

# The GOLDEN SPIKE

SACRAMENTO VALLEY  
LIVE STEAMERS  
RAILROAD MUSEUM

www.svlsrcm.org

February 2010

Volume 37, Issue 02

Dedicated members Paul Clifton and Joel Corbin passed away in January. Their efforts and support of SVLSRM was only part of what they offered as friends to those who knew them as members of SVLSRM.



Paul was key person in running the club steamer pulling the public on our run days, or at the railfair in Roseville. Paul was a resourceful person in finding parts and supplies for the railroad. He also coordinating Caboose operations on work days. One of his favorite activities was being Santa Claus for the SVLSRM Santa Train.



Joel said, "I always wanted a train" from his first wind-up toy "Choo-choo" to live steam at LALS. Joel joined SVLS in the early 70's, he was the first formal SVLS newsletter editor in July 1974. He also served in several club officer positions.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

Spring Meet will be the first weekend in May. May 1st and 2nd.

Fall meet is Oct. 9 & 10.

*Please mark your calendar*



If you did not send in the survey before, please do, your input is needed. See page 7.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Bill Yoder*

From all our members our condolences to the Clifton family and the Corbin family. May we continue to share our memories of Paul and Joel and their love of trains.

The date for the club trip to Willow Creek Railroad has been changed to July 9-11. Please update your calendar and reserve extra days for travel. This should be a fun experience. More details will follow in next months news letter.

At the last membership meeting the membership changed the dates for the Spring and Fall meet. This was based on feed back from the survey and members present. (See, those surveys are important)

The Spring Meet will be May 1st and 2nd. The Fall Meet is October 9th & 10th. Please update your calendar.

Notes from January Board meeting:

- Dates for meets will be finalized at the


*Continued on page 4.*

# SVLSRM Calendar

Feb. 9 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.  
 Feb. 19 Membership meeting 7:30  
 Feb. 20 Work and Run day for members.

Mar. 6 Run Day - Public rides Noon to 4 P.M.  
 Mar. 9 Board meeting 6:30  
 Mar. 19 Membership meeting  
 Mar. 20 Work Day and Run day for members.  
 Mar. 21 Run Day - Public rides 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.svlsrcm.org>).  
*How will you support SVLSRM this month?*

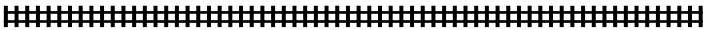


**DUES WERE DUE  
JAN. 1, 2010**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID  
THEN PLEASE DO.  
YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVE  
A RENEWAL FORM (PREVIOUS  
MONTH) TO VERIFY AND SEND  
BACK WITH YOUR DUES.**  
 (A blank form is included in this news letter)

Check your mailing label for the year DUES are paid through.

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

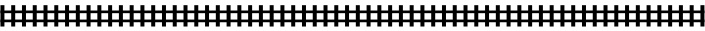


## Welcome


New members Vincent Barto and his family who live in Elk Grove.  
 They joined in December 2009.  
 Please welcome them.



**Note:** To have a consistent News letter deadline it will be 4 days after monthly members meeting. Please send any information, pictures, notices to editor by then.



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



**Help us save money.**

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**



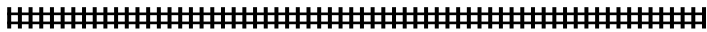


### Track Superintendent

*By Darrell Gomes*

The New Years Day Run meant a lot to me and the track crew. We have done a lot of switch repair, point and rail replacement to be able to run the rail road in both directions. I want to thank Matt Mason for his effort and help to complete the One inch track in time for the run.

With all the wet weather, work has slowed down, but Paul Skidmore and Ben Klienwatcher have been able to dump more ballast on Sugar Pine and soon we will be able to level and complete this project. We now have a tractor, thanks to the trade made possible by Bill Butler and Brad Jones. This tractor has made track work a lot easier for those of us that are retired and Brad has the Tish back on the rails.



### YARD MASTERS REPORT

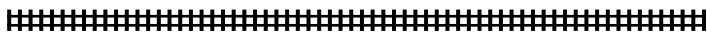
*by Andy Berchielli*



The park is looking good with the help of two work days with volunteers from the Disney Give A Day Get A Day program. With 12 volunteers on Monday the 11th, and 22 on Sat the 16th, the leaves have all been picked up. This program lets you receive a ticket to

Disney if you volunteer at a non profit. I will be looking to use this program more often. If interested contact me for more info.

We are also receiving the Americorp team coming March 22 - 31. They will be there 8 hours a day Monday to Friday. With this extra help the park should be looking good for the spring meet on May 1 and 2.



### TRAIN MASTERS REPORT

*By Brad Jones*



We are taking advantage of the off season to go thru the equipment and be sure that it will be ready when the weather gets nice. I have been busy with my business the last couple of months but see an end to the jobs I was fortunate enough to have.

I will be getting back to the building of the new riding cars. I have nearly completed the first car with a few changes and with a couple of adjustments and the addition of a frame for the seat bench it should be ready to paint and test drive. The next five or six cars will be built at one time and once the final design has been tested and approved the process should move a little quicker.

Ross has been working on the GP40 and after replacing some worn parts has completed the front truck assembly and will move to the rear assembly when the weather will allow him to get the engine out to work on it.

### RFE-Steam Report

*By Karle Mahler*

This was to be my last report as Train master. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, it did not make it into the Spike so this will be my first report as the Road Foreman of Engines- Steam. Brad Jones is now the train master with over all responsibility for the organizations engines and rolling stock. I volunteered to act as the RFE-Steam and volunteered Ross to continue to on as the RFE-Diesel. I want to extend very great thanks to all of the people that have helped me to keep the SVLSRM rolling stock and engines running over the last 3 years. Thank You!

I had not written a report for the last month or so due to the lack of any appreciable progress in getting our steam engine ready to run. It took nearly a month and a half to get the boiler jacket completed. With the able help of Brad Jones, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> jacket courses were rolled in house. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> courses were done off the reservation due to a lack of tooling and confidence on my part to roll an offset conical section. Our steam engine was on display at the New Years Day Run so hopefully you saw it at the track. If not! Then Bill had a shot of the engine and tender together again for the first time in over a year in the news letter. Here are a few more shots of the engine taken at the back shop.

The pipes and tubing sticking out at odd angles will be plumbed up over the next month or so.



The second shot was taken looking into the cab. The fire door, sight glass piping and pressure gage U tube can be seen. New graphics for the engine and tender were ordered and Brad has taken on the task of applying them as part of 1973's repainting. The big question, of course, is when will



the Sacramento Live Steamers have a live steamer? Barring unforeseen calamities, slow drying paint, or high water, the engine should be ready by the end of February. I hope!

Continued from Page 1 - VP report:

- membership January meeting.
- Americorp team coming March 22 - 31.
- Brad appointed Karle to be Road Forman as "Head of Steam" and Ross to be Road Forman as "Head of Diesel". Board approved.
- Discussion of building a permanent memorial for members who have passed away. Currently the names are on a plaque in the Caboose but needs to be outside to be viewed.  
- *Suggestions from membership about design would be appreciated*
- Ione railfair - The board was in favor of participation but need volunteers.
- Safety chairman position still open and needs to be filled.
- John Tracy donated \$2000 to us with first \$1000 to cover the repair of the Gator brakes. (One side is done, 2nd side soon), next \$1000 has not been allocated.
- We received the \$2500 donation from Lennar Communities, a local development firm.
- Halloween event is still being discussed as to IF (depends on people support), When, and What.
- 2010 Budget was reviewed and will be finalized in February.

Please call Bill to be an Ambassadors at the Ione Rail Fair. The Ione Rail Fair is May 29th & 30th. Looking for static display of a steamer. Last year rides were given using track and engine from Karl Hovanitz of Bitter Creek Western Railroad. Details are still being planned and I will publish those next month so if you will help please let Bill know. - Thanks...

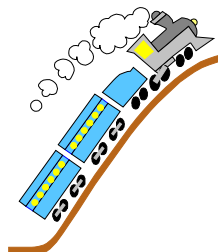
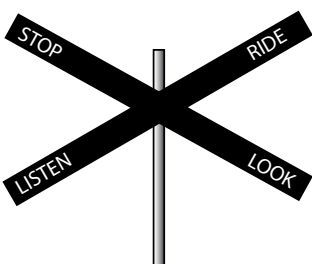
I have received a few surveys but less than 1/4 of the membership and they have some good ideas. I really want to encourage you to fill out the survey in this news letter and send it to us. Make your opinion known - it does count.

At next months membership meeting please bring something to show and tell. There must be something you been working on you would like to show. We also need members to bring refreshments to enjoy at our meetings so to insure we do not overburden anyone I will have a sign up sheet to cover the rest of the year. If you don't make the next meeting you can call me and reserve your month to treat the rest of us.

As a reminder for those that come out to run trains next Tuesday February 2nd which is **Ground Hog Day** (also a work day) we will be running trains in a loop.

- Thanks.

Keep on Steaming!



I saw this article written in February 2000 newsletter by Tony Rohrs and I thought it made an interesting point.

**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AN AMBASSADOR!**

Did you ever consider yourself an ambassador for the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers? WE usually think of ourselves as just a member of SVLS. But...in reality we truly are ambassadors.

Most of the time our club image with the public, as well as that of other live steam club members or individuals with whom we transact club business, is solely based on contact with just a few of our members.

Thinking about it -- being an ambassador brings with it a little more responsibility than being just a member. So now it is up to each to decide whether we want to be just a members or ambassadors for Sacramento Valley Live Steamers.

So what type of ambassador are you when people observe you or speak with you? Are you warm, open, helpful, sharing, patient and sincere about our club and fellow members? Or are you frowning, growling, critical, impatient and selfish? WE sure all need to be the first type of ambassador if Sacramento Valley Live Steamers is going to prosper thought the following years.

We each need to take a look at our demeanor and attitude and decide how we measure up to the criteria of good ambassador for our club. Only you can truly judge what type of ambassador you are and will be remembered to be. You might be able to fool yourself but your actions and words will tell others - the public, other live steam club members and your fellow members - what type you really are.

Let us all make the extra effort to be an ambassador... OK, raise your right hand and repeat: "I, Ambassador (say your name here), from this day on, I will strive to make my actions and words... You know the rest! -- Tony J. Rohrs - President.



*Thanks*

to Clio Geyer for donating their collection of SVLS newsletters from July 1993 through 2002 to add to our historical documents.



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



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

Your help is needed. Call a board member and ask for a project, then volunteer.



**10 Years ago:** The first work day of the year and century was a great success! A lot of willing hands and cooperative weather made it possible to do some of the work that needed attention. Thanks to the following members who came out and helped: Carl Carlson, Curtis Bonville, Pam Naylor, Gordon Moser, Dick Esselbach, Jack Rckett, Milon Thorley, Keith Berry, MAtt Mason , Don Yungling and Tony Rohrs.



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Life may be busy but supporting SVLS is needed.

Please send your 2010 dues now. \$60 for regular member and \$30 for associate member.

Please complete the membership form and mail it.

**20 Years ago: Making Steam** - On Saturday, Jan. 20, some of our members assisted Superintendent, Doug Fulton in cleaning of the track and inside area. We also repaired lawn mowers, bundled railroad ties and bagged track screws for the "Panel Track Project". Those members who were there to help out were: John Bailie, Chris Donhost, Warren Wagner, Ken Willis, Vince Barto, Keith Berry, Doug Fulton, Brian Murray, Howard Shrader, Dennis Gramith, Henry Stefani, Amandus Drews, Lynn Wetter, Warren Sharra, Judy Gramith. There was a good turnout at the Unit Shop (approximately 14 people) on both Tuesday, Jan. 30, and Tuesday Feb. 6, of people to work on the Overfaire Engine. Several members took something home to work on in their own shops in their spare time. We are very pleased to see so many members taking an active part in this club project.

*EDITOR request: I need newsletter copies for the months of: 3,9,10,11,12 of 1990. If you have these please call Bill. - thanks.*

**30 Years ago:** A new passenger loading siding just outside the fence will be the club's next objective, as investigation into the m/w storage building alternatives continues. No third rail is planned, but third rail will be relaid over the existing siding.

Milon Thorley, our own Commodore Vanderbilt, has bought himself another pike, namely the Folsom Railroad, from the Sherman brothers.

=====

### RV electrical project

On the wish list of projects is one to provide RV electrical circuits in the current parking area. While we have done some work we do not have the money to finish the project. The total project (FCR#29) was estimated at \$6100. This would provide a breaker circuit for each RV position. We need donations to complete this project.



We now have \$2350 in donations. We still need at least \$3850 to finish. Labor is also needed. Contact Bill Yoder if you have questions or wish to make a donation of money, material, or labor. Thanks.



### Safety Rules for the Month



115. No one under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or illegal drugs of any kind shall be allowed to ride on any train.

216. Trainman should use hand signals whenever practical. Several trainmen in the same area using whistles can easily be mistaken for one another. The use of hand signals makes it necessary for the engineer to see the signal intended for him, eliminating possible error and danger of mistaking another trainman's whistle for that of his own.

### 307. SWITCH TENDERS:

A. Qualifications: Any member of SVLSRM or other Live Steam organization or guest of SVLSRM, who demonstrates to the examining committee that he has the knowledge, judgment, and ability to operate track switches or turn-outs competently and safely and who passes the qualification test will be qualified as a switch tender.

B. Responsibilities: A switch tender shall have a whistle (police type preferred) and a red flag or light in his possession at all times while acting as switch tender. He shall align switches (turnouts) for sidings, station tracks, yard tracks, crossovers, and etc. when requested to do so by the engineer, Stationmaster, or Yardmaster. After any switching movement involving mainline tracks he shall align all turnouts for mainline operation. He shall be certain the points are closed tightly on point switches and that tracks are positively aligned on stub switches. He shall become familiar with the operations and alignment of any unusual track switches or turnouts that he may have to operate, such as - slip switches (double or single), scissors switches, crossovers, spring switches, "rubber frogs", spring loaded frog switches, turntables, transfer tables, and of etc.

420. Car and truck bolsters shall be constructed to provide three or four point suspension for the car body. Side bearing clearance shall allow trucks to swivel freely, and provide stability for the car body with maximum load shifting. Kingpins for unequalized trucks shall be loose enough to allow equalizing with respect to the car body.



# for sale

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 Lois Clifton 916-722-8514

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 or reasonable offer. Email for pictures or info.

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

Two manuals (maintenance & operating) for a German ML4000 C' C' Diesel/Hydraulic (in English) \$15. each.

Contact: Charles Williamson (916) 363-2395

*Editor note: SP bought several ML4000 models in the mid 1960s - The sole surviving unit (SP9010) is under restoration at Niles Cannon railroad. - from wikipedia.org*

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

## TWO STEAM Trains for sale. Buy one or both.

1: 1.5" scale, 7.5" gauge Clishay locomotive and riding car. \$6,500. 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.

2: Recently refurbished CRAB locomotive and tender. Loco is about 14" wide and 22" long. Two cylinder double acting engine with a bore and stroke of 1.375 x 2.5". Slip eccentric valve gear, a mechanical lubricator and crosshead driven feed pump. Boiler is about 9" in diameter and 14" tall, propane fired with 8 individual burners in a ring. Burner control manifold is on the tender along with the pilot light control. Boiler feed is by a crosshead pump with a hand pump for back-up.

Tender has mechanical brakes and is about 16" wide by 5 feet long. Holds about 12 gallons of water and a 5 gallon propane tank. Tender is freshly painted.

Asking \$3,500, RTR. Reasonable offers considered. Contact Bill Cody at (775) 674-6512 or [steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamboatbill@sbcglobal.net) for additional information/pictures.



## RMI 45 ton centercab 2.5 scale 7.5 gauge

Complete except for siderod, wiring harness, controller that can be bought from RMI. The engine can be running for under 900.00.in light gray primer. It can be delivered to SVLS for a fee of 75.00 asking 3,500.00 O.B.O or possible trade for model T parts or Live Steam Garden railway engines or 4by4 trucks. Contact Les wilmunder(530) 533-2163 or email [cindy194@att.net](mailto:cindy194@att.net)

## 2in scale 7.5 gauge model of Mckeen Motor car works switcher

Model of Mckeen motor car works 0-4-2 switcher has 2Hp military motor. Siderods with counter weights. Fuel gas, includes woodside gon that will hold control stand. Control stand can be either attached to engine or gon. Built by Andy Clarici. This is a one of a kind engine that can pull several cars and is fun to run. It can be deliver to SVLS for 75.00 does not include stand. Asking 4,000.00 O.B.O or possible trade. contact Les wilmunder (530) 533-2163 or email [cindy194@att.net](mailto:cindy194@att.net).

**Switch stands**, point throw mechanism and point plate for attaching the points is included with the switch stand. A complete set-up for \$75.00 (plus shipping) <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 OR [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. 6 wheel common wealth passenger trucks for 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 gauge. \$1200. Per pair.

Ross Crawford 916-718-4162

Thanks

Thanks to those that sent in survey from last months news letter.

I would still like to hear from those that did not send in a survey. Please take a few minutes and answer these few questions then please mail.

Your input is appricated.

- Bill Yoder



Everyone Please take the time and give us your input.

Mail to:  
Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum, Inc.  
P.O. Box 273  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

1. Suggestions for News Letter or Web site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Halloween run (Ghost Train) - Enhance our track side decorations (static displays, animation displays, lights, noise, spooky things) to provide enough entertainment to make the riders experience enjoyable (worth while). Would you help? Do you have ideas for spooky things?  
Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

3. List at least three projects that would make using the facility better for your enjoyment: (track changes, landscape, buildings, run days, usage of facility, or anything else to benefit SVLSRM and your participation and enjoyment of running trains.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**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:  REGULAR  
 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) \_\_\_\_\_

List Email on web  (Y/N)

List Email on web  (Y/N)

Please select one of the following means of receiving your monthly issues of The Golden Spike news letter:

Receive E-Mail notice and read it on line at: [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org)  (yes) or Send printed edition via snail mail.  (yes)

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:

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

**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.**

Membership use: Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

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