

# The GOLDEN SPIKE



www.svlsm.org

February 2019

Volume 46, Issue 02

## President's Report

By Andy Berchielli

We always have to deal with weather during our winter projects. The wind and rain storms this past January knocked down several trees. Four large trees on the North Hill and two large Pines in the park area near the station. Luckily no track damages. The two large pines were removed by the park district. Rob, Chris and several other young helpers took on the task of cutting and removing the trees on the North Hill. Cleanup of tree debris is still in the works with branches scattered all around the facility.



**NEW G SCALE TRACK FOR SVLSM.** The weekend of January 12 and 13, the first phase G scale layout got underway with the foundation and post support structure being placed. Work began with Tom Reese bringing his Bobcat with post hole excavator in and auguring the foundations. Harry Voss and Craig Griffeth assisted in placement of the holes and spreading spoils. Tom provided 23 steel posts, and Craig provided the two bridge post. In all, 25 support posts have been placed. Concrete was purchased, and dumped from a rotating transport. Butch Floyd operated the concrete dumping. Craig and Phil pushed the wheelbarrow to the footings. Glen Wilson and Peter Welsh ran the concrete placement operation and maintained the post positions. At the end of the weekend, posts were in place and ready for the table structure.



Our boxcar yard project is well under way with the guidance of Track Master Dennis and a handful of helpers. Work projects continue each weekend leading up the public runs in March.

We are providing a **training day for all club engines on February 23 and 24.** If you did not take a test last year, come out and learn the proper way to operate club equipment. Qualifying on the equipment gives us a larger selection of volunteers for the run days and parties. Providing your time to the club eliminates the burden of relying on the same group of members to help.

Looking forward to February projects. We will be putting the final touches on the boxcar yard. With new storage in the boxcar, organizing the boxcar becomes a priority. Some stuff from the boxcar was relocated to container four. This will also need some organization.

Container one is getting some new shelves. To help keep the heat down in the three containers we would like to white top the containers and install turbines. And of course the yard is always in need of removing branches and leaves. So yes we have a job for everyone young and young at heart. Hope to see you at the track.

On January 19, Craig installed the all-thread stubs temporarily on the post for anchoring and leveling of the strut supports. Bill Yoder came out with his portable welding rig and welded the all-threads to the post. The Board has created a G Scale Fund for donations. This project will depend solely on donations and will not use any of the clubs funds. It is imperative members wishing to see this project move forward and completed by the Spring meet will need to make a donation to this project. We still need to purchase the Unistrut deck stringers and fittings, decking, some track components, and gravel ground cover.

Please make donations specifically for the "G Scale Project" thru the club Treasurer, Alison Berry, address as listed for the Club. Alison is able to give you a receipt for the donation. Several hundred additional dollars in donations will be needed to complete this project! This track when completed is intended to be used by all members having G scale 45 mm equipment. This includes battery, steam, or electric locomotives. Want to help? Come to the club on the February work days to get the project further along.

Questions, contact Phil Huntingdale 916-408-1747.

## SVLSRM Calendar

- Feb. 2 & 3 Winter track projects.
- Feb. 9 & 10 Winter track projects.
- Feb. 11 Board Meeting 6:30. RC city hall.
- Feb. 16 & 17 Winter track projects.
- Feb. 23 & 24 Winter track projects.
  
- Mar. 2 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Mar. 3 Public run day - 11 AM - 3 PM
- Mar. 11 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Community Board Room  
Rancho Cordova City Hall. Members welcome.
- Mar. 16 Member WORK day - please help on club projects.
- Mar. 17 Member RUN day - bring your train to  
run all day.

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

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

Come and help, Your help is needed. Don't know what to do? Then call a board member and volunteer.



Please check the SVLSRM web site [www.svlsrcm.org](http://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.

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.

*Rates have increased again and again.*



**Help us save money.**

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@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).  
**The news letter deadline is 24th of each month.**  
**Member articles wanted.**

## MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara Rohrs

It is that time of year! 2019 dues renewal are being accepted. Regular - \$60; Associate - \$30. You can pay by a check in mail or Paypal (please mail in renewal form also). Please find a renewal form at the end of this newsletter that you can print out to mail in with your payment. New this year is an on-line form to submit, go to Membership web page and follow instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Membership.



## DUES ARE DUE NOW

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

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

## Board of Directors

- (##) *Ending year of term*
- President: Andy Berchelli (916) 752-6697 (19)  
E-mail: [president@svlsrcm.org](mailto:president@svlsrcm.org)
  - Vice President: Dennis Gramith (916) 988-7884 (20)  
E-mail: [vicepresident@svlsrcm.org](mailto:vicepresident@svlsrcm.org)
  - Secretary: Alex Wilde (530) 919-5026 (19)  
E-mail: [secretary@svlsrcm.org](mailto:secretary@svlsrcm.org)
  - Treasurer: Alison Berry (916) 983-9712 (20)  
E-mail: [treasurer@svlsrcm.org](mailto:treasurer@svlsrcm.org)
  - Track Superintendent: Dennis Bowie (916) 337-9492 (20)  
E-mail: [tracksuper@svlsrcm.org](mailto:tracksuper@svlsrcm.org)
  - Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (925) 876-0375 (20)  
E-mail: [yardmaster@svlsrcm.org](mailto:yardmaster@svlsrcm.org)
  - Trainmaster: Peter Welch (916) 838 4998 (19)  
E-mail: [trainmaster@svlsrcm.org](mailto:trainmaster@svlsrcm.org)
  - Director1: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113 (20)  
E-mail: [director\\_bill@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_bill@svlsrcm.org)
  - Director2: Steve Milward (530) 559-2472 (19)  
E-mail: [director\\_steve@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_steve@svlsrcm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

- Membership Chairperson: Barbara Rohrs (916) 730-1415  
E-mail: [membership@svlsrcm.org](mailto:membership@svlsrcm.org)
- Safety Chairperson: --- OPEN ---  
E-mail:
- Caboose Chairperson: Barbara Moser (916) 645-3425  
E-mail: [caboose@svlsrcm.org](mailto:caboose@svlsrcm.org)
- Birthday & Company Event Chairperson:  
Phone: (916) 572-7857 E-mail: [Events@svlsrcm.org](mailto:Events@svlsrcm.org)
- Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder (916) 652-7113  
E-mail: [editor@svlsrcm.org](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org)

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





New Year's Day Run members and visitors Alison Berry, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Matt, Weasel, & Abby Thomas, Marshall & Dylan Post, Phil & Stephanie Huntingdale, Bill & Willie Yoder, Dennis Bowie, Gordon & Barbara

Moser, Tom & Stacy Reese, Dennis Gramith, Chris, Evelyn, Paul, Eli Donhost, Terry Willes, Rob, Tammy, Cory & Warren Sharratt, Joe Dingler, Harry Voss, Andy & Augie Berchielli, Charlie Reimarem, Bill & Butch Floyd, Austin, Carter Unruh.

January Weekend Workday Helpers - Good turn out on Saturday to help clean up after the storm. These people also donated their time when they were available on the weekends. Those retired also come and help on Tuesdays. Richard Lutrel, Gordon & Barbara Moser, Steve Milward, Harry Voss, Dennis Gramith, Dennis, Ryan, Maren Bowie, Rob Sharratt, Keith Berry, Bill & Willie Yoder, Alison Berry, Peter & Jim Welch, Andy Berchielli, Chris, Eli, Paul Donhost, Kevin & Andrew Sach, Stephanie Huntingdale, G-Gage Helpers: Phil Huntingdale, Craig Griffin, Bill & Butch Floyd, Tom Reese.

May of missed some names who didn't sign the sheets.



Director - Steve Milward

Here we are, a month into the new year and there's lot going on at the railroad! As soon as the storms moved on, crews were busily removing all of the yard tracks in front of the boxcar. Once that was complete, the track panels and turnouts were moved below for rebuilding. Meanwhile the old roadbed was removed, the surveyors went to work, then it was time for new roadbed and the eventual installation of the upgraded track. I should mention that a forth storage track was installed in the boxcar, in addition to new shelves and cabinets.

While this was going on, folks were removing and disposing of storm damaged trees near the bike path. If that's not enough, others were preparing the area across from Oasis Station for installation of a permanent elevated G scale layout.

All of these projects are happening because dedicated members are taking the time and making the effort to improve our railroad. If you're one of these folks pitching in to make it happen, my heartfelt thanks to you! If you've not made it out yet, please join us, There's lot more to do and any and all assistance is appreciated, no matter your interest or skill level. Remember, the first public run days are just a few weeks away, as are member run days. Lots to do, come out and join in! Hope to see you on the railroad.



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







**10 Years ago:** The track replacement in Hagan Park is on schedule ! With the help of the TRACK CREW and the AmeriCorps crew, we were able to remove the track in one day. Both crews started building the fifty, 20 foot track panels on a jig built by Paul Skidmore. Pete Arney and Lee Frechett dug out the old roadbed and graded the new roadbed. Bill Yoder and Jim Colby cut 3400

nailed tie plates to all the ties and pre drilled both sides of the 100 sections of rail.



New roadbed and track placed from River view crossing and across the water falls bridge.

Right - Track from last crossing heading to station.

Below - new panels waiting to be connected and aligned. These panels continue to the Cordova Junction switch.



**20 Years ago: WHAT ABOUT YOUR REPLACEMENT?**

*As Live Steam hobbyists and members of a Live Steam club such as SVLS, we all have our own areas of interest and expertise - it might be administration, maintenance of way or maintaining the club engines, rolling stock and facilities. Maybe we like to do our own thing - building engines and/or rolling stock and operate them at the club facility. It really doesn't matter as long as it keeps our steam up. Now we are*

*able to do this because of skills we have learned from others along the way - from our careers and/or working along side fellow hobbyists.*

*But sometimes we have the tendency to forget that we have learned our skills from others willing to pass them onto us. Sometimes we get the idea that we are more important to the hobby and the club by keeping these skills to ourselves. But, in reality, this just has the opposite effect when we elect not to pass the skills on to our fellow hobbyist and club members. Our club depends on us and our skills now, but even more so the club's future existence depends on them. More importantly than that, the club's future existence depends on our willingness to share our skills. We must pass our knowledge on for the future of the club and for the sake of sharing the load of work.*

*So how about it - have you found your replacement - someone who has the skills and/or the willingness to learn the skills? It is never too soon to do so! Some of us already are at the point due to the age of our boilers that we have to operate at reduced pressure and none of us know how long we have until our fire goes out in our fire box.*

*So what are you going to do about your replacement - your legacy?*

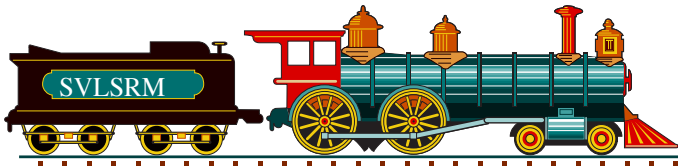
**TONY ROHRS - - PRESIDENT**

**30 Years ago: HOW ABOUT A TRAIN TRIP?** Ken Willes has reported the results of his research on a possible club social event. A "train trip" what else? The report reads like this: leave Sacramento on Amtrak at approximately 6:00 a.m. arriving in Richmond at approximately 7:45 a.m. - transfer to BART for trip into San Francisco where we will ride Muni., ride Cable Cars, see the sights, snack, shop, eat, etc until time to return to Richmond via BART for the 9:38 P. M. Amtrak train which will return us to Sacramento at approximately 11:00 P. M. The cost for this trip should be as follows: Amtrak \$22.50 per person, BART, Muni. \$5.00 (approx.), Food, etc. \$??.??

**40 Years ago: CONGRATULATIONS** to Ed Yungling and the 4242 for the cover photo and feature article in January '79 LIVE STEAM Magazine. The picture of both on page 8 tells the whole story and the well illustrated follow-up on Cab Forwards by George Broad Jr. surely rounded out that issue of our favorite magazine.







**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH**



**2.12 Boiler Inspection**

All steam boilers operated at the SVLSRM facility shall carry a current boiler inspection tag, or card. This tag or card shall state the hydrostatic test pressure, the maximum operating pressure and the safety valve settings. The SVLSRM will accept valid current boiler inspection tag or card issued by recognized Live Steam Clubs for operation of steam locomotives and equipment on the SVLSRM facilities.

**3.07 Separation of Trains**

Any engine following another train must keep at least 75 feet behind the train ahead. When entering mainline, yielded to mainline traffic.

**4.01 Qualifications of Crew**

Trains hauling General Public must be operated by qualified Engineers and Conductors who are members of SVLSRM. All operating personnel, while on duty, shall have a copy of these operating rules in their possession or on the train.

The Board of Directors may restrict or suspend from duty any operating personnel who consistently violate safety rules.

**Qualifications/Restrictions of an SVLSRM Engineer**

- 18 years of age or older.
- Member of SVLSRM in good standing.
- Passes a current Written Qualification test

showing knowledge to operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.).

- Passes a current Practical Examine

demonstrating the judgment and ability to competently operate specific locomotive (steam, diesel, etc.).

Do you like running trains? We are in need of conductors, engineers and hostlers for both steam and diesel. If you are interested in joining our operating crew, please contact Alex Wilde at [secretary@svls.org](mailto:secretary@svls.org) to be added to our email list. We are providing a **training day for all club engines on February 23 and 24**. If you did not take a test last year, come out and learn the proper way to operate our equipment.

**FOR SALE**

**7.5" gauge Morris EMD style switcher and car.**

This is a Morris EMD profile locomotive and gondola riding car. The locomotive is rigged to run cab forward moving the noise, heat and exhaust away from the engineer. This is totally ready to run and needs nothing. The locomotive has been painted with prototypically correct, professionally applied automotive paint and fresh vinyl graphics. An upgraded hydrostatic drive has been installed as well as a pressure driven air brake system using a GAST 12 volt compressor. Mountain Car Company brakes are installed on the engineer's car using Tom Bee controls. The brakes have proved a must for handling trains with five adult passengers down the grades at Train Mountain.



Features included: Rigged to run cab forward, may be changed to hood forward. Head lights Horn Reliable Honda motor, very fuel efficient. Upgraded Eaton hydrostatic transmission. Prototypical correct automotive paint, applied by body shop. Fresh Miracle vinyl graphics. Marine quality wiring Brake system compressor system using premium Gast compressor. Air brakes installed in engineers car. Battery charging by magneto and installed charging port Trickle charger included. Safety cables.



Includes everything pictured including dual seats in gondola and storage rack. Shows some wear from normal use. \$9,500.00 or best offer. Contact Tom Via E-mail "maybelater65@yahoo.com" or 707-257-6464



Got Something for Sale?

Send to [Editor@svlsrm.org](mailto:Editor@svlsrm.org)

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





**Ken Willes passed away on Jan. 25th, 2019.****Services will be on Thursday February 7th - 10:00 AM**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

2400 Cordova Lane

Rancho Cordova, California

**VISITATION - Wednesday February 6, 2019 4:00 to 7:00 PM**

Price Funeral Chapel, Inc.

6335 Sunrise Blvd

Citrus Heights, CA



Ken had been a SVLS member since May 1976. He once explained how he became acquainted with SVLS. "My family moved to Rancho Cordova in 1967 where I served the last 4 years of my 29 year career in the United States Air Force. Shortly after retirement from Mather in 1971, I learned about the young club that was just starting to take shape. My affiliation with SVLS has been a family

affair. It is something my wife Nadine and I have shared with our children. One of my favorite pastimes was giving school children rides on my train. Class field trips have always been a unique time to teach children about our railroad heritage, while sharing the awe and wonder of riding the rails. SVLS has provided me an opportunity to enjoy my passion for railroading, and simultaneously serve my local community."

Lt. Col. Kenneth Willes provided 29 years of service to the Air Corps / Air Force. He 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.



He was also awarded a second Flying Cross and 4 Air Medals for meritorious achievement while participating in combat aerial flight. In addition Ken had 9 more medals for his achievements.



Thank you, Ken for your Service.

He also built a 0-4-0 switcher and ran it at the club for many years. Ken donated his 0-4-0 steam engine to the club in August 2014. This engine has made many trips around the track. Ken used the engine in the early days to do switching in the yard, and pulled many passenger trains over the many years. He was always willing to give his time for pulling passenger trains, to laying track, or just about anything.

When Ken Willes showed up at the track in February 2017 to look at his old engine, he got more than he asked for. Why would you come to Sacramento Valley Live Steamers to only look at a steam train when you can fire one up and run it? After a few minutes of boiling water and a quick refresher course on the controls, Ken took his 0-4-0 around the track for the first time in over twenty years. Tears of joy filled his eyes and a smile was seen from ear to ear. Experiencing that moment made all the hours spent rebuilding "Lil Blue" well worth it. It had been Ken's dream to be able to run his engine again.



*Ken Willes at the throttle*



Ken, a life member of our club, was an eager and hard worker, spending many hour building our railroad.