

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlrm.org

May 2011

Volume 38, Issue 5



## Track Superintendent Report

By Darrell Gomes

Now that the weather is cooperating, The track crew and volunteers have been able to make great progress on this year's track replacement project. As of press time, all track is on the ground except Memorial Grove. We have started to ballast, level and tamp which shows that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Ben Klienwacher got the tractor up and running and ballasting will be easier for the crew. Paul Skidmore has been leading the crew building switches for the new Midway North Yard. The new plan includes 4 sidings with an escape track for operations. Bill Yoder is working on the signals and hope to have them up and running in time for spring meet.

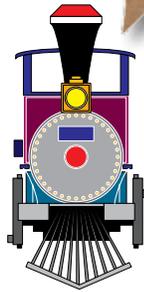
I will be at the track on Tuesdays and Saturdays till the meet and need your help to complete the project. See You At The Track!



Norman and Devin Morris (from Paradise) with gator dumping gravel on roadbed. (loading and dumping by hand)



Paul Skidmore, Leonard Houpt, Sid Madden, Jack Friedman building switch for North Midway Yard.



**The Pacific Regional Meet** May 20-22, also know as our Spring Meet, is fast approaching. The weather is turning nice, the track is coming together, and the extras are in the final days of planning.

Friday will start the festivities. After running all day, be ready to join us for the spaghetti dinner that night for \$5, a token really for the effort the gals will be making to feed everyone. Plus, where else can you have a full dinner for \$5 besides McDonald's? Of course we will have some time for night running.

Saturday is a big day. Running all day, a big raffle (yes, it's new and improved for both kids and adults), consignment table for personal selling, seminars, BBQ dinner, movies of old of SVLS events, a bonfire, and, of course, some night running. Whew, I got tired just typing it...imagine how it will be actually doing it.



Then there is Sunday. Sunday will have fewer events, but we have a special tour of the CSRM (California State Railroad Museum) shops scheduled, the alternate day is Friday (check [www.svlrm.org](http://www.svlrm.org) for date and time). This will be a day just to enjoy the track and our fellow brothers, as well as the tour if you elect to join us. And then we will end a most enjoyable meet.

A light breakfast is being planned for both days for the convenience of all. Lunch will also be provided both days.

I want to thank those who are helping in the meet: Lois Clifton arranging the food, Lee Frechette is handling parking, Clio Geyer is handling registration, and Darrel Gomes has been prepping the track with his crew, who have been working their rears off, and is getting in great shape. Thanks to all of you and those who will be helping each one of them. There is no way any of this can be done without all your help.

Matthew Mason



## SVLSRM Calendar

May 7-8 Public run days - Noon to 4 PM  
 May 10 Board meeting 6:30 - R.C. City hall  
 May 20 Member Meeting  
 May 20-21-22 Train Meet - 3 days of trains, bring yours

June 4-5 Public run days - Noon to 4 PM  
 June 14 Board meeting 6:30 - R.C. City hall  
 June 17 Member Meeting - 7:30 Hagan Park meeting room  
 June 18 Work Day

**Run days for 2011** have been changed to the first weekend (Saturday & Sunday) for the months of March through September, Noon to 4 PM.

**\*Mark your 2011 Calendar\***

**Pacific Regional Meet** (*Spring meet*) is May 20, 21, 22. July 2, 3, 4 will be Public run days. Fall meet is September 16, 17, 18. Santa run December 3-4 & 10-11

Public run day calendar available on-line. **Don't forget about work days**, Every Tuesday also Saturday after members' meeting. Contact a committee member for information on needs. Check the Project page at the SVLSRM web site <http://www.svlstrm.org>.

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*



Please check the SVLS web site: [www.svlstrm.org](http://www.svlstrm.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@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org). The deadline is 4 days after Membership meeting.

## Members News

### Welcome New Members

Bruce and Kitty Eaton of Shingletown, CA.

Dale Jay Dennis  
 Membership Chair

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/email and we'll take pictures for a feature.

### Board of Directors

- President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791  
 E-mail: [leefrechette@yahoo.com](mailto:leefrechette@yahoo.com)
- Vice President: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
 E-mail: [byoder@vfr.net](mailto:byoder@vfr.net)
- Secretary: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
 E-mail: [vern78@onemain.com](mailto:vern78@onemain.com)
- Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
 E-mail: [loisjune1@comcast.net](mailto:loisjune1@comcast.net)
- Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623  
 E-mail: [dggomes@caltel.com](mailto:dggomes@caltel.com)
- Yardmaster: Andy Berchielli (916) 348-7252  
 E-mail: [ajberchielli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ajberchielli@sbcglobal.net)
- Trainmaster: Bradley Jones (916) 687-4866  
 E-mail: [actioniron@msn.com](mailto:actioniron@msn.com)

### Committee Chairpersons

- Safety Committee: Ed Zels (916) 861-0917  
 E-mail: [drgw463@aol.com](mailto:drgw463@aol.com)
- Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
 E-mail: [vern78@onemain.com](mailto:vern78@onemain.com)
- Caboose Ops: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
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 E-mail: [editor@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org)
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 E-mail: [denclan2@wavecable.com](mailto:denclan2@wavecable.com)
- RFE - Steam: Karl Mahler (916) 334-8283  
 E-mail: [karlemahler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karlemahler@sbcglobal.net)
- RFE - Diesel: Ross Crawlford (916) 718-4162

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

**President's Report**

*By Lee Frechette*

The long run of rainy days have come to an end and that means our railroad has sprung to life. More daylight is giving us added opportunity to whip things into shape, and that's just what's going on.

After a couple of big early runs in support of the Cordova Recreation and Park District's Spring Extravaganza and the Cordova Community Council's Kid's Day in the Park, we have set our sights on putting together a great Spring Meet. Make sure you have saved the dates of May 20-22 for what promises to be a great time.

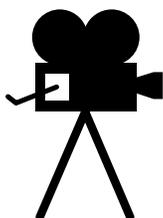
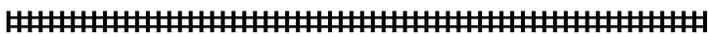
The long weeks of rain caused many delays in our track replacement project. That has left a big job to complete prior to our Spring Meet. With the help of many, many of our members, we expect to be ready to go.

This year's Spring Meet is a revitalization of old traditions mixed with new friends. The raffle will have a fresh new look. We have invited other clubs with similar interests to join us for what is becoming a Pacific Regional Meet. We've heard from railroad enthusiasts from all over who have sent in their reservations. Have you?

Just a reminder to those attending, before parking your RV or unloading your train we ask that you please register. Registration will be open for early arrivals on Thursday and formally opens on Friday. For more information on the Spring Meet, see other newsletter reports.

Looking ahead, I am recruiting a committee who would like to get their hands dirty and experience the frustration and jubilation that will surely be part of the restoration of new Caboose SP 1272. If you are interested in being part of this memorable project, please get in contact with me.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all who toiled in the cold and rain to make important track projects a reality. With all that hard work behind us, we are looking forward to warmer days and a summer of great railroading. The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum continues to be a place to get together and pursue our love of steam railroading while enjoying the company of others who share that same interest. Thanks to all and I am looking to seeing you around the track.



Want to see couple old train films?  
The 1927 Buster Keaton comedy the "Great Locomotive Chase" and the 1903 Edison melodrama "The Great Train Robbery" will be shown at the Crescent Club in Old Sacramento on May 13th. Call 916 498-9557 for details.

**YARD MASTERS REPORT**

*By Andy Berchielli*

Spring is here and the yard is looking great. We received 40 yards of mulch from Tree Care Inc. Last month which will help the landscaped beds look great for the summer. Thanks for the generous donation Tree Care Inc.



During our track replacement project this winter we have been adding to the water main. The north water main loop is complete and half the south loop is completed. We can tap off the north loop now to put in ground water irrigation to eliminate hauling hoses around to water.

I will also be working on the new memorial area by the flag pole. Should be done in early May. I hope to spend enough time out there to finish for the spring meet. Anyone interested in spreading mulch or helping with memorial area let me know. (The memorial will be raised with a brick wall around it.) Also, Darrell is reconfiguring the midway siding. It looks like we could use a new building on one of the siding. If interested in building let one of us know, Thanks and I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meet.



**SPRING MEET INFO** By Clio Geyer

Well the Spring Meet is fast approaching (known at this time as "Pacific Regional Meet"), and there are more plans being made. At this time I would like to say that Matt Mason has been working very hard to make this a success and we all hope to see a lot of people show up to help us celebrate.

I will be taking reservations for motor homes as well as those who wish to tent camp. There are some areas that will be taken up with tables for visitors that are usually used by tenters, so we need know those who will be attending so that we can plan accordingly.

I will also be taking reservations for Saturday night dinner. Matt is making all the arrangements, but has told me that the adult tickets will be \$12.50. Children's' (under 10) will be less, but haven't heard how much yet.

I will be doing Registration on Friday and Saturday, so you can pick up your dinner tickets at the time you come in to register. Remember, we need everyone to register so that we can congratulate all those that came to visit as well as those who almost always come to play.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this a good gathering.

Please contact Clio to reserve RV spot and Dinner.

Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

E-mail: vern78@onemain.com

**Pacific Regional Meet**  
*(Spring meet) is May 20,21,22*

**Friday**

Noon-4:00 Registration  
 No Lunch Prepared Today  
 5:30 Spaghetti dinner  
 7:00-Midnight Night Running

**Saturday**

8:00-9:00 Breakfast  
 9:00-4:00 Registration/T-Shirts  
 9:00-4:00 Consignment table  
 10:00-4:30 Raffle Table  
 11:00-1:00 Lunch Served  
 11:30 Seminar #1  
 12:00 Seminar #2  
 4:45-5:10 Raffle Drawing  
 5:30 Dinner  
 7:00-Midnight Night Running  
 7:00 Campfire  
 7:30 Old SVLS Videos Shown

**Sunday**

All-Day Change directions for reverse running  
 8:00-9:00 Breakfast  
 11:00-1:00 Lunch served  
 2:00 CSRMS Shop Tour (tentative time)  
 4:00 Meet Over and Lock-up

**Friday Night \$5.00**  
 Spaghetti  
 Salad ,French Bread  
 Sheet Cake



**Lunch Saturday & Sunday \$5.00**  
 Hamburger/Cheeseburgers,  
 Hot Dogs, Chili  
 Sandwiches (Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham)  
 Choice of Cheese (American or Swiss)  
 Chips and a Drink (Gateraid .25 more)



**Breakfast**  
 Saturday \$3.00 Continental



Sunday \$5.00 Waffles,  
 Scrambled Eggs, Sausage  
 Orange Juice



Tim & Travis Gubbins (from Roseville) New members this year and already doing a hard days work. - **Thanks Guys**



The Track Boss. Darrell Gomes (from Valley Springs) has been very dedicated on installing new track, working long hours on Tuesday and Saturday not counting his hour and a half drive to and from the track each way.



Matt, Rick, Toney Hall (from Georgetown), Kevin, Andrew Sach (from Rocklin) working on new track North of Tin man bridge.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

*By Bill Yoder*

This should be a fun Spring meet with lots of good new track and a few extra places to park trains and cars.

The effort to replace track has been very time consuming (and it is not done yet). Late news is the “Frechette Abyss” is now filled in so now a roadbed can be built to lay track. While those who have been working on our projects continue to make progress there is still time for you to help also. Just come to the track on Tuesday or Saturday and there are projects to do or help others.

I hope that our members and guests will find that all the effort that has been put forth to make our track and facility first rate was a success. If you agree then please thank Darrell and Andy for their leadership. If you see Jack, Paul, Dick, Ben, Richard, Tom, Gordon, Tim, Kevin, Matt, Norman, Devin, Ross, and others over the last few months tell them what a great job they have done for all to enjoy, also ask “what can I help with”.

A special thanks goes Barbara Moser who has been providing lunch service for the Tuesday and Saturday work gang.

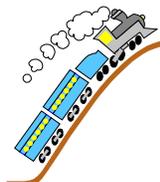
I know there are many others who have been volunteering time for the public runs, private parties, setting up the trains and being engineers and conductors. THANKS!

Maybe you are a club member whose circumstances does not allow you to help frequently. Then we ask you to please help out during the meet for an hour or so. There are various tasks that are needed during our club’s busy weekend - setup, caboose, sales, take down, cleanup, etc. It will be appreciated and with every member doing their part, all members will have a chance to have a good time.

The next page has an article about GGLS having their 75th Anniversary. That is a real achievement, I hope we keep playing trains for a long time too.

After the meet I will be reviewing our stale task list and with the help of the planning committee setting a priority. We seem to have been in a heavy maintenance mode the last few years. I think it time for some new trackside buildings, sidings, and other track route enhancements. Please give me your suggestions.

Along the line of suggestions we need some way to wake up the group while many do come out to the Spring and Fall meet, it would be more fun to have member runs each month. This could be along with public run days or as has been suggested on the Sunday following the Meeting. There has also been discussion on a better meeting time either maybe on the third Saturday along with work day, or maybe it should be along with our member run day each month. What do you think SVLS members?



Any questions or need something to do then call me - Bill Yoder. Keep it steaming....



Our two most dedicated track workers Jack Friedman and Paul Skidmore have both reached the young age of 81. A really big congratulations to the both of you from the Tuesday work gang..



Birthday celebration for the Kids during a Tuesday Work day.



Gary Holms (from Concord) work all day tamping new rail section south of the Oasis Trestle.

Letter from Golden Gate Live Steamers:



The Golden Gate Live Steamers are celebrating our 75th Anniversary. To our knowledge, we are the oldest Live Steam Club in America. We would like to invite the members of your club to join us in a three day, fun-filled weekend of festivities, July 8, 9, and 10, 2011, at our club facility in Tilden Park.

In anticipation of this memorable event, we have made many improvements to our grounds, including a 400' trestle at a 2% grade, a 40' concrete tunnel and a new signal system. We are one of the few clubs to feature 4 different gauges: our high track has 2 1/2", 3 1/2" & 4 3/4" gauge and our ground track includes 4 3/4" & 7 1/2" gauge.

There will be a catered dinner on Saturday evening. Breakfast and lunch will be available each day, along with soft drinks, water, snacks and commemorative items. All at very reasonable prices. We anticipate that this will be a premiere event for live steamers and are doing our best to make it so.

A printable (PDF) [Registration Form](#) is also available on our website. We encourage early registration due to limited space. Please visit our web site at [www.ggls.org](http://www.ggls.org) for more information, current updates, local accommodations and maps.

For additional information contact:

Pat Young, GGLS Secretary (phty95014@yahoo.com)

Bob Morris, Event Chairman (postwarbob@sbcglobal.net)

Sincerely,

Pat Young, GGLS Secretary



*Special run schedule*



*Please help by volunteering your time. Call Clio to help.*

Date	Time	Event type	Num.	Engines
May 14	2PM	Daley Party (member)	25	2 Diesel
May 28	10AM-Noon	Mame Party	25	Steam
May 28	2 - 4 PM	Crews Party	30	Diesel
June 7	11AM-Noon	Ridgeview School	25	Diesel
June 7	Noon-1PM	Ridgeview School	25	Diesel



Tom Mercer giving the Midway warehouse a fresh look.



Ben Klienwacher and Richard Lutrel replacing coupler so we can use the tractor to move gravel once again.



Bill Yoder praying for completion (or just about anything that will help us).



**10 Years ago:** *VP report by Dale Fowlar*

Here we are with the last "SPIKE" before the Spring Meet. The place is looking real snazzy, especially with a new paint job on the mower shed and roundhouse. Don Juergenson put out the word that he intended to take on the job and Lee Frechette was able to arrange for the loan of not just a pressure washer, but a "steam" pressure washer from Nations Rentals in Rancho Cordova. He

and Don spent Sunday run day giving the two buildings a good hosing. Several others helped move all the material that was stored around the place. Don followed up a few days later with a very nice looking spray paint job.

At the same time all the paint prep was going on, Track Supt. Dave Mattox and crew were working on the Lower Yard switches and approach tracks. The switches are in and the tracks have been gauged with new ties and some ballast has been placed.

The April 21st Saturday workday also found Lee Frechette and Hans Feickert busy mowing weeds, Dave Mattos, Dale and Allison King, Karl Mahler, Gordon Moser, Brandan Feicker and DAle Fowlar all busy on track. Kevin Sach applied paint to two sets of seat prototypes for our hopper cars. Some stored equipment was moved from around the roundhouse and mower shed. Barbara Moser prepared a wonderful lunch for the crew, Thanks very much to her.

**20 Years ago:**

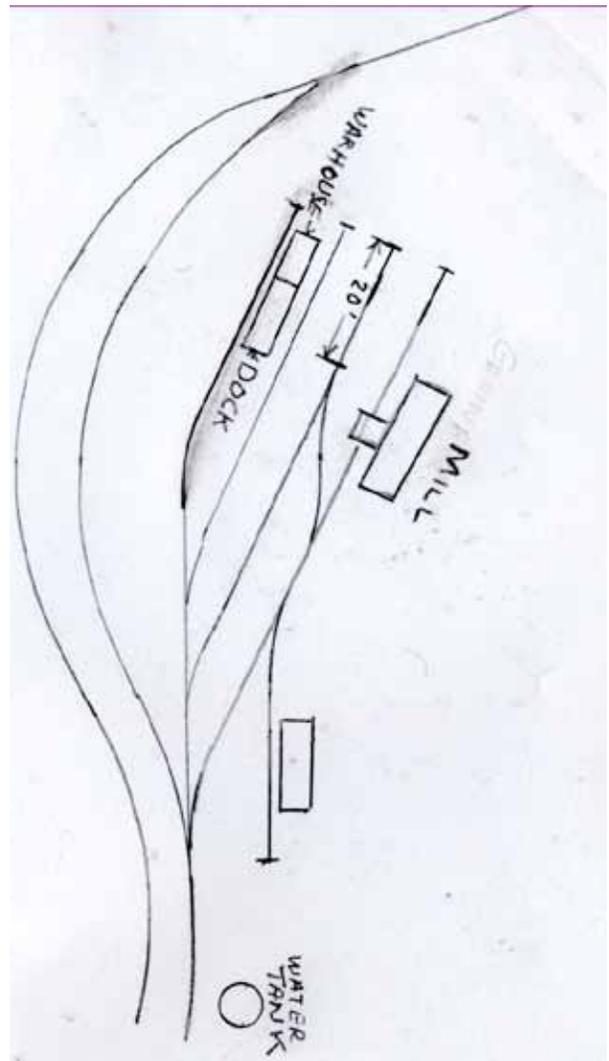
The Editor needs news letters for February, April, May & June of 1991, if you have a copy I would like to make copies. Thanks - the Editor

**30 Years ago:** (1981) Vandals struck the week before the museum opened, tearing up 1) half the track from the Boulder Creek grade crossing to the lead switch on the old passenger siding and 2) half the track on the old siding itself. Damaged track 1) - repaired. Damaged track 2) - removed.

A number of out-of-town LS brethren took advantage of trackside living offered by SVLS during the museum opening. Meanwhile exciting things have been happening down at the park. Such as the usual derailments - under - privileged (?) kids without a penny for the engines to squash. Such as fires set by a beloved steamer who shall remain nameless and who, in poetic justice, was almost burned alive then almost drowned trying to extinguish the blaze. Such as John Grants electric, complete with pantograph and dynamic braking. Such as the DeFreitas duo who turned up like a couple of silver pennies to play host to guests during the week. Such as the \$50 collected for rides the weekend of 2-3 May.

All brakemen need to provide their own whistles from now on.

Here is the new North Midway yard plan. With help it may get done before the meet. This also offers a place for electric engines to recharge as there is 110 power at the Mill/Elevators



April news letter was missing detail info on the below picture. Ross Crawford informed the editor that the vintage (1980 or so) photo was of him (blue shirt) and his engine.



# FOR SALE

Metal working lathe (Harbor freight brand)

\$300

Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



Wards (Logan) Power-Kraft Model 25TLC-2136  
Back Geared Screw Cutting Lathe with Quick-change Gear Box  
10" Swing - 1-1/2"-8 #3 MT Spindle Bore  
50" Bed Length - 31" Between Centers  
Spindle Bore 25/32

Includes: 3-Jaw & 4-Jaw Chucks, Jacob's Chucks for Headstock & Tailstock, Collet Set, 6" Face Plate, 110 Volt Flat belt drive \$1000

Contact: Mike Dreiling 916-729-2200 or 916-201-0888(cell) email [mdreiling@macnexus.org](mailto:mdreiling@macnexus.org)



1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. Engine is a two cylinder double acting 1 1/4x1 1/2". Boiler upgraded from the original 8" diameter water tube to a steel 10" diameter propane fired fire tube boiler with 73 1/2" copper fire tubes. Pneumatic FWD/REV shift and brakes on locomotive. Usual Accessories: working headlight, bell, new whistle, two new relief valves, engine driven feed pump and a hand pump. New body and trucks on riding car.

Asking \$6,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered. Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net) for additional information/pictures. [http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale\\_photos/cody-img046.jpg](http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale_photos/cody-img046.jpg)



## Safety Rules Review

118. Visiting engineers, trainman, and their guests are to observe these rules and abide by them. Copies of these rules shall be made available to visiting engineers while they are operating on SVLSRM tracks. Visitors may purchase copies of these rules to keep.

202. All engines must be run at a safe speed and under complete control at all times. (Refer to Rule 229 for a definition of safe speed.)

310. The Board of Directors may restrict or suspend from duty any operating personnel who consistently violates safety rules.

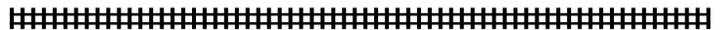
416. All trains running during periods of low visibility or after sunset shall be equipped with a marker light, or lights on the rear of the last car showing a red light to the rear and visible for at least 150 feet.



We need a members to provide snacks at the **June** and **July** meetings. Please give Clio a call if you will help. Below is the current schedule for the year. Please volunteer !



DATE	NAME
20-May	Spring Meet - Friday Dinner @ Caboose
17-Jun	?
15-Jul	?
19-Aug	Hot August Nights Pot Luck
16-Sep	Fall Meet - Friday Dinner @ Caboose
21-Oct	Lois Clifton
18-Nov	Clio Geyer
16-Dec	Christmas Pot Luck



Your editor is looking for pictures or movies of SVLS activities so we can make a copy and add to our Historical collection. If you have some please notify the editor. Thanks - Bill

