

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

December 2017

Volume 44, Issue 12

## Happy Holiday

**Our annual holiday potluck** will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017, 6:30 PM at the Rancho Cordova City Hall (2729 Prospect Dr.) Please bring a favorite dish to share. The club will provide paper products, coffee, hot chocolate, water, a ham and a turkey. We will have a gift exchange, one for the kids, and one for adults – suggested gift amount \$10. Please note this is NOT a white elephant exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift and place it under the tree. Be sure to mark if it should go to the adult gift exchange or the kids' gift exchange. Plan on a fun filled evening with fantastic food made by the best chefs in the club (you).

Please RSVP to Alison Berry ([aliberry@yahoo.com](mailto:aliberry@yahoo.com)) or 916-983-9712) if you plan to come so we know how many tables to set up. PLEASE RSVP by December 15.

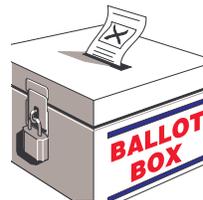


*Santa is indeed coming to town and we are going to need your help.* We will be doing our Santa Train Experience the first two weekends in December. We will need engineers, conductors, station help, village workers, baked cookies, and more cookies, and candy canes.

**To volunteer please call:**  
**Alex Wilde 530-748-5916**



The Santa station also needs to be built and this will be done - Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 at 9:00 AM help is needed. Come on out and get in the spirit of the season.



Well, the ballots were sent in and counted and here are the results for the 2018-2019 term:  
President- Andy Berchelli  
Secretary- Alex Wilde  
Trainmaster- Peter Welch  
Director 2- Steve Milward



SVLSRM was honored to host the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova on Nov. 18th to thank them in person for the "**Hometown Hero Grant**" awarded earlier this year. The grant funded the purchase of a new storage container, and helped offset the cost of the shared concrete footings poured for it and the two existing containers. On hand for the occasion was our very own Lt. Col Ken Willis (RET), and several members of both organizations. We couldn't do what we do without community support - **our sincerest thanks to Rancho Cordova Rotary!**

## SVLSRM Calendar

Dec. 2 & 3 Santa Train Experience - rides and photos  
 Dec. 9 & 10 Santa Train Experience - rides and photos  
 Dec. 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
 Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.  
 Dec. 16 Annual Christmas Dinner 6:30 PM - Members & their families

Jan. 1 New Years annual Members run day & potluck lunch.  
 Please bring food to share and enjoy the day.

Jan. 8 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?**



and password.

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 including associates* must be a **current paid member** to register and create a user name

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.

**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@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org).

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

**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs



Time to renew your dues for 2018. We are asking everyone to send in a completed membership form with their payment. You can still pay with Paypal but ask you to send in form separately.

You can find a form online.

Thanks to all who have already renewed.



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlsrm.org](http://www.svlsrm.org) for current information. If you have not looked for a while then you will have missed news or for sale items that are not in the newsletter.

**Be a volunteer and enjoy the fun of sharing the hobby.**

### Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: [secretary@svlsrm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [tracksuper@svlsrm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [yardmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [trainmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [director\\_wilde@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_wilde@svlsrm.org)

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

E-mail: [director\\_gordon@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_gordon@svlsrm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

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

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: [caboose@svlsrm.org](mailto:caboose@svlsrm.org)

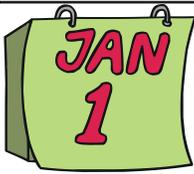
Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Andy Berchielli

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

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

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

**Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM**



### NEW YEARS DAY 2018

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.



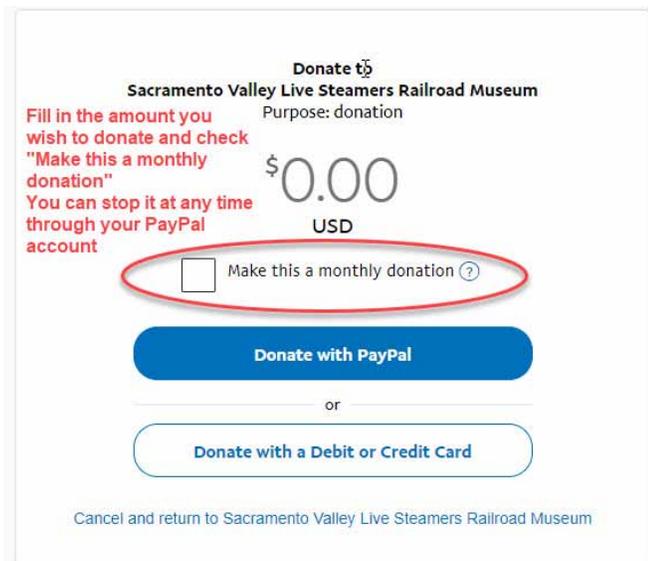
Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch.

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.



A big thank you to all our members that have not only donated their time and talents but have also provided a monetary donation to SVLSRM. If you need a written receipt for your donation for your tax records, please contact Alison Berry (Treasurer) and she will be happy to send you a form.

Did you know you can make a recurring donation to SVLSRM? It is very simple to set up via PayPal. Go to the svlsrm.org website and click on the "Donate" button on the upper left side.



### New Locomotive Update by Chris Donhost

At the General Membership meeting held November 18th, the membership voted on 5 different options submitted regarding the paint scheme for our new club locomotive. In addition to the paint scheme, there was an alternate plan proposed that was voted on and approved. The plan is to seek a significant donor from one of our local railroad companies, such as Union Pacific, or BNSF. The donation would earn the company naming rights for the new locomotive, and the new club locomotive would then be painted in the paint scheme of the donor's choice. Conversely, should no donor come forward, then the club locomotive will be painted in the scheme voted on by the membership. Congratulations go to Gordon and Paul Moser who submitted a proposal for the Espee's "Scarlet & Grey" paint scheme.



During this year's Rancho Cordova annual Christmas tree lighting event, we provided train rides around the tree. Thanks to the SVLSRM volunteers that did the setup, run the trains and pickup the track the next day.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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

Train, Fireworks, & a lighted tree provided a busy day & evening at the Rancho Cordova tree lighting event.



### OCTOBER MINUTE SUMMARIES

By Chris Donhost, Secretary

#### BOARD MEETING 11/13/2017

- Low attendance reported from participation at International Railfair in Roseville. Due to construction at the fairgrounds, SVLS won't be able to participate the next couple years.
- Fall Meet went well overall. More accountability needed for club locos/equipment. Plan for parking motor homes, trailers, and vehicles was successful.
- Ben Shell agreed to be our photographer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of Santa Train
- Motion approved to purchase additional thumb drives with SVLS branding for Santa Train
- Plywood cut & painted for use at tree lighting event where ground is notoriously wet.
- Motion approved to raise all party rates \$25 in each category.
- Board addressed a safety issue with a member.

#### GENERAL MEETING 11/18/2017

- Gordon Moser's paint scheme proposal was selected for the new club locomotive.
- A subsequent motion was passed to supersede the chosen paint scheme, should a significant donation be made by one of the local railroads for "naming rights" of the new club locomotive.
- The membership voted to approve the following slate:  
 President- Andy Berchelli  
 Secretary- Alex Wilde  
 Trainmaster- Peter Welch  
 Director 2- Steve Milward
- Next scheduled general membership meeting is October 19, 2018 at the track at 7:30pm



Work on the new riding cars continues as two of the four are now completed.



**10 Years ago:** This last year, the work on the right of way has been a very productive . All the scattered track repairs and upgrades have made a difference and the plan will continue next year. The track crew has worked hard this last year to make the track smooth and safe for all of us to enjoy for many more years to come. Tie replacement on main line switches and rail joint upgrades are ongoing for winter projects. I am still looking for members to adopt a siding to help out the track crew and provide more

space during meets.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year !  
Darrell & Gail gomes

**20 Years ago:** The Roseville Rail Fair was a great success. We had both an indoor static display as well as the portable track set up outside to run the public. The track was picked up by Dale Fowlar on Thursday and taken to his house as he lives close to the Placer Country Fairgrounds. This saved those that were doing the set up a considerable amount of time. The tent was set up over the track so that in the event of rain there was a certain amount of shelter for those who were selling tickets and the train itself.

Dick Quiring brought out his Consolidation on Saturday and ran it around the track either behind or in front of the 649. It depended on how you looked at it.

Milon brought out his Pacific for Sunday. He managed to make a few rounds with the public when the timing went out for good, and he had to take the engine out and cool it down.

Harry Harward and Dick Esselbach were there both days to help either running the public or act as flagman, or ticket takers, or whatever needed to be done. Vern Geyer helped with engineering and acting as conductor taking tickets. Clio Geyer, Barbara Moser and Rose Stefani helped sell the tickets and load the passengers, as well as flag so that others could enjoy the rest of the displays and take necessary breaks.

Gordon Moser was the Superintendent going over the track innumerable times to make sure the bolts were tight and the shims were in the right places.

We managed to pull over 1000 people over the two days, and considering the weather, we felt we did very well.

**30 Years ago:** SPECIAL SAFETY NOTE - All operating personnel are advised to be especially alert for red signals during the period between sunset 12/24 through sunrise! The red signal of particular concern will be of a flashing nature and on the head end of an extremely high priority merchandiser with superior train status on all tracks. The aforementioned extra will not sound a horn or whistle, but it is rumored that passing train crews have heard bells of jingling nature and even an occasional, "HO, HO, HO"! Any crews delaying or impeding the progress of this eztra shall be dealt disciplinary action foar more severe than any listed in the rule books. Woe be the train crew passing through mountains, cities, and farms to which no children (of any age) will raise their hand to wave and mile after mile you'll never be greeted with a smile. You would be better off driving a, pardon the expression, truck!

**40 Years ago:** It has been a good year and much has been

accomplished. While we can always look back and say this or that should have been done, still, I believe we should be happy with what the Club has achieved in the past 12 months. Some of the accomplishments and highlights of the year include; The trip to Reno on AMTRAK, com-pletion of the fence around the steaming area, building of the shelter, installation of the hydraulic loading lift, building and installation of a chemical toilet, a manned booth for three days at the Sportsman's show in Cal Expo, a two day exhibit of steamed locos at the State Railroad Museum, 2 successful Meets complete with banquets, a special run day for the Air Force, acquisition of a large metal storage cabinet, 13 new members and a host of new friends. All of these things came about through the hard work of a fine Board and the many members who put in their time, money and effort. I want to thank you all, men, women and children, for there were whole families involved in these efforts, for making this such a rewarding and pleasant year for me, as President. Everyone have a wonderful Holiday Season and the best ever New Year. - signed  
*Dick Esselbach.*



Our Track Super is just rolling along checking the portable track at the Rrancho Cordova tree lighting

Have a neighbor or a friend who has an interest in Live Steam / Trains? Bring them out, show them our fun, give them a ride and invite them to join.



**DUES ARE DUE BY  
JAN 1, 2018**

Please complete your membership form. You can download forms at [svlsrm.org](http://svlsrm.org). Send check or pay on-line at:

[www.svlsrm.org/membership.php](http://www.svlsrm.org/membership.php)

Send forms & check to: SVLSRM P.O. Box 273  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

**THANKS**

**FOR SALE**

**Little Engines 4-4-0 AMERICAN Train.**

Locomotive, 2 flat cars, bobber caboose. Locomotive is the S.V.L.S. Gold Spike Ceremony (both gold spike events) locomotive Built by Milon Thorley while on duty in Republic of South Viet Nam. Coal burner, axle pump, tender hand pump, copper boiler, oil burning headlight Great steam project- short project list - ex. 2nd safety reqd. - reseal tender tank- axle pump rod cap missing. Big enough for most to operate- small enough for easy transport.\$4900 Keith Berry- 530-642-0742

**You can be on the rails in steam for only \$5000/offer.** I am offering my complete, RTR train consisting of a 7.5" gauge INVICTA locomotive, tender, engineer riding car, and tool car. Loco has a propane fired steel boiler with copper tubes, axle driven feed pump backed up by a hand pump in the tender as well as a axle driven mechanical lubricator. The engine is a twin cylinder double acting with a bore and stroke of 1"x 2.2" There are hand operated mechanical brakes on the engineer's riding car. Tools for firing up and change out the propane tank, lubrication bottles, foot peg bar for tool car and misc. fittings.

Contact Bill Cody at 775-674-6512, cell 775-233-1429 or Email to: [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net)  
 Engine is located in Reno, Nevada and can be delivered for a fee. To see and hear a video on the engine being fired and run on the bench, click on this [Video link](#)

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



**Trolley for Sale.** Price \$1500 OBO, plus engine stand for sale. Call: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

**1.02.10 Capacity Restrictions**  
 A recommended maximum of 6 persons will be allowed on each straddle car based on weight and size at the discretion of the Stationmaster.

**3.02.01 Daylight Operations**  
 All Locomotives shall be equipped with a whistle, horn, or other sounding device producing audible signals. Such sounding device shall be powerful enough to be heard distinctly for at least 150 feet. All Locomotives shall carry a red flag and whistle to warn traffic of emergencies and for passing on visual and audible signals.

**4.15 Access to Round House**  
 Access to the round house shall be available to all members by the board of directors during members run days and events.

**5.03 Boarding of Passengers**  
 Passengers of the general public shall board and disembark only at the SVLSRM Depot or other locations as approved by the Board of Directors and or the Safety Committee (i.e., as during public open houses, club meets, etc.) Private passengers may embark or disembark anywhere along the track, but only if proper safety procedures are followed. (Public loading and procedures; refer rule 1.02 passengers and visitors).

**BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN...  
 ...HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED YET?**



**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 the 24th of the month.

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/E-mail and we'll take pictures for a feature.  
 Bill Yoder - Editor



The club need more members to be active with our public ride days, and our special events like Parties, Santa Run, and Railfair.  
**These events provide our main source of income so please come out and help.**