

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

July 2003

Volume 30, Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dale Fowler

2003 West Coast Ramble

The 2003 Ramble has come and gone and was notable in that there were actually two rambles ... a South to North, starting from Maricopa, and a North to South starting at Train Mountain. The first ramble made its way from Arizona in time for the big Summer Meet at Train Mountain. The second was more of a return after the T.M. meet. I understand that several of the South to North ramblers continued on north for the big 4th of July weekend meet at Burnaby British Columbia near Vancouver. You might wonder why July 4th in Canada. Well, it is the 75th anniversary celebration for the British Columbia Society of Model Engineers, a wonderful club and a great organization.

Getting back to our own rambles, both mid-week events went very well. Ross Crawford, Karle Mahler and several others spent the evening prior to the first run day down at the park having a picnic, while waiting to greet those ramblers who had "portable" accommodations. The next day yours truly was privileged to be on site to help with unloading and to get the coffee going. (not necessarily in that order) SVLS had a surprisingly good midweek turnout of about a dozen members to help entertain some 20 ramblers, their guests, and a good number of the public as well who noticed "something different" going on at the track. Some beautiful equipment was in operation for several hours, not the least of which were several guest steamers.

Keith McDonald, John Payne and Ian McDonald, three delightful amigos from England sporting white ten gallon hats, displayed two of their prototype production model diesel locomotives. Their F7 was

Continued on page 2



Warren Peterson and son Wesley - Victorville, CA



F7 from England - see article at left.



Yard work never done: Richard and Lee cleaning up debris from a fallen tree which was a conjoined Parapagus twins of the one still standing - for now.

CALENDAR

July 18 General Membership Meeting
 July 19 Club Work Day
 July 20 Run Day
 July 21 *News letter deadline

Aug 2 Run Day
 Aug 4 Board Meeting
 Aug 15 General Membership Meeting
 Hot August **Night Run**
 Aug 16 Club Work Day
 Aug 17 Run Day
 Aug 18 *News letter deadline

Sep 1 Run Day
 Sep 1 Board Meeting
 Sep 19 General Membership Meeting
 Sep 20 Club Work Day
 Sep 21 Run Day
 Sep 22 *News letter 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?

*Note: New letter deadline for articles will now be the Monday following the general meeting.

CABOOSE notes:

I would like to thank Barbara Moser and Clio Geyer for all their help with the Ramble Dinner. Everything went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the food. Thanks again girls, without you I couldn't have done it.

Lois

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

specially impressive. Four steamers were on the track at once with the Club steamer, the Kieth's big Hudson, the Pinewood prairie, and the Nevada Western ten wheeler#40 all putting on quite a show. Some 75 people in all attended the run. We closed out the day with Paul & Lois Clifton serving up a very tasty pasta and greens dinner.

The official greeter for the second ramble was Jack Friedman who jumped in the evening before and made sure the troops were bedded down. The actual Ramble day shaped up to be a surprise "diesel" day. Hood and cowl units of many descriptions were unloaded one after the other. Trailing the engines was some of the finest rolling stock I have ever seen. Dale King was right at home among the burbling procession. Things went along in a very orderly fashion until the bright idea was proposed to run "bi-directional." This is where it really got fun. They handed out CB radios to each of the crews, held a pow wow, and started running. A dispatcher and a couple of switch tenders were assigned to avoid cornfield meets and there you had it! An afternoon of light confusion and ear to ear grins. At one point Dale King had to help unravel what appeared to be the railroad equivalent of a double slip knot near Reverso Station, but everyone came up all smiles. And so it went with only a short pause for lunch. If you ever get a chance to make a ramble ... GO!



Richard Lutrel a UP Conductor helping the club with mowing - a task needed each week.

4TH & 5TH OF JULY Mini-Meet



Paul with the club steamer now in use on the tracks after being used on the SVLS float in the Rancho Cordova parade.



Will pulling a load of passengers out from the station on July 4th.



Casey Wilmunder watching Red Hadler getting his steamer dusted off and steamed up after a couple of years of sitting.



SVLS members with campers and members from Golden Gate Live steamers and other guess were present at the Mini-Meet.



Good friends, good food, and nice weather made for a very pleasant Mini-Meet. Thanks to all who helped with the event.

Ramble South to North



Jim & Dorothy Kieth - Cincinnati - Hudson
4-6-4 #305



Lutz Braun & guest
Franklin, TN – 2-6-2 Pinewood Valley Lumber #45



Hank & Faye Roberts - Stone Mt. Georgia – RGS
Goose #6
Hank was here in 1999 & can't believe the size of the expansion area and the size of the trees. Remarked what beautiful grounds we have.



Warren Peterson and son Wesley - Victorville, CA
Riverside LS. – Nevada Western #40 10 wheeler.



Keith McDonald, John Payne, Ian McDonald - England & Canada
F7 production diesel (electric with sound, awesome!) also production diesel industrial switcher.
Express Locos of England/Canada
see www.expresslocos.com for ready to roll diesels



Lunch - time to visit with friends.

Ramble North to South



Steve & Donna Kendrick and kids Darby & Meegan - Bakersfield



Dave Dull and Ron Atkinson – Chula Vista - Fairbanks Morse “Virginian”



Rory Hawkins - LALS – S-12 powered cow and calf in Rio Grande colors



Dave Dull and Ron Atkinson – Chula Vista - Fairbanks Morse “Virginian”

Mel Breeze – LALS – SW1200 in Santa Fe colors in background

Special thanks to the following SVLS members for supporting the 2003 Rambles:

Ross Crawford, Jack Friedman, Paul & Lois Clifton, Vern & Clio Geyer, Karle Mahler, Milon Thorley, Dick Esselbach, Marilyn Drewes, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Dale & Lorra Fowlar, Joel Corbin. Bill Yoder, Dale & Alison King, and Rich Lutrel. I know there were others. THANKS TO ALL. - Dale Fowlar

Trainmasters

Report

By Ross Crawford



I have been to the LALS meet and GGLS meet and the little switcher is running so so.

While at LALS I attended a seminar on water treatment and got a copy of their revised LALS wheel practices.

I was allowed to test run the new electric engine that LALS is going to build for hauling the public. I ran a couple of Rail Systems diesel switchers and learned of a modification to the forward/reverse shuttle valve which will allow our SW1500 to start more smoothly.

I will be going with the northbound “Ramble” to Train Mountain, Medford Oregon, Port Orchard WA, Saanich and Burnaby BC.. Hopefully, I can keep the switcher running till I get back. It needs some valve repairs.

Milon is finishing up the GP40 fuel tanks so they can be easily installed after painting.

I promise to work on the GP40 when I get back or I may finish work on the front truck of the yellow train first.

Track Superintendent

by Pete Arney



Check the SVLS Web site for current and future tasks and projects (click on "Projects" under "Club Information"). Hard copies are available upon request. Feedback and volunteer help 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 email is checked daily and is the preferred choice, but feel free to call 916-988-2000 and report directly.

A new phone line has been installed into the caboose: (916) 361-7140. Thanks to Bill Yoder for donating a telephone set and announcement device and to Vern Geyer for furnishing the telephone wire pulled in from the Roundhouse to the Caboose. Thanks to both for helping to install the wire and telephone equipment.

July tasks:

- Ongoing track work (see below).
- Linseed oil and mineral spirits will be applied to bridges and trestles.
- Weed control has been completed along all of the right-of-way. Spot control will continue throughout July and the rest of the year.

Ongoing track work includes rebuilding the switch at box car yard to the Sugar Pine loop; reducing the super elevation at the north curve inbound to Oasis; tie replacement and ballasting of the three tracks in the Addition north area at Memorial Grove curve, outbound from the box car, inbound to Oasis. Thanks to Richard Lutrel and his nephew Jacob for their help during the hot days of June.

The summer heat is again causing kinks in the aluminum rail. Regapping the rail is ongoing. Several locations having problems have been corrected, notably in the north Addition area and at the passenger

station. Where steel rail has recently been installed, the issue is less severe.

Milon Thorley was able to obtain a donation of 25 tons of track AB ballast from Sierra Rock in Placerville. Recently, 3/8" crushed rock has been added to the standard for reballasting. The AB ballast is tamped and compacted along the outside of the track and the 3/8" crushed rock tamped in the center between the rails. The combination provides a stable yet well drained roadbase.

While steel rail and plastic ties continue to be the track material of choice, budget constraints dictate the continued use of wood ties. However, wood tie material is running short due to the high volume of track work that has taken place since the first of the year. Another plastic lumber supplier, Plastic Wood Depot in Montreal, Canada, has been identified by Bill Yoder as an economical supplier of tie material. The company will be supplying quotes for SVLS consideration. While material prices are usually acceptable, shipping the material is typically expensive.

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.



Lee Frechette on one of many his work days installing the new power conduits and wires.

Board of Directors

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 Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820
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 mailto:editor@svls.org
 Membership: Cindy Wilmunder (916) 372-2423
Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

SPIKE editor request ideas for articles.
 I am also looking for members that would like to
 spotlight their projects - in progress or finished.

Please call or email the editor.
 Thanks.

Thanks to Hans Feickert, Dale Fowlar, and Bill Yoder for sending photos used in this newsletter.
the editor.

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



SECRETARY REPORT

by Chris Donhost

June Board Meeting

- Board approved \$400.00 for the Park thank you dinner to be held June 12th.
- Board approved \$100.00 to throw a spaghetti feed for the ramble June 19th & 30th
- Lee hit the 220 line while trenching another project, repairs estimated to be \$1500 - \$2000.; Board approved \$500.00 for repair, balance to be paid for by members donations.
- Lee to head passenger station committee; Paul to head feasibility study of a railcar donation.
- SVLS to host a "Mini-Meet" July 4,5 & 6. GGLS to be our special guests. Campers welcome.

June General Meeting

- Letter from Judy Gramith was read to the membership regarding her experience at the Spring Meet.
- New badges are available
- The current rule in our rule book stands, gondolas are not to be used for public trains.
- SVLS will be participating in the 4th of July parade, remember to arrive before Chase Dr. closes at 9 a.m.
- The following is planned for the 4th of July: SVLS will be selling bottled water; clowns will be doing balloons and entertainment for kids at our station, a band will be playing.
- The incomplete budget was discussed at great length. (see minutes for details)
- Motion passed for the Board to publish the 2003 budget immediately following the August Board Meeting

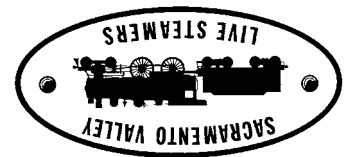
SVLS web site receives nice comments.
 Mr. & Mrs. King:

What a wonderful website! I do believe that it is the absolute easiest to operate that I have seen. Well, I just thought I would send you a positive note. Anymore, the only time people write in is to complain or berate. I think it is just as good to tell someone that things are good.

Rich Hayes, Iowa Model Steam Engineers



Please check the club web site www.svls.org for current information on club activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group. www.groups.yahoo.com.



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