

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



July 2020



A "Brown Tie Affair"

Bob Roberts continues work on the wood tie replacement on the Bunts Bypass track



President's Words Of Wisdom

Hidie-Ho Boys and Girls

It used to be a bad day was a cold cloudy morning at RLS that turned to rain just about the same time the safeties lifted. A worse day was one where the idiot boiler inspector failed your boiler at the annual inspection. Those seem pale in light of the current situation with our favorite place in Riverside. As of this writing, the state of California has not really released guidelines for Phase 3 re-opening of all the facilities in the state. We don't really qualify for those places that have opened, and with the Governor re-closing establishments because of the spike in reported cases of Covid 19, it's anybody's guess as to when we can throw the gates open. Rich Casford has been the focal of communication with the City, and has received "guidelines" (read that as mandated rules) that we are going to have to follow if and when we get to re-open. Part of these guidelines include mandatory temperature checks upon arrival, hand cleaning stations, physical distance markers and all sorts of other things. It is a bunch of stuff to contemplate and even more of a pain to start to bring into being.

There is also the idea of personal responsibility for your own safety, and that of the people around you. There are members of our organization who have voiced concern about even coming out to RLS when we re-open. These are valid concerns. Based on our demographics, we are a vulnerable group. Realizing the recent spike in reported confirmed cases is in a group that is 21 to 40, it still is a spike. We have visitors all the time, they are young, old and in between with the only driving force behind them is an affinity for trains. We will be seeing them. You have to make a choice to come out to RLS, or to stay home - there is only one correct answer, and that is the one that is right for you. If you choose to come out, please play the rules that we are stuck with. I realize the Roadmaster is mentioning work that has been on-going during the shut down, but understand that this work was done by very small groups, working in groups of no more than 3 or 4, mostly alone. Again, it's the social distancing thing. When we open, there will be more people around, and in closer contact.

None of this easy, none of this in convenient, and none of us wanted any of this to happen. Until a vaccine is developed, we are stuck with the reality that we are all vulnerable to the virus, and we are going to have to play by some seriously strict rules to be able to play.

We will be back. It will be difficult and stressful, but nothing is going to end this organization if the spirit we have shown through the last 50 some years still exists. I'm betting it does.
- **Dave**

Closed for the moment...

In the last 20 years this is the 3rd time RLS has been closed to the public for an extended time. A few of you may remember the Columbia Over Pass project and



Riverside Renaissance park remodels that took place. May of 2009 saw us remove track from the Steam Lead out to Columbia Yard for a storm drain installation for the overpass construction. After putting that back, a little over a year later in 2010 the Hunter Park remodel began. Though we did operate pulling the public as long as we could eventually we did have to shut down.



Just like then this is all new territory for the City of Riverside and Parks Department. Unlike last time Riverside County and the State are involved. We will have to be patient and follow the guidance provided to get back providing rides for the public and enjoying the Live Steam Hobby!





Along The Tracks

July 2020, half the year is over. With the COVID-19 Crisis it feels like more than a year since we were able to have a Run Day or Workday. Unfortunately, it appears we will be closed a while longer as we continue our efforts for permission to open. For now, we are still closed for train operations at RLS.

Equipment Owners Note: We have new locks on buildings, containers and gates. You were mailed a new key for the new locks. If you did not get a key in last ten days, please email Rich at rich@wmp.net or (575) 756-4413. 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.

Some maintenance work is still being performed. Our Electrical Upgrade Program headed by Steve Borchert is now waiting for City Inspections. Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts been replacing the ties on the Bunts By-Pass track. Pat O'Guinn was working on the weeds in David's yard and Road 2 sprayed the Bunts By-Pass and David Yard area.

A special small work detail of Dave Bunts, Pat O'Guinn and Road 2 replaced the track panel at the station from the drinking fountain installation. Track had been removed on March 8th at the end of Run Day. It was reinstalled June 20th with no damage to any track. The track crew also removed and installed 20 feet of track on the straightaway that had a bad hump.

Security Crew has replaced all locks on Noble Quick building and engine and car leads. Perforated steel panels have been installed on the West-side of the compound. New lock hardware has been installed on gates. Working in small groups these past 9 weeks were: John Gurwell, Chris Neiman, Steve Borchert, Brook Adams, Tom Lebs, Randy Chase, Tiffany Love, Dave Bunts, Pat O'Guinn, Bob Roberts and Road 2. Many of these members have been at RLS every weekend working on projects. **Thank You** for your hard work! If I missed anyone, please let me know.

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, wear your mask, wash your hands!

- Road 2

The RLS Family has gotten a little bigger...



John Gurwell reports that member Tom Lebs is a Great-Grandpa again (3rd time)!

Alyssa Fallia was born on June 18th at 10:18am. Alyssa is doing fine as are her parents Steph and Cory Fallia.

As you can see she already has the appropriate Teddy Bear, Tom's going to have to see if Hickory Overalls come in "extra-extra-extra small"!



Compound Projects Update

Even with the County and Parks Department requiring us to be closed that's not to say there hasn't been a lot going on. To abide by the Parks Departments requests, project teams have been small and on an as needed basis. "Thank You" to those that have been able to come out and help.



1:1 Scale Railroading

Jim Wood has provided some recent information here on some Southern California rails. Note that COVID-19 Restrictions are still in affect many for these entities and projects, check websites or call ahead before visiting.

Redlands Passenger Rail Project: Tracks are nearly finished for the new "Arrow" DMU train between Redlands and San Bernardino. A Metrolink locomotive and train will also provide round trip express to Los Angeles. See the website:

<https://www.gosbcta.com/project/redlands-passenger-rail-project-arrow/>

High Speed Rail: Draft maps of possible routes, stations, and yards appear on the website below. Note a below-grade route plan from Burbank Airport Station south near N. Hollywood Way and Vanowen St, then surface running along Amtrak to Los Angeles. Note possible Ontario and Escondido stations and a colton yard west from the Amtrak line on Fogg St. into the old CalPortland cement/Slover Mtn area. See <https://www.hsr.ca.gov/>

San Bernardino History & Railroad Museum: Housed in the old Santa Fe Depot/Metrolink Station and mourning the death of founder, Allen Bone, volunteers get ready to re-open two days a week after covid quarantine. Vintage fire equipment is also displayed. Free. Call 909-888-3634 or see the website at: <http://www.sbdepotmuseum.com/>

San Bernardino Railroad Historical Society: Santa Fe steam locomotive 3751 is completing the FRA 15-year inspection at the Amtrak Redondo Junction yards near LA; closed to public. Watch the website for future operations and to donate. See website: <https://www.sbrhs.org>

RailGiants Train Museum: Housed at the west side of the Los Angeles County Fairplex in Pomona, they display large and famous steam and diesel locomotives with other historic equipment and an old depot. Another vintage caboose was added in 2020. For openings, call 909-623-0190 or see <http://www.railgiants.org/>

Small Scale - RFrailroad: Extensive G and HO model train layouts at a private Riverside home have occasional public days. Please join the web page to see many images and receive notices. Please avoid calling. See

<https://www.facebook.com/RFrailroad/>

From The Work Bench

Tom Lebs has shared some images of the tank car he is currently building. Tom is using the C.P.V.X101 tank car currently at the Illinois Railway museum as a reference.



The image of the C.P.V.X101 is used with permission from the Illinois Railway Museum. Photo by Robert Kutella and copyrighted by the Illinois Railway Museum.





July Calendar "Who Is It?"

Upper Left: Jerry Roth and Glenn Maness.

Upper Right: Activity in the Steam Bays closest to the camera are Ken Adamson, George Bartlow, Bob Chamberlain, Dave Bunts, Tom Brody,

Lower Left: From right to left - Peggy and Steve Borchert, Charlie Kennemer, Bob Beard.

Lower Right: Dave Bunts and Ken Long on the Hunter Engine, Bob Beard behind them and Gus Farwick sitting in the chair

Thanks to Dave Bunts, John Gurwell, Tom Lebs, Jim Wood, Rich Casford and Chris Neiman 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

Please keep an eye on your email, the RLS Website at: <https://riversidelivesteamers.com> and here in the Chron for our future dates of operations and any workdays.

The RoadMaster will notify everyone as the situation in the County is updated.

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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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