

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

January 2023

Volume 50, Issue 1



Thanks to all the people that made the Santa Run a success.



## 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 activity.

Jan. 1, 2023 New Year day members run  
 Jan. 7 - 8 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Jan. 8 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Jan. 9 Board meeting 6:30  
 Jan. 14 -15 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Jan. 21 - 22 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Jan. 28 - 29 Club work day - Winter Projects

Feb. 4-5 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Feb. 11-12 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Feb. 13 Board meeting 6:30  
 Feb. 18-19 Club work day - Winter Projects  
 Feb. 25 Club work day - Winter Projects

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



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.

**Dues are due. Please stay onboard.**



**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: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (24)  
E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrcm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrcm.org)
- Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (23)  
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- Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850 (24)  
E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrcm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrcm.org)
- Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (24)  
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- Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (23)  
E-mail: [trainmaster@svlsrcm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlsrcm.org)
- Director1: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367 (24)  
E-mail: [director\\_larry@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_larry@svlsrcm.org)
- Director2: - OPEN-

**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: (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





**President's Report**

By Andy Berchielli

Thanks to everyone that helped with our Santa Train event. The weather play havoc with us causing us to cancel the second Saturday. Due to the large demand; Santa agreed to a third weekend to make up for the poor weather. So overall we did 5 days. Full trains all 5 days. The new format was a great success and our customers loved it with very little wait time. After experimenting with what works the best, the best flow was three trains running with five passenger cars. Max capacity at 20 people per train. This placed the three trains about ten minutes apart and gave Santa the proper time to get thru the train before the next one arrived. Departure times were within 5-10 minutes of their scheduled time.

Several members helped out with their personal steam engines. Thanks to Matt T, Wes P., Don Y., and Chris S. for bringing their engines to help out. Also to Rich N., Charlie S, Evan F, and Larry C for taking pictures. Everyone that helps with this major event is a great benefit for making it run as smooth as possible. Thanks for spending your weekends with us.



To kick off the New Years we routinely have a member run day on the first. If you plan to attend, the park will be closed to the public. They have asked us to use Ambassador Drive gate for our members. The main gate at the park will remain closed for the day.

Also add to your calendar this year our joint meet with GGLS at Portola Valley and Alpine Railroad held on June 17 and 18.



**Dues are due.**  
Your payment is appreciated.





**TRACK UPDATE**

*By Phil Huntingdale*

I trust all had a wonderful Christmas with some new equipment. I'm aware of some new locomotives having been delivered. Let's give thanks for the club and what it provides to us. The hobby is alive and well!

The Santa Run completed, was very interesting with winter rain and fog, but many happy families and youngsters having talked with Santa. Many of you have volunteered to make this a successful club event. Rich Nelson, Larry Curtin and Evan Fain volunteered to help with the photos led by honorary member Charlie Schuman. The Sonora gang, Bill, Rich, Dave and Bart had their steam locomotives operating on one Saturday. The public really gets a kick out of seeing the G table with lots of steam. I ran my Christmas train with battery locomotive the last weekend as well.

New Year's Day is a club run. Come out and have some winter fun. Usually pot luck. Being part of the whole club these families show an interest and participate in our 7.5 gauge too.

Just a reminder, during the months of January and February the club closes down the public run days; however, each Saturday (weather permitting) is a work day. There will be branches and leaves to be picked up. The 7.5" gauge will be replacing some track and the bridge from Cordova station is to be rebuilt. All hands are needed to help with cleaning up and doing some adjustments to the railroad. Come be part of helping the club.

And for those that are philanthropists, should you end the year with extra funds that you don't know what to do with, write a check donation out to the SVLSM and submit it to the Treasurer. The year 2022 saw the club purchase many track related items, and treasury could use any extra funds available. Thanks.



**Track Superintendent**

*by Steve Milward*

Incredible! That is the only word I can use to describe our Santa Trains this year! We pushed through rain, hail, lighting, thunder, fog, cold, wind and occasional glimpses of sunshine to bring happiness to many hundreds of guests.

Our members, their families and friends came through, working an extra weekend to ensure that our visitors had a memorable experience. We saw lots of our newer members taking part in this event. To them, we are most appreciative.

A big "Thank You" to President Andy for orchestrating this event. Additional thanks to Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolf, the photographic and station crews. More thanks to the many folks who spent countless hours at the park, working to make sure we were successful. From set-up to teardown, it was truly a group effort.

Now is the time to relax a bit. To spend time with our family, friends and loved ones. Time to reflect on what was for some, a very challenging year. It's also time to look ahead, to hope for peace, health and prosperity.

2023 will be here soon. Consider ringing in the new year with a visit to your railroad on New Years Day. It'll be a great chance to visit with friends and run some trains, we've earned it!

Our winter track improvement projects will be starting soon, and we have some ambitious plans. Details to follow, and course we'll be looking for folks to jump in to lend a hand.

So, Happy Holidays to our SVLS family and we'll hope to see you at the park very soon.



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





**Tree Lighting-Rancho Cordova, Set Up, Tear Down Track, Ran Trains:**

Dennis Gramith, Dennis Bowie, Larry Curtin, Harry Voss, Bill & Butch Floyd, Gordon Moser, Chris Klevesahl,

Glen Wilson, Tom Nance, Bobb Ress, Jeff & Jack Burke, Steve Milward, Kaden Prudhomme, Glen Wilson, Tom Nance, Don Yungling, Craig Griffin, Steve Milward, Gary Cousin, Evan Fain, Richard Corbell, Phil Huntingdale, Dennis Long, Andy & Augie Berchielli.

**Decoration Helpers - Santa Train:**

Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Keith Berry, Richard Corbell, Steve Milward, Glen Wilson, Dave McClain, Rich Nelsen, Bobb Ress, Augie Berchielli, Andy Berchielli.

**Weekend Helpers - Santa Train 2022, December 3,4,11,17,18:**

Racelyn, Jen, Evan Fain, Gordon, Barbara, Lisa Moser, Jessica Bouchey, Alan, Tammy Shifley, Dave McClain, Chris Klevesahl, Robert & Wendy Forren, Todd Bishop, Dennis, Heidi, Ryan, Maren Bowie, Dennis Gramith, Dale Dennis, Larry & Teri Curtin, Craig Griffin, Andy & Augie Berchielli, Don & Toy Yungling, Charlie Schuman, Richard Nelsen, Tom Nance, Victor, Anita, Alexander Owens, Peter & Jim Welch, Butch & Bill Floyd, Leonard Cassieri, Bob Ress, Steve Milward, Jeff Burke, Rich Nelsen, Harry Voss, Charlie Schuman, Dave Silvernail, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Dennis & Brenda Long, Richard Lutrel, Alison Berry, Troy Wilkinson, Barbara, Mike Schoellkoph, Rob Sharratt, Michael Fitzgerald, Wes Peterson, Chris, Evelyn, Paul & Eli Donhost, Levi Edwards, Stephanie, Phil, Robin, Huntingdale, Tom & Stacy Reese, Harry Voss, Chris Smith, Keith Berry, Richard Corbell, Dennis & Brenda Long, Glen Wilson, Peter Welch, Sandra & Toby Smithers, Matt, Wyatt, Abbey Thomas.

**G-Gauge:**

Bill Bivens, Dave Frediani, Bart Cook, Richard Van Slyke

**Facts & figures of the past.**



**In 1972 we laid the first track panel. Putting the track down on east side next to fence when Pear orchard was next to park. Pictured in front is Erwin Thorley, Ken Spicer & Erl Swart. After they laid the first 40 feet, Milon and his dad, Ken Spicer and Earl Swart, took turns pushing each other back and forth on the track on a riding car.**





**10 Years ago:** Shown receiving Life Memberships at the December meeting are Barbara Moser and Marilyn Drewes. Gordon Moser was also awarded Life Membership. The Board of Directors honors those who have given years of support, and continue to support our club.



**“On behalf of Barbara and myself; we want to thank the Board for giving us Life Membership in the S.V.L.S.R.M. We have been involved with the club for about 25 years now. We hope to spend many more years helping S.V.L.S.R.M. keep making the goals set by present and past members. Thank you.” -Gordon & Barbara Moser**

**20 Years ago:** The annual SVLS Christmas dinner meeting was an enjoyable time with 30 members and guests in attendance. Marilyn Drewes, Lois Clifton, and Barbara Moser planned out and prepared the main course consisting of turkey and ham. Milon Thorley brought his special Chinese chicken salad and special dessert of Baklava provided by Marilyn Drewes and colorful cookies by Terry Willis. Many others brought delicious dishes as well.

For show and tell, Milon Thorley exhibited the first SVLS “Donation Caboose,” which was made of wood and about the size of a G scale car. Don Jergenson showed photos of a shop and engine that were being offered for sale, and Curtis Bonville showed his jib for track joint bar drilling.

A live fiddle duet medley of Christmas tunes by Doug Fulton and Stathy Pappas rounded out the evening. There was lots of time to visit and it all made for just a real good time!

**40 Years ago:** As we venture into the new year, we should look ahead and establish some direction for our club. At the January Board Meeting, we established several goals for 1983. Our main goals will be the completion of the Bathroom Project in time for the Spring Meet and the Land acquisition. I am happy to report that the Park Board and Paul Hagan have joined forces with us to persuade the various Sacramento County Agencies involved, that our proposed expansion would be in the best interest of the area residents and a definite asset to both the Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County Park systems.

Shirley Durham asked the board just how long it should take to complete the Bathroom Project, once it is started. It seems that she wants to know when to expect her husband home again. For those of you who may not know, Jimmy definitely takes the Superintendent’s job very seriously. He arrived at the track on New Year’s Day at 7:00 a.m. to make sure that everything was O.K.!



 **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...



**Secretary Board Report**

By Stephanie Huntingdale

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is January 9,2023, 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. Rule Books will be reviewed by the Board at the January meeting.

A motion was made by Dennis Gramith to change a conductor from 15 years of age to “Age of Reason” Board to determine “Age of Reason” on each individual member basis, 2nd by Larry Curtin. Motion carried.

Board discussed 2023 as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gold Spike ceremony to be celebrated at the Spring Meet. A “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin” is being designed.



**11 Years of a families Santa Train photo experience. Thanks for the memories.**



A photo shared by one of our customers expressing the gratitude that we do this event each year. It's their tradition and many others that attend. This is why we do this event in all types of weather.





**For SALE:** contact Robert Morris Leave message at 925-240-9034

See "FOR SALE" section on-line with more photos and details: <https://www.svlsm.org>

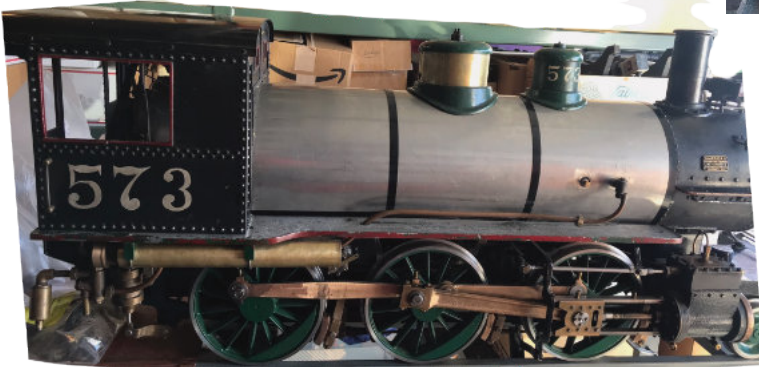
**Item 1: 1/2" Brass Atlantic and Tender \$2500.**



**Item 2: 3/4" scale Tich 040 \$1250.**



**Item 3: 1 1/2 inch Allen 2-6-0 Mogul and Tender \$13,500.**



**#4: 2 1/2" Scale Passenger car - baggage combo - the top come off \$3,000.**



**#5 2 1/2" D&RGW gondola Denver & Rio, scale trucks. \$1500.**



**#7. PFE Reffer - also riding car and fuel car. \$1600.**



**#6: 1" Scale Coles 040 \$1500**

