

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

June 2003

Volume 30, Issue 6

SPRING MEET

by Joel Corbin, V. P. and Meet Chairman

The Spring Meet is now fading into history but I trust it was a memorable event for all those who attended. As chairman of the event, I could not have been more pleased with the membership and their participation, the activities arranged for by so many, the involvement of all of you and verbal responses you gave me.



Milon Thorley started the day with the dedication of a new flagpole and flags that he donated to the SVLS. The flags flew throughout the meet days.

The Golden Spike Ceremony was very well attended by our membership as well as some folks who were not members. We had the participation of all of the Rancho Cordova City Council Members-Elect as well as representatives from the Cordova Park District. Lee Frechette introduced them to all. Council Member Linda Budge and Park District Administrator Jerry Steinke spoke at the ceremony and their comments were appreciated. There was even an appearance by Dale Hagan whose husband Paul Hagan was the one for whom the park is named. Dale Fowlar introduced the SVLS Directors and original event attendees. He also presented Chuck Miller with his honorary membership badge attached to his first railroad engineers hat. Several members attending the original ceremony were there and drove the spike home along with our speakers. Those folks were Milon Thorley,

Continued on page 3

The Spring Meet had 22 out of state guests. From Ohio, Virginia, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada. Thanks for comming!



30 years later, original steam engines meet again.



Original Club members (left to right): Milon Thorley, Al Shelly, Dick Esselbach, Barry Garland, and Andy Clerici.

MEMBERSHIP

By Cindy Wilmunder

WELCOME new members

Marilyn Bruner	Palo Alto
Svend "Skip" Nance	Orangevale
Rimothy Rittgers	Sacramento
Chuck Miller	Folsom

We look forward to seeing you at the track.

THANKS from the editor

Special thanks to Dan Morris and Hans Feickert for event pictures added to our web site of the Spring meet, and Chuck Miller and Hans Feickert for pictures used in this issue.

CALENDAR

- June 19 Train Mountain Ramble (South to North)
- June 20 General Membership Meeting
- June 21 Club Work Day
- June 22 Club Run Day
- June 30 Train Mountain Ramble (North to South)
- June 30 Newsletter deadline
- July 4-5 Club Run day (Public 12 to 4)
& SVLS float in 4th of July parade.
- July 7 Board Meeting
- July 10 Garden Railroad Society Picnic
- July 18 General Membership Meeting
- July 19 Club Work Day
- July 31 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.

How will you help your club this month?

The Golden Spike is the published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The club track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: editor@svls.org

Summer Nights

With the month of June comes the summer heat, warm evenings with the cool delta breeze and long days that stay light past 9:00 PM; a perfect time to come down to the track and enjoy a BBQ, listen to the birds sing, visit with friends and build a float.

That's right, build a 4th of July parade float. This year we're reviving an SVLS tradition of participating in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July parade. The last time SVLS participated in the parade we won the Grand Marshals trophy for best float. This year we're out to do it gain. Every Tuesday night in June and the first Tuesday night in July SVLS members and friends are invited to come down to the track and help build our 2003 parade float.

We will have the BBQ fired-up, you bring your own fixings and we'll enjoy fellowship and build our entry in this year's 4th of July Parade. This promises to be a fun time for young and old alike. We need everyone's help. So bring your ideas, your talents and share in the fun.

For more information contact Lee Frechette at (916) 481-2820



CABOOSE notes:

I would like to thank Barbara Moser, Marilyn Drews, Clio Geyer, Milon Thorley, Alison Berry, Veronica & Dale Taylor. For a great job helping in the Caboose at the spring meet. I hope everyone enjoyed everything.
Lois

Comments from visitors

A big thank you to all those at SVLS for putting on another outstanding meet! The evening meal on Saturday was outstanding and very delicious. It's definitely worth the trip.

.....From Lake Stevens, WA

Dan Morris

SPRING MEET CELEBRATES HISTORY, LONG FRIENDSHIPS continued

Barry Garland, Dick Esselbach, Al Shelly and Andy Clerici. Milon brought his engine as he did 30 years ago and Ken Spicer's engine was brought by current owner Fred Hartwell, Jr. so the occasion was complete. Milon took his oil can out of storage and dispensed chocolate milk from it for the toast at the end of the program. All of this took place on a platform with the club banner, red, white & blue bunting and our recently received Outstanding Organization award displayed prominently.

Attendees came from Washington, Oregon, Nevada and all over California. There were at least fifty locomotives, including steam, diesel, electric and some beyond explanation. Handcars were used by some younger folk. There was so much equipment arriving on Saturday that Ross Crawford was ready to tear his hair out while finding a place for everyone. As

one engine went out on to the mainline, another used the space to get ready. In spite of this, we know of no "personality conflicts." You are to be congratulated! We discovered our need for more air lines and electrical outlets so this will be the next yard master project. Still, everything worked to get equipment running. Pete Arney is to be congratulated for the fine track condition and Lee Frechette for the yard condition but they both actually helped each other prepare the place on a daily basis.

Saturday afternoon we had a successful children's raffle and adult raffle with prizes supplied by SVLS and many dealers around the Sacramento area who donated gift certificates, prizes from their stock and checks which were used to purchase more prizes. A beef and chicken banquet followed. Much of the success of the raffle and banquet was due to the efforts of

Paul and Lois Clifton. The caboose food line was working all day and Lois along with Barb Moser and "Breakfast Marilyn" Drewes are to be credited with the success of this effort. Marilyn almost sold us out of SVLS shirts!

In addition to the things mentioned above, during the entire meet we all had a great time just running engines and riding trains. Several vendors shared their knowledge and wares with us as well.

No one can handle an event like this without the help of many people. This certainly was the case this time as always. The folks who helped did not do just one thing, they did several different things and worked numerous hours to make the meet a success. These things involved the raffle, the food preparation, yard preparation, track work, cleaning the place, coming each week to do odd jobs, etc. It is difficult to mention all the people and forgive me if I miss you but the workers include: Lee Freschette, Pete Arney, Paul Clifton, Lois Clifton, Marilyn Drewes, Milton Thorley, Ross Crawford, Dick Esselbach, Keith Berry, Jack Friedman, Vern Geyer, Clio Geyer, Richard Lutrel, Gordon Moser, Barbara Moser, Veronica Taylor, Bill Yoder, Hans Feickert and others.

I feel that this meet is one to be remembered for a long time. I certainly will, and it is all due to you, the Live Steam community, the greatest bunch of folks I have ever been associated with.

Comments from visitors

Sacramento Valley Live Steamers at this past weekend's Spring meet achieved their 30th anniversary as a club, for this we wish our friends a special congratulations! We appreciate their friendship and wish them well for the future. Saturday May 17th, the SVLS demonstrated how they could be a fine host to the 20 or so of the Golden Gate Live Steamers members who made it to their Spring Meet. We truly had a great time, enjoyed the food and the operation on their track! We hope we can return the friendship and camaraderie.

It must be noted and particularly applauded that SVLS Achieved the honor of being recognized by the California Association of Parks & Recreation an Outstanding Organization for 2002, providing a special service to their community. This type of service to the community is exactly the type of ambassadorship that keeps our hobby vital and growing. For this we the Golden Gate Live Steamers salute you!

Ken Brunskill, President
Golden Gate Live Steamers

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dale Fowlar

I want to take this opportunity to thank Vice President Joel Corbin for the wonderful Spring Meet and a very thoughtful 30th Golden Spike Reenactment! The presentation was notable by the presence of several older members and the two locomotives that had all attended the original ceremony so many years ago. Sharing this milestone with us were Jerry Steinke, the current Director of Cordova Recreation and Parks District and several of the Park staff and the entire City Council of the new City of Rancho Cordova. We can be very proud that the local governmental leadership considers us so great an asset to the community.

I also want to personally extend my thank the following people for their leadership and participation; Lee Frechette for his untiring efforts in preparation for the Meet as well as the construction of the Golden Spike podium. Pete Arney for the same, and for all the excellent track work he has provided as well. Chris Donhost for doing the research and making arrangements with Fred and Joel Hartwell to have Ken Spicer's old engine present at the Golden Spike Ceremony. A Special thanks to Fred and Joel Hartwell as well for preparing and bringing the old engine, and Milon Thorley for all his work at the track and for resurrecting his old 4-4-0 for the Golden Spike Ceremony. Paul and Lois Clifton for rounding up all the food for the various events and of course manning the Caboose Kitchen, and preparing the various flyers and printed programs. Marilyn Drewes and Norinne Murphy, Vern & Clio Geyer, and Gordon & Barbara Moser for their work in the Caboose and for other duties they performed around the site as well. Hans Feickert, Bill Yoder, and Webmaster Dale King for their behind the scenes efforts in the area of publicity. Keith Berry for his continuing track work and weed control efforts. Butch Floyd, Les and Cindy Wilmunder, and Don Hyberg for their work at the passenger station. Mike Presson for helping the Hartwells transport Spicer's engine out to the Spike site. These are only the ones I know about. I am sure there are many others who

deserve our thanks. If I missed anyone I apologize, there was just so much going on!

We had another notable visitor... On Memorial Day a very pleasant couple asked to look around our facility and I had the pleasure of talking with them for some time. As the conversation went on it became apparent that the lady, whose name is Betty, was very knowledgeable about rail-related issues Statewide. She indicated that she currently works with the California State Senate Transportation Committee. At that point I offered to take them on a train ride around the facility. I concluded by offering to mail the couple one of our videotapes as a memento, and to further explain our operation. Betty gave me her business card and I was dumbfounded when I saw her title. Betty is none other than Betty Karnette... State Senator from Long Beach, Chairman of the California State Transportation Committee. She invited me to swing by her office with the tape, which of course I did, and she was gracious enough not only to visit with myself and Lorra, but she also took us next door and introduced us to Rusti Grandinetti, Executive Assistant to our local Senator Rico Oller. Rusti indicated that Mr. Oller's office is very interested in seeing our videotape as well. So there you have it. As the saying goes, "You never know when you are in the presence of angels!" Happy Steaming this Summer!



The toast to our celebration of the golden spike ceremony.

4TH & 5TH OF JULY Mini- Meet

If you've never been at Hagan park on the fourth of July then you've missed a really great celebration. Rancho Cordova hosts one of the biggest fireworks shows in Sacramento County and SVLS has the best seat in the park for viewing them. With that in mind and the fact that we're running on both the 4th and 5th were inviting everyone to come down to the track for a mini meet. The SVLS track and grounds will be open for train unloading and camping starting Thursday July 3rd through Sunday July 6th. Come on down to the track early, beat the crowds and the traffic, and enjoy a relaxing day of trains and Independence Day festivities. The large BBQ will be fired-up for a no host BBQ potluck, so bring your favorite meat and if you like, a side dish to share. We'll have a great meal and the best viewing location in the park for the fireworks show. The track will be open for night running Friday and Saturday night (please no horns or whistles after 11:00 PM Friday night or 10:00 PM Saturday night).

If you plan to come Saturday morning remember that Chase Drive will be closed from 9:00 am till noon for the July 4th parade. To be on the safe side plan on arriving at the track by 8:45 am or after 12:15 pm. When you arrive at the park gate tell the attendant that you're with the live steamers and you won't have to pay the admission fee. On your way back to the track, if one of the parking monitors directs you to one of the side lots, tell him you're with the live steamers. We will have plenty of reserved parking for all our members and guests. If you plan on camping at the track you may want to arrive Thursday and beat all the congestion.

All members of the live steam fraternity as well as all railroaders are invited to attend. We are extending a special invitation to the members of Golden Gate

Live Steamers (GGLS) to join us for the July 4th mini-meet. We hope this will rekindle an old tradition when every year we would hold a joint meeting with GGLS. With the three day weekend starting on Friday and the ability to camp at the track, we hope that members and non-members alike who would not normally be able to make it down to the track for the 4th will take advantage of this opportunity and join us for the July 4th mini-meet.

For more information or help in planing to attend contact Lee Frechette at (916) 481-2820

Trainmasters Report

By Ross Crawford

Well I hope all you rail-roaders had a good run at the May Meet. The system was really crowded and I for one did not run but all of the guest did and they should come first.



Work on our GP40 is stalled due to rebuilding of the engineers riding car on the yellow train. The front truck was unsafe.

Don Juergenson has finished the final drive gearboxes and now I have to install the wheels.

The new Juergenson Bonillie riding car # 2003 is getting a good reception.

Milon gave me a handrail stanchion to replace the broken one on the SW1500. Maybe Friedman will replace it.

The GP40 fuel & air tanks need a trial assembly to the engine to see if they fit. Also some cosmetics work needs to be done after that.

Rich Lutrel has volunteered to gas all the locomotives each week so we will not have future fuel problems on the road.



Milon Thorley raising the flag on the clubs new flag pole which was donated to the club by Milon.



Council Member Linda Budge speaking at ceremony.



Park District Administrator Jerry Steinke also spoke at the ceremony.



Allen Shelley driving the golden spike while Joel Corbin watches the action.



The engines meet again to celebrate the club and its accomplishments during the last 30 years.



Dale Fowlar, president of SVLS, presenting Chuck Miller with his honorary membership badge attached to his first railroad engineer's hat.



Barry Garland, an original member, ready to hit the golden spike for the club.



Andy Clerici, another original member, driving the spike into the tie.



Milon Thorley with oil can in hand ready to pour chocolate milk for the celebration toast.

Track Superintendent

by Pete Arney



The Track Superintendent's projects are now posted on the SVLS web site (click on "Projects" under "Club Information"). The information will be kept current by the web master. Paper copies are available from the Track Superintendent. 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.

Feedback from members is important and welcomed. Suggestions and/or areas of track that members feel need attention should be forwarded to the Track Superintendent. SVLS web site Track Superintendent E-mail is checked daily and is the preferred choice, but feel free to call 916-988-2000 and report directly.

The upper/lower yard remote switch throw in the park area was broken by vandals. The repair required removing the remote pipe assembly and fabricating a new throw mechanism at the switch. A new heavy-duty box was installed to surround the remote throw.

June projects:

- Linseed oil and mineral spirits will be applied to bridges and trestles.
- Weed control along the right-of-way will be on going. Lee Frechette will supervise the Sheriff's weekend work crew application of Roundup.
- Track work will include rebuilding the switch at box car yard to the Sugar Pine loop, reducing the super elevation at the north curve inbound to Oasis, and alignment/ballasting of Memorial Grove curve between Hillview outbound and North Curve.
- Completion of the installation of our new phone line into the caboos. Currently, the new number (361-7140) appears in the roundhouse. A trench has been excavated and conduit will be placed to complete the project. The transfer table will not be available until the

trenching has been completed. Thanks to Lee Frechette, Bill Yoder, and Richard Lutrel for their help digging the trench.

Keith Berry replaced dozens of ties on the inbound passenger station tracks prior to the spring meet. Track 2 was leveled and reballasted as well. Several dozen ties were replaced between the Meadows girder bridge and the lower yard switch. Thanks to Rich Lutrel for helping too. The club gave rides to hundreds during the spring meet public runs without incident.

During the last week in May, the track was visited by Jeff Smith, owner of Branchline Products (www.hollyhockfarms.com/branchline) located in Colorado. Jeff's firm makes detail parts for 1-1/2" scale narrow gauge rolling stock that run on 4-3/4" gauge track. He models D&RGW, C&S, and RGS equipment. Good use for our 4-3/4" track and an alternative to the larger 2-1/2" scale narrow gauge models running on the 7-1/2" track for narrow gauge enthusiasts like the Track Superintendent.

Enough 2-inch wood stock was salvaged from a pile of deteriorating wood that was located along the east fence in the RV area to make about 200 ties. Thanks to Ross Crawford for acquiring a chop saw and to Chuck Miller for a saw blade to cut the wood into tie lengths.

Because of the high volume of track work that has taken place since the first of the year, we are running short of tie material and serpentine ballast. New sources will soon have to be developed. Tie material, ideally, will be extruded plastic. Plastic will provide an unlimited life for severe track locations, particularly in the park area. Wood will still continue to be used for replacements and sidings. We are out of serpentine ballast material, used since the beginning of our club. Milon Thorley may be able to arrange for a donation from El Dorado county but future deliveries of serpentine may be in doubt based on new state regulations.

The passenger station track will need to be replaced.

Track report - continued on page 9

Board of Directors

President: Dale Fowlar (916) 962-0718
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 Vice President: Joel Corbin (916) 990-9432
 mailto:vicepresident@svls.org
 Secretary: Chris Donhost (707) 469-9039
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 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
 Speical Events: Glenn Bell (916) 362-3078
 mailto:event@svls.org
 Caboose Operations: Paul Clifton
 (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 PM

SECRETARY REPORT

by Chris Donhost

May 5th Board Meeting

- Track tasks to be completed are now listed on the club web site.
 - The club has acquired a 4x6 trailer, donated by Lee's Sister & brother-in-law.
 - All the journals are done on the GP-38.
 - All spring meet duties have been covered except station help.
 - The idea of only running public on Sunday for the 2004 meets was favorably discussed.
- The following motions were passed:
- A phone line will be installed that can be used for an alarm line.
 - All future tie purchases must be plastic ties.
 - Chuck Miller Granted Honorary Membership.
 - SVLS will throw annual Park thank You lunch in June.

May 16th General Meeting

- The spike ceremony will be at 10:30, Mrs. Hagan is expected to attend & the entire event is to be covered by Channel 13.
- The auction was postponed because of too many things to do and not enough donations.
- Name badges need to be put off a little longer due to Dale's move.
- Milon to donate his flag pole at 8 am Saturday.



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

ON-LINE DIESEL DISCUSSION GROUP

by Matt Schroedle

To all the club members who have a diesel locomotive or are interested in diesels. I started a group on yahoo called livediesel. My intention was to gain and share information about 1.5/1.6 scale diesels. The group focuses on the maintenance and building of diesels and rolling stock. This group is open to anyone and can be found at www.groups.yahoo.com. You can then use the search feature and type in livediesel. We are 128 members strong and welcome any new members to the group. Thanks and enjoy.

FOR SALE: Winton Mogul #8

Contact Marilyn Drewes (916) 725-3525



Track report - continued

This project could be done after the regular run season at the end of the year. Replacement will be dependent upon budget and upon station location, to be decided. Existing track would be removed and replaced with new base, ties, and steel rail. Concrete will replace the present gravel platform.

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.



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

SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH



205 Any engine following another train must keep at least seventy-five (75) feet behind the train ahead.

301 The chief concern of all operating personnel shall be the safety of visitors, guest, and members of the club.

413 All locomotives or engineers' riding cars shall have braking devices that can be activated easily and quickly by the engineer. Such breaking devices shall have the ower to slow and stop the entire train within a reasonable distance, depending on the weight and speed of the train.

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