

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

November 2007

Volume 34, Issue 11

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joel Corbin

HALLOWEEN

Once again we have finished the Halloween Terror Train event with a greater success than in years past. Our crew (Clio has listed the names in her article) was magnificent. We sold tickets, water, popcorn and our recovery should be enough for our insurance needs. Lois and her helpers provided dinner for the workers on all three nights to keep us going. No one was hurt and a good time was had by all. Jerry Jewell's Haunted house was even better than previous years, and I personally heard visitors comment on it. This year, he added a pirate village and a drama on a stage in our RV area. Many thanks to all who helped make this Halloween a success.

EVENTS COMING BEFORE YEAR END.

As mentioned before, the meeting on November 14 will see the election of three Board members. My term is running out and Pete Arney is running unopposed for President; Karle is running unopposed for Trainmaster; Bill Yoder and Clio Geyer are running for Secretary. Ballots have been sent to all eligible voters. If you are one of these, please mail in your Ballot or come to the meeting to vote. Do not send your ballot with another person. Note that all candidates have provided much support to SVLSRM over the past year and they deserve your support. However, you must vote as you desire.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



MEETING NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION
Friday, November 16, 2007 7:30 PM
Hagan Park Complex – Building One



INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR 2007

NOVEMBER 9 (SET UP), 10 AND 11, 2007

This annual model railroad event is just around the corner. Please come out and experience the event. We will have our "snap track" there and will give rides to attendees. Be a part of this annual display and show. If you can help, that would be great.



SANTA RUN
DECEMBER 1 AND 2, 2007
NOON UNTIL 4:00 PM
BRING THE KIDS TO SEE SANTA
AND TO HAVE THEIR PICTURE
TAKEN WITH HIM.

The Santa Run will be on both days of the first weekend in December, the 1st and 2nd. The time is 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM. Bring your kids and family members out to have your picture taken with Santa. Goodies are provided too.

President's Report *Continued Page 3*



CALENDAR

Nov. 9 Setup day for IRF in Roseville
 Nov. 10 IRF - Rides at IRF in Roseville
 Nov. 11 IRF - Rides at IRF in Roseville
 Nov. 16 Membership meeting 7:30 in Park building 1
ELECTIONS
 Nov. 27 Board Meeting - TBD
 Nov. 30 News letter deadline.

Dec. 1 & 2 Santa Train Train ride to have your picture taken with Santa. Noon to 4 PM

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.svlrs.org).

How will you support SVLSRM this month?

MEMBERSHIP

By: Amy Lutrel

Hello Again. Well the Fall Meet went well and I want to thank everyone who remembered to bring their 2008 dues, so it is taken care of ahead of time. I will be mailing out everyone else's 2008 Membership information, and dues invoice shortly. Just look it over, make sure all information is correct, and mail it back to SVLSRM with your 2008 dues. Be sure all is filled out so I won't have to call you for the answers.

The Halloween run went great we are looking forward to next year. My family was down at the track scaring people as they rode by on the trains, and we had a blast. Remember everyone is welcome to join in the fun!! SVLSRM doesn't just stop at the meets!

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@svlrs.org.

YARDMASTER COMMENTS

By: Richard Lutrel

Hello to everyone again. I first want to say thanks to everyone who has put so much work in to the past couple of Months down at the track. We had a great meet from what I have heard (I am sorry that I missed it, but the big trains called and off to work I went). I was able to attend the Halloween Run, and I had a great time with my family helping out. I would love to see more families out there enjoying what I already do! I hope to see you down at the track on one of our workdays soon.



Your editor is always wanting pictures for our news letter and our archives. If you have pictures of our activities that you would share please contact the editor. editor@svlrs.org

Welcome Aboard New Members

Paul and Mary Jane Thomson of Concord, CA
 Sue Kitzmiller of Vacaville, CA
 John and Valerie Burgess of Shingletown, CA
 Chuck and carol Barnes of Modesto, CA
 John and Sara Woods of Sonora, CA
 Richard and Judy Stark of Dublin, CA
 Gail Gomes of Valley Springs, 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@svlrs.org
 Secretary: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
 E-mail: byoder@vfr.net
 Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
 E-mail: loisjune1@comcast.net
 Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623
 E-mail: dggomes@caltel.com
 Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 344-8989
 E-mail: rjl1974@sbcglobal.net
 Trainmaster: Karle Mahler (916) 334-8283
 E-mail: nancykarle@msn.com
 ----- Committee Chairpersons -----
 Safety Committee: JJ Carbino (510) 782-2349
 E-mail: jjcarbino@msn.com
 Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154
 E-mail: vern78@onemain.com
 Caboose Ops: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514
 E-mail: loisjune1@comcast.net
 Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
 E-mail: editor@svlrs.org
 Membership: Amy Lutrel (916) 344-8989
 E-mail: amy11979@sbcglobal.net
Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM



resident's Report *continued*

Our membership meeting on December 21st will dispense with business items and we will enjoy a pot luck dinner and Christmas Party. This is always an enjoyable time for all. **SPECIALREQUEST:** Come to the party with show and tell items. Anything you are making, railroad or not, can be displayed. Engines, yes, but also sewing items, artwork, woodworking, etc., that is anything we might enjoy seeing and can add to the evening's entertainment. Special things are planned too.

Mark your calendar now for the members and their families only New Year's Run Day on January 1, 2008. Start the year out with good steaming and train running with your friends.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES

Pete Arney advises the new container will have the hole in the roof patched shortly and the riding car progress as well. Couplers have been ordered, trucks are on the way as well, side frames are ready for welding and this is planned soon. There has been a delay due to all of the events we had planned, and we can only do so much. Our current riding cars need maintenance frequently, so the new cars are badly needed. Safety is our primary concern and our lack of injuries is a demonstration of this, but we near the next step in our ongoing safety program.

After year end, remember that Phase II of our three year member approved track modification plan starts. Your help on workdays would be appreciated. Pete and Darrell are getting ready for this now. You know of our Class A track from Phase I and now we are on to the second phase.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Enjoy the day with your family.

That's all for now.....Joel



SPECIAL EVENTS

By Clio Geyer

Well October is over. All the birthday parties have come to an end, at least so far. Weather plays a big part in trying to plan a "Train Party" in the rain and cold. I do have two parties already scheduled for March 2008!!

The Fall Meet is over and so is the Halloween "Terror Train & Haunted House". We ran for three nights this year and had an excellent outcome from the event. Thanks goes out to all those who dared the weather (cold) and came out to help. Bill Yoder's train skeleton was again a success though Bill was down in San Diego with the Red Cross helping the fire recovery. The following were there to help almost every night: Marilyn Drewes, Ross Crawford, Lois Clifton, Joel Corbin, Pete Arney, Karle Mahler, Mary Mahler, Vern & Clio Geyer, Darrell & Gale Gomes, Paul & Tia Skidmore, Dale & Valerie Dennis, Pam Naylor, Dennis Gramith, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Richard & Amy Lutrel with Sarah, Kevin, Ann, Andrew & Tiffany Sach, Lee Frechette, Ed Bueltmann, Jason Van Horn, Ken & Terry Willis, Milon Thorley, and Ed Zeis. The younger folks were put to work trying to scare people on the train as they passed by some areas, and seemed to have a lot of fun doing so.

Now that all of that has been completed, it is on to the next event: "Roseville International Rail Fair" which is being held November 9th, 10th and 11th. For those who would like to come out and help, and have not talked with Paul Clifton please give him a call. We can always use all the help we can get. You will also have the opportunity to do some shopping and enjoying the different displays while there.

December is also time for our Santa Run weekend. December 1st and 2nd is the time we get all the little ones who want to see Santa and get their pictures taken. Kevin & Ann Sach will be doing most of the photography again this year. We can always use extra help with the trains picking up people at the station and delivering them to Santa and then taking them back to the station. If you would be able to help with this event please give Lois Clifton a call and let her know.

So much for the rest of the year. Don't forget the Christmas Pot Luck dinner on the 21st of December. Hope to see you there!

TRACK SUPERINTENDENT

By Darrell Gomes

Another operating season is almost over and winter maintenance will start after the Santa Run. My focus will be on replacing bad ties with plastic on main line switches. Rail joint upgrades are ongoing and are working well from the feedback I have received from members at the Fall Meet. The one inch track is out of service until the completion of the frog for the station bypass switch is completed. I am waiting to hear from members who would like to adopt a siding. This would really help with the operation and appearance of our railroad.

TRAINMASTER

By Karle Mahler

The Fall Meet has come and gone with a turn out that was much better than expected. A big thanks and tip of the fedora to everyone who attended. From the Train Master's perspective, the clubs equipment ran well. There were very few breakdowns of visiting equipment, only a few coupler tinklers (special thanks to Casey Wilmunder for that colorful description), minor damage to egos, and no engine enemas. This was my daughter's first meet as an engineer, and her perspective is both interesting and informative:

We didn't have a safety briefing and some of the more common rules were overlooked. There were several trains, both visiting and local that had to stop on the main line for one reason or another and failed to have a flagman visible. While this is only a minor annoyance to the diesel / electrically run train, it was a huge migraine for anyone running a steam engine. Apparently not everyone is aware that a steam engine pulling a fully loaded train cannot stop on a dime. The rules of operation state that a flagman needs to be visible at least 150 feet away. While most of the traffic jams could be easily seen, stopping any train, especially on a downgrade, with a steam engine behind you isn't the best idea in the world. Another situation, if you or a passenger drop something from the train while on the main line and there is a train behind you, please be quick in retrieving it. There were several close calls that could have gotten really ugly if not for the engineer and conductor literally dragging their feet. Thanks everyone!!



One of the biggest causes of the congestion was the traffic from the main line to the sidelines and vice versa. Several times a train coming from the lower yard passenger station failed to yield to a train on the main line that had the right of way. There was a sign stating that fact, which needs to be larger and made incapable of being knocked over. This ties into the problem about a steam engine not being able to slow down quickly enough to prevent a sideswipe or the dreaded engine enema. There was also a switching problem at Cordova Junction. This is a personal observation, but if you have to come to a complete stop and have someone get off the train to move the switch, either have that person run or have someone pre-positioned to move the switch for you. There were several traffic jams and more than a few close calls outside the park because of this problem.

Other than a few headaches caused by congestion on the track, I had a really great time and am now looking forward to next years spring meet. Christine ☺

With all of that being said, just your typical meet. I will see you at the track!

NOTE: The second part of steam engine operations should be posted on the web site.

FALL MEET THANKS FROM LOIS

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for doing such a great job. You should all pat your selves on the back. With out your help we would not have had such a great time at the Fall Meet this year. Many thanks goes to Barbara Moser, Clio Geyer, Marilyn Drews, Mary Neville, Ann & Kevin Sach, Matt Hall, Cindy Wilmunder. If I have missed anyone I am sorry. But thank you all.

Lois Clifton

MORE ON OUR SANTA RUN....

By Lois Clifton

It is that time again for the Santa run on Dec 1-2. We need help in setting up on Friday Nov 30th. We run Saturday and Sunday from 12-4. Ann & Kevin Sach will be taking pictures of Santa and the children. We serve cookies, hot chocolate, hot apple cider and other goodies. So we will need bake goods to serve to our guests. Also we will need candy canes if any one would like to donate them. This is a weekend SVLS gives back to the families. If any one has any questions or ideas for the Santa run please give me a call at (916) 722-8514 you can also e-mail me at loisjune1@comcast.net. Come on out get in to the holiday spirit and have a lot of fun.

PETE ARNEY CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

I'm Pete Arney, currently vice-president of SVLSRM. In our upcoming election, my name has been placed into nomination for the position of president. These are some of my main objectives for the coming two years.

When we changed our organization's recorded corporate name to SVLS Railroad Museum a few years ago, we also changed the future direction of the club. We are officially a non-profit public benefit corporation even though we have always operated for the benefit and enjoyment of members and the community alike.

SVLSRM must continue to develop programs that emphasize our heritage and benefit to the community through our designation as a railroad museum and community outreach. We can't, however, lose sight that we are a place to have fun, share friendships, and spend time with our families.

Some programs that I would like to see us continue and expand on with the support of our membership:

Our organization:

- A mission statement: not the type that is handed down from upper management, but one that is developed by all of us that we agree is the essence and purpose of SVLSRM. It will probably be difficult to do but will be well worth the effort. A mission statement will focus our limited resources on that which we all agree must be done in order to be what we want to be.
- Member involvement: we must all agree on what we want our organization to be, to look like in the future. Our Master Planning Committee is charged with the responsibility of defining what our operation will be at periods in the future. I propose one, two, and five year plans with achievable goals. A future "nice to have someday" category for things that are not realistic within five years.

Our community:

- Children with special needs. Develop station access, special riding cars, and outreach programs. Contact organizations that would like to partner with us to provide an interpretive railroad experience at our location.
- Community programs: continue and expand our involvement with CRPD, the City of Rancho Cordova, and the Cordova Community Council for community events

Our infrastructure:

- Structures to house our museum artifacts, library, meetings, multimedia presentations, lectures, etc.: these can be modular buildings for the short term, additional railroad cars converted for this purpose, or other structures. These structures will provide a reality to our purpose of being a railroad museum.
- Track relocation project: Phase 1 has been completed. The present station track and approach was relocated and refurbished with new ballast, rail, and ties. Phase 2 has been started. This phase has been given approval by the Cordova Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. The right of way has been laid out and approved by the Park Superintendent.
- Permanent station location: move our present station to a location to be provided by the completion of phase 2. This will provide high visibility to us for park visitors. We will need to design a station building that will house a ticket window, gift shop, and restrooms in addition to a 3-track platform.
- Scale buildings and structures: Carefully plan what we want our railroad to look like in the future. Model structures, including tunnels, trestles, and perhaps water effects, are always interesting to operations and visitors alike.
- Bi-directional operation: taking our layout to a new dimension. Careful planning for the placement of new sidings, signals, and switch upgrades will be required. This will be a prerequisite for operations meets.

- Documentation: We have massive amounts of buried electrical conduits, irrigation lines, and control conduits. Little has been formally documented. This coming year, special effort will be made to do so.

Our events:

- Operations meets: an exciting event of actual railroad operations of car classification, train consists, spotting and picking up cars at industries along the right-of-way. The concept has been well received for many years at White Creek RR in Michigan, Michigan Central, and is now a regular event at Train Mountain and Maricopa Live Steamers, to name a few.
- Halloween: It's our largest fund raiser. It completely pays for our insurance plus extra funds for our projects and maintenance. This year we began our own trackside Halloween events that were well received. I would like to build upon this in the coming years to provide real value-added entertainment to the Halloween train rides as part of Haunted Hagan.

This coming year, we will work closely with Jewell Performing Arts and Jerry Jewell's Scary U presentation to help him continue to create a Halloween experience that ranks at the top, not only in our local community but in the genre of haunts as well.

Jerry is a regular SVLSRM member this year. Jewell Performing Arts and SVLSRM will be an awesome team that will provide an unmatched premier community Halloween experience.

- Expand and promote not only our Easter events, Fourth of July, Halloween, and Christmas programs but our monthly public runs, special birthday and business runs, and museum displays through an active Public Relations committee.

Our volunteers:

- Nothing will happen without the involvement of our membership. Volunteering for our tasks and projects will make our plans come true. To that end, tasks and projects will continue to be published both in print and on our web site to encourage as many members to become involved and take ownership of the success of our organization.

Me:

- Railroading is my first love. I started building my first 1-1/2" Pacific locomotive in 1961 (still under construction) but do have an operational Central Vermont Pacific, an 1880 Porter, and a 65 ton electric locomotive. I have been on the Board of Directors since 2002. There is no better place to run than at SVLSRM. If elected president, I will make every effort to be worthy of your choice.



SUBSTITUTE EDITOR...

As you probably know by now, Bill Yoder is away (helping the Red Cross in San Diego) so I am doing this newsletter for him.Joel Corbin

