

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

September 2025

Volume 52, Issue 9



President's Report

By Steve Milward

Greetings All,

The dog days of Summer have been anything but!

In early August, SVLS was contacted about hosting a Celebration of Life for my wife's 3 1/2 year old cousin.

Less than 2 weeks later we welcomed almost 300 guests. Family, friends, co-workers, medical staff and others, all gathered for a very emotional event. The family made it known that they appreciated our assistance and our facility. SVLS was honored and humbled to have been asked to help. I personally wish to thank those members who stepped forward to help.

Next was our Hot August Night run. A good turnout of members, family and friends joined in. That, combined with pleasant temperatures, lots of good food, and trains, made for an enjoyable afternoon and evening. We even managed to get a couple hours of track work done, thanks to some dedicated folks.

In addition, in the midst of all this – The grass is mowed, sprinklers repaired, trees trimmed, other track work performed, locomotive and rolling stock is being repaired/refurbished. These and many other tasks often go unnoticed, and unappreciated, that is, until they don't get done. Thank you to those who continue to get the jobs done.

Looking ahead – Our big events on the horizon include the Pumpkin Trains and the Fall Meet. Both events take manpower. We're hoping folks will step up to participate with set-up, and the events, too. As always, I can be reached at President@svlsrcm.org

Looking ahead –

September 6th & 7th) Public Run Days, 11-3.

October 4th & 5th) Pumpkin Trains

October 17th – 19th) Fall Meet

Hope to see you at the track!

Steve



Celebration of Life

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.
Train tickets days may be purchased on-line.

Sept 6 Public run day
Sept 7 Public run day
Sept 8 Board meeting
Sept 20 Member day

Oct 1 setup for Pumpkin Patch
Oct 2 setup for Pumpkin Patch
Oct 3 setup for Pumpkin Patch



Oct 4 Pumpkin Patch Express
Oct 5 Pumpkin Patch Express



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

WORK DAYS VOLUNTEERS

Left off the July List

Robert Forren, Mike Skums, Christopher Smith, Austin Unruh

Does anyone have information on volunteers for August?

Thank you,

Barbara Schoellkopf

**Board of Directors**

(##) Ending year of term.

President: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (25)

E-mail: president@svlsrm.org

Vice President: Chris Smith (650) 676-0118 (26)

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Secretary: Robert Ress (916) 320-2781 (25)

E-mail: secretary@svlsrm.org

Treasurer: Henry Nanjo (916) 207-1962 (26)

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E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrm.org

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E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrm.org

Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (25)

E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrm.org

Director1: Rob Sjarratt (209) 603-1960 (26)

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Director2: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (25)

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Committee Chairpersons

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E-mail: membership@svlsrm.org

Librarian: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: librarian@svlsrm.org

Caboose: Chairperson: -open-

Safety Chairperson: Mark Madewell (209) 603-1960

Birthday & Company Events:

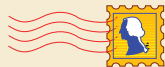
Andy Berchielli Phone: (916) 572-7857

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Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



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.**



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.



Trainmaster Report

by Craig Griffin

Gday everyone, Hope everyone is well and staying cool during this heatwave.

We've been busy down the park with birthday party's and Hot August Night run. Thanks to all who showed up for Hot August Night run. Lots of people, great weather and good food.

Levi was out running and had a lots of people learning how to fire her up and then lots of people running her. We ran Levi nonstop from 3.00pm till 8.00pm.

Next we have been getting the work on the clubs Mikado finished up. We got her fired up for the first time in four or five years. She ran great, but a few small issues showed up.

Don Yungling volunteered some of his time so over to his shop the Mikado went. Don and I moved the whistle back about 2" so the reverser would work properly and also reconfigured the boiler blowdown mechanism.

We pulled the injector apart and found one more port blocked and cleared that. The lubricator was having issues, no oil to the engineers side, so Don did his magic and rebuilt the lubricator, and now it works great. Finally Don added a new airline connection to the blower line so now it's easier to operate the blower when firing the Mikado. Check out the pics of Dons work. Many thanks to Don for all his help.



Next is to build a tender mounted seat for a bit of comfort and a bigger battery with a charging port in the Mikados boxcar. So you will see the Mikado running soon at the club and hopefully many will want to come enjoy learning to run it.

Hope to see you at the next public run day or work day. We love seeing our members coming down and enjoying the park and playing trains.

Craig





10 Years ago: The Caboose project is on the home track now, thanks to some dedicated members and special efforts of Gordon & Barbara Moser who have spent almost every day working for the last few weeks. The above picture shows workers standing on the new sub floor they just installed in preparation of the new linoleum

flooring. Prior efforts included taking out the old floor, moving equipment, cabinets, refrigerators, and the kitchen sink out to facilitate installation of the new linoleum. Special thanks to Chris Rutter (a friend of Dennis B.) who installed the linoleum.

A big thank you to the following: Sid Madden, Gordon and Barbara



20 Years ago: SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT By Clio Geyer

I would like to thank the following people for coming out in the heat and helping with the IBEW Special Run on July 30th: Butch & Bill Floyd, Skip, Linda & Thomas Nance, Milon Thorley, Mike & Claudia Drieling, Barbara and Gordon Moser, Les, Cindy and Casey Wilmunder, Lynn Wetter, Paul Clifton, Paul Skidmore, Dale & Allison King, Pat Mattox, Pete Arney and Jack Friedman. We could never have completed this run without all your help. The day was over 100 and with so many helpers no one was left working in the heat without a break. The misters also helped in the picnic area.

August was a busy month for parties. We had two school runs and five birthday parties. Butch Floyd, Bill Floyd and Barbara Moser came out and helped with all the special runs.

30 Years ago: "SUPER SCOOP"

Over the summer, the caboose siding has been the focus of attention. It now has a second through track and of this new track, there is a stub track for storage.

What we still need to do is extend the stub track, ballast, level the siding, and install switch throws. This will complete the project. I want to take a moment and thank all of those that helped cut ties, made the track panels, laid the track, and/or ballasted. I want to especially give an attaboy to both Bob Lovell and Milon Thorley for repair-heading this project. THANKS GUYS

—
Curtis Bonville, vSuperintendent.
and we are sure that his next attempt will be a brilliant glowing success.

40 Years ago: From the Board:

The Board discussed the acquisition of a Box Car, purchasing of additional hand tools and supplies, approved a donation to the "Fire-works Fund", and the Board also discussed the priorities of future projects.

ROUNDHOUSE RUMORS: Bob Lovell recently informed a reliable source that he is now an expert at design and construction of unusual lawn sprinklers.

The only draw back is the difficulty of moving his new boiler around the lawn for even watering. If at first you don't succeed, hydro-test, hydro-test, again. After seeing Danley's railroad, Earl McKenzie is attacking the 1 1/2" scale Mikado in his shop with new vigor. It seems that he likes those hills. John Bailie has been doing Turbo generator research. So far he still has to light a match to see if the blub is lit. His theories sound good and we are sure that his next attempt will be a brilliant glowing success.

50 Years ago: "PUFFS OF SMOKE"

Ed Yungling, Doc Harriss, Ken Spicer and Larry Edwards were out at the track Labor Day. They did some maintenance work on the track and had three engines running.

Barry, Marge and Allen Garland and Mrs. Phillips (Marge's mother), Rosemary Pilcher, Ken Yeo, Larry Badger, Ed and Don Yungling, and Ken Spicer all went to Gerber for the big Steam Thrashing Fair. They had three big steam traction engines operating along with a lot of other equipment and demonstrations. Quite an interesting day with lots of steam power, a parade of equipment and friendly folks at the Humman Ranch. One of these nights we'll see it through the lens of Barry's movie camera. Incidentally, Railroad Magazine will be running a feature story about our own Mr. Garland. We'll let you know when as soon as we find out. Milon Thorley and Earl Mc Kenzie have been appointed to the nominating committee to select next year's club nominees.



The Sacramento Live Steamers Railroad Museum has always thrived because of passionate volunteers who step forward to lead and keep our trains running for future generations. Now is your chance to help guide our mission and shape the future of this beloved community treasure.

We are currently seeking dedicated members to serve as President, Secretary, Train Master, and Director at Large. Each of these positions plays a vital role in ensuring the museum continues to inspire, educate, and delight visitors of all ages. If you have a heart for service, leadership, and railroading, we encourage you to step aboard and make a difference.

To learn more or to put your name forward, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Chris Donhost at 916-604-5545 or chris.donhost@dcids.org. Together, we can keep the whistles blowing, the wheels turning, and the joy of live steam alive!

Thanks, Chris



Join us at Portola Valley and Alpine Railroad

499 Old Spanish Trail, Portola Valley for a fun couple of days enjoying the railroad, venue and fellow railroad enthusiasts.

This year, they are sponsoring overnight camping if folks want to bring an engine down and stay over in their RV to run both Saturday and Sunday. RSVP's are needed for overnight stays.

We'll have lunch available on Saturday for \$20 for pre-orders, a few may be available at \$25 for walk up purchase.

You can RSVP your lunch orders through this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWFEP7Bfd67_t3WpJcOIS7-yLMDZd8DHRjjVVEhVmh7zzZfA/viewform

Payment will be at the serving area. Cash only.



Track Department

by Jeff Burke

Hello members,

Thanks for attending the club's Hot August Night Run. Nights like that remind us of the fun that can be had with our fellow club members at our facility.

Before the gathering started a few members worked on some alignment and leveling of the inside loop. This area will still need a bit of massaging before the Pumpkin Patch Express but it is much better than before.

With the Pumpkin Patch Express on your mind, please book your calendar for October 4th and 5th. This is a great event that rounds out our public run season. We will also need some help with the set up on the days leading up to the event.

Also remember that the September public run is on the 6th and 5th next month.

Larger track projects, such as the Lower Yard tie replacement, will resume after the Fall Meet. Until then we will be making small repairs to the whole railroad.

Thanks for your continued volunteering hours and we hope to see you out there!
- Jeff Burke



Hot August Night

Secretary Report

By: Robert Ress

August 11 SVLSM Board meeting Summary

Hot August nights had 55 folks turn out for a pot luck followed by an evening members run.

Little Blue was sold to a club member for \$5,000. The member has picked up his locomotive.

Membership - Regular 125, Associate 46, Life 5, Honorary 0, Total 176.

Upcoming events; Pumpkin Train is October 4 and 5, Santa Train is December 6 and 7, 13 and 14. Please come out and support these events they are our primary fund raisers.

Planning ahead for 2026; Spring Meet is May 15 to 17, 2026 and the Fall meet is October 16 to 18, 2026.

The Club will need to purchase some more Accu-ties before the winter track work starting in January. Also the switch coming into Oasis needs a tune up.

Craig and Don Yungling are working on the Mikado.

Richard is continuing to restore the sprinklers to service.

If you are not getting the Work Day notification emails contact Jeff Burke.

Chris Donhost will once again be the Election Commissioner for the November Club elections.

The next Bard meeting is September 8th at the Rancho Cordova City Hall Rm 117, or by Zoom. Contact the secretary for an agenda and for Zoom logon information.

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SAFETY RULES

.1.14 Pets

No pets of any kind shall be allowed to run free within the facility. All pets shall be confined on a leash not over 6 feet in length, or inside a crate or pen. The owner of such pets shall be responsible for immediately cleaning up any manure or other disagreeable mess caused by such pet. Any violation of this rule may result in both pet and owner being asked to leave the facility. Animals may not ride on public passenger trains. Owners may be asked not to have their animals ride at the discretion of the station master. Animals must be kept away from any areas of food preparation or consumption.

.2.10 Brakes

All locomotives or engineers' riding cars shall have the means to do a control stop in a safe manner.

3.03 Duties of Trainmaster

The Trainmaster or designee shall be responsible for the condition of all railroad rolling stock and preventative maintenance of all SVLSRM owned rail equipment. They will keep accurate records of maintenance and modifications to rolling stock and oversee boiler testing. They shall check wheel gauges for compliance with established standards on members' and visitors' equipment. The Trainmaster or designee is responsible for the issuance of all SVLSRM rail equipment for use at any and all activities.

4.09 Brake Requirements – Large Trains

Any train consisting of more than 7 cars available for passengers shall have at least one half of the cars equipped with operable brakes, such brakes to be operated by the engineer from the locomotive.

