

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

August 2025

Volume 52, Issue 8



President's Report

By Steve Milward

Greetings All, The good news - The dog days of Summer are upon us. We had a fair number of folks come out to enjoy the July public run, potluck, and fireworks. In 2 hours in the evening of the 4th we carried over 400 happy guests.

The not so good news - Volunteers – This is an area where we are suffering. There is a VERY small, but dedicated group of folks who, time and time again jump in to help with many tasks that keep us rolling. Yet requests for help with run and work days often go unanswered. Tasking the same volunteers repeatedly isn't fair to them, and it means less is getting accomplished in the long term.

How is this affecting SVLS? Some noticed that at our Spring Meet there was no merchandise sales or raffle. Why? We were stretched too thin, and nobody stepped up to help. A whiteboard was set-up for folks to sign up to help with Meet tasks. 2 people out of 100 signed up. The very same folks who prepped the meals, also cooked, served, and cleaned up afterward. The Meet preparation, set-up, registration, operations, take down and clean-up was pretty much accomplished by the same dozen or so folks. It certainly doesn't help when guests demand to know why we're not doing this or that. When asked if they'd be willing to help, one response was "That's not why I'm here. You need to delegate!"

So, looking ahead to the 2025 Fall Meet, there's a high likelihood the we won't host a Friday evening dinner. There may be other changes, too. These are not decisions we make lightly, but a Meet should be an event, not an ordeal.

Our success as an organization rests squarely on the shoulders of its members and volunteers. We get out of it what we put into it.

As always, I can be reached at: president@svlsrm.org

Looking ahead –

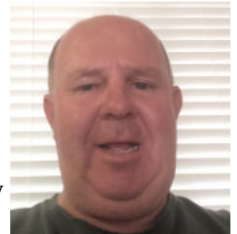
August 2nd & 3rd) Public Run Days, 11-3.
August 16th) Hot August Night Members Run and Potluck.
September 6th & 7th) Public Run Days, 11-3.
Hope to see you at the track!

Steve

Trainmaster Report

by Craig Griffin

Gday Everyone, Well we've been busy down at the park. We took down the two dead pine trees on the west side of the boxcar the weekend before the 4th of July runs.



Lee F. Supplied us with a large boom lift to make it easier to access the upper areas of the trees for trimming. Many thanks to all the members that came and helped clean up the cut limbs and debris on both days.

The RS3 got a new battery so much easier to start. The Santa Fe got a new potentiometer/throttle control and no longer stalls out whilst running. The Dash 9 has all new drive chains and is running much quieter.

The 1973 steam engine had a steam leak on the steam line to the fireman's side drain cocks. The pilot wheels had been rubbing against the copper pipe and had worn the copper away. There is a new copper pipe installed and rerouted so as not to have the pilot wheels rub against the pipe. But now other leaks have shown up on the drain cocks and these will be addressed this Saturday.

Also been busy with boiler hydro tests, and assisting club members with their locos.

The 3rd&4th July runs were a great couple of afternoon runs. Great weather, nowhere near as hot as last year. And lots of club members out helping with running the trains. Also great fireworks shows on the 4th.



Join us during the day and run your trains into the night for a good old-fashioned evening of Live Steaming SVLS style. Come early and bring the kids. Bring engine and some rolling stock and your favorite food dish to share. The barbecue will be hot for cooking your own meat and the lights will be on for ya. So hang FRED on the last car and come on down!

SVLSRM Calendar

Please check on-line about Public activity.
Train tickets days may be purchased on-line.

Aug 2 Public run day
Aug 3 Public run day
Aug 11 Board meeting

Aug 16 **HOT August Night Run** Please bring your train
and enjoy the day and evening.

Sept 4 Public run day
Sept 5 Public run day
Sept 13 Board meeting
Sept 18 Member day

Oct 1 setup for Pumpkin Patch
Oct 2 setup for Pumpkin Patch
Oct 2 setup for Pumpkin Patch



Oct 4 Pumpkin Patch Express
Oct 5 Pumpkin Patch Express



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.



[Click to see the story of SVLS.](http://svlsrcm.org/SVLSRM_story.php)

Or type in this web address:

svlsrcm.org/SVLSRM_story.php

Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term.

President: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (25)

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E-mail: secretary@svlsrcm.org

Treasurer: Henry Nanjo (916) 207-1962 (26)

E-mail: treasurer@svlsrcm.org

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E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrcm.org

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 876-0375 (26)

E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrcm.org

Trainmaster: Craig Griffin (916) 365-1917 (25)

E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrcm.org

Director1: Rob Sjarratt (209) 603-1960 (26)

E-mail: director_Mark@svlsrcm.org

Director2: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (25)

E-mail: director_dennis@svlsrcm.org

Committee Chairpersons

Membership: Robert Ress (916) 320-2781

E-mail: membership@svlsrcm.org

Librarian: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: librarian@svlsrcm.org

Caboose: Chairperson: -open-

Safety Chairperson: Mark Madewell (209) 603-1960

Birthday & Company Events:

Andy Berchielli Phone: (916) 572-7857

E-mail: Events@svlsrcm.org

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder

E-mail: editor@svlsrcm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



Track Department by Jeff Burke

Hello members, July has been a busy month for the club. Our 4th of July public run was well attended and we gave rides to many visitors.

Track work was sparse during July because I have been out of town and the weather was quite warm.

Looking forward, we still need to finish the tie replacement in Lower Yard and then the rest of the year will be dedicated to maintenance of existing track. A lot of our turnouts need attention to loose bolts and some rotting ties.

We will continue to send out work day notices via my email, tracksuper@svlsrm.org. Please make sure that my email isn't set to your spam folder and if you have not been receiving notifications please send me an email so I can add you to the list.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months for Members Hot August Nights on August 16th and the Pumpkin Run on October 4th and 5th.

Thank you for your continued volunteered hours,
Jeff



When **Keith Berry** was President of SVLS, he wrote a great article on the subject of New Year Resolutions. brief summary of what caught my eye.

"Play more with your trains in the coming year," he said. "Everyone as a kid knew playing with trains

meant laying some track and seeing how fast each engine would run. Everybody wanted more track, more accessories, and more trains. Before it was over, the furniture, bookshelves, and even indoor plants became part of the layout. Everyone went home happy, playing with trains was a very acceptable way to have fun."

"Playing with trains is a good step toward a Happier time. You'll like it, you'll be a nicer person for doing it, and most of all you'll have fun. So pack up your trains, come out to the track and play awhile."

Paul Skidmore Was taken to the Kaiser South ER on July 26. At this time it appears that the doctors are going to put Paul into hospice care. Apparently his heart condition has reached a point where there is nothing that can be done.

Paul is a member of SVLS for many years, He received a thank you plaque in 2012 Paul was honored for being an outstanding volunteer at SVLSRM with his dedication to our track projects. Paul has kept building track panels and switches on workdays and building fogs, points, and other items at home when not at the track.

In May of 2019 Paul was given life membership for his continued dedication to our track projects.



Paul Skidmore
holding his life membership Brass Card



Have a neighbor or friend who has an interest in Live Steam /Trains? Bring them out, show them our fun, give them a ride and invite them to join.



10 Years ago: While Dale Fowlar may not think he is missing, as he moves to Oklahoma, he will be missing here at SVLSRM. Dale has had many roles serving SVLSRM over the years. In 2000 he was Vice President and two years later served as President. For the last two & 1/2 years he been on the board of directors serving as member at large.

He has also been the mainstay of organizing the public run day crews as you may know. Dale was a go to person to get those needed railroad questions answered and to help with any project here at our facility.



20 Years ago: Last March, vandals stole over 200 feet of aluminum rail in the Riverview/Snakebite Junction area of our layout. Included were three dual gauge switches. The mainline was closed down and Sugar Pine loop with it's dual 7-1/2" and 4-3/4" gauge track put out of order. Over the last few months, the mainline track has been restored, although without the Sugar Pine loop switch at Riverview, to allow normal operation of mainline 7-1/2" gauge trains.

Fabricating and installing the switch and restoring the Sugar Pine loop in June and July were: Bill Yoder (met with Al Shelley for frog design, machined the main switch frog), Al Shelley (provided design and drawings for the switch and frogs, also on-site supervision of the switch installation), Karle Mahler (machined the steel switch points and 2nd crossover frog, participated in the installation of the switch and remaining bar stock panels), Dale Dennis and Jason Van Horn for the final connection and ballasting of the Sugar Pine panels on a hot July afternoon.

30 Years ago: Last month I called for help to build trackpanels for the caboose siding and the ladies responded. On Saturday, July 22nd, an almost all female crew assembled 14 track panels in short order. Many thanks are in order to Veronica Taylor, Annette Long and Adriana Hayes for answering the call.

As a result, we only need tow more panels to complete the second siding at the caboose.

40 Years ago: Orchard School Run Day Friday, July 19th (1985) was the run for the Orchard School for the Handicapped. We had four engines on the track. Those bringing their engines were: Warren Wagner, Darral McWhirk, John Bailie and Ken Willes. Helping with the loading of the children and other needed tasks were: Pat Wagner, Dan Woolverton, Rose and Henry Stefani, Claudia Dreiling, Betty McKenzie and Joel Segel. Thank you to you all. You made many children very happy.

50Years ago: Saturday, August 9th
NEW S

(1975), saw Ed Yungling, Ken Spicer, Larry Edwards and David Yungling hard at work getting the heat kinks out of the track. "OL, Debil Sun" was the villain who messed ARCHIVE

things up this time and the club owes a vote of thanks to these guys for getting out there and putting the rails back into shape. They ran Ken's engine Sunday to check everything out. We could use more gandy dancers so the same fellows don't have to do the job all the time.



The Golden SPIKE editor requests ideas for articles., I am also looking for members who would like to spot light their projects - in progress or finished.
Please call or E-mail the editor. - Thanks.



WORK DAYS VOLUNTEERS

June Volunteers

Leonard Cassieri, Dale Dennis, Craig Griffin, Phil Huntingdale, Stephanie Huntingdale, Philip Lawrence, Richard Lutrel, Steve Milward, Henry Nanjo, Stacy Reese, Tom Reese, Bob Ress, Kevin Sach, Barbara Schoellkopf, Chris Smith, Mike Skums, Brad Strong, Harry Voss, Glen Wilson



Secretary Report

By: Robert Ress

Summary of July 14 Board Meeting:

The 3rd and 4th were successful. On the 4th we got slammed the last 90 minutes. Thanks to all who worked those two days.

Membership: regular 121, Associate 46, Life 5 total is 172

We are advertising Little Blue for sale in the normal places. Minimum price \$5,000. Contact Chris Smith for more information.

Three locomotives got repaired in the last month; Dash-9 got new truck chains, RS-3 got a new battery and the Santa Fe got a new potentiometer.

We purchased a case of 12 sprinkler heads for \$1,100. Please look out for the sprinklers in the park.

Blank waivers are located in the caboose along with the filled waivers from the Spring Meet and the Garden Railway social.

We are looking for a refrigerator only, no freezer or fancy accessories needed, for the Caboose. The beverage refrigerator needs to be replaced.

We need to replace two pine trees that were cut down near the box car. We are working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to replace them.

The Board has adopted a new policy for delinquent memberships

NOTICE: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL RULE CHANGE

The board of directors at the July 14, 2025 board meeting voted to change the policy with regard to delinquent membership dues. Effective immediately, if the current year's dues are not paid by the end of May of a year, that Member shall be considered lapsed, and is not a member of the club any longer. Ex-members do not have the privileges of membership, to use the club facilities and equipment and will be treated as a guest. In addition, starting the 2026 membership year, if a member does not pay the current year dues by the end of May of a year, they will be considered lapsed, and to rejoin will be treated as a new member and must again pay the one-time track fee in addition to their membership dues for the year.

The next Board meeting is August 11th. Contact the secretary, secretary@svlsrm.org, for an agenda and how to attend the meeting.



SAFETY RULES

1.13 Conduct

No one under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or drugs of any kind shall be allowed to operate or ride on any train. Anyone consuming any alcoholic beverages, including beer, or using any illegal drugs or narcotics of any kind shall be requested to cease. Should they refuse, they will be asked to leave the facility. Use of abusive and inappropriate language will not be allowed. All persons exhibiting any type of negative behavior may be subject to ejection from the premises. Members and guests should conduct themselves in such a way that is consistent with a family atmosphere. The use of abusive or threatening language is not permitted.

2.09 Sight Glasses

Steam boilers shall have a water level gauge located such that water at the bottom of the glass is covering the crown sheet by at least 5/8" for 1 1/2" scale (or larger) when the locomotive is level. The top of the water glass fitting must be connected to the top of the boiler, not the turret. The sight glass must be capable of being "blown down" and shall be checked during the steam up process.

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.

4.08 Nature of Locomotion

Trains carrying the general public can be double headed; no helper engine can be elsewhere in the train, or pushing on the rear of the train.



For sale my mogul, it's a Southern Pacific Valley Malley

It's propane fired, and includes a propane car, with water filters, that is the shape of a refrigerator car. Locomotive tender and propane car \$19,500. This is Chris Donhost's old engine, and it's set up that even a kid could operate it. "It's pretty amazing, and so easy to operate."

Patrick Karnahan
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Blackirish28@hotmail.com



Join us during the day and run your trains into the night for a good old-fashioned evening of Live Steaming SVLS style.

Come early and bring the kids. Bring engine and some rolling stock and your favorite food dish to share. The barbecue will be hot for cooking your own meat and the lights will be on for ya. So hang FRED on the last car and come on down!

