great with new paint.

The first prototype GP40's were made by General Motors and built from 1965-1971 with 3,000 horsepower and a second generation model built from 1971 to 1986. They were designed as General Purpose road and switch engine for local train use.

Our GP40 was obtained back in 1987 and first ran at the state fair at Cal Expo. The engine had over 3000 hours prior to the rebuild.



Special thanks go to those club members that gave their time and talent to rebuilding our engine: Kevin Sach for the great paint work; Marilyn Drewes for paint prep work; Milon Thorley for replacing the engine and hydro drive; Ross Crawford and Don Juergenson for work on the trucks and gear boxes; Dick Esselbach for painting the trucks; Bill Son, Jack Friedman, Paul Clifton on final run readiness and Thanks to anyone else that helped.

**20 Years ago:** When it comes to track work, 1994 may prove to be the busiest year yet. There has been a lot planned for this year, both with continuation of the expansion with added new trackage and with maintenance and repair of the existing track. The interchange in the expansion is to be completed and track to be laid down from the interchange through the ballast spur. The old mainline will need to be updated for continuous future usage. Also, we must, as quickly as possible, address the continuing problem of vandalism to insure the preservation of the club.

**30 Years ago:** Warren Sharratt has recently passed the 2,600 mark in his tie cutting project. As soon as he figures out were to put them, he will be cutting another batch. A tremendous job well done. Thanks, Warren, Robby and Cristy! Ed Yungling has re-invented the wheel or at least a clever method for making the pattern for tender truck wheels.

Our traditional New Year's run day was bright and sunny. Steam, Electric and Diesel power provided fun and rides for those in attendance. Since several of the members brought out

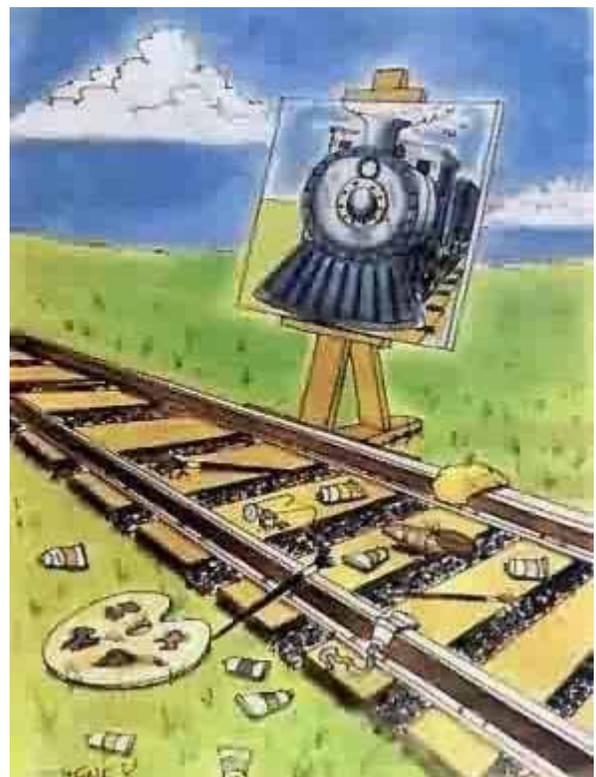
some Chile, dips, spreads and assorted finger foods, everyone there was able to avoid starvation while enjoying the beautiful weather and flanged wheel transportation.

**40 Years ago:** *Again the Editor is lacking info on what the club was doing in 1974. They were having monthly meetings at various places and had a spring meet in 1974 based on a mailed bulletin June 1, 1974. Therefore I don't have any info for the first part of 1974, if you have info as to club activities then I would appreciate a copy so we have it for our archives.*

*Based on a bulletin sent June 1, 1974 by Larry Badger then President, prior notices of events were postcards. It was July 1974 when "The Golden Spike" was first published as the club newsletter by Joel Corbin with artwork designed by Dick Esselbach which is still used in today's news letters.*

*There is a lot of history that we have lost due to lack of archiving our documents. I find the club history very interesting with the amount of work accomplished by just a few. We need to appreciate what we have today and continue their efforts.*

Bruce Eaton passed away 17 Nov 2013 in Redding, CA. He was a long time member of SVLS and of Golden Gate Live Steamers, not to mention Train Mountain. His business was "The Car Shop/Shinglecreek RR" at his house near Shingletown, CA. He was a very skilled locomotive and rolling stock fabricator. He was also a very respected dental lab specialist, (Eaton Dental Lab). He will be missed by many in the live steam hobby, about which he was very passionate.



Painting for sale, Artist not found.

# FOR SALE



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 **\$7,500** (or best offer) for all. Contact: Lois Clifton 916-722-8514



For Sale – 1/8<sup>th</sup> scale locomotive, Runs on 7 ½ or 7 ¼ gauge track, 4-4-0 American Kit, American Kit purchased from Railroad Supply Company, with Copper boiler still in the crate.

The model is mostly unfinished, only the chassis and front truck have been completed. All parts and drawings included. Below are the specifications of the completed locomotive.

\$8,000 OBO does not include any shipping charges Save money and arrange to pickup in the Sacramento area.

Doug Fulton – 530-637-5653  
email: doug\_fulton@sierrasbest.net



1" scale, 4.75" gauge train consisting of : Maxitrack 0-4-0 side rod diesel (new transistor throttle, professionally rebuilt motor, battery) , 2- Scale RR Supply gondolas (50" long with SKF sprung, roller bearing trucks, 1 painted, 1 aluminum)

, 1- Little Engines Box Car painted red w/fixed doors, 1- Little Engines old style caboose (32" long w/ hand rails, SKF sprung, roller bearing trucks, red w/ brown roof), approximate 260' aluminum track w/plastic ties. Asking 2500 obo - at Sacramento. Contact Gerald D. Thomas if you would like to see the equipment. samoht-4@att.net. or phone: 916-391-3395.



FOR SALE 7.5" gauge, 1.5" scale 0-4-0 INVICTA locomotive, tender and two riding cars. Steel propane fired boiler feeding 1.375" x 2.22" cylinders sleeved down to 1". Direction control is by a slip eccentric set-up. Six inch diameter drivers. Boiler make-up water supplied by an axle pump backed up by a hand pump in the tender. Manual brakes on the first riding car. The tender only holds about one gallon of water so I built a three gallon water tank in the first riding car along with a pump and battery so I can refill the tender on the fly. Complete - Ready to Run. I transport this train on its tie down board in my Prius automobile. Board is included.

Asking \$7,000 - Reasonable cash offers considered. Contact Bill Cody - Home (775) 674-6512 or Cell 775-233-1429 for additional information/pictures.





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