

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlstrm.org

September 2009

Volume 36, Issue 9

## President's Report

By Lee Frechette

Things have been very busy at the railroad. There has been a constant flow of activity this summer and we've made several changes and improvements.

We re-keyed the facility at the end of last month. Before throwing your old keys out -- don't get rid of your keys to the park gates -- those haven't changed. The locks to the mower shed, round house, box car, caboose and the storage containers have changed. If you need new keys or aren't sure which keys are which, check with a board member.

By now most of you know that we planted 135 new trees this spring donated by the Sacramento Tree Foundation. But that's only part of the story. We've planted many new plants around the railroad donated by Shelly Blanchard and Yardmaster Andy Berchielli. Andy also procured a donation of 30 yards of premium mulch from Sacramento Tree Care. All of these material donations were put to good use by 2 temporary employees working for us this summer as part of a grant through the Sacramento Employment Training Agency (SETA.) Those of you who were out at the track this summer met Chris and Erick, our SETA workers. Chris and Erick, with help and direction from many of our members, spent the summer mowing grass, weeding, planting trees and shrubs, mulching beds and many other maintenance activities. As a result, you will notice many improvements as you ride around the railroad at the fall meet.

Another big change is our storage containers. St. Mark's Lutheran Church has donated a new storage container to us. This replaces the aluminum container that was located between the Box Car Yard and Oasis Yard. The old aluminum container was not water tight and wasn't very secure. We swapped the gray container in the RV parking area donated by Leroy Diede with the aluminum one and the new container was placed where the gray one was next to the container donated by the

*Continued on page 3.*

**Saturday night Buffet**  
Please sign up and pay when you register.  
For more information contact  
Lee Frechette (916) 205-791



Meet info from Clio Geyer

Well the Fall Meet is fast approaching and there are a lot of things that need to be done. As we did for the Spring Meet, we will be assigning motor home and trailer parking based on needs and size.

We have 17 sites available. Only 6 have power. The longest site can accommodate a 46'.

If you will be bringing your motor home or trailer and would want to reserve a place to park, please let me know so that I can determine your needs and where best to park your vehicle.

Again we would like to register people as they arrive. If you are bringing your equipment, please be sure to register before unloading. This saves time as we can get your registration as well as give you your parking assignment at the same time.

I can be reached at 916-645-9154.

We are also looking for people to volunteer to help with selling T-shirts, cookies and sodas. Everything will be set up under one tent so that we can help one another as needed. Registration will also be in the same location. This is the same configuration as the Spring Meet. If any of you would like to help for an hour or so, please let me know so that I can put you on the roster to help. It is always more fun if there are a number of folks helping for a short period of time instead of having only two or three people who have to do it all!



**available at the fall meet!**



## SVLSRM Calendar

Sept. 5 Public run day Noon to 4 P.M.  
 Sept. 8 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M. (R.C. City hall)  
 Sept. 18 General Meeting 7:30 P.M. at Park building  
 Sept. 19 Work day, come out and do something!  
 Sept. 20 Public run day Noon to 4 P.M.  
**Sept. 26-27 Fall Meet - Be here.**

Oct. 3 Public run day Noon to 4 P.M.  
 Oct. 13 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M. (R.C. City hall)  
 Oct. 16 General Meeting 7:30 P.M. at Park building  
 Oct. 17 Work day, come out and do something!  
 Oct. 18 Public run day Noon to 4 P.M.

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.svlstrm.org>).

*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

## Members News

### Welcome

New Member: Mark and Sandy Wentz with their 4 children: Sierra, Carson, Sam, and Zoe. The Wentz family live in Folsom. Mark and his son Carson were out to the track for Hot August run night. Oh it was also Carson's birthday who had to endure our singing *Happy Birthday*.



### Fall Meet is Sept. 26-27.

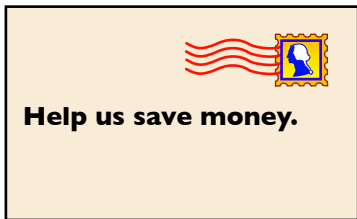
Yes that means it is about three weeks away. Time to come out to the track and help with track, building, and ground maintenance.



Your editor is looking for pictures or movies of SVLS activities so we can make a copy and add to our Historical collection. If you have some please notify the editor. Thanks - Bill



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



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

Darrell & Gail Gomes, Nathaniel Hawkins, and Paul Skidmore crewed Western Pacific #726 took 1st place at the Train Mountain 2009 Operations Meet moving 33 cars.



*Continued from Page 1 - Presidents report:*

Wilmunder family. We were able to sell the aluminum container for scrap and received enough money to pay for transporting and shuffling all the containers and still have some left over! On behalf of the membership I'd like to thank the congregation of St. Mark's for their generous donation.

While we're on the subject of donations, I want to report on two more donations. First, I'd like to acknowledge the very gracious and thoughtful donation of \$250 in memory of Milon Thorley from David Lubliner. In David's donation letter he wrote that Milon always made other people feel welcome and that he deeply regretted his passing. In David's own words: "Milon was one of the finest people I met at the club." Thank you, David.

Secondly, I am happy to report that the Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Committee has donated \$1,000 to SVLSRM in recognition of our participation in the Rancho Cordova 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival. In making the donation, the Fourth of July Committee acknowledged the valuable contribution to the success of the event our organization makes.

From the maintenance department, I am happy to report that new brakes have been installed on the Gator and a new water pump and drive shaft connecting flange have been installed on the mower. Thanks to Ross Crawford, Bill Yoder and others on the Gator project, and Bill and Andy Berchielli on the mower for jobs well done.

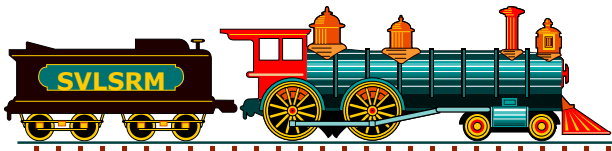
Hot August Night was just as advertised – hot and held on Friday, Aug. 21. We had a great turnout and a wonderful potluck, with "Chef Bill Yoder" manning the grill. We rode trains well into the cool of the night and remembered another reason why we love our railroad. Thanks to all came out for a great night.

Fall Meet is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26 and 27. This is a chance to get together with railroading friends old and new. If you make only one SVLSRM activity this year, I highly recommend this be the one! There's more elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to make sure you my invitation to one of the best fall railroad meets around.

This year, we will have the entire railroad to ourselves at the Fall Meet as the annual Hagan Haunted Mansion will not be under construction. This poses a "good news, bad news" situation for SVLSRM. While it is expected the Haunted House will return next year, the lack of revenue from this event will leave a large divot in our budget. We are searching for another fund-raising idea to close the gap, and are even considering running our own "Terror Train." I could really use some input and help on this dilemma and am asking you give it some thought and contact me with your ideas.

As always we welcome everybody at the track on Tuesdays and Saturdays as we work together to keep our great organization on track. I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Meet!

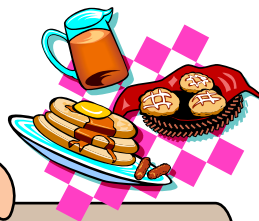
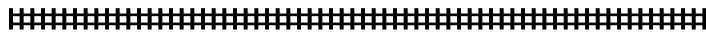




**Special run schedule**

Sun. 9/6/2009	12-2PM	Ramsay Party	30	Diesel
Sat.9/12/2009	All Day	Arney Family Reunion	??	Diesel
Sun. 9/13/2009	1-3PM	Escobar Party	25	Diesel
Sat. 9/19/2009	4:30-6:30PM	Nielson Party	25	Diesel
Sat. 9/26/2009	All Day	Fall Meet		
Sun 9/27/2009	All Day	Fall Meet		
Mon. 10/5/2009	2-4PM	Sawatzky Party	25	Diesel

Please help by volunteering your time. -->>> Call Clio.



**FALL MEET**

**Breakfast** will be served between 8:00AM - 10:00PM

\$5.00 will get you:

Saturday: Pancakes - Scrambled Eggs - Sausage - Orange Juice and Coffee

Sunday: Hash Browns - French Toast - Ham - Orange Juice and Coffee

**Lunch** will be served between 12:00 - 2:00  
\$5.00 both Saturday and Sunday

We will need help cooking, and serving with both breakfast and lunch in the caboose on Saturday and Sunday so if you can do so please call Barbara Moser at 1-916-645-3425

It would really help us too when you come to eat if you can bring us the correct change to pay for your meal.

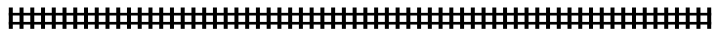
Thank you,  
Barbara Moser



**Track Superintendent**

*By Darrell Gomes*

The Track Crew has been busy doing maintenance on switches replacing worn guard rails and damaged points. We will start checking and repairing yard tracks to get ready for the Fall Meet. Tie replacement is ongoing and Sugar Pine is waiting for members to volunteers to help lay track panels. Contact me and help finish the project.



**Safety Committee**

*By J.J. Carbino*

Well September will soon be upon us. It will not be too long and the spooks and goblins will have their way with the folks on the Halloween trains. That is if we have Spook Night. The President reported that the museum group needs to get ready for a scary night.

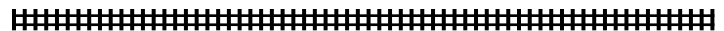
Let us think safety, as our last Halloween fright night had some small problems that could have been serious. I attended the early August run day. With only 6 to 7 members present it was not what I would call a well attended run day for the Sacramento Live Steam museum.

Mr. Crawford and I have started to put together an inspection log book. It will contain a set of dividers that will have each car No. on each. This is so the filled out 92 day inspection sheets for each car and equipment can be found and any problems will be noted. The detail repair of any equipment will be in the on going log books in the box car. This new inspection binder should be kept in the caboose where it will be dry and somewhat out of the moist air. I will be bringing this binder with me to the second September run day.

I looked the track over on my last visit and noted many repairs and ballasted areas. I think the track is doing a super job in maintaining the track. Our grass areas are looking super as well. Those who spend time doing these wonderful thankless jobs should be proud of their work. I know my guest think so.

With some big events to come, let's remember that we all want to go home at night with all our fingers and toes. **Work Safe**

Let us all remember,  
Safety is now Job # 1



At Fall Meet, if you run at night please have flashlight, a engine headlight, and end of train light. - lets be safe.



**YARD MASTERS REPORT**

*by Andy Berchielli*

The park is in great shape. I recently added some African daisies by the station entrance where the main line splits and go in to the loading docks or stay on the main. This area will fill in nicely and show purple daisies most of the year. I will soon be planting close to 90 more pineapple sages around the track. If

you would like to help please let me know. I have been asked recently if I am getting reimbursed for these plant and the answer is no. All the plants at the yard are cuttings from my plants at home. It cost me very little to reproduce them. The board has decided to abandon the drip irrigation in the yard. All the risers are breaking and most of the sprinkler line is against large trees. The line has been around for 20 years, so it has served its purpose. We have been watering the yard with hoses and rainbird sprinklers. If you have to move the sprinkler assembly, please grab it by the pipes and not the sprinkler head. Thanks.

The Hot August Nite Run was great. If you were not there, the weather and food could not have nicer. Thanks to all that showed up to run their trains. Tyler had a great time. Thanks for the great comments about the park. It could not been done without all the watering Lee has been doing. Thank you Lee. Come out for the Fall Meet and see how good of condition the yard is in for yourself.

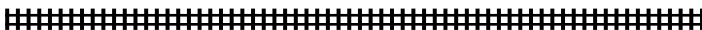


**TRAIN MASTERS REPORT**

*By Karle Mahler*

This is going to be a short report. Work on the engine has been progressing at a somewhat glacial pace. My employer still insists that I work the 8 hours they pay me for, other activities and the furnace like qualities of my shop/garage have reduced output. My assistant, Christine, and I have applied insulation to the boiler and I have some interesting photographs of the process. Unfortunately, I forgot to load the pictures into my computer before she departed, with the camera, on an all expenses paid, 4 month tour of "The Sand Box" courtesy of her employer, the USAF. She is the ramp queen at Bagdad International Airport. If you take the kings shilling you do the kings bidding. I have asked her to send them to me so I may be able to share them in my next report.

Before Chris left she was able to have one of the jacket segments rolled at Travis, as a G-job. That option is not open to me so I have a request for the membership. If you have any equipment to work sheet metal, Please let me know. I need access to a shear, a roller, a bender, and a few other tools that can form #22 gage sheet metal. I will be on vacation in September and if I can get hold of the tools I should be able to finish the jacket and then start reassembling the engine. Call or E-mail me if you can help.



**10 Years ago:** (missing news letters - if you have Sept. 1999 through Dec. 1999 let me know.)

**20 Years ago:** (missing news letter - if you have Sept. 1989 let me know.)

**30 Years ago:** Talked with Paul Hagan, Park Director, on 20 Aug. about the M/W building. The proposal looked all right to him.

Next step is approval by the Park Board's Planning Committee. He was to set up the meeting 12 Sept. The Babe Ruth league concrete block refreshment stand and storage building was made according to rules we would have to follow. - Gerry



**Don't forget General membership meeting on Friday Sept. 18 at 7:30 PM. Please join us. If you have something for show and tell then please bring it.**

**Work day follows, we still have lots to do before FALL MEET (which is the following week).**

**Run day on Sunday Sept. 20th Noon to 4 PM - Station help is needed.**

**Support your club and come out and help.**



**Safety Rules for the Month**

103. Public passengers shall be carried only on 7 1/2" gauge equipment approved, by the Train Master.

209. Engineers and conductors are equally responsible for proper alignment of switches (turnouts). All mainline switches must be returned to normal position as soon as the train has cleared the fouling point, except for remote switches that are operable by the engineer while seated on the locomotive. Normal position is for through mainline traffic.

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.

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.

# for sale

Check our web site FOR SALE page for pictures and more details. <http://www.svlsrcm.org/sale.php>

## BE ON THE TRACK IN STEAM FOR ONLY \$6,500

FOR SALE - 1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. Engine is a two cylinder double acting 1 1/4x1 1/2". Boiler upgraded from the original 8" diameter water tube to a steel 10" diameter propane fired fire tube boiler with 73 1/2" copper fire tubes. Pneumatic FWD/REV shift and brakes on locomotive. Usual Accessories: working headlight, bell, new whistle, two new relief valves, engine driven feed pump and a hand pump. New body and trucks on riding car. Engine and tender set-up on a single axle trailer for transport.

Asking \$6,500 RTR  
 Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512  
 or [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net)

**Freight cars for sale:** Dome Tank car \$1000. Box car \$1000. Contact: Bob Morris 925-240-9034 or [postwarbob@ATsbcglobal.net](mailto:postwarbob@ATsbcglobal.net).

## For Sale - Timber Creek Train stuff in 7.5" gauge

1. Two #4 turnouts with switch stands \$350.00 ea. Without switch stands \$300.00 ea.
2. One 43 degree crossing, 1/2'x1" steel bar completely machined to accept rail with all connectors and fasteners included @ \$400.00 or make offer.
3. train carrier with a loading extension for a pick-up that has a 76" bed, This was used in my 2000 Dodge Dakota with an extended cab. Has rails attached for two switcher type engines or two pieces of rolling stock. Not pictured are two flat irons for attaching to the tail gate and body of truck. This saves your tailgate cables from separating from the heavy weight of loading engines.. \$45.00 or offer for the lot.
4. Crane and cradle for sale \$200.00, Capacity of 2 tons for crane, not sure of cradle, but it has lifted any piece of my rolling stock. There is two 3' lifting straps included.

Gordon Briggs @ (530) 273-9145 [home](http://home), or (530) 615-7256 [mobile](http://mobile). E-Mail: [timbercreekrr@yahoo.com](mailto:timbercreekrr@yahoo.com).  
 Payment by BANK CHECK ONLY or CASH.



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.



MT-14 Canadian National Motor car needs motor plus transmission to make it an operating motor car. Setup as a tool car/pushcar ,body is in very excellent condition an windows are in great shape, standard gauge. Will deliver to svls for a fee asking 800.00 O.B.O contact Les Wilmunder (530) 533-2163 or email [cindy194@att.net](mailto:cindy194@att.net) .

1" scale Pacific. Plus flat cars, tender and the stand that the loco is on are all for sale. Also a box of odds and ends. Asking \$8000.

Contact: Michael Savarino email: [mssavarino@yahoo.com](mailto:mssavarino@yahoo.com)

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

**Switch stands**, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand. A complete set-up for \$90.00 Free shipping in USA.

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

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

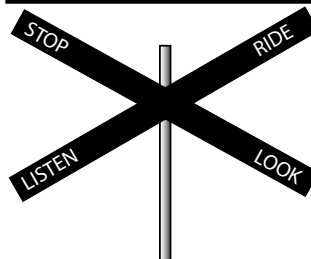
Gordon Briggs [timbercreekrr@yahoo.com](mailto:timbercreekrr@yahoo.com) (530)273-9145

## 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  
 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



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