

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

June 2022

Volume 49, Issue 06



## President's Report By Andy Berchielli

SVLSRM Spring Meet is in the books. It was well attended giving the warm weather we got.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped make this meet a success. Many of us spent the whole week out there preparing the grounds; setup and of course food. A special thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve food. Of course our board and chair members consisting of Dennis G., Tom N, Stephanie H., Dennis B., Steve M., Craig G., Rich L., Larry, Barbara M., Stacy R., and myself. Most never know how much this crew puts into the organization. Your efforts definitely show and I appreciate all you do.

Thank you! I also picked up our gator this week. Jim Greco installed a new motor for us. Along with the new motor came some modifications and a new seat. It's a little different to start and run. I'll be there Sunday May 29 and June 5 to go



over it for those interested. Thank you Jim for contributing your time to work on the gator.



**SVLSRM Calendar**

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

- June 4 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- June 5 Public run day 11AM - 3PM
- June 13 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom
- June 18 Work Day.
- June 19 Member run day

July 3 Rides 6 PM to 8:30 PM - special event  
 July 4 Rides 6 PM to 8:30 PM - special event  
 All attendees will have to purchase tickets for park access in advance online.  
[www.ranchocordovajuly4th.com/](http://www.ranchocordovajuly4th.com/)

- July 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via Zoom
- July 16 Work Day.
- July 17 Member run day

*Dates to reserve on your calendar:*

**Fall meet Oct. 14, 15, & 16**

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



See [www.svlsrcm.org](http://www.svlsrcm.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.

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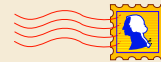
Articles & Pictures may be submitted to:  
[editor@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).

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



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Please send your 2022 dues now!

Send check or pay on-line at [svlsrcm.org](http://svlsrcm.org). Send forms to SVLSRM P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters on-line.

**Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy.**

**Board of Directors**

- (##) *Ending year of term*  
 President: Andy Berchielli (916) 752-6697 (23)  
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 Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (22)  
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 Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (23)  
 E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_steve@svlsrcm.org)

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- Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850  
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 Librarian Chairperson: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597  
 E-mail: [librarian@svlsrcm.org](mailto:librarian@svlsrcm.org)  
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 Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder  
 E-mail: [editor@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org)

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



**MEMBERSHIP**

by Stacy Reese

I would like to welcome all of our new members to our fabulous club! We have had several join over the last few months.

Steve & Peggy Borcher

Ken & Helen Crizer

Al Di Paolo

Scott & Alice Lewis

Steve & Karin Mahnke & Family

Roger McGuire

Michael & Rosanna Sharps

Raymond Smith

Robby Smith

Sue & Ray Suzow

Troy Wilkinson

I enjoyed talking with many of you at the Spring Meet and hope to see you again soon. Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues. Stephanie and I have got the Roster cleaned up and hopefully correct. If you spot any errors, please let me know. I would also like to remind everyone that the Train Crews must update their testing every two years. If you have any question about membership just shoot me an email or give me a call, all my contact information is on the website.



**Members working.**

5-7-2022, 5-8-2022,,  
Public Run Day Weekend:  
Dennis Gramith, Colton  
Snell, Tom Nance, Gordon  
& Barbara Moser, Craig  
Griffin, Butch & Bill Floyd,

Harry Voss, Dennis Fellleen, Mike Skums, Glenn Wilson, Ray Smith, Leonard Cassieri, Bart Cook, Andy Berchielli, Dave Frediani, Stacy Reese, Richard Corbell, Stephanie & Phil Huntingdale, Andrew Maret, Troy Wilkinson, David Cladianos, Rob Sharratt, Shane Jackman, Keith Jackman, Christopher Roberts.

Seen on other days before the meet: Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Steve Milward, Keith Berry, Steve Arigotti, Chuck San Fillipo, Ricchard Corbell, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Sid Madden,



**Director - Steve Milward**

Greetings! Well, the 2022 Spring Meet is done and by all measures was a success. We enjoyed lots of visitors, trains, nice weather, a chance to see old friends and make new ones.

It almost goes without saying that successful events like this happen because a core group of members pitch in and do the heavy lifting. To all of those folks I offer a big Thank You!

During the meet it was mentioned to me that almost 30% of our members haven't paid their dues for 2022 yet. It's possible that some paid at the meet, but the remainder have quietly let their membership lapse.

So, what do your membership fees do and where do they go? The track, and all of the maintenance and upgrades that go with it. The club owned locomotives and rolling stock that are available the members use. The buildings, facilities and equipment to keep everything in repair and working. Insurance and other administrative expenditures that allow us to keep the doors open, the trains running, and to be there for our members and the public. That said, it's not fair to those members who made the effort to stay current to carry those who haven't.

The good news – the club is in decent financial shape and we'd like to stay that way. The bad news – everything has gotten more expensive! If we need it or want it, we're going to pay a lot more for it.

Please, do your part to help YOUR railroad remain vibrant and successful.

Again, thanks for your ongoing help and support and we hope to see you on the rails.



Mike Skums, Dennis Gramith, Alison Berry, Bill & Butch Floyd, Richard Nelsen, Barbara Schoellkoph, Michael Fitzgerald, George Potter, Bill Yoder, Tom & Stacy Reese, Craig Griffin, Tom Nance, Dennis & Ryan Bowie, Bart Cook, Dave Frediani, Bob Ress, Rose & David Janson, Rob Sharratt, Harry Voss, John Bailie, Paul Skidmore, David & Rose Jansson, Gary Cousin, David Cladianos, Austin Unruh, Larry Curtin, Glen Wilson.



Special thanks to Robert Forren for sharing photos and some from your Editor. Many more will be on our web site. SVLSRM.org







Spring Meet is over and there are many people to thank. I'll apologize now, if I have missed someone. Know that you are all appreciated for what you do. No job is small or large, just needed. It takes many to make such a weekend possible.

Andy Berchielli as President is responsible for all aspects, assigning many tasks; however I saw him mowing the lawns, working with the sprinklers, assigning track, building new steps, installing siding track numbers, propane, ordering porta potties, locking up, serving food, putting out fires and keeping most engaged. Thank you Andy for your leadership and help.

Barbara Moser, sometimes referred to as our Caboose Angel, leads everyone on food preparation, with the shopping assistance of husband Gordon, they keep all things running. Gordon takes care of trash and the restrooms too. Barbara makes the Friday lunches and Friday spaghetti dinner. In addition she bakes cookies and cakes for dessert. She also adds chili, potato and macaroni salad for Saturday lunches. We try to give her a break with Saturday dinner; however I still saw her serving. She has help from daughter Lisa too. Other volunteers this year were Toy Yungling, Judy Berchielli, Linda Lutrel, Suzzana Ress, Jennifer Roberts and Beth Wilson. Dave McClain, Steve Milward, and Phil Huntingdale helped with cleanup. Saturday and Sunday lunches have been cooked by Kevin Sach with some help, always appreciated.

Registration table was handled by Stephanie Huntingdale and Staci Reese for three days. Our task included greeting, getting membership up to date, selling club merchandise, selling tickets, helping with catered dinner and serving food, getting donuts. Staci helps keep everything organized with our record keeping. Couldn't do this without her help and especially the laughter and fun, it is most appreciated. Bill Floyd managed the beverages over the three days! The Carrera Family helped too. Alison Berry managed to keep the Library open in the heat of the day. Hope you had a chance to stop by and see what we have in there. Chris Klevesahl, Butch Floyd, Rich Nelson assisted with the unloading and loading. Dennis Bowie, Steve Milward, and the Ridgecrest group worked several days replacing ties and got the track in gauge. The inner circle signal system installed by Allan Shifley worked during the event flawlessly. Tom Nance made sure we had money, set up

Fareharbor for reservations and helped wherever he was needed with trains/track.

Beginning all of this was the website work; Bill Yoder also made the artwork for our souvenir buttons, which were put together by some of our Tuesday group, Richard Corbell and Barbara Schoellkopf. Then there was setup of tents, tables, ice chests, easy ups, chairs etc...many helpers were there to give assistance, Andy B, Dennis Gramith, Harry Voss, Rich Nelson, Butch Floyd, Augie Berchielli, Glenn Wilson, Gordon Moser and more. Craig Griffin installed our new water heater, did boiler checks and helped everywhere with engines. Many of our men helped when asked. Can't get this all put together without them!

As I said in the beginning, there were many that worked on putting this together if I have failed to recognize anyone, I apologize but know that you are appreciated. Let's do it all again at the Fall Meet, October 14-16!!

*Again THANKS from* Stephanie Huntingdale.

#####  
**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**



**1.03 Passengers and Visitors**

General public, when permitted within the steaming bays, shall be escorted by a SVLSRM member. General public who need to get close to tracks for photography shall have an escort to keep a lookout for

oncoming trains or equipment movement.

**2.04 Periods of Low Visibility**

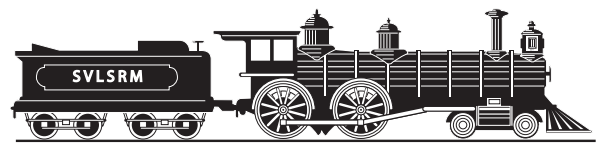
All trains running during periods of low visibility or after sunset shall be equipped with a marker light, or with lights on the rear of the last car, displaying a red light to the rear and visible for at least 150 Ft.

**3.04 Unloading/loading**

Locomotives and equipment shall be unloaded and loaded only at the facilities provided at the steaming bays. All vehicles shall be removed from the loading area as soon as possible after loading and unloading. Small equipment may be unloaded/loaded at any siding.

**4.10 Passenger Train equipment**

Each public passenger train shall be equipped with proper documentation materials i.e.; clip board, Conductor report, incident/accident forms, operable writing pen, whistle, two way radio, red flag, and current rules book.





### TRACK UPDATE

*By Phil Huntingdale*

This meet was incredible! Those that attended the Spring Meet were treated to a fabulous weekend. The track was filled with trains for three days and nights. Steam locomotives with their consents were in motion throughout the event, and the G table was filled at various times with all tracks occupied. We had many members in attendance bring their equipment down for day and evening runs under the lights. Rich Nelson was running three days, and always amazes the guests. Some of the 7.5" guys with locomotives included Dennis and Ryan Bowie, Craig Griffin, Tom Nance and Andy B. The Sonora guys including Dave, Bart, Bill, and Richard were on hand Saturday. George, Colton, Ralph Merrill also attended. In the evening I saw Dave Dull with Chula Vista running and others. Wyatt Thomas had a large consist of logging cars and shay locomotive. What I saw this week end indicated the G scale part of the hobby is alive and doing well. Thanks to everyone who attended and brought trains to run on our table.

Channing with Accrucraft provided some display items and sold a few of their offerings. They have several new products that apparently appealed for several members. It is great to see vendors attend with such a large selection on all gages!

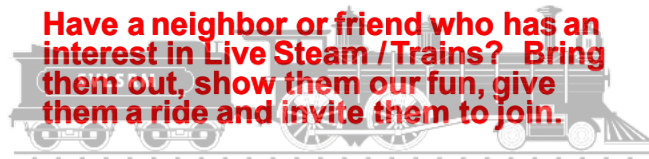
Jerry Abreu and Bob Dean even crossed over to the 7.5 gauge by learning to run the RS3. Big smiles by both.

Don't forget the first weekends of the each month are the public run events, hours 11:00 to 3:00. This is a great opportunity as well to run on the layout without other equipment on the track, and a great way to encourage young folks to get into the hobby. Birthday parties are in full swing on Saturday and Sundays; check the calendar on the web site. If you can, bring a train to run or run the clubs electric. Really adds to the party experience. With the great weather, bring out your significant other and folding chairs and relax under the shade of the canopy trees.

See you about!



**Have a neighbor or 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.**







10 Years ago: I want to start by saying Thanks to all involved with making our Meet a Success. I received many complements from members and guests on how well our meet was organized and the Great condition of our track and grounds.

Due to the numbers of trains with consists of 5 or more cars, I started the "CONE RULE". A cone blocking a siding meant that a member or guest has reserved the siding for parking there train during the meet. This rule has eliminated stress of losing a place to park and made operating your trains more fun. The comments to me were positive. I will be presenting this rule to the board to adopt for all meets.

I want to thank the members of the Sage Brush Short Line from Ridge Crest,CA, for spreading ballast, leveling and tamping track in Midway North Yard. – Darrell Gomes

20 Years ago: The meet was a great success... Many visitors, a large contingent of steam loco's, numerous in-progress projects displayed, and great number of riders on the main line. So many, in fact that fuel tanks went dry on the club engines. The UP engine, being a model of a diesel, was refueled with diesel, much to the distress of Mr. Briggs and Mr. Stratten, and Dave Mattox. The good news is that once Dave got the beast running

Recently I mentioned that it would be good if someone could build a prototype of the new design riding car we are considering. Great news!! Matt Hall, a cabinet maker and woodworker has volunteered to take on the project. Matt will work out a materials cost and, with the board approval, will begin construction. Since we have trucks and couplers already this would be an economical project. - Don Juergensen

30 Years ago: As many of you know, our goal to complete the first loop in the expansion area in time for the Spring Meet was reached and thoroughly tested during the meet. The engineering of the bridge proved to be sound, showing no signs of strain even under the weight of Stan Hindsley's big U.P. Northern and John Hain's 6" scale 4-6-2 Tintern Abbey. Neither of these engines had any problems negotiating the "S" curve at the north west end of the new loop. By the way, the "S" curve is also on a grade and presents a challenge to any engine with a moderate load. So far this year about 1150 feet of new track has been laid.. We hope to have the second loop completed by the Fall Meet. This will more than double the size of the existing railroad and give us close to 4,000 feet of mainline. Ed Spall deserves a lot of credit for his time and effort. He has built at

least 90% of the track panels needed. - Doug Fulton, Superintendent

40 Years ago: Poor old Earl McKensie! Ed Yungling explained that Earl was losing his memory when Earl could not remember where he put a truck for one of our new riding cars. Earl searched his house high and low, amid much razzing from Ed, but the truck could not be found. Sometime later, when Ed moved his roll-away tool box, a very familiar truck suddenly re-appeared. Snicker, Snicker! Ken Willes recently found new meaning to that old saying about sticks and stones. ON Monday, June 7, Ken was providing rides for pre-school children (as he does so very often), when a young vandal wedged a stick between the ties of the bridge crossing the stream. The emergency applicaion of his brakes was not quite enough and Ken, engine and all, came wihin inches of getting a swimming lesson.



### Secretary Board Report

*By Stephanie Huntingdale*

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is November 8, 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.

Insurance: Purchased new policy from All Cal Insurance Company

Public Run ride count for May is 488 riders.

Membership – 155 paid, 76 still owing.

Switches continue to be worked on and should be operational by Spring Meet

Final Bylaw revision will be presented at Friday dinner meeting for membership vote.

Train Crew Qualifications and Guidelines to be discussed at June Board Meeting.

Club purchased 1,000 feet of new aluminum rail, ties and switches for \$500

A donation of 540 feet of steel rail, 2 y's and 2 switches was received.

New FCR approved with \$1,000 budget to modify storage in box car by adding a third level.



**BEFORE  
YOU  
COMPLAIN...**  
  
**...HAVE YOU  
VOLUNTEERED  
YET?**



