

THE CHRONICLE

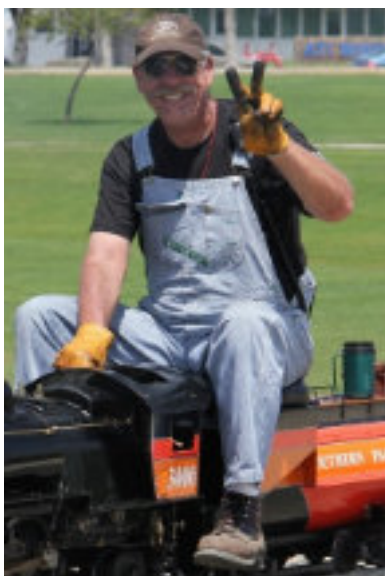
NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



June 2020



Mel Hitchcock at the throttle of his mighty 4-4-0 American crossing the Keith Canyon Trestle October of 2004



President's Words Of Wisdom

We are still closed. The state, and in following manner, the County, has opened outdoor museums. We aren't a museum (although a goodly portion of our members, myself included, could qualify as museum exhibits) so we don't qualify.

Our City Liaison, Rich Casford, has been in contact with the Parks Department trying to get some clarification on when we might open. It was suggested to him that we needed to start working on a plan that follows the social distancing, hand cleaning, mask wearing and all the other requirements. Several of our Board members have been tossing ideas around, and none of them are optimal, but they will allow us to reopen.

Have no illusions; THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT. Be aware of that before you come down to the railroad the first time since March. Like I said, it isn't optimal, but we will reopen. Who knows how long the restrictions will be in place, but as we have been experiencing in general living, the new normal is being established as we go. There is a possibility that we will be closed again, it just takes a moment to look at some of the state counties in northeastern California that opened early then closed again because the reported cases of COVID-19 started to climb. I have been out in the area, and traffic in the last 3 days has increased tremendously, meaning people are back doing some of the things they couldn't do during the lock down. More crowds - more infections - it just makes sense.

SO - here we are. The entire Board will eventually come up with a plan to meet the requirements. It is up to each individual member to decide if they can live with the 'new' rules. If you can't, please stay home. Not following what the City and RLS eventually agrees to to allow us to open will result in our closure yet again. I'm certain that at some point there will be a rotating COVID-19 compliance monitor, whoever that person is is not going to want to do it, and will need to have compliance from our members, or the member gets to pack up and go home for the day. This really isn't a joke to the city, and we operate in their park, so we need to play nicely with them.

Let's hope that the restrictions are short lived, and we can go back to the old ways where we all got to enjoy each others company and running our trains. Stay tuned to this space for additional information when it becomes available.

- Dave



Along The Tracks

June is now here, and we are still closed for train operations at RLS.

Since March we have been closed to all live steam train operations on the mainline in Hunter Hobby Park. As of June 1, 2020, Hunter Park is still closed.

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 10 people or less and 6-foot social distancing rules. Face coverings are required. If we do not follow these simple rules we will be suspended from access to the compound.

We have contacted the Park Dept. to request guidelines on how RLS will re-open.

Some maintenance work is still being performed. Our Electrical Upgrade Program headed by Steve Bourcher is well underway. With assistance from John Gurwell and Chris Newman the team is making good progress while no one else is in the compound.

Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts has built and painted the switch template covers to protect the switch building board.

A new project which might interest some of the members who want to get out and help RLS is a re-tie project on the Bunts By-Pass under the direction of Bob Roberts. It is almost stand up track work so if you are interested in helping Bob give him a call at (951) 440-2095.

Bob will also be arranging for a painting day to paint the engine house due to graffiti removal by the City that cleaned off the graffiti with a power washer so now we have "clean" graffiti imprints on the building.

Pat O'Guinn was out working on the weeds in Allen's Valley and making sure all the switches were operational.

Sunday May 24, 2020, John Gurwell installed borders under the fence line along the Bunts By-Pass track to prevent entry into the compound. This area of the hillside had started to slope away from the fence offering an easy access to slip under the fence for the wrong people!

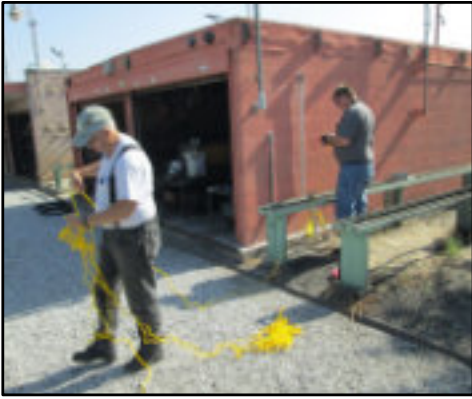
I realize everyone is getting anxious to get back out on the railroad. When we do re-open, we will have to follow the guidelines of the Park Dept.

RLS will be different in many ways, however we can still enjoy the Live Steam Brotherhood.

Stay safe, wash your hands just like your Mom always told you!

- **Road 2**

Compound Projects Update



The weekends (and a few days in-between) have seen quite a bit of progress in the Compound with on going projects.



The Electrical panel upgrade is moving along headed up by Steve Borchert, helping out are John Gurwell, Bob Roberts and Chris Neiman.



Barriers have been installed along the bottom of the chain link fence on the East side of the Noble-Quick Building to discourage "critters" small and large from entering the Compound.

Speaking of the East side of the Noble-Quick Building, work is under way on the replacement of the wood ties on the Bunts Bypass track.

The Bypass original wood ties were installed four years ago but had only received a surface coating of protection. The SoCal weather combined with the Park's overhead irrigation over spray has not been very kind to the wood.



With a nod from the Roadmaster, Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts put together a plan to replace the ties.

Bob scaled up his tie preservative system from his small scale backyard railroad. Instead of a brushed on top coat the ties now have preservative embedded into them!

If during this shutdown period you are able to help out with any projects let Rich Casford or Bob Roberts know so that they can coordinate and schedule based on our current COVID-19 restrictions.



Members

If you have any projects you are working on that you would like to share with the membership please feel free to email me at rockwreckrr@roadrunner.com with a few images and a brief description of what it is you have been working on and we'll get them in the Chronicle.

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

Upcoming Important Dates

June 14th, Run Day (Canceled)

July 12th Run Day (To Be Determined)

June 20th, Fun/Work Day (TBD)

July 18th Fun/Work Day (TBD)

June 28th, Run Day (To Be Determined)

July 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.

THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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