

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



July 2019



RLS Hunter Engineer and Councilman Mike Gardner brings the Hunter train into Iowa Station after giving the Riverside City Administrators and Staff a trip around Hunter Hobby Park



## President's Words Of Wisdom -

Dear Members,

Please remember to keep Bill Hesse in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to recover.

RLS has long been a small group of dedicated souls who are willing to step up when needed. From helping others in their time of need, completing special projects at the clubhouse, working on the railroad, or making sure our public run days are adequately staffed, our members answer the call. I am grateful to be a part of this organization and would encourage everyone to step up and contribute. Imagine what we could do with a larger group of dedicated souls.

I have just returned from a trip to visit other railroads in Nevada and Southern Oregon, including a week at Train Mountain. I must admit that there is a unique mentality at our steam only club that I did not see everywhere else.

At RLS safety is a big deal, our members carry rule books and they are familiar with and follow all the rules, all the time. Including speed limits on the main and within the yard limits. There are no exceptions and we hold each other accountable. Live steamers seem to be more thoughtful and deliberate in their thinking, a contrast to the just turn the key and go fast approach to the hobby. Maybe it is because we spend so much time maintaining our steam engines that we appreciate running them so much. Maybe it is the planning and thinking ahead required during the steaming up process. Maybe it is because we always have public passenger trains running. Whatever the reason, the safety first attitude at RLS is palpable and I hate to give the Safety Weasel any credit, so let me say it is every member who makes a difference.

Thanks for all you do to make RLS a great place to be a part of the live steam community,

- Brian Stephens

[ For those that may not have been able to make it out to the last Board meeting or haven't heard, Bill Hesse resigned his position on the board due to his on going health issues related to his leg injury. John Gurwell was voted in by the Board to fill the remainder of Bill's term - Editor ]





## Along The Tracks - Rich Casford, Road 2

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June work days are the best since the overcast skies do not clear before 11 AM allowing for cool working conditions at RLS. Saturday June 15th was no exception!

With a small track gang of 7 RLS members, the new AV#13 switch was installed before the sun broke through. Master Switch builder Richard Ronne continues to turn out great standard switches for easy installation in the field. AV#13 had a very worn out frog which you could see wheel sets bounce over the frog during

train operations. Now both ends of the south fuel leads have new access switches in place.

Water Master Bob Roberts installed a new set of valves for the Panorama Point siding. Bob discovered that John Noble had built the first valve set to last with extra concrete, rebar and a foot print that would support a full-size water tank!

Due to an idiot driver, driving over the engine leads off Columbia Avenue we installed several new ties on the south engine lead tie wall. We also installed a gate latch to prevent the south gate from swinging over the engine lead. Please use the yellow painted latch on the gate with opening and closing.

In the compound, SMP Dave Bunts did maintenance work on the Hunter and plumbing work on the swamp cooler. Car Repair Foreman Brook Adams ran two cars through the PM program for the RLS gondola fleet. John Gurwell changed out the battery on the work truck and cleaned the swamp cooler filters.

Glenn Maness was the "Grubhub Driver" for the day running to the pizza place for the lunch order, along with homemade chili courtesy of Kevin Zamp's mother in law!

Helping Saturday beside those mentioned above were: Pat O'Guinn; Kevin Zamp; Bob Beard; Ron Wilkerson; George Bartlow; Matt Ruff; Glenn Ruff; and Doug Shifter.

Board meeting started right on time at 1:00PM with Vice President Tiffany Love in charge!

The Fun (work) days are some of the best times at RLS! Plan now to join us in July. The next work day will be July 20, 2019. We need a camp cook that day, if you want to be Chef please contact me at rich@wmp.net or (575) 756-4413. Board meeting at 1:00PM and all are welcome to attend.

See you on the railroad,

- Road 2

## NIGHT RUN July 6th

Our second Night Run of 2019 will be July 6th. If you haven't made it out to a Night Run you are missing out on a unique live steam railroading experience! Just a reminder that this is for RLS Members and their guests only.

There is no public passenger service on these events.



## June 9th Run Day

Our Run Day on the 9th happened to occur one of the hotter days of the year so far. Hunter Engineer of the day was Scott Horgan, with Brakemen duties being covered by Ken Long Canberra Rohrbach and Jonathan Rohrbach. Helping out with passengers at the station were Richard Ronne, Matt Ruff and Kevin Zamp. Kim Ziepke fired up his 4-8-4 and lent a hand as well.

The Childhood Cancer Foundation held their annual picnic at Hunter park with Randy Chase, Jonathan Chase, Dean Willoughby and Bob Sorenson providing train service out of Allen's Valley.



As the mercury level hit 107 degrees and the park was nearly empty we shut down for the day at 2:00pm.

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## MEMBERS

If you are interested in volunteering to setup and man an R.L.S. display at the Rail Giants Facilities at the Los Angeles County Fair August 7/8, August 14/15, and August 21/22, please contact Jim Kreider at: [nkp765@aol.com](mailto:nkp765@aol.com) to let him know and get more details.





## From the Compound Supervisor.....

For those of you that read your email you know that the Compound was closed again this month. The closure left half the compound unavailable during a run day as well. What you may not know is the why behind the closures. Well I am about to let you know about the “RLS Steaming Bay Archaeological Expedition Team.”

Many boring facts all came together that prompted the



need to get the electrical conduit installed between Barny’s Barn and the Noble-Quick building. So, a few of us came out and formed the above mentioned “team.” (BTW if you like the name, thank the club secretary) On day one 6 feet of trench was opened and 3 feet was completed to the depth of 3 feet. Not very impressive! On day 2 the trench was opened and completed to the required depth for 24 feet. Getting much better at this!



By now you are probably thinking that this is just a repetitious job of stabbing a shovel in the ground and lifting some dirt out. Oh, contraire! We had a variety of tools in use. There were 5 different shovels, a hoe, a scraper, and a jack hammer with 3 different attachments. Plus assorted protective equipment.

On day 3 we rested. I bet you didn’t expect that! On day 4 the trench was opened the full length of 60+ feet and completed to depth for about 47 feet. The dig on this day was not ordinary at all. More than once we had to use the jack hammer to break up large pieces of asphalt that were buried over 20 inches down. It was also used to break the surface using the spade bit. The top few inches

of ground are like digging through concrete. Note that we did presoak the ground...

On day 5 we completed the trench to depth the full length. NO small feat! If you think about it most full length shovels are only 5 feet long. So to dig 3 feet deep you are on your knees doing this work. So! Now that the trench is complete we get to start the easy work. You cannot just lay the conduit on the dirt and call it a day. We started hauling backfill sand to the trench and laying a bed for the conduit. We put the conduit in the ground on top of the sand. Then we started hauling more sand to completely cover and protect the conduit. We then dropped a warning tape on top of the sand and scrapped in some dirt to hold it in place and called it a day.

Day 6 we played with trains!!

On day 7 we came back and backfilled the rest of the trench and removed the excess dirt. The rest is for the next generation to ‘dig up.’

**-Bob Roberts**

## June 23rd Run Day



With temperatures still warm but cooler than last run day there was a good turn out of members and public for the second Run Day, in fact the Station was surprisingly full most of the day.

Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts was Operating Superintendent of the day. The Hunter train was the only passenger service for the Run Day.

Ken Long continued his Hunter Training with the SMP in the morning.

Out on the railroad was Doug Sifter, Steve Borchner, Jonathan and Randy Chase, Gus Farwick ran Ron Wilkerson's Mikado and Charlie Kennemer took his Crab out for a few laps.



Steady crowds at the station kept the Hunter and Station crew active throughout the day. Station Master Glenn Mannes, Tiffany Love and John Gurwell trying to keep cool in the shade as the temp rose to 94 degrees.



## R.L.S. City Luncheon

June 4th 2019 the Riverside Live Steamers hosted their annual Riverside City Luncheon for city Administrators and Staff. This is an opportunity for us to provide information on what we do for the city and their railroad.



This year we had 31 guest in attendance!

A big thanks to McGrath's Catering and all of our members that came out to help and answer questions.

### **DID YOU MISS ORDERING YOUR CLUB T SHIRT? OR DID YOU ALREADY SPILL STEAM OIL ON YOUR SHIRT?**

We have a limited number of Club Member T Shirts available due to an ordering/production error.

The following shirts are available:

XL Regular \$15.00 each

2XL Regular \$15.00 each

2XL Tall \$15.00 each

3XL Regular \$15.00 each

2XL Tall Long Sleeve \$20.00 each

Contact Rich Casford [rich@wmp.net](mailto:rich@wmp.net) or (575) 756-4413

# RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

## SAFETY RULES

### Rule #403.b

All vehicles (including trailers) will be moved to the designated parking areas as soon as possible after unloading or loading.



**Thanks to Jim Wood, Chris Nieman, Rich Casford, Bob Roberts and Joan Adams for the photos and articles 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)

## Upcoming Important Dates

July 6th: Night Run

July 28th: Run Day (Westbound Figure 8)

July 14th: Run Day (Westbound Outside Loop)

Aug 11th: Run Day (Eastbound Outside Loop)

July 20th: Fun/Work Day

Aug 17th: 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.

## Riverside Live Steamers 2018-2019 Board of Directors

### Officers

**President:** Brian Stephens

**Vice President:** Tiffany Love

**Treasurer:** Joan Adams

**Secretary:** Brook Adams

### Directors

Glenn Maness

John Gurwell

Bob Roberts

Ken Mitoma