

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlrsm.org

January 2017

Volume 44, Issue 1



## Santa Train Helpers

### Set Up Crew on December 1-2:

Steve & Ian Milward, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Dennis Gramith, Alison Berry, Dave McClain, Paul Skidmore, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Andy & August Berchielli, Rob Sharratt, Barbara Rohrs,

Kevin, Anne & Andrew Sach, Peter Welch, Bill & Butch Floyd, Bill Yoder.

### Cookie Donations:

Seth & Stariene Hansen, Cindy, Les and Casey Wilmunder, Lewie & Becky Donhost, Andy Berchielli, Barbara Rohrs, Robert Forren, Steve Milward, Bill Yoder, Keith Berry, August & Judy Berchielli, Dennis & Chris Gramith, Terry Willes, Clio Geyer, Tom & Stacy Reese, Toy Yungling, Alison Berry.

### December 3-4 & 10-11 Weekend Santa Train Helpers:

Matt, Wyatt (Weasel), Abbey Thomas, Barbara Rohrs, Kevin, Anne, Andrew Sach, Colton Snell, Chris, Evelyn, Paul, Eli, Lewie Donhost, Dennis, Heidi, Maren, Ryan Bowie Grace Smith (Non member volunteer), Deanna Kellom, Gordon, Barbara, Lisa Moser, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Peter & Jim Welch, Harry Voss, Bill & Butch Floyd, Rob Sharratt, Dennis Gramith, Steve Milward, Andy Berchielli, Chris Smith, Alison Berry, Ben Shell, Dale Dennis, Andrew & Mary Stacy Reese, Frank Presley Don Yungling, Ed Yungling.



  
**SANTA RUN**  
**2016**  
 Great event and very successful thanks to the members and friends that made it happen.  




## NEW YEARS DAY 2017

Let's start the New Year with a lot of steam, or smelly diesel and bring out your locomotive, rolling stock and enjoy a members' run day on January 1, 2017.



*Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch.*

Mark your calendar for Sunday January 1. Running starts at 10 AM and lunch about 1 PM. Ring in the New Year's Day behind your equipment and with fellow railroad members.



## SVLSRM Calendar

- Jan. 1 New Years annual Members run day & potluck lunch  
Please bring food to share and enjoy the day.  
Running starts at 10 AM and lunch about 1 PM.
- Jan. 7 & 8 Track Work
- Jan. 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Jan. 14 & 15 Track Work
- Jan. 21 & 22 Track Work
- Jan. 28 & 29 Track Work
- Feb. 4 & 5 Track Work
- Feb. 11 & 12 Track Work
- Feb. 13 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Feb. 18 & 19 Track Work
- Feb. 25 & 26 Track Work

Please volunteer to support the club events.

***How will you support SVLSRM this month?***

A **members only area** has been set up on our web server where we will keep a current version of the roster, and other useful documents for our members. To gain access, each *member (now including associates)* must be a current paid member to register and create a user name and password.

Please use the link on the web page in the top menu section called "Members only." This is a two step process to register as the system will send an E-mail to verify that it is you. You will then use the link sent to complete the process. Please note this is to register so you can then use your user ID/password to view the protected area via the link shown on the registration page.

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 SVLSRM track is located in Hagan Community Park, Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA. Articles & Pictures may be submitted to: [editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org).

**The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.**

**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

*We welcome new Associate members John & Allison Manley, with their children Jack & Stella, from San Bruno, CA*

**The deadline for renewing your membership for 2017 is approaching. Please renew before January 31, 2017.**

### DUES DUE

Please complete your membership form noting changes. You can download forms at [svlsrm.org](http://svlsrm.org).

Send check or pay on-line at:

[www.svlsrm.org/membership.php](http://www.svlsrm.org/membership.php)

Send forms/check to: SVLSRM P.O. Box 273

Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

**THANKS**



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlsrm.org](http://www.svlsrm.org) for current information. If you have not looked for awhile then you will have missed news or for sale items that are not in the newsletter.

## Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term

President: Heidi Bowie (916) 383-1461 (17)

E-mail: [president@svlsrm.org](mailto:president@svlsrm.org)

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (18)

E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrm.org)

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E-mail: [secretary@svlsrm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrm.org)

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Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (17)

E-mail: [trainmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlsrm.org)

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E-mail: [director\\_wilde@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_wilde@svlsrm.org)

Director2: Gordon Moser (916) 645-3425 (17)

E-mail: [director\\_gordon@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_gordon@svlsrm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

E-mail: [membership@svlsrm.org](mailto:membership@svlsrm.org)

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: [caboose@svlsrm.org](mailto:caboose@svlsrm.org)

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson: Andy Berchielli

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlsrm.org](mailto:Events@svlsrm.org)

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org)

**Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM**



### Track Superintendent Report

By Dennis Bowie

Another installment of looking down the track...

This January starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> we will be removing the track from about the middle of Mile post 2 and Mile post 3. For those that remember, this is the spot that the track was replaced up to about 3 years ago. So what is store for us this year? Remove the track up to the first switch at reverse, also lift the track at the Placerville siding and the track on the main line that leads out to the park. Not the whole thing, just the part that is next to the main line heading to Reverse-O. The reason for this is that we will be close to main line and it would be easier to work on the road bed and not damage the track. We will also replace the road bed at the Placerville siding at the same time. We will also be adding conduit for future signaling.

So if you are willing and want to get your hands dirty, come out and be part of the fun. By the way, this project will need to be completed by the end of February. So the more hands the better. So the first thing is to pull the old track and remove the old road bed: this means that I will be at the club every weekend until this is completed. So come out be part of the fun, and who knows, you may want to be part of the MOW (Maintenance of Way) and get an orange shirt. So just think, put in one or two hundred hours at the club and you too can have one of these shirts. And that way when someone says that there's a problem with the track they will look for the orange shirt and know who to talk to. And by the way yes you will have to buy it, but wear it with pride and know that this is your railroad.

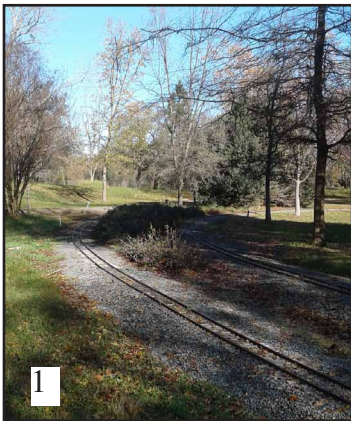


Photo 1 is looking from about MP2 towards Reverse-O.

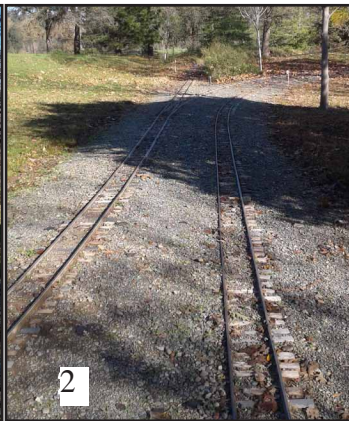


Photo 2 is where both main lines pass each other.



Photo 3 is looking back from the Placerville switch at Reverse-O.

### President's Report

By Heidi Bowie

From the desk of Madame President...

Hello! I can't come to my desk right now. I'm on my much needed Winter Break. It's been a VERY busy couple of months, and not just with the train club! Many fantastic members (BIG thank you to my board) have been working their butts off from the end of the public run season, through Fall Meet, up to the Rancho Cordova Tree Light event and finishing it all off with an absolutely spectacular Santa Train double weekend! They're tired. I'm tired. The club is looking a little beat up with all the wet weather and heavy traffic. We all need a little TLC. I'm taking mine now, right through the New Year's Day Members Run Day. The club is going to be getting its TLC starting January 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing through February. Please find some time to join us.



There will be a variety of maintenance projects needing to be done. Of course, there will be track work, but we have painting projects, the new SP Caboose library, continuation of the container clean outs, plus the ever-present yard work. All ages are welcome. Email me to get an idea of what we will be working on during the weekends. But not now! Because I'm not here. I'm at some mysterious location (where have I heard that before?). Find me after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Oh, I almost forgot...please leave a message after the beep!



### Santa Crew



Donald Yungling has provided some early club photos with narrative. Our history and the dedication of many have given the current members a great place to ride their trains.

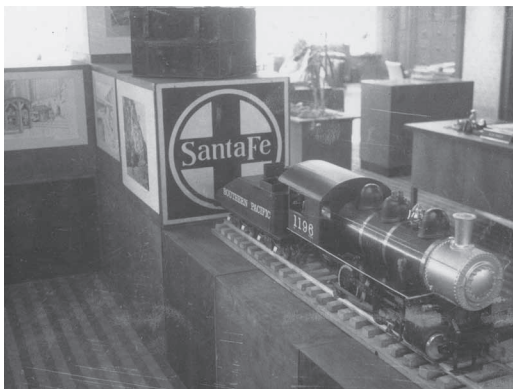


Toyoko and her son Mark on our 1 inch scale 0-6-0. Most likely 1976 Spring meet. Back then the 1 inch track received a lot of use. Looks like the following locomotive is the 4-8-0 owned by Austin and Mary Knoff. I believe Mary is the engineer. The photo is coming up the hill about half way between the grade crossing and where the station turnouts are now located.



No Boxcar, passenger station or siding. Just one lead from the turntable onto the main. 1976 is most likely the year of this photo as well. The pear orchard is well represented in this view. The fruitless Mulberry trees that provided much needed shade soon became maintenance nightmares and all are now gone.

Around 1972 we were asked to display our 1" scale 0-6-0 at the Union Bank in downtown Sacramento. The bank made the display table and we provided the track board and of course the locomotive. It was displayed for about a month or so.



The building of Santa's station.



### Train Masters Report

By Peter Welch

The 0-4-0 is back together and running good. We have fixed the water delivery problems and outfitted it with a electronic water pump.



I also installed a new high temp ball valve for the throttle. Thank you Dennis G, Evan G and every one else that helped get this engine back on the rails.



Have a neighbor or a friend who has an interest in Live Steam / Trains? Bring them out, show them our fun, give them a ride and invite them to join.



This last week one of our members made the news on several TV stations, and news paper for the wrong reason. The Welch family had their 18 foot enclosed train trailer stolen with their Santa Fe engine and train cars inside. The good news: it got recovered a few days later with train inside and no damage to trailer or train. As a side note, SVLS received lots of positive attention in several television news reports, featuring pictures



of children and families riding our trains. The message also noted that our club gives rides to the public. [See Bee article here.](http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article123118034.html)

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### SVLS Christmas party - the white elephant exchange



**FOR SALE**



**Trolley for Sale.**  
 Price \$1500 OBO, plus engine stand for sale.  
 Call: Clio Geyer  
 (916) 645-9154

Two RRSC 6 wheel pullman commonwealth 1/8 scale trucks - reconditioned. The pair \$2000 or best offer.  
 Call Ross Crawford (916) 718-4162



**10 Years ago:** Boiler testing unit

Our present boiler testing unit was getting old, worn, and leaky so Milon Thorley borrowed a design from another live steam group and made a new test stand. The Board of Directors authorized \$200 for materials. Milon purchased a gauge and pressure regulator from Grainger and a 1400psi Karcher pressure washer from Northern Hydraulics plus hoses and fittings. The unit provides a constant hydro pressure without having to operate a hand pump by adjusting the pressure regulator to the desired boiler



**20 Years ago:** The 649 is out of commission at the moment. Have pulled the front trucks and taken to Milon's. We will work there to put new gear boxes on. The old gear boxes will try to rebuild for the rear trucks, or buy new if required.

Will also be putting new coil springs all around so rides the way it should and not drag on the rails.

Found one bearing sleeve loose and one wheel was working loose. Not many trips around the track left.  
 Vern Geyer - Trainmaster

**30 Years ago:** New Years Day run: The weather turned out to be a bit nasty. Your editor (Dick Quiring) did not make it because he is fighting a cold & cough. From what I have heard, the "Pig Roast", put on by Rod Danley and Bob Lovell turned out fine. Everyone who braved the weather and turned out had a great time & feast. Lets hope so anyhow, Rod & Bob deserve a big "Think You".

**40 Years ago:** The New Years Day Run at Golden Gate Live Steamers found the weather foul, but the warm hospitality of the club members more than compensated it. (The hot buttered Rum they were serving warmed the inner man and / or woman) Saw Earl and Betty Mc Kenzie, Al and Mary Shelley, Barry Garland, Don and Toyoko Yungling and family, Austin and Mary Knoff and son, Ed and Louise Yungling and family (Louise ran the big Mallet a few times around) and Dick and I - All from the Sacramento area. Also enjoying the run were members Ross Crawford, Curt Janssen, Roy Motz, Ralph Mc Chesney, Dave Crawford, and a few more I probably missed while huddling near the old pot belly in the club house. Our January 2nd Day was rained out. 'Nuff said.

**SAFETY SAM SAYS**  
 "Protect your Rear"



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



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

**1.02.06 Charge of Station**  
 The Stationmaster will have complete charge of the station. They may appoint any qualified assistants needed. All

passenger loading and unloading, as well as the arrival and departure of the trains, will be under their supervision.

**4.01.01 Qualifications/Restrictions of an SVLSRM Engineer**  
 18 years of age or older. Member of SVLSRM in good standing. Passes a current Written Qualification test showing knowledge to operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.). Passes a current Practical examine demonstrating the judgment and ability to competently operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.). Possesses a valid Driver's License.

**5.01.01 Requirement of Conductor**  
 All trains hauling passengers shall have at least one qualified Conductor on the last car of the train, or facing backward on the rear seat of the Engineer car. It shall be their responsibility to protect the rear of the train and to assist the Engineer in the operation of the train. Each Conductor on duty shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light on the train. (See section 4.02