

THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



November 2013

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Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Several of the RLS "Old-timers" got together during the evening dinner at our Fall Meet. Each was attempting to put into words the day that had just preceded them. Words like, "Fantastic", "Impressive", and "Unprecedented" were tried on for size. Yet, none fit as well as "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious". The gigantic word gives just a tiny taste of how big the Fall Meet turned out to be. Pictured above is about half the number of locomotives that would steam up and polish our mainline on Saturday, Oct. 26th.



View from the Right Hand Seat Box – President Rich Casford



CONGRATULATIONS Vice President & FALL MEET CHAIR Mac McLaughlin for a job WELL DONE!! Our Fall Meet was a huge success on many counts: locomotives, trains, members & visitor's attendance and great food! Recap of the meet will be found in this issue of the Chronicle. However, I want to thank all the members and spouses who helped during the meet to make sure all the jobs were handled and everyone had fun!

The Railroad operated very smoothly and it was exciting to see so many steam locomotives around the track. If you missed the meet, you missed the party of the year!

November is our traditional end of leadership for four outgoing Board Members and the election of four new Board Members. In the second time in the history of the organization there were only four members nominated for the four open positions. As with tradition, no formal ballot was needed for voting.

Your four new Board Members are AJ Benson, Jeff Gorjans, Dave Parrott and Dave Bunts. A great mix of new talent and experienced Board Members. Dave and Dave have both served on the Board in prior years and both are currently in management positions for RLS. Dave Parrott is our great Editor of the Chronicle and master of the annual RLS calendar. Dave Bunts is our current Superintendent of Motive Power, Safety Inspector and Special Construction Leader. AJ Benson is part of our signal team and has been an activity member of RLS since 2006. Jeff Gorjans is an active new member of RLS, working on signals and other construction projects on our work days. All four new Board Members are very active participants at RLS on Work Days and Run Days.

The new Board Members and the remaining four Board Members of Jim Kreider, Bob Beard, David Lazarus and Rich Casford will gather on Saturday, November 16th to elect 2014 officers. Plan now to come out, lend a hand at the Railroad, have lunch at Noon and learn who will lead the club in 2014 at our Annual Meeting starting at 1:00PM.

I want to thank outgoing Board Members Mac McLaughlin, Bill Hesse, Brook Adams, and Chris Enright for their two years of service. Of course we will still see them around the Railroad in various activities. RLS is just a great place to spend time!

RLS is a great place to enjoy Live Steam Railroading. We always have to remember that we operate a Railroad in a PUBLIC PARK. There are others who use the park and may not appreciate the care that we take in our Railroad. If you come out to the track during the week you need to be alert to rocks on the track or in the crossings. Your Roadmaster and/or Switch Maintainer Manny Caldera walk the track before each Run Day making sure everything is ready to run. During the week if you operate your locomotive you need to make sure crossings are free of rocks and switches are set for the direction of your run. It's your responsibility to look at the track. First locomotive out of the compound on any operating day should be alert and run slow until it is known that that track is clear and ready for regular operations.

See you at the Railroad,
Rich Casford, President/Roadmaster



So, really: How great was the Fall Meet? Let the pictures provide the answer.



Pam Weiss brought this Disney World beauty from Las Vegas. This locomotive is for sale... in case you were wondering.



Roger and Wavy Frymire, from Bakersfield, with their Daylight including 4 passenger cars, 4 SP freight cars and a caboose.



Dave Bunts and Larry "The Shades-wearing Bear" Nilles ease the Big Boy out of Allen's Valley.



Jim Ferguson made many laps with his coal burning, 3.75" scale, 2-6-2. Ya shoulda heard the whistle on this baby!



Down from Sacramento, Gil Baird enjoys a moment with his Berkshire barking up the hill out of Allen's Valley.



When not running Amtrak trains, Andrew Martin runs his 2-4-2 narrow gauge locomotive!



Robert Butler came from the Tehachapi's to make tracks with his 2-6-0.



Mike Reeves made the trek from Ridgecrest to polish our rails with his 4-6-2.



Rounding out the Berkshire representatives, Tom Lawson with #777 glides through Noble Junction.



Bill Hesse throttles open his 4-6-0 and pulls his maintenance-of-way train toward Panorama Siding.



Making sure small steam had a good showing, Scott Horgan fires "Capt. Joe" for several laps on our mainline.



Nathan Parrott on the Parrott's Shay (Moana) pulling Scott Horgan's side-dump cars.



Jeff Gorjan's handsome "Whitewater Western" 4-6-2 awaits another day of steaming.



Bringing their mega-train off the hill, Jonathan Chase (4-4-2) and Marty Simmons (4-8-4) prepare to pull the public.



Keeping the "Wow!" factor at its maximum, Brad Bluth readies to make the climb up to Summit Siding on his Challenger.



Doug Maywald from the Orange County Model Engineers brought his spotless RGS #20 on Sunday afternoon.



Ken Mitch with his stunning Pacific: This locomotive made our rails sing all three days.



Making steam on the final day of the meet, Charlie Kennemer eases his mogul toward Allen's Valley for a water stop.



Eber West pauses his Mesa Grande 2-8-0 in Allen's Valley. His loco may be small, but it runs like the dickens!



You wouldn't believe a locomotive this clean could possibly burn coal. Tony Burzio shows how it's done! photo by Gary Macko



Aided by Ted Johnson and Brian Stephens, Mark Andrews readies his Climax for its first run at RLS. Photo by George Bartlow



Bob Cumming fires up his sleek Mikado for an evening of night running.



Under the engineering prowess of Greg Casford, the Casford's mighty Northern was a welcome site! Photo by George Bartlow



With a nod from Glenn Maness, Josh Klaske readies his 4-6-4 for one more lap around the park. Photo by George Bartlow



This Invicta ran at the club back in the 1960's! Dean Willoughby keeps it looking and running like new. Photo by Gary Macko



Richard Miller proudly brings out his 0-6-0 for a little bit of the "Fall Meet Madness"



Rounding out the 2-8-2's, Gus Farwick brings Ron Wilkerson's locomotive down grade from Summit Siding.



Bob Beard has been working on the Grand Canyon for many months. The little coal-burner happily made several laps.



Lastly, but certainly not least: the locomotive that started it all! Bob Smith ran the Hunter on the final day of the meet.



Even the least of our locomotives is live-steam! Nathan Parrott fires "Ida" on a tiny layout he set up in Allen's Valley.



RLS Travels to the Mesa Grande Railroad

Just about every year since 1961, Bill and Kirsten Semerau's Mesa Grande Railroad has opened its doors to the public for one weekend in October. Live-steamers and train-loving folks make the pilgrimage into the semi-deep desert to this out-of-the-ordinary railroad. This year, quite a number of RLS folks headed out to the railroad for an extraordinary railroading event.

Mesa Grande is a quarter-scale (3" to the foot), narrow gauge railroad. Meaning the gauge between the rails is nine inches. Thus, the locomotives and rolling-stock are big... really big! Add to that its impressive climb up into the mountains with a few grades approaching 6%, and you've got an amazing, live-steam railroading experience!

The mainline is populated with stations, mine buildings, trestles, deep cuts and even a Tehachapi-style loop. Way up at the top of the property sits a tall lookout tower, offering the brave souls who climb its ladder a beautiful panorama of the railroad and surrounding mountains. Locomotives include a mogul, C-16, and a small diesel switcher.

Next September, keep an eye out for the invitational flyers at the RLS club house. This is one railroad you really ought to see and experience for yourself!



Crossing one of the two tall trestles, Mike Massee keeps a steady hand on the throttle of the Mesa Verde's C-16.



RLS Members Matt Swan and Bob Smith take another crowd of excited folks for a trip on this amazing railroad.



Engineering the Mesa Grande's 2-6-0, Eber West brings another passenger train back to the lower station area.



October 13th Run Day

It seems lately, the run day prior to either the Spring or Fall Meet has become a dress rehearsal for the excitement and fellowship for the meet that follows. October 13th was no exception! With 10 locomotives under steam and 35 members present, this really was a dry run for the Fall Meet.

Locomotives out polishing our rails were Dean Willoughby's 4-8-4; Ron Wilkerson's 2-8-2; Bill Phillip's 4-6-2; Jeff Gorjan's 4-6-2; Rich Casford's 4-6-2; Brendon Hilton's 4-4-2; The Lannon's 4-4-2 (operated by Jonathan Chase); Charlie Kennemer's 2-6-0, Richard Miller's 0-6-0 and the club's 4-8-4 (Bill Hesse and John Gurland).

It was a busy day at the station with not only the regular passenger train (pulled by the Hunter), but also two birthday trains! The first party train was headed up with Rich Casford's Pacific and the second party train was double-

headed by Dean Willoughby's big Northern and Jonathan Chase on an Atlantic. Because we had so many passenger trains, we had an equally large number of brakemen: Charlie Gresham, Dean Willoughby, Randy Chase, A.J. Benson, Mike Graham, and Ted Johnson.

Keeping calm, cool and collected while ensuring all of our passengers understood the rules to ride, Glenn Manness flawlessly performed the Station Master duties. And keeping the entire run day under control was our Operation Supervisor, David Lazarus.

This was also a red-letter day for one of our newer members: Brian Stephens pulled the throttle of Ron Wilkerson's 2-8-2, thus keeping with a long-standing RLS tradition of training new, live-steam engineers!





Going to the Dogs

Enjoying the ride every bit as much people do, El Guapo (the handsome one) “takes it all in” as he sits at the rear of a long train on a perfect 2012 October afternoon.

COMING RLS EVENTS:

Nov 10: Run Day

Nov 16: Fun Day (Work Day, B.O.D meeting)

Nov 24: Run Day

Dec 8: Run Day

Dec 14: Fun Day (Work Day, B.O.D meeting)

Dec 22: Christmas-themed Run Day

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Riverside Live Steamers' Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Rich Casford

Vice President: Mac McLaughlin

Secretary: Brook Adams

Treasurer: Jim Kreider

DIRECTORS

Chris Enright

Bob Beard

David Lazarus

Bill Hesse