

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



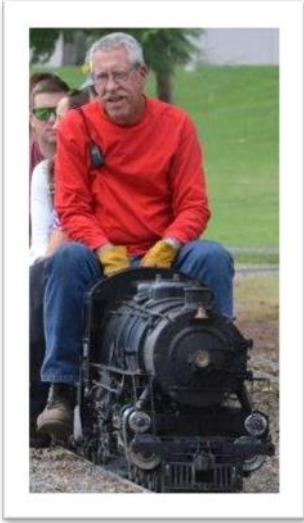
September 2018



## Homecoming

**Kim "Zip" Ziepke standing next to his recently completed frame up restoration of Buss Sutch's 4-8-4**

## President's Words Of Wisdom -



I have been writing these little ditties for a long time now, and the more that I write them, the more they seem to sound a familiar note. I LIKE being at RLS. My work schedule now dictates that I have to leave early on run days, but I get to stick around on the work days and enjoy the camaraderie that abounds. I remember what the park looked like when I first joined the organization and I look around in wonder at what we are dealing with now. I remember the compound when I first joined, and I look at what we have gone on now, and I'm flabbergasted at the changes that have taken place. There is one thing that has never changed, and I hope and pray that it never does. It's the attitude of the people that make RLS what it is. We have some of the best folks around, the ones who come to play with the trains for whatever their reason is. Some come because of a love of prototype railroading, done in miniature, at a scale that allows us to run reasonable length trains that we can actually see the moving parts on. (Some of us are at an age where HO or even O scale is hard on the eyes.) Some of us come because we enjoy the mechanical side of things, building and maintaining complex machines. Some of us come because of the ability to share our hobby our hobby with the public, and see the looks on both the kids and the parents faces as we pull them around the park so they can experience the wonders of steam. Whatever the reason, each member plays an important part in the upkeep of the 50+ year tradition that is RLS.

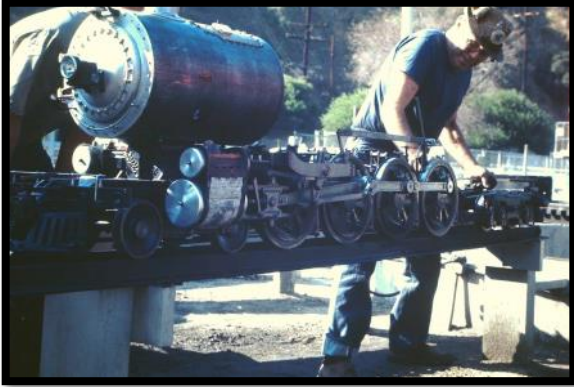
Somehow the founding members of the organization started a tradition of working together to achieve something, and then allowing individual members to come and go at their pace to work towards the common good. That seems to continue to this day. There have been many projects that were done on non-traditional work days, and that still continues. It's been a slow process, but look at the new plumbing that is going in. The infrastructure we are used to, air, water and electricity are taken for granted. Unfortunately, that infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life, and a dedicated and very small group of folks have taken on the challenge and are replacing the stuff that we used to just patch work fix when when a problem reared its ugly head. It's now going in all new, and most of it at the hands of two members, Bob Roberts and Brook Adams. These guys are dedicated (or insane, take your pick) and have achieved a massive amount of work in a relatively short period of time. What's neat about RLS is they (Bob and Brook) bit off a massive chunk to chew, and when they ran into unknown and unexpected issues, a call was put out for additional non-traditional work day work, our members stepped up and helped to fill trenches so we could open the railroad for a scheduled run day. By the way, tell them both "Thanks!" when you see them next.

And now you ask yourself, where is this fool going with all this scribbling? Here is the final point - we are a diverse group, we all are here for any number of reasons. But whatever the reason for joining, we are in fact one family when it comes to the operation and maintenance of RLS. Whatever needs to be done, we have a willing pool of members who *want* to help and are willing to donate the time and energy to make it all happen. I guess that's what makes me proud to be a member here.

Oh, yeah - couple of things to look forward to: 1) the Fall Meet is basically just around the corner. Meet Chairman Hesse is more than willing to accept any help you can offer up - please talk with him. 2) Board of Director elections are in November. Each of you should think about throwing your hats in the ring to be elected. Yes, it's like herding cats, running this place, but as a Board member YOU have the ability to help steer this fine organization through the next 50 years. The job is a 2 year commitment, but Lordy, the time does go by quickly. Think about it.

- Dave

## Every Locomotive Has a Story...



From the early 70's - Looking down the chassis of his soon to be completed 4-8-4 is A.R. "Buss" Sutch, a member of R.L.S. and fairly prolific live steam builder.

Buss later sold this engine to member Barney Root around 1975 (Barney pictured on the locomotive in 1980), on Barney's first run of the engine he sat behind engineer Jim Kreider and was impressed at how smoothly the engine ran. R.L.S. member Jack Sessums took the locomotive and detailed it out to represent a Southern Pacific GS-6 this included a new tender and cab.



The Northern was sold to Hank Hornsveld of Costa Mesa after Barney Root passed away in 1989 (Hank is in the plaid shirt). The locomotive was subsequently sold to Vern Lockhart and could be found running at Orange County Model Engineers Railroad as well as the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers.

Kim Ziepke purchased the engine and started a one year frame up rebuild of the big Northern, passing it's hydo and back at R.L.S. on August 26th 2018.



## Roadmaster Report – Rich Casford, Road 2

Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> FUN (work) DAY saw a hardy crew of 21 members arrive at the Railroad for another successful project day.



In the compound the Archeologist Team Leaders of Bob Roberts and Brook Adams continued the major upgrade to the compound air and water systems. The track gang was assigned trench duty before moving out on to the railroad. The Compound Air & Water project will take some time to complete but when finished it will provide another 50+ years of service to RLS. The Board of Directors and the Project Team appreciate the support and the understanding of the membership when we have had to close the compound due to the construction work.

The Broadway famous stage and screen stars the “Bunts Weldette’s” were again burning wire on the welding work in Noble/Quick Building. This project is coming close to being finished inside the building. The lift construction will be next once everything is finished on the track installation. The parking lot has been returned to full use as the last of the steel tracks have been installed.

Hats off to both teams as the work has continued despite the delightful summer Riverside weather! Welding inside or installing plumbing in a ditch is not easy with the sun! Tell them Thank You!

After the track crew completed the ditch work for the pipe fitters, they moved to the track project for the day, replacement of the Noble Junction #2 Switch with a brand-new steel frog switch built by master switch builder Richard Ronne. If you cannot remember where NJ#2 Switch is located go find your rule book and look it up. This is a switch that is used every operating day on the mainline and needed to be replaced due to wear on the frog.

Richard Ronne has developed a system to build standard left or right-hand switches with steel frogs and points. This is the fourth switch he has built for RLS.

Richard Ronne, Brian Stephens and the Roadmaster disconnected the old switch by the time the track “trench” crew arrived on site, it was ready to lift out of the ground. Removing ballast, the area was ready for the new switch.

Minimal adjustment was needed to match the rails at both end of the switch. Once the preliminary alignment was made, ballast was placed on the switch. With the help of power spot tamper, the switch was leveled and aligned, and the track crew was headed for beans by 11:50 AM! So nice to have standard switches to install on the railroad.



(..from page 4)

Those helping on the work day were: Richard Ronne, Doug Sifter, Bob Chamberlain, Tom Brody, Brian Stephens, Larry Jongerius, Bob Beard, Brook Adams, Dave Bunts, John Gurwell, Bob Beard, Ron Wilkerson, Tiffany Love, Chris Newman, Bill Hesse, Scott Horgan, Glenn Maness, Ken Long, Ken Mitoma, Jim Kreider and the Roadmaster. (Note: if I missed anyone let me know)

**Attention Engineers:** as you approach NJ#2 switch for the first trip take it slow to make sure your equipment likes the new trackage.

Lunch was served by Camp Cook Cheryl Lannon. Board Meeting was held at 1:00PM lead by Co-Conspirator VP Bill Hesse who decided since the President was still eating lunch at 1:00PM and not available to lead took over the meeting and finished in record time. Meanwhile President Bunts continued to look for cookies for dessert!

When we arrive on the property Saturday Morning we discovered a cut in the fence line above the track panel work area. Bob Roberts and the Roadmaster repair the fence after the Board Meeting and requested the City Park Department to make a more secure fence repair with new fabric. All Keyholders are reminded anytime you come into the compound walk the fence line to make sure no un-invited guest have come in! Nothing was taken as far as we can tell.

Next Fun (work) Day is September 15, 2018. **Special lunch note:** We will need a chef for work day lunch on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let the Roadmaster know if you can handle, [rich@wmp.net](mailto:rich@wmp.net) Only two more work days before the Fall Meet on October 26-27-28, 2018.

See you at the track, Road 2



**Come out to the September 9th Run Day and enjoy fun and fellowship of the Live Steam hobby!!**



### **From RLS History Department:**

Working through 50+ years of RLS History that Road One Ken Casford had in his files the following was noted from the December 1967 Chronicle which was written on a typewriter (**a device to write letters that someone can read without suffering from bad scrip handwriting for those younger RLS members**) estimated Cost to construct the Babb's Building (main club house) was \$3000 less electrical wiring!!

**Thanks to Rich Casford, George Bartlow, Jim Kreider and Joan Adams for the photos in this month Chronicle.**

**If you have photos, an article or anything else you'd like to submit to the Chronicle please email the Editor at: [rockwreckrr@roadrunner.com](mailto:rockwreckrr@roadrunner.com)**

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## Upcoming Important Dates

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Sept. 9th: Run Day (Westbound Outside Loop)      September 29th: Night Run

September 15th: Fun/Work Day

Oct. 14th: Run Day (Eastbound Outside Loop)

Sept. 23rd: Run Day (Westbound Figure 8)

October 20th: Fun/Work Day

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.

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### Riverside Live Steamers Board of Directors

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#### **Officers**

**President:** David Bunts

**Vice President:** Bill Hesse

**Treasurer:** Jim Kreider

**Secretary:** Brook Adams

#### **Directors**

Scott Horgan

Richard Ronne

Tiffany Love

Ken Mitoma