

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

November 2023

Volume 50, Issue 11

President's Report

By Andy Berchielli



October is undoubtedly our busiest month. The first weekend featured our pumpkin train event, which drew in more than 1200 attendees and saw the sale of 700 pumpkins.

I want to thank Chris Donhost and Evan Guinta for their invaluable support with their engines, along with Chris Smith, who worked as an engineer on the club's Pacific locomotive which he recently restored. I also want to express appreciation to my friends and extended family of members for their contributions to the bounce houses.

Special thanks go out to our dedicated volunteer members who stepped in to fill key positions, ensuring the event's smooth operation. This event serves as a significant fundraiser for the club.

The following weekend, many of us participated at Reno's American Flat Railroad, an event known for great fellowship and offering a unique railroad experience.

The third weekend in October marked our 50th Fall Meet, where we hosted 27 steam engines and 21 diesel engines. Everyone enjoyed running their engines on both Friday and Saturday. Sunday brought an unexpected downpour after lunch, which flooded much of the area and posed challenges for putting things away. Despite the weather, some continued to run their engines. Throughout the weekend, we enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship.

We have two more events to close out the year. Join us for the Christmas tree lighting at Village Green Park on November 26 from 4-7pm, with the setup of a portable track on November 25. We conclude the year with our Santa Train event on December 2, 3, 9, and 10, running from 11am to 3pm. Please note that tickets are presale only for reserved time slots.



Wonderful engines at the Fall Meet. Please come again!

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

Nov 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom
 Nov 18 Work day.& Annual General Membership meeting and Elections at 1:30 PM at PARK

Nov 25 **SETUP** portable track at Village Green.
 Nov 26 **Christmas Tree Lighting Village Green Park from 4-7pm.**
 Nov 27 Take down of track, return to park.

Nov 29 Setup for Santa train.
 Nov 30 Setup for Santa train.

Dec 1 Setup for Santa train.
 Dec 2 -3 **Santa Train event**
 Dec 9 -10 **Santa Train event**

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



See 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.

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



See you at the Santa Run!

Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term
 President: Andy Berchielli (916)752-6697 (23)
 E-mail: president@svlsrcm.org
 Vice President: Tom Nance (714)795-4630 (24)
 E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrcm.org
 Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916)580-7377 (23)
 E-mail: secretary@svlsrcm.org
 Treasurer: Stacy Reese (916)960-6850 (24)
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 Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (24)
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 E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrcm.org
 Yardmaster: Chris Klevesahl (916)517-9347 (24)
 E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrcm.org
 Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916)365-1917 (23)
 E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrcm.org
 Director1: Larry Curtin (279)900-5367 (24)
 E-mail: director_larry@svlsrcm.org
 Director2: Dennis Gramith (916)988-7884 (23)
 E-mail: director_dennis@svlsrcm.org

Committee Chairpersons

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 (916) 960-6850
 E-mail: membership@svlsrcm.org
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 E-mail: librarian@svlsrcm.org
 Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser
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 Birthday & Company Events Chairperson:
 Phone: (916) 572-7857
 E-mail: Events@svlsrcm.org
 Safety Chairperson: Larry Curtin (279) 900-5367
 E-mail: director_Larry@svlsrcm.org
 Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder
 E-mail: editor@svlsrcm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



Librarian - Alison Berry

I always enjoy talking to visitors to the library during the meets. The 2023 Fall Meet was great fun with perfect weather until the rain on Sunday.

The library now has 638 books. We do have multiple copies of many books – we have 540 unique titles. Because we have multiple copies of books, please contact me if you have books to donate so I can see if we already a copy (or copies) on the shelf. I will only accept books in good condition. The current list of books is on the SVLSRM website, click on the index item “Library” then the link to download the list of books as a PDF.

Any regular member is able to check out our books. Please contact me and I can meet you at the park so you can get your desired book(s). Associate members are not eligible to check out books at this time.

We have DVD’s which can also be checked out. I am still entering DVD tiles from the big donation received last year. I will wait to add the list of available DVDs to the website once I am caught up with the data entry.

We are **NOT** accepting **magazine donations**. I have not had time to go through the Live Steam magazines as my priority has been books and DVDs. We also will **NOT** accept any **VHS tapes**. The library caboose is not climate controlled so any VHS tapes, movie reels or, slides will just be ruined with the summer heat and winter cold.

My contact information is on the website. Thanks!



This railroad requires teamwork to make it a great place to run trains. While we have a good crew that works hard, we don’t have enough people on the crew. While everyone enjoys running their trains on the club rails, we need all members to work on the rails and other projects that need to be done. Please make time in your schedule to help.
You will be glad you did.



ELECTION

presented to the general membership on October 20th:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Tom Nance |
| Secretary | Stephanie Huntingdale |
| Trainmaster | Craig Griffin |
| Director-at-large(#2) | Dennis Gramith |

During the general membership meeting, President Andy asked for nominations from the floor. There was one person who expressed an interest in the secretary position, and the membership voted to accept those nominations. Following the meeting, the nomination from the floor was withdrawn. Therefore, the slate of candidates presented here will need to be approved by the membership at the next general membership meeting on November 18th at 1:30 pm at the club.

Chris Donhost
Nominating Committee Chair



MEMBERSHIP

by Stacy Reese

The Fall Meet was a success! It was nice to see so many of the members. I would like to thank those of you that have renewed your memberships and for those that still need to, you can do it on line or send a check.

We have several new members and a couple that have returned to the club. I would like to welcome all of you.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shawn Joerner | Chris Cleghorn |
| James Folk | Andrew Brandon |
| Robbin Huntingdale | Robert Anzaar, Sr. |
| Gerard Gasca | Margaret Dobbins |
| Christopher Rohrs | Dee Murphy |
| Henry Sangmaster | Henry Nanjo |

WELCOME ALL

Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

October 2023 – Secretary’s Report

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is July 10, 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.

New Pop-Up Tent to be purchased for Event use. The Waterfall to be shut down for maintenance after Fall Meet.

About 1200 attended the Pumpkin Run. Successful event could have used more volunteers. Winter projects: Replace track in Oasis. Roof for Work Container project.

Upcoming:

- General Meeting on October 20th
- Annual Membership Meeting – Election of Officers November 18, 1:30 pm at the park.
- Rancho Cordova Tree Lighting – November 25th & 26th
- Santa Train at the park, December 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th. Volunteer’s needed.

General Membership Meeting, October 20, 2023

After discussion: **Motion made by Dennis Gramith to build Memorial Addition Option One. Board to consider estimates and move forward. 2nd by Dale Dennis. Motion passed.**



10 Years ago: With the 2013 Fall meet behind us, It is time to recognize the members who came to the track a few days early to help me get the track ready for the heavy traffic. I would like to Thank Paul Skidmore, Bob Silva, Les Gregory, Bill Noyer, Gordan Moser, Tom Veltmen, and a Special Thanks to Terry Willes for keeping the Right of Way clean of those pine needles.

20 Years ago: The SP Historical Society special run took place on Sunday October 5th as the final event in their several day convention in Sacramento. In attendance were some 85 members of that group, some from as far away as Arizona, Washington, Ontario Canada, Illinois, Connecticut, Tennessee, and New Zealand. Two of the visitors were steam locomotive Engineers Mike Nichols and Bill Colley from Durango and Silverton steam railroad. Our efforts were very well received, and everyone who attended seemed very happy that they had taken this tour as part of their visit. People were very impressed with our facility, and our hospitality. Bill Yoder designed and installed car stops at the ends steaming bay tracks. The device is made out of angle and bar stock with an arm that swings up to engage couplers if desired. Bill welded the devices to those tracks that didn’t have any stops already installed.

40 Years ago: On October 15, the disappointingly small crew (9 plus 3 kids) completed the necessary track work for smooth operation during our annual Fall Meet the following weekend. The Colonel (Ken Willes) had single-handedly done all the lawn mowing chores prior to this work party, enabling the rest of the crew to concentrate on the much needed track work. Dick and Eric Quiring generously brought out their own tractor and did a beautiful job of creating a parking lot from the wilderness just outside our gate. The loyal few who attended the work party were: Amandus Drewes, Ben Jennings, Jimmy Durham and son Scott, Dick and Eric Quiring, Roger Merkh and son Matthew, Ken, Terry and Nadene Willes, Dennis Judy and Cricket Gramith. Thank you all for your supporting help!



HELP!

Santa Train – is the largest fundraiser for SVLSRM. Over the two weekends we have about 2400 riders and visitors to see Santa. Your help is desperately needed! It takes many volunteers to put this event on. You ask, what do you need?

Train crews – engineers, conductors, station masters, operations manager. This is a two weekend event, Saturday and Sunday. **December 2&3, 10&11.** Can you commit to helping for at least one day?

Prior to the first weekend – Nov. 29 & 30 & Dec. 1 – decorating the park, we have 8 acres and it all has to be decorated to enhance the experience and train ride for the visitors. Do you have any Christmas decorations that could be loaned to the club for the first two weekends in December?

Caboose – Needs help with providing lunch and refreshments for all the volunteers. Volunteers to help with photos. Volunteers to help with some activities to ease the wait times for Santa. Volunteers to help with crowd control. Relief volunteers to help with all positions.

Are you able to give the club some time? Contact Andy Berchielli (916) 752-6697 to help with train crews, Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 for decorations and other volunteer positions. Also, contact any Board Member; their numbers are on the home web page. www.svlstrm.org



September Helpers: Augie & Judy Berchielli, Andy Berchielli, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Chris Klevesahl, Steve Millward, Richard Corbell, Kaden Prudomme, Jim Welch, Harry Voss, Glen Wilson, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Bill Yoder, Barbara Schoellkoph, Craig Griffin, Dennis Bowie, Glen Wilson, Leonard Cassieri, David Cladianos, Paul Skidmore, Larry Curtin, Dave Silvernail, Troy Wilkerson, Kaden Prudomme, Keith & Gloria Berry, Stacy & Tom Reese, Richard Lutrel, Dennis Gramith, Bob Ress, Brian Schaubmeyer, Tom & Emily Nance, Skip Nance, Chris Donhost.

October Helpers: Andy Berchielli, Judy & Augie Berchielli, Chris Klevesahl, Harry Voss, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Richard Corbell, Glen Wilson, Bill Yoder, Barbara Schoellkoph, Larry Curtin, David Cassieri, Steve Milward, Bob Ress, Craig Griffin, Dave Cladianos, Brian Schaubmeyer, Gordon & Barbara Moser.

Pumpkin Train Helpers: Wasn't able to catch everybody's names who helped. Andy Berchielli, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Chris Klevesahl, Stacy Reese, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Augie & Judy Berchielli, Glen Wilson, Mike Skums, Butch Floyd, Amy & Brianna Lutrel, Dennis Bowie, Rob Sharrett, Craig Griffin, Dale Dennis, Don & Toy Yungling, Kaden & Kat Predohomme, Dave Cladianos, Chris, Lewie & Becky Donhost, Chris Smith & girlfriend Sende, Tom & Emily Nance, Keith & Gloria Berry, Peter, Sandra & Jim Welch, Leonard Cassieri, Barbara Schoellkopf, Mikael Fitzgerald, David & Rose Jansson, Jackie Bailie.



TRACK UPDATE

By Phil Huntingdale

The Fall Meet provided three days of small steam, electric, and battery locomotives in action. Several ran under the lights in the evening. Actually the G gauge table had a large contingency of trains out on the Wednesday prior to the weekend. Gordon Dunham, Gordon Moser, Larry Curtin, Harry Voss, and I were running battery electrics, and Jim Hearn was running steam. It was a delightful day for the group to get together. On the weekend we continued with trains each day and Saturday was full of activity. The weather was pleasant until Sunday where the rain begun about noon. I was out running my American when the monsoon started, totally saturated with my gloves full of water. The Oasis and Cordova Station coverings provided relief for those under the roof. The flood and high water surrounded the total access to the Oasis area. Not so when you are out in the open. Jim Hearn was running his steam locomotive with down pour so intense it put the fire out.

Next up, is Santa Train. Your help is needed the first two weekends of December for our Santa Train. Prior to the first weekend we will be out helping with decorating of the park and raking leaves and branches. Many volunteers are needed for this task. This is one of the club's main fundraiser's. Support the club with your time.

With regard to the Santa Train, Chris Smith wrote a wonderful article in the November-December 2023 Live Steam & Outdoor Railroading publication. Check it out, it tells the whole story from conception thru last year. Thanks to Chris!

See you about!



Get Involved! All hands are needed to go another 50 years.



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

2.10 Brakes

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

safe manner.

3.01 Responsibilities of the Engineer

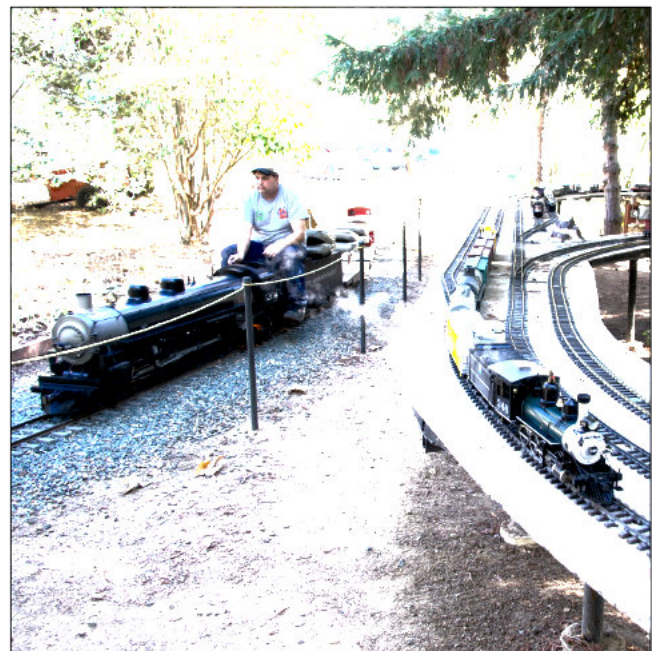
The Engineer is responsible for the safe handling of the train and the cars at all times. They must be in close cooperation with all other operating personnel, observing all rules and signals (whistles, hand, flag or light) given by the conductor and stationmaster. They must run their engine in conformance with SVLSRM safety rules at all times. They must see that any SVLSRM equipment used by them is returned to its proper storage space at the end of their run, unless another engineer takes over the responsibility of such equipment and agrees to see that such equipment is properly stored after its use.

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.



Nov. 18 Annual General Membership meeting and Elections at 1:30 PM at PARK

Voting Members if you can not come to the meeting on Nov. 18th, then please mail in your ballot.



Vote Yes or NO on each.

President	Y / N	Tom Nance
Secretary	Y / N	Stephanie Huntingdale
Train Master	Y / N	Graig Griffin
Director at Large (#2)	Y / N	Dennis Gramith

Please mail by Nov. 14th.
Send to:

SVLSRM

P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741





Tom Artzberger designed 2 1/2 inch scale ten wheeler (2-6-0) steam locomotive kit with boiler and tender. All parts have been machined by Pike Lake and Eastern Hartford Shops and waiting to be assembled. Chassis has been assembled and run on air. Includes all drawings. \$23,000.00.

Contact George at sagebrushslrr@gmail

7.5 gauge train stand for sale.

6' in length, 32" wide at base, 15" wide at top, 32" in height, 7 1/2 gauge, Weight @150 lbs

\$600 (located in East Bay area)

Jim Harrison 925-639-2675



A pair of battery powered lamps marked Union Pacific for sale.



\$20.00 for the pair please.
(new batteries are needed)
Donald Yungling - 916-471-9100

