

May 2015

# The RLS Chronicle

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



## The Big Boy..

After many hours of TLC, this impressive 4-8-8-4, 1/8 scale engine is delighting the visitors at Hunter Park.

Paul Hunter donated the Big Boy to the Riverside Live Steamers a few years ago and it is proving to be quite popular with our riders and volunteers alike.

(Engineer Bob Smith is shown in the photo)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, in spite of ourselves, we have managed to yet again pull off a Meet. Saturday dawned with overcast and the forecast of rain. It did not stop the intrepid live steam brethren who arrived in droves to run steam trains, look at steam powered trains, and talk about that wonderful topic of steam trains, the engines that pull those trains, and all the minutia that goes along with making the things work according the laws of steam and physics.

The rain that had been forecast materialized late in the afternoon, and I will admit that I have never seen the railroad, and then the steaming bays empty as fast as they did Saturday afternoon. Sunday dawned with clear skies, and far warmer temperatures. A smattering of guests remained on Sunday, and there was a fair turnout of the RLS membership to enjoy a second day upon the rail of Riverside.

All in all, it is a credit to AJ Benson that the thing went as smoothly as it did considering the rain on Saturday and a heavy train load on Sunday. I want to thank AJ, and ALL the RLS members who once again pulled together to make the meet happen. It was a wonderful time, and I believe that right up until the rain started, were having as good a time as one can have without being arrested. I suppose we can try and blame AJ for the rain, but I don't think it will work in a court of law, so we won't try.

I will leave the reporting of the meet to the crack staff of the Chron, but I do want to say "Well done" to the membership. I had a good time right up to the point that I froze solid, and I am going to be willing to bet that our guests did too.

Maybe we ought to try all this again, in October...

Dave



## Along the Track – Roadmaster Rich Casford

The Railroad performed to high standards at the recent Spring Meet. A big thanks goes to all the members who have worked on the track during the last 6 months from the Fall Meet 2014. Railroads required maintenance year round and our track workers never let us down!

We continue to monitor the track during our normal Run Days, which is the best way to detect track alignment issues and needs. All engineers have a responsibility not only to report track repairs items but they should also lend a hand to the maintenance work. There is a track map by the coffee pot in the engine house. Make spots needing attention for the track crew.

Sometimes the best time to complete a track maintenance issue is when the Railroad is in full operation during Run Days. Track leveling and alignment can be done between trains. This is a part of railroading in general practice, many times trains pass working track crews on the BNSF or UP systems. With trains in operation the track crew can see immediate results in their work and the train crews can pass on valuable information in real time.

Summer time still allows for work on the track. As many of the long time members know, summer heat in Riverside usually arrives in the afternoon, mornings are pleasant! Please remember to drink fluids during the warmer summer months. Be aware of your fellow members for heat stroke. If you see something say something!

Safety is always Rule #1 on any Railroad, RLS is no different. The Operating Superintendent and the main passenger trains all carry radios. When the Roadmaster and SMP (Superintendent of Motive Power) are on the property they too carry radios. Many of our members also carry radios in use on Run Days, making the operations go smoothly and it provides an extra layer of safety.

All of our mainline switches are locked in the approach position. All engineers, conductors and brakemen need switch keys. If you need a key please see Roadmaster Rich Casford.

Our next FUN (work) Day will be Saturday, **May 16, 2015 starting at 8:00 AM.**  
Lunch to the workers at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM open to all.

Rich Casford, Roadmaster

Radio Call Sign- Road 2



## **1:1 Scale Fun !**

The city of Fullerton will be hosting their 15th annual Railroad Days event May 2nd & 3rd.

Featured participants will include BNSF, The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, Disneyland Resort, the Southern California Scenic Railway Association and the Santa Fe 3751 steam locomotive.

This event will kick off Fullerton's three weekend Transportation Celebration.

For more information you can check the website of the Southern California Railway Plaza Association at: <http://www.scrpa.net/scrrdays.htm>

## **"Train me out to the Ball Game..."**

April 2nd through September 29th Metrolink will be running their "Angels Express" trains.

Originating from three of their stations: L.A. Union Station, Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo & Riverside Downtown, all will be converging on Anaheim's new Artic Station.

For more information on tickets and timetables visit Metrolink at: <http://www.metrolinktrains.com>

## **Club Member T Shirts:**

If you missed out ordering a Club Member T-shirt we have a few extra in stock. Med, Large, XL and 2XL available in very limited quantity for \$12.00 ea. If you would like a shirt see the Roadmaster, or email [rich@whittiermailing.com](mailto:rich@whittiermailing.com) and I will check your size availability.



## **Run Day April 12<sup>th</sup> 2015:**

The first run day of the month had more of the feel of a “Meet Day” than a “Run Day”. With Jeff Gorjans as Operating Superintendent there were seven engines out on the railroad and 26 members on hand.

John Gurwell as Hunter Engineer with Jim Wood covering Brakeman duties in the morning and Brian Stephens later in the day. President Bunts was on hand handling relief as both Hunter Engineer and Brakeman.

Assisting with passenger service at the Station were Rich Casford and his mighty 4-8-4 with A.J. Benson as his Brakeman. Brad Bluth and Ryan Briggs swapping duties on Brad’s 4-6-6-4 Challenger locomotive. Bob Smith and Brook Adams took care of the Birthday Party train pulled by the Big Boy.

New member Robert Roberts was on hand making sure the Hunter park guest made safely across the four track grade crossing, and Barry Ferguson tending the Hunter Station switches getting all the trains where they needed to go.

Passenger trains were not alone on the railroad as the freight fleet and mixed consists were well represented by Larry Fisher and Ron Wilkerson on Ron’s Mikado, Paul Quick and Cameron McMonigle running Paul’s train, Gary Macko was at the throttle of his Berkshire (Jim Krieder even took a lap or two) while Andrew Martin was on the rails with his narrow gauge 2-4-2.

## **The Spring Meet 2015 and Run Day:**

The staff of the Chronicle would like to add their thanks to our Club Vice President, A.J. Benson and our membership in this year’s Spring Meet. We invite you to enjoy the photos in this month’s Chron provided by George Bartlow and Joan Adams. For more photos please visit: <http://www.steamonly.org/>





## The Big Train Show

June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Big Train Show rolls back into the Ontario Convention Center and here's your chance to be a part of the show!

If you would like to help out at the R.L.S. booth please contact Glenn Maness or Bill Mac and let them know you'd like to lend a hand.

## Coming Events

May 10th: Run day

June 14th: Run day

May 16th: Work day & Board meeting

June 20th: Work day & Board meeting

May 24th: Run day

June 28th: Run day

June 6th & 7th: The Big Train Show, Ontario Convention Center

For more information, or to volunteer please contact Glenn Maness or Bill Mac

For Work Day and Run Day updates, Visit: [www.steamonly.org](http://www.steamonly.org)

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## Riverside Live Steamers Board of Directors

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