

# THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

February Chronicle



“Well every time I fell behind  
And I could not get ahead  
I wish someone would pull the lever  
And give me a little sand  
And every time I slip behind  
Even further back  
I wish some switchman would come out of the fog  
And change my track”

- Fred Eaglesmith

# A Word From Your President

Mike Gardner

The new year is starting out well for RLS. We had a great annual dinner, although attendance wasn't what we have had in past years. Thanks to Glenn Maness for all the organizing to bring the dinner off and to all the members who brought cool stuff for the door prizes. The 50-50 raffle raised over \$180 for the club and two lucky members



each won \$91.00. Special congratulations and thanks to Bill McLaughlin who completed a locomotive last year and was recognized with a Nut Splitter Award, Brad Bluth who was Hogger of the Year, and A. J. Benson who was selected as Live Steamer of the Year. These latter two awards are particularly important. Brad Bluth used his personal Challenger to pull public trains throughout the year. It is not only very helpful in keeping the waiting lines down, it is a treat to get to see a Challenger in

action and that alone brings a lot of people to RLS. A. J. Benson started as a Junior Member and has worked hard at RLS ever since. A. J. was the youngest RLS Board member elected by the membership and served very well in that capacity. We owe all three of these gentlemen a big Thank You for all you have done for RLS over the years.

Speaking of the Annual Dinner, some Board Members are interested in looking at a new venue where guests can order from the menu rather than the buffet style offered at the current location. If you have thoughts on this please let a Board Member know. Do you like the current location? Menu? Would you like to try another venue? Do you have ideas on where you would like to go? What sort of menu offerings would you like to see?

Our major projects are moving along nicely. The piers for the escape track have been framed and the cement pad for the new container has been graded and framed. We should have both in operation in time for the Spring Meet. The Parks Department would like us to paint or wrap the new container in a Railroad theme. Are there muralists amongst us? Do you have ideas for the theme? It could be made to look like a



rail car. It could be a panoramic view with a train in it. It could be a switchyard or station. I invite members to submit drawings to the board for consideration. If your idea is

selected you win a free ride on a real steam train.

Sale of the caboose is nearing. The car vendor has several people interested and I expect it to be sold within 30 days. Moving is another story, but the new owner will want to get it soon once the sale closes. The Caboose could well be gone by the Spring Meet as well.

Keep your fire hot, your water glass full and your eyes on the track ahead. See you on the railroad.

## Along the Track

### Roadmaster-Board Member Rich Casford

January 2<sup>nd</sup> a special work day was called to place rock in the bottom of all the trestle piers for the escape. In addition we needed to complete the final two pier holes that required attention by hand digging. With a great turnout of 16 members not only did all the escape track project work get completed we were able to spread rock over half of the parking lot in the compound! Good thing we had the help and the rock available as the first of the winter rains came on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The parking lot on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> was very usable with only soft mud towards the rear of the lot.

January 16<sup>th</sup> Work Day found the track crew leveling track between the Summit Road crossing and the small crossing located on the Creighton Cut-off. Another crew was rebuilding Noble Junction Switch #2 which was out of service. Work in the compound continued on the escape track and general maintenance on the Hunter locomotive prepping for the next duty assignment on January 24<sup>th</sup> Run Day.



Lunch was provided by Chef Bill Hesse with apple cobbler provided by Dessert Chef Bob Beard. It is obvious that RLS members know more about cooking than they let on! The food was wonderful and the members attending the Board Meeting after lunch were seen with big smiles on their faces!

The mechanical department completed the rebuilding of the air compressor that is mounted on the work truck. We now have an air operated track tamper. After the board meeting we used it on tamping NJ-#2 switch and it works great!

We will have many new projects for members to help with in 2016. If you are unable to join the fun on our work days, we do have some items that need to be machined or made in a home shop. Please let Dave Bunts or myself know if you have some spare time at your home shop.

Part of the escape track project will require a short RR tie wall. We are in need of a flatbed trailer to bring 8 foot railroad ties to the compound. If you can help please contact Rich Casford.

At the most recent Board of Directors meeting the Board approved a request by the Roadmaster



to improve the storage areas in the main engine house. If you have wood working cabinet abilities please see the Roadmaster. We are looking to make storage areas for paper products and cups used by the members during work days and run days.

We have the work day lunches covered through April!! As mentioned before the club pays for the food cost but it needs to be handled by one of our members. Several members volunteered to help as camp cooks. Is it your turn? Just give me a call or shoot me an email. Work

day camp cook is open for May thru the end of the year.

Our next FUN (work) Day will be Saturday, **February 20th**, lunch to the workers at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM open to all. Work may continue after lunch with the escape track construction crew depending on progress in the morning.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**February 14th:** Runday & Valentines Day  
(East/Outerloop)

**March 13th:** Runday (West/ Outerloop)

**March 19th:** Work Day

**February 20th:** Workday

**March 27th:** Runday (West/ Fig-8)

**February 28th:** Runday (East/ Fig-8)

The R.L.S. Chronicle is published by The Riverside Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA, 92518. The railroad is located at Hunter Park, 1496 Columbia Ave., Riverside, CA. Call (951) 779-9024 during a Run Day or Work Day for more information. Public Run Days are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, Work Days (Fun Days) are held the Saturday following the first Run Day of the month.

### RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

- President:** Mike Gardner
- Vice President:** Bill Hesse
- Secretary:** Brook Adams
- Treasurer:** Joan Adams

#### Directors

- Larry Fisher
- Brian Stephens
- John Gurwell
- Rich Casford