

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



February 2020



**FIRST RUN DAY OF THE NEW YEAR**

**LIVE STEAM RAILROADING AT ITS BEST!**



## President's Words Of Wisdom

For those of you who decided to stay away from the railroad last runday, you should kick yourselves. The day was cool, nay, cold in the morning, but turned into a nice Riverside winter day, not so cold as to require a parka, but still in need of a sweater. Those of you who did brave the cold overcast start to the day were treated to a mini meet. We had something like 45 members in attendance, and bunch of steam engines on the bays.

Not everyone made it out to wear the aluminum rails out, but the best part of the club experience was had by all. Trains, steam engines, visitors, club members, and the casual lookie-loo who wandered into the compound – everyone had a good time. There were conversations among members, and members with the visitors. Camaraderie and sharing our hobby with both the initiated and the ones new to the whole concept of our miniature steam steeds seems to make the day a more than pleasant one, it becomes downright enjoyable. Those of you who didn't come missed out, and those who were there experienced the best the hobby has to offer.

There was a couple of sour notes though – The OS of the day had a cold and was running from one end of the place to the other whilst feeling bad. He did a fine job of it anyway. The other dark spot was the miserable no good safety inspector failed a boiler on its annual inspection. That is bad enough for the poor engineer, but the final result was the low life inspector made the members youngest daughter burst into tears. She had been looking forward to learning how to run the train HER with Daddy, and the mean man made her miss out. I've heard rumors that there is a move afoot to tie up and gag all safety inspectors that can be found and in this case it might have been a worthwhile effort. I did hear the inspector felt bad, but we all know those folks don't have a heart, so it had to be a dirty lie.

- David Bunts

### **Larry Fisher Memorial Service**

A memorial service for Larry Fisher will be held at the NHRA Motorsports Museum on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 1 PM.

The museum is at 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768.

The NHRA Museum would like friends who are planning to attend to kindly RSVP to this number: (909)622-2133. They will be offering light refreshments.



## Along The Tracks - Rich Casford, Road 2

First FUN (work) DAY of 2020, January 18<sup>th</sup>, saw lots of activity at RLS.

The regular crew cleaned up the compound from leaves to spraying the weeds. This is a normal first project each workday to keep the compound looking good and prevent accidents with trash on the ground. Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts and Richard Miller sprayed weeds. Tom Lebs, Chris Neiman, Doug Shifter were on the leaf racks and trash bags.

Richard Ronne conducted a master switch building class for the new switches for the Vanderburg crossing replacements. We will have to start calling Richard, Tom Sawyer the fence painter or Mr. Roberts, wonderful day in the neighborhood, as not only was there a crowd around the switch jig but Kevin Zamp was shooting video! By noon the first of two new righthand switches was ready for installation.

Out on the mainline, the Roadmaster leveled, aligned and power tamped the car lead to David's Yard. The lead track had been damaged by a truck sometime in the prior week. Dan Williams and Doug Shifter moved additional ballast and started the project of widening the shoulders, so the ends of the ties were not exposed. This helps prevent kids thinking they can lift the track out of the ground when they see how shallow the ties are in the ground. Roadmaster also racked the track clean between Noble Junction and the Casford Cross-over due to heavy leaf drop off the oak tree in that area.

SMP Bunts worked on the car brake stand for the Hunter locomotive.

Car Repair Foreman Brook Adams repaired Gondola #8818 with a new king pin. Talk about dedication to his car department, the CRF "walked" the mainline looking for the missing king pin and hardware from the car at the last Run Day, found the parts, replaced the broken pieces and restored the car to full service.

John Gurwell adjusted chains on the steaming bay track locks. Storage Manager Casford adjusted storage of equipment during the annual January two-step car shuffle or how to stretch tracks with a left-hand bacon stretcher when you need three more inches to clear a coupler! Storage Tracks are completely **FULL!** If you want to store equipment, please let me know so I can put you on the waiting list for the next stretching party! [rich@wmp.net](mailto:rich@wmp.net) or (575) 756-4413.

### **IMPORTANT CHANGE IN FEBRUARY FOR OUR NEXT FUN (work) DAY.**

Due to the memorial service for former Board Member Larry Fisher on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM at the Hot Rod Museum located at the Pomona Fair Ground complex, the Board voted to move the FUN (work) DAY to **Sunday February 16, 2020 at 8:00 AM**. This will be a one-time change for February. We will conduct a normal workday, lunch at noon to the workers and the Board Meeting will be at 1:00PM (just like a Saturday except it will be on Sunday).

Due to this change and our plans to install the first of the Vanderburg cross-over switches, **I need to know if I will have a track gang that day**. Please email me [rich@wmp.net](mailto:rich@wmp.net) or call my cell (575) 756-4413 and let me know if you will be at the February Sunday Work Day. I need a 7-person track gang before we start removing and replacing the switches. If we are unable to field a full track team, we will have to wait until March Workday to start the switch replacement. Thank you in advance.

February 16, 2020 Sunday Workday has been covered with a Camp Cook. Opportunities are available for March and April workdays for cooks. Let me know if you want to be Chef for day one of those days.

Please plan on joining us for workdays in 2020. We have projects for all levels of members abilities. There is a lot more to RLS than just Run Days. Workdays are a great way to get to know your fellow members and improve the RLS Facilities & Railroad.

## ANNUAL DINNER UPDATE

The RLS Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the Hidden Valley Country Club in Norco.



Once again RLS members had the fun task of determining who everyone was since we were dressed in overalls or covered with oil or coal dust!

This year's award winners were: Hogger of the Year-Richard Ronne; Junior Member of the Year-Matt Ruff; Brakeman of the Year-Ken Long; 4 Track Crossing Guard-Marty Berg; Switchtender-4 Track Guard and assistant Merchandise Clerk-Chris Neiman; Outstanding contributions for non-scheduled OS Duties, Spring & Fall Meet Chair, and outgoing Vice President Tiffany Love.

Final award for the evening went to John Gurwell as Live Steamer of the Year for his contributions for Night Run Dinners, Board service, lead incident responder on Run Days.

All and all everyone had a good time with an interesting program on the railroad development in the Inland Empire and how trains help create the Southern California economy.

A BIG THANKS goes out to Stationmaster & Board Member Glenn Maness for organizing this year's dinner, arranging for the speaker and his contribution of the Hors D'Oeuvres before dinner time. Thanks Glenn!!

- Road 2

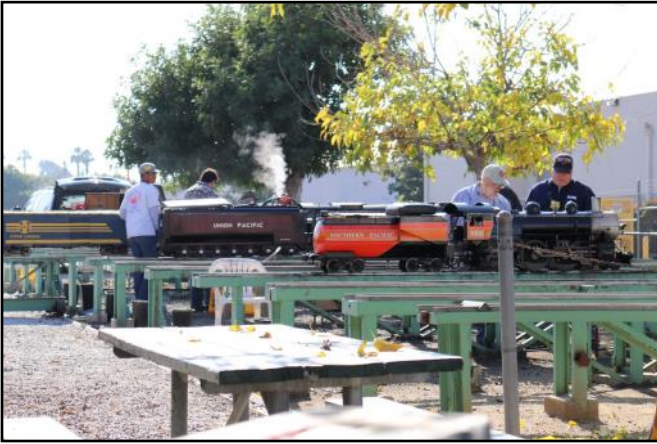


**Members - If you haven't done so yet be sure to get your 2020 Roster Information sheet mailed in ASAP!**

**Roster Information can be mailed to: Riverside Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA, 92518**

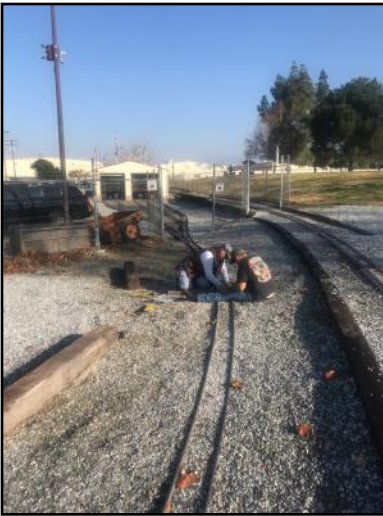


## RLS Run Day 1-12-20



President Bunts presented RLS awards to those recipients that were unable to attend the Annual Dinner.

Every run day is different and just like the full scale railroads there is always work to be done. Some emergency trackwork to the lead out of David's Yard was performed by Bob Roberts and Richard Miller.



Hunter engineer duties for the day were divided up among Scott Horgan, Chris Neiman and Brook Adams with Tiffany Love getting additional training at the throttle. Covering the Brakeman duties on the Hunter train were Ken Long and Ken Mitoma. Assisting in passenger service were Matthew Ruff, Richard Ronne and Jonathan Rohrbach. Station Master Glenn Maness kept things moving along at Hunter Station with nearly 600 passengers for the day.

Freight service was well represented by Paul Quick and Kevin Zamp running Paul's Atlantic, Mel Hitchcock at the throttle of his American, Tom Brody and his Mogul, Steve and Peggy Borchert running their 2-6-2, Ken Adamson operating his 2-6-0, Jack Berg took some cushion time at the throttle of Bill Hesse's Ten Wheeler and Bob and Doug Chamberlain running their Atlantic.

Thanks to everyone that came out and participated in the first Run Day of the year!

The first Public Run Day of 2020 was a typical Southern California winters day with a high of 61° with clear and sunny skies. A very good turn out of members and equipment gave the day the feel of a "Mini-Meet" !

Operating Superintendent John Gurwell kept things rolling smoothly.



## January 26, 2020 Run Day Recap



Weather forecast was for warm and sunny day, however we started out the day with fog and heavy dew point and about 51' with a slight breeze.

That did not stop the members from coming out. We had 14 locomotives and 42 members show up for the run! There was so much activity it felt like a Spring Meet Saturday. We handled 448 passengers thru Hunter Station.

All the members had a great time visiting, working on their equipment and watching the steam railroad parade on the mainline.

The dedicated heroes of the day were the members who were involved in railroad operations. It takes many people to operate public trains on the railroad safely and is the reason we have Hunter Hobby Park as a live steam facility that we all enjoy. Think public train operations as paying the rent.



Starting in Hunter Station we had Glenn Maness as the Stationmaster, making sure all the trains were loaded correctly. Chris Neiman was switch tender at the yard throat tracks, Marty Berg our famous four track crossing was keeping the public from crossing in front of the trains. Jerry Roth and John Gurwell manning the merchandise cart.

In passenger service was Tiffany Love on the Hunter with relief engineers Bob Roberts and Scotty Horgan. Richard Ronne on his Pacific was the second public train of the day. Brakeman Ken Mitoma, Ken Long and Mark Spaulding made quick work of loading and unloading the trains and watching the public as they enjoyed a ride around the mainline. Pat O'Guinn was yardmaster in Allen's Valley providing smooth switching operations for fuel and water leads.

President/SMP Dave Bunts in between riding on the tender of the Hunter, did one hydro and towards the end of the day after the Hunter had a mechanical failure that took the engine out of service at 2:00 PM was still working on the engine in the compound at 4:15 PM. Assistant SMP Dave Lazarus spent the day cleaning oil tank in the tender to the Big Boy.



We all like working on our own equipment and operating our engines, but it takes extra hands to make our operations run smoothly in the compound, Hunter Station or Allen's Valley. All members of RLS have duty to lend a hand to help in train operations and compound.

Thanks to all who came out Sunday for a great day of Live Steam Action at the Riverside Live Steamers!

- Rich Casford, Operating Superintendent



## 2020 February Calendar

### Who Is That?

Upper Left: Tiffany Love at the throttle with SMP Dave Bunts observing her run.

Upper Right: Dave Bunts prepping the Hunter for the Run Day

Lower Left: Jim Wood taking care of Brakeman Duties on the Hunter Train

Lower Right: Engineer Doug Chamberlain with Bob Chamberlain as Brake-man



## 2020 Storage Fees are due.

Send them in to:

**The Riverside Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA,**

## NEW CAR STORAGE LOCATIONS IN BARNEY'S BARN

With the new year comes new locations for locomotive and car storage at RLS.

To better allocate track spaces based on equipment needs and operations each January storage tracks are adjusted to maximize storage.

Effective in January 2020 Floor Track #6 in Barney's Barn (the middle building) will be private car storage. Tracks are numbered at the roof line of the building.

Floor Tracks #7, #8 and #11 will hold the RLS Club gondolas that are available for use by the members or guests when they need additional cars.

To Recap: Tracks #6, #9, #10 are private owner cars and should not be used by general club members without permission of the car owners.

Tracks #7, #8 and #11 are RLS club gondolas that can be used by any member or guest on the railroad.

Floor Track #6.5 in between tracks #6 & #7 holds work equipment

Floor Track #10.5 in between tracks #10 & #11 holds extra brakeman cars

Thank you for your attention to keep the rolling stock on the correct track!

## Great Train Show

Ventura, CA February 1 & 2, Costa Mesa, CA Feb 8-9. Tickets can be purchased here:

<http://greattrainshow.com/schedule/>

March 7 & 8 - Golden Empire Historical & Modeling Society Train Show, Bakersfield

<https://gehams.club/2020-train-show-info>

**Thanks to Dave Bunts, John Gurwell, Rich Casford, Chris Neiman and Joan Adams for the photos and articles in this months 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

Feb 9th, Run Day (Eastbound Outside Loop)      Mar 8th: Run Day (Westbound outside Loop)  
**New Date!** → Sunday, Feb 16th Fun/Work Day      Mar 14th, Fun/Work Day  
 Feb 23rd: Run Day (Eastbound Figure Eight)      Mar 22nd, Run Day (Westbound Figure Eight)

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 2019-2020 Board of Directors

### Officers

**President:** David Bunts

**Vice President:** Brian Stephens

**Treasurer:** Joan Adams

**Secretary:** Rich Casford

### Directors

Glenn Maness

John Gurwell

Bob Roberts

Chris Neiman