

www.svlsrm.org November 2025 Volume 52, Issue 11



# Track Department by Jeff Burke

Hello Members,
A big thank you to everyone
who helped with our Pumpkin
Run trains. We hauled many
happy families around the track
and provided many memories
for the community.

Before the Pumpkin Run, Chris Smith, Steve Milward and I worked on the Inside Loop of track. We leveled it and massaged some of the curves. We did find a piece of severely bent rail that may have been struck by yard maintenance equipment. We might need to replace that one piece of rail but it did not cause any derailments during the Pumpkin Run

Before the Fall Meet I noticed that some animals had completely dug out the ground underneath the mainline turnout that leads to Sugar Pine. I tamped the ground down until it stopped collapsing and then back filled the hole with the larger ballast. No animals come out while I was doing this so hopefully they are gone and the turnout didn't seem to sag during the meet.

Speaking of the meet, a huge thank you to everyone that volunteered their time with set up, food preparations / clean up, and all the other tasks needed to pull off a meet.

Looking forward, we have the City of Rancho Cordova tree lighting set up and run the weekend of November 29th and 30th. Saturday the 29th is a big day of setting out the loop of track and leveling it. We will certainly need as many volunteers as possible to make it a fast task. We will send out a reminder in advance.

After that is Santa Train the weekends of December 6th, 7th and 13th, 14th. There is also close to 4 days of set up needed before the actual run. Any help that can be given is a huge help. We will send out reminders for this too.

After the chaos of December we will continue our tie replacement in Lower Yard and we will look at replacement of a few turnouts around the railroad.

We hope to see you out there,

# Trainmaster Report by Craig Griffin

Gday Everyone,

Hope all are smiling and loving life.



We had a great Fall meet and great weather! There were lots of steamers running. G scale was busy too!

We had the club Mikado out for a run on Saturday and other than the injector still giving us a bad time, it ran well.

Also had a report the new seat was a little too high. That will be fixed soon.

Finally got a call back from Titan Trains that our Sd45 locomotive we ordered this time last year was finally in production and hope fully we will see it by the end of the year.

It will come painted in primer only and we the board think the engine should be painted in club colors.

If you the members have any ideas or opinions, please let the board know. We would love your input.

There is still two big events before the year is over.

Christmas tree lighting run for the city of Rancho Cordova at the end of November.

And of course Santa train the first two weekends of December.

Both of theses events need a lot of volunteer help to run smoothly.

So if you spare some time, we would love to see you come down and play trains with us.

The smiles on our guest riders, especially the kids, are well worth effort.

Hope to see you down the club playing trail.

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

Nov 10 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom

Nov 15 Work day. & Annual General Membership meeting and Elections at 1:30 PM at PARK

Nov 29 Rancho Cordova Christmas tree track setup - help needed.

Nov 30 Rancho Cordova Christmas tree Lighting & train rides by SVLS

Dec 1 Take track back to SVLS home.

Dec 2,3,4,5 Santa run setup. Come and help

Dec. 6 & 7 Santa Train event

Dec. 8 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom

Dec. 13 & 14 Santa Train event

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





Help the club save money by receiving your newsletters on-line. Average price per mailing over \$2.

Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line. Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy.



See 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.

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

#### **WORK DAYS VOLUNTEERS**

October Volunteers: Reece Albrecht, Vince Barto, Alison Berry, Jeff Burke, Leonard Cassieri, Gary Cousin, Christopher Donhost, Eli Donhost, Paul Donhost, Edwin Forsberg, Dennis Gramith, Craig Griffin. Larry Hanlon, Phil Huntingdale, Stephanie Huntingdale, Philip Lawrence, Linda Lutrel, Richard Lutrel, Margaret Madewell, Mark Madewell, Dave McClain, Steve Milward, Henry Nanjo, Michele Nanjo, Bob Ress, Andrew Sach, Kevin Sach, Christopher Sach, Barbara Schoellkopf, Rob Sharratt, Chris Smith, Brad Strong, Austin Unruh, Harry Voss, Don Yungling

#### **Board of Directors**

(##) Ending year of term.

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

E-mail: president@svlsrm.org

Vice President: Chris Smith (650)676-0118 (26)

E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrm.org

Secretary:Robert Ress (916)320-2781 (25)

E-mail: secretary@svlsrm.org

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

E-mail: treasurer@svlsrm.org

Track Superintendent: Jeff Burke (847)815-7638 (26)

E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrm.org

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (26)

E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrm.org

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

E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrm.org

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

E-mail: director Mark@svlsrm.org

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

E-mail: director dennis@svlsrm.org

#### **Committee Chairpersons**

Membership: Robert Ress (916)320-2781

E-mail: membership@svlsrm.org Librarian: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: librarian@svlsrm.org

Caboose: Chairperson: -open-

Safety Chairperson: Mark Madewell (209)603-1960

Birthday & Company Events:

Andy Berchielli Phone: (916) 572-7857

E-mail: Events@svlsrm.org

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder

E-mail: editor@svlsrm.org

Reminder - No phone calls after 8:59 PM



10 Years ago: Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society had their visit at SVLSRM on Oct. 11 had an awesome turn-out of Espee locomotives and rolling stock.

Vic Owens is pictured with Ed Yungling's cab-forward, and Roger Frymire's Daylight. Roger came all the way fromBakersfield just for this event.



20 Years ago: SVLSRM participated in the celebration of the completion of the light rail into Folsom. We were invited by the historical society there. In our display we had Ross Crawford's steam engine, a gondola and a box car from our rolling stock. Many people came up to speak with us and there was much interest in visiting our track. I personally spoke with over 100 people and we gave out many of our newly revised brochures. We received many thanks from officials for our attendance and participation. These events help solidify our presence in the community and show what we are doing for the public. All this while we enjoy ourselves operating trains.



30 Years ago: The truss bridge that serves as the centerpiece of our railroad is currently 2/3 of the way completed. I have taken this project on. I have worked on it for two years. It is my intent to complete the project and paint it -- by the 1996 Spring Meet.

This bridge is unique in the hobby. The Club receives positive comments from visiting members on a regular basis. As far as I know, our bridge -- the built up detail that is -- exists only on our railroad. It certainly has been, and will be, worth the time and effort. I certainly hope you agree. Bob Lovell, Vice-President

**40 Years ago:** "KEEPING FIT" Here is a snippet from an item by Frank Fleury on how to get exercise while still working by simply engaging in some of the following strenuous activities:

- beating about the bush 75 Calories
  jumping to conclusions 100 Calories

- bending over backwards 75 Calories
  pushing your luck 250 Calories
  running around in circles 350 Calories
  making mountains out of molehills 500 Calories

**50Years ago:** "President Barry Garland will be the featured personality in the January 1976 issue of Railroad Magazine. Barry says after filling out a very lengthy questionnaire, he discovered some new facets to Barry Garland. Ken Spicer, the Yunglings, Ed, Don, Margaret and Michelle attended the Riverside Live Steamers meet in October. They had great weather and a good time.

## 



#### ELECTION

Nov 15 Annual General Membership meeting and Elections1:30 PM at the park.



## Librarian - Alison Berry

Greeting from the SVLSRM library. I was able to spend time during the Fall Meet working in the library. It felt good to be there again now that my left knee is working. It took me some time to clear out all the

cobwebs before I could get back to cataloging books.

While I appreciate donations, please don't leave boxes of books without checking with me first. The same goes for various types of memorabilia like pins and hats.

Email me if any member would like the list of books. I can send you an Excel spreadsheet.

I would like to make a calendar for the caboose for 2026. Please send me any pictures you would like featured in the calendar showing engines and other activity at SVLSRM property.

#### **Secretary Report**

By: Robert Ress

# October 15, 2025 SVLSRM Board Meeting Summary

The Board and members are working on the Fall Meet setup. If you can, please come out to the Park on Thursday and help with the setup. Friday dinner will be pulled pork sandwiches with fixings.

Membership - Regular 129, Associate 46, Life 5, Honorary 0, Total 180

Discussion of Club policy for visitors to the Meets. Visitors are welcome as long as they sign the registration log and a waiver. Visitors may move about the site unaccompanied. Small children must be closely monitored by their parents.

The new engine should be shipped from Titan Trains within 45 days. The Board is looking for suggested paint schemes for the locomotive. The RS-3 is not for sale until the new engine is in service.

The library will be open Friday and Saturday during the Meet

If you have any suggested changes for the Rule Book, please contact the President or Secretary. We would like to get the changes distributed before March.

Caboose refrigerator replacement project has a couple of suggested replacements. If you have any ideas for a place to buy a refrigerator without a freezer please contact the President.

Pumpkin Train was well received by the public. Next year we need to buy less pumpkins and not have a Porta-Potty since we lost money on the event. Having picnic tables located through out the event was a good idea.

The Club has been donated several pieces of G gauge equipment. We are working on how to store and charge them between uses.

Will try a new way of taking photos during Santa Train. The current method has a number of equipment problems and takes a lot of people to run. Proposal is to take pictures with the rider's phone or camera. We take their phone, take the photo, and give them back the camera. We are looking into an ornament to give each family.

The slate of candidates for the November Election are; Chris Smith - President, Rob Sharratt - Vice President, Bob Ress - Secretary, Peter Welch - Trainmaster, Mark Madewell - Director at large, Scott Jepsen - Director-at-large, 1 year term.

On November 8th the Club will be used for a GCOR class lead by Tim Gubbins, a club member.

### **SAFETY RULES**

#### 1.15 Children

Parents or Guardians shall be responsible for the safety, supervision, and behavior of their Children at all times.

#### .2.11 Safety Valves

SAFETY

FIRST

Steam boilers shall have at least 2 safety valves set to operate within 10 pounds (psi) of each other. Under no operating conditions shall the safety valves allow the operating pressure to exceed a pressure 5 percent greater than the maximum boiler operating pressure. Safety valves must release and reset without the aid of the engineer.

## 3.04 Unloading/loading

Locomotives and equipment shall be unloaded and loaded only at the facilities provided at the steaming bays. All vehicles shall be removed from the loading area as soon as possible after loading and unloading. Small equipment may be unloaded/loaded at any siding.

## 4.10 Passenger Train equipment

Each public passenger train shall be equipped with proper documentation materials i.e.; clip board, Conductor report, incident/accident forms, operable writing pen, whistle, two way radio, red flag, and current rules book.





Candidates for this November election are:

**President: Chris Smith** 

Secretary: Bob Ress

Train master: Peter Welch and Kevin Sach

Director-at-Large: Mark Madewell

Please read their statements and vote at the General meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1:30 PM at the club in Hagan Park. Or mark the Ballet on this page and mail it to SVLSRM P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. Be sure to have your return address on the envelope to verify membership.



Hello, as many of you know, my name is Peter Welch. I'm an accomplished machinist and have spent the past seven years building and repairing a wide variety of locomotives. I previously served as Trainmaster, and I'm running for the position again with the goal of keeping our club's

equipment operating efficiently, ensuring a strong future for the club, and inspiring new members to get involved in running trains. I studied machining for five years at Modesto Junior College and have a fully equipped machine shop at my disposal, allowing me to repair and build nearly anything the club may need. I hope to have your support in continuing to maintain the club's tradition of excellence and its proud legacy.

#### Cut here and mail the ballet



MY name Is Kevin Sach, I am running for the position of Trainmaster. Most of you know me being the person on the grill cooking hot dogs and hamburgers during the meets. As Trainmaster, I would not only maintain the clubs equipment I would also look at ways to operate them in a safe manner. I would also help guide

members in issues they might have with their equipment Thank you for considering me for Trainmaster.



I became the SVLSRM secretary a year ago. I would like to continue to contribute to the Club. I ask for your vote for Secretary. Robert Ress



Hello I'm Mark Madewell and I'm running for SVLS Director at Large(2).

I've been with the club for a few years starting out as MOW labor. Since then I've assisted in various areas as needed and requested. Many of you have seen my around the club helping out with various things including Cordova Station on public ride days and the Registration Booth during meets. I served as Temporary Director at Large(1) when the

position was vacated last year until the election, and currently I'm the Safety Committee.

A little about me: I started in model railroading around age 4 with my uncles Lionel trains. Later when I could afford them I had space and desire I acquired HO trains, that lasted until I was in my mid 40s and had to tear down my layout for space. A few years ago I got into G scale trains and while browsing YouTube I found 7.5" gauge trains and moved over to them. Recently I've purchased my 4th Locomotive and I think I've finally gone overboard.

I hope that I've earned your vote for Director at Large(2). Wishing the Club and its Members the best in the upcoming year.

Vote Yes or No: Circle your choice.		
President	Y / N	Chris Smith
Secretary	Y / N	Bob Ress
Director at Large(2)	Y / N	Mark Madewell
Vote for just one below for		
Train master:		
	Υ	Peter Welch
	Υ	Kevin Sach