

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

May 2003

Volume 30, Issue 5

THE SPRING MEET IS HERE!

By Joel Corbin - Meet Chairperson

Remember, we are looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Meet on May 17 & 18, 2003. Also, bring your locomotives, steam engines and other projects to display at the track site in Hagan Community Park. We know some folks plan to arrive early and that is great. The Meet becomes official at the Membership Meeting on Friday, May 16 at 7:30 PM in the Hagan Park meeting room. There will be a presentation of club history at the meeting. On Saturday, the Meet starts with breakfast at the caboose.

We have all been looking forward to the celebration of the anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike, which took place 30 years ago. This celebration will begin at 10:30 AM and will include Board Members of the Cordova Recreation and Park District, council members of the City of Rancho Cordova, club members who were at the original ceremony and the original tie and spikes used then as well. This ceremony will be brief also. We don't want to keep you away from running your engines.

Later in the day will be a raffle for the kids and this will be followed by a raffle for adults. Many fine prizes are already in hand and ready for you winners. The ***all you can eat*** banquet follows so make your reservations if you have not yet done so. Call or E-mail Lois Clifton at (916) 722-8514 or treasurer@svls.org.

All of us are looking forward to making this one of the finest meets yet. Your attendance is the key. See you there. This is what the hobby is all about!

Contact meet Chairperson: Joel Corbin at (916) 990-9432 or joel@steamtrainjoel.com.

The first spring meet 30 years ago.



Golden Spike ceremony. Engines from Milon Thorley (left) and Ken Spicer (right).



Golden Spike ceremony. Alan Shelley driving one of the golden spikes in place.



One of our early meets - view of steaming bays.

MEMBERSHIP

By Cindy Wilmunder

The following were accepted as regular members at the general meeting.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Robin Lyons | Jim Rominger |
| Steven Ott | Matthew Schroedle |
| Eric Shandel | Bill Balsley |
| Jerry Bondreaux | William Callow |
| Fidel Camargo | Lois Clifton |

We are glad to have you with us and looking forward to seeing you out at the track.

CALENDAR

- May 5 Board Meeting
- May 16 General Membership Meeting
- May 17-18 SVLS Spring Meet and Golden Spike 30th Celebration
- May 31 Newsletter deadline
- June 2 Board Meeting
- June 7 Club Run Day
- June 19 Train Mountain Ramble
- June 20 General Membership Meeting
- June 21 Work Day
- June 22 Club Run Day
- June 30 Train Mountain Ramble
- June 30 Newsletter deadline

Don't forget about work days, every Tuesday and most Saturdays. Contact a committee member for information on needs. There are always things to be done to support YOUR club.



Correction to photo caption in April news letter.

The caption for Eric Lund should have read that Eric Lund is a member of the Park District Board of Directors.

Spring Meet volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help in the caboose both Saturday & Sunday. Please let Lois know (916) 722-8514 or loisjune1@msn.com.

Reservation deadline for Spring Meet Saturday Night Dinner is May 10th, cost \$13.00
Call Lois (916) 722-8514 or e-mail loisjune1@msn.com.

Thanks go to Matt Hall for cooking the hamburgers & hot dogs on Saturday April 5th. Special thanks to Barb Moser for her baked goods and help they are always greatly appreciated.

We are going to have a suggestion box at the caboose on things you would like to have.

RAFFLE!

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.

FOOD FOOD FOOD

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 caboose by Lois Clifton. We never overlook your food needs and they will be met well this time by Lois and her helpers.

HOW CAN I HELP?

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.

Sacramento Valley Live Steamers wins state wide award from the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts.



On April 26, 2003 several club members journeyed to Redwood City recently to receive the Outstanding Organization award presented to Sacramento Valley Live Steamers by the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts.

The Cordova Recreation and Park District Board of Directors submitted the nomination to the state-wide organization, citing the SVLS's special cooperation with park administrators in their efforts to provide a special service to the community. Directors noted that SVLS gives free rides to children, hosts special holiday events and supports the district's service mandate as a public agency, all at no charge to the district.

Several Board members and administrators were on hand to help SVLS celebrate the award. Pictured above (back row, left to right) are club members Joel Corbin, Lee Frechette, and Dale Fowler; Park District Assistant Administrator Greg Foell; Park District Board member Curt Haven; District Administrator Jerry Steinke; club members Paul Clifton and Pete Arney. Front row includes club members Lorra Fowler and Lois Clifton; and Park District Board member Cay Nickerson. Not pictured is Eric Lund, Park District Board member.

Our SVLS membership should be proud of this accomplishment that is a result of our cooperative efforts and hard work. We appreciate this great recognition from the local Cordova Recreation and Park District and statewide California Association of Recreation and Park Districts.

A poster with the comments from the letter of nomination was on display, and has been preserved for our permanent record. Included are some newer and older photos of our operation and equipment.

1973 SVLS photos



Milon testing track on his riding car.



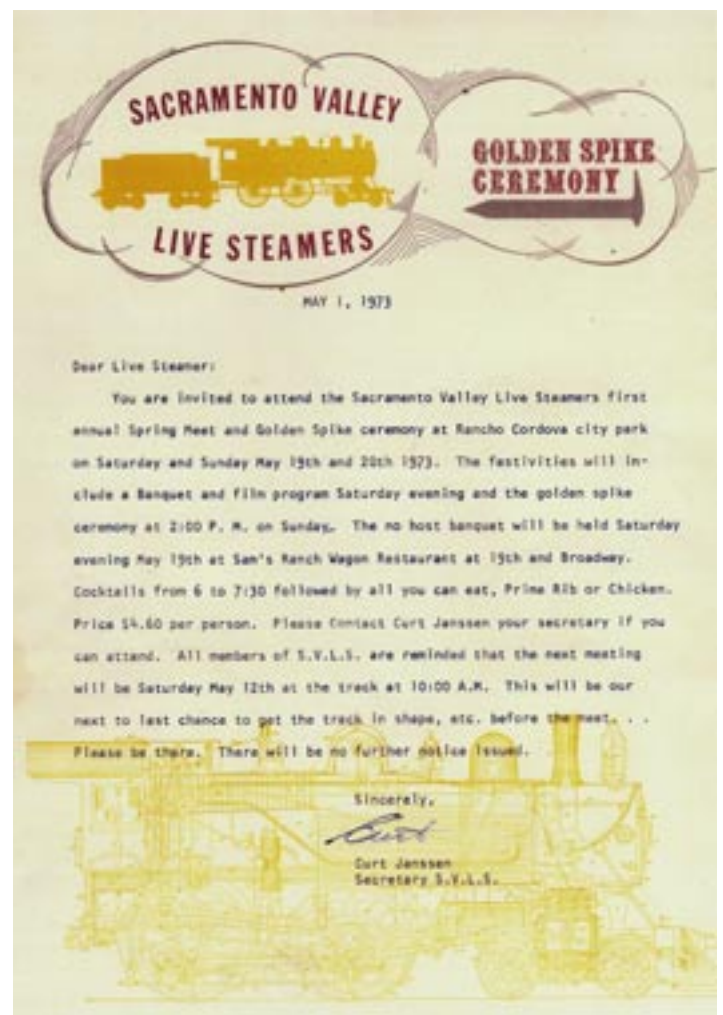
Barry Garland shooting 16mm movie of the first Golden Spike. See his historic film at the General Meeting May 16th.



Ed Yungling hammering golden spike, with Milon Thorley holding the tie in place.



Milon Thorley with his American engine.



Original invitation to the Golden Spike ceremony.

Trainmasters Report

By Ross Crawford

The switch committee is still working on its procedures under the direction of Al Shelley. The incoming station switch now seems ok except it has a hump in it. The unofficial switch committee is Al Shelley, Karle Mahler and myself.

I am progressing slowly on the GP40 trucks because of more attention paid to the cars on the yellow train.

Don Juergenson has reworked the CP40 final drive gearboxes for installing new wheels.

Karle Mahler made several parts for the club's switch machines.

I have put the new riding car #2003 made by Don Juergenson in the yellow consist so we can evaluate it successfully. Milon Thorley loaned the other prototype riding car but has agreed to reclaim it for evaluation.

I have designed a new guard rail that is currently being tested.

Jack Friedman rewired the headlights on the SW1500. The sprockets on the SW1500 are coming loose so I will need someone to install a device to retain them.

I still need someone to do some cosmetic work on the GP40 fuel tanks but we need to try them on the engine first.

Jack Friedman will disassemble the remaining Johnson trucks to see which parts can be saved.

The Alco needs new screws in the front railing. These got broken out by the iron bridge at the end of the boxcar being allowed to fall back against the railings. I did a temporary fix for the problem but I could use a helper to install a safety chain on the iron bridge.



Track Superintendent

By Pete Arney

Despite very changeable weather this past month, track maintenance and upgrade continues.



Steaming water is now available at Hillview. Two water faucets have been installed, one at each end of the center track, on a new water line extended from the Midway water tower. This will compliment steaming water sources already in place at Midway, Oasis, and the passenger station. Thanks to Lee Frechette, Lee's brother-in-law Keith Gockel, and Will Jordan for their efforts.

Keith Berry is continuing to keep busy by replacing ties where needed. The past few weeks he has spent time on the Riverview track from the park gate to just east of the new steel rail installed earlier this year, the main line north of Twin Bridges, and the track in the park between the upper/lower yard switch and the passenger station track 1-2 switch.

All new and replacement rail installations are using rail joiner bars instead of the Spall-type joiners. The bars are being fabricated by Dick Esselbach and Jack Friedman.

Karle Mahler is doing a great job of machining and installing switch rail points out of steel rail. The immediate goal is to manufacture twelve sets of points for replacement of existing poor quality points. He is using a design developed by Al Shelley and Ross Crawford. Karle continues to refine the design to improve the operation and has completed or is in the process of upgrading several switches.

Milon Thorley has volunteered to replace the remote switch throw at the north end of Box Car yard. The current wood post is rotted. Milon will install a new steel post and cast metal operating mechanism. Milon will also arrange for the delivery of more

Continued on page 6

Track report - continued

serpentine road base for use as ballast.

As soon as weather permits, a solution of linseed oil and mineral spirits will be applied to bridges and trestles.

Volunteers will be welcomed for this task.

Several areas of track have been realigned, leveled, and re ballasted: northbound main line at Hillview; northbound near Oasis from the through girder bridge over Cobble Creek south to Midway; eastbound out of Oasis prior to South Cobble Creek grade crossing; southbound in park between upper/lower yard and passenger station switches. Thanks to Keith Berry, Richard Lutrel and his nephew Jacob (plus the understanding patience of his new bride, Amy), and Michael Presson.

Earlier this year, Michael Frazier Designs became a source of donated redwood tie material. We were able to obtain enough wood to make several hundred ties. Recently, however, Mr. Frazier has begun using the wood he had been giving us in his products and will not be able to donate any more material. We continue to use our supply of ties at a fast clip, so we will need to locate a new source of material.

Shortly, the Track Superintendent's projects will be posted on the SVLS web site (click on "Projects" under "Club Information"). The information will be kept current by the web master. Special thanks to Dale King for enthusiastically offering to host and update the project page and for Dale's patience waiting for the Track Superintendent to put the project list together. Page categories will include: "In Progress projects", "Unassigned Projects", and "Long Range Projects". Everyone is welcome to choose as many tasks as they wish to do or be involved with. Let the Track Superintendent know so the task can be assigned.

The following tasks need immediate attention and are some of those that will appear on the web site:

Switches

- . Lubricate switch point slide plates and throws.
- . N Curve to park: fix main/bypass switch throw.
- . Clean rocks and debris from switch throws, frogs, guard

rails, and points.

- . NW corner box car, track to transfer table: switch points don't close, loose bar.
- . N loop switch @ mp10: add ties, slide plates, ballast.
- . Upper/lower yard switch: remove and lower hump in road base under switch.
- . Lower yard west, switch for tracks 1-2: replace defective switch points.

Right of Way

- . Hillview N switch to Memorial Grove to North Curve: realign and ballast rail
- . Meadows main & siding: fill gopher holes & ballast; remove dirt washed into track.
- . All culverts: clean out, move soil away from ends; stack rocks.
- . Passenger station lead tracks from park: replace ties, add ballast.
- . North Curve grade crossing: remove rail dips caused by vehicle traffic.
- . North Curve to park: extend (2) 4" drain pipes either side of grade; add fill to either side of grade to widen roadbed.
- . Hillview northbound, north of Twin Bridges: add fill to either side of grade to widen roadbed.
- . Riverview east cut: clean out drainage ditches either side of road bed.

Rail

- . North Curve: align track to elevate outside rail; currently 3/16" lower than inside rail on curve.
- . North past Yard Trestle, 1st curve to east: replace outside alum rail w/ steel rail from Reverso switch to 90' west.
- . Ponds crossing: straighten square rail joint east end of through girder bridge.
- . Check rail joints for correct Spall rail joiner placement.

Bridges/Trestles

- . East Hill southbound: rebuild temp bridge over irrigation trench to be permanent.
- . Apply 50/50 mixture boiled linseed oil/mineral spirits.
- . Tin Man truss bridge: replace (3) 4'-6" ties at south end; (1) 1" x 2-1/2" walk strip at north end.
- . Trestles: clean soil away from wood support pilings.

Work days are held on all Tuesdays and some Saturdays in addition to the scheduled monthly work Saturday. Contact the Track Superintendent if you would like to contribute your time and expertise to a worthwhile and important effort for the club.

Board of Directors

President: Dale Fowlar (916) 783-4351
 mailto:president@svls.org
 Vice President: Joel Corbin (916) 990-9432
 mailto:vicepresident@svls.org
 Secretary: Chris Donhost (707) 469-9039
 mailto:secretary@svls.org
 Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
 mailto:treasurer@svls.org
 Track Superintendent: Pete Arney
 (916) 988-2000 mailto:track@svls.org
 Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820
 mailto:yard@svls.org
 Trainmaster: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
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 Speical Events: Glenn Bell (916) 362-3078
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 (916) 722-8514 paulclifton@juno.com
 Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
 mailto:editor@svls.org
 Membership: Cindy Wilmunder (916) 372-2423
 Reminder - no phone calls after 9 P.M.

Please note that the auction that was to be at the spring meet will take place at the Fall Meet due to all of the activities this time. We want you to have time to run your equipment.



Putting the first track down on east side next to fence when Pear orchard was next to park. Pictured in front is Erwin Thorley, Ken Spicer & Erl Swart.

FOR SALE: Winton Mogul #8
 Contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525

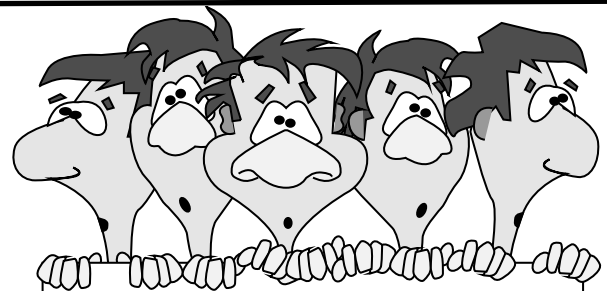


Club web update

If you have not been to the club web site www.svls.org then you should. There has been several new features and lots of information added.

One new feature is the PROJECT page. This page will list projects being worked on and projects that need a volunteer; please check this page frequently so that you can find a project that you would like to help the club with.

We will also continue to add club documents, drawings and technical information in the DOCUMENT page.



The news letter is looking for articles to publish. If you have an item of interest, a project, pictures of events or equipment please sent to the EDITOR.

editor@svls.org



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

SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

204 All engines must be run at reduced speeds in congested areas and in areas with close clearance, such as yards, stations, etc.

311 The Stationmaster and all members of the train crew of any train hauling passengers shall ascertain that all passengers are told and understand the passenger safety rules before the train leaves the station.

410 Before leaving the steaming area operation steam locomotives shall have steam pressure brought up to operating pressure, have safety valves and pressure gauges checked and operating correctly. Water gauges, cocks blown down, and have feed-water devices checked and in working order. Have whistle tested and operating properly, and have brakes checked and operating.

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