GGLS member John Erdkamp has replaced one of the club facility deteriorating tiny buildings with a false front of his rendition of the Grand Ole Opry with 3D printed PETG windows & doors on a plywood base. You could almost hear the Country & Western music if you listen closely!

The CallBoy

July 2026

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 **July 2026**	A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation www.ggls.org or www.goldengatels.org

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	510-227-9174
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:	
Building:	<to be determined>
CallBoy Editor:	Pat Young
Dues:	Lisa Kimberlin
Grounds:	Andy Weber
High Track:	Brian Parry
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)

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

08/08 Club reserved for John Smith
08/09 General Meeting/Board Meeting

09/13 General Meeting/Board Meeting
09/19 GGLS Fall Meet
09/20 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

Jon Sargent went to Roseville to Dick Gilman's home and picked up a truckload of donations.
Dick donated a traction engine to GGLS in memory of his father George E. Gilman, along with some train stuff and a lot of parts & rare things for small engines, which Charlie Reiter is sorting through.
George's career was with Pacific Telephone but his love was building in his shop.

Past President & GGLS member Sheldon Yee also donated many train magazines & books to the club.

We don't know yet what the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) will be doing for the 4th of July, 2026. They usually close the Grizzly Peak Drive road due to high fire danger so there will be no access to the club facility during that holiday period. Jon will advise the membership when he finds out more of the details.

July 12th is our Membership Appreciation Day and SWAP meet. So get ready for an opportunity to make some money by selling some of those nick-knacks, tooling and surplus material hidden away in those dark closets, corners in the garage & under the work bench. For those in the buying mood, come and look. Bargains galore (we hope) where one can practice the fine art of the haggle, locate that missing item for a collection or end up buying something you really don't need!
Smiles galore but be sure to bring your poker face (and union currency) if you want the best deal! Remember, a chance to buy that unique item for that someone special.
So get out those excess left-handed wrenches, board stretchers & jello nailers and bring them to this general meeting. The Swap Meet is before and after the club meeting.
Also, partake in the free Member Appreciation Lunch provided by the club. The barbecue might be fired up but certainly a hearty repast of fixings & some side dishes will be present. Just bring your appetite and sign up to bring a side dish to share!

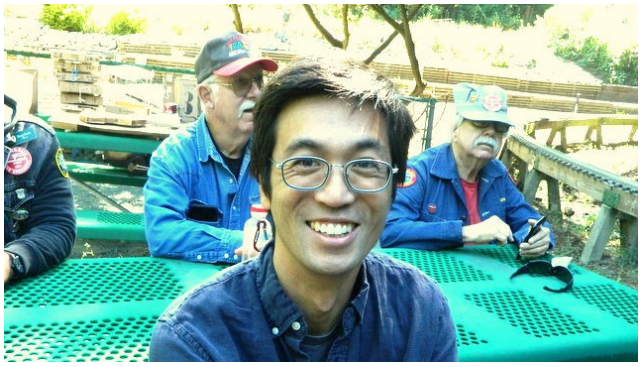
New Members and Guests

John Yeoman from Pleasanton, California, loves trains with a step-son very interested as well. He wants to encourage that interest together.

Craig Matoza of San Leandro just got his 7.5 inch gauge engine. He does a lot of work with Accucraft.

James Bradas is back after 5 years and he works with Amtrak now.

Gus Thorpe, an engineering student, is interested in working on engines & getting his hands dirty.



"It was great meeting everyone at the meeting and my primary goal is to help facilitate my son's (Edison, age 4, turns 5 in August) love of trains and his current life ambitions of being able to drive a steam engine one day. For myself, I think I'm most interested in volunteering for the Public Train and learning the ins and outs of the various positions there. You mentioned an upcoming class on how to operate the public trains, and I'd love to partake. In terms of mechanical knowledge, I know next to nothing, so I'm happy to start at the bottom and learn anything I can.
To that end, if there are any projects that need some extra simple manual labor, let me know and I'd be glad to help. I do have work experience in library work, and cataloging, so if you'd like help with the magazines, I'm happy to lend a hand. I also have some experience with tree pruning and gardening."
-Eric Wong

Railroading Activities

Leo Sanchez went to Rail fair. They had tractors dating back to 1875 and they are restoring a Porter engine.

Young GGLS member Mono Meta-Lee stopped in Martinez with the Sea Scouts and got to see the train station there as well as their stationary 0-6-0.

Stephen Fares got to go to Paddington Station in London. He rode the Great Western Railway and saw the SS Great Britain, the first iron-hulled steam ship to cross the Atlantic. Also saw Tower Bridge which has two gigantic steam engines to power its drawbridge.

Ben Newton had a birthday a few weeks ago and had Charlie Reiter come to the club to give him and his brother a steaming lesson on his Climax engine.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Officer Reports

President: President Jon Sargent had nothing to report.

Vice President: Vice President Lew Breon reported that the High Track status is that we are continuing with the tie replacement and we are about 60% done. It is anticipated that it will be finished within the next couple of weeks, with the exception of the swing bridges.
And we continue to have people running their G-scale engines.

Secretary: Secretary Sarah Buhre says to see Ombudsperson Lisa Kimberlin to pick up your 90th Anniversary t-shirts & sweatshirts as soon as possible!
Also please let me know if you are not getting the secretary's emails.

Treasurer: Treasurer John Lisherness says that we took in many Public Train donations last month, which is great because we spent a lot in May! Insurance & other purchases (including a future motive power purchase) for the club were our biggest expenditures which may mean we will have to replace our working funds with some from our reserve investment fund.
John Lisherness will be cutting the material for the High Track swing bridges, but he first wants to get the bases & tower just right before that happens.

He will keep the membership appraised of the current progress.

Safety: Safety chairman Rich Croll says that the newest, updated Safety Rules booklet is now downloadable from the club website.
Also be careful with the shallow pits around the High Track since we don't want any accidents!

Director at Large: Director at Large Sammy Tamez had nothing to report.
Ombudsperson: Ombudsperson Lisa Kimberlin had nothing to report.

Committee Reports
Public Train: Public Train chairperson Walt Oellerich reported that Public Train folks have been very generous when riding on our Public Train!

Buildings: John Erdkamp is taking over!
He built the Grand Ole Opry as his first tiny building and it will be replacing the red "Saloon" building to cover the water spigot.

Grounds: Grounds chairperson Andy Weber reminded the club attendee that it is tick season and they are out in force!

Track: Track chairperson Jim McKibbin has replaced the 13 feet of rail on the outside track due to rail rot. Other than that, all is well.

Signals: Signals chairperson John Davis says that behind the clubhouse there is a signal which is pinned to yellow because the control system has been taken out to complete the swing bridge. Just cautiously proceed through this signal.

Locomotives: Locomotive chairperson Paul Hirsh says that the RGS #22 is in the shop while we work on the axle pump. It had the wrong size O-rings and we will need to just put the pump back on the frame after this replacement.
Bob Cohen had a 7½" scale PS4 Southern 4-6-2 locomotive that he is selling to the club at a very deep discount as a partial donation. It runs very well and we did many tests on it to make sure everything is in tip-top shape. This will be used as a club locomotive and people who have been taught how to use it will be able to run it around the track.
We will not be keeping the Hunter Atlantic and the Heinz Atlantic still needs some work on the lubricator.

Shop & Rolling Stock: Chairperson Rick Croll reported that the trucks have been rebuilt on the conductor's car and we will inspect the backup conductor car's trucks for potential problems.
Nothing new happening in the shop except for the examination of two cabinets of parts that were donated by Dick Gilman.

Landscape: Jo Ann Miller, Bruce Anderson, Shanna O'Hare, John Davis, Andy Weber and many others have been working diligently on the landscaping!

Roundhouse & Storage: Chairman Jon Sargent had nothing to report.

Security: Security chairperson Jon Sargent had nothing to report.

Membership: See chairperson Sammy Tamez & Lisa Kimberlin after the meeting for membership information & an application.
If you want a membership badge please see Sammy.

Facilities & Safety: We now have an emergency action plan downloadable from our ggls.org web site. Please put the East Bay Regional Park District emergency number ***(510-881-1121)*** into your phone just in case!

Web/Library/CallBoy: Pat Young says that everything is working well on the website and if you have anything of interest to the CallBoy newsletter readership, please feel free to send them to him.

High Track: Chairperson Jim McKibbin says to see Vice President report for more information.

Old Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Meeting end: 11:08 am.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Meeting started at 11:45 am.

Board Officers Present:
Jon Sargent, John Lisherness, Lew Breon, Rich Croll, Lisa Kimberlin, Sammy Tamez and Sarah Buhre.

May 2026 Board Meeting Minutes Approval: Sammy Tamez moved to accept the May 2026 minutes as presented and Rich Croll seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

General Updates

Membership Appreciation Meeting & SWAP Meet: The Membership Appreciation meeting & SWAP meet is July 12th. We will ask for volunteers and will put it in the CallBoy and out to membership for volunteers. Sarah Buhre will be sending out the Signup Genius email notification for volunteers & for the potluck sign up.

Boyer's Bluff Shed: Rich Croll & Jim McKibbin are working on the Boyer's Bluff shed and it should be finished in fairly short order.

Cross Bridge Status: We need to get member volunteers to complete the cross bridges project by the clubhouse. The electrical power conduits need to be looked at to determine where they can be cut.

Club Surveillance Cameras: The club facility's surveillance camera system is working great. We will be adding a camera to the clubhouse and let everyone know that there is video coverage in the clubhouse.

Steam Locomotive Training Class: We need a release form for people taking the interactive steam locomotive training class and Paul will provide some potential class dates.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Meeting ended at 12:21 pm.

Bits and Pieces

By Jeremy Coombes
Additional photographs courtesy of Bruce Anderson

Rahim Pereira has been working on some HO scale equipment and decided he needed to add detail to the layout, so he scratch-built a Wig Wag crossing signal, which looks very authentic.

He then turned his attention to rolling stock and fabricated a nicely proportioned artillery car.
Two nice additions to his collection.

Leo Sanchez continues his adventure into 3D printing and created a full-sized Southern Pacific 5-chime whistle. He has not yet been able to see if it actually works as he needs a large volume of air to generate the whistle tones. Even if he is unable to get it to be a fully functioning device it certainly is impressive and makes a nice display piece!

Ben Newton recently took ownership of a 70% complete 3½" gauge locomotive to the New Shay design by Kozo. The work so far is of a high quality, and the next major task is completion of the three cylinder engine. Ben is leveraging his professional engineering experience and had three crankshafts 3D printed in 17-4 stainless steel from a company in China. Ben drew the part in CAD and supplied the needed electronic files and for approximately $90 he received the completed parts in a very short time. Unfortunately, the shafts are not straight, but Ben will attempt to straighten them and then grind the journals. I look forward to seeing this locomotive when Ben gets it finished.

Rich Croll ran into a small problem while running his electric locomotive. He stopped on an incline and needed the train to remain stationary. However, using the electric drive motor to hold the train in position was not a good idea, so he came up with a compact system which he will attach shortly.

It is made up from a small compressor, air reservoir, and battery, which should fill the bill and work like a treat. An ingenious solution & great engineering Rich! By the way, how is the Corliss engine coming along?

Andy Weber had an issue with the Firebox door on his locomotive and had to do some repairs. However, as with a lot of things in our hobby, the work was a little more challenging than first anticipated. One of the holes for the 4-40 screws needed to repaired, which Andy did by building it back up with silver braze. He was then able to re-tap the hole and complete the repair (nice job Andy!).

Andy also brought along part of a swimming pool heater and explained the operation and that modern system must have a minimum of 81% efficiency. Although the heating element was no longer serviceable, he offered the blower housing to anyone who was interested.
Very generous Andy. Thank you!

After forgetting to get a gift for a friend, Mono Mata-Lee decided to make a smaller version of his "Bob" rolling stock and in doing so thought, he would have a go at mass producing seven units at once.
This prompted a further building spree and as all good model engineers do before we start a complex project, he sat down & created a drawing and worked out his issues. On paper, with a pen no less!

The result was a model of a refrigeration car, which includes plumbing and external details. He also used one of the cars to make an open air passenger car.

Mono also has a fascination with musical instruments and brought in the beginnings of a fiddle he in making. He admits to figuring out how things work by trying different building techniques and has an attitude of "Well, let's see if this will work" when approaching this type of project.
As I have said before, I am genuinely impressed with our younger members and the projects they attempt. Keep them coming folks!