

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

January 2009

Volume 36, Issue 1

## President's Report

By Pete Arney

**Santa Run:** We had our annual Santa Run on the weekend of December 6 - 7. Gil Beard and his Nickel Plate 765 Berkshire pulled one of our public trains with hundreds of happy kids and parents to see Santa Claus. SVLS crews also operated our diesel powered passenger trains as well. Free cookies and hot cider were provided to all visitors. Pictures with Santa were made available at a nominal cost.

Volunteers helping were: Gil Beard, Paul and Lois Clifton, Milon Thorley, Kevin and Anne Sach, Andrew Sach, Tiffany Sach, Dave Morgan, Ross Crawford, Marilyn Drewes, Pete & Betty Arney, Gordon and Barbara Moser, Clio Geyer, Karle Mahler, Christine Mahler, Terry Willis, Phil and Stephanie Huntingdale, Paul and Tia Skidmore, Hunter Lohse, Jacob Stealmen, Jeff White, Butch Floyd, Lee Frechette, Dale Dennis, Ed Zeis, Dennis Gramith, Frank Presley, and Chris Donhost. Thanks especially to Paul and Milon for their participation in the Christmas Santa magic.

### Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony:

At the December 15 Rancho Cordova City Council meeting, Mayor Linda Budge presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers for our participation in the 9th Annual Cordova Community Christmas Tree lighting ceremony that took place on November 30th.



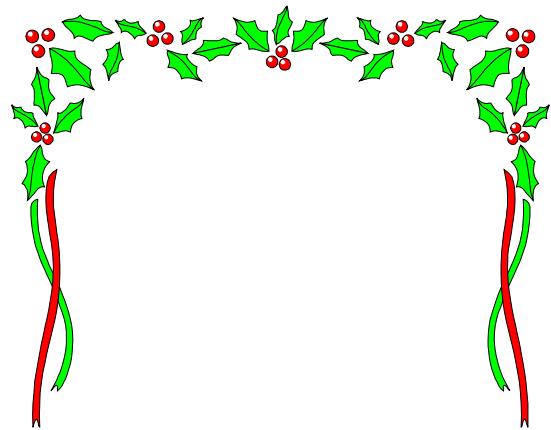
This is a very special honor from the city that included all of the volunteer organizations that participated in this significant event. A detailed description of our participation was given in the December, 2008, newsletter.

A number of our members were on hand to witness the giving of the award, including Marilyn Drewes, Ross Crawford, Pete and

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Santa arrives in style on 8 drive wheels instead of 8 reindeer.



*I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*



People getting their photo taken with Santa and enjoying cookies and warm drinks.

## Calendar

\*\* Many workers are needed for our projects so find days that you can come out and help at the track. Call Pete, or other board member for details.

Jan. 13 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Jan. 16 Membership Meeting  
 Jan. 17 Saturday Work Day

Feb. 10 Board Meeting 6:30 (RC city hall)  
 Feb. 20 Membership Meeting  
 Feb. 21 Saturday Work Day

Mar. 7 Public run day 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 (<http://www.svlsrcm.org>).

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

## Membership

By Amy Lutrel



### 2009 DUES ARE DUE.

Remember Feb. 1 is the cut off date for roster and newsletter mailings.

Please update your membership information on the form that was sent to you and return with your dues.

Thanks.



### Board of Directors

- President: Pete Arney (916) 988-2000  
E-mail: [parney@pacbell.net](mailto:parney@pacbell.net)
  - Vice President: Lee Frechette (916) 205-6791  
E-mail: [leefrechette@yahoo.com](mailto:leefrechette@yahoo.com)
  - Secretary: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
E-mail: [byoder@vfr.net](mailto:byoder@vfr.net)
  - Treasurer: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
E-mail: [loisjune1@comcast.net](mailto:loisjune1@comcast.net)
  - Track Superintendent: Darrell Gomes (209) 786-0623  
E-mail: [dggomes@caltel.com](mailto:dggomes@caltel.com)
  - Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 344-8989  
E-mail: [rjl1974@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjl1974@sbcglobal.net)
  - Trainmaster: Karle Mahler (916) 334-8283  
E-mail: [karlemahler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karlemahler@sbcglobal.net)
  - Committee Chairpersons -----
  - Safety Committee: JJ Carbino (510) 782-2349  
E-mail: [jjcarbino@msn.com](mailto:jjcarbino@msn.com)
  - Special Events: Clio Geyer (916) 645-9154  
E-mail: [vern78@onemain.com](mailto:vern78@onemain.com)
  - Caboose Ops: Lois Clifton (916) 722-8514  
E-mail: [loisjune1@comcast.net](mailto:loisjune1@comcast.net)
  - Newsletter Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
E-mail: [editor@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org)
  - Membership & T.A.P.: Amy Lutrel (916) 344-8989  
E-mail: [amy11979@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amy11979@sbcglobal.net)
- Reminder - no phone calls after 9 PM**



Please check the SVLS web site [www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.org) for current information on SVLS activities.



Save us some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy, we will notify you by E-mail so you can read it on-line.

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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Betty Arney, Lee Frechette, Ed Zeis, Richard and Amy Lutrel, Jacob Stealman, and Lois Clifton.

Video streaming of the event is available at the City of Rancho Cordova Website: [http://ranchocordova.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=3&clip\\_id=106&publish\\_id=&event\\_id=](http://ranchocordova.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=106&publish_id=&event_id=). This link will also be on the SVLS web site, News page. The screen for the Rancho Cordova City Council Meeting for December 15 will be presented. Click on "Jump to..." below the video screen then click on "5.1 Presentation of Certificates...". Our brief part of the ceremony will occur at about 20 minutes into the video. A very neat media presentation of the entire tree lighting ceremony occurs at 34 minutes. We have some nice shots in that presentation.

**Winter 2008-2009 Projects:** One of several Winter 2008-9 projects has started: Darrell Gomes and Paul Skidmore have removed track in the public park area from Cordova Junction at the upper/lower yard switch to the first park path crossing at Meadows, about 300 ft. As with the remaining sections 2 - 3, Darrell will lay steel rail, tie plates, and plastic ties on new subbase. We have a large donation of aggregate promised but need transportation donated to move it on site.



The passing siding at Ponds in section 2 will be eliminated due to virtually no use over the past few years. Approval was given to do so by a vote of the Board of Directors and by the membership at their respective December meetings. Section 4, the Sugar Pine loop, may have the original prefab bar stock panels reinstalled as a cost saving measure. The four section locations are shown on the SVLSRM web site Projects page. The board authorized the sale of the old removed track panels. Darrell will be coordinating the sales effort.

Details, work days, and tasks have started to be posted on <http://www.svlsrcm.org/projects>. This dynamic list will be constantly updated. For those who don't have access to the internet, please call Pete Arney at 916-988-2000. We will give you a telephone call when we have our project tasks scheduled so you can join in. Our goal is to have the 7-1/2" gauge mainline back in operation for the beginning of the 2009 season in March.



**Christmas Pot Luck:** Our annual Christmas pot luck dinner was held on December 19 and was well attended. Lois Clifton coordinated the dinner, purchasing and preparing a ham main dish. Others brought side dishes, casseroles, salads, and desserts. Show and tell by Jerry Thomas' progress on his stationary engine and Milon Thorley's granddaughter's gingerbread house, plus bingo games, raffles, and Christmas caroling rounded out the evening.



**Donations:** Over the past many years, Ken, Nadene, and Terry Willes have been regular and dependable supporters of SVLS. There's not a train meet or event at which we don't enjoy their company. Ken, in addition to being an avid railroad fan, is a Lt. Colonel, retired, in the USAF and participated in many bombing missions in Southeast Asia during WWII. Ken has helped out with financial donations in the past and this year is no exception. Special thanks to the Willes family for their generous donation.

**New Year:** It's always nice to start a new year. Like a clean slate. We have much to look forward to: our meets, run days, comradery with fellow members, new ideas to improve our operation, and expanding our annual events like Halloween and the Santa Run.

We are well underway into re-introducing ourselves to the local community. Even though we've been around for over 35 years, there's hardly a public run day that someone doesn't say "I've lived in Rancho Cordova for years and didn't know

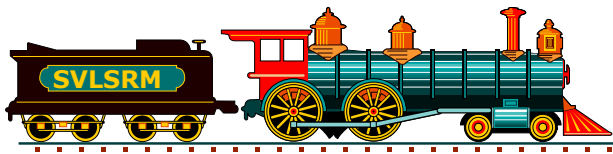
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you were here.” Our participation in community events like the Christmas tree lighting, school and park programs, and special events, not only provides recognition but returns to the community in some measure their support of us through the years.

Thanks to those who helped make Sacramento Valley Live Steamers successful in 2008. And thanks in advance to all who will make SVLS even more successful in 2009.

See you at the track. Keep on steaming!



Thanks

I would like to take this time to thank everyone that has help with the Spring and Fall Meet, Santa Run, Hot August nights, just to name a few things. Without all your help I wouldn't have been able to have gotten any of it

done. Barbara Moser, Clio Geyer, Gail Gomes, Tia Skidmore for all the help with the Tuesday and Saturday workday lunches. Thank you all again.

Lois Clifton



Santa Run helpers: THANKS, Top picture from Saturday Santa run and bottom from Sunday Santa run.

SANTA THANKS

Thanks all of you who came out to help set up for the Santa Run and hung around to help give folks train rides to see Santa and then take them back to the park afterwards. If there are any names missing, please forgive.

A special Thanks goes out to our “Santas“: Paul Clifton and Milon Thorley. They were the reason folks came out and brought their children. Our Photographer Kevin Sach and his “Helpers” Anne, Andrew and Tiphani, who printed all the pictures and DVDs for folks.

To our “Cookie Bakers” Barbara Moser and Marilyn Drewes, who worked hard for two weeks or more to bring out all their cookies to share . If there were others, I’m sorry I did not get their names, but all the cookies were great and enjoyed by all.



Track Superintendent

by Darrell Gomes

On December 23 the track crew removed 300 feet of track in Hagan Park, This is the first of the 4 section roadbed and rail replacement project in Hagan Park. Section 1 starts at Cordova Junction and extends to the first grade crossing. Sugar Pine is also closed for roadbed replacement and track has been removed. We will need HELP laying track when the new roadbed is ready so contact me and let me know that you are interested in helping.





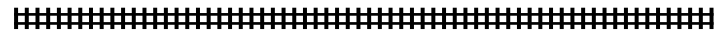


Gil Beard and his Nickel Plate 765 Berkshire provided the steam power for the Santa Run train. - *Thanks*



# Congratulations!

Breeze (pictured below) and Gail Gomes earned their Novice Jumpers Title the week end of December 27th with 3 First place finishes with a best time of 22.93 seconds.



### Safety Rules for the Month



110A. A maximum of 5 persons will be allowed on each straddle car including the engineer and conductor. If all persons are adults, only 3 persons per car is the maximum allowed.

228. No locomotive shall be operated at an excessive speed, and shall not be operated at a speed greater than any speed from which the locomotive and its train can be slowed and stopped within a reasonable distance, depending on the traffic, track conditions, visibility and weight of the train. Absolute maximum speed of any train shall be 7 mph actual (10 seconds between milepost markers).

303. All conductors and engineers must be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of basic rules of safe operation to the satisfaction of the Trainmaster or his designated alternate and in addition all engineers shall be thoroughly briefed on the individual engines they are to operate.

417. All equipment shall be built to clear all trackside clearances as shown in these rules and standards. Any equipment on which the engineer, conductor, or passengers ride with their feet outside the equipment shall have foot boards or bars to hold the feet of all riders in a position to clear all track side objects such as: switch stands, signals, mileposts, etc.



Come and help with the rail & tie replacement project. Many workers will be needed to get the railroad track ready for use by March. So come out on work days or Call Pete to volunteer on other days.

**Everyone needs to help !!!**



## 2009 schedule

Membership Meetings are on the third Friday of each month, at 7:30 PM at the Hagan Park meeting room.

Spring Meet is May 16 & 17.  
Fall Meet is Sept. 26 & 27.

### 2009 public run schedule

March	7 & 15
April	4 & 19
May	2 & 17
June	6 & 21
July	3,4 & 19
August	1 & 16
September	5 & 20
October	3 & 18
Haunted House	23,24 & 30,31
December Santa Train	5 & 6



### 10 Years ago: MESSAGE FROM THE VP

A major rebuild project has begun to improve the operation of our railroad. through a rebuild and regrading of the Meadow track. All of the track between the bike paths has been removed. The road bed had to be graded to lessen the steep grade at the south end of the meadow. This has been accomplished in

most part by Reno Farinelli. THANKS RENO!!

The rebuild will make the right hand (outer) track the main line, the left one will be the siding. The switches entering and leaving the meadow will be rebuilt to make the main straight through and smooth the traffic flow.

Here is the part that needs your help. When the track was removed it became evident that a massive tie replacement is necessary before the panels can be re-laid. If you can help in this endeavor, please contact Amandus Drewes or myself so that we can schedule work sessions for that purpose. Work days are most Tuesdays and Saturdays, although the official workday is the 3rd Saturday. In any case, we need your help if the SVRR is to be operational by March.

Those of you who came out on New Years day probably saw the massive rebuild of the Box Car yard. This project is a big step in eliminating the bottle neck during meets in that area. Thanks to all who helped complete it before New Years day. Its benefits were already noticeable.

Milon Thorley - Vice-president

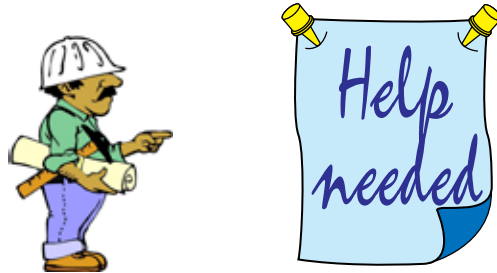
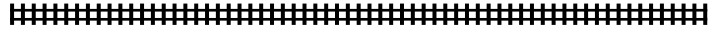
**20 Years ago:** "From the Cab: - (Presidents comments) - As we hang up our new calendars and store away those Christmas Decorations, we started making plans for 1989. This year should be very busy year for our club. We will break ground on our long awaited expansion to signal the beginning of a very major project which will increase our trackage by several times over. We also have numerous unfinished projects left over from past years. The Board will attempt to list and prioritize projects for the coming year at the February Board Meeting. Your new Superintendent and Trainmaster will be looking for help to coordinate and complete some of these many projects. Let's all step forward and join together to do the work necessary to make our club the very best that it can be. Happy New Year! - Dennis!

**30 Years ago:** Starting 'em out young: The Honcut Creek Timber & Flume Co. Sent us whis news clipping from the Dec 9th Marysville-Yuba City Appeal-Democrat:

"Since he was one year old, Bryan Badger, who will be three in April, rarely has missed the Sacramento Northern as it passes his Sierra Buena Home each evening around 6 (PM), bound for Chico. Standing on his front porch, he waves a greeting to the engineer and brakeman and they respond in kind. Tuesday night they did more than his greeting. They stopped the train and walked to the porch to present Bryan with a genuine railroad signal lantern. It's dark when they pass by now, they explained,

but they'll know Bryan is there when he swings a signal with his lantern."

HCTF Co. Vice-President Vivian Badger adds: "...now the light goes everywhere with Bryan -- even to bed and bath!"



There are plenty of projects to work on at the railroad so you need to come out and give time to your organization.

Come and help. Your help is needed. Don't know what to do then call a board member and ask, then volunteer.



### Safety Committee

by J.J. Carbino



Well the year is almost over and with a lot of "knocking on wood" we have had a safe year.

I was at the park on the last work day and found that the only workers present were two of Santa's sleigh deer. Old Donner and Blitzen were getting ready for winter yet followed me as I walked the park. I did notice the large tent left by the park folks was still up. Too bad we couldn't use it during the hot season up at the station. It would offer a lot of protection to the public. I have asked Pete to get me a list of the chair cars and other equipment used by the museum. With these I will make an inspection binder so we can log inspection dates and problems discovered and cars in need of repair. .

This fall will see some heavy duty work being carried out. I know the track boys are going to take on a monumental task swapping out the old wood for plastic ties and adding steel rail for aluminum. I notice about 300 feet of track were taken up already.

I am in hopes the gator has been re-braked for safe use. If it hasn't, I trust the president will see this will be done soon as we need it to be safe for 2009.

Let's make 2009 a safe year. Let's make our work habits safe as well. I want to thank the safety committee for their help this past year. I will get with the president this coming year to make up 2009's safety committee.

Happy Holidays,



**for sale**



An Andy Clarici original one of a kind. Hall Scott car with trailer car 7.5" gauge, roughly 2" scale. Last ran in September.



Includes 5' x 10' trailer with custom cover. Also includes spare engine. Asking \$10,000 for all. Located in Sacramento area. Contact Paul or Lois Clifton 916-722-8514



# for sale

**7 1/2" Gauge 4+4 Beam Engine** and tender with two 7 1/2 foot bench type riding cars equipped with Tom Bee trucks and couplers. Pneumatic brakes on all cars. Twin cylinder double acting engine with Stephenson valve gear and a bore and stroke of 2"x2.75" driving 4.375" diameter wheels through a 20% overdrive.



Engine weighs about 400 pounds with eight driving wheels arranged in two four wheel trucks. The suspension is very flexible, rock solid on the rails and the engine has a working headlight. This engine is a runner, fast, with exceptional pulling power and is very easy to run, very forgiving. You can check and adjust either firing or water level in about two seconds.

The train is set-up on a new two wheel trailer for towing with a car or small pick-up truck. I estimate the weight of the complete train and trailer at about 1000 pounds. The train and trailer are located in Reno, Nevada.



### Asking \$10,000

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

### 1.5" scale Pyle National extended case or flush mount dual GYRALITE.

They operates "True to scale" from the prototype and is constructed primarily of brass. The light operates on 2.5vdc. Price \$395.00 allow five weeks receipt of order.

12vdc to 2.5vdc voltage regulator/reducer for GYRALITES. \$30.00



Keith Jackman  
636 Linden Ave.  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Ph: (530)272-8531  
[kpjackman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kpjackman@sbcglobal.net)

- #1. Mechanical cylinder cocks for 1 to 4 inch cylinder. 1/8 NPT. Four per set, \$80 per set.
- #2. Steam oil \$10. per quart.
- #3. Aluminum Brake shoes for 4 inch wheel: \$ 1 per shoe.
- #4. 6 wheel common wealth passenger trucks for 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 gauge. \$1200. Per pair.

Ross Crawford 916-718-4162



Roll Models locomotive for sale. This locomotive has never been run as it was bought in 2000 by a friend and stored. I acquired the locomotive last year and now offer it for sale. This locomotive can be yours FOR ONLY \$3,500!!!!!! This model now sells from Roll Models for OVER \$7,500!!!! YOU SAVE \$4,000!!!!!! The locomotive



is complete except for wiring harnesses, controller, and one side rod. These parts were unfortunately lost in storage by the former owner, but these parts are all still available from Roll Models and would cost only \$900.00. The locomotive is currently painted in grey primer with black frame and striping. Locomotive is located in Stockton, CA for pickup or viewing. Here is your chance, own a great locomotive for a fraction of the price. Contact:

Stathi Pappas 209 603 7363  
[soupac@aol.com](mailto:soupac@aol.com)

**SALES:** 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. <http://www.timbercreekrr.zoomshare.com/> Contact me by phone or e-mail for questions and quantity discounts.



## Wanted Broken Couplers.

Price based on condition.  
Contact Ross Crawford 916-718-4162

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