

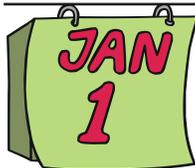
# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

January 2020

Volume 47, Issue 01



## NEW YEARS DAY 2020

Let's 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, 2020**. Mark your calendar!

Running starts at 10 AM and lunch about 1 PM.

Also **General Meeting: 1:30 PM**. Vote on Bylaw Revisions.



*Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch.*



Ring in the New Year's Day behind your equipment and with fellow railroad members.



### President's Report

*By Andy Berchielli*

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our Santa Train event. Most of the people in the group photo spent both weekends out there. Everyone played an important part in the success of the event. Attendance was down slightly from last year but overall we ran all four days despite chances of rain. Thanks to Wayne Harmer and Dennis Bowie for playing the role of Santa. Also to those that brought out their engines for the public to enjoy including Matt T., Chris S., Chris D., Brandon McCracken and I brought mine out too. Our photographers were Kevin S., Mitch, Ben and Chris D. We continue to learn what photography equipment we need to be self reliant and not rely on personal equipment. We are close but thanks to Don Youngling for bringing his laptop out as a backup and to Ben Shell for helping us setup our computer needs. The work we put into this event is appreciated by the attendees. Filling in at the ticket booth and speaking with those at Santa Village I hear many stories of those that have made this their Holiday traditions for over 10 years. We should all be proud to be part of these families traditions.

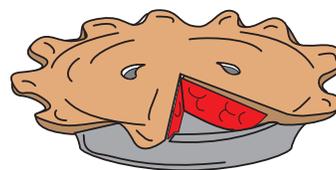
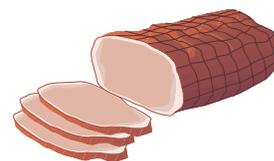
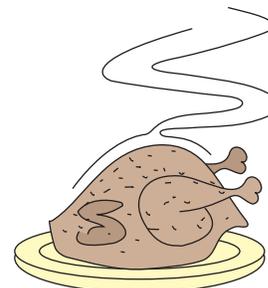
The new year starts off with us continuing to work on the inner loop and main line upgrades. During the month of November we got a jump start on the project. We installed one switch, added roadbed and worked on the diamond. However the diamond didn't work as planned, so we are on plan B now. But we move forward with continuing to build track panels and finishing off the road bed. Work days will be every Saturday. I will be there on most Sundays too.



You are cordially invited to the second SVLSRM Winter potluck dinner.. When – **Saturday, January 18, 2020** – Event starts at 6:00 PM. Where: Rancho Cordova City Hall (2729 Prospect Drive).

Please bring a potluck dish to share. The club will provide a Ham & Turkey plus plates, plastic ware, napkins, coffee and lemonade.

The entertainment for the evening will be the membership. Please plan to bring your show and tell projects and other items of interests to all. President Andy has created a short video of his trip to Tennessee last year to share with everyone. Please RSVP to Alison Berry ([aibeary@yahoo.com](mailto:aibeary@yahoo.com)) so we know how many tables to set up for the dinner.



Santa and his helpers.  
Dennis, Ryan, & Maren Bowie, Eli & Paul Donhost,  
& Abby Thomas.

## SVLSRM Calendar

Jan. 1, 2020 General Meeting & New Years Day Run  
 Bring your train and let's run all day.  
 General Meeting: 1:30 pm. Vote on Bylaw Revisions.

Jan. **Work each weekend during January and February.**

Jan. 13 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Jan. 18 SVLSRM annual dinner 6:00 Rancho Cordova City Hall

Feb. **WorkDays each weekend.**

Feb. 10 Board Meeting 6:30 P.M. Rancho Cordova City Hall

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

*Rates have increased again and again.*



**Help us save money.**

Save SVLSRM some money and read the news letters on-line.

Tell Membership that you don't need the mailed copy; we will notify you by E-mail so you can read it on-line.



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlstrm.org](http://www.svlstrm.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 the 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@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org).

**The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.**

**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

### DUES ARE DUE NOW PLEASE PAY

Please complete a membership form noting changes. You can renew on-line or download form at [svlstrm.org](http://svlstrm.org) then send check or pay on-line.

Send forms to SVLS P.O. Box 273, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741



Paul Brink has passed away in November. He was a supporter of G gauge live steam and active in bringing a G gauge layout to our club to have a permanent layout.

## Board of Directors

(##) *Ending year of term*

President: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (21)

E-mail: [president@svlstrm.org](mailto:president@svlstrm.org)

Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (20)

E-mail: [vicepresident@svlstrm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlstrm.org)

Secretary: Stephanie Huntingdale (916) 580-7377 (21)

E-mail: [secretary@svlstrm.org](mailto:secretary@svlstrm.org)

Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (20)

E-mail: [treasurer@svlstrm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlstrm.org)

Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (20)

E-mail: [tracksuper@svlstrm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlstrm.org)

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (20)

E-mail: [yardmaster@svlstrm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlstrm.org)

Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (21)

E-mail: [trainmaster@svlstrm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlstrm.org)

Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (20)

E-mail: [director\\_bill@svlstrm.org](mailto:director_bill@svlstrm.org)

Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (21)

E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlstrm.org](mailto:director_steve@svlstrm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415

E-mail: [membership@svlstrm.org](mailto:membership@svlstrm.org)

Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---

E-mail:

Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425

E-mail: [caboose@svlstrm.org](mailto:caboose@svlstrm.org)

Birthday & Company Event Chairperson:

Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlstrm.org](mailto:Events@svlstrm.org)

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113

E-mail: [editor@svlstrm.org](mailto:editor@svlstrm.org)

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



### Track Superintendent Report

By Dennis Bowie

Another installment of looking down the track...

With January coming on us fast we will be in a new year. And that means track work. This January 1<sup>st</sup> we will have our New Year's Day run. Our Project for this year is to replace the aluminum rail from the north switch on Hill View East up to the switch that is at Placerville siding. This part of the main line has steel rail on the outside and Aluminum on the inside. There are sections that have steel on both rails and are on plastic ties, so these sections will not need to be touched. So the plan is to remove the section of track that will be rebuilt and add new ties and replace the old wooden ones. Also we will remove the old road bed and put down weed block and new rock.

We will also be putting in a switch that will be used for the inside loop. The inside loop will be a project that will be ongoing. Our first work day will be Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting at 9AM at the park. My plan is that we will be working every Saturday until Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. We will work the Sundays if needed. The weather is always a factor, I know that this is not a long run of track but it gets us closer to having our main line all in steel rail. So if you are willing and want to get your hands dirty, come out and be part of the fun. By the way this project will need to be completed by the end of February. So the more hands the better.



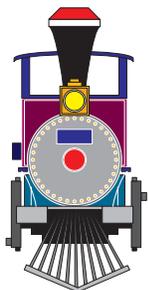
### Treasurer

By Alison Berry

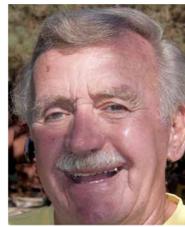
A big thank you to all our members that have not only donated their time and talents but have also provided a donation to SVLSRM. If you need a written receipt for your donation

for your tax records, please contact Alison Berry (Treasurer) and she will be happy to send you a form. If you are at the park for New Year's Day, there are donation forms in the caboose. They must be signed by a board member.

I want to thank those that helped me in the ticket booth at the Santa Train: Heidi Bowie, Andy Berichelli, Chris Donhost, Ryan Bowie, and those that checked on me. I will need some help on Saturday, January 11 to reorganize our Santa Train decorations. The various boxes and bins need to be repacked and labeled. Maybe create an inventory of what we have? Please let me know if you can help. Alison Berry treasurer@svlsrm.org



**BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN...  
...HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED YET?**



### Vice President's Report

By Dennis Gramith

It was recently discovered that there was a problem with the bearings on the U.P. GP40. Investigation revealed that it was equipped with needle bearings which are not sealed like ball bearings, and are subject to contamination

from dirt and water intrusion, causing early failure. This has resulted in significant damage to some of the axle ends. I have acquired new sealed ball bearings and will modify/rebuild the journal boxes to fit them. While the trucks are down, I will check the wheel and flange contours, and re-machine as needed. The wiring on this locomotive has been modified, replaced, patched and repaired many times over its life time. I believe Peter (Trainmaster), is planning a complete rewire job while it is down for repairs.

The Dash-9 is also currently out of service due to a broken oil dipstick. I will attempt to tig weld a repair. If that does not appear sturdy enough, I will try to locate a new dip stick as soon as possible. The problem was caused by the top of the cab window being too low to clear the dip stick when attempting to check the oil. The builder had cut away part of the finger loop used to pull the dipstick out, but cut in the wrong place leaving a portion of the loop sticking up which catches under the top of the window opening. This will be corrected on the replacement.



### TRACK UPDATE

Phil Huntingdale

Several G Scale trains were running during the Santa Train event. Those that ran steam engines included Steve Aragotti, Bart Cook, Dave Frediani, and Colton Snell. I brought out a battery powered

Christmas train that was tended to by Ryan Bowie on the second Saturday and Sunday. Many families ventured over to the track after visiting with Santa and having cookies and chocolate. These two weekends were great for those that attended. This year was great for the hobby and thanks to all that helped build and run over the year.

It is my understanding several donations have been made to the G Scale project thru the club Treasurer. I wish to thank those that have donated specifically for the "G Scale Project".

We are now able to start the Phase 2 G Scale build. We expect to get the staking of the layout done on the New Year run day. Footings and posts will be in the ground in the later part of January. Helping out with the 7.5 gauge track work will be the priority of all volunteers, however we hope to have time to start the steel work in February, and work to complete the new phase by the spring meet. Volunteers will be needed to accomplish these tasks.

Hope to see you on New Year's Day for running trains and the pot luck.



**SVLSRM Helpers:**

It took 3 days to set up Santa Village and about 2 hours to take it all down after Santa Train was over. With some great volunteers who ran the ticket booth, train stations, kept trains moving, Santa Village was quite busy.

The Elves were busy keeping the cookie table full of cookies, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider. Mr. & Mrs. Santa visited with the kids and kept them smiling while The Photo Booth crew took pictures. Not much time for breaks. Thank you to all the following people who were here on one or both weekends to help keep things running smoothly.

- Ticket Booth - Alison Berry, Andy Berchielli, and Heidi Bowie
- Dennis Bowie - Santa Claus - Dec. 7, 14, 15
- Wayne Harmer - Santa Claus - Dec. 8
- Stephanie Huntingdale - Mrs. Santa Claus
- Rob Sharratt - Elf Robbie -Mr. & Mrs. Santa's son
- Operations - Dennis Gramith VP
- Elves Cookie Table - Toy Yungling/Peggy Dunham
  - Eli & Paul Donhost
  - Abby Thomas
  - Ryan Bowie
  - Khloe Roberts
- Elves - Judy & Kaylee Zegler - Santa Helpers
  - Renn Strong - Good & Bad kids book Elf

**Photo Booth:**

Lisa Moser, Jessica Bouchey, Don Yungling, Kevin Sach, Chris Donhost, Mitch Fleming, Bill Yoder, Benjamin Shell, and Heidi Bowie.

**Caboose Helpers:**

Barbara Moser, Toy Yungling, Wendy Forren, Gloria Berry, Stacey Reese.

**Other helpers:**

Glen Wilson, Bill & Butch Floyd, Harry Voss, Maren Bowie, Steve Milward, Andrew Sach, Craig Griffin, Gordon Durham, Gordon Moser, Tom Nance, Dean Sheets, Matt & Wyatt Thomas, Phil Huntingdale, Makenzie McConbrey, Dave Cladianos, Paul Skidmore, Judy Zegler, Kaylee Kinross, Richard Lutrel, Colton Snell, Tom Reese, Ben Dover, Dave McClain, Peter Welch, Ian Milward, Christopher Roberts, Brad Strong, Auggie Berchielli, Andrew Maret, Robert Forren.

**Brought out Steamers:**

Brandon McCracken, Chris Smith, Matt & Wyatt Thomas.

Hope I didn't forget anybody.



Last day Santa event crew. Thanks to all and all are thanked, it takes effort and this crew gave effort. Thanks.

*Director - Steve Milward*



Wow, we've done it! The Santa Trains for 2019 are behind us and we couldn't have done it without you. In spite of iffy weather at times, we had good sized crowds come out to ride our trains and talk to Ole' Saint Nick. While not quite as busy as last year, the number of visitors was quite impressive.

What made this year particularly enjoyable was the amazing number of members and friends that jumped in and helped with every aspect of the event. From train crews, photographers, crowd control, servers, operations and cast members, everybody seemed to want to make sure we were successful, and it showed. To everybody that had a hand in two busy, but great weekends, please take a bow!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one person in particular. Barbara Moser is generally one of the first folks to arrive and one of the last to leave. She along with many helpers, made sure there was enough hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies and everything else to keep a seemingly endless stream of families happy. In addition, Barbara made sure all of the folks working the event were well fed. I expect nobody went away hungry... To that, I think I can speak for the rest of our membership in saying "Thank you for everything you do!"

If you're thinking, what's next? How about a New Year's Day run at the railroad? It's a great way to ring in 2020 and maybe show off a new Christmas present. After that, we'll jump into track repair and improvement projects in January and February. Also, on the evening of Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, is our winter potluck dinner. Details on page 1. So, think about good food to share with friends, family and fellow members. Also if you've any videos or projects you'd like to share, bring them along.

In closing, 2019 has been a pretty good year for the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. Let's all jump in and see how we can make 2020 even better! Until then, hope to see you on the rails.



**Members New Year Run Day.**  
Bring your train, your family, food and have a fun day at the track.



A glimpse of the activity during Santa Event





**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**

**1.01 General Restrictions**

All equipment to be run on the club track is subject to inspection by the Trainmaster at any time. Failure to submit to or pass such inspection may result in removal of the equipment from SVLSRM facilities subject to SVLSRM Trainmaster.

**2.06 Wheel Dimensions and Coupler Heights**

All wheel dimensions and coupler height standards shall conform to IBLS standards. A copy of these standards can be found on the SVLSRM webpage.

**3.19 Bad Order Cards**

Equipment that is taken out of service shall be tagged for cause. Tagged equipment must not be operated or coupled to any engines or cars except for repairs or corrections. The bad order card shall not be removed until repair is fixed.

**4.09 Brake Requirements - Large Trains**

Any train consisting of more than 7 cars available for passengers shall have at least one half of the cars equipped with operable brakes, such brakes to be operated by the engineer from the locomotive.



***There are plenty of projects to work on at the railroad so you need to come out and give time to your organization.***



Check our web site FOR SALE page for pictures and more details. <https://www.svlsrcm.org/>

Got Something for Sale?

Send to: Editor@svlsrcm.org



**DUES WHERE DUE JAN 1, 2020 PLEASE PAY NOW.**



**10 Years ago:** The New Year will start with the completion of the Sugar Pine track. I want to thank Matt Mason for installing the rail to open the track for the 1” scale. Ballast and leveling can be finished in time for our March start up.



It may have been rainy and cold, but it takes more than a New Year’s Day downpour to dampen spirits when the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers are celebrating a long held tradition.

That was not far from our minds as five steam engines carried generations of our club around the track during our traditional New Year’s Day run. Barbara Moser pointed out how much fun it was to see her grown son reconnecting with railroad friends made as a boy during the many long hot afternoons spent at the SVLSRM over the years. It was a great reminder to all of us that our club is more than just a bunch of railroad junkies. Many are lifelong friends sharing a common love of trains. Our group that day included club members dating back decades, their children and their children’s friends. There were new friends, too.

**20 Years ago:** *I need copies of the 2000 year news letters for Jan, and July. Please give the editor a call, I can make copies. Thanks Bill*

**30 Years ago: (1990)** From the CAB - (president’s comments) - First, I would like to wish a Happy New Year to all. This year should once again provide your club with a great potential for growth and improvement. We have started receiving fill dirt for the expansion and hope to get enough donated to finish the site work without having to buy any. Our Superintendent Doug Fulton, Secretary, Keith Berry and Trainmaster, John Bailie all sound like they are ready and willing to start some of the new projects for 1990. This year let’s try to bring our show and tell sessions at the General Meeting up to speed. Please bring in something that you have been working on and share it with all of us. Your method may be just what someone else needs to help their project. Don’t think that it is not good enough. Everyone must start somewhere and no one will criticize your work. Dennis Gramith!

**40 Years ago:** (1980) New Year’s run was well attended. Some excitement, too, when a prominent member, who shall remain nameless, came without his grates, and he a coal-burner, yet! Glen Strawn was up from Fresno with his 1” Achanback RR Pacific, Ken Willes with his 0-6-0 and black and white gons, Earl McKenzie with his little WP Mike, Erich Quiring and his Atlantic, Chuck Corothers and his Mack electric switcher and of course Ed Yungling and his Cab-Forward.