

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlstrm.org

March 2018

Volume 45, Issue 3



## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

Greetings fellow Live Steamers! We are already into the third month of the year which means your membership dues should have been paid by now. Last year we had 160 members. As I write this, 81 have paid up their dues. Funds from membership help maintain our budget. Without your dues we cannot continue to upgrade/maintain the RAILROAD. Do it now - thank you.

With that being said our run season is ready to begin. We give rides the first weekend of the month from March to October from 11-3pm. Any member can help with the public runs. Use your train if you wish. In fact most of the public enjoy seeing different engines out there. We just ask you to take a simple qualification test so you are aware of the proper operating procedures. Most can be done before the runs. Come help out with another valuable resource for funds.

We were able to check off many items on our winter project list. Thanks to everyone that came out the last two months to help at the RR. The south curve of the mainline is now up to our current standards. Only a small amount of mainline is aluminum rail still.

We are currently raising funds to replace our aging tractor. The first month in we have raised \$2900 so far. If you can donate visit our website and click on the link in the center of the page or mail a check to the PO Box.

The club wants to start back up general membership meetings held quarterly. The first one will be on March 17, 2018 at 11AM, our member run day. Bring a potluck item for lunch and any ,show and tell items.

This has been the third year we have been invited to attend a private meet held by the Portola Valley & Alpine RR on the weekend of June 23 + 24 in conjunction with GGLS. This is a beautiful RR located in the hills above Palo Alto. I would like to get a head count on who wants to attend this meet.

PVARR will also be holding a private meet at Train Mountain in September 29+30. Anyone interesting in joining them up there is welcomed. Please let me know if you are interested in attending either of these meets. Call or E-mail me.

## Track Superintendent Report

By Dennis Bowie

Over the past two months, the main track project has been the replacement of almost 600 feet of mainline track being replaced with steel rail. The section being worked on was from the switch just before Oasis to the switch just past the quarry (See photos on page 3). It certainly couldn't have been done without the help of several members spending quality time out at the club and I give them a lot of thanks! With the replacement of the mainline track, we've incorporated the new, pre-molded plastic ties. It was impressive how fast a panel could be put together. We certainly look forward to using them in the future and receiving long years of use out of them.

Additional projects have been the extension of the passing siding by the SP caboose and the installation of three parking sidings next to the SP caboose for additional train storage during the Fall and Spring Meets. These two items should be completed by this year's Spring Meet. Kevin Sach has been working on replacing the manual throw switch coming into Oasis with an electric switch. Completion of this project should be soon. Again, I thank all members who were able to spend time out at the club working on the track projects in January and February. It was an ambitious undertaking and all help, big and small, was needed to get it done. See you on the rails!



Andy Berchielli, Kevin Sack, Dennis Gramith, Bill Floyd, Dennis Bowie - moving track panel for mainline.

## SVLSRM Calendar

- Mar. 3 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Mar. 4 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Mar. 12 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Mar. 17 Members Quarterly meeting, 11AM.  
POT LUCK Lunch. Member work day and run day.  
Please help in the AM then run your train in the  
afternoon.
  
- Apr. 7 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Apr. 8 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Apr. 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Apr. 21 Member work day and run day. Please help in the AM  
then run your train in the afternoon.

Dates to reserve on your calendar:  
Pacific Regional Meet May 18, 19, & 20  
Fall meet Oct. 19, 20, & 21

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 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.

**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

Remember 2018 dues are due NOW and are past due after the end of February. Please remember to send in a completed membership form with your renewal. You can find a form easily on-line:

<http://www.svlsrm.org/documents/membership-form.pdf>

Any questions, contact the Membership Chair.



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: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (19)

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: Alex Wilde (530) 919-5026 (19)

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 (19)

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

Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (18)

E-mail: [director\\_bill@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_bill@svlsrm.org)

Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (19)

E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_steve@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: Stacy Reese

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**

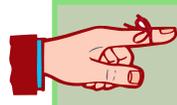
Completed main line track project.  
Steel rail now from north Oasis turnout to the grade north to Twin Bridges.



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 volunteer.



 The club needs a newer tractor - one that will run and be easy to use and do the work we need done. Therefore we are asking for donations to buy a good tractor. The need is to raise \$8000. Please donate at: <http://www.svlsrcm.org/donation-tractor.php> Thanks!

### Party & Events Chairperson

*By Stacy Reese*

Our party train runs are starting this month (March). This means we need crews for the birthday parties. These parties provide a good source of income for the club. Parties are 2 hours long. Some book an extra hour. Volunteers are asked to show up 45 minutes to an hour before party to prepare trains and usually stay there an half hour after party to lock up. If interested in helping out this year reach out to me via [events@svlsrcm.org](mailto:events@svlsrcm.org). On our website you can click on parties & events to see what is booked so far. Thanks!



SVLRS Members were helping on work days at the park on one or both of the following workdays. Thank you!

January 27,28 Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Peter Welch, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Bill Yoder, Paul Skidmore, Chris & Paul & Eli Donhost, Harold Walters, Christopher Roberts, Alison Berry, Dennis Gramith, Rob Sharratt, Don Yungling, Andy Berchielli, Richard Lutrel, Chris Smith, Marchall & Dylan Post, Bruno Carr, Dennis Bowie.

February 3,4 Paul Skidmore, Rob Sharratt, Harold Walters, Richard Lutrel, Christopher Roberts, Chris Smith, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Butch & Bill Floyd, Peter Welch, Evan Guinta, Alex & Sawyer Wilde, Steve Milward, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Christopher Roberts, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Alison Berry, Dennis Bowie, Garrett Grimes, Andy Berchielli, Bill Yoder, Harry Voss.

February 10,11 Rob Sharratt, Steve Milward, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Glenn Wilson, Bill & Butch Floyd, Peter Welch, Harry Voss, Paul Skidmore, Dennis Bowie, Dennis Gramith, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Jeff & Reed Hickman, Bruno Carr, Christopher Roberts, Arnold Walters, Andy Berchielli, Richard Lutrel.

February 17, 18 Glen Wilson, Paul Skidmore, Bill & Butch Floyd, Alison Berry, Dale Dennis, Sidney Madden, Rob Sharratt, Keith & Gloria Berry, Richard Lutrel, Bruno Carr, Harry Voss, Dennis Gramith, Dennis, Heidi & Ryan Bowie, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Colton Snell, Barbara & Gordon Moser, Garrett Garness.

  
**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.



**10 Years ago:** With the breaks in the weather, our crews have been able to complete the weed spraying and some major track work. A BIG thanks go to Milon Thorley and Keith Berry for using their equipment to spray the right of way and all other areas where weed are a problem. Next , THANKS go to Paul Skidmore, Keith Berry, Richard Lutrel, Vern Geyer, Jack Friedman, Gordon Mosers, and Gail Gomes for their work on the track.

**“THE CASE FOR MECHANICAL TENDER BRAKES”**

1. Unless you have a heavy engine you can get more braking force from 8 wheels on the tender with your own weight.
  2. You can then get additional emergency braking by reversing the engine.
  3. Mechanical brakes are usually more reliable than steam or air brakes.
  4. Tender brakes are easier to install and maintain than engine brakes.
  5. Worn tender wheels are easier to replace than engine drivers.
- Ross Crawford.



*This May is our 45th anniversary as a club.*



SVLS photo dated 1973 with 20 members.



Barry Garland filming (16 MM) of the original Golden Spike celebration May 1973. See Video history about SVLS at: <http://www.svlsm.org/history2.php>



**Have a neighbor or 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.**



The winter track crew has been able to complete 3 switches with plastic tie up grades. Bill Yoder is working on remote switch throw for midway siding and has repaired vandalized wires to station lead switch. Richard Lutrel has staked out a plan for three more sidings at Midway and will recycle are used rail to build the track panels. Contact Richard or me to help with this project.

**20 Years ago: FROM THE PRESIDENT**

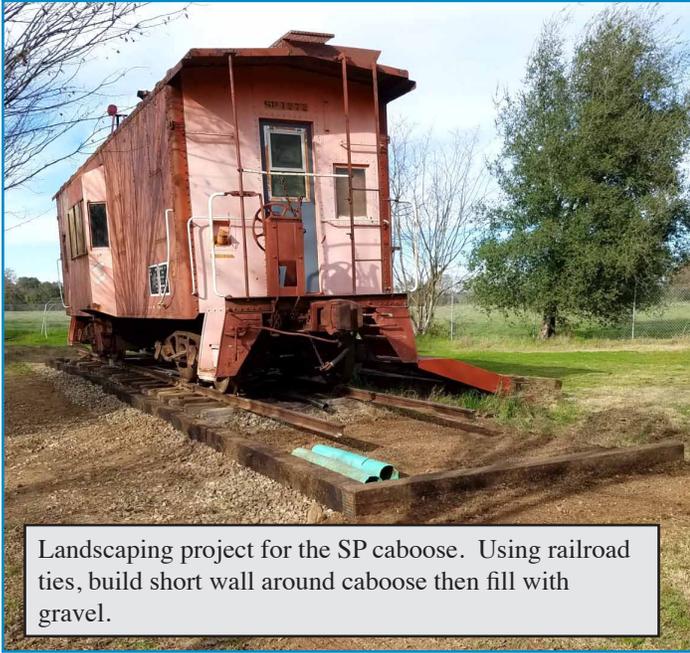
Since I have joined SVLS, I have heard and observed the “great” debate of “Individual Member vs The Club”. Let’s look at what we are. Sacramento Valley Live Steamers is a club railroad; and as a club railroad, it is faced with many challenges. The club must attempt to satisfy the needs and wants of its individual members and, at the same time, must meet the needs and wants of the membership as a whole. It must have some reliable way of generating revenue to support itself and pay operating expenses. Since our landlord is part of a municipality, the club must also keep the public in mind. The club is obliged to attract, entertain and even edify visitors on some kind of regular schedule. Our organization must continue to provide a facility that not only impresses, but entertains its visitors enough that they will come again. They will tell friends and neighbors also.

**30 Years ago:** “Making Steam” Saturday Morning, February 20, 1988 was a banner day. This important work day found an unusually large contingent of our members working together as a team. By best count 27 members were present and found no shortage of work to be done. In addition to the major project of leveling, ballasting and placing ties under the new steel track, leaves and weeds were removed from the fenced area, lawns were moved, new trees were planted, work progressed on the sprinkler system, two “green houses” were moved, and more fill dirt was placed and leveled between the concrete rails for the transfer table.

**40 Years ago: \* MEETING NOTICE \***

St. Patrick’s day, Friday, March 17th, 8:00 P.M. in the Cordova Community Park Recreation building. Anyone not wearin’ a touch of the green will be pinched or FINED A MODEST SUM.

**\*NEED COUPLERS? \*** The SVLS is going to purchase 1 1/2” couplers for our riding cars from Gene Allen Models and there is a possibility of saving some money by buying in quantity. Cost per pair is \$15.40 plus tax (without discount). If you are going to need couplers, here is a possible savings.



Landscaping project for the SP caboose. Using railroad ties, build short wall around caboose then fill with gravel.



Gordon, Rob and Jeff working on ties around SP caboose



Peter Welch & Arnold Walters checking the level of the track.



Jeff Hickman on tractor hauling dirt, Bill Floyd with shovel, Gordon with rake.



Railroad Safety! Always look both directions before crossing railroad tracks.



Richard, Dennis B, Andrew & Harry working on Oasis siding connection to the new steel rail on the main line.

**New season of public runs starts March 3rd.** Please join fellow members and help with our Public Rides.

On March 17 bring your train and run on the new track. Member meeting at 11 AM, then Pot Luck lunch and enjoy a fun day.

Spring is springing so join the fun.

# FOR SALE

**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

### 1.03 Conduct

No one under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or illegal drugs of any kind shall be allowed to operate or ride on any train.

Anyone consuming any alcoholic beverages, including beer, or use of any illegal drugs or narcotics of any kind shall be requested to cease. Should they refuse, they will be asked to leave the facility. Use of abusive and Inappropriate language will not be allowed. All persons exhibiting any type of negative behavior may be subject to ejection from the premises.

### 3.15 Run Day logs and inspections

All inspection logs must be completed prior to Public Run Days. Inspection sheets are posted in the caboose, and can be completed by the Officer of Day, Trainmaster, Engineer, Conductor, Stationmaster, or Track Superintendent. Completed logs must be returned to the caboose for filing. Any problems must be reported to the appropriate committee person – Logs must be filled as “needed resolution” or if no further action needed then as “completed”.

### 4.01.01 Qualifications/Restrictions of an SVLSRM Engineer

- 18 years of age or older.
- Member of SVLSRM in good standing.
- Passes a current Written Qualification test showing knowledge to operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.).
- Passes a current Practical examine demonstrating the judgment and ability to competently operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.).
- Possesses a valid Driver's License.

### 5.01.01 Requirement of Conductor

All trains hauling passengers shall have at least one qualified Conductor on the last car of the train, or facing backward on the rear seat of the Engineer car.

It shall be their responsibility to protect the rear of the train and to assist the Engineer in the operation of the train.

Each Conductor on duty shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light on the train. (See section 4.02)



**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



Got Something for Sale?

Send to [Editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:Editor@svlsrm.org)

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

