
THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

March Chronicle



Our second container has arrived!

The City wants it to look fabulous and we are seeking out ideas from the membership for the design of its decoration. If you have any suggestions, get them in to any board member before the end of April!!

Along the Track

Roadmaster-Board Member Rich Casford

We continue to have great work days at RLS. February was one of the best!

Our track crew moved out of the compound at 8:15 with all the tools and work trucks to repair the 80' of mainline track that was damaged by vehicle traffic the weekend of February 13-14, 2016.



Once on site, the track was disassembled in to panel lengths, removed from the roadbed, the ballast shoveled out of the trench, the good panels were installed while the Roadmaster returned to the Compound to select two new panels from the inventory in the yard.

When the Roadmaster left for the mainline, there was only one member working inside the Caboose packing up all the treasures of 50 years of storage! But when the Roadmaster returned he found 12 members loading out SMP Dave Bunts pickup truck like Jed from the Beverly Hillbillies!! Stuff was stacked higher the cab of Dave's truck. By the end of the day the Caboose was completely empty and the RLS Treasures were stacked in the old storage container.

Back to the track with the panels and the mainline was restored to service by 12 Noon. This was the first track damage in 6 years since the park was remodeled so we have been very lucky.

Also going on in the Compound was the installation of the new propane storage cage. If you are a propane engine owner, please move your tanks to the storage unit. Your equipment storage key will work on the lock.

John Gurwell had his big truck and welded on the transfer table and rails, installed a new bumping post at the south end of the transfer table. Project manager Dave Bunts and Larry Jongerius were seen making additional survey readings on the new escape track.

Lunch was provided by Chef John Gurwell and his wife Mary with apple cobbler provided by Dessert Chef Bob Beard. The Board Meeting followed at 1:00PM

We are still looking for a trailer to get full size RR ties as 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.

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 March 19 2016. Saturday 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.



SPECIAL NOTICE:

Since Easter falls on our March 27th Run Day and a number of members will be out of town or busy with other activities, The Board of Directors has **CLOSED** the Railroad on March 27th to observe the holiday. No official RLS activities will be happening that Sunday. We will have a closed sign in Hunter Station. Since it takes at least 12-15 members to operate the railroad, the Board felt that staffing was going to be a problem. **SAFETY FIRST!**

A Note From the President

Mike Gardner

Things are moving really quickly for RLS at Hunter Park. Our new storage container was delivered and is now in service. We still need to settle on the railroad theme we will utilize for it as requested by the Parks Department, so all you artists and design folks please submit ideas. I want to get this commitment handled before the end of summer, so we need to decide the theme by the end of April. Get your ideas in by April Fools Day please.



The escape track is coming along nicely. Under the direction of Dave Bunts, all the piers were set straight and concrete poured. Several strong backed members backfilled all the holes so we have a compound that is less reminiscent of a battlefield, but you still have to be careful not to walk into one of the piers. There is no way you are going to knock one over, but the reverse may not be true at all.

Despite it being the dead of winter, run and work days have been very warm if not downright hot. That means we have to begin paying attention to staying hydrated and not overheating again. It is important that none of us overexert ourselves. Heat stroke is real and it can sneak up on you. Please watch yourself and those around you. If you are too hot or see someone who is it is time for a break. Sit in the shade. Drink some water. Splash some on yourself. We can still accomplish a lot in hot weather, we just need to pace ourselves and be careful.

We had an unusual incident on the February 28 run day. A brawl broke out at one of the adult league softball games with about 40 people involved. A fairly large police response ensued, but the groups were separated by the time they arrived. Fortunately, there were no real injuries. The adult soft ball program is run by Major League Softball under contract to the City Parks Department. Both Major League Softball and the Parks Department have assured me that the two individuals who started the melee have been banned from the league and that they are taking additional steps to ensure there is not a repeat of this sort of event. In all the years we have shared the park with baseball players we have had a pretty good relationship. I don't recall ever seeing anything like this in the past. Several of the leaders of the organization have apologized to me for the incident. They were all concerned that our groups continue to get along, cooperate, and enjoy the park and all it has to offer. I do not anticipate a repeat of the incident.



Attention All Membership

IF YOU OPEN IT MAKE SURE YOU CLOSE IT!!

If you open a switch on the mainline and proceed into a siding or fuel track, make sure you go back and reset the switch to the mainline. We are having a growing problem of members operating their locomotives and failing to reset the switch after they go through it. You might just find a train come into the siding right behind you!

Also RLS does not have sprung switches, make sure the switch handle is placed in the direction on the track you want to go. The springs in the switches are to keep the points closed when you approach a leading switch. You can derail your pilot truck or other cars in your train.

ATTENTION ALL KEYHOLDERS: If you come out to the railroad on any off day and open the compressor room or need the fuel & water system, make sure everything is closed before you go home. We have found the fuel pump left on and the air compressor cycling when no one is on the property. In the compressor room, all the compressors have on/off switches on the wall behind each unit. There is an on/off switch for fuel and water on wall just to the right of the electrical cabinet.

As a Keyholder if you are on property on off days it is your responsibility to make sure the facility is completely secure. If your name is on the sign in book, you are the one to take care of it. On Run Days the OS has the responsibility for security unless the alarm book is signed over to another Keyholder.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 13th: Runday (West/Outerloop)

April 10th: Runday (East/ Outerloop)

March 19th: Work Day

April 16th: Work day

March 27th: RUNDAY CANCELLED

April 22nd-24th: Spring Meet
& Runday (East/ Fig-8)

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