



*Walt Oellerich is shown here with a miniature A-frame sandwich board that he wore during Public Train operations. The sign must be important because of the heavy chains securing it and more about it can be found in this issue. He is lucky that they didn't rivet it on to his chest!*

# The CallBoy

April 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 <a href="mailto:phty95014@yahoo.com">phty95014@yahoo.com</a>  <b>April 2025</b>	A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation <a href="http://www.ggls.org">www.ggls.org</a> or <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

(Dates may change without notice)

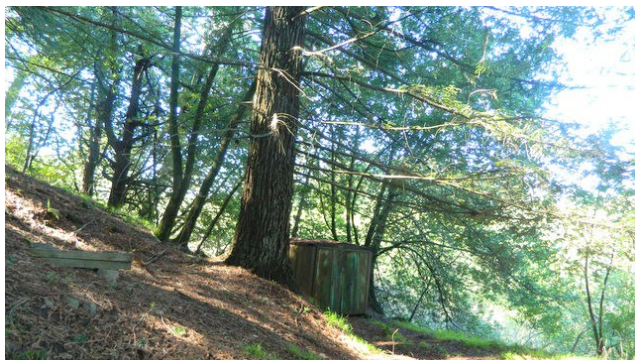
04/13	General Meeting/Board Meeting
05/04	General Meeting/Board Meeting
05/31	GGLS Spring Meet
06/01	GGLS Spring Meet/Open House
06/08	General Meeting/Board Meeting
06/14	Club reserved for Shanna O'Hare
07/13	General Meeting/Board/Meeting/Swap Meet/ Membership Appreciation day
08/02	Club reserved for 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**

There have been many intense work days in the past month at GGLS facilities. On two Thursdays and one Saturday, much work has been done at the track, including a lot of brush clearing, track maintenance and too many other things to list! The East Bay Regional Park District dropped off a large green waste container just outside the gate and it have been filled & emptied twice. We put in thousands of pounds of tree & vegetation debris that were all moved by hand and all this was very impressive!

Jon Sargent wants to thank all that had participated and especially:  
 Bruce Anderson  
 Rich Croll  
 Paul Hirsh  
 John Lytle  
 Jim McKibbin  
 Jo Ann Miller  
 Walt Oellerich  
 Bob Walker  
 Andy Weber



**Warning**

Heinz Loop's Metal shed

*There is a large pine tree back behind the old metal shed at the Heinz Loop that still needs to come down so don't go anywhere near it.*

Paul Hirsh said there is also a pine tree laying down on its side and we will want to get it out of there too.

We would love to have more volunteers for the Public Train as we have only a few core members who are regulars. Please volunteer if you can, even if it is just being at the Tilden station, handing out stickers & taking pictures. Every little bit helps!

Contact Walt Oellerich if you have the time to volunteer a little on Sundays.

The Spring Meet & Open House will be held May 31-June 1st, 2025 and the Fall Meet will be held September 20th-21st, 2025.

We will have a Membership Appreciation Day & SWAP meet on July 13, 2025 monthly General meeting.

**Guests and New Membership**



Ben Macken is here for the second general meeting and is hoping to become a member today & get started!



Wearing dark glasses, Michael Rodrigues has been here before and is glad to be back!





Mono Meta-Lee and Kessler-Mata, who joined last year, are glad to be back at the track.



Cliff Stoll: I'm interested in joining GGLS and look forward to getting involved with the train crews. I'm unfamiliar with the technical details of steam locomotives, but I'm mechanically adept (at least I know which end of a screwdriver to hold). I'm a ham, a computer jock, and an occasional \_\_\_\_\_.

At the moment, I'm looking forward to volunteering with the Sunday Public Train rides -- I enjoy working with the public.

My wife passed away last year and as a part of recovering from my grief, I'm volunteering in our community. And that's why I'm here.

My background? I have a PhD in astronomy (well, planetary physics, but what's the difference). In the mid 1980's, I discovered a hacker breaking into our computers at Lawrence Berkeley Labs, just down the hill from the trains. It took a year, but I tracked down a group of computer hackers, working for the KGB, who were breaking into military computers on the early Internet. I wrote a book about it, "The Cuckoo's Egg".

I now live in north Oakland, with a small home business making & selling Klein bottles.

*Welcome to you all and hope to see you more often at the track.*

### Railroading Activities

Rich Croll says several members went to Bitter Creek & Western's meet last month and had a great time. This private club has about 20 miles of track with several tunnels & bridges. They have some aging, full size club cars which were fun to see.

A former member of the club, Doug Calicio has property next door to Bitter Creek and is building a huge extension with long tunnels & beautiful grounds. It isn't quite finished yet but he is hoping to have it done this summer.

### Minutes of the General Meeting

The March General meeting started at 10:02 am.

#### Officer Reports

**President:** President Jon Sargent had nothing to report.

**Vice President:** Vice President Stephen Fares is opening a sub committee for the club's 90th anniversary which will be next year! We are the oldest operating club in the country and we definitely want to celebrate that. This is especially true since we were unable to celebrate the club's 85th Anniversary due to the COVID epidemic.

If you have ideas or want to help us plan a celebration, please give Stephen Fares your email. We are aiming for possibly holding it at our normal 2026 Spring Meet.

**Secretary:** Sarah Buhre wants to know if the club emails aren't getting to you.

**Treasurer:** John Lisherness was excused.

**Safety:** Jerry Kimberlin reported that there was an unfortunate incident with the Public Train on March 2nd, 2025. A volunteer was chipping the ice off the propane tank and got some in his eye. Everyone should wear eye and/or some safety protection when needed and we are looking at other methods to deal with the ice removal.

**Director at Large:** Sammy Tamez had nothing to report.

**Ombudsperson:** Lisa Kimberlin had nothing to report.

#### Committee Reports

**Public Train:** Walter Oellerich looked at our Venmo statements since we added it and mentioned that we went from 1% of our donations to 35%! We haven't gotten to 50% electronic & 50% cash but we are close! About three weeks ago, Walt told Lisa Kimberlin that he wanted a sign with the QR code to go around his neck. So she pinned it to the back of his jacket so he could turn around for people to scan and the public

was delighted. Last week he moved it to the front so he didn't have to turn around so much!

**Buildings:** Nothing to report.

**Grounds:** A HUGE thank you for all who helped in our cleanups. Paul Hirsh took care of the Bay Laurel tree at the side of the track before the tunnel.

Again, there is a dangerous pine tree by the shut off spigot behind the old metal shed back at the Heinz loop, between our track and Ellen's Redwood Valley Railway. *Please do NOT go near it!* It could come down at any time.

Many, many kudos to Bruce Anderson and Jo Ann Miller for their work. The track has never looked better!

**Locomotives:** Paul Hirsh says that we are all good! We have a plan for a locomotive class but we have to finish the Heinz engine first.

Hopefully soon!

**Shop and Rolling Stock:** Rich Croll reports that he rebuilt another set of trucks with Accucraft wheels which would be our backup set. Nothing else new with rolling stock.

He is still working on cleaning up the shop.

**Landscape:** Jo Ann Miller and Bruce Anderson weren't at the meeting but the track looks amazing!!

We cleared out a big area coming off the Heinz loop, and we might put another tiny town there. Be careful because all these areas on the side of the track and hillside are full of poison oak!

**Roundhouse and Storage:** Jon Sargent had nothing to report.

**Security:** Jon Sargent mentioned that we did have a group of trespassers on the property in January in the late hours, but they were scared off when they encountered our security camera system. Jon sent the video clip to Ellen Thomsen next door and the East Bay Regional Park District.

**Membership:** Sammy Tamez announced that any new or prospective members here to please meet in the kitchen after the meeting.

**CallBoy/Web Site/Library:** Pat Young reported that everything seems to be going well here.

There have been many articles & photos sent in for the CallBoy newsletter, and he wants them to keep on coming!

Pat posted a 'Free for the Taking' ad about Andy Weber's Remco Mighty Casey train that Andy got from Bob Morris. See the ad at the end of this issue of the CallBoy.

**Track:** Jim McKibbin found a connector on the inside loop by the trestle that was not installed correctly. So he rebuilt that track which may fix the problem with the S22 signal that has always been flaky.

**Signals:** Jim McKibbin is working on a project to revise the signals to make them more resistant to false reds. The project is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  done.

Thanks to Jim for taking on signals and the track!

**High Track:** Stephen Fares wants to restore the High Track to operational status and replace the step through that leads from the steaming bay to the station.

There are members who want to run on it.

And finally, he wants to rebuild the 3.5" gauge engine that was in the clubhouse.

#### Old Business

None.

#### New Business

None.

Meeting ended at 10:37 am.

### Minutes of the Board Meeting

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

#### **Approval of Last Month's Meeting Minutes:**

Stephen Fares moves to approve it, and Rick Reaves seconded it. With no discussion, the motion carried 7-0.

#### Old Business:

**Clean Up and Yard Work:** We still have two pickup loads worth of brush beyond the roundhouse but probably not enough to fill the large dumpster that the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) dropped off for us. Likely we will not need the dumpster and Jon Sargent will call the Park to come get it.

#### New Business:

**Spring Meet:** We need to firm up the plans & permit application for the Spring Meet with the EBRPD. Sarah Buhre will look at the forms with Jon Sargent & Matt Petach to make sure it's all filled out along with insurance. We are not going to get porta-potties because we will likely not have the number of visitors or the need for them. If the public needs to use a restroom, they can use the one in the clubhouse or head up to Redwood Valley.

**Tree Removal:** Jon Sargent got a company referral for tree removal service for the tree on Boyer's Bluff. He will call them to schedule it and Rich Croll will show Jon which tree it is.

**Clerici Engine Donation:** Bob Walker talked to Rich about the trench engine that is being donated. There was a pile of parts that came with it but it seems well

built & weighs a ton. The easiest solution for it is to pull the current engine out and go electric. Rich is compiling a list of what needs to be done and how much that will cost. It will need a 1000-watt motor & parts, totaling about \$1,500. It's a good engine for the club to keep.

Rick Reaves moved that the Board authorize \$2,000 to cover everything and it was seconded by Stephen Fares. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

**Club's Rail Bender:** Out by the roundhouse is a rail bender on a bench, but the bench has collapsed. Rick Reaves said they tried to use it when they did the rebuild, but Bill Smith just used a corner of the bridge to bend the track.

Rich Croll wants to get rid of it and has sent in the details & photos to editor Pat Young for a For Sale ad in the CallBoy which can be found at the end of this issue.

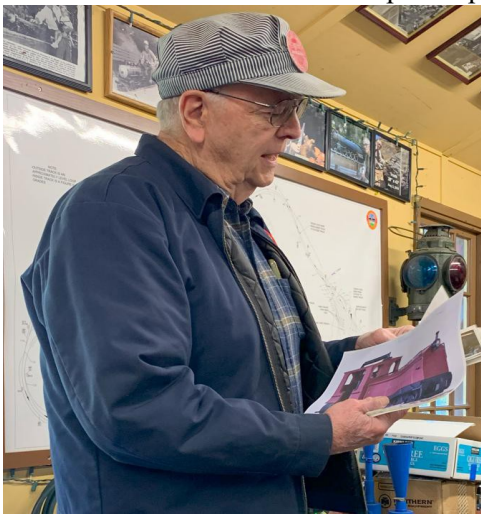
**Black Diamond Mine Tank:** There's a tank out near the Black Diamond Mine building that was on a frame that collapsed and we need to look into what to do with it. Rich Croll has the water tower that was on the hill and is repairing it.

**Bulger Barn Track:** We have a middle track at the Bulger barn available to the club for club equipment. We also have a track in the long barn so we are not out of space for club engines & rolling stock.

**Propane Tank Icing Over:** Rich Croll wants to buy at least one or two propane heater blankets to go around the tank, costing approximately \$70 - \$200, depending on quality and they draw about 1 amp each. Heating the tanks first thing in the morning might help with the icing problem because warm propane tanks might not freeze as quickly. Rich says he can probably put three vertical propane tanks in the new box car, so they don't freeze as quickly.

### General Updates:

**90th Anniversary Meet:** It is likely we will have it on the same weekend as the Spring Meet & Open House. One idea would be to have a member-only dinner on Friday or Saturday evening and do a video history presentation. We could also make a special patch or



pin for the 90th celebration.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm.

### Bits and Pieces

Rich Croll brought in one of the two trucks he just manufactured for his 2½" scale log car, which he believes he will have completed by next month's meeting, and knowing Rich that is a safe bet!

The club is now the permanent caretaker of the partially constructed Trench Locomotive by the late Andy Clerici and Rich was asked to assess the parts & construction so a plan could be formed.

Doing some preliminary research Rich believes it is based on a Schneider locomotive, also referred to as "Loco Tractors," and is of French origin. An interesting item Rich mentioned regarding construction is the use of angled gearboxes salvaged from outboard motors.

Thank you, Rich, for this and all the other things you do for the GGLS!

Sammy Tamez has been going through his personal train memorabilia again and invited us to take a little stroll down memory lane with him before he donates the items to the San Leandro Historical Museum.

Among the items he talked about were an unused Southern Pacific Police jacket, an Eagle Eye hat which Sammy received for spotting a "hot box" (an overheated axle box on a freight car truck) condition on a train & alerting the train crew, a Southern Pacific plaque commemorating the US bicentennial in 1976,

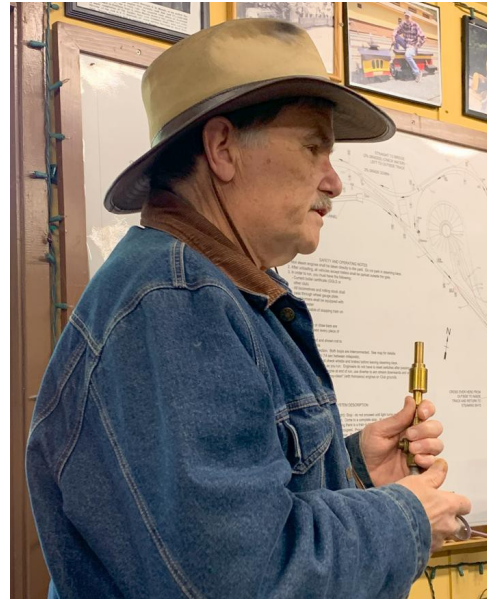


a "SWITCH OUT OF SERVICE" card to be attached to the switch's padlock, and finally closing with a Southern Pacific book titled "Diagrams of Locomotives & Tenders".





Sarah Buhre has quietly been refining her woodworking & painting skills and has just completed and installed a model of a jail on the railroad. If you would like to know where it is hop aboard and take a train ride! This branch of our hobby is often neglected or poorly executed, so a big “hats off” to Sarah for her accomplishments.  
So, what’s next Sarah? Or will it be a surprise?



Charlie Reiter recently visited a gentleman named Carl Wilson, who focused on the clock making aspect of our model engineering hobby.

Carl is slowly divesting his shop and he and Charlie spent several hours going through his collections of tools, chimes, horns and whistles (all machinery has been sold). And if you know Charlie you know he has an interest in whistles.

One of the more interesting instruments was this lung powered blue air horn that Andy Weber tested. He liked it so much, he was allowed to keep it.

Remember, this is a guy with his own Calliope, and he’s not afraid to use it! So that is how Charlie ended up with a box of whistles, among which was a miniature steam siren made by Carl. Charlie gave a description of how the design and manufacture creates the surprisingly loud sound generated.

Also in the box was a gray colored whistle which was marked with an F, which Charlie believes is for use on a Calliope. I did hear Charlie mention maybe he might take a look at his Calliope and seeing what it might take to put it back into working order. So, that would be something different and interesting to look forward to in the future.



New GGLS member Mono Mata-Lee made this model of a traction engine from material on his desk. He described his design elements, such as the “reverse” mounted engine and explained other features were sometimes driven by availability or size of material. The model is well proportioned, pleasing to the eye and shows a grasp of mechanical design.  
I hope this is the first of many models we see from this young man!



## Work Day Photos

By Pat Young

Photos by Pat Young & Bruce Anderson

On February 22, 2025, the club sponsored a Saturday work day to clean up the tree & vegetation debris due to weather and normal yearly accumulation.



Paul Krommenhoek & Robert Buhre were there



Bruce Anderson & Jim Hague were there

There was a fair volunteer turnout but those that turned out did a monumental job.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) was kind enough to supply a debris box and the volunteers did a tremendous job of filling it up.



To say 'Thank You' to the volunteers, the club provided lunch to show its appreciation. It was a tasty affair that was appreciated by all.

Bruce Anderson, who was working as hard as anyone that came, somehow had had the time to take some photos that he sent in to the CallBoy.



The exhausted Thursday crew left plenty of Redwood duff for transport down to the bin by Saturdays crew



Walt Oellerich got some quality grandson time with Anthony cleaning up around the Tilden Station



The exhausted Thursday crew left plenty of Redwood duff for transport down to the bin by Saturdays crew



Piles of debris from a pine tree damaged two years ago near the Diamond Back Mine were finally removed



Bob Walker and Rich Croll collect Redwood duff and leaves from the Roundhouse area