



The Fire Door

The Official Publication of the Southern California Live Steamers, Inc.

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<http://www.SouthernCaliforniaLiveSteamers.com>

June 2009

The Southern California Live Steamers, Inc. has been in existence since 1948. The **mission** of the Southern California Live Steamers is to educate and promote interest in railroad history by building and operating a miniature railroad facility.

New members are always welcome to join the Club; just show up at Wilson Park, 2100 Washington Street, on run days (the first Sunday and the third Saturday of the month) or at a regular meeting (the third Saturday of the month). Member support is especially needed on run day! The June run days are **June 7, 2009 and June 20, 2009**, so please come and support the Club.

Regular meetings of the club are held on the third regular Saturday of each month in the club house at Wilson Park, Torrance, California beginning at 10:30 AM. The next Club meeting will be **June 20, 2009**,

2009 SCLS Officers:

President:	Tim Brothers (310) 618 - 0674 TTBrothe@lasd.org
Vice President:	Rudy Guajardo (310) 984 - 9550 xcitedgoats@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Kelley Smith (562) 598 - 4090 choochookelley@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Lynn Fielding (310) 533 - 8627 lfielding@elcamino.edu

May 16, 2009 Minutes

Meeting opened at 10:35 AM by President Tim Brothers. The April minutes were published in the May newsletter, read by Lynn Fielding, and accepted with no corrections.

Guests present were: Robert Bryant, Jonathan Pascual, and Steve Claude.

Old Business

Club Projects

Tim Brothers reported on the concrete work completed to date in the container area. Red light signals have been permanently installed and need to be followed so that safe and efficient train flow can be maintained.

Golden Spike Day

On May 9, 2009, Golden Spike Day was celebrated at the Southern California Live Steamers compound from 1:00 to 3:00 PM and 645 rides were given. City of Torrance representatives Reva Skull (Civil Service Commission), Steve Skull (Planning Commission) were present for the event and participated in the re enactment of the driving of the golden spike.

New Business

Special Run Day

On Saturday, August 8, 2009, Phil Cohen would like to schedule a special run day for the South Bay Camera Club.

Special run days for a Torrance Pre School will be held on Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28 from 9:00 AM until noon. Help will be needed for these two days. Lynn Fielding will post an announcement on the Yahoo Groups list.

Memorial Bench

Lynn Fielding announced that the Memorial Bench for Jean Fowler has been funded and a dedication will be planned at the South Coast Botanical Gardens when the bench has been installed.

New Members

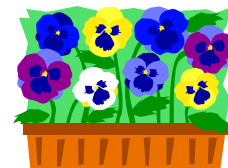
Robert Bryant and Steve Claude were accepted as new members of the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM. There were 24 members and 3 guests present at the meeting.

Run Day May 3, 2009

1,276 Riders

Pleasant weather brought many train visitors to come for a train ride in with the Southern California Live Steamers.



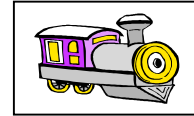
Run Day May 16, 2009

1,260 Riders

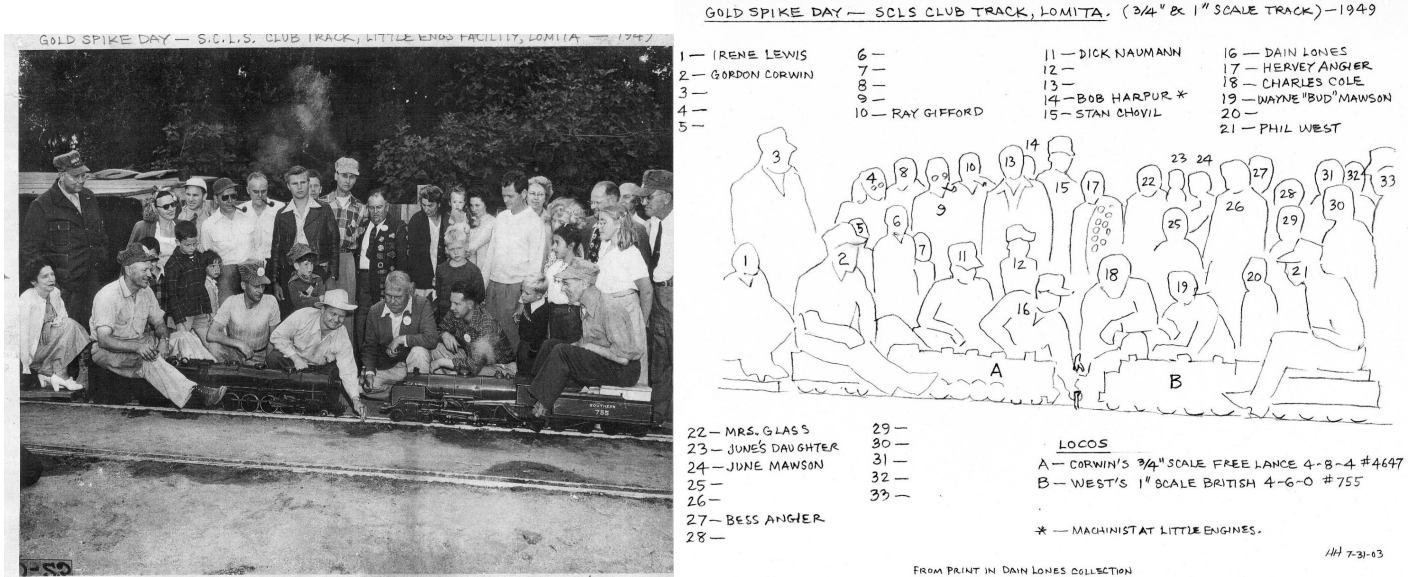
The weather was warm pleasant with a cool breeze developing from the northwest in the afternoon for the Saturday, run day.

The Golden Spike Locomotives

By: Harlan Hiney



Three past members of the Southern California Live Steamers were involved in the construction of the full size operating replicas of the Golden Spike Locomotives, the Jupiter (Central Pacific) and Number 119 (Union Pacific) for the 110th anniversary celebration in 1979 of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory, Utah in 1869. Chad O'Connor's engineering laboratory in Costa Mesa, California built the two locomotives, while Gerry Best was the historical consultant with Ward Kimball making certain that the color scheme was as accurate as possible and overseeing all of the gold leaf filigree work and the striping. In future newsletters, the full size steam locomotives that these three men had in common will be discussed.



Historic photograph is from the archives of the Southern California Live Steamers, with identification of participants made by Harlan Hiney.

Southern California Live Steamers Celebrate the Anniversary of Golden Spike Day



Of Interest: Promontory, Utah

Completing the Transcontinental Railroad - May 10, 1869

Promontory Telegraph Message:

ALMOST READY. HATS OFF. PRAYER IS BEING OFFERED.

Promontory Telegraph Message:

ALL READY NOW. THE SPIKE WILL SOON BE DRIVEN. THE SIGNAL WILL BE THREE DOTS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BLOWS.



The year was 1869 and the location was Promontory, Utah with the Central Pacific Engine, the Jupiter, and the Union Pacific's Engine Number 119 facing each other and separated by only the width of one railroad tie. Leland Stanford, of the Central Pacific Railroad, produced four spikes forged for the ceremony. At 12:45 PM on May 10, two golden spikes (representing San Francisco Construction Magnate David Hewes and the San Francisco News), a silver spike (representing Nevada), and a spike of blended gold, silver, and iron (representing Arizona) were dropped into pre drills holes in the last railroad tie made of California laurel wood. Attached to the tie was a silver plate engraved with the railroad officials of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad.



It was 12:47 PM when Leland Stanford and Thomas Durant (representing the Union Pacific Railroad) were to drive a plain iron spike into an ordinary wooden tie with a sledge hammer. The tie and the hammer were wired so that the nation would hear the pounding of the last spike to unite the two railroads. Unfortunately, they both missed the spike. Samuel R. Reed and James H. Strobridge, both construction supervisors, actually drove the last spike using an unwired sledge hammer.

Promontory Telegraph Message:

DOT. DOT. DOT. DONE.

With that historic Morse Code message, a continent was joined! Travel from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean,

across 2,000 rugged miles, now could be completed in only six days instead of the six months that had previously been required. The cost of this trip was \$70 per person or just a fraction of the previous \$1,000 fare which now made transcontinental travel much more affordable to the average person. Festivities commenced across the nation in celebration of this historic event!



Photographs are courtesy of www.nps.gov/gosp.

Upcoming Club Events

Run Day	June 7, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	June 20, 2009
Run Day	July 4, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	July 18, 2009

Comments, Ideas, or Suggestions

As newsletter editor, I welcome your feedback, comments, corrections, and suggestions for material to include. Please contact me directly, at the address provided, by phone, or by e-mail.



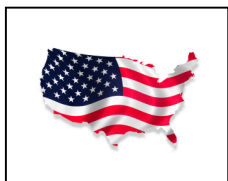
Lynn

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Steamers, keep on chugging along!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Happy Flag DAY !

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