

Volume 19
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July
2017



THE TELEGRAPH

Newsletter of the FMCA Golden Spike Chapter

Our interests are railroads, and our venues are riding them throughout the Western United States. We are members of Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and other RR families; those who like model railroading; and everyone who loves riding railroads, their history and romance. All in all, we are a fun-filled chapter.

2017-2018 Board



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Conductor's Message

We have just completed our 'back-to-back' April/ May 2017 rallies. At the end of April Alan and Kathie Utzig with the help of Dan and Betsy St. John led a 'busy' rally in Sacramento. A few days later Carol Tennyson, Leonard Cruz and Don and Bobbie Pico took us to Oakhurst Elks for a fun time which included a train ride and a day at the Ahwahnee (Majestic Yosemite Hotel) in Yosemite Valley. The year has just begun. We will next head to Boise, ID to view the Solar Eclipse in August and October finds us with Ed and Anita Price who will take us to Fillmore for a Haunted Hayride/Train Ride. 2018 will then begin with our annual trip to Indio.

Looking ahead in 2018 we will celebrate 20 years as an FMCA Chapter! We are starting to plan our year long party; give us your best ideas on how to make 2018 'a year to remember'. We already have May 2018 flagged for a potential rally in San Diego, hosted by Doug and Judy Key. We need some more ideas for 2018. Where should we go and can YOU help us get there? Possibly a rally in AZ or one in CO or a visit to Railtown 1897 in Jamestown. There is a Sierra Dinner Train in Oakdale, but no nearby RV Park - it is 30 miles from Jamestown so hard to combine the two into one rally.

If 2018 isn't far enough ahead, we have our eyes on 2019 as well. Mark your calendars for the month of May 2019. Friday, May 10th is the 150th anniversary celebration of the 'first' Golden Spike driven at Promontory Summit, UT.

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Conductor's Message (continued)

We will also plan to ride the Heber Creeper which is not too far away. Plan your trip to Utah (week of May 10th) and include us in your travels. This rally is hosted by Tom and Barbara Westerfield.

Don't forget to visit our website, created and maintained by Bob Poole (www.fmca.goldenspikes.com). Bob keeps records and pictures of all our past rallies as well as information on our next rally(s). Also, if you have misplaced your last newsletter or want to reread an older newsletter, these are also available on the website. John Painter is our newsletter editor and is always looking for article to include. Send us a story about your travels (RR or not) or a link to some interesting history. Recipes are fun to include, send us one of yours.

Enjoy the FMCA magazine each month. At least take a look at the last page: Rear View. Each month they ask for input on some of your travel experiences. If they choose to use your input they send you \$25. Recently I have received two of these checks! Also, in July FMCA is writing an article about our chapter in the magazine. In the July issue our chapter got a nice writeup. The Fillmore Rally was featured and already we have had inquiries from nearly 5 FMCA members who are thinking of joining us; we may get more!

I started this newsletter in May with full intentions of getting this all together in a couple of weeks. It is now July and I am just getting back to my part. Thanks for your patience.

Thank you to everyone who makes our chapter a success.

Dan StJohn, Conductor
BDSTJOHN66@GMAIL.COM



The "WMHA" web site (<http://wafmca.com/>) has a new blog from our President Lon Cross. Lon plans on updating the blog about once a week, and it will feature news from both WMHA and FMCA. It currently appears on the "WMHA News" heading and is called "Notes From Our President"

Sacramento Rally Report

2017 Sacramento Golden Spike Rally

16 rigs ventured to the Cal Expo Fairgrounds RV park for a great rally. Alan and Kathie Utzig, helped by Dan and Betsy St. John, kept us very busy enjoying the opportunities in the CA capitol city. We rode the Sacramento River Train where we were entertained, fed, sang to and robbed while traveling over the flooded estuary along the Sacramento River. We also rode the Sacramento Southern Railroad south from Old Town. Alan was the diesel engineer and Ken Carnes and Karen Schaffer won the raffle and got to ride in the cab. Ken Harrison provided us with great historical information on the trains we were riding; than you Ken.

Sunday, we had planned to ride the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad (the oldest RR In CA, but there were complications with the right-of-way. We did spend an on-your-own day in Folsom following a very interesting ride on a 12", privately owned RR near the Folsom Zoo. The owner, engineer, ticket taker and entertainer were all the same person. He had been an engineer and 'voice over' guy at Disneyland for his whole career. He bought this RR line and reinvested to make it very entertaining. It was a short ride, but everyone enjoyed it. He very quickly showed us all how to take pictures with our cell phones; separately for Apple and Android.

We had docent led tours of the CA Railroad Museum and the Old Town Sacramento Underground. Both presenters were very good and we all left with a lot of knowledge of CA and Sacramento history. Near Old Town we spent a morning at the CA Automobile Museum. They split us into three groups with separate docents and we got a detailed look at some very interesting automobiles and Fire Engines. We had lunch (Safeway sandwiches) in their 50's dinner.

This was a very 'busy' rally; the Utzig's and StJohn's gave the ralliers their full Money's worth! The RV Park provided the community room which we used for breakfast, dinner and meeting. The staff was very good and the staff mentioned to us that we very definitely had a happy, cheerful and fun group of ralliers. We served salmon and roasted chicken along with the potluck goodies supplied by the Golden Spike.

From Sacramento most of us headed to Oakhurst for our Yosemite Rally which promised to be a nice relaxing alternative to the energetic Sacramento Rally.

Golden Spike Yosemite Rally Report

17 rigs found their way to the Elks Lodge in Oakhurst, CA. The Lodge provided us with parking, hospitality, meeting rooms and a Cinco de Mayo dinner and celebration; many of us danced and even competed in the 'limbo' competition. An onsite bartender helped make this a fun event. Some of the unanticipated entertainment was watching 35-40 ft RVs enter a narrow parking area on the edge of a cliff where they had to turn around and park in carefully selected spaces designated by Kurt Simon who agreed to come out of retirement and 'engineer' the activity! Carol Tennyson, Leonard Cruz and Don/Bobbie Pico took us to the Majestic Yosemite Hotel (Ahwahnee) for lunch and a docent tour. We enjoyed a scenic drive from the Elks to the Valley and back; beautiful country. Our other group activity was a ride on the Shay Steam engine at the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad. Once again Ken Harrison provided us with some very interesting historical information on the railroad and its owners. The ride was very enjoyable and the owners also provide a nice museum and a bookstore that were fully stocked and staffed. Ralliers had time to relax, socialize and enjoy the foothills. Leonard made a 'bonfire' each night and we sat around enjoying the evening. Lyman Laisy cooked us all pancakes one morning. Nice relaxing rally in beautiful country. Thank you rally masters.



We made a donation to the Elks Lodge in appreciation of their hospitality.

Sacramento Rally Pictures



Golden Spikers at Sacramento Railway Museum



Driving the Cars at the Auto Museum



Familiar Sight at the Sacramento Railway Museum



Glad the Track was Higher than the Road



Had Our Own Car on the Sacramento River Train



Excited Passengers on the Sacramento Southern



Was that Ken Driving the Train?

Golden Spike Yosemite Rally Pictures



Golden Spikers at Sugar Pine Railway



How Many Golden Spikers Does It Take to Park a Motorhome?



Who Has the Cleanest Roof?



Would You Trust Your Train to This Conductor?



Riding the Sugar Pine Railroad



Touring the Majestic (Ahwahnee) Hotel

Minutes of FMCA Golden Spike Meeting April 29, 2017, Sacramento, CA

The meeting was called to order by President Dan St John in Sacramento, CA.

Thanks to Kathie Utzig and Betsy St. John for coordinating and preparing all the food for our rally. The breakfasts were tasty and thoughtful as were all the supplements to the pot luck. The roasted chicken and salmon complemented all the contributions from the rally participants.

The past and future rallies were reviewed and discussed. The Boise Eclipse Rally is closed as the RV park is sold out for the event. We discussed the complexity of getting to the eclipse and the possibility of lots of traffic. We may be leaving **early** Monday AM to get a good spot; John Painter reminded us that the attendees need to remain flexible as we choose the best strategy. Dan and Kurt reviewed the excitement that being at the site of the 'totality' will bring. Anita Price reviewed the details of the Fillmore (Halloween Rally) in October and clarified the dates of the rally. The dates posted in the February Newsletter were incorrect and the rally will be the third week in October NOT the first week.

Nancy Kissack and Kurt talked briefly about Indio 2018 (Viva Las Vegas). Golden Spike members emphasized that Western Association can make changes to the rally format as necessary, but that it was ill advised to 'mess with' the Ice Cream that attendees are expecting! This January will be the 30th anniversary of Indio Western Association and you can expect real excitement.

Don Pico, National Directory, reviewed the agenda of the FMCA management. At the International Rally in Indianapolis in July, the Governing Board will vote on expanding the membership of FMCA to include 'towables' (trailers and 5th wheels). A poll of Spikers at our meeting indicated that our Golden Spike Chapter is 'agreeable' with the new scope of FMCA. Spikers especially felt that FMCA Assist insurance was well worth the annual dues and needs to be continued as a benefit.

Betsy St. John discussed ordering clothing and circulated a catalog of options. Our logo can be embroidered onto any piece of clothing. So if you find a blouse, shirt, jacket or even a pair of socks that you like, send it on to get the Jupiter Locomotive attached. Order forms are on our website or contact Betsy.

Ken Carnes made a treasurer's report; we are comfortably endowed at the moment. See details in this newsletter.

John Painter encouraged Spikers to send information on their travels or travails for inclusion in the newsletter. Recipes are needed – send John yours.

The members were 'relieved' when the business meeting ended; thank you all for your participation. These notes were reconstructed from the memory of the Conductor, Dan St. John since he failed to designate an acting secretary.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Golden Spike Rallies

Mark your CALENDAR with these SPECIFIC dates so you don't miss out!
Look for details of these rallies further on in this Newsletter

8/18-8/22 "Stations, Capitols, Penitentiaries, Raptors and Eclipses" Boise, ID

We will be staying at the High Valley RV Park [(888) 457-5959]. The RV Park is sold out so this rally is effectively FULL. If it turns out you cannot attend, please notify Dan as others may have expressed an interest and need your spot. There is no train ride, but in addition to the viewing of the total Solar Eclipse, we have a full agenda of local activities planned. 15 rigs are attending!

10/19-10/22 "Harvest Haunted Hayride in Heritage Valley" Fillmore, CA

Ed and Anita will lead us to the Fillmore RR train ride and Hay Ride. Also, Reagan Library, TITANIC EXHIBIT, Nethercutt Museum. The Wm. S. Hart Ranch, and many other optional attractions are available for enjoyment during your free time. The rally also includes a Ladies Tea and Men's gathering for socializing in the RV Park. COSTUMES are optional, but ENCOURAGED. The theme of the costumes should be Fall and Harvest as opposed to satanic and scary. Think 'Becky Thatcher, Tom Sawyer, American Gothic, Strawman, etc. See sample pictures later in newsletter.

NOTE change in date to the third week in October; NOT the first week as previously listed.

1/4-1/7, 2018 "Red, Yellow, Electric Cars and Festival of Lights" Riverside/Perris, CA

We will be enjoying the Riverside Mission Inn "Festival of Lights" before the Indio Rally. Join us even if you do not plan to attend the Indio Rally. The Mission Inn is FULLY decorated in lights for the Holidays; we will enjoy downtown Riverside, the lights, food and shopping. We will also visit the Orange Empire RR Museum in Perris and ride streetcars and trains.

1/7-1/14, 2018 WAFMCA-"Viva Las Vegas" Indio, CA

Western Association Annual Rally at Fairgrounds, Indio CA. The first of a yearlong celebration of our 20th anniversary as a Chapter of FMCA. This is the Western Association 30th anniversary celebration: Come join the fun! Also, Golden Spike is celebrating 20 years as a FMCA Chapter. As part of our celebration we have invited "Tom the Guitar Guy" to join us for our Potluck BBQ. He will sing us Happy Birthday along with songs of our choosing: RR songs, Country Songs, Beatles Songs, Eagles Songs and maybe we'll "Get some Satisfaction". Don't miss this time with us. We are also continuing the Pancake Breakfast (cooked and served by the men) on Thursday morning as well as Pizza Night. Western Association is also having an extra Ice Cream Special Thursday night before the Opening Night Concert. FUN is in the air. PLAN TO BE THERE!!!!

Update: We have booked "Tom the Guitar Guy" to perform for us after our Wednesday night BBQ potluck.

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SAVE THE DATE (Continued)

May, 2018 “Trains, Museums, Parks and Stations”, San Diego, CA

Doug and Judy Key and their ‘train nut’ friend will give you a “train’s eye view” of San Diego. Mark your calendar for early May 2018; more details shortly. This will also be the second in our year long 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Summer/Fall, 2018 “More 20th Anniversary Celebrations”, What shall we do?

Help us with YOUR ideas of rallies in 2018! Contact the Conductor!

5/5-5/12, 2019 150th Anniversary of Original Golden Spike, Promontory Summit, UT

We will celebrate with the rest of the World the driving of the Golden Spike. Also, we will ride the Heber Creeper. Mark your calendar and plan your trip to UT!! Time flies when you are having fun. More details to follow ‘as time goes by’. Tom and Barbara Westerfield will be your Rally Hosts (with all of our help!)

Update: The Union Pacific Railroad has an interesting set of web pages about the Race to Promontory Summit and the Golden Spike Anniversary. It can be found at <http://www.up.com/goldenspike/index.html>

Boise Golden Spike Rally — Agenda

Golden Spike – Total Solar Eclipse Rally – Boise, ID Arrive Friday, Aug 18th leave Tuesday, August 22nd 2017

Camping: Hi Valley RV Park, Boise, ID Phone: 888-457-5959

Contact: Dan St. John (530) 820-1100 <bdstjohn@pacbell.net>

Friday, August 18th 2017

Arrive, setup camp, socialize,

4:00 pm Happy hour, BYO Heavy Appetizers

6:00 pm Orientation to the rally agenda

Saturday August 19th 2017 – Boise, ID

Continental Breakfast Clubhouse

9:30 am Carpool to Idaho State Capitol

10:00 am Tour Idaho State Capitol

12:30 pm Lunch at Bitter Creek Ale House

2:00 pm State Penitentiary (hopefully, just a visit)

5:00 pm Happy Hour, appetizers to share

6:00 pm Pitch-in Supper (pot luck)

Sunday August 20th 2017—Day in Boise, ID

Continental Breakfast Clubhouse

9:30 am Carpool to World Center for Birds of Prey

Noon Lunch in Boise, Elmer's Restaurant, 1385 Capitol Blvd.

1:30 pm Tour Boise Depot

3:00 pm Return to RV park, afternoon on your own

5:00 pm Happy Hour, appetizers to share

6:00 pm Left Over's Supper (pot luck)

7:00 pm Golden Spike Business Meeting

Monday, August 21st 2017—Solar Eclipse Day

Breakfast on your own

8:00 am Carpool to Smith Ferry (early departure: it will be crowded)

10:11 am **Beginning of Solar Eclipse**

2 hour process from the start to end

2 minutes of TOTAL darkness

Bring your chairs for comfort

1:00 pm Lunch in Cascade, ID

2:00 pm Visit to Roseberry Historic Townsite and Museum

5:00 pm Happy Hour, appetizers to share

6:00 pm Pizza Night

Tuesday, August 22nd 2017—Departure

Breakfast in RV Park, Bon Voyage

Update: We have reserved parking at Smith Ferry for the Eclipse! Thanks Dan.



Fillmore Rally — Agenda 10/19/17 — 10/22/17

In Fillmore, CA Golden Spike Presents:

“A Harvest Haunted Hayride in Heritage Valley”

Arrive Thursday, Oct 19; leave Sun, October 22, 2017

[Valencia Travel Village; \(661\) 257-3333; 27946 Hwy 126, Castaic CA](#)

Rally Masters: Ed & Anita Price (714) 998-3343

with Kurt & Betty Simon (530) 889-2543

as well as Don & Karen Schaffer (714) 828-5596



Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – Optional Arrival

Early arrivals: setup camp, socialize

4:00 Ladies Book and Tea Party (near Price's rig)

Bring a favorite book to review, swap or discuss.

Sample teas, hats and/or china cups optional.

4:00 Men's Mechanical Seminar (near Simon's rig)

Guy Talk: Coach modifications, gadgets, cell phone apps, etc.

Ed's golf stories and Kurt's comments on 'reality and the universe'

5:30 Carpool to ["El Pescador"](#)

1305 W. Ventura Blvd (Hwy 126), Fillmore CA

6:00 Dinner on the Patio - El Pescador

Later Evening socializing 'back at the camp'

Thursday, October 19, 2017

For those who came on Wednesday:

8:30 Breakfast: waffle cups, fruit and yogurt]

Options for the day: [Wm S Hart Estate](#), [Magic Mountain](#), [Santa Paula Murals](#), [California Oil Museum](#), [Agriculture Museum](#), [Commemorative Air Force Museum](#)

Formal Start of Rally

Arrive, setup camp, socialize,

4:00 Happy hour,

5:00 BYO Heavy Appetizers to share

Dessert provided by hosts

6:00 Golden Spiker introductions

Rally orientation, RV Stories, Jokes

Gift exchange (bring one; receive one)

7:00 Train videos

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Fillmore Rally Agenda (continued)

Friday, October 20, 2017 – Simi Valley

- 8:00 Breakfast Clubhouse (Continental Breakfast; bring your own coffee)
- 9:15 Carpool to [Reagan Library](#)
- 10:00 Tour Reagan Library and enjoy the special exhibition: [Titanic at the Reagan](#)
- 12:00 Lunch on you own (options at Library or nearby)
- 4:00 Happy hour,
- 5:00 Pot Luck Dinner (assignments made later)
- 6:30 Informal Golden Spikes Meeting; socializing

Saturday, October 21, 2017 – Sylmar/San Fernando

- 8:00 Breakfast Clubhouse (Continental Breakfast; bring your own coffee)
- 9:15 Carpool to [Nethercutt Collection](#)
- 10:00 Tour Nethercutt with docent
- 12:00 Tour [Nethercutt Auto/Train collection](#) (on your own)
[Lunch on you own; afternoon free – consider a trip to the San Fernando Mission]
- 6:00 Carpool to [Fillmore and Western Railroad Station](#)
- 7:00 Train departs for [Dinner excursion and Hayride](#) – costumes (Harvest Theme) optional!

- 9:30 Train returns to depot (approximately)
- 10:00 Arrive back at RV park for good night's sleep

Sunday, October 22nd 2017

- 8:00 Breakfast Clubhouse (Individual Casseroles, fruit, potatoes; bring your own coffee)

Bon Voyage, see you down the road!

Flyer for Haunted Hayride

FILMORE & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

Haunted Hayride

Family Dinner Train

October 21st 2017

Creep aboard a hauntingly vintage train for a spooktacular adventure, with "Ichabog" as your destination. Feast on BBQ Tri-Tip and Chicken, Potato Salad, Bread and Beans...Then, if you dare, embark on a spooktacular hayride where who knows what scary creatures you will encounter..or who else might be lurking. Dress in Costume or a mere mortal if you dare. Dinner will be served at Ichabog! You will be assigned a hayride seating time at Ichabog as well. IF you are with a group and wish to sit together please call and tell the reservation agent.

Schedule:	Ticket Prices:	
Bodies Boarding: 6:45pm	Adults:	\$62.00
Dearly Departing: 7:00pm	Adult With Baby:	\$62.00
Dying to Return by: 9:30pm	Youth 4-12	\$45.00
	Child	\$30.00

Limited Seating

www.fwry.com 805-524-2546

Golden Spike Recipe Corner

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

2 T oil
10 mushrooms
½ red onion
2 t. minced garlic
2 peppers (red and green), diced
2 c. chopped spinach
20 oz shredded potatoes
12 eggs
1/3 c. milk
Pinch of cayenne (to taste)
Other veggies and meat of your choice
Salt and pepper
1 cup shredded cheese.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Saute onions and mushrooms in 1 T. oil for 4 min. Add garlic and cook 2 minutes more. Add peppers and spinach. Cook until spinach is wilted and water is evaporated. Set aside.

Spray 9x13 baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Press potatoes evenly in the bottom of the casserole. Add veggies (and cooked meat) on top of potatoes. Spread evenly.

In a bowl, whisk eggs, milk, cayenne, salt and pepper. Pour eggs over the top of the casserole. Sprinkle cheese on top.

Bake casserole, uncovered, until cheese melts and top gets golden, 40-45 minutes.

Golden Spike Clothing Order Information

If you would like to order a shirt, sweatshirt, vest, hat, etc. with the Golden Spike Logo and your name, print off the order form enclosed in the newsletter (following page) and mail it to Betsy StJohn (address on form). Teri has given Betsy a catalog so if you would like other items that interest you, give her a call and she can search the catalog for what might work. Another option is that you can purchase the shirt of your choice or whatever you like and send it in with your order and Teri will add our logo and your name for \$10. Items which have been ordered already will be delivered at an upcoming rally or you can pay to have them shipped directly to you.

If you would like a shirt with a silk screened train on the back Teri has a few left (she is not doing silk screening any longer); if you would like one, contact Betsy.



Tom Westerfield found a hat he liked and added the Jupiter logo. You can too!

Golden Spike Clothing Order Form

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Shirts: Black locomotive on back if possible: _____ Yes _____ No		
Men		
Cotton/Polyester Polo color: White _____ Gold _____ Black _____ logo: Gold _____ Black _____ White _____ size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ Name _____	\$20 each	\$ _____
Nylon wicky shirts color: White _____ Gold _____ Black _____ logo: Gold _____ Black _____ White _____ size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ Name _____	\$20 each	\$ _____
Women		
Cotton/Polyester V-neck with collar color: White _____ Gold _____ Black _____ logo: Gold _____ Black _____ White _____ size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ Name _____	\$20 each	\$ _____
Nylon wicky shirts (These run small) color: White _____ Gold _____ Black _____ logo: Gold _____ Black _____ White _____ size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ Name _____	\$20 each	\$ _____
Vests:		
Unisex, black only, gold logo size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ Name _____	\$30 each	\$ _____
Golden Spike name and spike picture on back of vest	\$15 each	\$ _____
Hats: One size fits all		
White with Black Logo _____ Black with Gold Logo _____	\$15 each	\$ _____
Receiving:		
Shipping	\$10	\$ _____
Pick up at next rally	no charge	_____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____ EMAIL _____

Addr _____ Phone _____

Zip _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to Big Valley Embroidery, 5787 East Shields Ave, Fresno, CA 93727