

# THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

September 2017 Chronicle



"While no one railroad can completely duplicate another line, two or more may compete at particular points."  
-John Moody

# President's Remarks

## Brian Stephens

I am pleased to announce the completion of the Casford Crossing during the August Fun Day. Your President, Vice President, and Roadmaster stayed late after the meeting and finished the final alignment and tamping. Thanks to our switch builder Richard Ronne, Safety Inspector – Dave Bunts, Roadmaster – Rich Casford, and the track crews for all the work involved in constructing this addition to our railroad. The new crossing is located between Noble Junction and Vandenberg, and provides additional operating flexibility in running the railroad.

Thanks to all the members who have been working to keep our railroad and facilities in good condition and complete items on our project list. Please make a concerted effort to clean up after yourself and do your part to help keep our facilities in top shape for everyone's use.

Please plan on joining us on our September 16 Fun Day. There are no major projects scheduled so we plan to have an early Board meeting at 11 a.m. and then run trains. We will be a stop on the National Model Railroaders Association layout tour from 1 to 5 p.m. Lunch is on your own.

Don't forget to make your plans now to attend our Fall Meet October 20-22, 2017.

See you at the railroad



## Along the Track

### Rich Casford, Roadmaster

While waiting for the track crew to assemble those members on hand quickly took care of the weeds in the compound. This is a very important job on the railroad and if we keep after it the task does not take long to complete. Cleaning the compound is every member's responsibility. Please pick up after yourself as we are not your mothers!

Once the donuts and coffee were finished work continued on the second crossover on the Vandenberg Extension. With a smaller but dedicated track crew, we had the track reconnected before we broke for lunch. Because of the additional work to connect the two switches, align and level the finished trackage work had to be continued after the Board of Directors meeting. Thanks to President Brian Stephens, Vice President Dave Bunts, Chris Newman and the Roadmaster we finished the project about 3:00PM Saturday. We now can operate on the large loop in case of delays in Allen's Valley or Columbia Ave yards.

The Board of Directors voted several months ago to name this new crossover CASFORD CROSSING in memory of Roadmaster #1 Ken Casford. Switch numbers will be CC#1 and CC#2 on the track charts in the new rule book coming this fall.

A big THANKS goes to our Master Switch Builder Richard Ronne. Richard has taken the time to document all the switches on the Railroad and design tools for construction of new switches so we have standardization. This is the third new switch built by Richard and each one is being completed faster than the previous switch!

Our Camp Chef Cheryl Lannon provided a wonderful lunch for the workers





After lunch President Brain Stephens called the Board Meeting to order at 1:06PM to a small hardy crowd of 10 members and the Board of Directors.

**ADVANCE NOTICE SPECIAL FUN DAY Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.** Instead of our normal FUN (work) DAY we will be holding a special FUN DAY of train operations. The NMRA will be visiting in the afternoon so The Board of Directors authorized a special run for the NMRA folks. Since the Roadmaster will be out of town that day, it was decided NOT to have a work day but make it a FUN DAY of Saturday train operations. The Station will be closed to the public and no public trains will be operated. This will be like a night run except during daylight! There will be NO WORK DAY lunch on that Saturday. It's a Run Day without public trains in operation. Come on out and run on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. The NMRA group are going on several train tours that day and will be stopping by all afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00PM. OS for the day will be John Gurwell. The Board of Directors will hold a short meeting at 11:00AM in the engine house to handle the normal monthly business of the Railroad. All of welcome to attend.

Thanks to all the hard work of the members this year we have completed our work and we have no major projects on the schedule between now and the Fall Meet October 20,21,22, 2017. It's time to take advantage while "The Roadmaster is out of town so the train crews will run trains instead!"

Mark your calendars to join us on Saturday October 14th for our next schedule Fun (Work) Day at the Riverside Live Steamers.



**OPEN STORAGE SPACES:** In the coming months, you might see some empty storage tracks in the storage buildings. DO NOT place equipment on these open tracks. We have several current storage members who will be moving equipment around for maintenance and that open space is only temporary. All tracks in the buildings are currently rented and we have no open spots available.

I am making a list of members who want space in the coming year. If you need or if you are giving up your space please let me know as we have members wanting to start storing their equipment for operating on the RLS track. You can send me an email [rich@whittiermailing.com](mailto:rich@whittiermailing.com) or leave me a voice mail on my phone (575) 756-4413. Rich Casford Storage Chairman

## A Message from your Safety Weasel...

Dave Bunts, Safety Supervisor

The lazy days of summer have hit, and the Safety Weasel is in that kind of mood as well. So, all you are going to have to remember for this month's Safety Tip is "Put the lock down". Sounds like it might be Gospel tune doesn't it? Or in an attempt to hit my own age, something about "Put my Kangaroo Down Mate" sung in an Australian accent in a tune from the last century. A good portion of RLS track switches have locks installed to direct the traffic on our railroad in the proper direction for the day. Everyone hates running up on an open facing switch, and if the switch is set incorrectly, you may all of sudden find yourself facing traffic when you least expect it, so we lock the switches. Everyone has access to a switch lock key in the clubhouse, so take one with you if you need to pull out of the normal traffic route to turn your train around, or do some work outside of the 'normal' yards. When you relock the switch, (See RULE 211(b) if your wondering why one would do such a thing) please make sure that the lock is lying flat on the switch box. It is possible to leave the lock sticking up, which is NOT a

good thing. Most of our engines have low foot pegs, and a switch standing up will hit said pegs, or even worse, the foot that is resting on said foot peg. In addition, it is possible to severely damage said foot pegs, AND, if you had heard our switch tender extraordinaire muttering, damage the switch box enough to require the entire mechanism replacement.

So -Put the lock down - it will save everyone some grief

## More on Switches...

They are LOCKED not SPRUNG

When operating on the RLS Track you will see switch locks on all mainline switches in the direction of operations that day. These locks use a Master Lock key #2001. When opening and closing the switch make sure the padlock is lying flat and not up on the edge of the lock. We use these locks as when they are lying flat they are no taller than the switch throw handle. If you stand them on the edge they will catch cylinder cocks or the straddle cars used in the Hunter Train. If you see a lock on edge, stop and lay it flat. Your fellow engineers will appreciate you taking the time to fix the problem. If you need additional switch keys see the Roadmaster.

All RLS switches use springs to keep the points closed. They are NOT sprung switches that you can run through when thrown against your line of travel. You may derail and damage the switch. Stop, open the switch, proceed and then close the switch. Engineers are reminded that they are responsible for their train crews to open and close switches correctly each time

***To submit an article, picture, or other items, email the editor at:  
ghostpublicist@gmail.com***

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>September 2nd:</b> Night Run	<b>October 8th:</b> Runday (East Outerloop)	<b>November 12th:</b> Runday (West Outerloop)
<b>September 10th:</b> Runday (West Outerloop)	<b>October 14th:</b> Workday	<b>November 18th:</b> Workday
<b>September 16th:</b> "Fun Runday"	<b>October 20-21st:</b> Fall Meet	<b>November 26th:</b> Runday (West Fig-8)
<b>September 24th:</b> Runday (West Fig-8)	<b>October 22nd:</b> Runday (East Fig-8)	

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

## RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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