

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

March 2023

Volume 50, Issue 3



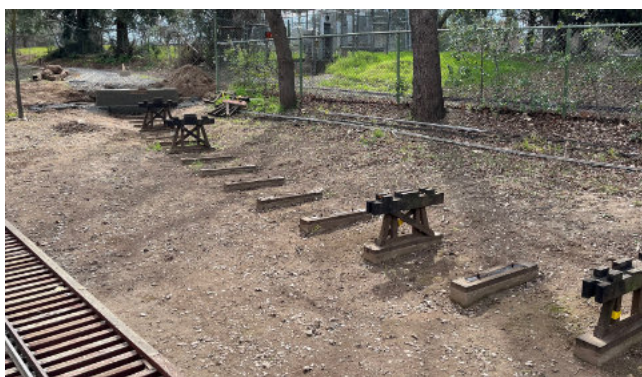
## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

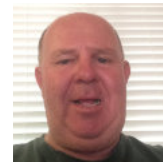
The end of January we decided it was best to replace trestle #1 heading into the expansion area. After years of minor repairs the trestle

was showing its age. Help from Alex Owen's contact with several suppliers, we were able to get most of the material donated. Thanks Alex for the connections. The deck will be completely new wood with 4" C channel as the main stringers. The retaining walls on both ends of the bridge have been replaced with a concrete wall. With the concrete work, it put the project a week behind. So March Public run day will be either the original loop in the park or the inner loop used for parties.

Come the first of March registration will be available for our 50th Spring Meet. The main reason for the early start is to make sure we have enough food and enough supplies of the 50th anniversary shirt and coin. RV, steaming bay and track assignment can be made there too. Everyone that plans to come please register. Assignments will be given a week out. Check in before unloading as things may change.



## Trainmaster Report by Craig Griffin



Well, another month has gone by and there has been lots going on down at the park during winter break.

In between rain showers we have got all four of the club steamer boilers hydro'd. All passed but we found a few minor leaks in some of the plumbing.

We also got the Dash 9 running again. We had an issue with no spark!! After some research online ( YouTube ), we had failed diodes in the kill switch wiring. Picked up a new wiring set with new diodes, pulled the front cover off the motor and everything around it and replaced the wiring. All good now.

Many thanks to Kevin Sach, and those that assisted him. He took on the task of applying all the new lettering to the public run ride on cars. The lettering looks great.

Now if we have an issue with a ride on car, the car number can be recorded and I will know what car to fix.

We will get 1973 lubricator reinstalled and tested before public runs start in March. Those running 1973 will notice that you can see the water level in the sight glass again.

So if you have some spare time on a weekend and want to help your club, come on down and volunteer some time. There is always something that needs to be done, raked, or cleaned.



Stay a Member and  
pay your dues!

**SVLSRM Calendar**

Please check on-line about Public activity.

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

Apr. 1 Public run day 11AM - 3PM  
 Apr. 2 Public run day 11AM - 3PM  
 Apr. 10 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom  
 Apr. 15 Work day.  
 Apr. 16 Member run day.

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



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



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

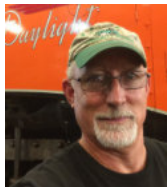
**Board of Directors**

- (##) Ending year of term
- President: Andy Berchielli (916)752-6697 (23)  
E-mail: [president@svlsrm.org](mailto:president@svlsrm.org)
- Vice President: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (24)  
E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrm.org)
- Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (23)  
E-mail: [secretary@svlsrm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrm.org)
- Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850 (24)  
E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrm.org)
- Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (24)  
E-mail: [tracksuper@svlsrm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlsrm.org)
- Yardmaster: Chris Klevesahl (916) 517-9347 (24)  
E-mail: [yardmaster@svlsrm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlsrm.org)
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- Director2: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (23)  
E-mail: [director\\_dennis@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_dennis@svlsrm.org)

**Committee Chairpersons**

- Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850  
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- Librarian Chairperson: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597  
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- Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425  
E-mail: [caboose@svlsrm.org](mailto:caboose@svlsrm.org)
- Birthday & Company Events Chairperson:  
Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlsrm.org](mailto:Events@svlsrm.org)
- Safety Chairperson: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367  
E-mail: [director\\_Larry@svlsrm.org](mailto:director_Larry@svlsrm.org)
- Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder  
E-mail: [editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrm.org)

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



**Track Superintendent**  
*by Steve Milward*

Greetings from the Track Department

There is plenty going on at the railroad! The bridge on the mainline leading out from the boxcar yard is undergoing a major refurbishment. New or enhanced concrete abutments, rebuilt bents, new steel and wood stringers, and new ties. It is hoped to have this project completed by early March. Thanks in particular to Andy B., Tom R. and Glenn W. for their time and assistance.

Elsewhere, the goal is to have most, if not all of the mainline leveled and ballasted as needed by the Spring Meet. In addition, we hope to give most of the sidings and spurs some TLC.

Another area that needs attention are the elevated tracks leading onto and off the turntable. We would very much like to replace all those ties before the meet.

All in all, these are very ambitious goals!

I look at the Spring Meet as an opportunity to put our best foot forward and really showcase the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers organization. As the meet is only 3 months away, it shouldn't fall on the backs of a small handful of folks to shoulder the load. They need your help. I plan on being at the park most Saturdays and Tuesdays until the meet. If you'd like to jump in and assist, it would be most appreciated, and your efforts will go a long way towards improving OUR Railroad.

Hope to see you at the park soon.



*Photos from Robert Forren*

Tuesdays and Saturdays + Miscellaneous Days  
 Track work, Bridge replacement, Grounds cleanup, Train Maintenance:  
 Tom & Stacy Reese, Harry Voss, Steve Milward, Glen Wilson, Andy Berchielli, Chris Klevesahl, Alan Shifley, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Leonard Cassieri, Robert Forren, Todd Bishop, Brian Schaubmager, Troy Wilkerson, Keith & Gloria Berry, Larry Curtin, Kaden Prudhomme, Rob Sharratt, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Tom Nance, Dennis Gramith, Craig Griffin, Bob Ress, Richard Corbell, John Bailie, Peter Welch, Dennis & Brenda Long, Mike Skums, Paul Skidmore, Dave Cladianos, Sidney Madden.

**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.

The Santa Fe engine will be converted to battery. Expect the work to be completed by April.

Caboose Conductor car has been completed.

Measure H for 2023 is available. SVLSRM will again try to get a grant to build a storage facility.

Track work to replace the bridge from Cordova station continues.

Maintenance of engines continues during work months.

Members will be reminded to pay their dues.

Continued planning for Spring Meet and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Program will start at 2:00 pm on Saturday with a Parade of Trains afterward. Registration will go live on March 1, 2023 on the website. Pre-orders will be requested for merchandise and meals.

2022 Tax returns have been completed.



Photos from Barbara Moser



**MEMBERSHIP**

by Stacy Reese

Last call for Dues! We are in the process of making up the roster for the 50th Anniversary Spring Meet and want to make sure everyone is included. You can make your payment by check, credit card or ON-LINE.

[See Membership info on-line.](#)



**February Birthdays:**

- Jerry (Gerald) Abreu
- Vincent Barto
- Phillip Huntingdale
- Benjamin Hadden
- Keith Jackman
- Bob Jensen
- Roger McGuire
- Phillip Nilsson
- Thomas Reese
- Gary Taylor
- Matthew Thomas

**March Birthdays:**

- Steven Arrigotti
- William (Bill) Barbe
- Larry Buerer
- Jeff Burke
- Lance Bye
- Pam Hall
- Seth Hansen
- Ken Crizer
- Albert Di Paolo
- Roger Fagan
- Roger Frymire
- Jim Hearn
- Patrick Karnahan
- Linda Lutrel
- Charlie Meinershagen
- Donald Rienhart
- Jerry Roseborough
- Jess Sanford
- Rob Sharratt
- Fredrick Smith
- Wayne Yetter



**TRACK UPDATE**

By Phil Huntingdale



This February we had some cool mornings and wet weather later in the month, however, the Tuesdays permitting the running of trains were great, at least in the eyes of those showing up. Gordon Moser and I went down on a Thursday and just ran our battery locomotives. There you go; any day is a train day. We had some 10 club members running G scale engines! Some of those I saw were Kaden Prudhomme, Colton Snell, Dave Frediani, Mike Fitzgerald, Steve Arogotti, Chuck Sanfilippo, Jim Hearn, and George Potter.

There was steam, electric and battery. Some just got a chair, watched the trains and visited. That's what makes this hobby so much fun. We always have something to talk about, some idea to make your engine operate better and best of all we all share our knowledge and expertise freely.

On Tuesday and on the weekend, we continued to pick up tree branches and leaves and the park has never looked better. Andy and Rob cut down the tree that fell on the Tin man bridge. Keith Berry and Gordon Moser sprayed weed control along the railway tracks. Stephanie and Stacy took on the left over G track in container 3. It is now packed up and ready for sale. Do you need any used ties, track or switches? Contact Stephanie.

Many have been down at the park helping with winter projects. Thanks to all that helped with the rebuild, maintenance of the equipment, and cleanup at the park.

The club is getting ready for our first public run days on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 & 5. Bring your engines out and enjoy. I can assure the public that ride the trains and stop by the table love the little railroad. All the activities help with nurturing the next generation to the railroad hobby.

See you about!



**G track that we have packaged up and is for sale.** Used Ties are in bundles of 10 for \$10  
Used Switches are starting at \$20  
Curved track is \$25

All are Best Offer, we just want to get rid of it. Prefer that they pick it up at the club. Postage/Shipping can be done but would require that buyer pay for it.

Call Stephanie Huntingdale.



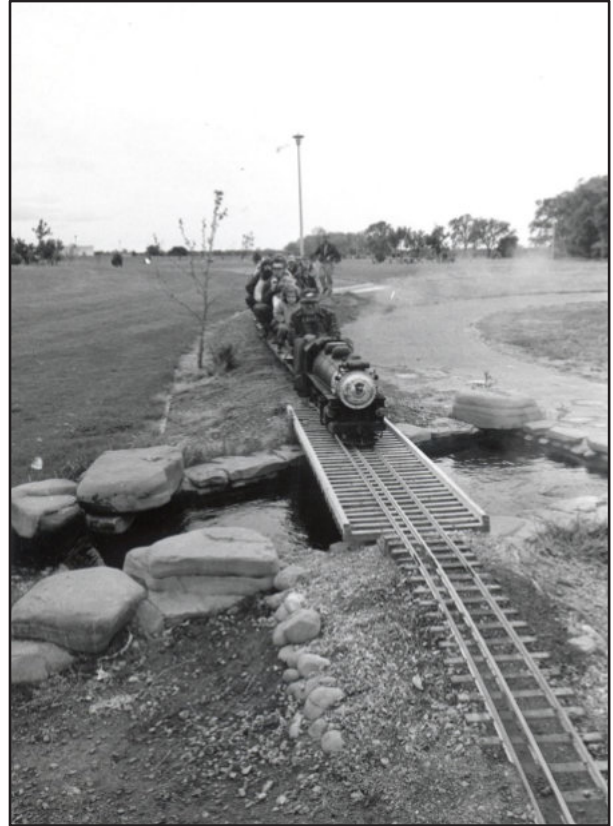
**Facts & figures of the past.**

In the spring of 1972, after much scrounging and scraping for money, materials and space, construction was started in the Cordova Community Park. The blistered hands and aching backs were soon forgotten on May 20th, 1973 when all hands cheered as a solid gold spike sank into a polished walnut tie and a big 2-8-2 touched pilots with a diamond stacked American.



1973 The Golden spike event at SVLS.

Barry Garland shooting 16mm movie of the Golden Spike ceremony.





**10 Years ago:** The propane tank is finally installed! A few minor items still need to be addressed to finish the permit process.

This will make it nice to not to have to run out and get propane as we can now fill up at the track. - *Kevin Sach*



The trestle project had to be abandoned as further inspection revealed that all the verticals were weather damaged and had to be removed. We made a decision to place culvert pipes and add fill to put the track back in service. If some one is willing to take on the building of all the parts to replace the trestle and have them ready to install, we can remove the fill and replace it next year.

The track crew has hand dug most of the trench for the roadbed and Bill Yoder did the finish work with his small tractor. We also got our donated Oliver Tractor up and running and started filling the trench with ballast. The crew will be laying tack panels this month and we are working to open the track by April. I want to Thank all our volunteers for there hard work and I will recognize all when the project is completed. - *Darrell Gomes*



**20 Years ago:** Riverview crossing: concrete poured and waiting for finishing.

The finished crossing with ballast and pathway temporary graded for bike traffic. The new steal rails with tie plates give the rail the prototype look. - but ares are straight! Lee doing the finish work to allow enough grove for train wheels while Will is ready with test car. Engineers Charlie Meinershagen, Red Hadler, Paul Clifton, Dick Esselbach getting the club steamer ready for the days running after winter repairs.



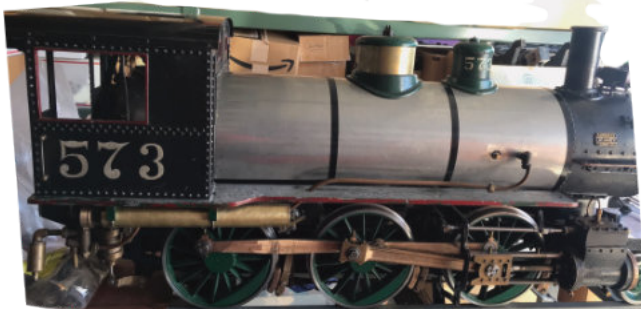
Pete, Lee and Paul pose on the finished crossing with the SVLS steamer ready for to days run.

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

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



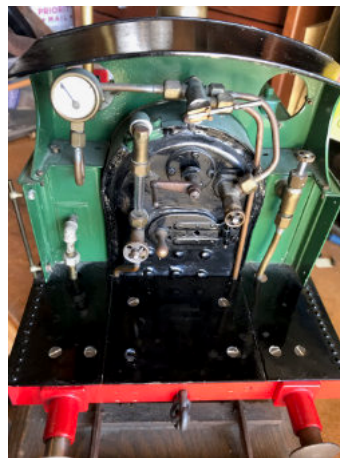
**Item 3: 1 1/2 inch Allen 2-6-0 Mogul and Tender \$13,500.**



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



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



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



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



[Look on line at more photos.](#)