

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

December 2023

Volume 50, Issue 12



President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

The Santa Train wraps up our run season. We are running three engines with 5 cars each. Presale tickets are sold from 10:30 to 2:30. We are reserving two trains each run day for members that want a ride to Santa at 2:40pm and 2:50pm departure times. If there are earlier spots available, members can run on those trains too. As I write this all departures before noon are sold out.

This is my final article as President. I want to thank those that supported me over the past 6 years. The club has made tremendous improvements during this time. Decisions were always made with the best interests of the club in mind. While change can be challenging for some, it was aimed at enhancing our overall operation. The club stands in excellent shape for the future.

Please give Tom the support you gave me so the club can continue to grow and expand to meet the club's need. Tom has been by my side for many years and knows what it take to move on. I have the upmost confidence that he will continue where I left off.

Although my role as President concludes, I remain the party coordinator and will be present most Sundays. My sincere thanks to those who assisted with parties this year, and I look forward to your continued support in the coming year.



NEW YEARS DAY 2024 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, 2024 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.

ALL Aboard



Santa Train

December 2 & 3 and December 9 & 10
Come out and help!

Decorating at the Club will begin on Tuesday Nov. 29th 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 the 10th.



and a happy new year

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.

Nov 25 setting up the portable track.
 Nov 26 Run train at: Village Green Park
 3141 Bridgeway Dr. Rancho Cordova
 Christmas tree lighting event.
 Nov 27 Remove the portable track
 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**

Dec 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom

Jan 1 Member Run day/potluck lunch
Jan 8 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom

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)
 E-mail: treasurer@svlsrcm.org
 Track Superintendent: Steve Milward (24)
 (530) 559-2472
 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

Membership Chairperson: Stacy Reese
 (916) 960-6850
 E-mail: membership@svlsrcm.org
 Librarian Chairperson: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597
 E-mail: librarian@svlsrcm.org
 Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser
 (916) 871-8368
 E-mail: caboose@svlsrcm.org
 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



Trainmaster Report
by Craig Griffin

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving!

We've been busy down at the park with Halloween and the fall season. Lots of people, big and small, for the pumpkin patch trains. And now, lots of leaves to rake up.

Train wise, the Santa Fe has new upgraded batteries installed and a new and better charger. This will improve our run time and speed up charging the batteries to a full charge overnight.

The Pacific is back at the park after having its suspension and running gear refurbished by Chris Smith. Chris also improved the atomizer for the fire box. Thanks Chris for all the improvements.

Peter is still working on 1973. He is giving her a much needed overhaul. We will have 1973 back for the start of public runs in March.

Levi came out to play at the Fall meet with quite a few different people taking it out for a run.

We have new tests ready for anyone that ones to help run public trains.

If you want to learn how to run any of the club engines, please contact me so we can organize a time.

Hope to see lots of members come to the park to help volunteer at the two weekends of Santa Train.

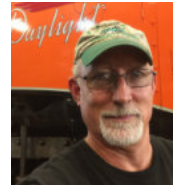
Happy rails



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.com

Track Superintendent
by Steve Milward



Greetings from the Track Department,

I'll try to keep this short and to the point. As an organization, we're entering our busiest season. We'll have just gotten past the Christmas Tree lighting in Rancho Cordova. Right on its heels is the set-up for the Santa Trains at the railroad.

Of course, the first two weekends in December are the Santa Trains.

We're going to need help, and lots of it! Train crews, crowd control, kitchen help, go-fers, you name it, we're gonna need it! Particularly important is the 2nd weekend - that's when we typically fall short of volunteers.

There's a small, but very dedicated group of volunteers who are always willing to step up, but it shouldn't rest on their shoulders alone. They'll need help. So, this where you can jump in and help us be successful.

Don't forget, the big track renewal project at Oasis Station begins the 1st weekend of January and continues until early March.

As always, if you're willing to help with track, please contact me at stevo2472@yahoo.com.

Almost forgot - be sure to bring your trains out to ring in the New Year on January 1st, 2024!

We hope to see you at the Railroad very soon, Thank you!

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**

Secretary Board Report

By Stephanie Huntingdale

November meeting 2023 – Secretary's Report

The Board meets by ZOOM. Members are always encouraged to attend. The next meeting is December 11, 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.

Hagan Park will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. If coming to the park on any of those days you are asked to make sure the park gates are locked.

Sacramento Mosquito and Vector Control came out to the park and found a large yellow jacket nest behind the round house. It was removed. It was suggested that we remove all rotted wood from our area.

New testing procedures – tests are good for 5 years. Tests only required if you are participating in hauling the public.

Security – keys for Santa Fe and Dash 9 are locked up. Contact a Board Member.

A new leaf vacuum/muncher that gets pulled by the gator has been tested. Approximate cost \$3,200. A motion to purchase will be made at the next Board Meeting.

Santa Fe has new batteries and a charger. Work will continue to install a kill button.

Library maintenance will start this winter – it will include replacing the windows, painting and securing the doors.

Compressor – needs replacement. Club will purchase a Rolair 3 phase 10HP 100 gallon vertical tank. Cost: \$5,300

Board discussed the need for new locks and some security breaches at the park. Gates found open at Cordova station and gate code on open locks not turned back to zeros. Membership will be reminded.

Santa Train at the park, December 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th. Volunteer's needed.



10 Years ago: There was a good turnout of help for the Railfair in Roseville. Thanks to the extra help from the Bowie kids setup went fast. The crew loaded the train down to let Richard see if he could make it up the grade with the steamer. Event was successful.



December is our annual Christmas Pot Luck. Keeping the fun please bring your favorite "White Elephant" item for the gift exchange. We have had some great ones in the past and they just keep showing up.

20 Years ago: Track work this past year, 2003, has concentrated on dealing with deferred maintenance. While some main line work remains to be done, in the coming year, 2004, effort will also be directed to sidings, additional switch work, and some special projects, listed below, that will enhance our operation.

- Provide additional transfer table access to and from lower yard.
- Provide four additional transfer table bays.
- Relocate and extend inbound passenger station tracks #1 and #2 and lower yard tracks somewhat further into the park area.
- Install new steel rail and concrete for station.

40 Years ago: Saturday, December 17, 1983 **Foundry Clinic:** Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Where: Sierra College Metal Shop Shop Bring: coat or old clothes, patterns that may be used for casting, aluminum, lunch, scrap aluminum (not beer cans or lawn chairs-amount not critical).

The shop will accommodate 16-18 people. Initial responses indicate at least that many and probably more, so please, members only and no children. Also expect a brief lecture/ demonstration on methods, safety, and general shop operation.



Here is unique history for SVLS. Over 23 years ago SVLS hosted a Point to Point run day. The turnout was great, and everyone had a really good time. Starting at the typical Railroad time (1 hour late!), the two passenger trains departed in opposing directions. Following them were a total of 7 freight trains. Each train had their orders for the day including General Orders, Track warrants, and schedules w/switch list. A map of the railroad was also included to inform everyone of station names, though this didn't always help! Confusion reigned for a bit as one car was forgotten by one train and a head on collision was averted!

The weather was terrific, and we even had passengers on one of the trains. The dispatcher held it all together and we completed our first Point to Point by scheduling the next one. The highlights of the day were Allison King dispatching, and having her husband, Dale and their train be one of those close to a head on collision. Milon Thorley was kept busy, yet had time out for lunch, and then he shanghaied Jack Rocket for a switchman.

Chris Donhost did a wonderful job getting the steamer around on time and still having to make water stops.

The best sight was Matt Mason and Lee Frechette on their trains trying to eat lunch, run their locos and talk to the dispatcher all at once. The Tin Man (Dave Mattox) was out with his passenger train and the Taylors, Veronica and Dale, came down to also participate as a passenger train.

Paul Moser was on his Mighty Mack and running around everyone, and Gordon Moser came off the extra board to run our last freight.

The best was Barb Moser having the caboose open for lunches. It was so terrific to have everyone there and with moral support from Dick Esselbach and John Bailey, we made it.

For the future point to point we need more people not necessarily more trains.



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



SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH

2.02 Daylight Operations

All Locomotives shall be equipped with a whistle, horn, or other sounding device producing audible signals. Such sounding devices shall be powerful enough to be heard distinctly for at least 150 feet. All locomotives shall carry a red flag and whistle to warn traffic of emergencies and for passing on visual and audible signals.

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.

4.02 Requirement of Conductor

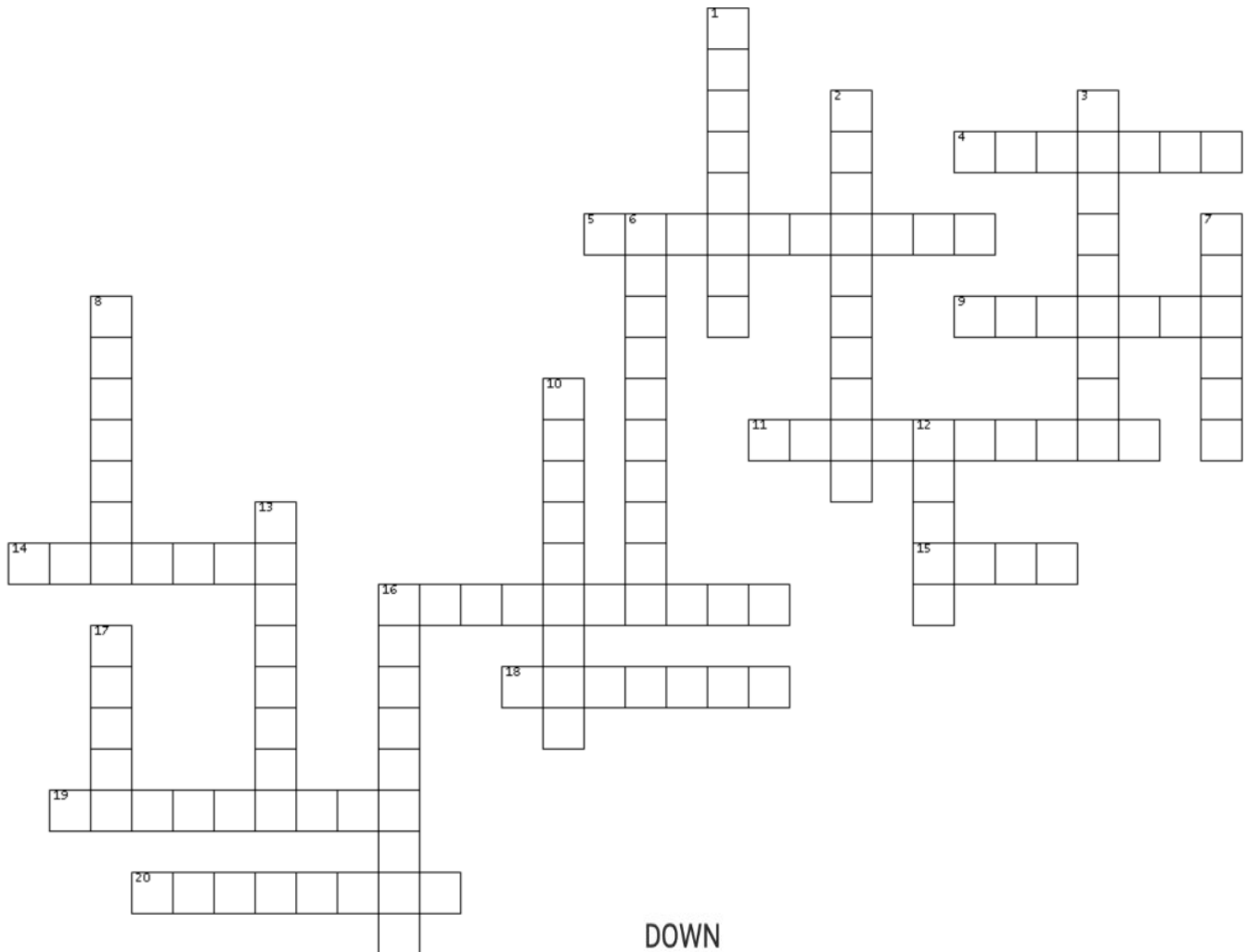
All trains hauling passengers shall have at least one qualified Conductor on the last car of the train, or facing backward on the rear seat of the Engineer car. It shall be their responsibility to protect the rear of the train and to assist the Engineer in the operation of the train. Each Conductor on duty shall have a whistle (police type) and a red flag or light on the train.



I cannot forget to pay my dues. Please send your 2024 dues now!

Send check or pay on-line at svlsrm.org. Send forms to SVLSRM P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

RAILROAD WORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

4. The last car
5. The last spike
9. Who holds the money
11. Where we meet
14. Who makes it hot
15. Free rider
16. Starting East
18. Where is the bed
19. Send a message
20. One of the big 3

DOWN

1. Will slow you down
2. One of the big 3
3. The person in charge
6. Where engines stay
7. Will help you
8. Stay connected
10. Where to turnaround
12. Starting West
13. Who makes it go
16. Traffic control
17. What size are we