



*The Niles Canyon Railway Train of Lights Event was held this Month
The Pereira's were there.*

The CallBoy

January 2026

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10349 Glencoe Drive
Cupertino, California, USA
95014

The CallBoy Newsletter

Official Publication of the Golden Gate Live Steamers, Inc.

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Tilden Park 2491 Grizzly Peak Blvd, Orinda, California USA 94563	Pat Young, Editor phty95014@yahoo.com January 2026	A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation www.ggls.org or www.goldengatels.org
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Board Officers

President:	Jon Sargent	510-233-6481
Vice President:	Lew Breon	330-888-2428
Secretary:	Sarah Buhre	925-698-2765
Treasurer:	John Lisherness	510-647-8443
Safety:	Rich Croll	330-888-2428
Director at Large:	Sammy Tamez	510-706-5614
Past President:	Rick Reaves	510-479-3386

Ombudsperson

Lisa Kimberlin 510-214-2595

GGLS Trust Fund Members

John Lisherness
Jerry Kimberlin (elected March 2015)
Sammy Tamez (elected August 2022)

GGLS Committee Chair People

Bits & Pieces:	Jeremy Coombes
Boiler Testing:	Jerry Kimberlin
Building:	Rick Reaves
CallBoy Editor:	Pat Young
Dues:	Lisa Kimberlin
Grounds:	Andy Weber
High Track:	Stephen Fares
Landscape:	Jo Ann Miller, Bruce Anderson
Librarian:	Pat Young
Locomotive:	Paul Hirsh
Membership:	Sammy Tamez
Public Train:	Walt Oellerich
Refreshments:	Walt Oellerich
Rolling Stock:	Rich Croll
Security:	Jon Sargent
Shop Foreman:	Rich Croll
Signals:	John Davis
Technical Talks:	Charlie Reiter
Track:	Jim McKibbin
Train Storage Rental:	Jon Sargent
Web Site:	Pat Young

Club Correspondence

All correspondence to the Golden Gate Live Steamers should be sent to the secretary, Sarah Buhre at this email: secretary@ggls.org

Membership

To qualify for membership, attend 2 monthly meetings. At the first meeting, please introduce yourself and obtain a membership application from the Membership chairman or Secretary. At the second meeting, return your completed application, a signed release form, the yearly prorated club dues, together with the \$25 initiation fee and you are officially a member.

CallBoy

Articles, pictures, photographs, items for sale or any other information that would be of interest to the club should be sent to Pat Young, the CallBoy editor at phty95014@yahoo.com

Deadline for submittals to next month's issue is the 19th!

2026 Calendar of Club Sponsored Events

(Dates may change without notice)

01/01	New Years Day Chili Run
01/11	General Meeting/Board Meeting
02/08	General Meeting/Board Meeting
03/08	General Meeting/Board Meeting
04/12	General Meeting/Board Meeting
05/03	General Meeting/Board Meeting
05/16	SVLS Spring Meet
05/17	SVLS Spring Meet
05/30	GGLS Spring Meet/90 th Anniversary
05/31	GGLS Spring Meet/90 th Anniversary/Open House

06/06 Redwood Valley Railway Railfest
 06/07 Redwood Valley Railway Railfest
 06/14 General Meeting/Board Meeting

07/12 General Meeting/Board/Meeting/Swap Meet/
 Membership Appreciation day

08/09 General Meeting/Board Meeting

09/13 General Meeting/Board Meeting
 09/20 GGLS Fall Meet
 09/21 GGLS Fall Meet/Open House
 09/26 PV&A, GGLS, SVLS Joint Meet
 09/27 PV&A, GGLS, SVLS Joint Meet

10/11 General Meeting/Board Meeting

11/08 General Meeting/Board Meeting

12/13 General Meeting/Board Meeting
 End of Year Business Meeting

Announcements

Please pay Lisa Kimberlin your GGLS track rental storage and membership renewal dues.

New Members and Guests



Timothy Boles came here to join! Please give him a warm GGLS greeting if you see him!

Railroading Activities

Rahim Pereira thanked Matt Petach for sending him tickets to the sold out Niles Canyon Railway holiday Train of Lights event and he was able to ride in the dome car for the first time ever!

Other highlights include being able to go into the kitchen and hanging his head out of the train, a cold but fun memory.

Leo & father Alejandro Sanchez went to Carson City to visit their railroad, but there were no steam engines running.

He also went to the Nevada State Railroad Museum and saw many interesting steam engines displayed.

Ben Newton was visited by his dad and they tried going to the Tiburon Railroad & Ferry Depot museum. It was not open for business but his dad had many items to donate so they opened their doors and gave them a private tour!

They have a wonderful HO layout in what used to be the Ferry Dock.

Lisa Kimberlin went through the Panama canal on an ocean cruise.

They used little electric "mules" which tightly clamp to rails on either side of the canal to help guide the ship through the canal so that it doesn't scrape the sides.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Officer Reports

President: Jon Sargent says "Thank you again for another year of being President. Happy to do it again but would like this to be the last year".

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Please sign up to bring stuff to the 2026 New Years Day Chili Run.

If you are not getting my emails please let me know.

Treasurer: John Lisherness reports that the club is in good shape with dues rolling in and of course, the generous public donations.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Director at Large: Nothing to report.

Ombudsperson: Please pay your membership renewal and storage fees.

Committee Reports

Public Train: If you will start the coffee make sure you turn the lower heating element on. To the Public Train personnel: "A Big Thanks you to anyone who has worked on the train this year. In the past 11 months we have had over 27,000 riders!!! These wonderful people pay all of our bills!"

Buildings: Rick is excused.

Grounds: We are in 'Winter Weather Protocol' for our club facility water system. Please make sure to turn off the water and open the drains before leaving and Chairperson Andy Weber will provide a tutorial.

Until further notice don't use the water at the Heinz loop because there is a HUGE leak. So do not use it unless you are desperate.

Update: Jim McKibbin noticed a pool of water accumulating inside the Heinz Loop near the Dameron Barn and reported it to Andy Weber. After a bit of probing and exploring, Andy found the leak.

It was a 3/4" PVC water line in the vicinity of the Diamond Back Mine. Apparently a tree root had been growing near it and eventually snapped the pipe.

Andy is in the process of repairing the pipe.

Thanks Andy & Jim!

Ground Track: No major items to work on, just leaves. Everything looks great! Thank you to Bob Walker, Paul Hirsch, Walt & his Grandson Anthony and Bruce Anderson for all their hard work!

Signals: The signal at the end of the station is not working today.

Locomotives: From John Davis, he reported that the RG20 was not running with enough power to pull the Public Train last week. John & Paul Hirsch put it on the rack but didn't see anything obvious wrong. They did a pull test and everything seemed fine. The next step will double head on one Sunday run and check things out. In the meantime, we will run the RG 22.

The 4760 has issues so we decided to use the 8150 for the Public Train backup. We will need to train the crew on how to use and store it.

Shop and Rolling Stock: The rolling stock is fine and Rich Croll is working on the passenger car which will hold propane tanks for the Public Train. The roof has been a major project where it weighs 80 lbs. and has to lift up & tilt. The goal is to allow it to be opened by one person.

When Rich is done with this, he will improve the drawers in the shop and the organized storage of tools.

Landscape: Jo Ann Miller has been adding more plants and she & Bruce have been doing some holiday decorations.

Shanna O'Hare continues to work on landscaping on the garden on the right before the tunnel, towards the station. Alex Sanchez has also been helping out with the planting.

Roundhouse and Storage: If you have a storage payment due please see Lisa. There is no grace period on storage fees.

Security: We have a big light in the parking lot to help Ellen with her Winterfest event parking.

Membership: See Sammy after the meeting if you want to become a member.

Web/Library: Librarian Pat Young renewed the Live Steam & Home Shop Machinist magazine subscriptions for three more years.

There were no issues with the website thanks to Matt.

And if you aren't getting the online CallBoy newsletter, please send an email to Pat about your problem.

High Track: Brian Parry and Lew Breon are doing great work with the High Track and the G gauge track extension. It's fabulous how quickly it came together and Brian says it is working fine. Note that someone had a slight derailment at one of the bridges, so go slow.

Old Business:

None.

President Jon Sargent temporarily closed the meeting at 10:28 am so he could open the Annual Meeting to elect the 2026 Board members. A quorum of members was determined to be valid for the purpose of electing the 2026 Board members.

Slate of Candidates:

President:	Jon Sargent
Vice President:	Lew Breon
Secretary:	Sarah Buhre
Treasurer:	John Lisherness
Safety:	Rich Croll
Director at Large:	Sammy Tamez
Ombudsman:	Lisa Kimberlin

Jeremy Coombes moved to close discussion, and Will Fares seconded the motion. Will Fares also moved to accept the slate by acclamation and Anthony Rhodes seconded it.

With no opposition or abstentions, the motion passed unanimously and all candidates were elected.

The Annual Meeting was closed at 10:32 am.

Regular monthly membership meeting was reopened at 10:32 am.

New Business

None.

The December General meeting was closed at 10:33 am.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Meeting Started at 11:17 am.

Board Officers Present: Sammy Tamez, Stephen Fares, Jon Sargent, Jerry Kimberlin, Rich Croll, Lew Breon, Lisa Kimberlin and Sarah Buhre.

November Meeting Minutes Approval: Sammy Tamez moved to accept the November Board minutes, with Stephen Fares seconded it. With no discussion, the November minutes were approved unanimously.

General Updates/Old Business:

GGLS Inventory: Sarah saw Sandy & Bob Morris and brought back two boxes of items including several patches, many pins, large patches for the back of jackets and various shirts (regular blue, pink) and the blue Dream It, Build It, Steam It shirts. Sarah will inventory the items and will also contact a seamstress to see if we can do the embroidery & patches.

EBRPD Communicate: The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) called Jon Sargent to check in. Jon will meet with the two "Sarahs" from the Park District to ask some questions and touch base. Sammy Tamez suggested asking for a brochure holder & some brochures to post at the station. Jon will inspect the ditch above the GGLS shop to make sure it is cleaned & cleared for the upcoming rains.

High Track Swing Bridge: John Lisherness is done with the parts for the swing bridge but can't do the installation until after New Years. He will need some help loading & unloading and assistance doing the work. He will likely do this on a Thursday work day.

Track Issues: John Lisherness also says that the track closest to the long barn at the round house has an issue where the end that marries to the turntable is not lined up or level with the turntable. It needs to be fixed as John has had some derailments there. John can fix it but will have to close that access track for about a month. This should not be a problem.

New Business

Number One Gauge Operations on the High Track: Lew Breon Rich Croll will get together after the New Year to talk about protocol & rules for the gauge 1 track operation.

Outside Email Solicitations: Secretary Sarah Buhre has been receiving many emails from people outside our membership asking to send out advertisements for selling train-related items and asking for information about specific engines that they have.

She will filter these emails and make a determination about the appropriateness of sending it to Pat to add to the CallBoy or to print out a blurb and put it up in the clubhouse rather than repeatedly forwarding emails to members.

Thank You Card: Jon Sargent received a nice card from young GGLS member Mono Mata-Lee Kouslaa to thank us for all the support along with a cute one chime whistle that he made. Thank you Mono for the gift.

2026 GGLS Event Calendar: In constructing the GGLS 2026 event calendar, the following dates need to be considered:

- * The Sacramento Live Steamer's meets are always on the 3rd weekend in May and the 3rd weekend in October.

- * The Portola Valley & Alpine Railroad's meet is September 26-27.

- * Ellen's Redwood Valley Railway's Railfest is on the weekend of June 6th and 7th.

To minimize meet schedule conflicts with other clubs, the proposed 2026 meet schedule for GGLS is as follows:

- * Spring Meet, which will also be our 90th Anniversary meet, will be on May 30th-31st

- * Fall Meet will be on September 12th-13th

Finally, the Member Appreciation Day and Swap Meet will be on July 12th.

Thumb Drive Found: Lisa Kimberlin found a thumb drive in the clubhouse and gave it to Jon. He took a look and it has TONS of old files, schematics, maps, etc.

Sammy Tamez made a motioned to adjourn the meeting & Lew Breon seconded it. With no discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting End: 11:49 am.

Bits and Pieces

Photographs courtesy of Bruce Anderson & Pat Young



Leo Sanchez has been making some modifications to his miniature steam plant and decided the whistle is entirely inadequate. Therefore, he acquired a different whistle but ran into an issue where a thread adapter is needed. If anyone can provide assistance or guidance please contact Leo.

The second item was a nicely executed 3D printed stationary engine, which he would like to try running on low pressure compressed air. However, Leo is not sure if his printing tolerances are close enough to achieve a good running fit. Either way, it is a significant achievement and valuable engineering experience.



Mono Mata-Lee has been making changes to his 0-4-0 Porter saddle tank engine named Huckleberry #3. Mono felt the appearance should be weathered and using charcoal has given the engine that in-service look (a nice touch indeed). Lubrication details have been added and the wheels removed to add Hackworth valve gear, which will be completed sometime in the new year.

Mono's eye for proportion & detail is evident in his work, which produces a pleasing model.



Rahim Pereira decided to try and build a valve gear simulator out of Lego to demonstrate the process. He read a book on valve gear and created the unit shown in the photographs.



He explained that it only demonstrates the process in one direction, but observing it revealed he definitely has the concept correct. And he figured it out himself . . . by reading a book no less!

I am very impressed by our younger members & their accomplishments and look forward to every meeting to see what they might bring for Bits and Pieces.



After the stellar presentations by our younger members Charlie Reiter was left to try and salvage the reputations of the older membership.

Charlie just finished manufacturing the expansion links and blocks for the 7½ inch gauge engine Charlie Buhre is building. He used O1 tool steel where the parts were to Charlie's usual standard and should fill the bill nicely.



We all know Charlie has many projects going all at once, and as he was throwing away an old push lawn mower, he happened to notice a gear on the inside of the wheel rim (Charlie loves anything to do with gears, if you haven't noticed) and an idea was born. Charlie had a set of similarly sized wheels and set about to join them to make two pairs. Unfortunately, similar actually means different, which presented several challenges.



Since the tires are rubber, and therefore flexible, normal methods of work holding would not work and Charlie considered several options to hold each wheel while machining them. He finally settled on a version of what is known as a "Pot Chuck" which he made from wood, and the finished items are very nice. Now, I wonder what he intends to do with those wheels. I thought I heard him mention a rideable steam wagon, so we might be in for a treat in the coming year or so.

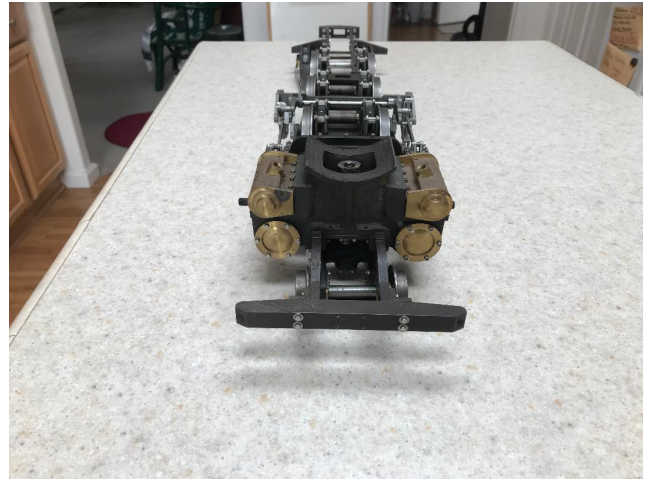
Phew! That was close. I thought the young'uns were going to completely show up us "mature" members.



After being on somewhat of an equipment purchasing phase lately Ben Newton has begun to filter his equipment on-hand to decide what will work for him in his journey in Model Engineering, or as he put it "downsizing due to poor decision making." Ben recently acquired a nice 12-inch Atlas lathe that he believes is the right one for his situation and was also fortunate to obtain a two-axis table that mounts to it. A very rare find indeed.

By the way, if you are interested in some of the excess equipment from Ben's shop, please contact him for details.

Free Partially Build 1/2" scale 4-6-2 Pacific Locomotive December 18, 2025



Hi Golden Gate Live Steamers,

My name is Bill Mansell and I am a retired tool and die guy. I started building a 4-6-2 Pacific loco in 1/2" scale, 2 1/2" gauge, from plans & castings from Clark Sim in Moss Beach twenty years ago.



I completed the frame, wheels & all running gear plus tender frame with wheels. I had it running on air before I realized that it was the wrong scale for me and went over to Gauge 1.

Are there any members in your club who would be interested in taking over this project for me? I don't want anything for it other than to just like to see it completed.

If so it can be picked up in Capitola, California.

Cheers,

Bill Mansell
oldscouser@cruzio.com