

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

January 2024

Volume 51, Issue 01



President's Report

By Tom Nance

As my first official newsletter article as President, I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone for your support! It is well known that Andy has dedicated many years to this organization in more ways than what is often recognized, and his experience and knowledge hold tremendous value. It is my goal to learn as much as I can from Andy, and to continue this organization's positive influence in the community, for years to come. The last year has been a very educational and rewarding experience, and I am proud of the work our membership has done to provide a positive atmosphere for those who visit our railroad. As we continue to develop and grow, our vision for providing a place where anyone can come learn and experience our hobby and railroading, will continue to hold true. While we strive to improve the visitor experience during our most popular events, I hope this will encourage more people to get involved and learn about what makes our railroad so special. There's a lot of satisfaction in developing ideas into realities which become a part of this organization. We just finished our 50th anniversary celebration, and it was a big year for projects to be completed. As our events continue to strengthen our public outreach to the community, this provides new opportunities for growth.

Thank you to everyone that helped with our Santa Run! Our ticket presale format was once again a great success and our customers loved the little to no wait time. I feel we have a good system in place, and with a train scheduled to depart Cordova Station every 10 minutes, this spaced the trains far enough apart to allow

Santa the proper amount of time to get thru visiting with each family before the next train arrived. This format also allowed for a well-managed and steady flow of passengers each day. Those who did not pre-purchase tickets were offered the opportunity to wait in a standby line, and board when we had a no-show or available space on the next scheduled train. This event would not have been possible nor as successful as it was without our dedicated volunteers! Everyone that participated had a hand in making this major event the great success that it was, and I would like to thank you for spending your weekends with us!

To kick off the new year, we will be having our member run day on January 1st. If you plan to attend, the park will be closed to the public, and the main gate at the park entrance will remain closed for the day, so please use the Ambassador Drive gate entrance. Please remember to close the yellow gate behind you!

As we enter into our maintenance period, we have several different projects that will begin. Volunteers will be at the track nearly every weekend in the coming months, and your participation will be greatly appreciated! We have several different tasks that require different skill levels, and this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the railroad and what it takes to keep it looking and operating at its best. Our dedicated volunteers are more than happy to show and teach you everything you need to know! Time and time again, it is proven how much can be accomplished when everyone pitches in.

Thank you and wishing you all the best in 2024!



NEW YEARS DAY 2024
bring your locomotive, rolling stock and enjoy a members run day. Bring food to share for lunch.
10 AM. with lunch about 1 PM.

The park will be closed. Please enter through the Ambassador gate closing gate behind you.

SVLSRM in the news!

Live Steam & Outdoor Railroading

January/February issue has an article and Photos about our 50th Anniversary.

Thanks to Stephanie Huntingdale & Jeff Namba.

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

- Jan 1** Member Run day/potluck lunch
- Jan 6 - Work Day**
- Jan 7 - Work Day**
- Jan 8** Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom
- Jan 13 - Work Day**
- Jan 14 - Work Day**
- Jan 20 - Work Day**
- Jan 21 - Work Day**
- Jan 27 - Work Day**
- Jan 28 - Work Day**

- FEB 2** Groundhog Day
- FEB 3 - Work Day**
- FEB 4 - Work Day**
- FEB 12** Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom

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



See 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.

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 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.

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

Dues are due. Please stay onboard.



Board of Directors

- (##) Ending year of term
- President: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (25)
E-mail: president@svlsrm.org
- Vice President: (24)
E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrm.org
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E-mail: secretary@svlsrm.org
- Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916)960-6850 (24)
E-mail: treasurer@svlsrm.org
- Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (24)
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E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrm.org
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- Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916)365-1917 (25)
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- Director2: Dennis Gramith (916)988-7884 (25)
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Committee Chairpersons

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Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



Track Superintendent
by Steve Milward

Incredible! That is the only word I can use to describe our Santa Trains this year! We pushed through rain, hail, lightning, thunder, fog, cold, wind and occasional glimpses of sunshine to bring happiness to many hundreds of guests.

Our members, their families and friends came through, working an extra weekend to ensure that our visitors had a memorable experience. We saw lots of our newer members taking part in this event. To them, we are most appreciative.

A big “Thank You” to President Andy for orchestrating this event. Additional thanks to Santa, Mrs. Claus, Randolph, the photographic and station crews. More thanks to the many folks who spent countless hours at the park, working to make sure we were successful. From set-up to teardown, it was truly a group effort.

Now is the time to relax a bit. To spend time with our family, friends and loved ones. Time to reflect on what was for some, a very challenging year. It’s also time to look ahead, to hope for peace, health and prosperity.

2024 will be here soon. Consider ringing in the new year with a visit to your railroad on New Years Day. It’ll be a great chance to visit with friends and run some trains, we’ve earned it!

Our winter track improvement projects will be starting the weekend of January 6 & 7 and continue each weekend until done. The project is to replace/rebuild the OSAIS tracks/sidings, & switches, along with signal planing by trenching where needed. I’ll be looking for folks to jump in to lend a hand.

So, Happy Holidays to our SVLS family and we’ll hope to see you at the park very soon.



Get Involved! All hands are needed to go another 50 years.



TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale

I trust all had a wonderful Christmas with some new equipment. Let’s give thanks for the club and what it provides to us. The hobby is alive and well!

With the Santa Run completed, it was a success with many happy families and youngsters having talked with Santa. Several were interested in the G Gauge layout and the trains running for the event, and migrated down after their train ride to see Santa. Jim Hearn and I were running trains each day of the event. The Sonora gang, Bill, Rich, and Dave had their steam locomotives operating on second Saturday. As the Santa Train passes by, the families really get a kick out of seeing the G table with lots of steam and activity. We are there with the trains for the kids and their family.

New Year’s Day is a club run. Come out and have some winter fun. Usually pot luck. Being part of the whole club your families show an interest and participate in our 7.5 gauge as well.

Just a reminder, during the months of January and February the club closes down the public run days; however, each Saturday (weather permitting) is a work day. Sometime during this time we expect to replace four switches and some track. Should you wish to help, let Craig or myself know for a date that fits.

Secretary Board Report
By Stephanie Huntingdale

December 2023 Board Meeting.

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, contact Tom Nance, (714) 795- 4630, for how to connect to ZOOM or Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 for an Agenda.

Hagan Park will be closed on New Year’s Day. Access for New Year’s will be through the gate on Ambassador

Wednesday, December 13 the club will be closed. Sheriff’s Dog Training will be conducted in our fenced in area. If this works out, they may ask to do this once a month or more. They have agreed to clean up after the dogs. There will be as many as 10 dogs at a time for training. Board agreed that this is a good thing to have the Sheriff presence at the park and could deter some unwanted vandalism.

Santa Train - Attendance: 1,693 pre-paid riders. 68 paid walk-ons.

Memorial Expansion – Drawings are being prepared hope to have it done by Spring Meet.

Winter Oasis Yard Project - starting the weekend after New Year’s run. Need someone to do trenching for signals. Board discussed city water line issues. Volunteers are needed, contact Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 for scheduling and volunteering to help.



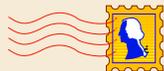
10 Years ago: Barbara Moser was honored for her hard work at the Caboose for the meets and work days with a painting inspired by our own SVLS train giving rides to people in the park. The painting was done by Heather. McCray. For a close up of the painting see the July 2013 Spike news letter.



20 Years ago: FCR #0001: Install two concrete grade crossings at Oasis south for main line and two sidings. Lee Frechette is working through his Rotary club connections to obtain this donation similar to the donations of early 2003. Not to exceed \$499 with the caveat that the project won't proceed until a donation of about 14 yards of concrete can be secured.

All of the junk from behind the mower shed has been removed and tossed or moved to our storage area along the east fence. Crushed rock has been placed for a concrete pad that will be the foundation of a shed to be donated by Les Wilmunder. Thanks to Bill Yoder, Richard Lutrel, and Lee Frechette for their help.

40 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, A tremendous job well done. he will be cutting another batch. 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. Perhaps he will bring it for "Show and Tell".may ask to do this once a month or more.



Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters on-line. Average price per mailing over \$2.

Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy.

Santa Train Crews & workers



November & December
Christmas Tree Lighting
Volunteers & Santa Train
Helpers

- Craig Griffen
- Dennis, Heidi, Ryan Bowie
- Steve Milward
- Tom & Emily Nance
- Dave Silvernail
- Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale
- Richard Corbell
- Larry Curtin
- Kaden Prudhomme
- Steve Alley
- Gordon & Barbara Moser
- Barbara Schoellkopf
- Butch & Bill Floyd
- Dennis & Judy Zegler
- Gramith
- Chris Klevesahl
- Craig Griffen
- Richard, Amy, Breanna,
- Sarah Lutrel
- Kevin & Andrew Sach
- Richard Corbell
- Glen Wilson
- Andy, Augie, Judy Berchielli
- Don & Toy Yungling
- Luke Fox
- Tyler & Jecie Albecht
- Charlie Schulman
- Rich Nelson
- Jim Hearn
- Michael Fitzgerald (Betty)
- Margaret & Alex Dobbins
- Alison Berry
- Tom & Stacy Reese
- Chris, Eli, Paul Donhost
- Gil Dominguez
- Marianna Sauser
- Matt, Wyatt, Abby Thomas
- Evan Razlyn Fain
- Harry Voss
- Charlie Schum
- Bob & Susannah Ress
- Rob Sharratt
- Jeff Burke
- Keith & Gloria Berry
- Dale Dennis
- Andrew Marrot
- Troy Wilkinson

Apologize for any names missing. Not easy to catch everybody.

*Thank
you*



A pair of battery powered lamps marked Union Pacific for sale.



Tom Artzberger designed 2 1/2 inch scale ten wheeler (2-6-0) steam locomotive kit with boiler and tender. All parts have been machined by Pike Lake and Eastern Hartford Shops and waiting to be assembled. Chassis has been assembled and run on air. Includes all drawings. \$23,000.00.

Contact George at sagebrushslrr@gmail.com



\$20.00 for the pair please.
(new batteries are needed)
Donald Yungling - 916-471-9100