

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers

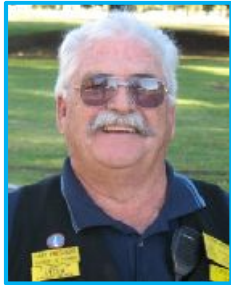
May/June/July 2012

Steam, Steam and More Steam  
Be Wise in the Heat  
What's in a Name, Part 1  
The Night Runs Cometh  
Run Days and Work Days



**The RLS Unsung Heros...**

This is a small tribute to the men and women who brake for the club each and every run day. These folks generally work tirelessly throughout the entire run day, loading, unloading, and keeping a watchful eye for errant riders on our public trains. Ultimately, they are responsible for the safety of each and every passenger on our public trains as they make their way around the mainline. Here's to them, our unsung but highly appreciated brakemen!



**Glenn Maness' (rather late) Word's O' Wisdom**

Hello again! Our Spring Meet has come and gone, and “wow!” what a time we had. It was a little hot, but that didn’t seem to dampen the enthusiasm of all of our visitors who came and had a great time. The O’Guinn family put on a great breakfast for us both days with all-you-wanted potatoes, sausage, bacon, French toast and pancakes; you couldn’t ask for more! Everyone sure seemed to enjoy the breakfast. Billy Mac and Chris Enright prepared lunch: hamburgers, chips and drinks. Everyone was able to stay at the railroad for lunch and keep their trains hot and enjoy the fellowship. Saturday night we had a great catered barbecue dinner and afterwards movies, and then had a terrific night run. If you weren’t there you sure missed a good time.

I just want to give a great big thank you to Bill Hesse, Vice President and Meet coordinator. He did a fantastic job of putting the meet together! There were so many details that had to be taken care of and it all came together just great. Also, a great big “thanks” to everyone who was there to help with our meet: without all of you, it would not have been as successful as it was.

It was good to see Dave Moore, Skip Borsuk and Lou Kader back on the railroad after being down. Let’s not forget the others who still need a little sunshine in their lives: Arlene Butler, Ken O’ Guinn and George Bartlow.

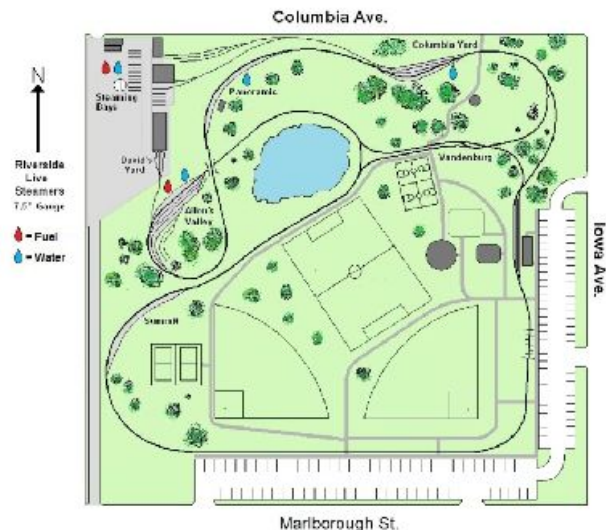
Did you know: In the early days of railroading, a law was enacted which read, “It is against the law for a train to enter the city limits unless preceded by a man on horseback.”

Until next time, FULL STEAM AHEAD!!

**You know you’re addicted to live-steaming when...**  
 Summer nights mean only one thing to you: Night Runs!

**Mainline Improvement Maps**

Located in our clubhouse (Babb’s Building) is a tablet containing several Hunter Park RLS track diagrams. At the request of our Road Master, Rich Casford, please use these to highlight any problems with our right-of-way. Simply circle the area of the mainline that needs attention and add a description to detail the problem. At the end of the day, place them on the Operation Superintendent’s clipboard. Rich will collect these and use them to organize our work days.





### Run Days (April, May and June)

We've had a lot of run days over the past few months that have not been written about. So, in short, that means we've had a lot of locomotives steaming around the park. For a longer report: in April, there were a lot of steam engines at the park (especially because of the Spring Meet); in May, there were a lot of steam engines in the park (because the weather was still nice); and in June, there were a lot of steam engines in the park because... well... because we can have a lot of steam engines in the park, darn it!

Some of the highlights: Our annual Candlelighters Run Day resumed on June 24<sup>th</sup> and was an amazing success! This is a tradition going back for many years as Randy Chase and Dean Willoughby operate a train for children (and their families) who are currently battling cancer; the Spring Meet was terrific (more on pages 5 and 6); Ron Wilkerson has added another locomotive to his growing line-up of locomotives (he purchased RLS-member Bill Shilling's immaculate 2-8-2); Paul Quick has a new, amazing 4-8-4 project; RLS was well represented at this year's Big Train Show; the "Fireman and Police Day" run went off without a hitch (which included the landing of a police helicopter in Hunter Park) and our annual City Luncheon was a hit !







## Spring Meet 2012

The wait was extraordinary: over 2 years. The preparation: exhausting. The outcome? Totally worth it! Over 100 RLS members, guests from other clubs, and railroad enthusiasts came to the RLS Spring Meet 2012 Celebration. Thirty-plus locomotives fired up at some point over the course of the three-day event. Folks visited, laughed, ate, conversed, and enjoyed the new look of Hunter Hobby Park. But, most of all, the Spring Meet showed just how alive our hobby is... and how it's filled with a bunch of really good people.

To begin, Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> was a little warm. Okay... it was kind of hot. Alright, alright: Friday, was down-right scorching! According to the thermometer in the compound, the temperature reached a high of 106 degrees by 3:00. Along with the heat, the humidity was also well above normal, making our first day pretty brutal to run a locomotive. But by 10:00am, there were plenty of locomotives and members out in the park. Kicking off our day were all of the fine folks from the greater Ridgecrest area who arrived at the park early Friday and stayed all the way through Sunday afternoon.

The weather on Saturday wasn't nearly as bad as Friday. It was still warm, but bearable. Since Friday is considered a load-in day, Saturday is the first "official" day of the Spring Meet. Keeping with RLS tradition, anyone who came to the club Saturday morning received a free breakfast cooked up by the O'Guinn Family. It is the perfect way to kick off "The Meet!" By 10:00am, there were several locomotives under steam as folks anxiously looked forward to taking a trip around the new Hunter Hobby Park.

This year, it was decided to try something new: when folks got hungry, instead of having to leave the park to find the noon-time grub, folks could purchase a barbecued hamburger with all the fixings, chips, and a soda. Chris Enright was the "cook d' jour" and he fired up those burgers as well as he fires his locomotive! It seems the Saturday cook-off was a hit as every burger sold. The outcome was exactly what was hoped for: Lots of trains kept running right through lunch-time.

As Saturday evening settled in, about 80 folks did the same into Allen's Valley as they partook in the second "Dinner & Show". The first of these events took place two years ago during our Fall Meet. But, because of the park's Renaissance program, we had no meets and, therefore, no Meet Dinners. This year, the dinner was catered by the same company (South Fork Catering) and everyone agreed: it was just as good (if not, then better) than before! Everyone was treated to barbecue tri-tip AND chicken, potatoes, beans, and salad. Once the sun set, the giant make-shift movie screen lit up with a delightful show, "The Titsfield Thunderbolt" (A charming movie about a small English town trying to save their beloved railroad). This was followed up by several small, historic, 16mm films about the local railroad scene (thank you John Lytle!). The whole Food N' Film experience was accented by the sounds of steam engines wrapping their way around Allen's Valley. If you missed this event, we'll offer it again (weather permitting) during our Fall Meet in October.

Sunday was the sad day. Even though several trains fired up and enjoyed the morning, by 1:00, many of them were being loaded into trailers or pick-up trucks for their return trip home. By 4:00, only a few RLS members remained as they cleaned up the compound after the weekend's festivities. After a two-year hiatus, the RLS Meets have successfully resumed and again, the fellowship and good times have returned to the park; and our tradition for putting on a heck of a good show are back in the books!





## What's in a name: Babb's Building

By Rich Casford

Many newer members may have a question on how a particular building or area of the railroad got its location name. This will be a series of short stories about how the various buildings, locations, and track sections received their names as we go around the railroad.

Starting in the compound area, the Engine House (where we currently hold the meetings and lunches) is called Babb's Building. Named for Bob Babb, one of the original founders of RLS, Bob and the first members of RLS built the steaming area, old compressor house, Babb's building, transfer table and hoist. Most of the equipment was salvaged from the Joe Hunter Property, which was just southwest of the far west fence-line, over by the Marlborough Ave. side of the park.

Our current compound area was an empty plot of land when the club was formed. The caboose roof can be seen in first photo in the "Looking Back" section of photos on the website. Ron Wilkerson was involved in the move of the Caboose from the Marlborough side of Hunter Park to the Columbia side including a 90° turn of the Caboose via snap track and a DeSoto automobile as a towing vehicle!!



Taking shelter inside the Babb's Building.

## Heat and Hydration

As we enter the time of year where the heat becomes more and more a factor on run days, take this as a gentle reminder to keep yourself well hydrated. As of late, our run days and work days have seen temperatures hovering just below and just above 100 degrees. It is recommended we consume approximately 16 to 20 ounces of water per hour at these temperatures. If we are exercising (during a work day), we should drink about 24 to 32 ounces of water per hour. Because of the dilution factor (loss of salt from the body) when drinking large amounts of water, it is recommended to drink a sports beverage once every other hour in addition to the water intake. Do not rely on the feeling of "thirst". Drink early and drink often! Also, be alert for signs of dehydration and heat stroke, not only with yourself, but with other folks as well. Dizziness for no apparent reason, muscle spasms or cramps, dark yellow or light-brown urine, clumsiness and a sudden incoherence or mood change are all signs of dehydration and/or heat stroke. If you feel any of these symptoms or see them happen to an RLS member, immediately seek shade, drink cool water or a sports drink, rub water on the neck and arms of the effected, and get help. Though preventable, dehydration is a killer.



## Google Earth: A Look into Railroading's Past

By now, most of us have heard of and/or use Google Earth. Personally, I use it to follow old and abandoned railroad right-of-ways of the Colorado narrow gauge railroads, logging railroads of Oregon and Washington, and locally to find old industrial branch lines. One of the more interesting features of Google Earth is the "Time Warp" button located just above the main viewing area. This allows the user to see what cities and areas were like 10 and sometimes 20 years ago. However, being curious, I decided to find out what was the oldest viewable photo-map available within the Google Earth Program. On the North American continent, the oldest I could find was from 1930. It is two small sections of Ontario, Canada, just east of Lake Ontario. However



(this is where things get REALLY interesting), if you zoom in over San Francisco, the "Time Warp" feature allows us to go back to 1938! The railroad and inter-urban traction activity is amazing (including what looks to be four GS-2 or 3 series locomotives waiting for service next to the old round house). There are steamships arriving and departing all along the wharf; more trolleys than

you can shake a stick at; cable cars by the fist-full, and even a small switcher sitting in front of the old Belt Railroad engine house (which still exists today). It is also quite interesting to switch back and forth between 1938 and modern-day to see what has changed. By all means, check out this wonderful feature. Just be sure to allot a few hours of time, as it is very captivating.

## Night runs are coming soon!

Be sure to attend the July Board Meeting (on Saturday, 7/14/12) to find out what evenings we will be resuming our scheduled night-runs. With the day-time temperatures reaching 100+ degrees, summer evenings have become the perfect time for barbecue and steam locomotives. Over the past few years, we haven't seen very many evening runs due to the inherent danger of the darkness combined with open irrigation and infrastructure trenches. However, since our park is back in order, a few night runs seem to be in good order. These are special runs only for RLS members and their guests. See you at the Park... at night!





## Work Days (April, May and June)

Like our run days over the past few months, our work days can be summed up as such, “Work-work-work, work-work-work, work-work-work. Hello boys, have a good night’s rest? I missed you!”

Leading up to the Spring Meet, the focus was to ensure the railroad was in top shape for the visiting locomotives and their families. However, after the meet, we’ve been dealing with a lot of irrigation issues. As the temperature has risen, the irrigating has increased in time and frequency. This has led to a number of areas where the right-of-way (track and ballast) is sinking into an underlying layer of mud.

The frequent watering times have also brought us “The Riverside Live Steamers Water Park Ride”. Several of the run days have seen sprinklers popping up at the most inopportune times! Like the “Splash Mountain” ride at Disneyland, people get on the boat (in our case, the trains) perfectly dry. In many cases, they returned... well... shall we say, “Thoroughly bathed”. As one can imagine, with the sun heating up the rails to 130+ degrees and then the



sprinklers dousing them in cool water, heat kinks and rail-creep have been a bit of a problem. Therefore, our work days after the Spring Meet have been primarily concentrating on problems created by heat and water.

Within the compound, Bill Hesse et al have finished the installation of 8 more security cameras. These are positioned to “see” and record from Allen’s Valley, the fuel tank and the south doors of the Noble-Quick Building. Also, the club’s Big Boy is getting attention as Dave Bunts and Larry Jongerius started analyzing and prioritizing the repair work needed to bring the giant beast up to operable, passenger-hauling condition.

As always, once crews have put in several hours of hard work (in many cases, taking out several panels of track, leveling the foundation, then replacing and tamping the track back into place), our lunch crew, Donna and Curtis Claybrook, have served several fantastic meals to hungry RLS folks.

The monthly Board of Director’s Meetings have covered everything from the equipment and parts needed to rebuild the club’s C-16 to the recruitment of new Brakemen and Hunter engineers. It is recommended that all local members attend the meeting as their input is important in the decision making process of the BoD.



### A Frustrating Day

Though it had already been over a year, we were still only half-way there. It's as foreign to look at now as it was for us to envision what our completed park might eventually look like. In June 2011, Bill Mac and the Parrott Family made a walk around the entire mainline, inspecting the many new pathway crossings. Though it's difficult to make out, sticking out of the top of the large trash bin in the back ground (as if to wave goodbye) is the remains of our old trestle.

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### COMING RLS EVENTS:

**July 8:** Run Day

**July 14:** Workday and Monthly Board Meeting

**July 22:** Run Day

**Aug. 12:** Run Day

**Aug. 18:** Workday and Monthly Board Meeting

**Aug. 26:** Run Day

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Visit the RLS Website: [www.steamonly.org](http://www.steamonly.org)

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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 scheduled activities for more information. Public run days are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Work days (Fun Day) are held the Saturday following the first run day of each month. The monthly Board of Directors Meeting is held at 1:00 p.m. at Hunter Park on the same Saturday as our work days.

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### Riverside Live Steamers' Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

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**Vice President:** Bill Hesse

**Secretary:** Brook Adams

**Treasurer:** Dean Willoughby

#### DIRECTORS

Bill Gardner

Dave Bunts

Bill McLaughlin

David Parrott