

March 2015

The RLS Chronicle

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



A look back...

Wow !

Does anybody remember the station when it looked like this ?

Here is a picture from way back in 1975 of our station on Columbia Ave.

A special 'Thank you' to Warren Bjork for sending this photo from his
Fathers collection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have had some Chamber of Commerce weather, we have had a couple of rain days, and we have had the stuff in between. What we have had consistently is a bunch of folks around the place that seem to like playing with trains. This is going to sound like a complaint, and maybe it is just a bit, but what we don't have is a lot of volunteers to work the not so fun stuff- crossing guard at the station on those rare occurrences where Marty Berg is not there to spread his mighty arms to keep the folks that are too wrapped in the idea of fun in the park to figure out that they may be run over by one of our mighty iron steeds if they walk in front of us, relief brakemen to give the guy in the sun a small respite, all the little tasks that don't just scream FUN BY ALL! but are so necessary to the efficient running of the railroad. If the OS wanders up to you with a crazed look in their eyes and asks that you take a lap or two, or go get Marty out of the sun for a bit please find it in your heart to say yes.

Speaking of the hoards that are trying to get run over, I hope you all have taken a look around the park on the run days to see the quantity of people in the park on nice days. The remodel has brought the great unwashed public to the park. Gone are the days when we could just drive out to a track repair site or a derailment, we just may end running over someone lying in the sun. But part of what we are there for is to share our hobby with people who have never seen anything like this. And as the quantity of people in the park increases, so does the demand for rides. Which leads us back to the first paragraph; our ridership has increased, and the public's demand for our services. Your Board of Directors has fought the city at every turn in the occasional demand that we run enough trains to handle the total demand on every run day, and the occasional brain mis-fire from our own membership to allow diesels in on the "off" days to handle the demand. This is a hobby, we don't want to turn it into a job. So, if everyone does a little to help, it makes the days go by a bunch faster for all of us.

Last, but not anywhere near least, speaking as the Safety Weasel, take note of the Metrolink collision earlier this month - just when you think things are going along just fine, somebody without your knowledge or permission has done something stupid and you're about to pay the price for it. Please be aware of your speed on the railroad, and the things that are going on around you. We have a pretty good safety record, and that isn't due to the Safety Weasel, it's due to YOUR diligence and paying attention to the rules. Please continue, it makes my job easier.

Dave Bunts

Along the Track – Roadmaster Rich Casford

Railroads are interesting properties. There are so many different sections and divisions of functions that are required to operate a railroad.

Track is the basis of how a railroad runs. No track, no trains. A very simple concept. Here at RLS we spend a lot of time working on the track. Everyone likes to build new trackage to increase the running times on the railroad. Just as important when laying new track is the contentious maintenance of alignment and level of the track. Once a new line is installed you can not just go off and never take a look at again.

On every Run Day notes are taken on how the track is performing. Any track issues are referred to the next work day so a track crew can be assigned to repair the section. RLS is just like the BNSF or UP, track work never stops but always makes for a safe operating day. With our new power tamper track work has never been easier!

Progress is going forward on installation of speakers in the station. This will allow a simple set up each run day without hanging wires along the posts in the station.

Our next FUN (work) Day will be March 14th starting at 8:00 am. Plan now to join us as we improve the RLS Facility. The Spring Meet is only 7 weeks away.

A reminder to all engineers and conductors, when you open a switch and move on to a siding make sure you restore the switch to the mainline position. The next train approaching an open switch will have to stop and reset before proceeding.

Rich Casford, Roadmaster

Spring Meet April 24, 25 & 26, 2015

It is that time of year again folks, the Spring Meet is just around the corner! This year's Spring meet will be April 24 through the 26. From our Vice President and Meet Chairman:

There will be a sign up list for duties in the compound. Please sign up and follow through in it. We will need every bit of the help to keep our railroad running with the visitors. Just sign up for a 30 min shift if you can.

***Thanks,
A.J. Benson***

So mark your calendar, get with A.J. and get your name on the list to help out.

From the Car Foreman:

A big thanks to Dean Willoughby for his work on the Blue and Yellow Club cars !
For those that don't know Dean completely rebuilt and painted the seat structures on the Club cars making them better than new.
Thanks again!

Run Day February 8th, 2015

Great run day ! Three passenger trains, the Hunter, Big Boy and #2926 ran all day including a one hour Birthday Train. With seven other locomotives out running, there were no derailments and the park was full. With a nice breeze and 76° the passenger count was 649. Plus there were two baseball games and lots of group picnics. Everyone played nice together and had a great train day !



Work Day February 14, 2015

Work Day was very light, I guess because of Valentine's Day and it was hot.. 91° ! But the 10 members who showed up did a lot of work. They made the car lead to David's Yard an 80 foot curve instead of 57 feet! Cut out almost 6 inches of rail during the alignment. Five members working on the track, four were working in the station pulling wires for new speakers and David Lazarus working on the coffee machine and the Big Boy. Rich was the cook only served 14 total for lunch!

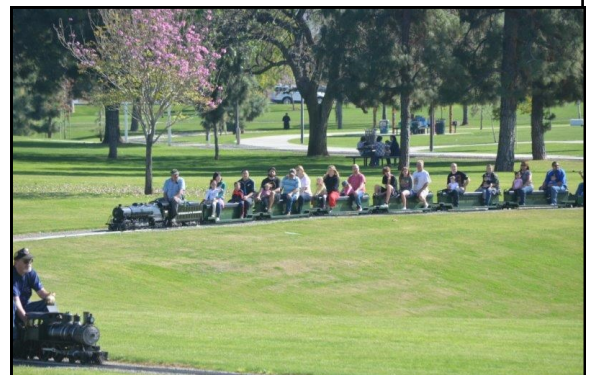
As a reminder the work day for March will be on Saturday the 14th.

Run Day February 22nd 2015

It was overcast and dreary when the Hunter went out, being ran by Mike Gardner. John Gurwell and Brook Adams pushed the Hunter cars out to the valley and opened the fuel boxes. Mike called Glenn at the station to let him know he would be late as he was setting switches and clearing track as he went. Brook grabbed a broom and started working his way out to him. Brad Bluth fired up to lend a hand with passenger service with Ryan Briggs as his brakeman.

Mostly the usual Run Day Suspects, Dean dropped by with the "Blue and Yellow" cars. Mike Flechman was out visiting his brothers, he pulled his engine out and wiped it down.

It started showering late afternoon, but the train and station crews persevered on and tried to keep the public train running. We pulled about 340 passengers, not bad for a short day.





From the Secretary...

There are still a few members that need to pay their 2015 dues. Please send them in to:

Riverside Live Steamers

P.O. Box 5512

Riverside, CA. 92517-5512.

Regular Member Dues are \$50.00 and

Non-Resident Dues are \$25.00.

Coming Events

March 8th: Run day

April 12th: Run day

March 14th: Work day & Board meeting

April 18th: Work day & Board meeting

March 22nd: Run day

April 26th: Run day

Sagebrush Short Line Railroad Spring Meet on March 27, 28 & 29, 2015 (invitational)

April 24, 25 & 26, Spring Meet

For Work Day and Run Day updates, Visit: www.steamonly.org

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