

The GGLS 2014 Spring Meet Report

By Pat Young

On June 21- 22, 2014 the Golden Gate Live Steamers held their 2014 Spring Meet at their club facility in Tilden Park in the hills of Berkeley, California. This is my informal write up of the event.

Workday, Saturday June 14

Putting together a Meet requires the help of many individuals and members before and during the meet itself. A week before the meet, there was a work day where many volunteers help 'spruce up' the club and cut down the chance for a fire hazard before the enthusiasts came in on Saturday and the Public on Sunday.

During this work day, there was much weeding eating going on during the work day:



New member Bruce Anderson is trimming back the scrub behind the Shattock Barn. Watch out for the poison oak back there, from someone who knows!



Here we have Jeremy Coombes, High Track chairman weed eating behind the roundhouse and



his lovely wife Marianne working at the front gate.



Rick Reeves is working on the banks near the tunnel exit and



club president Rich Lundberg is fighting with the weed eater spool. One wonders when the perfect feeding system is going to be developed for the temperamental weed eater.



One of the weed eating virtuoso is Don Ratto who is working on top of the tunnel ...



Other contributed to the clean up like Jo Ann Miller trimming tree suckers,



but his hard driving methods may have cost him. Hope there isn't any poison oak stuck on your face, Don!



John Maryott spraying those pesky weed patches,



Other members like Jerry Kimberlin and Doug Artz are cleaning up left over debris on the other side of the tunnel.



and Mike and son Joshua Dabir cleaning up. Hang in there, Joshua... It soon will all be done.

“Members and Steam Enthusiasts” Saturday

Running on Saturday was reserved for club members, guests and steam enthusiasts. I was not able to attend this day, but Sheldon Yee, unofficial photographer and shutterbug-in-crime, sent me these photos and captions:



Junior GGLS member David Waterman is already running his 1" scale 4-6-2 Pacific on the club's High Track.



Many of the steam locomotive engineers came early get a steaming bay to begin the steam-up ritual.



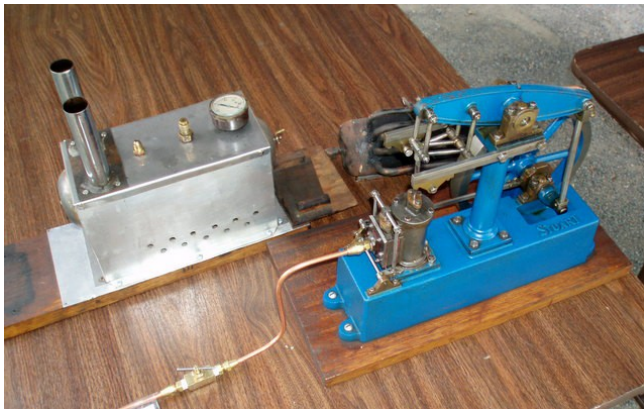
And we have former GGLS member Bob Jensen from Fernley, Nevada hawking his wares under the shade before the heat became unbearable. One would think that living in Nevada one would get use to the heat.



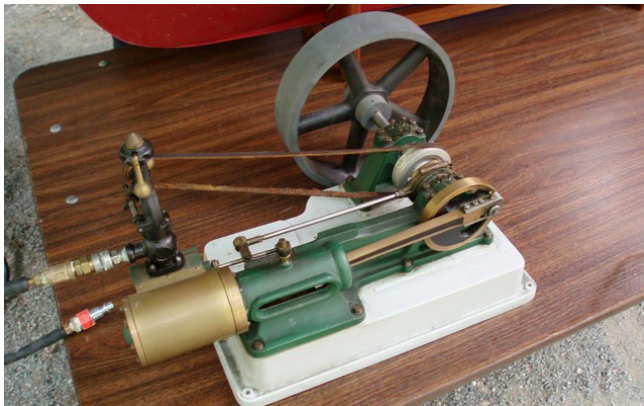
Junior GGLS member Scott Kennedy, hiding behind his 1 1/2" scale Little Engines C.P. Huntington 4-2-4, is prepping his engine for an early run.



Here is a lovely example of a remotely-controlled steam launch, built, owned and operated by GGLS member Jim Pate. I wonder if some members could put up a large wading pool and run some of the boat models under steam!



Here is a small boiler and walking beam engine model owned by new member Bruce Anderson, brother of GGLS member Larry Anderson. The engine was built by their father.



A small single-cylinder horizontal steam engine but owner is unknown (but if the owner comes forth, we will credit him/her/them in this document).



A real, full-size Worthington Steam Pump, under operation, that was reconditioned by GGLS Member, Michael Smith.



Back to the steaming bays, we have GGLS Associate member Kevin Lee attending to "Mortimer", a 2 1/2" gauge 4-6-4 Hudson, ready soon to run on the club High Track.



Here is an immaculate 1 1/2" scale, 4-6-2 Pacific, built and operated by GGLS Member Bob Peterson. I wish that Bob could share some of his building secrets used on this beauty.



A 1 1/2" scale, 4-truck Shay, built and operated by GGLS member, Jim Martorella.



The GGLS club engine is being steamed up by some of the junior members of the club. This engine is used to haul the Public Train every Sunday, weather & staff permitting.



Freelance 4-4-0 Steam Locomotive, built & operated by John Bailie, a Sacramento Live Steamers member, and who also happens to be a GGLS Associate member.

Thanks Sheldon for your time, wonderful photos & captions!

Open House Sunday

I attended the Sunday portion of the Spring Meet because of prior commitments to meet individuals and visitors during our Open House.



The Open House for the Public is staged from 11:00 am to

3:00 pm and the parking lot was cordoned off to guide the Public to the loading area by the Shattock Barn.



Conveniently next to the Shattock Barn embarkation point is our food vendor, Jeff Roderick (and his Dad, Gary) of Jeff's Pit Stop who has provided food service for several events now.



Helping with the service is a over-exposed picture of Sarah (a neighbor), Katie (Jeff's daughter) and Sherilyn (Jeff's Mom) manning the order booth.

It used to be that our members would fire up the barbeque and sell burgers and hot dogs to the members. During Open House Sunday, the Public would frequently ask if they could purchase food also, but since the club had no food license, this could not be done. Jeff's Pit Stop happily fills this need and everyone seems to appreciate the good service and great food.

In the main yard between Jeff's Pit Stop and the Shattock Barn, there were some rolling stock visible including



Charles Gresham's Goose from the Sacramento Live Steamers,



John Bailie coming into the yard with his train, followed by



Bill Smith entering with his Lionel style 1 1/2" brass polished mogul.



Rich Ratto is moving passed the yard next to the mainline and



Chris Rizzoli is trailing not far behind.



Matt Franaszek is running on the mainline and



little Luke Burwell is frantically pumping the club's hand car on the inner loop track with



Mike Bodell, Christopher Smith and Anthony Duarte loitering next to the yard tracks. These guys are the future of the club.

In the picnic table area between the yard and the club house there were some members, eating, resting & chattering away, including:



Geraldine August and John Bulger shading their fair complexion,



Bob Cohen relaxing on a club picnic table next to Jerry Kimberlin and



Vince Spadaro, one of our biker riders, who recently bought a partially completed mogul from a member's family which we expect to see running hopefully soon.



Like Saturday, the stationary steam enthusiasts were out in force with Rich Ratto watching Steve Vitkovits starting up the walking beam engine (that looks suspiciously like Bruce Anderson's) to show it turning a generator and lighting a tiny bulb (that little white square thing). They should be running this at night for a more dramatic effect!



Here we have Bill Schaefer, Ken Dado and Anthony Rhodes admiring the detail of Jim Pate's remotely-controlled model steam launch.



Bill moves in closer to look at the work. Nice job, Jim!



some steam accessory components from a dismantled steam boiler being silently auctioned off at the end of the meet, while



We have once again Bruce Anderson showing the Public water being pumped by Michael Smith's restored Worthington pump.



the Public had a chance to mingle around and ask questions.

As we move closer to the steaming bay area, on the display track was



a wonderful little Stourbridge Lion owned by some lucky individual and



Around the steaming bay, the number of steam locomotives for viewing by the Public felt somewhat smaller than in previous meets but there still was considerable activities going on.



Here we have Bill Schaefer, Bob Morris (Spring Meet chairman) and Ken Dado keeping their eye on the crowd and



Roy Anderson rolling his Fitchburg Northern 2-6-0 mogul onto the turntable to move out to the running tracks.



Over by the Tilden Station passenger loading gate we have Edson Lee, Michael Smith (Safety Chairman), John Lisherness (Treasurer), Mark Johnson (Engine Chairman) & Anthony Duarte catching a break.

Public Train Crew



Back at the picnic area, our many volunteers that make the Public Train run efficiently & safely are receiving directions from co-chairman Rich Croll.



At Tilden Station, our Public Train engineer Jessica Kosnik for this run is being accompanied by Rich Croll and



she is very good at it (girls can be engineers, too!). Anyone interested in operating the Public Train is invited to talk to Rich Croll about it.



Here, past President Jim Lieb is pulling the Public Train just past the Diamond Back mine and



And Membership chairman Rick Zobelein is presenting a polite one-finger salute as he passes over our latest trestle.



Christopher Smith is rounding past the same curve.

Although the mainline was kept busy with one or two Public Trains running together, the inner loop was used every so often.



Here is Andy Weber, our turn-to plumbing expert, chugging up the trestle ramp.

The Band Mud Fence

As club secretary, I handle all the club correspondence and one of the most unexpected surprises was an email from DeAnna Tibbs, a member of a local band called “Mud Fence” in Berkeley, who specialized in old-time music. They are in the area and offered to have the band play during the meet.



They came down (as shown by this over-exposed photo) and contributed much musical entertainment during the afternoon.



From left-to-right we have band members Susan Fawcett

on fiddle, Dick Moe on harmonica and DeAnna Tibbs on guitar.



If you would like hear their music again, or are interested in contacting them, they have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/uglysamudfence>

Acknowledgment

A meet event of this size requires the help of many individuals, members, family & many others and this pictorial is dedicated to them.

We would like to again thank all the volunteers that helped make our spring meet a success. Without them we could have not done it. Also a big thanks to the volunteers that came out to our last 2 work days. Again this much needed work would not have gotten done without them. Also a big thanks to John Smith for cooking up another great Smith burger lunch for the crew!!!!

Bob Morris (Spring Meet Coordinator)
Rich Lundberg (President)