

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

December 2016

Volume 43, Issue 12

Santa Run - Dec. 3, 4 & 10, 11

Santa is indeed coming to town and we are going to need your help. We will be doing our Santa Train Experience the first two weekends in December. We will need engineers, conductor, station help, village workers, baked cookies, and more cookies, and candy canes.



To volunteer please call either:
Alex Wilde 530-748-5916
or **Dennis Gramith 916-988-7884**

The Santa station also needs to be built and this will be done on Dec. 1 & 2 - 9:30 AM- help is needed. Come on out and get in the spirit of the season. **Call: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472**



SVLSRM Christmas party Dec. 17th 6:30 PM at Rancho Cordova City Hall 2729 Prospect Park Dr.

Potluck dinner and there will be a Kids' and an Adult white elephant gift exchange. If you want to participate in the exchange, bring a gift appropriate to your age (physical, not mental).

Bring your favorite food dish to share.

The club will provide the paper products, drinks (coffee, hot chocolate and lemonade) and ham and turkey entrée.



Merry Christmas

and a happy new year

President's Report

By Heidi Bowie



Well, I just spent the weekend surrounded by a lot of holiday spirit...quite a bit of it from our own club members. There was a small but insane group that met on Saturday to build the portable track on what has become the Mushy Grass Knoll of Rancho Cordova. Hours of moving track panels and mucking around in the rain did not deter this little band in its quest to create the magical setup for Sunday night's Tree Lighting event. The event was not without its hiccups, but our train and its merry crew circled that tree probably over 50 times, bringing a lot of joy and excitement to the opening of the holiday season. I count myself lucky to have been a part of it again this year (photo page 4). Thank you to everyone who had a hand or two in the setup, running, tear down, and removal of track and equipment. It was the work of so many people to coordinate everything that needed to be done.

And with that event behind us we are looking straight at Santa Train for the first two weekends in December. All members are encouraged to come out at some point and volunteer some time. Not only do we need train crews, but people are needed to help monitor cookies (Please only take TWO cookies!!!) and hot chocolate, restock supplies, provide support in the WP Caboose, man the ticket booth, dole out information to the crowds. Dress in your festive, holiday best because this is truly a fun event and a lot of joy is created when kids get to take a train to visit their favorite Christmas celebrity.

After all that excitement, it will be time to gather together and have our own festive event at the annual SVLS Christmas Party. The third Saturday in December (17th) will have us at Rancho Cordova City Hall for a potluck dinner, White Elephant Gift Exchange (both for kids and adults), plus lots of stories, laughter and general silliness!

The Board Members approved my appointment of Alex Wilde to the Director #1 position. He will also be the Train Crew Coordinator.

December will go fast, so enjoy the holidays, your family and friends, and your train club!



SVLSRM Calendar

- Dec. 3 - 4 Santa Train Experience - have your picture taken with Santa. 11 AM to 3 PM
- Dec. 10 - 11 Santa Train Experience - have your picture taken with Santa. 11 AM to 3 PM
- Dec. 12 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Dec. 17 Members Annual Christmas Dinner.
- Jan. 1 New Years annual Members run day & potluck lunch
Please bring food to share and enjoy the day.
- Jan. 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.

JAN-FEB We will be working most weekends on track rebuild. Details will be forthcoming.

Please volunteer to support the club events.
How will you support SVLSRM this month?

A **members only area** has been set up on our web server where we will keep a current version of the roster, and other useful documents for our members. To gain access, each *member (now including associates)* must be a current paid member to register and create a user name and password.

Please use the link on the web page in the top menu section called "Members only." This is a two step process to register as the system will send an E-mail to verify that it is you. You will then use the link sent to complete the process. Please note this is to register so you can then use your user ID/password to view the protected area via the link shown on the registration page.

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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The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.
Member articles wanted.

MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs



DUES ARE DUE BY JAN 1, 2017

Please complete your membership form noting changes. You can download forms at svlsrm.org. Send check or pay on-line at: www.svlsrm.org/membership.php
Send forms/check to: SVLSRM P.O. Box 273 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

THANKS



Please check the SVLSRM web site www.svlsrm.org for current information. If you have not looked for awhile then you will have missed news or for sale items that are not in the newsletter.

Board of Directors - 2016

(##) Ending year of term

President: Heidi Bowie (916) 383-1461 (17)

E-mail: president@svlsrm.org

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (18)

E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrm.org

Secretary: Chris Donhost (707) 301-0739 (17)

E-mail: secretary@svlsrm.org

Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (18)

E-mail: treasurer@svlsrm.org

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (18)

E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrm.org

Yardmaster: Rob Sharratt (916) 631-8963 (18)

E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrm.org

Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (17)

E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrm.org

Director1: Alex Wilde (530) 748-5916 (18)

E-mail: director_wilde@svlsrm.org

Director2: Gordon Moser (916) 645-3425 (17)

E-mail: director_gordon@svlsrm.org

____ Committee Chairpersons ____

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

E-mail: membership@svlsrm.org

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: caboose@svlsrm.org

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Andy Berchielli

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: Events@svlsrm.org

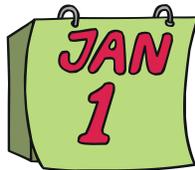
Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: editor@svlsrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM

NEW YEARS DAY 2017

Let's start the New Year with a lot of steam, or smelly diesel and bring out your locomotive, rolling stock and enjoy a members run day on January 1, 2017.



Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch.



Mark your calendar for Sunday January 1. Running starts at 10 AM and lunch about 1 PM. Ring in the New Year's Day behind your equipment and with fellow railroad members.



Track Superintendent Report

By Dennis Bowie

The plan for the track work in Jan. and Feb. is to remove the track from the place about MP 3 to Reverse-O and remove the old road bed, and replace with steel track panels. Also reuse the old steel rail that is on the outside of the curves in new panels.

We will also be replacing the road bed on the Placerville siding because of ease of access. I also want to get the steel switches cut in at the Quarry/SP caboose and place steel tracks from the crossing to the grade to twin bridges. We have one truck and transfer of rock on site and will need to have one more delivery for this project. My plan is that we will remove the track at MP 3 to Reverse-O January 7th and start the removal of the old road bed. I want to be able to work each week end from the 7th to the end of February to get this project done.



If we are ahead of schedule we will then work on the Quarry/SP Caboose switches and sidings.

Happy Holiday



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.

Party & Events Chairperson

Andy Berchielli



We wrapped up 2016 with 25 parties for the year. 10 less then 2015, largely due to the amount of rain outs we had this year.

Parties generated about \$3900 this year. As you can see, parties greatly contribute to the club, however I can't do it without the support of our qualified members. I try to get our members to work one party a month. With a crew from 3 to 6 people I'm always looking for interested members to help out. I'm so grateful to the 26 members this year who volunteered their weekend time to help the club. A BIG Thank You to all! Many worked more than one party.

In no particular order: Karle, Steve P., Kieth, Marty, Don F., Butch, Bill, Gordon, Barbara, Chris D., Andrew S., Colton, Ed, Peter, Kevin, Dennis G., Alison, Dean, John B., Phil, Steve M., Heidi, Stacy, Dylan, Janet, Harry and myself.

We book parties from March to October. So make plans to give a helping hand this next run season.

Thanks

Happy Holidays!



LOOK WHO IS TURNING 30!

By Chris Donhost

Thirty years ago the membership of our Sacramento Valley Live Steamers was participating in a fund drive. Members could buy \$100 stock certificates to help the club purchase a club locomotive. That fundraiser proved to be successful, and UP 649 made her debut at the California State Fair in 1987! She has given our members and our community many hours of enjoyment pulling our trains around our beloved railroad.

However, she is tired from the many years of public service, and the time has come for her retirement. For that reason, we will use the 2017 operating season as a farewell to UP 649. This will be a great effort that will further outlined in future club newsletters. Look for the results of the survey in the January issue of the Golden Spike.

SVLSRM 2016 in review



Our train giving rides at Rancho Cordova Tree lighting event (Nov. 27 2016)



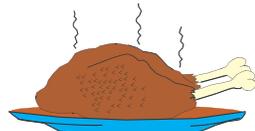
SVLS welcomes kids (of a certain age) who want to get involved.



Young Ryan is doing a great job blowing leaves off the track.



Heidi's cooking hints for leftover turkey... Layer it with stuffing and mashed potatoes, smother it in gravy and take it for lunch!



SVLS Founding Members had Railroad jobs.

Photos and info from Donald Yungling



One of SVLS earliest members was Alan Shelley. He worked for the Southern Pacific railroad. He also helped drive our golden spike in place in 1973. In photo above he is pulling into the Antelope yards with a local freight from Woodland. Apparently two of the three GP-9's locomotives had failed and we were making about 5 mph max speed. Circa 1977. Not shown is young member Donald Yungling who had a lucky cab ride.



Way back at the CSRM (California State Railroad Museum), when we mere mortals were allowed to play with the big toys. Barry Garland, who worked at the museum, is seen on the tender of the Jupiter replica. The locomotive was under steam and we all had an opportunity to pull the throttle. Before his stint at the museum Barry carried a camera for KCRA news. While there he made sure anything railroad related was well covered. Several times he brought reporters to the track for stories which made the evening news. He even was able to get me and my dad on the noon news show. We had the 1 inch scale 0-6-0 under steam and on blocks in the studio. The reporter, in all his ignorance, was more interested in what we thought about Amtrak.

Editor note: see some of Barry's film of our first golden spike on-line at: <http://www.svlsm.org/history2.php>

Season's Greetings

OCTOBER MINUTE SUMMARIES

By Chris Donhost, Secretary
BOARD MEETING 11/14/2016

- 0-4-0 has just a few items to finish, including some plumbing and reattaching the cab.
- The track closest to the WP caboose at Oasis had been driven on again. Steve Milward, Andrew & Stacy repaired the damage. Board approved adding a bollard to deter vehicle traffic.
- Board voted to accept International Rail Fair's tentative invitation to participate in 2017.
- All in attendance took an informal survey concerning the proposed replacement of UP 649
- Board approved purchase of 2 transfer loads of ballast.
- Membership reported 4 new members, and 25 renewals from the Fall Meet
- Approved funds for the fence relocation project by the station/petting zoo
- Dave McKlain has offered to remake the south door of the SP caboose that has rotted out.
- No update from the survey company.
- Gordon gave a report on his visit to the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad pumpkin train.
- Board approved purchase of 2 new heaters, like the standing heater purchased last year.

GENERAL MEETING 11/19/2016

- Secretary C. Donhost received the resignation from Director #1- Steve Perry in writing prior to the start of the meeting.
- The membership voted to approve the following slate that was modified from the October membership meeting due to Steve's resignation:

Vice President- Dennis Gramith
Treasurer- Alison Berry
Yardmaster- Rob Sharratt
Track Superintendent- Dennis Bowie

- The membership approved the nomination of Alex Wilde for the position of Director #1.
- Steve Milward agreed to lead the Santa Train set-up efforts Dec. 1 & 2 beginning at 10am.
- Those not in attendance at the board meeting took the replacement survey for UP 649.
- Membership voted to affirm board action taken at the October board meeting concerning direction of travel for public operations (15 ayes/1 abstained).
- Membership approved an annual review of directional policy to be added to the board's monthly action calendar in the month of November.
- Next scheduled general membership meeting is October 20, 2017 at the track at 7:30pm

FOR SALE

Two RRSC 6 wheel pullman commonwealth 1/8 scale trucks - reconditioned. The pair \$2000 or best offer.
Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162

\$3700 Or best offer.

1 1/2 scale, 7 1/2 " gauge 4 wheel Diesel locomotive with 5hp Briggs & Stratton engine. Hydraulic powered. Engine was designed and built with the late Glen Strawn. Easy to run and maintain. Flat car support car included. Has Mountain Car trucks and couplers. Call 559-281-3724 for more information. Email dboudrrtrain@sbcglobal.net Doug Boudakian



Trolley for Sale.

Price \$1500 OBO, plus engine stand for sale.

Call: Clio Geyer
(916) 645-9154



We had our first Trainmen Auxiliary Meeting Nov. 18th and it was a big hit. I'd Like to thank Joel Corbin for taking the kids around the track and teaching them a lot about our railroad. I'd also like to thank Jason Van Horn for bring some of his steam train parts and sharing. The kids really enjoyed it.

10 Years ago: Richard, Amy and Sarah work on digging to make space for container.



20 Years ago: ROSEVILLE RAILFAIR Perched on a scale 40 foot high trestle, a freight train was the first thing to capture the attention of fairgoers. Made up of a short flat car loaded with Bettendorf truck (belonging to John Bailie), an SD&AE boxcar and UP stock car (who else but President Berry's), another flat with continuous live steam video on board (also John's), and a bobber caboose by Don J., presented a respectable 20' long train. On stands in front of the freight were classic examples of steam for visitors to see up close: Bob Lovell's 0-6-0 switcher was flanked by Red Hadler's 4-10-0 ("El Gub") and Dick Quirings recently completed 2-8-0 Consolidation. A table in front held a 2-4-0 chassis under construction by the outspoken Bailie himself. Many questions and reminiscences came from visitors passing the display, as well as inquiries about run days and membership. Thanks and a pat on the "caboose" to the ones mentioned above as well as Curt Bonville for getting the trestle "off the ground", Dick Esselbach for having signs and fliers available, and Dale Fowler for relieving those in the booth so they could see some of the activities.

30 Years ago: The donated air compressor for the club is now on site. I think it was Ken Willes, Ed Spall, and Dennis Gramith who moved it to our track. Thanks Guys.

Had some good show & tell again. Ed Yungling had springs & spring brackets plus the molds for castings. John Ballie had brass brake cylinder castings that he has made. Jim Durham had signal box castings for track signals that he is working on. Don Jurgensen had wheel patterns in wood and aluminum. Also journal box castings and patterns.

40 Years ago: The "Fence Party" of November 20th was a big success and at one time 17 men working at various jobs along the fence line. This was a much larger project than had been anticipated and had it not been for Mr. Hershey and the park crew we would not have completed setting the poles in one day. Our thanks to Mr. Hershey for getting the post holes dug and the poles and fence down on the one section to be moved. It was a very cool day and the hot lunch provided by the wives was greatly appreciated and delicious; just what was needed to give the guys a break and energy to carry on until late in the afternoon. Thank you ladies.