



*2025 GGLS Board of Directors*

*Left-to-right: Jerry Kimberlin, John Lisherness, Stephen Fares, Rick Reaves, Jon Sargent, Lisa Kimberlin, Sarah Buhre;  
Missing is Sammy Tamez*

# The CallBoy

March 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<br>2491 Grizzly Peak Blvd,<br>Orinda, California USA<br>94563 | Pat Young, Editor<br><a href="mailto:phty95014@yahoo.com">phty95014@yahoo.com</a><br><br><b>March 2025</b> | A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit<br>Corporation<br><a href="http://www.ggls.org">www.ggls.org</a> or<br><a href="http://www.goldengatels.org">www.goldengatels.org</a> |
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## Board Officers

|                    |                 |              |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President:         | Jon Sargent     | 510-233-6481 |
| Vice President:    | Steve 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](mailto: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](mailto:phty95014@yahoo.com)

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

## 2025 Calendar of Club Sponsored Events

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 03/09 | General Meeting/Board Meeting   |
| 04/13 | General Meeting/Board Meeting   |
| 05/04 | General Meeting/Board Meeting   |
| 05/31 | GGLS Spring Meet  |
| 06/01 | GGLS Spring Meet/Open House   |
| 06/08 | General Meeting/Board Meeting   |
| 06/14 | Club reserved for Shanna O'Hare   |
| 07/13 | General Meeting/Board/Meeting/Swap Meet/<br>Membership Appreciation day |
| 08/02 | Club reserved for John Smith  |
| 08/10 | General Meeting/Board Meeting   |
| 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
  
- 11/09 General Meeting/Board Meeting
  
- 12/14 General Meeting/Board Meeting  
End of Year Business Meeting

**Announcements**



John Lisherness read a card from Stephanie Mahoric, relative of Mel McDonough who sent a donation to the club in memory of Mel.

*“Mel McDonough's grandfather, John McDonough, started out as a water boy at the age of 14 and eventually became a passenger conductor running trains from Tiburon to Ukiah. Mel followed his love for trains by becoming a GGLS member.*

*The operation of a large scale miniature railroad and the promotion of craftsmanship in model engines brought a lot of joy to him as well as the camaraderie of the members.*

*Please accept this donation in memory of Mel.*

*Sincerely,  
Stephanie Mahoric.”*

**Guests and New Membership**



Joe Vargas, here with his friend Oxana, joined 4-5 years ago but came only twice. He picked up Bob Morris's 0-4-0 and looking forward to joining again.



Jonathan Howard

Jonathan Howard, who used to live at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California but moved to Larkspur, California hasn't been able to come often but did come to visit this month. He has an roster of locomotive including a 4-4-0 American, a 2-6-0, 3.5 inch gauge, a 3.5 inch 4-4-2 Atlantic which all are coal burners. Hope to see them running on the High Track soon.



Dean Cornell came back after being out a while and reminded everyone that he is still a member.

**Railroading Activities**



Jim McKibbin saw some live steam at the Bay Area Garden Railway Society (BAGRS) Live Steam Group - G Gauge in Palo Alto.

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

Jerry Kimberlin, Jon Sargent, Stephen Fares, Lisa Kimberlin, John Lisherness, Rick Reeves, Sarah Buhre were present with Sammy Tamez absent. President Jon Sargent called the meeting to order at 10:01 am Pacific time.

### **Officer Reports:**

**President:** Nothing new to report.

**Vice President:** Last board meeting I nominated myself to take care of the club's High Track and I accepted.

**Secretary:** There have been some email system issues for some members. So please contact me if you aren't able to open my emails. Please do not click on any icons at the bottom of the emails. Nothing bad will happen, but it also has nothing to do with the GGLS email body.

**Treasurer:** We are in good shape financially. We have received a generous donation by Mel McDonough's niece in his memory.

The Public continue to be generous in their donations, many through Venmo and PayPal.

**Safety:** Nothing to report.

**Director at Large:** Sammy is excused so Lisa Kimberly is in charge of membership today and will meet with guests and prospective members.

**Ombudsperson:** Lisa says she has nothing to report but will handle membership today.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Public Train:** Walter Oellerich says he is hoping that next month he will have tools & things to give away or sell from his garage. Money raised will go to the swing bridge project around Tilden station.

He put out three new recycling containers for plastic bottles & soda cans. Walt asks that you empty the liquid before putting them in the recycling containers.

Walt unfortunately had to increase soda price to \$1.25 each due to inflation. Please put the money in the can in the kitchen refrigerator.

Great news: Jesse Palmer is our newest Public Train engineer! I threw him into the fire last week and he did very well!

**Buildings:** Nothing to report.

**Grounds:** Andy Weber was not present, but Jon gave 'thanks' to Michael & Chris Smith who started working on the tree by the roundhouse. We are getting a green dumpster from the East Bay Regional Park District.

The Bay Laurel tree was really rotten and still needs to be taken out.

**Track:** Jim McKibbin says that the routine track maintenance that needed to be done has been completed. He replaced a length of rail on the outside loop by the trestle to close up a 1 inch gap.

**Signals:** The usual, expected things that happen during the rainy season like giving false red signals, have not happen and we are happy. We are conducting a series of experiments to see how to reduce the number of false signal reds and have modified about a

quarter of the signals.

**Locomotives:** Paul Hirsh says everything is working in general.

The lubricator problem on RGS #22 still an issue but he is getting a handle on the problem—check valves. He talked to Rich about putting the Heintz locomotive in the shop so it would be easier to put the parts back on it. Hopefully by summer it will be up and running!

**Shop & Rolling Stock:** Rich Croll is not ready to work on the coach for the Public Train, as he is still trying to figure out how to do the roof with hinges. Still need to clean out the shop and may have things for the SWAP meet. He put some surplus steel wheels on the club house, which are up for grabs and can be used as weights as well!

**Landscape:** Sarah Buhre replaced a house in the Heintz Estates so take a look! Bruce Anderson has been doing a lot of cleanup and helping Jo Ann Miller plant some flower bulbs.

**Roundhouse & Storage:** If you have equipment in rental space, please sign the paper on the club's bulletin board when you run your train to satisfy your storage rental agreement.

**Security:** Everything is fine.

**Membership:** Nothing to report.

**Web/Library/Builders Group:** The club's web site is doing fine.

Pat Young is bringing in the current issues of Live Steam and Home Shop Machinist magazine to the clubhouse for members to read while at the track.

***Please do not take them home.***

For a long time now, the Club has provided a free printed copy of the CallBoy newsletter to members who request it. The people who have been doing the printing are retiring soon so the Club must find a new vendor. To cover the additional cost, there will be a \$10 annual fee assessed at the time of membership renewal for members requesting a printed version. This fee will start being assessed in 2026.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

None

Jon Sargent adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am and we moved right into Bits and Pieces segment.

## Minutes of the Board Meeting

**Officers Present:** Jon Sargent, Stephen Fares, Jerry Kimberlin, Lisa Kimberlin, Sarah Buhre, John Lisherness, Rick Reeves with Sammy Tamez absent. President Jon Sargent called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

### Old Business:

**Clean Up Workday:** Workday for cleanup has been moved to February 22nd. Jon talked to park district, and they will give us a green bin to help with cleanup. Given measurements, we will see where we will have them put it. Likely it won't go under the bridge but the bin will stay until we tell them to pick it up.

**High Track Swing Out Bridge:** Stephen Fares talked about the installation of a swing out bridge at the High Track out by Tilden station to replace the step over walkway and John Lisherness thinks that it may cost up to \$7,000.

He has some drawings from the roundhouse swing bridge but they need to be reworked. There may be a power conduit buried there (we need to make sure that we don't interfere with that) and we may need to run some dog-legged conduit underground. John Lisherness will take a closer look at it today and we will likely need to call PG&E to mark things out. Jon Sargent brought up the subject of the water main there and we should call 811 to verify everything before we dig.

Paul has a friend in Napa and there is someone Bill Smith knows who are welders/fabricators who may be able to help us with the project.

Stephen made a motion to go ahead with project and the approval of the estimated \$7,000 cost for the project. Seconded by Rick Reaves, with no discussion, the approval of 7-0 in favor, the motion carried.

### New Business:

**Club Asset Fund Report:** John Lisherness received the annual report of the club's asset fund from Darren Blonsky's company and nothing was taken out of the fund in 2024.

**90th Club Anniversary:** Stephen Fares proposed setting up a 90th club anniversary sub committee for July 7, 2026 and he volunteered to chair the committee. Possibilities include new commemorative pins, patches, invite of possible vendors, etc. and a special dinner.

**Video Purchase:** John Lisherness wants to buy a railroad video online available for clubs to use.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

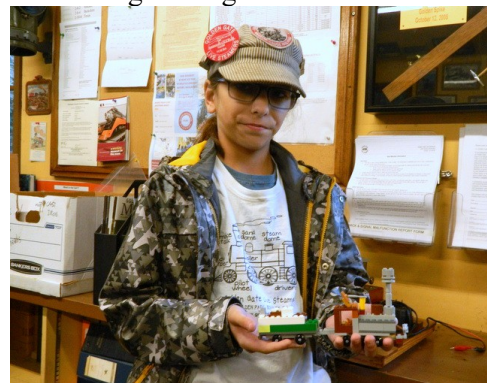
## Bits and Pieces

By Pat Young in place of Jeremy Coombes who is on vacation; We miss you already.  
Additional photographs courtesy of Bruce Anderson



Dean Cornell an expanding flat car that he is working on. Its length can grow as needed by inserting additional leaf sections between the trucks.

It's a very clever idea for those with limited transportation space in their cars or trucks! One wonders how long can it grow?



Rahim Pereira brought over another one of his Lego creations, this time a 0-6-0 switcher with tender named "Tall Stack".

Can't wait until he starts his dream locomotive, a 3-truck shay. Hopefully it won't take too long.



Rich Croll – I showed the side frame, truck bolster & spring assembly for a pair of Russel log car trucks I am building.

The journal boxes are from Branch Line Products and all the rest of the parts are fabricated where they will go on a Russel log car when finished.



Bruce Anderson -- At the January meeting, Bruce Anderson described multiple steam locomotives that Bob Morris had up for sale. Following the meeting, Bruce returned to his computer to search for photos to assist Bob.

He found one of the Atlantic tucked away in a corner. Knowing that the 90th anniversary of the club was approaching and knowing Victor Shattock's role, Bruce became the caretaker for the locomotive.

Victor Shattock was featured on NBC radio on October 19, 1938 with a Pacific he built. The Southern Pacific Railroad donated transportation to New York city for him & his wife Maude.

And yes, the locomotive was steamed up so the radio audience could hear the whistle, exhaust and cylinder cocks.



I originally made four and have used them up so this is a second batch of 4, one is already installed on a Climax locomotive.

The neat part of this whistle is it is a 4-chime where the lowest note is longer than the physical size. This is accomplished by the center tube being hollow and being used to extend the length of one chamber. After brazing the fins and stops of the insides are turned accurately so it can then be pressed into the shell.

The other items were a steam control spool valve, and a vacuum ejector. The valve is used to control steam flow to the ejector. The ejector is built like an injector in construction, having precise miniature cones. These components are used to create vacuum on demand for operating train brakes. The ejector components were a challenge to make properly.



Pat Young – I have been the editor of the CallBoy since 2012 and the February 2025 issue is my 152th issue. I could not have done this many without the help of many contributors that makes my life as editor so much easier.

One member has helped me every chance he can and I wanted to thank his well deserved efforts to me by making a GGLS Reporter badge for my friend, Bruce Anderson.

Another advantage of being the editor is the opportunity to be a contact for other steam enthusiasts. I got a message from Mike Ward of PV&A where one of their members was looking for a young person interested in trains. Paul Bantz who lives in Los Altos, California had picked up this from a neighbor.



Stephen Fares – Steve is working on the restoration of a small scale club locomotive and came across an April 1940 issue of The Model Craftsman that had an article relating to Little Engines locomotives.

It was a duplicate copy that he brought in for anyone interested in having it and Bruce Anderson immediately took him up on the offer to see if there is any information on his Vic Shattock Atlantic.

Charlie Reiter – The whistle design has been around a long time and it came from a faded drawing from Herman Volz.

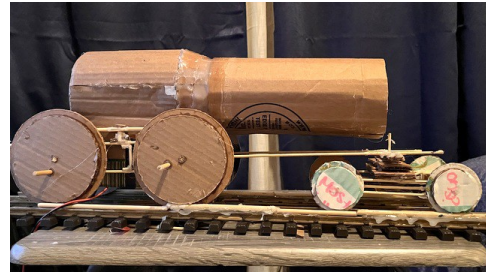
It's a Lionel Collectible Train Watch in a full color nostalgic case with a number Certificate of Authenticity. The watch features train movement on its face & real life like train sounds with the push of a button.

It's a kid's watch and Paul's only stipulation was that the youngster receiving it be a dedicated train enthusiast have a fanatic love of trains and come to the club at every opportunity,



I don't know the condition of the battery, but do we know of anyone like that, Rahim?

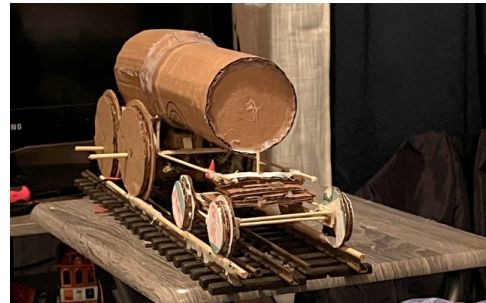
## A Imaginative Scratch Built Locomotive Project



Hello,

This is Zechariah Ponder. I wanted to show you guys at the club a project I've been working on which is a completely handmade (about 97% handmade parts) cardboard 4-4-0 American locomotive based on the V&T Baldwin 4-4-0s & Central Pacific Stevens 4-4-0s.

I just made the boiler and I still have to detail it and I also have a half done frame.



The model has a 12 volt DC motor in it so it can move on its own using battery power. It has gears taken out of an old Lionel G scale Polar Express train set that I got for Christmas when I was about 5 that didn't work anymore.



I might put some type of Soundtraxx Blunami decoder in it maybe with LEDs, sound and firebox flicker from the cab.

*Editor Pat Young: A wonderful little project that put a smile on my face and shows that you don't need a ton of stuff to enjoy the love of trains.*

**Joe Osborn's 1" Scale  
Little Engines 4-4-2 Atlantic**  
By Joe Osborn (& Bruce Anderson)



Note: During the 2025 Chili Run, Bruce Anderson noticed Joe Osborn with a 4-3/4" gauge Atlantic. Bruce wanted to know about the history of the locomotive so he gave Joe a call. Over a period of thirty minutes several stories were exchanged between the two. Some of it is covered in this story.



Joe was about 12 years old when he saw an advertisement in Model Railroader magazine for a steam locomotive that said you could "just bolt them together." The advertisement was for a Little Engines 1" scale 4-4-2 Atlantic.

While in grade school, he talked to his father and was allowed to start on Section I: The Frame (1980 prices: \$75 "rough" or \$103 for "machine work on parts — drilled, milled, ready to assemble.")

By the time Joe was a freshman at Redwood High School in Larkspur, California, he was working on Section 7: Steam Chest. Along the way he would discover that numerous holes would need to be drilled and tapped, including many in the large cast iron cylinder casting. Luckily, the excellent High School metal shop program at Redwood was excellent at helping hone Joe's young skills.

By the time Joe went off to college, he sent the locomotive off to John Braun of Mammoth Locomotive Works in Colorado to have a boiler and tender made. John was a good craftsman & an honest guy but the Atlantic would spend the next several years in Colorado. Joe got the Atlantic back around 1988 (side note: Harley's 0-4-0T commercially made boiler is stamped 'MLW No. 572 — 1988.' Déjà vu between the Atlantic and Harley?)



Joe would go on to join GGLS back in the days of legends like Herman Volz & Marty Siegel. Now his son is operating the 0-4-2T Taurus while finishing up a Mechanical Engineering degree at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California.

Joe's parents were very supportive of him. He'd go onto a career in manufacturing & machining and now he has the wonderful memories of how he got started in our hobby.