

The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsrcm.org

May 2025

Volume 52, Issue 5



President's Report

By Steve Milward

Greetings everyone,

Our 2025 Spring Meet is just around the corner! This will take place from May 16th -18th. We ask, if possible, please pre-register and pre-pay. This makes things easier for the folks at the registration tent, and

speeds up the process. Also note that we will be asking members and visitors to sign waivers. This is being done for our safety, as well as yours, and is becoming a requirement at most railroads.

Once again, the call goes out. If you can spare a few minutes here and there to help with some of the many tasks, big and small that the Spring Meet requires, it will be most appreciated! Please, don't leave it to the same small bunch of volunteers to shoulder the entire load.

Also – DUES! Some haven't yet paid dues for 2025. Please, please take a moment to get caught up. It helps us pay our bills, and makes life easier for the club.

After May 31st, any member who are not current with 2025 dues is considered delinquent, and membership privileges are suspended until dues are paid.

Now, wash and shine those locomotives and cars, and be ready to head out, run trains, and have a great weekend in Sacramento!

Finally, a huge **THANK YOU** to those folks who always seem to be willing to drop what they're doing, and come out to help at the railroad. You're the reason the trains roll!

Hope to see you soon,

Steve



Birthday party celebrating at SVLSRM with Engineer Chris on the throttle.

SVLSRM Calendar

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

May. 3 Public run day
May. 4 Public run day
May. 12 Board meeting
May. 16 Spring Meet
May. 17 Spring Meet
May. 18 Spring Meet

June 7 Public run day
June 8 Public run day
June 9 Board meeting
June 21 Club Work day

**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.

RENEW membership on-line:

<https://www.svlsrcm.org/membership>.

Or use the Q code:



Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term.

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

E-mail: president@svlsrcm.org

Vice President: Chris Smith (650) 676-0118 (24)

E-mail: vicepresident@svlsrcm.org

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

E-mail: secretary@svlsrcm.org

Treasurer: Henry Nanjo (916)-207-1962 (24)

E-mail: treasurer@svlsrcm.org

Track Superintendent: Jeff Burke (847) 815-7638 (24)

E-mail: tracksuper@svlsrcm.org

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E-mail: yardmaster@svlsrcm.org

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

E-mail: trainmaster@svlsrcm.org

Director1: Mark Madewell (209) 603-1960 (24)

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

Greetings members, April was a great month for track work. With the help of many volunteers throughout the month, we were able to finish the east side of our Lower Yard tie replacement project. The repaired ballast car worked great, allowing us to continually run the train from

the work site to the ballast bunker. It only took half a day to drop rock and level the entire track once we got in a groove of dumping the ballast directly from the car end and sweeping it into place while the train went for another load. I'm sure the yard will settle a bit during the meet so we will have to go back over it for leveling after that. We plan to finish the west side of the yard sometime after the meet. Once that is finished we have some other tie replacement projects for small sections of track where the recycled ties have been broken by the steel rail's heat cycles.

A few more small track projects were also completed including, filling in ballast in areas where animals had been digging, adding a small retaining bar for ballast at Twin Bridges, tamping up the track where it was sagging in a few places and installing a throw for the switch that leads into the turntable wye.

Our workday email notices have been gaining momentum and we saw some fresh faces at our workdays. Please check that tracksuper@svlsrm.org is unblocked from your spam, or maybe leave it if you do not want to receive notices.

Please remember that Public Run is May 3rd and 4th. After that we have the Spring Meet, May 16th through 18th. If you can volunteer in anyway, please reach out to Steve or Chris to let them know what position you can cover, even if it is for a few hours.

The weekend before Spring Meet will likely be a work weekend that will include minor track work but mainly clean up of the club property in preparation for our guests. There will be an email to announce the date and time.

Thanks for everyone's help this past month, you all made it possible with your volunteer hours.

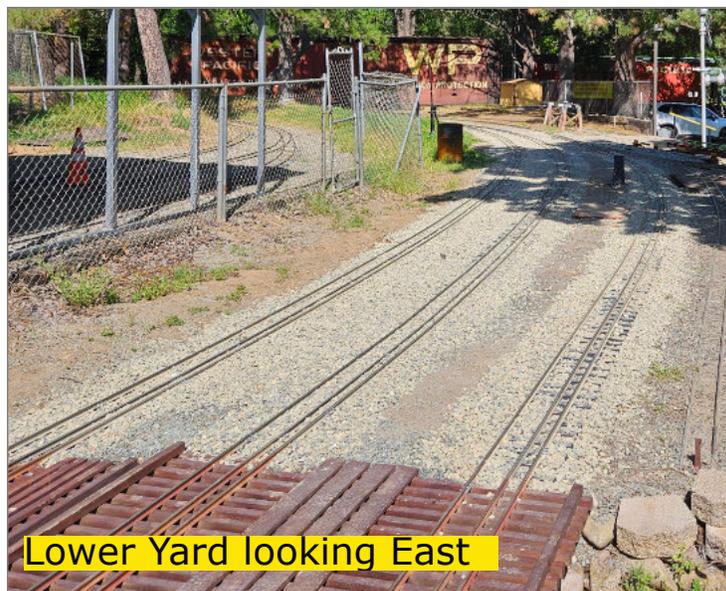
- Jeff



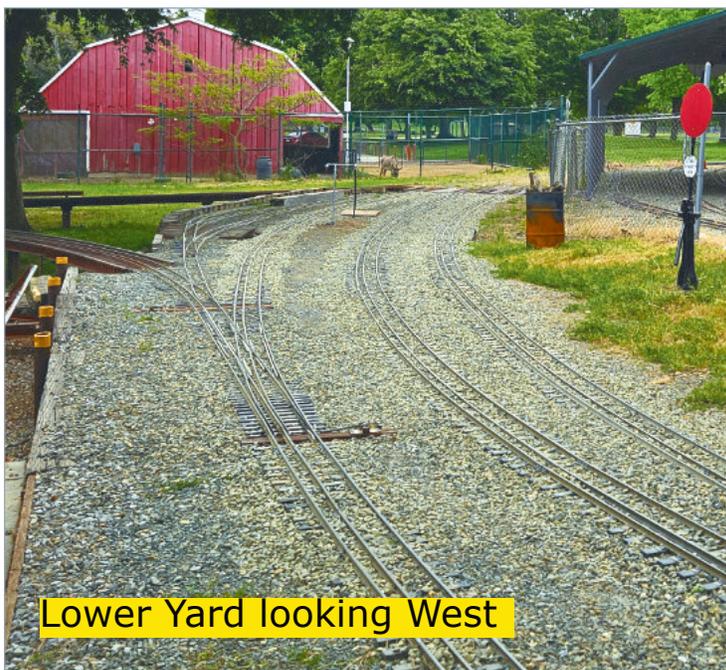
Track work Tasks needed before Spring meet:

- Leaf blow all yard tracks and dispose of pine needles properly.
- Simple organization and general clean-up of old track work area around boxcar near electrical and fuel cabinet.
- Simple mirror, ballast and tamping of select areas on the mainline and inner loop.
- Clean-up and readiness check of old dual gauge mainline (Sugar Pine).
- Check and oil all turnouts.

Clean out any obviously clogged guard rails.



Lower Yard looking East



Lower Yard looking West



10 Years ago: Gordon and Barbara Moser went to the park on Monday 4/20 and meet up with Bill & Todd Dukes, active live steamer members and founding members of the Friends of Nevada Southern Railway Live Steamers. Bill Pardee from Maracopa Live Steamers was also with them. They were in Sacramento on a NARCOA speeder excursion. After their tour with Gordon and a ride on our

train they were wishing they had their train with them and seemed interested in returning for the Spring Meet. Bill Dukes was particularly interested in our Safety set up and our rules we have now and took samples of our paperwork to bring back to their club to study.

Retired Lt. Colonel Kenneth Willes

Ken has been a SVLSRM member since late 1973. He served in the Air Corps / Air Force for 29 years and was active during three wars: WWII, Korean, and Vietnam. He proudly displays his Distinguished Flying Cross, which is for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Ken was a Navigator on B24 aircraft during WWII and was awarded the Flying Cross for the longest flight under combat fire during the first daylight raid over Bangkok, Thailand. That mission was his 50th. Note: Ken donated his "little Blue" steam engine to the club in August 2014.



20 Years ago: At the April meeting, Matt Mason presented digital photos and a short video he took while on a trip to China. Steam is on its way out in China but for now, there is a lot to see and Matt had pictures of most of it. There were views of the countryside, inside the shops, and inside of the trains, but most depicted the steam engines they still use. Thanks to Matt for his efforts at the meeting. Matt's program was followed by a several item show and tell session. If you have not been to our re-focused membership meetings, you are missing a lot.

THEFT AND VANDALISM

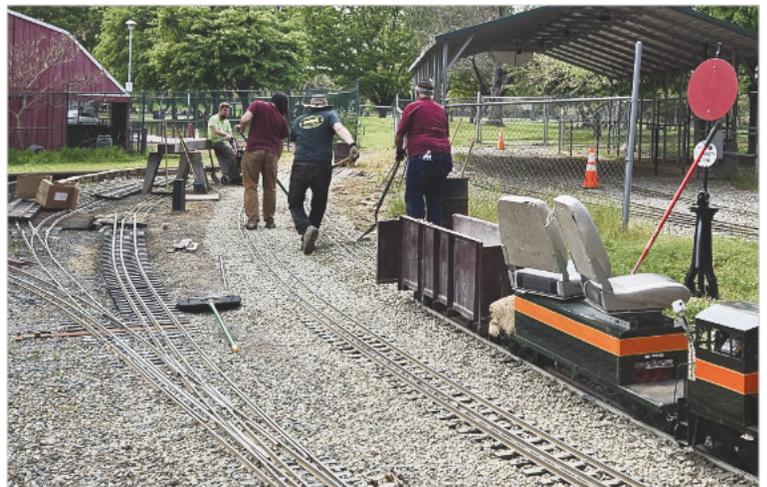
Unknown vandals tore out about 220 feet of our track. The location was the Sugar Pine section of Track replacement work being done on Tuesday work day (April 12th). New base down around river view curve waiting for track panels. Grade work continued on Saturday and track panels were put in place. Special thanks to Pete Arney, Lee Frechette, Dale Dennis, Gorden Moser, Richard Lutrel, and Bill Yoder.

30 Years ago: John Bailie has refurbished another pair of trucks for the riding cars. He also has a letter published in *Live Steam*. Keith Berry reported that the Garden Railroad society is expecting about 200 people to come. They have asked us to have engines operating from 3 - 9 PM June 17, 1995 (special event).

40 Years ago: On Saturday, April 20, 1985 Super Power Meet found a wide variety of motive power present including: Ed Yungling's Cab-forward, the Danley's Allegheny and Glenn Strawn's SD-45-T2. Glenn coupled his SD-45 to Craig Craddock's big Pacific and they proudly announced that they had fulfilled the definition of an "articulated locomotive" (in honor of Super Power Day): two engines with only one boiler supplying all the steam, and it did bend in the middle with the boiler remaining straight! Where else have you ever seen a 4-6-2-6-6, or was it a 6-6-4-6-2?

50Years ago: If you were one of the attendees of the May 3rd & 4th SVLS meet you already know that it was a big success. Twenty locomotives from around the territory were operating and pulling passengers. Engines under construction and several other stationary projects were on display. Including the NMRA Conventioneers, there were several hundred rail fans visiting our Cordova Park track. The highlight was the Saturday Banquet. Our guest speaker was Chet Peterson of Railroad Supply Corp. and he offered a most interesting talk on the interest in Live Steaming around the Country.

Train rides in the 70's on our New track.



Spreading gravel for Lower Yard rebuild

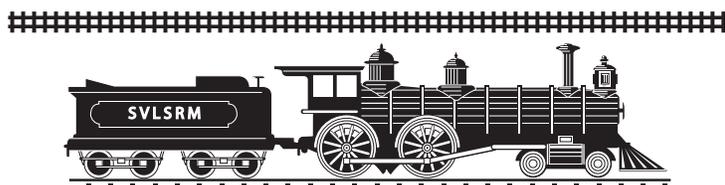
WORK DAYS VOLUNTEERS

April Volunteers

Keith Berry, Gloria Berry, Sade Brown, Jeff Burke,
 Leonard Cassieri, David Cladianos, Ethan Constanzo,
 Vickie Constanzo, Chris Donhost, Craig Griffin,
 Phil Huntingdale, Robin Huntingdale,
 Stephanie Huntingdale, Philip Lawrence, Amy Lutrel,
 Richard Lutrel, Mark Madewell, Margaret Madewell,
 Steve Milward, Henry Nanjo, Bob Ress, Christopher Sach,
 Kevin Sach, Andrew Sach, Rob Sharratt, Chris Smith,
 Barbara Schoellkopf, Dave Silvernale, Harry Voss,
 Bob Walker, Troy Wilkinsen, Glen Wilson, Don Yungling,
 Toy Yungling, And Bob from Napa?

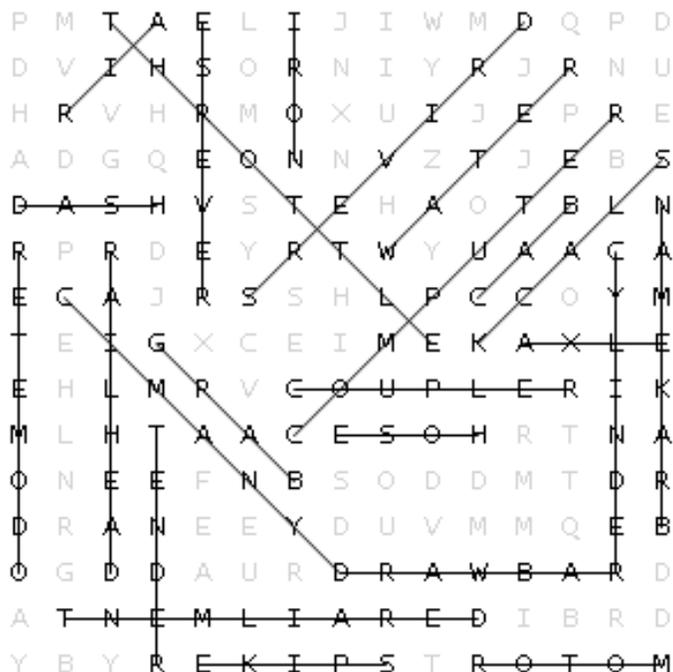
Left Off March Volunteer List:

Alexander Marcopulos
 Ted Marcopulos
 Bob Walker



word puzzle

Answer to April 2025 puzzle.



Secretary Report

By: Robert Ress

Summary of April 14 Board Meeting

We will participate in Kid's Day at the Park on April 26. We will be running two trains 11 to 3. Come out and help with the event. Enter by the Ambassador gate. Chase Drive will be blocked.

Planning for the Spring Meet is progressing. We need volunteers to help put the event on, contact a Board member if you are available to help.

After the Spring Meet we will remove the vines from the Maintenance of Way container, paint the west wall and reattach the vines.

The security cameras are being repaired and coverage expanded.

The winter's track project is completed. It will need to be retapped after the Meet.

We have renewed our insurance policy for 2025. We are working on updated wavers for Meet attended and visitors to sign.

The back door of the library has been damaged. The library has been secured while a replacement door is being constructed.

After the Spring Meet the rule book will be updated. If you have any suggestions please contact a Board member.

The ice maker has been serviced and is working. The water under the caboose is part of the normal operation of the ice machine.

Membership, Only 125 members have renewed, 116 have not renewed. The cut off for 2025 dues will be May 31st. You can renew your 2025 membership when you register for the Spring Meet, or at the registration table at the meet. It is the club's policy that the cut off for delinquent renewals will be May 31st of the current year. For NEW members joining for the first time on or after October 1st the dues will cover the last quarter of this year AND all of the next year.

Spring meet planning is continuing. If you have some time available please volunteer during the setup, meet and take down.

The next Board meeting is May 12th. Contact the secretary for an agenda and how to attend the meeting.



Please mail in your dues or renew through the Club's website.

Moving rock



Oasis yard looking North

SAFETY RULES



1.10 Food and Refreshments

Passengers shall not take food, drinks, or other refreshments other than water aboard any train. Nor may any person, passenger or crew member, smoke while on board. Dumping of trash while on the train is strictly prohibited.

2.05 Safety Chains A chain, cable or draw bar must be installed between any car on which the Engineer is riding separate from his locomotive. A chain or draw bar must also be installed between any fuel car or cars and the locomotive which it supplies. Some safety device is recommended for all cars.

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.

4.03 Length of Train

Trains carrying the general public shall not exceed 100 feet in length over all, exclusive of locomotive and tender or other motive power.

Don't fall in a hole and drop out of the club.
Please renew now.

Send your dues to:
 SVLSRM
 PO Box 273
 Rancho Cordova,
 CA. 95741



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
209 743 1565
17368 Table Mountain Road
Jamestown Ca 95337.
Blackirish28@hotmail.com**



locomotive is a complete set of castings including a brand new copper boiler. This was all purchased from Railroad Supply when it was owned by Chet Peterson. All the running gear castings have been machined and assembled on the frame, the locomotive is running on air. Twin cross head pumps, original blued sheet metal lagging for boiler. Comes with a complete Railroad supply fibreglas tender tank including frame, trucks etc. All of the drawings are included. The boiler is a copper boiler, never installed to frame as supplied by Railroad Supply and has the original shipping crate.

\$6000. or Best Offer.

**Locomotives are in Gardnerville NV. Contact Ken Schroeder
775-265-3632
aylocomotives@charter.net**

