

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

February 2006 - Extra

Volume 33, Issue 2.1

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

### NEW PUBLISHING DATE

This supplemental newsletter is being sent since it has been decided to send out The Golden Spike immediately after the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. In this way we will have an opportunity to advise what will be included in the discussions and program at the upcoming Membership meeting. With advance notice, you will be able to hear some upcoming special programs and not miss any. Also, special explanations will be announced in advance so you can participate by attending the meeting. Regardless, I hope you will come to all of the meetings and fellowship with your friends.

### SAFETY COMMITTEE

At the February meeting of the Board, Keith Berry was appointed Chairman of the Safety Committee. This committee has been informal for the past several years but now will be formally organized. We have a couple of people on the committee now but are looking for a couple more folks. Let me know if you are interested.

This committee will focus on boiler checking, track standards, car and truck standards, train length, speeds, written and hands on testing, etc. When they have their initial report done, the membership will be notified. We must do everything we can to be safe and avoid accidents.

### WILLES FAMILY

Our prayers and concerns are being directed toward Ken and Nadene Willes along with Terry Willes on the loss of their daughter/sister Sherryl Willis on January 31, 2006, who passed away after a long battle with the effects of diabetes. The SVLSRM membership extends our condolences to the entire family.

To get the news to our members in time, we will now mail the SPIKE first class. While the bulk mail method was cheaper, it took from one-to-several weeks for members to receive the newsletter.

Many of you have said you prefer to read the SPIKE online. If that describes you, and you would prefer NOT to receive the SPIKE by mail, you'd be saving our money! Please notify the Editor (editor@svls.org). Tell us also if you'd like to receive an email to let you know a new GOLDEN SPIKE has been posted.

Thanks for helping us save money!  
Bill Yoder, Editor

## SVLSRM Track Relocation Project

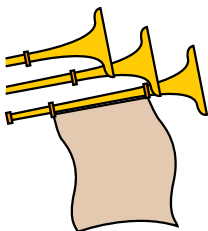
By Pete Arney

For several years, there has been a need to reinstall a bypass track at the present station location. During meets and other times when there is heavy rail traffic, southbound non-passenger trains encounter congestion in the lower yard, primarily from trains accessing and leaving the steaming bays and steamers taking on water. A bypass track between the lower yard approach to spur track #3 in the passenger station will provide a bypass through the station for main line trains.

The Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) has commissioned an architectural firm to provide a design for Hagan Park that would change the way the park functions in major ways. CRPD plans major additions and changes at the east end of the park where Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum (SVLSRM) resides including a passenger station, restrooms, school house learning center, carousel, and an expanded petting barn. The plan will take about a year for CRPD to develop and another year for approval and funding by the park. All of the planned items by the park will affect SVLSRM in some way.

The new passenger station will be relocated further west facing west and the main portion of the park. To access the new station, the track approaching the present station will be relocated to a new alignment west of the present right-of-way by about 60-80 feet. Two passenger loading sidings and a station bypass track will be installed. This new location will provide increased visibility to SVLSRM operations from the park grounds and parking lots.

There are two locations on the present lower yard approach track  
*Continued on page 3*



March 4th is our first public run day for 2006. Engineers, Conductors and Station attendants will be needed so please come out and help. Not qualified then come out and help with other activities.



**CALENDAR**

Feb 17 General meeting - Park building 7:30 PM  
See video of the 2003 Scale train ramble when Noel Eberhardt and Dorothy from QSMEE Oz visited us and others.  
Feb 18 Work Day

Mar 3 Board meeting 7:00 PM  
Mar 4 Public run day - see you at the track  
Mar 6 News letter deadline for articles  
Mar 17 General meeting - Park building 7:30 PM  
Mar 18 Work Day  
Mar 19 Public run day - see you at the track

Apr 1 Public run day - see you at the track  
Apr 7 Public run day - see you at the track  
Apr 10 News letter deadline for articles  
Apr 15 Public run day - see you at the track  
Apr 21 General meeting - Park building 7:30 PM  
Apr 22 Work Day

**2006** public run day calendar available on-line.

**Don't forget about work days**, every Tuesday and Saturday after meeting. Contact a committee member for information on needs. Check the Project page at the SVLSRM web site ([www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org)).

There are always things to be done to support SVLS.

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org) for current information on SVLSRM activities. Also visit Matt's on-line diesel discussion group. [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com).

The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc. 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 Railroad Museum, Inc. 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 Railroad Museum, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The SVLS track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles may be submitted to: [editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org).

**MEMBERSHIP**

*Amy lutrel*



It's that time of year again, **RENEWAL** !!! Time to get them in. I am asking everyone to please fill out the entire Form and send it in.

I would like to make sure I have everyone's info correct. I will only be using the 2006 forms to update, so please take the time to fill them out. Thank you so much for the time !!

**Deadline for dues is March 1st.**

**Please pay before late fee is charged.**

**welcome new members**

Charles Gant from Sacramento, CA.

Dave Morgan from Orangevale, CA.

**Board of Directors**

President: Joel Corbin (916) 961-5075

E-mail: [joel@steamtrainjoel.com](mailto:joel@steamtrainjoel.com)

Vice President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000

E-mail: [vp@svls.org](mailto:vp@svls.org)

Secretary: Keith Berry (530) 642-0742

E-mail: [edorberry@aol.com](mailto:edorberry@aol.com)

Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: [loisjune1@comcast.net](mailto:loisjune1@comcast.net)

Track Superintendent: Les Wilmunder  
(916) 372-2423

Yardmaster: Vern Geyer (916) 645-9154

E-mail: [vern78@onemain.com](mailto:vern78@onemain.com)

Trainmaster: Dave Mattox (916) 371-3352

E-mail: [thedaves@earthlink.net](mailto:thedaves@earthlink.net)

----- Committee Chairpersons -----  
Special Events: call

Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154

Caboose Ops: Paul Clifton (916) 722-8514

E-mail: [Paul.Clifton@comcast.net](mailto:Paul.Clifton@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org)

Membership: Amy Lutrel (916) 344-8989

E-mail: [amyl1979@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amyl1979@sbcglobal.net)

**Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**

*TRACK Continued from Page 1.*

that have 45 foot radius curves: one just before entering the gate southbound into the lower yard ladder track and another just north of that where the track goes around the west side of a large pine tree. The pine tree roots are also lifting the inside rail of the curve. The track relocation will remove these problems and provide minimum 65 foot radius curves with the project area.

After completion of certain project phases, the present lower yard track and present station track #1 will be removed. The remaining present station track #2 will become a bypass track for both the new station and the lower yard. The Master Planning Committee presented this project plan to the Board of Directors on Friday, February 3, 2006. The project was unanimously approved. The project will be presented to the members of SVLSRM for their discussion and vote at the regular membership meeting on February 17.

Project Description:

The project will be presented in its totality. A portion of the track relocation encroaches upon landscaped park land and requires some cut and fill operations. CRPD has stated that any right-of-way requiring elevation under tree drip lines (over roots) be on trestles, not fill earth. Fill earth can be used out from under tree drip lines. The track realignment project has taken these issues into consideration.

CRPD approval must be given before proceeding with the actual work. For that reason, SVLSRM membership must approve the entire project and funding, with the caveat no funds will be expended until approval from the park is received. Once the members approve the project, the plan will be submitted to the park for final approval.

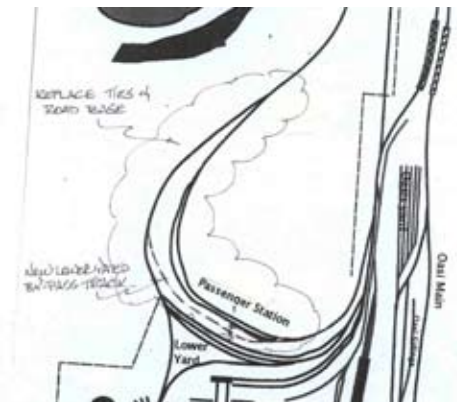
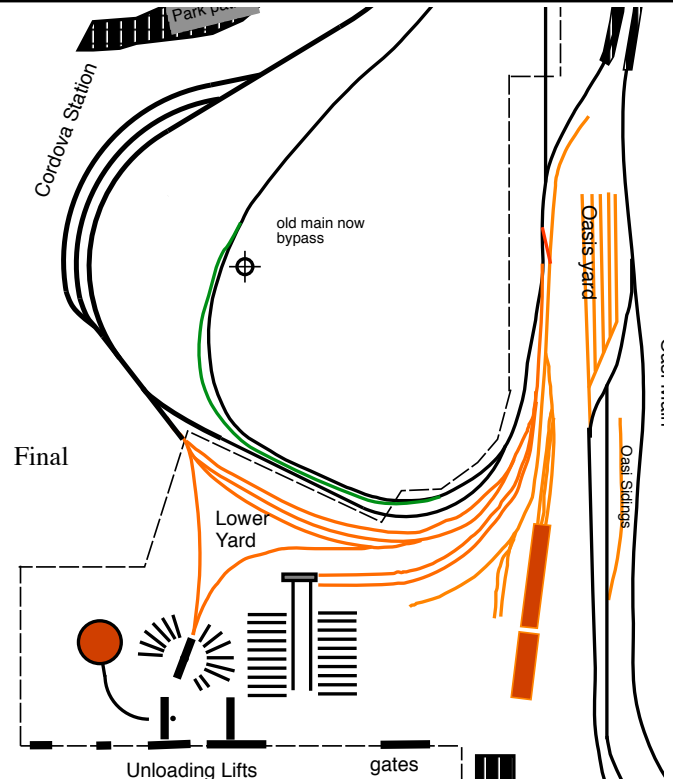
The project, as presently conceived, will be accomplished in three phases. The interval between phases will be at whatever interval the members feel appropriate but is estimated to be one phase per year.

**Phase 1:**

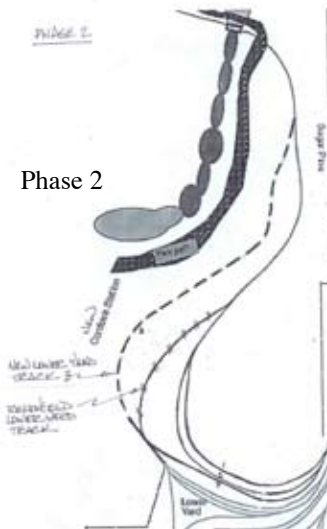
- Install bypass track and switch from present lower yard approach track to the present station siding, track #3. New plastic ties and tie plates, and used aluminum rail will be installed. New ballast material will be purchased.
- Old wood ties will be replaced with new plastic ties and tie plates on the present right-of-way of the lower yard and station tracks. Present aluminum rail in place will be reused.
- Minor realignment of the lower yard approach track will attempt to eliminate the 45 foot radius curves.
- The estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$7600.

**Phase 2:**

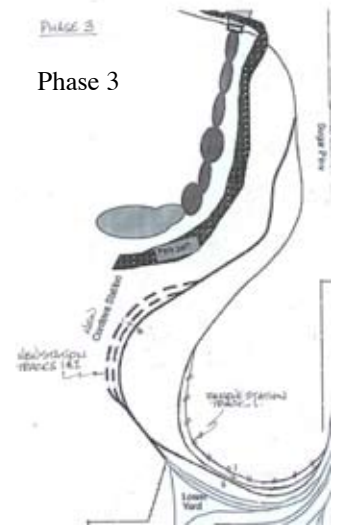
- The right-of-way and track for the new alignment west into the park will be constructed using cut and fill. Earth fill already on site will be used. New ballast material will be purchased. Only a single station track, #3, will be installed



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

*Continued on page 4*

*TRACK Continued from Page 3.*

on this phase.

- New plastic ties and tie plates, and new steel rail will be installed. A new station/lower yard switch will be installed on the present grade up from the walking path grade crossing at Ponds.
- The new track alignment will be only used for lower yard access at this time.
- The present lower yard track will be removed but the present station tracks #1 and #2 will remain.
- The estimated cost of Phase 2 is \$5500.

## Phase 3:

- Station tracks #1 and #2 will be installed at the proposed new station location. Four switches, plastic ties, and steel rail will be used.
- Station track #1 and two switches at the present old station location will be removed leaving one station bypass and one lower yard bypass tracks at the old station location.
- Replace all remaining aluminum rail within the project area with new steel rail. Wood ties were already replaced with plastic ties and tie plates in Phase 1.
- Install new steel rail and plastic ties in the areas adjacent to the project area including 1) between the present station/lower yard switch and the new station/lower yard switch; and 2) between the new station/lower yard switch and the walking path grade crossing at Ponds.
- The estimated cost of Phase 3 is \$7500.

## Total project:

- The estimated cost of the total project is \$20,600 over a minimum of three years.
- Each of the three phases have been designed to be stand alone mini-projects. However, as stated in the preamble, the concept and funding for the project must be approved by the SVLSRM membership before being submitted to CRPD for park approval.

Caveats and conditions:

- Cost estimate is a budgetary view of material expenditures based on current requirements and pricing without a contingency amount included, including inflationary adjustments.
- No account has been taken of rental construction equipment if needed.
- No account has been taken of sales tax or other levies required government agencies.
- Quotes from suppliers good through end of February, 2006. After this date, prices should be verified and/or renegotiated. Note that prices for plastic tie material and steel rail has been steadily increasing. Plastic tie material has increased about 6% in the last four months.
- This project is dependent upon these conditions before funds will be committed or expended:
  - o Successful completion of approval process: BOD, SVLSRM membership, and CRPD review.
  - o Sufficient SVLSRM volunteer support to complete proposed project.

## YARDMASTER NEWS - by Vern Geyer

Most of the dead trees have now been removed. Thank you Darrell Gomes!! Darrell is a really good lumberjack. The last of the debris should be gone by Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

It won't be long now until the grass will need to be mowed. This unusual warm weather has everything totally confused. I was recently approved to purchase a new weed eater. It is now available for use around the area. One of the older ones had a cracked gas tank and had to be thrown out.

All the lawn mowers are next. I will be checking the blades to see if they need to be sharpened. If so they will be removed and sharpened and then put back on so they are ready with the time comes.

It would be nice to see more people come out on Tuesdays. This seems to be the day when a lot of the work gets done. Saturdays seem to be the days when the sheriff's crew is available to help and they are the only ones out there. There are a few things that need to be done before the Spring Meet and I need people to do them. One of the trees in the RV area has died and is now gone. That has left the power box that was in front of it in a bad area. I would like to have it moved back along the fence with the other boxes. If there is someone out there that knows how to do this, it would be good to hear from you so that we could set up a time for you to come out and work on this project.



## "Kid's Korner"

Are you ready for S'mmore fun ? Spring Meet 2006 is just around the corner. If any one has any ideas for a craft ,game or fun activity for the kids to do, please contact me Cindy Wilmunder at (916) 372-2423.



New security lights are needed and this is a request to get some help. Lights to be placed by gate to parking area and at the gate where original track goes back into park.

Other lights are planned also to give more light is steaming area and box car area.

This will need several people.

Call Bill Yoder to help.  
916 652-7113

Thanks !

The master plan committee over the last several months has been collecting ideas from members and putting together plans to implement these ideas with approval. The following is our current priorities. - Bill Yoder

This Master plan is a guide of ways to enhance the experience of a operating our Scale Railroad for its members and the public. This plan is a collections of ideas from its members. This Master plan will also be a living plan that can be changed as required by the Master plan committee.

The Master plan has two interest of planning and safety is always priority.

- A. Railroad operations (covers trains and facilities)
- B. Public operations - things to promote live steam and enhance our museum

This is a list of things to be done in preference order but no current schedule. These project will be further defined.

1. Install switch in lower yard approach for lower yard bypass through station platform. Relocate and extend inbound station tracks. (plastic ties and steel rail)

2. Better lighting around facilities (for security and facility use).

3. Sprinkler system plan (this to be done in sections - first is to plan it all then schedule install).

Note: plan is needed to coordinate with part new 4 inch main line to provide more than 70 gpm.

4. Plan station cover (sub group to talk with Park on concept of new design - wood, 6/12 peak roof).

5. New public riding cars (board to have a committee pick the style and find builders).

6. Remove junk from area and storage, board to establish a policy that if someone wants to donates something it must fit within the Master plan and work, else we don't want it.

7. Remote switch throws for sidings located at Midway, Hillview, Quarry

8. Plan a Fix for boxcar foundation (this is needed before caboose deck/roof can be fixed due to maybe moving boxcar for foundation fixing).

9. Complete steaming bay water and electrical connections (for bays both sides of transfer table).

10. Rebuild deck, extend to caboose back door - two sets of steps - the front bottom step on the table side is in real need for repair.

11. Install signals (4) at blind spots (curve into midway, twin bridges)

12. Permanent Bar-B-Cue.

13. Install brakes on engines and riding cars

14. Security enhancement - alarm.

As above items get done or removed we will choose from other suggestions on the list.

Pave station loading area.

Provide bi-directional operation. (requires signals, better switch controls)

Addition of scale buildings beside track - Requires defining a theme for sections of the railroad.

New cover over tables concrete floor.

More train storage buildings - (define where and type of buildings).

Addition of additional sidings, some additional remote switch throws.

Have SVLSRM member run days (once a quarter?).

Provide infrastructure for Card order operations.

Invitational meets - define what this is and may depend on other projects.

Security enhancement -alarm.

More yard tracks.

Repaint buildings.

Add better steps from bays to lower yard - by transfer table (west side).

Finish sprinkler system.

New permeant sign-age at our entrance, park entrance, Coloma rd.

Information pamphlets explaining (trains, steam, us, history).

Stationary steam engines.

Install public walkway to station.

More railroad fixtures (signals, crossing gate, switch stands, signs).

Example of how steam engines work (working demo).

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM  
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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Children living at home (names and birthdate):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Operable live steam equipment or under construction:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Special skills and ways you would like to help SVLS:

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliations with other railroads:

\_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES TO:

SACRAMENTO VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM, INC  
Attn: Membership  
PO Box 273  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95741-0273

Make check payable to: Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc.  
DUES RATE: REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (Individual or Family) is \$60.00 per year payable due on January 1.  
ONE TIME INITIATION FEE: \$30.00 (In addition to the regular membership dues)  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00 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.

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Membership use:

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge  Roster  Rule Book  Membership Card  Car sticker  Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

SVLSRM 051024