

THE GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

March 2003

Volume 30, Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dale Fowler

Hans Feickert has been resting at home following emergency heart surgery in mid February. He seems to be doing fine. Milon Thorley is on the road again, this time to Cuba.

By the time you read this our 2003 operating season will be under way. Hope to see your equipment out this season, and mine too!

The Yuba City Dried Plum Festival for 2003 has been cancelled, reportedly due to budget problems from last year, and the Placerville Harvest Fair management says that they don't have room for our full outdoor track at their fair so we are planning an indoor display only.

On the locomotive front, Milon Thorley has completed installation of the new gasoline motor and hydraulic pump on the UP diesel chassis and has delivered it to the boxcar. The body shell is in for new paint in the UP paint scheme. Ross Crawford has replacement fuel tanks and new journal boxes are in the works.

Pete Arney Lee Frechette, Bill Yoder, new member Richard Lutrel and some others have completed renovation of the track and switches between the turntable lead and the boxcar yard, and have gone on to install several cement track crossings for yard maintenance equipment. Many thanks to these fellows. The Park Department has offered reimbursement for the materials.

Club badges and pins are on the way. Thanks to Membership Chairperson Cindy Wilmunder, Dick Esselbach and Bill Yoder, W/R Plastics in Natomas has produced laser etched badges which will be delivered as soon as the name slot is milled.

Our Tuesday work days are well attended, with Lee Frechette, Pete Arney, Cindy Wilmunder, Paul Clifton, Ross Crawford, Jack Friedman, and Bill Yoder coming out on a regular basis. There are people working at the track on Tuesdays and non run day Saturdays for those that can make it. Lunch is provided on the scheduled work days. Come on out!

First Public Run Day a Success



Paul Clifton engineering the club steam engine around the newly placed steel rail and ties.

More than 500 people enjoyed riding the club trains on Saturday March 8th.

Riders were given a two loop ride on the club's original loop in the Hagan Community Park. All Hoggers liked the smooth ride over the new track and crossing. Decreasing the elevation of the grade leading into the crossing garnered a favorable reaction from several operators and helped to slow the train speed entering Meadows and the girder bridge area.

Thanks to all supporting run day.

SVLS WEB UPDATE

Starting this month "The Golden Spike" will be available on the club's web site: www.svls.org. Just click on the new link for NEWS LETTERS. The newsletter will be in single page format and in color using standard PDF document format. Enjoy - please send any comments to the Editor.

Yardmaster's Report

By Lee Frechette



We had a great turnout for February's workday. I'd like to thank everyone who came down to the track and contributed their time and efforts on behalf of the club.

March's workday will be a very special event. As I reported at last month's general meeting, we will be planting 133 trees on March 22. What makes this event extra special is all the help we will be receiving from the Rancho Cordova community. Volunteers from the Rotary Club, Elks Lodge, Kiwanis, Moose Lodge, Metro Fire Dept., Sheriff's Dept., Cordova High School Baseball Team, Cordova High School Service Club, and the Boy Scouts will show-up at 8:00 AM to join us in a day of tree planting. The Cordova Recreation and Parks District in conjunction with the Sacramento Tree Foundation are providing the trees and materials to plant them and give them a healthy start. Rumor has it members of the Rancho Cordova City Council and the park's Board of Directors will be on hand to help us plant trees. This promises to be a very big day for SVLS. I encourage all SVLS members to show our appreciation for all this wonderful support from the community by joining us at 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 22, for our tree planting event.

Lois Clifton is coordinating a spaghetti feed for all the members and volunteers planting trees. If you can't help plant trees but would like to help feed the troops, please call Lois; I'm sure she will welcome all the help she can get.

Even if you can't plant trees or help with lunch, it would be great to have as many members as possible present to show their support and thank all the volunteers that are giving of their time to help us improve our railroad. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the track for tree planting, and remember SVLS is the place to be in 2003!

Mechanical Department

By Ross Crawford

OK, Railroaders, here is a way for you to help the SVLS, obtain a sense of accomplishment, and maybe learn some mechanical stuff too!

I need mechanical help to assist the following craftsmen who are working on various projects:

- Steel switch points from steel rail – Karle Mahler / Al Shelly /Ross Crawford
- Saw track bars to 4" length – Jack Friedman
- Drill track bars (4 holes) – Dick Esselbach
- True up GP40 truck side frame journals – Ross Crawford
- Mill new steel journals for GP40 – Ross Crawford
- Build new "fuel tanks" for GP40 – Bill Butler
- Fabricate wheel set / flange gauges (IBLS) – Ross Crawford
- Fabricate track gauges – Ross Crawford

Please Welcome Our New Club Members

The follow list of members have joined during the past several months

Steve Kendrick	Karl Reichhold
Charles Menershagen	Pat White
Frank Higdon	James Lerza
Robert Paxton	Paul Skidmore
Bill Floyd	Frank Mele
Butch Floyd	Robert Harwell
Aram Alexander	Curt Tilman
Ben Shell	Jim Rominger



With track maintenance a continued occurrence, it is the responsibility of all members to insure that their equipment is in correct working order and this includes wheel dimensions. The club standard is the I.B.L.S. Standards to operate on S.V.L.S. track (Rule # 401). Please check your wheel dimensions for gauge, back-to-back, tread width, flange depth and thickness. Ross Crawford had made several gauges and you can use these to check your wheels.

Track Superintendent

By Pete Arney

The lower yard track reconstruction has been completed. The project involved extending the steaming bay track, changing to larger radius curves, and excavation for new base and ballast. The three switches were rebuilt and new steel switch points were installed. New switch throw boxes, to be furnished by Lee Frechette, will be installed in the near future. Thanks to Lee Frechette, Keith Berry, Milon Thorley, Jack Friedman, Bill Yoder, Butch Floyd, Hans Feickert, and Frank Dollosso for their contribution to this project.



point installation, light track ballasting and alignment, switch throw renovation and installation. Time spent on the track between now and May will be with the spring meet in mind. Work days are held on all Tuesdays and most Saturdays. Contact the Track Superintendent if you would like to contribute your time and expertise to a worthwhile and important effort for the club.

The renovation of two switches near Reverso has been completed by Milon Thorley with installing steel rail and new switch points. This has eliminated a troublesome rail joint and reduced a problematic leading switch point arrangement on the mainline.

Of the six grade crossings planned for the first quarter, the North Meadow (Riverview) crossing has been completed along with about 90 feet of track east of the crossing. This was a joint effort with Yardmaster Lee Frechette. Thanks to all that helped during the regrade, track panel construction, concrete form preparation, and concrete placement: Butch Floyd, Richard Lutrel, Paul Skidmore, Gordon Moser, Karle Mahler, Will Jordon, Paul Clifton, Shane David (visitor), Bill Yoder, Dick Esselbach, Ross Crawford, Dale Fowler, Red Hadler, Frank Presley, Clyde Zirbel (Rainbow Fasteners). If I missed someone, please let me know. Things were hectic.

Three other grade crossings in the addition could not be completed in time for the Saturday, March 8, run day. They will be completed in time for the Sunday, March 23 run day. As before, the track will not be continuous in the addition until the crossings are completed. The week of March 10 will concentrate on installing re-bar, forms, and placing concrete for these crossings.

Near future track tasks will be tie replacement, switch



Engineers provide shovel support waiting for concrete.



Doing the final concrete pour at Riverview crossing.

Club Calendar

MARCH

21 General meeting 7:30 PM
 22 Work day - SPECIAL tree planting day
 23 Public rides Noon to 4 PM

APRIL

5 Public rides Noon to 4 PM
 7 Board of Directors meeting 6:30 PM
 18 General meeting 7:30 PM
 19 Park Easter egg hunt and public run
 10 AM to 4 PM
 22 Work Day

Many members have been coming to the track each Tuesday to work. If you can help please join us. There is always work to be done.

March 22 Work Day



We are going to feed the volunteers planting the trees and we need donations and help. We are looking for donation of spaghetti sauce,

green salad fixing, or bread for the workday tree planting.

If you can't come out on Saturday the 22nd to help plant the trees and want to donate something to help feed all the people please bring it to the meeting on Friday night and call and we can get someone to pick it up. Contact Lois Clifton or Barb Moser.



View of new lead tracks and gravel work

SPRING MEET May 17 & 18

30th anniversary of the driving of our Golden Spike.

CLEAN OUT YOUR SHOP AND GARAGE

Donations are needed for the auction that will be held at the Spring Meet in May. Do you have any old but usable tools that could be offered for sale? How about any railroadiana? Patterns, castings, prints, books magazines, anything that might interest fellow members? We are looking for anything that you no longer need but others might want. These donations will be auctioned off to the highest bidder and the proceeds will supplement the accounts of the SVLS. Start cleaning your shop now. You will have lots of extra space and will help the club at the same time.

THE RAFFLE IS COMING!

The Spring Meet will also include a raffle for adults and children - the kids in the afternoon and the adults later. We are in the process of collecting NEW and NEWLY MADE items for this portion of the Meet. If you want to donate to this popular event, please contact Ross Crawford at (916) 718-4162 or Paul Clifton at (916) 722-8514.

ALSO AT THE MEET

Breakfast will be served, once again, by Marilyn Drewes. She will also be handling the bake sale table and is looking for your donations of baked goods. If you will be able to contribute, call Marilyn at (916) 725-3525.

Lunch will be supplied at the caboos by Lois Clifton. We never overlook your food needs and they will be met well this time by Lois and her helpers.

Dinner: Saturday night, there will be an "all you can eat" dinner at 6:00 PM at the track. The cost is \$13.00 and will include Tri Tip, Grilled Chicken, chili, corn on the cob, green beans, rice, Caesar salad, grilled sourdough garlic bread, beverage and dessert. WOW...you can't miss this! RSVP to Lois Clifton by April 30th at (916) 722-8514 or loisjune1@msn.com.

Volunteers are needed at the train station both Saturday and Sunday. If you can help with this need for crowd control and train loading, contact Meet Chairman Joel Corbin at (916) 990-9432 or joel@steamtrainjoel.com.

SVLS Run day Saturday, 3/8/2003*By Dale Fowlar*

Present were: Al Shelley, Gordon and Barbara Moser, Paul and Lois Clifton, Cindy and Casey Wilmunder, Dick Esselbach, Pete Arney, Lee Frechette, Dale and Lorra Fowlar and Victoria Hall, Butch Floyd, Ross Crawford, Karle Mahler, Bill Yoder, Red Hadler, and Joel Corbin.

Members attending from out-of-town were Frank Dollosso from the little town of Nice near Clear Lake with his 1.5" vertical boiler 0-4-0, and Charlie Meinershagen of Redding with a beautiful 1.5" center cab electric.



Gorgeous day, about 500 public riders. Caboose kitchen was open and operating thanks to Paul and Lois Clifton and Barbara Moser. I'd like to thank Charlie Meinershagen for spending the afternoon trimming low hanging branches from the old main line.

The new Riverview track and crossing that were completed just in time for the run day, performed flawlessly. A big thank you goes to Pete Arney, Lee Frechette, Bill Yoder, Richard Lutrel, Butch Floyd, Red Hadler and many many more.

Expansion area was open to members for limited operation due to continuing track work, with public on the old loop only. People were very appreciative and expressed a great deal of enjoyment.

REMINDER our club dues were due January 1st. If you have not paid then please do by this March general meeting.

Word from the Shop - Trainmasters Report*By Don Juergenson*

Progress on the motive power continues, and gets nearer to completion daily. Kevin Sachs is progressing on the paint job for the GP 40, and trucks for the same engine are being rebuilt as we speak. Wear on the flanges is significant enough to warrant new wheels, not to mention the slop between wheels and axles. Axle gears will get new bushings, thrust washers, and fresh grease. Thrust loads on these gearboxes is great enough to make this item an annual maintenance event.

The steel "prototype" riding car is completed and painted. It will be available for review at the March meeting, and in service the day after. Plans and specifications are being drawn and will be available to members in the next Spike (I think?) Anyone interested in building more riding cars of this design for the club... assuming the membership chooses this design... should volunteer while this opportunity lasts. A metal cutting saw and some arc welding ability is all you need.

In the meanwhile, spend some time in your shop.

Board of Directors

President: Dale Fowlar (916) 783-4351

sphogger@ix.netcom.com

Vice President: Joel Corbin (916) 990-9432

joel@steamtrainjoel.com

Secretary: Chris Donhost (707) 469-9039

donhost4449@msn.com

Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

loisjune1@msn.com

Track Superintendent: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000

parney@pacbell.net

Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820

leefrechette@yahoo.com

Trainmaster: Don Juergenson (530) 269-0443

Speical Events: David Frank (916) 457-6891

bradleydad@msn.com

Caboose Operations: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

paulclifton@juno.com

Newsletter Editors: Keith & Gloria Berry

(530) 642-0742 berry6700@hotmail.com

Membership: Cindy Wilmunder (916) 372-2423

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 P.M.

From the Secretary's Desk:

•February BoD- *by Chris Donhost*

The 2001/2002 audit is underway, we will be engaging and outside auditor to verify Alison's findings. Dick Esselbach is preparing this years flier, Bob Bell has replaced some rotted slats on the picnic tables and a riding car seat. The Yuba City Prune Festival has been canceled this year. The treasurer will now file all necessary tax documents as required by law. A new source for redwood ties has been located. Sept. 6th was added to the run day schedule. Curtis returned some of the extra materials not needed for the hill track. The Board established a equipment replacement fund that will be funded by 10% of the clubs gross income per year. Board meetings will now be held on the first Monday of the month, subject to board approval. Purchasing Accounts were approved for Rainbow Fasteners, Home Depot, Kinko's, Del Monte, Smart & Final, Frito Lay and Woodland Truck & Tractor. An account with the USPS was also approved. A popcorn machine for sales to the public was discussed. A time operated valve will be installed on the air compressor.

•February General Meeting - *from Alison Berry*

The old Locomotive and Insurance Funds have been closed and the money transferred to the new accounts. Park is now donating the use of the room to us. Effective immediately this will also include the use of a room for the monthly Board Meeting.

Milon did finish the repair of the Reverso. Work continues on the lower yard. We have also received a donation of redwood from Michael's Designs.

Everything is on schedule to do tree planning on the regular March workday (March 22). The alder trees in the expansion area only have a life expectance of 10-15 years so many of them are now starting to die. We will be planting 129 trees. These trees will range in size from 5 gallon to 5-foot boxes. Some trees will be provided by the Sacramento Tree Foundation, some by the Park and other sources. The park is really taking an interest in this project. Glen Bell has been helping in planting using his Rotary contacts. We also will have people from Boy Scouts and the Cordova Baseball League to dig holes, etc.

We need help in mowing. Lee is generally at the park on Saturdays, Thursdays, and Tuesday mornings and

appreciates any help people can give at those times. SMUD will be volunteering tree stump removal crews. Lee is hoping to rejuvenate the lawn area between the caboose and the steaming bays but it probably cannot be done before the Spring Meet.

Marilyn Drewes, Clio Geyer and Lorra Fowlar will be painting a couple of the picnic tables. Milon has brought back the GP. It will up and running by the Spring Meet. Don approved Ross Crawford to spend \$100 on journal boxes. Don has just finished a prototype riding car. He feels the metal car is better than the wood and should have it at Show & Tell next month.

Cindy showed a prototype name badge. Cindy asked the membership to accept Bill Son, Robert Harwell, and Benjamin Shell as full members. Motion was made and passed.

Spring Meet: Joel Corbin, Spring Meet Chair, showed a flier he had designed for the Spring Meet. Joel stated Chris Donhost has been researching and planning the re-enactment of the Golden Spike Ceremony. Joel stated we want to include Park and city officials as part of the ceremony. We need donations of good, marketable items for the auction.

Ross Crawford has someone making new fuel tanks for the GP40. He will need someone to put reinforcing brackets inside and is looking for a volunteer. Al Shelley will be making more switch points. Ross has finished the rebuilding of a third car truck. Pete asked Ross to now concentrate on trucks for the GP.

Lois has only received two budgets so far (caboose and Trainmaster's). She is working on valuating our assets. Don Juergenson will inventory the rolling stock. Lee has gotten a value on the caboose.

Bill Yoder asked for more information about workdays to be published in the newsletter and on the website. Dale thanked Bill Yoder, Dick Esselbach and Cindy Wil-munder for working on the logo for the name badge.

Dick Esselbach brought 2003 schedules which he designed. Refreshments were provided by Ken & Nadine Willes and Terry Willes.



Photos left to right and down.
Riverview crossing: concrete poured and waiting for finishing.
The finished crossing with ballast and pathway temporary graded for bike traffic.
The new steel rails with tie plates give the rail the prototype look. - but ares are straight!
Lee doing the finish work to allow enough grove for train wheels while Will is ready with test car.
Engineers Charlie Meinershagen, Red Hadler, Paul Clifton, Dick Esselbach getting the club steamer ready for the days running after winter repairs. Pete, Lee and Paul pose on the finished crossing with the SVLS steamer ready for to days run.



Sacramento Valley Live Steamers
P.O. Box 273
Rancho cordova, CA 95741



Caboose Menu

Chili Burger	\$2.75
Chili Dog	\$2.75
Hamburger	\$2.00
Hot Dog	\$2.00
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$1.75
Bowl of Chili	\$2.00
Nacho's	\$1.50
Meal Deal (includes Chips, drink, salad & dessert)	\$3.50
Special of the Day	\$4.00
All hamburgers & sandwiches come with: Tomato, lettuce, & pickle. Onion upon request	
Drinks / Dessert	
Soda	\$.50
Gatorade	\$.75
V-8 Juice	\$.75
Water,Ice Tea, lemonade	\$.50
Hot Chocolate	\$.50
Coffee & Tea	Free
Ice Cream Bar, Ice Cream Sandwich, Crunch Bar	\$.50
Drum Sticks	\$.75
Popsicles	\$.50
Candy Bar	\$.50

SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

202 All engines must be run at a safe speed and under complete control at all times. (ref.#228 Absolute maximum speed of any train shall be 7 m.p.h. actual - i.e.: 100 feet per 9 seconds).

302 All members share equal privileges in the club and use of the club facilities. All members also have equal responsibility for the safety and maintenance of the club facility, club equipment, and the observance and enforcement of these rules. Every member is responsible to, and for, every other member. There are no so-called "privileged" members.

414 All locomotives shall be equipped with a sounding locomotive signals. Such sounding device be powerful enough to be heard distinctly for at least 150 feet.