

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

JULY 2004

Volume 31, Issue 07



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

In 1973 our track was built in Hagan Community Park by and for the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. Two of the people responsible for the construction and material purchases for the project were Ed Yungling and Al Shelley. Although I moved away for some years before coming back in 2000, I was here from 1973 until 1977 and worked with these two guys on a number of projects.

When the new roster was distributed recently, I realized that there was an oversight being continued by the SVLS. It is for this reason I recommended to the Board at the June meeting that this be corrected. The Board unanimously agreed.

I am proud to announce that, as a result of the vote by the Board of Directors, Ed Yungling and Al Shelley have been appointed Life Members of the SVLS. On behalf of the entire organization, I would like to thank both men for their many contributions over the years. Without them and the others who were there at the start, we would not have what we have today and the SVLS would not even exist. When you see each man, shake their hand and say thanks for everything they have done.

By Joel Corbin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

BY-LAW CHANGE

At the June General Membership Meeting, proposed by-laws were presented and discussed. This set follows a thorough review and attempt to eliminate conflicting language and missing parts. (For example, we have elected Life Members when our current by-laws do not call for this type of status.) The revised by-law submission is on the web site. Please review the suggested form and ask question of a Board member if you have them. If the person you ask does not have the answer, they will submit the question to the By-law Committee for an answer. The vote on the changes will be held at the July General Membership Meeting. We trust you will vote for these long needed and overdue changes.

Continued on page 3

CALENDAR

- July 3 & 4 4th Mini Meet - Bring your train
Public rides noon to 4 each day
Parade on the 3rd and lots of activity in the park
both days - come join in the fun
- July 8 Board Meeting 6:30 at Caboose
- July 16 General Membership Meeting
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room
- July 17 Work day - all members invited
- July 18 Run day (public rides noon to 4)
- July 19 News letter deadline
-
- Aug 7 Run Day (public rides noon to 4)
- Aug 12 Board Meeting 6:30 at Caboose
- Aug 20 General Membership Meeting
7:30 Hagan Park meeting room
- Aug 21 Work day - all members invited
- Aug 22 Run day (public rides noon to 4)
- Aug 23 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?

The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Corporation is organized and operated exclusively for public benefit charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donors may deduct contributions to The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Corporation to the fullest extent allowed by law as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Lorra Fowlar

NEW MEMBER

David August
Associate Member from Monterey CA
Dave runs a 4-4-0 American locomotive.

Renewed for 2004

Curtis Bonville	Regular Member
Dale Taylor	Associate Member
William Hoey	Associate Member

Welcome All



THANK YOU

Paul And I would Like to thank everyone who helped out in the caboose during the Spring Meet you did a wonderful job. Matt Hall & friend for the great cooking.

Barb Moser, Anna Sacks, Mary Neville, Barbara Rohrs.thanks for the terrific lunches. Marilyn Drewes and her wonderful crew Cleo Geyer, Norrinne Murphy, thanks for the great breakfasts. Also I can't forget Barb Moser, Barb & Tony Rohrs for helping Friday night with setup.

I know I forgot one lady who helped with breakfast but I am sorry I didn't get your name. I believe she was a new member please let me know who you are so you can be reconized. If I have forgotten any one else please let me know who you are.

Thank you all once again for all you help we couldn't have done it without you.

Lois

President report - continued from page 1

AT THE BOARD MEETING

Even though the by-laws have not yet been changed, we voted Life Memberships (which are in the suggested by-laws) for Ed Yungling and Al Shelley. The vote was unanimous and we are happy that this vote took place for proper recognition of long time members.

The Master Planning Committee has met and has decided on their statement of purpose as well as reviewing the status of the track and landscaping. Administratively, this is a positive step that has been suggested for several years and is now fully functioning. Remember, if you have a change to suggest, get an FCR form on the website or from a committee member and submit it to the MPC for review. Whether they agree or not, the idea will be submitted the Board for consideration and vote. To avoid chaos, every change to the facility must have a Board approved FCR.

SAFETY RULE CHANGE

At the June membership meeting, a motion was presented as announced at the May meeting, concerning the length of public hauling trains. The rules were changed to allow for seven (7) cars instead of three (3) without brakes for public hauling trains. This is to be done at the discretion of the Train Master and only when safe. In other words, if there is one train, seven cars may be acceptable but during a meet with lots of trains, it may be inappropriate. There was a split vote on this issue but the motion carried with the approval.

HANDICAPPED MEET

We are getting closer to a Handicapped Meet in September. If you know and individual or company that would like to contribute to this worthy cause, or if you wish to do so, let us know...or even better, let the business people know we will be happy to receive their donation.

ROLLING STOCK & SPECIAL RUN DAYS

Ross Crawford should be commended for



June 4th Run Day. A crowd waits for a ride while others are being pulled by Dale Dennis and Vern is running his trolley.

focusing on getting all of our rolling stock in running order for all of our activities. Red Hadler has done this on the steam engine as well. Thanks to all of you guys.

Ross wears two hats. If you want to have a school party or a special party run day, be sure you are on the schedule. Ross handles the calendar and you must call him to get on it. Before you call him, check the website for the Special Runs calendar to see if anyone scheduled their party on the day you want. Bill Yoder has helped to get his up and running and Ross updates it weekly. So far, things have been going very smoothly with this plan.

OTHER BRIEF COMMENTS

Marilyn Drewes has purchased some new polo shirts that are lighter weight, have a pocket as well as the embroidered logo. Be sure to see Marilyn and get yours.

When you work out at the track, be sure your name goes on the list of workers. We will give recognition in this newsletter to those who build and maintain the place.

Memorial trees of the same variety will be planted, side by side, in memory of Dick and Lori Esselbach.

Track Superintendent Les Wilmunder is installing 350 feet of steel rail to upgrade the track. It won't be too long before the entire railroad has steel rail.

If you are running an SVLS trains or riding on them and notice a defect or even something of possible concern, be sure to tell Train Master Ross Crawford. He does not know what to check unless he is notified of a problem. We all must do this for safety and for proper maintenance.

We have received some complaints about non-locomotive equipment running on our track (bicycle type, etc.). How do you feel about this kind of thing? Let a Board member know. Safety issues? Appearance of a railroad? Hazards? Okay for young people? Etc.?

Karle Mahler, Ed Yungling, Red Hadler, and Ross Crawford presented their current projects during the Show and Tell time at the June meeting. This was great! Remember to bring your projects next time. Bill Yoder had a very fine video of the Spring Meet trains at the meeting. Thanks for all of your participation. This is what we are all about.

Dick Esselbach memorial service at the SVLS track - June 7, 2004

Brian Esselbach spoke about his father and how much he enjoyed the trains and friends at SVLS.



SVLS members remembered Dick with a special service planned in concert with his family.

Dick honored SVLS members several years ago when he wrote the letter which is copied on page 5.



At the request of his family, and in honor of his love of steam trains, Dick rode with family and friends one more time behind the SVLS steamer. An old Union Pacific Railroad oil can, part of Dick's prized collection of railroad items, was chosen to carry this final remains.



Dear fellow members,
 When I heard a steam whistle
 near my house one afternoon
 and tracked it down to the
 park, little did I know

that it would change the lives of my wife, Lori,
 and myself. As newcomers to the area we knew
 few people, but we soon became involved in a great
 adventure. That was 27 years ago and the wonderful people
 in the Club have helped me through the death of my Darling
 Lori and some other sad events. Also many joyous ones.
 Ten years ago they surprised me on my 70th birthday and
 Saturday March 27th, arranged by daughter Peggy, they
 did it again, in spades. This huge crowd of people, at the
 park, all grinning, as I fell apart with emotion. How
 can I ever thank them? Some had come long distances,
 Madera, Reno and my own family from San Diego, Seattle
 and Hawaii. Well I'm still in a bit of shock. You
 newcomers to the Club - If you will put a bit of
 your self and a little time into it, I assure you it
 will come back in many ways and many fold. All
 I can say in ending this, is

THANKS!

Sincerely,
 Dick Esselbach

In reading this over I realize how inadequate it is. Best I can do.

Trainmaster Report

By Ross Crawford



GP40 update:

Karle Mahler has repaired the handrails for the GP40 and Marilyn Drewes will install and paint them.

I had added a dip stick removal hole in the GP40 body so we can check the oil without removing the body. A pull ring to the dip stick so that it can be easily removed to check the oil. The horn needs a reinforcing bracket since it is mounted to the power package and is subject to lots of vibration.

The engine could also use a gas line filter (1/4" ID gas hose).

Karle has prepared a new gangway step for crossing from one unit to another when engines are used in multiple unit (MU) service. Karle also increased the clearance between the body and the starter cables to prevent chafing of the cables.

A brace between the two dummy fuel tanks was added to reduce vibration of the tanks.

SW1500 update:

Milon Thorley is going to change the ratio of the traction motors on the SW1500 to reduce the rpm of the prime mover at track speed.

Other:

Engineers are requested to reduce speed and be especially vigilant as you approach the blind corner at "the bush" at Midway since you can never be sure that the switch is aligned in your favor. We are contemplating a signal to warn you of an open switch.

Milon Thorley has lent us a prototype bench car body for evaluate as a riding car. Thanks to Bill Yoder for loaning some trucks to help in this process. Please give me your thoughts and ideas as we want to build some new riding cars.

See me if you need spare sockets or if you have lost parts at the track.

I have started 92 day inspections on all rolling stock. Red Hadler as the Super of Motive Power (Steam) will be doing the inspection on the 1973 steam engine.

I am keeping a maintenance record book on all equipment and it

is available to anyone interested.

Red Hadler has repaired the loose throttle connection on the steam engine and has done an inspection on the tender trucks.

We are also wanting to find ways to treat our boiler water in the steam loco to extend the life of the boiler. Anyone that would like to volunteers please call me, Thanks.



The following people were out to the track to maintain and improve the SVLS facility or volunteer for run days. We hope to see everyone again next month and maybe more.

David Brenner
Patrick Brenner
Adam Ward
Marilyn Drews
Lorra Fowlar
Milon Thorley
Barb Moser
Gordon Moser
Les Wilmunder
Cindy Wilmunder
Casey Wilmunder

Butch Floyd
Jack Friedman
Rich Lutrel
Amy Lutrel
Karle Mahler
Paul Clifton
Pete Arney
Ross Crawford
Bill Yoder
Joel Corbin



NOTICE:

Hagan Park has added a gate on the road to our facility. This is by the petting barn on the dirt road. This was added to stop the public from dumping trash in and around the dumpster.

The gate must be locked when we leave our facility.

Keys are available to any member that needs one. There is a \$5. fee for the key so please see Lois to obtain one.

Vice President Report

By Pete Arney



Our web site, www.svls.org, is always changing. Our Webmaster Bill Yoder is doing wonders with the presentation of our organization as well as current information about us.

Under "SVLS Information": Click on "Track information". In addition to the SVLS track plan you will find two new entries. The first is important: a track status indicator in the form of a 3-position signal and some text alongside explaining the signal condition. When the signal is green, track is clear and available for use. When yellow, use caution; there are obstructions such as water hoses across the track. When flashing yellow, track maintenance is scheduled or underway. Slow operating speed may be required. When red, track is out of service or not available as a complete circuit, usually due to major rail replacement. If you are planning to visit the track to run equipment, be sure to check here first.

Also on the "Track information" page, Dave and Geraldine August furnished an aerial photo of the SVLS property. The photo has been positioned just below the track schematic in the same orientation as the schematic. This arrangement gives depth and meaning to an otherwise flat line.

Click on "Projects": This "Projects" page is dedicated to various and sundry tasks for our organization as well as major projects. The page is a work in progress and will be updated frequently to meet the primary goal of letting our membership know of opportunities to participate in the organization's maintenance and future plans. Suggestions for projects and tasks are welcome. Send your email to parney@pacbell.net or call 916-956-2870.

Click on "Special runs": A current schedule of our special runs and events is presented. Special runs are those SVLS does for schools, both public and private, for organizations that serve handicapped children, birthday parties for members and non-members, and for commercial organizations. The schedule tells the date and time of the event, type of organization, approximate number attending, and whether SVLS is going to operate our steam or diesel engine, or both. Contact Event Coordinator Ross Crawford (916 718-4162) to schedule a Special Run.

Be sure to check out the other pages listed under "SVLS Information" as well. All of the pages are dynamic and are updated frequently.

Under "Photos/Videos", Bill has added several short QuickTime videos of run-bys he took during the Spring Meet in addition to a full still photo presentation of both the 2003 Fall Meet and the

Continued on page 8



INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND

This is a reminder that the SVLS will have a mini-meet at the track on July 3 & 4. This will follow the Rancho Cordova Parade that we participate in each year. Les Wilmunder and his crew are working on a float for Saturday's parade and others will help at the track location.

As you know, the actual Independence Day falls on Sunday but on Saturday, July 3rd, we will be running and welcome you all out at the track with your railroad equipment. The park will have many visitors and we will have an opportunity to increase our income with donations from the activity. We need volunteers for our water and ice cream booth, as well as in the station, to add to the current list. Sunday will see a continuance of this event and dinner at the Caboose (see detail below). Fireworks will appear when it gets dark on Sunday and we have the ideal viewing location. In fact, our place within the fence shields us from the public.

Be sure to put this on your calendar and enjoy two days of railroading and celebration.

Dinner 4th July

Tri Tip Baked Potato, Corn on Cob \$5.00 Please bring a salad or dessert or call Lois (916) 722-8514 to see what is needed.

If you could RSVP that would be great!

We are going to do a COOKBOOK as a fundraiser. So please share those favorite recipes. You can e-mail them to me, bring out to the track, or mail them to me:
Lois June Clifton
6725 Auburn Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95621



VP report continued on page 7

2004 Spring Meet. A must see!!

In past newsletters, we emphasized the great turnouts we are having on our Tuesday and Saturday workdays. While our schedule shows just one Saturday workday a month, really just about every Saturday is a work day. Tuesdays are unofficial work days for those that are able to join us during a weekday. We never know who or how many will show up but there is always something to be done.

Starting in this issue, those who come to the SVLS track to help out will be thanked in a separate special column in this newsletter. We plan to have a sign up sheet prominently displayed at the track for all to put their name to when they come to donate their time. We have a large organization and we want to thank those who do contribute their time and effort to this worthy cause.

Most of us began in the hobby with a Lionel or HO train set and modeling railroads has continued throughout our lives. We eventually ended up together here, at SVLS. The main difference is that when we were through running our model HO trains, we turned off the transformer, turned off the lights, and went away. At SVLS, however, whether we are here or not, the grass keeps growing and needs cutting and watering. The trees need watering. The track right-of-way settles with the winter rains and ties rot. The buildings and bays actually weather (we don't have to use special weathering techniques) and need painting. While we strive to model the real railroads rolling stock as closely as possible, our maintenance requirements are exactly what the real railroads must do.

The SVLS Yardmaster Lee Frechette is always appreciative of volunteers who will commit to helping with the irrigation. While not difficult, watering does require a time commitment especially during the summer hot weather. Eventually, Lee plans to have our area automatically watered, but that is a year or two away. In the meantime this past year, Lee has been extending the underground high pressure water lines so that hoses don't need to be run long distances to sprinkle. A task that needs immediate attention is the repair of the old drip irrigation system. This system was put in years ago to water the trees when they were just saplings. It was been upgraded to provide overhead watering using impulse sprinklers on risers. The system has recently been connected to the high pressure water lines in order to allow for the operation of a number of sprinklers at the same time. Over the past winter, many risers have been broken and need to be replaced before we can put this system back into service. The Vice-president will help Lee, but we need additional volunteers as well. Please call or email Pete or Lee if you would like to help with this task or the ongoing irrigation, soon.

Gil Beard has donated treated hem fir ties, about (2000) 1-1/2" x 2-1/2" x 14" in size. Gil has lumber to make another 3000-4000 and can cut future ties to 16" length; was saving some lengths for #6 switches. Gil said he has more that will be donated as

time permits. Gil's donation of these quality ties will make a big difference in the maintenance of our track and the organization's budget as well.

Paul Skidmore continues with his contribution of ties as well. Paul brings a new batch of cut ties almost every time he comes to the track. So far, he has worn out several saw blades. Thanks to Tia as well for sharing Paul's time with SVLS.

Bill Son and Bob Kownacki furnished an automatic ice maker for the caboose. Along with Paul Clifton, both spent many hours and days completely refurbishing and installing the unit. The installation required cutting down the size of the unit to fit into the caboose. Also, connections to a water supply, a drain, and electrical connections were made. The ice maker is a commercial unit that provides a high output of ice. We'll never run out now, even during the hottest of summer days. Thanks much, guys.

Dale Dennis has finished installing the hot water heater donated by Paul Clifton in the restrooms. For the first time ever, in thirty-one years, hot water to wash up with. This will be especially be appreciated this winter during our work days.

Steel rail is being fabricated as welded ribbon rail and is replacing the aluminum rail on our track. The first installations are outside rails on troublesome curves. The north end of the addition in particular gets a full dose of sunlight and heat during the summer so is the primary area of improvement. Other portions of the track, however, are being upgraded as well. So far, over 1500 feet of steel rail has been laid to replace the aluminum. Thanks to Track Superintendent Les Wilmunder, Bill Yoder, Richard Lutrel, Gordon Moser, and others who have worked on this effort.

Stay in shape and come out for some worthwhile exercise. Give a call or email if you would like to become involved: 916-956-2870 or parney@pacbell.net for the VP or contact Yardmaster Lee Frechette, Track Superintendent Les Wilmunder, or Trainmaster Ross Crawford depending upon your talents that you would like to contribute.



We will be adding Bar-B-Q chicken (Skinless chicken breast) to our regular menu at the caboose as a meal deal \$4.00. Please let Lois now if there is anything else you would like to see on the menu.

Photo taken by Dave and Geraldine August. Dave takes the pictures and Geraldine flies the plane.



View from the East looking West.



View from the the South looking North

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

All members who plan to help at the station, work as trainmen or run the public will be required to take these tests. Even those members who plan to help run the public with their own equipment will be required to take the tests so that there is documentation covering their knowledge of the rules set forth in the Rules and Bylaw handbook.

There are two tests for Engineers, one for the diesel and one for steam. If you are planning to run a steam engine, you will be required to take the test for the diesel Engineer first. The diesel test follows those rules set forth in the Rules and Bylaw handbook.

The steam test was revised by Red Hadler. The steam test requires one to be knowledgeable of the operation of the steam locomotive.

If you are going to run the club equipment and have not been certified in running such then please call to get certified.

Please see Vern Geyer to set up a time to take the tests, or come out during a Run Day and take the tests. Vern can be reached via E-mail at vern78@onemain.com or call 916-645-9154 to set up a time.

For SALE:



1" scale new 60 ton steeple cab electric locomotive, two trucks, two axle motors to each truck, much THRUST. \$3250 F.O.B. The unit is patterned after a Pacific Electric 60 ton GE steeplecab. (If buyer pickup unit then batteries are included.)

OTHER items: Pacific Electric interurban, UP gondola, and 1" scale trucks.

CALL: Ray Reiff 559-738-8447 Visalia, CA.

Board of Directors

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075
E-mail: joel@steamtrainjoel.com
Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000
E-mail: vp@svls.org
Secretary: Keith Berry (530) 642-0742
E-mail: keithb@eskaton.com
Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
E-mail: loisjune1@msn.com
Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder
(916) 372-2423
Yardmaster: Lee Frechette (916) 481-2820
E-mail: leefrechette@yahoo.com
Trainmaster: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
Special Events: Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162
Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514
E-mail: paulclifton@msn.com
Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
E-mail: editor@svls.org
Membership: Lorra Fowler (916) 962-0718
E-mail: sphogger@ix.netcom.com

Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM

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



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.

SPIKE editor requests ideas for articles. I am also looking for members who would like to spotlight their projects - in progress or finished. Please call or E-mail the editor. - Thanks.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND DUES INVOICE**

To be filled out upon application for membership and/or membership renewal



NEW RENEWAL DATE: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED: INDIVIDUAL
 FAMILY
 ASSOCIATE

YOUR NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

CHILDREN
LIVING AT
HOME
(Names _____
and
month/day
of birth): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

OPERABLE LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT: _____

LIVE STEAM EQUIPMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION: _____

Do you have track at home? Yes No Someday Gauge: _____

Special skills and ways you would like to help SVLS: _____

Other railroad club affiliations: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES TO:

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS

Attn: Membership

PO Box 273

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-0273

Make check payable to: Sacramento Valley Live Steamers

DUES RATE: REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (Individual or Family) is \$30.00 per year payable and due on January 1 or \$27.00 per year if paid by December 31st of the preceeding year.

ONE TIME INITIATION FEE: \$30.00 (In addition to the regular membership dues)


ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 per year (NO initiation fee) Must live 100 miles or more from track or belong to a recognized live steam club. An associate member who moves into the 100 mile radius must convert to a regular membership by paying the \$30.00 initiation fee.

Membership is conditional for a period of six (6) months, at which time acceptance as a regular member will be voted upon by the general members at a regular meeting. In the event of a negative vote, the initiation fee and 1/2 of the yearly dues will be refunded.

Amount Paid: _____ Check _____ Cash
 Name Badge Roster Rule Book Card



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



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

214. Trains hauling passengers must be operated by qualified engineers and trainmen who are members of S.V.L.S. or recognized live steam train club.

309. All operating personnel, while on duty, shall have a copy of these operating rules in their possession. (See rule #118).

416. All trains running during periods of low visibility or after sunset shall be equipped with a marker light, or lights on the rear of the last car showing a red light to the rear and visible for at least 150 feet.

Caboose Menu	
Chili Burger	\$3.00
Chili Dog	\$3.00
Hamburger	\$2.50
Hot Dog	\$2.50
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$2.00
Bowl of Chili	\$2.00
Nacho's	\$1.50
Meal Deal (includes Chips, drink, salad & dessert)	\$4.00
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