

October 2015

The RLS Chronicle

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



Nothing is too big for RLS steam guys !!

Brendon Hilton, ground man and Matt Casford Operations Manager & Engineer
#3751 Fullerton RR Days 2015.

Along the Track – Roadmaster Rich Casford

A railroad is made up of rails, ties, ballast, switches, signals, buildings, fuel & repair facilities, locomotives and cars.

The most important part of a Railroad are the people! Without people, a railroad can not run, repair itself or build new things.

RLS is a railroad in every detail of a modern system. At the top of the list is a crew of dedicated members who come and spend their Saturdays and Sundays making sure RLS is in the best shape possible for safe train operations.

The September Work Day was a perfect example of the team work of RLS members. After morning track inspection I posted red work limit flags on several sections of the track. The members of the RLS Track Crew arrived and were assigned tools and sections to begin their work windows. At one time we had four different track crews working on the mainline!! This every month work on the track makes our Run Days go very smooth! It's not hard work when we level and align track each month before it becomes problem of rough track and low joints.

Meanwhile back in the Compound work began on replacing the fuel pump for the trackside fuel facilities in Allen's Valley. The fuel pump had failed the prior Run Day. During the week President & SMP Bunts spent time on the internet to find a replacement pump for the 30+ year old failed pump! Compound Supervisor Brook Adams dug out his hardcopy Grainger Catalog and found an appropriate motor/pump coupling. When Saturday arrived all major parts were on hand with only one trip to the hardware store for some misc. pipe fittings. By 11 AM the new pump was installed and signed off by the Compound Supervisor.

In addition to the fuel pump installation, Assistant SMP Larry Jongerius was servicing and doing minor repairs on #5057, The Hunter locomotive, making it steam ready for the next Run Day.

It takes people to make RLS work. Consider joining your fellow members on the next FUN (work) Day or Run Day to lend a hand in maintenance and operations. Everyone likes to run trains but things just do not happen on there own at RLS. We are a railroad so there are always maintenance items to handle.

Speaking of Volunteer's, it's that time of the year for Board of Director nominations. RLS is governed by a Board of Directors, with appointed managers to handle various divisions of the Railroad. If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination please see any Board Member or manager. Be a part of directing the activities of RLS. It is a great way to enjoy your membership in the Riverside Live Steamers.

Our next FUN (work) Day will be Saturday, **October 17th**. Lunch to the workers at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM open to all. The Fall Meet is only one month away. We will continue our free Breakfast both Saturday and Sunday October 24th and 25th at the Fall Meet. Due to lack of demand and high cost, the RLS Board of Directors voted to NOT do lunch or dinner Saturday, October 24th. Lunch and Dinner will be on your own to allow for continuous train operations into the night on Saturday Night of the Meet.

See you on the Railroad,
Rich Casford, Roadmaster- ROAD 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every work place has "that guy" - you know the one, the one that is always screwing up, always missing when there is work to be done, the one that you can't trust to do anything right. I have one of those at work, and every one of you knows a 'that guy' from someplace that you've worked at. The interesting thing about RLS is we don't have 'that guy' on the property. I was sitting looking at the assembled members at the last general meeting from my exalted place at the front table, the one that took place at the end of the last work day. It was hot, everyone was tired, everyone wanted to go home to cool off and kick back with their feet up. But they were there. All of you folks who have had the privilege of coming to a work day and getting hot or tired or dirty knows the feeling - all you are thinking of is "Just shut up and let us go home", yet you stay and listen to the Board of Directors blather on about almost anything. I was thinking just that when I looked out, and it struck me at the time that it's those hot, tired and patient people that make this club go around and around the loops of track that we have the joy of running on. I made comment about it at the time - it isn't the Board that makes the place run, it's the members. It's all of you, the ones that pitch in to get the jobs done, the ones that run towards the problems rather than away from them, the ones that stay at the end of a long hot dirty work day that make RLS what it is. We may not be the biggest in terms of trackage, membership, or club coffers, but I will guarantee that we have the biggest heart of anyplace you want to mention. If you talk with new members, it always seems to come down to friendly and helpful members that attracts the new guys. I'm not going to bag on the other clubs, it isn't fair. They just don't seem to have the same spirit that we do, and because of that spirit, RLS is what it is. A great place to come hang out and play with trains. I want to thank you all for making it the place that it is, the membership did it, and continues to do it. Thank you.

Now for the bad news - Board elections are coming up. We have a slate of 6 tentative candidates, if you want to be on the board, if you want the challenge of trying to herd cats on run days, and the absolute joy of having reserved seating at the Board meetings, let one of the current Board know. It would be nice to have some of the newer members take a seat at the front. We NEED the new thinking, we NEED different perspectives, and there is no reason that you can't be part of taking RLS forward. Think about it - it's better than the Army reserve who claims 1 weekend a month and 2 weeks in the summer. We only need 1 day a month (and it's short day at that) and a couple of times as OS during the year. Think about it - each of you has something to offer RLS, go ahead and share it.

More bad news - the meet is coming, the meet is coming. We have dropped lunches and dinners but we have NOT dropped the need for folks to work in several places along the railroad. Be part of the meet rather than a spectator. See AJ and find out where he has a need for you to be. A bunch o' folks helping means that none of us are required to spend all day watching the trains rather than running the trains on the meet weekend.

Dave Bunts

Along the Fence Line – City Liaison Rich Casford

In my role as City Liaison to the City of Riverside I handle the various contacts with City of Riverside departments when RLS needs to work on joint projects.

One such project was the replacement of the west property line fence in our compound. This area was changed during the Columbia Bridge overpass project in 2009 resulting in our compound fence being moved 6 feet into our compound for an access walkway to enter the park grounds.

After completion of the Bridge, the access walkway was closed. The new fence line was never removed. Working with the property owners to the west of our compound, Parks & Recreation Department of Riverside, the park landscaping contractor and Elrod Fence Co. the old fence was removed, the bushes cut back and a new compound fence line installed along the west property line.

It took 10 months to reach an agreement between all parties to complete the work.

The biggest THANK YOU has to go to RLS Member Bill Hesse who volunteered to be the RLS member on site for the project which was only going to take 3 days. Working with all of the various contractors and City Departments the 3 day project turned into a 5 day project with Bill Hesse becoming a one man work crew to remove the final bushes that were in the way of the new fence. Bill's CAN DO attitude proved once again that RLS can handle almost any project at Hunter Hobby Park.

Next time you see Bill tell him Thanks! And don't mention bush trimming at your house!

Reminders....

Board of Directors election is coming in November. If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination, please let any current board member know.

RSL member Dave Parrott will be out with some of his students filming the RLS segment for Inland Treasures on the Oct. 11th run day. So bring out your trains and join in the fun!



September 13th & 27th Run Days

Run Day Reports:

Though not the hottest Run Days we've had this year the September 13th and 27th Run Days were still pretty toasty.

Due to a combination of the heat, end of the summer vacations, start of football season and Fall Meets starting at various other railroads things were a bit quieter in September.

The Run Day of the 13th was West-bound outside loop. Hunter Engineer in training Larry Fisher had a chance to log a few more laps at the throttle under the guidance of our SMP David Bunts. Other Hunter Engineers of the day were Bill Hesse and Brook Adams. Hunter Brakeman duties were covered by Jim Wood and Kenneth Long. Our party train was handled by Brad Bluth and Cameron McMonigle sharing responsibilities at both ends of the train.

The Run Day of the 27th we pulled 432 passengers on the West-bound figure eight. Hunter Engineers for the day were John Gurwell and Mike Gardner. Hunter train Brakeman duties were shared by Ken Mitoma and Bob Roberts. At the Station were Chloe Delatorre, Jack Berg handling the merchandise cart. Marty Berg once again keeping all of our guests safe at the four track crossing and Station Master Glenn Maness overseeing it all.

A very big thanks to all that made it out to help on the Run Days.





RLS Fall Meet , October 23-25 2015...

Hurray ! It's that time of year again !

Time for running trains, visiting with friends, having a good time... and lending a hand.

There will be a sign up sheet to volunteer located in the compound on the soda machine, and we will need everyone's help to make this a great meet.

Even signing up for a 30 min. shift will make the day easier and more fun for everyone.

Coming Events

Oct 11th: Run day

Nov 8th: Run day

Oct 17th: Work day & Board meeting

Nov 14th: Work day & Board meeting

Oct 25th: Run day (Fall Meet)

Nov 22nd: Run day

The RLS Fall Meet...October 23rd, 24th & 25th

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

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 a Run Day or Work Day for more information. Public Run Days are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, Work Days (Fun Days) are held the Saturday following the first Run Day of the month.

Riverside Live Steamers Board of Directors

Officers

President: Dave Bunts

Vice President: AJ Benson

Secretary: Brook Adams

Treasurer: Joan Adams

Directors

Larry Fisher

Mike Gardner

Jeff Gorjans

Bill Hesse