

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

December 2022

Volume 49, Issue 12



## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

Santa is coming to town and we have the trains to visit him. This year we are selling tickets for departure times. One to help with the wait time and most importantly improve the experience. So far we have sold 1100 tickets. To maximize the experience with Santa we will operate 3 trains for the event. First departure is 10:30 then every ten minutes the next train will depart. Based on a 20 minute lap time this gives us 10 minutes to take pictures; load train and a little more time for Santa. Instead of the past years when we had too many trains. This creates a backup at Santa with many trains stopping on the main waiting. We will try this new format in hopes it improves the experience for all. Volunteers will be needed for all four days. Station help; ticket booth; photo help and train crews.

Members that want to ride the train to visit Santa should contact me or Tom Nance to get a time slot that's available.

We are setting up the portable track and Village Green Park on Saturday 11/26 at 10am. Then pickup trains and run the Tree Lighting event from 4-7:30 on 11/27. Monday 11/28 we pick up track. Contact Stephanie for volunteer help.

The park will be closed Christmas and New Years Day. Any entry must use ambassador gate



## Happy Holidays



## ALL Aboard



## Santa Train

December 3 & 4 and December 10 & 11  
Come out and help!

Decorating at the Club will begin on Tuesday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> around 9:30 am, – many hands are needed! Come out and you will have lot's to do.

**Santa Train Weekends:** 9 am at the park to set up engines and ride cars.

*Take down crews needed on last Sunday.*



**NEW YEARS DAY 2023** Lets 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. Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch. Mark your calendar for Sunday January 1, 2023 running starts at 10 AM. with lunch about 1 PM.

If you plan to attend the annual New Day Run be advised that *the park will be closed. Please enter through the Ambassador gate closing gate behind you.* The park cannot be open to the public. Thank you for your cooperation.

## SVLSRM Calendar

*Please check on-line about Public activity.*

Nov. 26 Rancho Cordova Tree Lighting – Saturday,  
set up portable track and level,  
Nov. 27 Sunday – tree lighting rides begin at 4 pm to 7  
Nov. 28 Take down of track and return to the park.

Nov. 29 Work Day  
Nov. 30 Set up for Santa run.  
Dec. 1 Set up for Santa run.  
Dec. 2 Set up for Santa run.

Dec. 3-4 **Santa run**  
Dec. 10-11 **Santa run**

Jan. 1, 2023 New Year day members run

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.

*The Golden Spike* is 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@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).

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

## MEMBERSHIP

*by Stacy Reese*

I would like to welcome our new members. Joining our club is:

Daphne Chakurian and her family

Cynthia Periera and her family

Benjamin Hadden and his family

I want to thank everyone who has renewed their memberships. Please renew as soon as you can. Our Club depends on your support.

## Board of Directors

(##) *Ending year of term*

President: Andy Berchielli (916) 752-6697 (23)

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

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (22)

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

Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (23)

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

Treasurer: Tom Nance, (714) 795-4630 (22)

E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrcm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrcm.org)

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (22)

E-mail: [tracksuper@svlsrcm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlsrcm.org)

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (22)

E-mail: [yardmaster@svlsrcm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlsrcm.org)

Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (23)

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

Director1: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367 (22)

E-mail: [director\\_larry@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_larry@svlsrcm.org)

Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (23)

E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_steve@svlsrcm.org)

## Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850

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

Librarian Chairperson: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: [librarian@svlsrcm.org](mailto:librarian@svlsrcm.org)

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

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

Birthday & Company Events Chairperson:

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

Safety Chairperson: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367

E-mail: [director\\_Larry@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_Larry@svlsrcm.org)

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder

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

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



**TRACK UPDATE**

*By Phil Huntingdale*

Again this last month the G gauge railroaders were out having great Tuesday and public run day run days. The members show up, some bring

locomotives, and some just enjoy the camaraderie. Thanks go out to you for enjoying the park and participating in the club! Looking back over the year and the Live Steam hobby at what it has meant to so many members! The club has provided a location for fellowship and camaraderie. We have grown together to appreciate the railroads and mechanical locomotion. The park has provided a gathering place, a refuge. 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. The club has provided a place for several birthday parties' events, 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!! Andy Berchielli for being the President of this club and each of the Board members for keeping the club on an even track; Dennis Bowie is tinkering with the 7.5" track; Dennis Gramith is making modifications of the club equipment; Barbra Moser always thinking of how she can satisfy the hungry members on works days; many members comes down often and clean trees and the yard freely without complaining; Ralph Merrill has been keeping the G switches functioning better; Kevin Sach is completing the water mill project; and Bill Yoder who puts together this wonderful monthly publication. There are many others, too many to mention them all. THANK YOU, it can't be said enough, THANK YOU!!!!

Many members have been planning for the Christmas Santa Train public runs for the first two weekends of December. Come to the park on November 30, December 1st through the 2rd to help with yard cleanup and help place the decorations around the park. Steve Milward brought down fir trees for the photo backdrop; Keith Berry and Richard Corbell for painting the plywood tree standups; and especially Santa and Mrs. Clause for visiting the park! There are many things going on besides running locomotives.

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



**Director - Steve Milward**

Greetings, As has been well mentioned, our club has a number of activities in the next few weeks. It's really important that, whenever possible, our members come out and assist with the set-up and operation of these events. Your participation in your club is crucial to our success, and it isn't fair to let a small handful of folks shoulder the entire load.

Besides, helping out will REALLY put you on Santas good list!

The elections are done, and as luck would have it, I'm the new Track Superintendent. I too, will be reaching out of volunteers to assist on upcoming projects. First up will be the replacement of the trestle leading out of the boxcar yard. Other projects to follow.

I'd like to thank Dennis Bowie and Paul Skidmore for showing me the ropes on track work. Be assured, I've got a lot more to learn...



**Librarian - Alison Berry**

I want to thank Mignonne Tinkam for her generous donation of 145 DVDs to the SVLSRM library. She shared with me how she and Cal enjoyed watching these videos.

They are all part of the Ultimate Railroading DVD Series. I have tried to research more of the history behind the creation of this DVD series but have found very little information. It appears they were DVD sets of 10 videos released over several years by Trains Magazine (Kalmbach Publishing, Co.). It will take me a bit of time to add to the SVLSRM system as they will all need to be added manually. This donation will bring our DVD collection close to 200 DVDs.

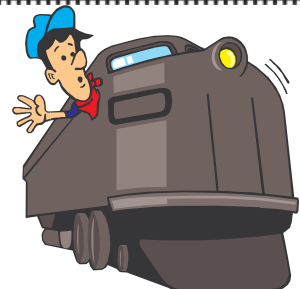
I hope to have an updated book list and DVD list on the SVLSRM website in January.

Happy Holidays!



off the train. I know they enjoy our trains. Don't forget New Year's run day.

See you about!



**Secretary Board Report**

*By Stephanie Huntingdale*

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is December 12th, 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.

Winter Project – to rebuild the trestle coming into Oasis

Board approved \$2,500 to repair the Pacific Steam engine.

Work will begin in January to update Engineer Tests.


Ride Car Lettering will begin in January.

Signal Lighting, work to be done by Alan Shifley and crew. Proposal One and Two were approved.

Birthday Party rates have been increased starting January 1, 2023. Steam engine will be \$400, Diesel engine, \$250, extra @ \$75 and additional train \$100.

November 19, 2022 Annual Meeting – The following were elected to two year terms:

- Tom Nance, Vice President
- Stacy Reece, Treasurer
- Steve Milward, Track Superintendent
- Chris Klevesahl, Yard Master
- Larry Curtin, Director at Large

Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters on-line. Average price per mailing over \$2.

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

**Dues are due January 1, 2023.**

Support your club, Send check or pay on-line. Please notify membership of changes to: E-mail, address, phone numbers, etc...



**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

**1.10 Food and Refreshments**

Passengers shall not take food, drinks, or other refreshments other than water aboard any train. Nor may any person, passenger or crew member, smoke while on board. Dumping of trash while on the train is strictly prohibited.

**2.05 Safety Chains**

A chain, cable or draw bar must be installed between any car on which the Engineer is riding separate from his locomotive. A chain or draw bar must also be installed between any fuel car or cars and the locomotive which it supplies. Some safety device is recommended for all cars.

**3.02 Responsibilities of the Conductor**

Each conductor shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light in their possession at all times while acting as conductor. They shall assist in loading or unloading passengers on the train. They shall be certain that all passengers on their train have been informed of the safety rules before signaling to the engineer to proceed from the station. They shall enforce all passenger safety rules while the train is in motion. They shall enforce rules and shall prevent any passengers from throwing any trash, garbage or other refuse from the train along the right-of-way. They shall align all switches (turnouts) for the mainline after use of such switches by their train. They shall assist the engineer when necessary and shall call for help when necessary to enforce any rules.

**4.01 Qualifications of Crew**

Trains hauling General Public must be operated by qualified Engineers and Conductors who are members of SVLSRM.

All operating personnel, while on duty, shall have a copy of these operating rules in their possession or on the train.

The Board of Directors may restrict or suspend from duty any operating personnel who consistently violate safety rules.





**10 Years ago:** Our Steamer (below) gave over 800 people a ride at the Rancho Cordova tree lighting event.

The weather was great which made an enjoyable evening. Special thanks to those who worked the day before and after setting up the portable track.



**40 Years ago:** The work party on November 20, was used to move part of the materials for our donated storage building from it's previous home to our facility. Thanks to: Ken Feil, JHimmy Durham, Roger Merkh, Ken, Terry and Nadene Willes, Earl McKenzie, Warren Wagner, John Bailie and family, Amandus Drewes, Dennis Gramith and Milon Thorley's trailer.

The membership dues for "1983" are \$18.00 if paid by December 31. Starting January 1, 1983, the dues are \$20.00, associated membership remains \$10.00. If the "yellow membership information sheet" is not filled out you will not be included in the new roster.

Railroader's day 1982 was a success! Although the turnout of past and present railroad employees was somewhat smaller than expected, the 20 or so that did attend seemed to really enjoy the day. Several commented that they knew other railroaders that would have enjoyed it and would bring them next year to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Railroader's day. The prize for the Engineer with the most years of service went to, J. W. Inglett, 43 years with Southern Pacific Railroad. The prize for the longest service for an employee other than an Engineer went to, Ernie Kettle, 41 years with Southern Pacific as a Car Foreman. Plenty of delicious "goodies" were available.



**20 Years ago:** 1ST annual "Santa Run" fund raiser went very well. A large group of volunteers converged at the park for setup on Friday, placing Marilyn Drewes' engine on a pedestal next to Santa's "throne" and applying festive decoration to the caboose picnic area. Children were treated to a free hot drink and cookie: and refreshments were available to adults on a donation basis.



First Santa run (2002).



*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

**December Facts & figures of the past.**



11/19/2005

Dec 2005: With the Santa Run fast approaching, we were able to obtain the talents of a professional local artist to paint the canvas backdrop for the Santa area. Hopefully John has been given enough time to finish before the run date.



The official signing of the incorporation papers of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. The papers were signed on November 8, 1974 and mailed to the State Attorney General's office. Hopefully, the papers will be approved and go into effect by January 1, 1975. It has taken more than two years to get the papers completed, and now that they are, many thanks to all who worked many long hours to get them together.

Pictured in the photo are, from left to right: Al Shelley, Milon Thorley, Larry Badger, Ed Yungling and Howard Bull.

**SVLS Founding Members had Railroad jobs.** Photos and info from Donald Yungling (See Spike 2016 Dec issue for full detail)



One of SVLS earliest members was Alan Shelley. He worked for the Southern Pacific railroad. He also helped drive our golden spike in place in 1973. In photo above he is pulling into the Antelope yards with a local freight from Woodland.



Way back at the CSRM (California State Railroad Museum) Barry Garland, who worked at the museum, is seen on the tender of the Jupiter replica. The locomotive was under steam and we all had an opportunity to pull the throttle. Before his stint at the museum Barry carried a camera for KCRA news. While there he made sure anything railroad related was well covered. Several times he brought reporters to the track for stories which made the evening news.

See some of Barry's film of our 1973 golden spike event on-line at:

<https://www.svlsrcm.org/history2.php>