

THE RLS CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



April 2020



Tom Brody and Jonathan Rohrbach at the station checking on Tom's 2-6-0 engine as Brakeman Scott Horgan and passenger Lilly Horgan wait for the Highball.

To our Riverside Live Steamers members, families and friends.

Be safe and be well.



President's Words Of Wisdom

It's seems like months since we've been able to play with our iron steeds doesn't it? We've all been on lock down except for the folks who are considered essential, some of us are working virtual, with the wonders of modern communication we don't actually have to be in the office we work in, we can be sitting at our kitchen table and be semi-productive. The benefit to that is no commute and casual clothes, the downside is a lack of the commonality with coworkers.

We have the same thing with the fine members of RLS. We seem to feed off one another's ideas in pursuit of our common goal – steam all the way around the track, water in the glass, and the most efficient way to run the engine. There are others that we don't think about that help us get there. The Stationmaster, crossing guards, switch tenders and the all-important brake-persons (we must be PC you know). Each person adds something to the operation of the railroad, and each of us, probably without a conscious thought about it, misses the crowd

that we see early in the morning eating the payroll donuts in the compound, then scattered throughout the park until the end of the day. I know I do and look forward to the time we can rejoin the non-socially distanced hoards and play trains.

We have been advised by the City that the park is to remain closed until at least the end of April, so the Spring Meet has been reluctantly cancelled by the Board. The restrictions on the number of people in the compound remain in place, and, currently, no steam operations for the month of April.

We will get through this. We will be back in operation and we will come back as strong as ever. Besides, the warm weather is coming, and as far as I am concerned that is the best time to be there. I HATE the cold, but I know others don't like the heat and that's best part of RLS – we may not like the same things in the fine details, but the overall feeling is we have the best railroad club in the world.

Stay healthy, avoid crowds, wash your hands, and daydream of running trains...

- *Dave Bunts*



From the Editor:

Hi everyone,

With the city/county/state/nation in lockdown for the next month I am looking for material for the May RLS Chronicle.

If you have any projects you are working on or idea's you'd like to share with everyone through the Chronicle next month please feel free to email pictures and a short write up of them at rockwreckrr@roadrunner.com

- *Brook*



Along The Tracks - Rich Casford, Road 2

What a difference a month makes! February Workday, we installed the first of two switches at the Vandenberg Crossover and looked forward to the March 14, 2020 workday to complete the project.

At 4:45PM Friday March 13, 2020 I was informed by City of Riverside Park Department Park Director that due to the **COVID-19 Virus Emergency** all City Parks were closed, including Hunter Hobby Park and the Riverside Live Steamers.

To prevent groups of more than 10 people assembling, RLS is prohibited doing any live steam operations on the mainline. Members who have equipment stored in the storage buildings can access their equipment for maintenance only. **WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO OPERATE ANY TRAINS PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ON THE MAINLINE AT THIS TIME.**

Equipment Owners Note: If you enter the property make sure to close and lock the gate on the inside so we do not have public coming into the compound. Only RLS members are allowed in the Compound at this time. Please remember the less than 10 people and 6-foot social distancing rules. If we do not follow these simple rules we will be suspended from access to the compound.

I appreciate those members who have stopped by the facilities in these past few weeks to do a security check on the property. At press time, it appears that Statewide Stay Safe at Home Act emergency rules are still in effect.

RLS remains closed until further notice from the Board of Directors of RLS and permission is granted by the City of Riverside Parks Department.

March 31, 2020: Riverside County health officials are recommending residents cover their nose and mouth when leaving home for essential travel to doctor appointments, grocery shopping or pharmacy visits. The face coverings do not have to be hospital grade but need to cover the nose and mouth. For example, bandanas, fabric masks and neck gaiters are acceptable. Fabric covers and bandanas can be washed and used again.

Hey, we are train guys we know about bandanas!!

We will announce further information about the closure of Hunter Hobby Park as it becomes available. Meantime, go clean you shop and work on that long overdue project that has been collecting dust on your workbench

- Road 2

Attention Members!

Due to the City's closure of all parks until April 30th the RLS Board of Directors has cancelled the Spring Meet scheduled for April 24th, 25th and 26th

RLS Run Day March 8, 2020

The Sunday morning Run Day began with the annual overnight clock change for Daylight Saving Time (DST). The morning temperature was 51°F with cloudy skies and what looked like a chance of rain. OS Chris Neiman arrived to the compound with one dozen donuts from Donut Star in one hand and one dozen donuts from Winchell's in the other. Photos can be found at riversidelivesteamers.com.

RLS member Marty Berg was nowhere to be found. Tom Lebs walked the mainline, cleared the tracks of debris, and set all switches into the Westbound Figure -8 configuration. Thanks Tom! Richard Ronne was leading an RLS crew around the 919 Pacific to transport public passengers departing Hunter Station at 10 AM as well as the Aleman family birthday passengers at noon.

Hunter Engineer Scott Horgan conducted 5057 operations to Hunter Station with Ken Long operating the locomotive. Engineer Horgan also conducted train operations with Tiffany Love at the controls of 5057 for 2 runs. Ken Mitoma was the 5057 Brakeman until both he and Horgan were relieved by the afternoon Hunter crew of Brook Adams and Ken Long as Brakeman.

6 freight trains left the compound including the #1 Mogul operated by Ken Adamson, the #7 Mogul operated by a crew of Tom Brody, Jonathon Rohrbach, and Bob Chamberlin, and the #412 Mogul operated by the Maurer family. In addition, the #2 Prairie operated by the Borchers, the #7081 Consolidation operated by VP Brian Stephens, and the #398 Challenger operated by Dave Moore and Mark Spalding successfully conducted rail operations.

Stationmaster Maness supervised all activities at Hunter Station. John Gurwell was at-the-ready on the crash cart, Love at the merch cart, Long at the switches and Matt Ruff at the 4-track crossing. Kevin Zamp took over the 4-track crossing at noon. The passenger count for the day was 566 passengers. I also counted 38 RLS members with 14 guests in attendance, but still... no Marty Berg.

I want to thank Stevens, Ronne, Horgan, Gurwell, Maness, and Bunts for their OS help in making the day successful on my first day as Operating Superintendent. Also, thank you to Ronne (again), Ruff, Mitoma, Long, Adams, and Horgan (again) for their passenger train service and Zamp for covering the crossing.

- Chris



2020 April Calendar

Who Is That?

April Calendar Photos: A simpler time for all of us, the Vietnam War was a lot like COVID-19 in January 2020, some little problem in Asia!; gas was under 50 cents a gallon, maybe we will see that again soon; and we could use Weed Oil on the track without questions or a permit!



Big Photo:

(Left-Right) Dr. John Creighton First President of RLS, Bob Babb First Roadmaster of RLS and Ernie Wilson First Treasurer of RLS. These three gentlemen put thousands of hours into RLS in the beginning years.

Doc Creighton was well known at Riverside City Hall, Bob Babb designed and built many of the fixtures and features of the RLS Compound, Ernie Wilson handle the limited funds of the RLS Treasury for years. They are shown on the Wilson Bridge built in 1966.

Doc Creighton was the force behind the change in Hunter Park 2008 remodeling to reduce the amount of track to be removed during construction by placing the Sports Field at an angle to the mainline. The Estate of Ernie Wilson donated Ernie's extensive RR lantern collection for RLS to auction and raised \$19,000 towards the Noble Quick Building construction. Every time you lock the transfer table into a steaming bay you can thank Bob Babb.

Upper Right Photo: The Wilson Bridge under construction, look over the park at all the open space and across Marlborough Ave

Middle Photo: I would guess members who had worked on the bridge project. I recognize Big John Piatt 4th from the left a major public passenger train engineer on his Atlantic Locomotive, and I think Ed Nelson 6th from left. Maybe Ron Wilkerson or Dean Willoughby will send me some more information?

Bottom Photo: I think this is Barney Root Little Engines 4-4-0 with the famous RLS Caboose in the background.

- Road 2



Did you know that California had it's own "Golden Spike" ceremony?

November 19, 1919 John Spreckels drives the golden spike on the San Diego and Arizona Railway.

It stretched 148 miles from San Diego California, crossed the U.S. Mexican border at San Ysidro, went on to Tijuana then North to Tecate then back into California at Campo.

Thanks to Dave Bunts, Chris Neiman, Rich Casford, 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

Upcoming Important Dates

April 12th: Easter - NO RUN DAY

April 18th, Fun/Work Day -CANCELLED

April Spring Meet - CANCELLED

May 10th: Run Day (to be determined)

May 16th, Fun/Work Day (to be determined)

May 26th, Run Day (to be determined)

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