

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svls.org

July 2007

Volume 34, Issue 07

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

### INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES

As I write this article, the activities for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration in Hagan Park are in full swing and our participation in the event is included as usual. Once again, in addition to the train running activities, we will have a float in the Rancho Cordova Hometown Parade. Amy Lutrel, her TAP members, and I will decorate the float. Lois is planning a barbecue for the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> for our workers so we will be fully satisfied as we watch the fireworks. The normal Run Day will take place on Saturday, July 7, so this is a busy week, but filled with good member friendship. Once again, our participants get lots of benefit for coming out to SVLSRM activities.

### CONTAINER ALMOST HERE

Pete Arney and his crew have prepared the place for the newly Pacer Stacktrain donated container and we expect delivery shortly. The concrete foundation blocks have been poured, the embankment cut away, Basalite Concrete Products interlocking concrete blocks placed (Pete's leveling is amazingly accurate), and backfill has been placed behind the wall. As soon as the flatbed truck can be scheduled, we will have the new container placed. As you know, we anticipate using this for rolling stock so a new plan for tracks and racks is in the works.



Thanks to Pete, Ed, Jack, Bill and others.

*Continued on page 4*



Spring Meet pictures here and on page 3. Thanks to Lois Clifton and Don Yungling for taking these. You can see more meet pictures on the web site: [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org)

**CALENDAR**

*Note: Board meetings for 2007 have changed*

July 7 Public run day Noon to 4 PM  
 July 15 Public run day Noon to 4 PM  
 July 21 General members meeting at track 9:30 AM  
 July 21 Work day  
 July 25 Board meeting 6:30 (Raley's meeting room Hazel & Madison)  
 July 27 News letter deadline.

Aug 4 Public run day Noon to 4PM  
 Aug 17 HOT AUGUST NIGHTS (Food, Trains & Fun)  
 Aug 18 Work day  
 Aug 19 Public run day Noon to 4PM  
 Aug 28 Board meeting (location TBD)

Public run day calendar available on-line.

**Don't forget about work days**, Every Tuesday also Saturday after members 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)).

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

**SPECIAL RUNS FOR JULY by Clio Geyer**

July 7 - Birthday Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 July 10 - Mustard Seed School from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
     This school serves children whose families are homeless or very low income.  
 July 21 - Birthday Party from 10 a.m. to noon  
 July 22 - Birthday Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
     Need the steamer for this one. Anyone interested?  
 July 23 - Birthday Party from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Any** of you who would be willing to spend a couple of Hours helping with a special run, it would be most appreciated. Please give me a call at 916-645-9154 if you would be willing to help.

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.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

*by Amy Lutrel*

Hello again. Well I am glad to let everyone know that We had our 2nd little girl on June 5th. We are home from the hospital and doing well. I am getting back to the membership and for everyone who is waiting on a name badge they should be coming soon. Thank you to those people for being so patient.

On another note we had the TAP kids out to decorate the 4th of July float. Pic's will be in next month's issue. Some of our TAP kids will be on the float during the parade.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

Thomas Gilles and family of Brentwood

Tom Lutrel and family of Concord



**The Bay Area Engine Modelers, BAEM**, are hosting the Western Engine And Model Exhibition, WEME, sponsored by Model Engine Builder Magazine.

This exhibition will take place at the Vallejo Veteran's Building at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo California, on July 29, 2007 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. BAEM expect to have exhibited all types of model engineering, including model steam engines, model locomotives, model internal combustion engines, stirling engines and model aircraft engines. Exhibitors and vendors and anyone interested can find more information at [www.wemeshow.com](http://www.wemeshow.com) The suggested donation is \$5.00 for adults.

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



The newest guest at SVLSRM hiding in the tall grass. Photo credit to Richard Lutrel.

Presidents report - continued from page 1

**HALLOWEEN IS COMING**

Each year, we cooperate with Jerry Jewell and his Scary U group for special run days for Halloween. This event is on the weekend after Fall Meet. One of the most fun events we do each year, this year we will run on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27, as well as Wednesday, October 31, Halloween night. Jerry tries to avoid school nights, which explains the days scheduled this year. We need a large crew to cover each night so we welcome your participation. The reason for this advance notice is so that you can add it to your calendar and be a part of the activities. This is not just a night time run event, it is socializing for all of us, which we like to do. Come one come all.

**DO YOU WANT TO BE AN ENGINEER?**

For some time we have had a program to educate members on how to be a Station Master, Conductor, Diesel Locomotive Engineer, and Steam Locomotive Engineer. That program continues under the direction of Karle Mahler. As most of you know, for safety and insurance reasons, we have a testing program that goes along with the training plans. The tests are simple and allow reminders of basic things. They are currently handled as "open book" tests. I mention these since there has been some confusion lately about the program and testing. The locomotive tests apply to those folks who plan to pull the public. If you plan to pull the public with your own locomotive, only the basic rules of the road test is needed. We want to verify that engineers know speed, train length, etc. rules. The locomotive tests include specifics relating to our equipment, and are only needed if you want to run SVLSRM engines. For example, this month, one of our members took the safety tests and will use his personal diesel locomotive to pull the public. Since he will not be using the SVLSRM steamer, he won't take this test, but still can pull the public. Please consider helping as an engineer in this way. Learn the SVLSRM engines if you wish. They are simple to operate, even the newly repaired and modified steamer. As always, the testing does not apply to those who prefer to pull family, friends, and fellow SVLSRM members.

**HOT AUGUST NIGHTS COMING**

Remember to schedule our August general membership meeting on your calendar. It is our annual "Hot August Nights" meeting, where business takes a back seat to our members special run night. Plan to bring your engines and displays for all to enjoy. The date is Friday, August 17 at a time of your choice, but try for 6:30 PM to give yourselves a full evening.

That's all for now, Joel



**TRACK SUPERINTENDENT**  
*by Darrell Gomes*

Track maintenance is continuing with tie replacement and rail joint upgrades. Jim Colby has volunteered to spray the weeds along right of way ,sidings, and structures and

I want to thank him for his help. Track repair is based on priority of operation and the main has taken all my time. Contact Me, I can use your help.

**TRAIN MASTERS REPORT**

*by Karle Mahler*

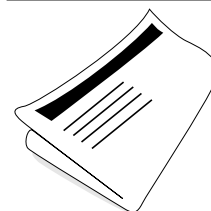


As I write this report it is one week after the spring meet. There were a few rough spots but over all everyone seemed to have a good time. One of my projects was to have the operating rule revisions finished and books printed so that they could be handed out to the members at the meet. I also knew when the books were issued that the subsection of Murphy's Law which covers editing would kick in, which it did, causing much gnashing of teeth and rending of hair. The offending rule was #304, which covers engineer qualifications. This rule was unchanged from earlier rulebooks and states that all engineers must be tested...etc. Past practice has interpreted this to mean that only engineers who are involved in operating trains carrying the general public must be tested. However! Rule 304 does not make that distinction, so... long story short, the rule is being revised to reflect the different classes of engineers. If you find any other "Questionable" rules, misspellings, or errors in grammar, please let me know. As soon as we have the final wording for rule 304 we'll print a new page in the Spike suitable for a cut and paste insertion to your copy of the rule book, as well as, changing the master print file for the next batch of rule books.

Moving on! I received a request from a live steam engineer to ask the "diesel" engineers to not block access to the water columns. The smaller steamers do not have much reserve water capacity and need to duck in to water up frequently. I'll beat on this drum again as the fall meet approaches.

The SVLSRM engines and cars did well until late Sunday when the GP-40 developed laryngitis and the horns quit working. Ditto the RS-2 horns, which sound like a bull elk during the rut. Jim Colby, it turns out, is a horn expert and locomotive electrician. So Jim and I spent a few hours on Monday trouble shooting the horns on both engines. The geep needed a horn relay. The RS is going to need new horns. Jim was able to adjust them so that they don't sound so sickly but there are limits to everything. The steamer also received some TLC with the technical help from John Bailie. I'll report on that in the spike.

HELP! We need more members to come out during public run days to help crew the trains and station. If your already qualified come out, if not, come out, we'll train you!! This is what pays the freight folks!! I'll see you at the track!!



With mailing postage rates are 41 cents now you can save us money (so we can spend it on trains and equipment) with the option of reading or downloading the SPIKE news letter from our web site. Please notify Membership that you would like to receive the e-mail notice of news letter and not receive the mailed copy. - Thanks

**YARD MASTERS REPORT***by Richard Lutrel*

Well SUMMER is here to stay once again and there is lots to do. If you have any time PLEASE PLEASE come out and water or mow or weed, even if only for an hour, it would Help out. I would like to Thank Paul Skidmore for fixing the seat bracket on the riding lawn mower, it saved SVLSRM over \$200. Thanks to Pete Arney, Lee Frechette, Andrew Ford for helping water the grounds. Also I would like thank Jim Colby for spraying the weeds. Thank you to anyone else who has helped. If you need help finding something to do please call me !!!

**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

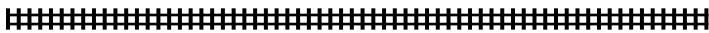
110. Passengers must remain seated, facing forward, in the cars at all times, unless directed to do otherwise, until the train returns to the station. Arms and legs must be kept inside the cars at all times while the train is in motion.

223. No one under the influence of alcohol or narcotics shall operate any equipment within the SVLSRM facility, nor shall any such person be a part of the crew of any equipment operating within the facility.

304. ENGINEERS: (Updated June 2007)

A. Qualifications: Any member of SVLSRM who demonstrates that they have the knowledge, judgment, and ability to operate a locomotive and passes the qualification test and possess a valid drivers license, will be qualified to act as engineer on the type of locomotive for which they have applied (steam, diesel, etc.) on trains carrying the general public. Members of SVLSRM who choose not to test and members of other live steam organizations may act as engineer on trains carrying SVLSRM members and guests only. No one under the age of 18 will act as engineer on any train pulling the general public. Persons between the ages of 13 and 17 may operate as engineer of the locomotive only with permission of the owner, or in the case of SVLSRM owned equipment, by permission of the Trainmaster. They will not carry passengers except a flagman. Children under the age of 12 may operate locomotives only while accompanied by an adult (the owner or another adult who is familiar with and qualified to operate said locomotive). The adult must sit directly behind the child and have full access to and can easily reach the controls in case of emergency. Children under 12 years of age may operate trains in the above-mentioned manner with passengers who are SVLSRM members or family members. Children under age 12 may operate non-steam locomotives such as small electric or gas powered engines with simple controls without an adult supervisor as long as they do not carry passengers except for a flagman. Engineers under 18, at the discretion of the Trainmaster or his designated alternate, may be restricted from operating during periods of heavy traffic such as during invitational meets, birthday party runs, and major holidays such as 4th of July.

B. Responsibilities: the engineer is responsible for the safe handling of the train and the cars at all times. He must be in close cooperation with all other operating personnel, observing all rules and signals (whistles, hand, flag or light) given by the conductor and stationmaster. He must run his engine in conformance with SVLSRM safety rules at all times. He must see that any SVLSRM equipment used by him is returned to its proper storage space at the end of his run, unless another engineer takes over the responsibility of such equipment and agrees to see that such equipment is properly stored after its use.

**Safety Committee Report**

John 'J.J.' Carbino



The Father's day run was a nice day. Too bad, we few were here had loads of fun. The safety committee meeting had only Joel and Pete in attendance. Safety issues found during last months events were reviewed and since no action was taken these issues remain as suggestions.

I wish to thank the Caboose folks that supplied hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings many thanks it was delicious. The few that showed had a feast.

I was introduced to the sue-chef and staff and allowed to look over the caboose and see if there could be safety issues that could be taken care of and help make working in the caboose more pleasurable for the staff. I made several notes and will submit a report to the board. I plan to add a few suggestions for correction of problems noted. All in all I take my cap of to those who have to prepare food and put up with members coming and going.

After lunch, I asked Mr. Mahler if it would be possible to inspect his kingdom of the steam storage and shop. He was agreeable and I went into the round building. I want to apologize to Mr. Mahler and pass on my condolence for killing three of his "PET" Black Widow Spiders. I was stepping over a couple of things and they were just there. The shop is in good shape all around. Some cleaning of webs and dirt, and putting thing away is all that needed. Mr. Mahler should be commended for his work and attention to detail. Again Karl I am sorry about your pets.

The last area of inspection was the box car. The track and equipment repair shop. The plan is to move some of the material to the new container which is soon to arrive so not much to inspect. However, I did note three gas cans, one out on the ground and two inside the box car. I would like to suggest that these cans stored in a different area. I mentioned earlier that I am going to send the board a list of my suggestions and maybe the gas will fit in one of the suggestions.

Overall things are taking shape and I thank all that assisted me. Remember, "Safety is Job #1  
Interested in operations at the park?  
Contact me at jjcarbino@msn.com





Scottie Marie Moore  
2700 La Chova CT  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

April 26, 2007

Sacramento Valley Live Steamers  
PO Box 273  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

To the members of SVLS:

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation, along with my friend Diane (caretaker of the cat colony), to the Live Steamers for your donation toward building the much-needed feeding stations for the colony of cats that have resided at the Live Steamers facility for some twelve years.

I especially want to thank Pete Arney for being the Ambassador of this endeavor, and a big thank you to Joel Corbin for a job well done!

The Live Steamers have demonstrated a willingness to work together for the benefit of those who were put in a situation not of their own choosing—the homeless cats. It proves when you have dialog you can obtain a meeting of the minds, and for that I'm truly grateful. It was a win, win situation...the cats benefited, as did the Live Steamers.

Again your organization has proven what a great asset you are to the community as you have done so many times before. The Live Steamers acted morally, and as Mahatma Gandhi taught us...the only way to determine the true value of a community is to look at how that community treats their animals. You did [good]!

Again, thank you, and our furry friends thank you!

Scottie Marie Moore

*"Speaking on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves!"*



*Joel Corbin hard at work.*

**10 Years ago:**

The Rail Raiders '97 Ramble West group began arriving on July 7 after spending the 4th with Doug Chancey at the Bitter Creek & Western R/R.

As they have traveled West they have picked up guests that go with them for a couple of their stops before returning home. The Hayes family joined them at LALS and Scott and Norinne Murphy and Bob and Angela Platfoot joined them at Bitter Creek and continued on North with them when they left.

By Tuesday it looked as if we were having another Meet. There were engines going in every direction. There was a bi-directional day on Wednesday. This was a first for our track as we have only just recently put in the necessary switches to allow bi-directional running. Everybody seemed to have a good time.

Wednesday night Marilyn Drewes put on a dinner of Swiss Steak with rice, salad, and dessert. She had a full house after word got out she was cooking! It was excellent. THANK YOU Marilyn!

Everyone departed on Friday, July 11 heading for Chiloquin and Train Mountain. The Drewes joined them, but left on Saturday as the plans changed before the Raiders left and they detoured by the Danley track in Willows on their way out of town.

**20 Years ago:** Cal-Expo 1987 - The California State Fair and Exposition has approached our organization as a potential exhibitor for this years fair. With the approval of our Board of Directors, the offer was accepted. We will have a circle of pre-fabricated track, 100' in diameter. The track will be purchased by the fair and kept for future displays. We will operate trains from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily during the eighteen (18) days of the fair, Friday, August 21 thru Monday, September 7, (Labor Day). Many members have been contacted to display and/or operate their equipment and greet visitors to our display. We will have approximately 6 locomotives on display for the entire 18 days, with several more on hand for operation on a one or two day basis. we will be giving rides for which the fair will charge \$.50. After they deduct their expenses for ticket sellers, over-night security guards, our fuel, et., they will split the net profits with us. The vast details have been explained to and accepted by your Board. If you would like to help with this gigantic project, please call Dennis or Judy Gramith. We particularly need all the help possible on Saturday, August 15, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the fair grounds to assemble and position the prefabricated track. If you are able to help, contact Dennis or Judy for the instructions on, location and access to the site. We also will need help on the morning of September 8, for dis-assembly and removal of the exhibit. While this project represents a major investment in time and labor, it also will provide great exposure for our club and the hobby. Those members that have already volunteered will be receiving a "State Fair Packet" in the mail as soon as we can possibly get it together. It will have a map of the fair, location of our

exhibit, where to park, etc. Thank you so much to all you wonderful people that have already volunteered. Your club and the reputation of this hobby will definitely benefit from your services. Thank You!!!!!!

**30 Years ago:** "Puffs of Smoke" Howard Bull was instrumental in acquiring and donating a switch stand to the Club. Very nice indeed!

Austin and Mary Knoff now own the pieces of our water tank. They will try to repair it and use it on their future railroad. Attendance at the June meeting was poor and the program put on by Bill Fisher was excellent. We hope to persuade Bill to show his films again this winter when we'll have a larger audience.

Tom and Barbara Anderson's names were omitted in the June issue on our list of helpers. Tom is our Passenger Agent and did a fine job at the May Meet. Barbara helped Mary Shelley in the Food Department. Thank you both.

June 19th run day had a bad start as much track work had to be done before running. Ken Spicer; Tom, Barbara, Scot and Stacey Anderson; don and Toyoko Yungling; Art and Millie Brune and son; Al and Mary Shelley; Ed, Louise, Marla and Michelle Yungling and our new members, Stanley, Barbara and ken Christianson were there. All these SVLS members were joined by the following members of LALS; David and Marie Roher; Barry Hauge; Tom Pritchett; Truson Buegel; Lee Carlson (V.P.) and Bruce Ward. Just discovered that our members from Modesto, Dick and Nancy Finn were there with their engine too. Now, hope we haven't left anybody out or misspelled any names. Sorry we had to miss such a great day. (The Finns were here on Wed., June 29th).

Announcement NO MORE BEER OR SOFT DRINKS will be available at the park on work parties or run days. You will have to bring your own drinks and ice in the future.

July 4th Run: The Yunglings' Cab Forward was kept running all day riding the public and the need for additional cars was brought to mind again. Ken Spicer and "Old Faithful" hauled the public too and for a bit double headed with Ed Yungling. Al Shelley's 0-4-0 looks real sharp with the red paint job on the cab. We appreciate the help of all who worked.



# for sale

**FOR SALE** the first 3 sections of my 1 1/2 inch scale 4-4-0 American by Railroad Supply. The 3 sections are the frame, the drivers, and the rigging. I also have a complete set of prints

I am asking \$500 or best offer thanks.

I can be reached at 209-614-1566  
Mike Murray  
Valley Springs Ca

## FOR SALE:

Figure "8" MARS LIGHTS are available again and have been upgraded with an "LED" in stead of the incandescent bulb. These LED's put out over 50 lumens of light and the LED's have a reported life span of 100,000 hrs...

\$300.00 ea. plus shipping.



Switch stands, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand. A complete set-up for \$85.00 plus shipping. They may be viewed on my website under photos in the for sale album:

<http://www.timbercreekrr.zoomshare.com/>

Contact me by phone or e-mail for questions and quantity discounts.

**Gordon Briggs** [timbercreekrr@yahoo.com](mailto:timbercreekrr@yahoo.com) (530)273-9145

**Have something to sell, send photos,  
& description to SVLSRM editor.  
([editor@svls.org](mailto:editor@svls.org))**

Don't forget to volunteer to help on public run days. Train engineers, Conductors, Station master, and other helpers are needed to provide rides for the public. The more the better to make a great day for all to enjoy.

**FOR SALE** Rail systems 1.7 sw-1500 16 hp V twin will pull like a pacific! Custom painted & lettered & Mountain car co. 6 ft gondola trucks & couplers custom painted & lettered , NEW cannonball 6ft gondola trucks & couplers I want to sell every thing including eng. storage stand & hauling system set up for pickup truck \$9000.00



call **Dave 916-315-9574**



**FOR SALE** - Bill Conner designed and built (1999) 4+4 Beam Engine, tender and two 7.5 foot riding cars of my design. Pneumatic brakes and parking brake on riding cars and tender. Recently refurbished and updated from original configuration. Current SVLS boiler certificate on a 12" diameter vertical steel boiler, propane fired with 306 half inch diameter copper fire tubes. Power is two cylinder double acting with a bore and stroke of 2x2.75" driving 4.375" wheels through a 20% overdrive. Engine weighs about 400 pounds, dry with eight driving wheels arranged in two four wheel trucks. There are no springs on this engine or riding car, trucks are equalized so springs are not needed. Engine and tender are rock solid on the rails, NO side to side rocking. The engine has a functional headlight.

Asking only \$12,000 - RTR

The engine, tender and both riding cars can be carried in a standard size PU with an 8 foot bed.

**Contact Bill Cody at [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net) or (775) 674-6512 (Home) or (775) 815-2263 (Cell) for additional information/pictures.**

## WANTED:

Ready to run 7.5 inch gauge / 1.5 scale cars, looking for Flat car, Box car, and Tank car. Contact Les Wilmunder at (916) 372-2423

I am looking for a well built 2-6-0 or 4-6-0, 1 1/2 inch scale, 7 1/2 inch gauge. Preferably Winton or Allen type locos. It must run well, and be a turn key loco. An Allen 4-4-0 would also work. Please call John Bothwell at (949) 294-5719 or write to [john.d.bothwell@biola.edu](mailto:john.d.bothwell@biola.edu) if you have or know of an engine.