



Our Public Train Chairperson Walt Oellerich (photo circa winter 2024) is having hip replacement surgery and we wish him god speed on his recovery.

The cord in his hand is a reminder to unplug an electric locomotive before running!

The CallBoy

September 2025

Pat Young CallBoy Editor
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 September 2025	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:	Stephen Fares	925-895-9308
Secretary:	Sarah Buhre	925-698-2765
Treasurer:	John Lisherness	510-647-8443
Safety:	Jerry Kimberlin	510-809-7326
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!

2025 Calendar of Club Sponsored Events

(Dates may change without notice)

09/14 General Meeting/Board Meeting
09/20 GGLS Fall Meet
09/21 GGLS Fall Meet/Open House
09/27 PV&A, GGLS, SVLS Joint Meet
09/28 PV&A, GGLS, SVLS Joint Meet

10/12 General Meeting/Board Meeting
10/17 SVLS Fall Meet
10/19 SVLS Fall Meet

11/09 General Meeting/Board Meeting

12/14 General Meeting/Board Meeting
End of Year Business Meeting

Announcements

There is a scammer that is sending out emails that appear to be from President Jon Sargent asking for gift cards. Please ignore these scam emails as they are NOT from him.

Paul Hirsh has invited the Eagle Sea Scouts for some painting jobs in the steaming bay on Saturday August 17th and Sunday August 18th.

It is time for the Board office election process to begin! We are asking for members to serve on the nominating committee with Lisa, our Ombudsperson and if no one volunteers, she will select a member to serve. The Board will poll the existing officers to see who is interested in running for re-election and we will put a notification in the CallBoy.

Our 2025 Fall Meet & Open House is September 20-21, 2025 so please plan to attend and volunteer to help out. Secretary Sarah Buhre will be sending out a Signup Genius notification for people willing to bring additional food to share.

2025 Tri-Meet Invitation

Saturday September 27 -- Sunday September 28
Portola Valley and Alpine Railroad

You are invited to our annual Tri-Meet in September where Golden Gate Live Steamers and Sacramento Valley Live Steamers will join up at the

***Portola Valley and Alpine Railroad
on Pony Tracks Ranch
499 Old Spanish Trail,
Portola Valley, California***

for a fun couple of days enjoying our railroad, venue and fellow railroad enthusiasts.

This year, overnight camping on site is available for folks who want to bring an engine down and stay over to run both Saturday & Sunday. Note that RSVP's are necessary for overnight stays.

Lunch will be available on Saturday for \$20 for pre-orders and payment by cash can be done at the station house.

There may be a few lunches available at \$25 for walk ups.

If folks are bringing up Steamers, I'd like to publish pictures for public relations purposes. Please send them

to me at tmikko@me.com

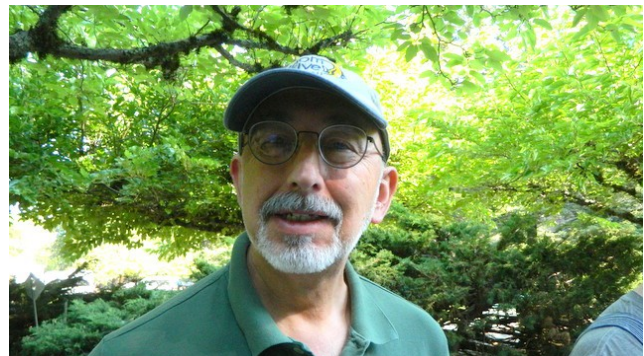
Hope to see you here and if you need more information, please feel free to contact me!

Mike Ward
PV&A RR Secretary
tmikko@me.com

Guests and New Members



Arwyn Rhodes & daughter Rowen Rhodes, niece and grand niece of Anthony Rhodes came to visit.



Phil Jenschke, brand new member from Benicia, came for his second visit enrollment.



Alex Sanchez and son Leo (13) came from Davis for their second visit and to turn in their membership.



Sumner, Frances, Nora and Hannah Orth, from Albany, California, want to help out with the aging buildings around the track!

New members Alex and Benjamin from Davis were there but no photos were available (the CallBoy editor plans to rectify that next meeting; so be prepared!).

Welcome to all these new members and if you see them, please give them a warm GGLS welcome.

Railroading Activities

Michael Smith spoke that three weeks ago son Christopher, who works for Sheedy Drayage, directed the move of Mt. Tamalpais No. 9 from a location in the North Bay to the Sacramento Railroad Museum where the locomotive has been put on display. Christopher also had the chance to ride in the cab of the museum's 44-tonner while moving the Heisler on the museum trackage.

Richard Croll ran the Operations Meet at Train Mountain in July. There were about 8 GGLS members in attendance including Walt, Rich, Lew, Rick, Walt's grandson Anthony, Sarah and Charlie. There were 28 crews attending the Operations Meet who moved 500 cars in 3.5 days and it is highly recommended for those interested in this type of event!

Jim Hague went to the Los Angeles Live Steamers and enjoyed a few rides around the track.

Benjamin Macken, a new member, went to ride the 0-6-0T Granite Rock 10, which is back on the rails at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, California.

Paul Hirsch has been following a project with the Napa Wine train. The Napa Wine Train organization needed a new galley car so they are rehabilitating an old

passenger car. Paul was able to see the gallery car with its trucks removed, which was interesting. The new gallery car should be up & running toward the end of this year.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Meeting started at 10:00 am.

Officer Reports

President: Nothing to report.

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Secretary Sarah Buhre would like to have members update their information as we are doing inventory by taking old members off and adding new members in the coming days.

Treasurer: The club spent some money this month on the tree project as well as looking out for the insurance premium to be paid soon. The public is being very generous with their donations, especially electronic ones.

Safety: Nothing to report, which is still good.

Director at Large: Nothing to report.

Ombudsperson: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Public Train: Public Train chairperson Walter Oellerich says that the Venmo & Paypal donations are flowing in. Two weeks ago we had some huge electronic donations!

Walt is having his hip replaced this week, so he will be away for several weeks. Please offer to help out at the Public Train in his absence!

Buildings: Nothing to report.

Grounds: Andy Weber says that we are in good shape and would like to acknowledge the crew who cleared up some of pine tree leftovers: Rich, Jen, Bob and more. Still more tree remnants left.

Track: Jim McKibbin took care of the twist & bump in track by the Wigwag signal, which turned out to be more of a problem than expected due to the rusting of the rail. The rusting issue is primarily a problem of the redwoods making the soil acidic. If anyone has any thoughts on whether or not to put lime down please contact Jim McKibbin.

The next project will be to straighten out the hump in the track inside the loop that goes to one of the storage barns there, as a tree root has lifted up the track.

Thank you to Charlie, Mason, John Davis, and Bruce who helped with the project!

Signals: Jim McKibbin reported that the signals & switches are all still working!

Locomotives: Paul Hirsh says that everything is working and there are no major breakdowns.

Engine 4760 has a motor issue, possibly due to an electrical brush issue. We will use locomotive 8150 as a backup to the steam for the Public Train.

Paul is working on the injector for the Heinz Atlantic locomotive and a check valve on the water pump which was hanging up.

Finally a new brake valve is ready to be installed.

Shop and Rolling Stock: Nothing to report for the shop.

Rich Croll is doing his annual inspection & servicing of riding cars and had to order a few replacements with worn out wheels.

Many thanks to Bill Hanna who welded the piece of side frame for the trucks. You can't get those truck casting anymore.

Landscape: Jo Ann Miller and Bruce Anderson spent the last two Thursdays putting in a new water line.

Roundhouse and Storage: Nothing to report.

Security: Nothing to report.

Membership: See Sammy Tamez in the kitchen right after the meeting to complete membership enrollment.

Web/Library/CallBoy: Pat Young got a notification that our old legacy domain name ggls.org may be going away, so Matt Petach will make sure that we keep it.

Our subscriptions to Live Steam, Outdoor Railroading and Home Shop Machinist magazines are going to expire soon. The Board will be queried to see if the club is interested in renewing the subscription for another 3 years.

Nothing to report regarding the Builder's group.

Thanks to everyone who sent in articles for the CallBoy newsletter.

High Track: As written in the previous issue of the CallBoy newsletter, the plan is to add a rail to create a 1,200 foot G-scale track. Lew Breon & Brian Parry are putting together a spacer block that is the exact space we need between the rail and will try out some track gauges. Lew will get about 6 pieces of L channel to install on track and do a "proof of concept" testing. He will also find out what it will take to get the rail for the entire track. We will not be taking away the 2.5 inch gauge track, which is an historic gauge for the club.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting ended at 10:36 am.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Present Board Officers: Sammy Tamez, Jerry Kimberlin, Lisa Kimberlin, John Lisherness, Jon Sargent, Rick Reaves, Stephen Fares and Sarah Buhre.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Sammy Tamez moved to approve minutes from the last board meeting. With a second from Rick Reaves, the Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

High Track Lift Out: Paul Hirsh is going to be facilitating getting the metal work for the High Track lift out bridge so work can begin.

New Business:

2026 Board Member Election: Lisa Kimberlin has the ball now to get the Board member nominations rolling and will send the information to the membership for next steps. There will be one unfilled position, that being the Vice President.

2025 Fall Meet & Open House: We will have hamburgers & hot dogs on Saturday September 20th and Sarah will send out the Signup Genius for other food contributions to share. Paul Hirsh will let us know the cost of a port-a-potty to see if we want to have one since the Spring 2025 Open House allowed the public to use our clubhouse bathrooms.

Clubhouse Cleaning: Since we have no one doing janitorial duties in the clubhouse except members now & then, we might need to look into a cleaning service to do this. If any member is interested in helping us out please contact Jon Sargent for details.

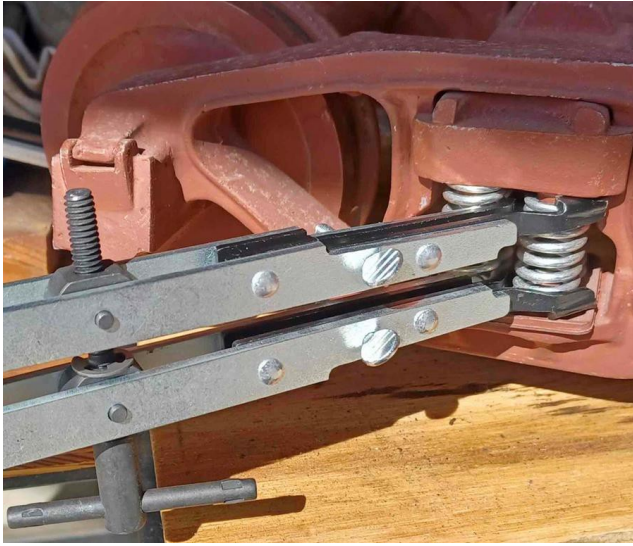
Rising PG&E Electricity Cost: We might want to look into adding solar panels to combat the rising energy costs. If so, we would need to check with the Park District about rules on the solar panels and also how to get the energy to the meter before we investigate further.

Board meeting ended at 12:08 pm.

Bits and Pieces

By Jeremy Coombes

Photos by Bruce Anderson & Pat Young



About ten years ago, Bruce Anderson purchased a partially built 7-1/2" gauge 0-4-0 saddle tank engine that Burt Miller had started. Burt also built five railroad cars including a caboose and Jo Ann Miller sold everything except the caboose which she kept as a treasured memory. But after a few years, she figured out it was time that the caboose & Harley (Bruce's 0-4-0T switcher locomotive; how it got its name is another story) got together again and granted Bruce caretaker status.

The last item to do was to install some stout suspension springs into the caboose trucks, which presented Bruce with a bit of a problem. After several attempts to install those little devils, Bruce found a Briggs & Stratton Valve Spring Compressor (available through Amazon). The tool is adjustable and Bruce says it was just the ticket for this difficult job. So, in the near future we hope to see Bruce with an ever-expanding number of cars behind his locomotive. By the way, Bruce decided that the caboose will be named David as in Harley & Davidson.



Mono Mata-Lee Kouslaa decided to increase the size of his projects and brought in his latest creation, which he made to the approximate size of a 7½" gauge locomotive. It is based on a variant of an 0-4-0 Porter saddle tank engine, which he has designated as number 3 and named Huckleberry.



The model is well detailed and has a working bell & smoke box door. The GGLS is lucky to have several talented young members, and I always look forward to what they bring to the Bits and Pieces segment each month.



Andy Weber has been out and about in his neighborhood again and brought in some electronic components & tools donated to the members of the GGLS by a friend of his.

The selection was varied, but all appeared to be in good condition and of high quality. Andy sure seems to have a talent for uncovering some great stuff and I wonder what he will find in the future!

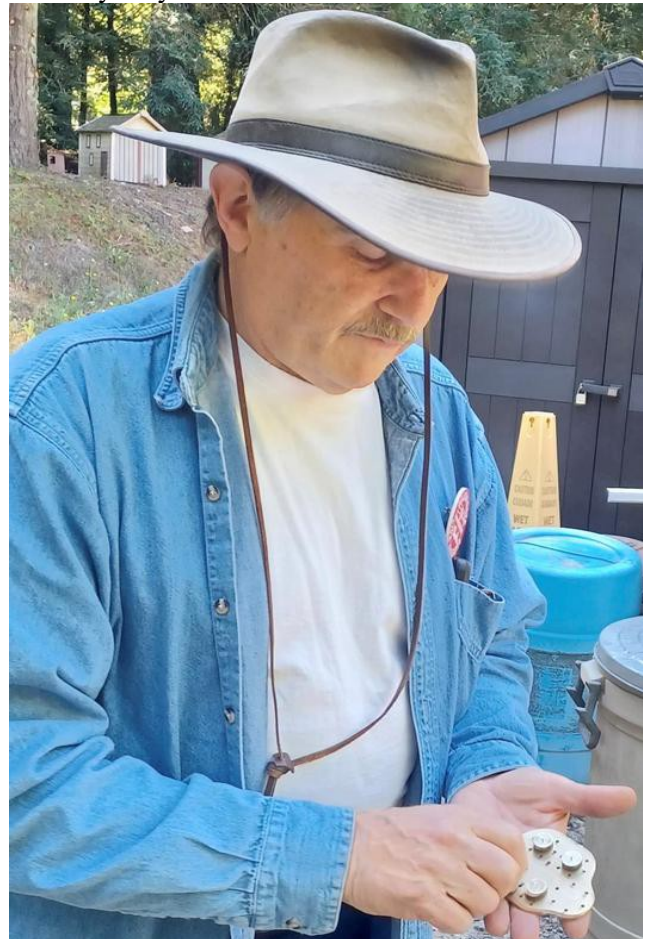


Charlie Buhre recently fabricated a new stainless steel fire grate for the Stourbridge Lion locomotive but didn't have the equipment to weld it together. So, Charlie Reiter provided some assistance, and the finished piece looks very nice, especially when compared to the old grate! It is wonderful to see young Charlie continue to add to his skills as a model engineer and I enjoy seeing the steady progress he is making on his own 7½" gauge locomotive.

Keep making those parts and bringing them in for us to see Charlie!



Charlie Reiter recently acquired a partially built 7½" gauge CP Huntington and the first task to tackle was to correct the key ways that quarter the wheels on the axle which gave Charlie an excuse to use his newly obtained broaching set. The original design (Little Engines of Lomita, California) called for the axle boxes to be fitted with needle bearings which then run directly on the axle. As the axle material is not hardened Charlie decided to make new boxes from sintered bronze impregnated with oil (brand name Oilite) to avoid premature failure at the axle/bearing interface. Another interesting feature is the bolt-in crank pins, which make servicing and replacement relatively easy.



On a different subject, Charlie must have joined a therapy group as he is finally admitting that he is indeed building a model of a horse drawn fire engine! Seriously though, this has been a very challenging project, requiring Charlie to design a working model primarily from nothing more than photographs. The pump body shown in the photograph is a layered fabrication made to resemble a casting and as can be seen it is quite complex and contains 60 holes.

Believe it or not, although Charlie is retired, he only spends a limited amount of time in his shop, but his rate of progress is certainly beyond that of the average model engineer! His secret, detailed planning.



Ben Newton, a relatively new member to the GGLS, has quickly become heavily vested in our hobby & purchased not one, but two 7½" gauge Chloe locomotives, both in fairly advanced stages of construction. But the item that caught my eye was a four-cylinder internal combustion gasoline engine which Ben received from the folks at Diablo Valley College (where he purchased several pieces of machinery). He intends to get it running but will seek some guidance from some of the knowledgeable members of the Bay Area Engine Modelers (BAEM) who meet at the GGLS every third Saturday of the month.

A great start Ben, and welcome to the best hobby in the world!



Pat Young, our 3D printing guru, continues to expand his understanding & capabilities and recently learned how to accomplish double-sided printed features without utilizing special equipment or programs. With his newly acquired knowledge Pat created a double-sided badge for Rich Croll where one side has Rich's name, and the other has the title of "Operations Czar", in reference to him being the head of the Operations Meet at Train Mountain. The smile on Rich's face tells you all you need to know.

A very thoughtful gift Pat!