

The GOLDEN SPIKE



VOLUME XI

JUNE 1984

NUMBER 6

TIMETABLE

Monthly Meeting - Friday, June 15, 1984, 7:30 p.m. at the Cordova Recreation and Park District Building, Rancho Cordova, California (Chase Drive next to the High School). The "Buffet Car" will be hosted by Carol Bonswor and Judy Gramith. The program for the evening was not yet prepared at the time of this publication.

Work Day(s) - As stated in last month's Golden Spike, it is now necessary to have TWO (2) Work Days each month. The Work Days will be, June 30 (Saturday before the July 4th Run) and July 21 (for our regular Run Day). The attendance at the Work Parties has been very, very disappointing. Please try to attend at least one of the Work Days for at least an hour.

Run Day(s) - Saturday, June 16, G.G.L.S. Day, and Sunday, June 17, Father's Day/Railroader's Day. See below for details.

Board Meeting - The Board Meeting will be on Thursday, July 5, at the home of Dennis and Judy Gramith, at 7:30 p.m.

FROM THE BOARD

The Board voted to make a donation to the Fireworks Fund. The acquisition of fuel was discussed and the decision was made to buy a few Mulberry Trees to be planted for shade in the future, at the passenger loading station.

G.G.L.S. DAY AT S.V.L.S.

The Golden Gate Live Steamers have been invited to be our guests for the 2nd Annual G.G.L.S. Day at S.V.L.S on Saturday, June 16. We will have our customary Pot Luck/B.B.Q. The charcoal will be hot so bring whatever you wish to B.B.Q. and your favorite dish to share on the Pot Luck Table. As usual, please bring your own plates and eating utensils. Let's all turn out and make our neighbor Live Steamers feel super welcome for a day of railroading fun and fellowship.

FATHER'S DAY/RAILROADER'S DAY

Sunday, June 17, will be our 2nd Annual Railroader's Day. It is our chance to honor all past and present railroad employees. There will be prizes for the most years of service as a Locomotive Engineer, for the most railroad seniority and for the oldest retired employee. If you know any railroaders who might enjoy this event, by all means please bring them out. Sunday, the 17th, is also our traditional Father's Day Run. So all you Fathers drag the family down to the track and let's run trains. For those who wish, the B.B.Q. will be hot again on Sunday for an end-of-the day B.B.Q. The Snack Bar will be open on Saturday and until 2:00 p.m. ONLY, on Sunday.

MAKING STEAM

On Saturday, May 12, 1984, a published work party was held as the last opportunity to prepare the track and grounds for the Spring Meet. With lots of work to be done, the Gramith Family were joined by five other workers: Jimmy Durham, Warren Sharratt, Warren Wagner, Earl McKenzie, and Amandus Drewes. Wow big crew! Thanks for your help. Also, during the week prior to the Meet, Jimmy Durham single-handedly designed and build new switch throws to replace those torn out by vandals. A BIG vote of thanks to Jimmy for another example of the dedication required to make your club the best. Mixed reviews for Media Day, Friday, May 18, 1984. While the media failed to materilize, those members in attendance did enjoy a peaceful, leisurely day of railroading and visiting. Of the almost thirty letters sent to various members of the media, only one reply was received. Joan Edmundson of Channel 13, telephoned to appologize and explain why she could not attend "Media Day" and also offer several suggestions designed to help our publicity in the future.

MAKING STEAM (CONTINUED)

With three Pacifics and two Mikes assisted by numerous smaller (but powerful) locomotives we had ample power to handle the many passengers seeking rides on our railroad. The Saturday night run was well attended and most enjoyable after a hectic day of running for others. The balmy weather, the glowing headlights, singing flanges and rhythmic clickity clacks provided an exceptionally pleasant opportunity to enjoy one of the finer aspects of Live Steam Railroading. Sunday provided even more eager passengers, and was easily as successful as Saturday. With several members running well past the published time schedule. All in all, the Spring Meet was both financially and socially the best Meet ever. Let's hope that this successful trend continues as we proceed into the future.

Saturday, June 2, was published as a Work Day, but only Ken Willes and the Gramith's showed up at the track. Due to the lack of manpower, the track maintenance work was left untouched, as well as the much needed cleanup along the fence of the shelter area. One pop-up sprinkler, damaged by our lawn mower, was replaced and additional pipe was burried to install another sprinkler to cover a problem area and eliminate a little more "hose dragging". The inside area was mowed, trimmed, and weed eating was done in several areas. Again, thank you all for your help and support! However, Warren Sharratt and Robby did show up towards the end to supple us with some much needed assistance in digging. Thanks, Sharratts!

ROUNDHOUSE RUMORS

Craig Craddock, hit by Tidal Wave! On Friday, May 18, while peacefully engineering his Pacific and a string of empty cars into the station, he was approached by a half dozen children politely requesting a ride. Almost before he could finish his affirmative reply, five or six more arrived, followed within seconds by approximately 60 more squealing, smiling little kids. It seems that several first grade classes from the Placerville area had stopped in the park to picnic and just happened to hear the train whistle. The expression on Craig's face as he was mobbed was initially that of sheer terror, but very soon softened to his customary big smile. Look out Hoover and Kirby! Glen Strawn is a 'comin. It seems that the cooling fans on Glen's big new Diesel power house are excellant earth movers. They move any loose earth within two feet of the track right into his engine. Look out Jimmy Durham, your son Alan appears to be trying to match your relentless record of work output! Definitely a valuable new member for the club.

BATHROOM BUILDING FUND

Thanks to Bob Bonswor and "Mr. Anonymous" for their very generous donations to the Bathroom Building Fund. Remember, at Keith Kirstein's suggestion, your reports and findings on the Bathroom, are due at our next General Meeting (June 15, 1984).

FROM THE CAB - (President's Comments)

"President's prerogative". "Free Speech". "For the good of the organization". The foregoing are all logical reasons for me to inflict my opinion on members of this club through the medium of this column. Opinion: The responsibilities for making this club work and grow belong equally to all members. Opinion: The tasks required to maintain and groom our facility belong equally to all members. Opinion: Devoting one hour to tending a switch or loading passengers during a Meet is not much to ask of anyone. Opinion: The task of serving as a flagman, on passenger trains as required by our rules and regulations, would not be a burden if more people volunteered for JUST ONE HOUR. Opinion: the heavy load of taking down and putting away at the end of a Meet or Run Day would be much easier if everyone would get up, put down their cold drink and postpone their "gab" session until the job was done, when EVERYONE could sit down and "gab". Opinion: All members should read! place their names on the Duty Rosters for the Meets and not force someone to seek them out and beg them to help for one short hour. Opinion: A lot of people enjoy running or riding trains but are totally unwilling to lift a finger to give even the slightest amount of help. Question: Do your opinions, YOUR OWN PERSONAL OPINIONS, differ greatly from mine? DO YOU really feel that the faithful few should do your share of the work as well as everyone else? It has

(President's Comments Continued)

been stated that those who work for the club, only do it because they want to. Cinder-dust! Those who work for your club often do it because no one else will and their personal pride in this organization prevents them from letting the weeds grow over the track or the track become so rough as to be unusable. Sometimes, as in the case of the Spring Meet, because no one else will get up from their chair and help, a few people must either put all the equipment away or join the ranks of the takers or users and leave everything out for the last poor soul who leaves the park. For those who say "I paid my dues when we built this railroad", I say again "Cinder-dust"! If those who built the railroad had been watching the faithful few work on the railroad and club for the past couple of years, they would find that their efforts of many years ago have been matched or surpassed. Don't tell me about how rough it was way back when. The rocks are just as big and the ground is just as hard today and a much smaller proportion of the membership is carrying the load for you. Being a member of any organization brings some degree of responsibility. It is not fair to get all the pleasure without doing some of the very necessary work. Fact: The nails in my soap box are getting rusty from the tears and the wall is cracking where I have been beating my head against it. You are probably tired of listening, and I am definitely tired of talking. If you still care about this organization's future, now is the time to step forward and put yourself in a visible position before it is too late and those faithful few burn out completely. For those of you who are doing your share for the club, thank you, and please accept my apologies for subjecting you to this "Cinder-Chew"!

ROSTER ADDITION

Alan L. Durham
7035 Kilkenny Drive

(916) 334-2726
Sacramento, Ca. 95841

HELP WANTED

1. person(s) to design and build prototype for remote switch-throws or controllers. Should be capable of operating switch points approximately 30' from switch in both directions.
2. Person(s) to organize and people to serve on a telephone committee.
3. Person(s) to design and build prototype signal system.
4. Person(s) with program material for a General Meeting, approximately 30 minutes.
5. Person(s) with access to free or cheap (very cheap) crane and/or lowboy trailer truck for possible use in transporting Box Car to track site.

To volunteer or for further information on any of the above Help Wanted, please contact Dennis Gramith at 363-9045.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q. What is the Wootten fire-box?

A. It is a wide and shallow fire-box, and has a combustion-chamber, and a brick bridge across the fire-box end of this chamber; is above the frames, and extends over the rear driving-axle.

CLINKERS!

Remember at all Run Days, the Snack Bar will be open due only to the dedication of Marilyn Drewes who has unselfishly volunteered to run it for the convenience of all members. THANK YOU, Marilyn!

LATE NEWS FLASH!

Just as this Golden Spike goes to press, we received word that the scheduled and published Work Day for today, Saturday, June 9, was attended by Jimmy and Scott Durham, with Bob Lovell arriving in time to get in a few licks before the 12:30 quitting time.

Dennis and Judy Gramith

RAILROADER'S DAY

HONORING ALL

RAILROAD EMPLOYEES - PAST AND PRESENT - YOUNG AND OLD

.....
SUNDAY JUNE 17, 1984
.....

MEMORIES - HISTORY - PRIZES

EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS

TRAIN RIDES

Come to our railroad and
meet old and new friends with
a common love for the "flanged
wheel on the steel rail"!



RANCHO CORDOVA
COMMUNITY PARK
(END OF CHASE DR.)
RANCHO CORDOVA
CALIFORNIA, 95670

363-9045

