



## President's Report

By Steve Milward

Greetings to all, Writing this column certainly isn't something I anticipated just a few weeks ago, but here we are. Since stepping into the role of President, I've been amazed and humbled by all the help and support I've

received. It truly speaks to the generous nature of our members. For this I'm most appreciative and thankful. This and other changes also resulted in a complex restructuring of the Board of Directors, and we've made it work. I'd like to use this opportunity to welcome the newest members to our Board of Directors:

Chris Smith – Vice President,  
Henry Nanjo – Treasurer,  
Robert Ress – Secretary,  
Richard Lutrell – Yardmaster,  
Jeff Burke – Track Superintendent,  
Mark Madewell – Safety,  
Rob Sharratt – Director at Large.

We look forward to working with these folks.

Of course, all this happens when we're heading into our busiest season! Between the Rancho Cordova Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Trains, our plates are full. A few of us are learning as we go, and there's been a couple of missteps along the way. Yet, the Santa Trains sold out in under two weeks, and we're moving forward. Happily, many of our members have stepped up to help with these events. Thanks to all, and particularly to Stacy Reese, Stephanie Huntingdale, Andy Berchielli and Bill Yoder. They've been working tirelessly behind the scenes to coordinate, troubleshoot and keep us all moving in the right direction.

In short, none of this happens without our members, families and friends working towards a common goal. Let's continue to look forward, and move forward! I'm hoping to see all of you folks out at the railroad soon! **Thank you.**



## Track Department

by Jeff Burke

Hello members, Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Track Superintendent. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to maintain our railroad.

We have a busy December coming up so please don't hesitate to jump into

volunteering for Santa Train.

Once we get through the rush of Santa Train, track work will commence in January. The main plan is to replace the ties in Lower Yard, which is the area between Cordova Station and the steaming bays. There are also a few dips and high spots around the railroad that need to be smoothed out.

As we move through the year, I would also like to clean up, clear out and organize the track work container, along with the Work Train. If you have any track concerns or recommendations, please feel free to reach out. All input is welcomed.

Please volunteer when you can and I hope to see you out there!



## Santa Train

December 7 & 8 and December 14 & 15

**Come out and help!**

Decorating at the Club will be Wednesday through Friday Dec. 4, 5, & 6 – many hands are needed!

Come out and you will have lot's to do.

Santa Train Weekends: 9 am at the park to set up engines and ride cars.

*Take down crews needed on the 15th.*

### SVLSRM Calendar

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

**Nov 30 Rancho Cordova Christmas tree track setup - help needed.**

**Dec. 1 Rancho Cordova Christmas tree Lighting & train rides by SVLS**

**Dec. 2 Take track back to SVLS home.**

**Dec. 7 & 8 Santa Train event**

**Dec. 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM Via. Zoom**

**Dec. 14 & 15 Santa Train event**

**Jan. 1 Members New Years Day Run**

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



See [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.

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](mailto:editor@svlsrcm.org).

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



**RENEW membership on-line:**

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

### Board of Directors

(##) Ending year of term.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yardmaster: Richard Lutrel (916) 876-0375 (24)

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

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

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

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

E-mail: [director\\_Mark@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_Mark@svlsrcm.org)

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

E-mail: [director\\_dennis@svlsrcm.org](mailto:director_dennis@svlsrcm.org)

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership: Stacy Reese (916) 960-6850

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

Librarian: Alison Berry (916) 956-4597

E-mail: [librarian@svlsrcm.org](mailto: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](mailto:Events@svlsrcm.org)

Newsletter & Web Editor: Bill Yoder

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

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

## Oasis upgrades from:Kevin Sach

As you read this, you might not be thinking a cool breeze sounds too nice. Although come summer time a nice breeze in the Oasis area sounds refreshing. Back during Barbra and Gordon's farewell party, I mentioned to several board members, that we really need some fans in the Oasis area. They had asked me to look into different type of fans that might work for that area. The search lead to some HVLS ( High Volume Low Speed) fans. This past month new electrical wires were ran for the fans and new lights followed by cables to hold the lights. A timer was added to control the lights, so no more playing outlet roulette in finding one that did not have the GFI tripped on it. The timer is on the other side of the box where the outlets are. The fans are controlled by a remote that is kept in the caboose.

Thanks to Andrew, Phil, Stephanie, and Craig who helped me install the fans and lights. So, if you have an Idea that might help the general membership, talk with some board members about it.



## Secretary Report

By: Robert Ress

### Summary of November 4, 2024 Board Meeting:

The Board accepted Tom Nance's resignation as president.

The Board appointed Steve Milward to the remainder of Tom Nances' term (12/25)

62 members have paid their 2025 dues.

Reviewed preparations for the Rancho Cordova tree lighting,

Santa Train:

4 days, 3 trains pulling 4 cars, 20 minute time slots. 17 trains pre day.

Decorating December 4 to 6.

Operating days December 7,8,14 and 15.

More volunteers are needed for both decorating and operating days.

The stones have been completed for the memorial. Foundation work needs to be completed before the stones can be set.

Sale of the Carson City 10 Wheeler to a club member was approved.

### Summary of November 16, 2024 General Membership Meeting:

The following members were elected to the SVLSM Board for the 25/26 term

- VP – Chris Smith
- Treasurer – Henry Nanjo
- Dir. At Large – Rob Sharra
- Yard Master – Richard Lutrel
- Track Superintendent – Jeff Burk

The Club has put a 50% deposit on an SD45 Titan Locomotive. Delivery TBD.

A 2011 4X4 Gator with 140 hours has been purchased to replace our old Gator.

Work on the memorial foundations is continuing.

The club needs your help the next couple of months for the Christmas tree lighting and the Santa Train.

Motions from the floor.

Ask the Park for a circular "walkway" so it would be easier to set up the tree lighting track. Discussion - The Park does not want to do this due to problems it would create during the rest of the year.

Would we want to set up the portable track if the Great American Train Show wanted us to? Discussion - Do we have the volunteers available February for this? Also, we have a policy that we charge \$1500 to setup and run the portable track.

**10 Years ago:**

*Christmas party Dec. 20th 6:30 PM at Rancho Cordova City Hall 2729 Prospect Park Dr.*

*Potluck dinner and White Elephant gift exchange.*

*Bring your favorite food dish to share.*

*The club will provide the paper products, drinks (coffee, hot chocolate and lemonade) and a meat entree.*

**20 Years ago:** Neil Heath provided samples of the new mile post signs we talked about in the October 2004 newsletter. Neil

is donating the cost of the signs to SVLS. The signs are 2" x 4" 16 gauge sheet metal through stamped with numbers 0 - 65. Neil will have the signs powder coated white for one dollar per sign. The SVLS BOD voted to reimburse Neil for the powder coating

**40 Years ago:** The SVLS booth at Railfair was very popular with the spectators and produced several interested prospective members. The Club was well represented.

**50 Years ago:** We are pleased to present a photo of the official signing of the incorporation papers of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers. The papers were signed on November 8, 1974 and mailed to the State Attorney General's office. Hopefully, the papers will be approved and go into effect by January 1, 1975. It has taken more than two years to get the papers completed, and now that they are, many thanks to all who worked many long hours to get them together.

Pictured in the photo are, from left to right: Al Shelley, Milon Thorley, Larry Badger, Ed Yungling and Howard Bull.

**SAFETY RULES FOR THE MONTH****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.

**2.05 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.



**NEW YEARS DAY 2025** Lets 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. Bring food to share (potluck) for lunch.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday January 1, 2025 running starts at 10 AM. with lunch about 1 PM.

If you plan to attend the annual New Day Run be advised that the park will be closed. Please enter through the Ambassador gate closing gate behind you. The park cannot be open to the public. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& a HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO EVERYONE !**



Santa is getting ready for the "Santa Train Run". He would like to see SVLS members come out and help, as it takes CREW, STATION personal, SUPPORT for anything and everything. This is the last event for this year so please come out and help support this event.

**Thanks.**

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**TEAMWORK**

***This railroad requires teamwork to make it a great place to run trains.***

***While we have a good team that works hard, we don't have enough people on the team. While everyone enjoys running their trains on the club rails, we need all members to work on the rails and other projects that need to be done. Please make time in your schedule to help. You will be glad you do.***



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 fiberglas 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.

**\$6500.00 or Best Offer.**

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

