

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlstrm.org

December 2020

Volume 47, Issue 12



President's Report

By Andy Berchielli



We finally enter the final month of 2020. Hoping to get back to back normal come 2021. We ended the season with 5 birthday parties after our Fall Meet. The only parties we did the whole year! That gives me hope that parties will pick back up next year. This is good news since parties are a major part of our revenue.

Speaking of revenue, the club's major fundraiser is the Santa Train. We will run Dec. 5+6 and 12+13 from 11-3pm. This year will be completely different than we normally run the event. We will follow our COVID-19 restrictions. This eliminates our cookie buffet and sitting with Santa. This year we will load one family per car with a spacer car in-between at the main Station. We normally run three engines with three to four riding cars. When the train arrives at Oasis Station everyone will **stay** on the train. Santa and Ms. Claus will be set up next to the Oasis Station. A picture of the family on the car with Santa behind them will be taken and handed to them on the train. The engineer will move forward one riding car and repeat procedure. We are charging \$5 a person for a train ride and 2 printed pictures per family. All transactions will be at the ticket booth by the main Station.

Important message from the Park District. Hagan Park will be closed to public entry on Christmas and New Years Day. We will be allowed to enter for our annual New Years Day run through the Ambassador Gate only. Please make a note of this. **Main gate will be locked on those two days.**

We are canceling our annual club dinner on January 16th. Join us instead for fellowship and trains on New Years Day. Our board meetings are held on the second Monday of the month via Zoom. Members are welcome to join. Reach out to me if interested for Zoom meeting ID.

Stephanie Huntingdale
Secretary Report

Results of the 2020 Election.
20 members voted.

Dennis Gramith, Vice President
Tom Nance, Treasurer
Dennis Bowie, Track Superintendent
Richard Lutrel, Yardmaster
Craig Griffin, Director at Large

Votes tallied by Alison Berry and Barbara Moser



Look - it is our Caboose actually on a train, see page 6.



SVLSRM Calendar

Club future activity will depend on VIRUS GUIDELINES. *Please check on-line about Public activity.*

- Dec 5 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**
- Dec 6 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**
- Dec 12 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**
- Dec 13 Public Santa train run day - **check on-line**
- Dec 14 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom

- Jan. 1 Member run day.
- Jan. 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom

Please volunteer to support the club events.
How will you support SVLSRM this month?



MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

**Dues are due by January 1, 2021.
Please complete your membership form noting changes.
You can download forms at svlsrm.org.
Send check or pay on-line at:
www.svlsrm.org/membership.php
Send forms/check to: SVLSRM
P.O. Box 273
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741**

Thanks



Help us save money by not mailing your newsletters. Read it on-line.

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.



See www.svlsrm.org for current information. If you have not looked for a while, then you will have missed news or for sale items that are not in the newsletter.

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.

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

Board of Directors

(##) *Ending year of term*

- President: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (21)
E-mail: president@svlsrm.org
- Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (20)
E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrm.org
- Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (21)
E-mail: secretary@svlsrm.org
- Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (20)
E-mail: treasurer@svlsrm.org
- Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (20)
E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrm.org
- Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (20)
E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrm.org
- Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (21)
E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrm.org
- Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (20)
E-mail: director_bill@svlsrm.org
- Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (21)
E-mail: director_steve@svlsrm.org

Committee Chairpersons

- Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415
E-mail: membership@svlsrm.org
- Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---
E-mail:
- Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425
E-mail: caboose@svlsrm.org
- Birthday & Company Event Chairperson:
Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: Events@svlsrm.org
- Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113
E-mail: editor@svlsrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



Wow! The last newsletter of the year. I am sure you, like most people, can't wait for 2020 to be over. I could never have imagined a year like this.

This is my last month as treasurer. I have really enjoyed being part of the board for the past 5+ years. I know Tom will do a great job as treasurer. I want to thank everyone for their support.

Several of the SVLSRM elves have been working hard creating decorations to go around the track for our Santa Train. Although we won't have our usual Santa's Village and traditional Santa photographs, we are still having our Santa Train. We have found a way to do photographs with Santa – at a safe distance for all. We will need help with set-up which will start on Saturday, November 28. We will continue the setup on Thursday December 3 and Friday December 4. Along with putting up various decorations, the track of course will need to have leaves and branches removed. There is always a lot of yard maintenance to keep our track clear and safe for our trains. We also need train crews for the 4 days we are running. We do not need cookies as there is no Santa's Village. Please come and help if you can. You can contact me at alibearry@yahoo.com or call or text me at 916-956-4597 to confirm we are decorating on the days I mentioned. Contact Andy or Dennis Gramith if you can be part of the train crew or if you need to get or renew your crew qualifications.

Have a safe holiday season and let's hope 2021 is a better year for all. Alison Berry



Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

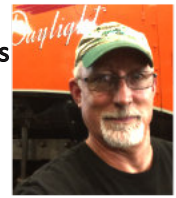
The Board continues to meet by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is December 14, 6:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, contact Andy Berchielli, (916) 752-6697, for how to connect to ZOOM or Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 for an Agenda.

The park will be closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Access to our area for the New Year's Run will probably be the Ambassador entrance. The park is having trouble with their well again. They will try to keep our area watered twice a week.

Long Range Planning – Hydraulic Lift replacement. Two designs were discussed. Design will be determined, and then cost will be researched and reported to the Board at the January 2021 meeting for more discussion and planning.

Director - Steve Milward

Hello! Once again, I hope everyone is doing what they can to keep themselves and others healthy.



Preparations for our December Santa Trains are underway. A good group of members and their families started to prepare decorations and the backdrop area for the photographs. A number pine trees were brought in add to the festive scene. Test photographs were shot, and ways to make to process move quickly and efficiently were discussed.

As noted before, this years' Santa Trains will be different in that trains carrying families will stop in front of our Oasis Station to have their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Family groups will be kept together on their own cars. The train will stop, pictures shot, then move ahead to the next car. Photographs will either be distributed at Oasis Station, or forwarded to Cordova Station to be distributed once the families disembark. Social distancing and car cleaning will be a part of this. The final details will be worked out before the event.

As always, we'll need your help. Train crews, station crews, folks to help clean and load cars, and people just being willing to help with this event. Come on out and join the fun! It's good for the community and our organization.

Looking ahead after the holidays there will be lots of small track projects to focus on. Here's your chance to come out, get your hands dirty and see what it's all about!

Thank you, and we hope to see you on the rails soon.



FCR 2019-27 Update – On site locomotive car storage. Still suspended. However, since it has been determined that building permits will need to be obtained so the plan will now be modified for size and shape of the building. Grants will be pursued in Spring 2021.

FCR 2020-06 – Signal Crossing –the pipe extension has been installed, electrical conduit laid in the ground.

Santa Train attendees will stay on the train and have a photo taken with Santa present. \$5 per rider, under two ride for free. Two photos will be given to the family. We will use a natural backdrop with trees for the photos. The park will be decorated to make the ride more special. Volunteers are needed to help with set up. Set up will begin Wednesday, December 2nd. Santa Run is December 5 & 6 and December 12 & 13.



11-3-2020 , 11-10-2020, 11-17-2020

Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Chris Klavasahl, Earl Martin Steve Arigotti, Bill Yoder, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Barbara Rhors, Dennis Gramith, Leonmama

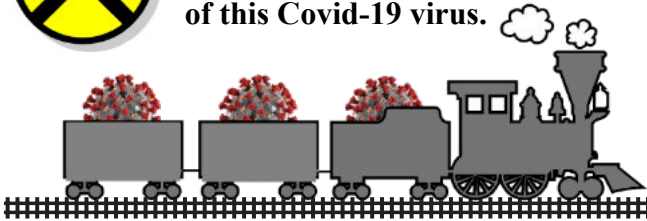
Casseri, Ralph Merrill, Keith Berry, Butch & Bill Floyd, Alison Berry.

11-21-2020

Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Steve Milward , Kevin & Andrew Sach, Alison Berry, Tom Nance, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Richard, Amy, Sarah, Breanna Lutrel, Dennis Gramith, Dennis Bowie, Colton Snell, Bill & Butch Floyd, John & Jackie Bailie, Marie Bailie, Thomas, Alyse, Guests - Nathan Bailie & Sammie McGuire.



Please stay safe and follow State guidelines to do your part in preventing the spread of this Covid-19 virus.



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

1.15 Children

Parents or Guardians shall be responsible for the safety, supervision, and behavior of their Children at all times.

2.10 Brakes

All locomotives or engineers' riding cars shall have the means to do a control stop in a safe manner.

3.11 Conductor/Trainman Whistle Signals

Communicating signals are used by the conductor when necessary to convey a message to the engineer while the train is running. Communicating signals are blown on the conductor's whistle, loud enough for the engineer to hear above the noise of the engine.

4.12 Boarding of Passengers

Passengers of the general public shall board and disembark only at the SVLSRM Depot or other locations as approved by the Board of Directors (i.e., as during public open houses, club meets, etc.) Private passengers may embark or disembark anywhere along the track, but only if proper safety procedures are followed.



10 Years ago: The Holidays are Here and it is time to plan for the track replacement project to start in January. Plastic Tie material has been ordered out of the profit from the Halloween run and gravel will be delivered the first of the year. The track will be closed to thru traffic from January 2, 20011, through the first of March. The track crew has done a GREAT job in Maintaining the right of way thru this last year. Special Thanks to Paul Skidmore, Jack Friedman, Ben lienwatcher, Carson Wentz, Dick Patton, And Terry Willes for ALL of their Help. Gail and I want to Wish You All a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR !

20 Years ago: Point-Point Run. For the first time in many years SVLS hosted a Point to Point. The turnout was great, and everyone had a really good time. Starting at the typical Railroad time (1 hour late!), the two passenger trains departed in opposing directions. Following them were a total of 7 freight trains. Each train had their orders for the day including General Orders. Track warrants, and schedules w/switch list. A map of the railroad was also included to inform everyone of station names, though this didn't always help! Confusion reigned for a bit as one car was forgotten by one train and a head on collision was averted! The weather was terrific, and we even had passengers on one of the trains. The dispatcher held it all together and we completed our first Point to Point by scheduling the next one. The highlights of the day were Allison King dispatching, and having her husband, Dale and their train be one of those close to a head on collision. Milon Thorley was kept busy, yet had time out for lunch, and then he shanghaied Jack Rocket for a switchman. Chris Donhost did a wonderful job getting the steamer around on time and still having to make water stops. The best sight was Matt Mason and Lee Frechette on their trains trying to eat lunch, run their locos and talk to the dispatcher all at once. The Tin Man (Dave Mattox) was out with his passenger train and the Taylors, Veronica and Dale , came down to also participate as a passenger train. Paul Moser was on his Mighty Mack and running around everyone, and Gordon Moser came off the extra board to run our last freight. The best was Barb Moser having the caboose open for lunches. It was so terrific to have everyone there and with moral support form Dick Esselbach and John Bailey, we made it. For the future point to point we need more people not necessarily more trains.

40 Years ago: TService Trophy for 1980 went to the De Freitas brothers, who else? They are in a class by themselves. Big Day Video. Watch channel 10, PM Magazine, Wed 7 Jan. That's when Diane Damron says they are going to air the seven-minute feature film of SVLS. April and May are red letter months. SVLS has been asked to run on Sat, Sun 11 and 12 April for the benefit of members of the NMRA, who'll be arriving by the bus load! About the same time in May comes the opening of the California Railroad Museum, in which the club has been asked to take an active part.



TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale

Looking back over the year and the Live Steam hobby at what it has meant to so many members and how it has helped with this year's life challenges.

The club has provided a location for fellowship and camaraderie. We have grown together to appreciate the railroads and mechanics of locomotion. The park has provided a gathering place, a refuge for solitude. The beautiful trees and grasses, the water features, the weather, and the structures are amazing. It provides a fulfilling experience to members; the club has provided the same to the public that comes out to share our hobby. Andy has had a few birthday parties, and I can tell you the families that share with us have big smiles and will continue to support this hobby.

This club is for all members whether having large or small locomotive equipment, or none at all, it is for you!! Many members have other interests. Rich Nelson is building a On3 layout at home, Colton Snell tinkers with his locomotives in his shop at home, Dennis Gramith is always making modifications of the club equipment; Barbra Moser always thinking of how she can satisfy the hungry members on works days; Dennis Bowie focusing on what needs to be done with the 7.5" track at the park; Chris Klevesahl who comes down often and cleans the trees and yard freely without complaining. There are many others, too many to mention them all, they include Bill Yoder who puts together this wonderful monthly publication and takes care of the many electrical and communication issues of the club. THANK YOU, it can't be said enough, THANK YOU!!!!

Many members have been planning for the Christmas (Holiday) public runs for the first two weekends of December. Kevin and Andrew Sack preparing the photo opportunities for the public; Alison Berry, Stephanie Huntingdale, Barbara Moser, and Barbara Rohrs for the park decorations; Steve Milward brought down fir trees for the photo backdrop; others constructing and painting the plywood standups: Amy Lutrel and the girls, Jackie Bailie, daughter Marie and granddaughter Elise. There are many things going on besides running locomotives.

Again this last month the G gauge railroaders were out having great Tuesday run days. The members show up, some bring locomotives, and some just enjoy the camaraderie. Some have been helping with Christmas DIY projects on Tuesday including the Deans and Bill Floyd.

If you have time the first part of December, come out to help with our Christmas public runs scheduled for the first two weekends. Also, the few days before we will be out helping with decorating the park. If you have a Christmas G train, please bring it out on the weekends between 11:00 and 3:00 as the public runs will be passing by on the trains, however they will not be allowed to get off the train. Please plan on social distancing and wearing a mask. I know they enjoy our trains. See you about! Don't forget New Year's run day.

Trainmaster

By Peter Welch



With Andy Berchiellis help we have completed a new conductor riding car complete with a clipboard stand and a drink holder.

I have started working on the new caboose which we'll be able to be ride on also. With these two new cars it will make being a conductor more comfortable. We hope you will enjoy the new ride. Thank your for coming out to the club and helping out during our run days.



Santa is getting ready for the "Santa Train Run". He would like to see SLVS members come out and help, as it takes CREW, STATION personal, TICKET Sales, CAMERA operator, SUPPORT for anything and everything.

This is the last event for this year so please come out and help support this event. But be safe and wear your mask and keep safe distance. Thanks.



Here is a mystery for you railroad history people. Where was this photo taken? The date of the photo is thought to be 1985. This is one year before SVLS acquired the #445 Caboose, it was moved onto our place in September of 1986.

The caboose was made by the International Railway Car Co. During the years of 1955-1956 along with other in the number series of 426 to 460.

Special thanks to Robert Foreen for sharing his photo he recently acquired.