

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



August 2020



Ten Years Ago

Looking Southeast between Columbia Yard and Panorama we see the start of the Hunter Park renovation August 1st, 2010.



President's Words Of Wisdom

Is your hair getting a little long? Are you Jonesing for that fix of your favorite restaurant? Feeling a bit like a lifer in the Big House? Just craving that smell of coal burning as an engine passes? (You folks that run propane can just go light the Barbecue, you won't know the difference...)

I think we are all about done with the whole pandemic thing, but the reality is we aren't. There are multiple reasons for the continuing lock down, partial lock down, mask wearing social distancing, and no haircuts; just change the channel on the TV and you'll hear a different version of why we are forced to be living this way in the middle of all this. In spite of what the limits are, there have been things happening at the railroad, all of which have followed the guidelines the City has mandated for us, individual small groups, or just individuals working alone have spent time doing upgrades and general maintenance in the compound. When we get to go back, take a look around, the compound doesn't look like a shaggy version of itself, probably unlike a good number of our members.

When we do open up again, the operations will not be the same, we will need to keep practicing the social distance thing, and the public trains will be nothing more than a fond memory or an eagerly anticipated future event, all of which depends on your point of view. There will be some needs on the right of way if for no other reason than we haven't used it 5 months and like all things in the physical world, changes happen when you aren't watching. There is going to be work required in places, although the Roadmaster and his spies have continued to walk the right of way and have reported no real disasters. Watch for the work day notices that will precede the re-opening of RLS operations. If you feel comfortable with coming out, plan on working in small groups, spread all over the railroad. If you don't feel comfortable with the possible exposure, or don't feel that you can wear a mask while on the property, stay home. It is fine either way - the risk is still out there in the world, and the rules we all are forced to live with are as real as they can be. In the meanwhile, we can all dream of whistle signals and the chuff of exhaust going up the grade towards Summit can't we?

- Dave

From the cover

Here are a few more shots of the beginning of the Hunter Park renovation in 2010.



Top Left: The view north along Marlborough looking at what was the tunnel location.

Top Right: View of the compound buildings from Columbia.



Bottom Left: A closer view of the tunnel removal about a 3rd of it was buried under the Iowa street widening project.



Bottom Right: The trestle bridge located about where the wig wag crossing is now. You can see track panels stacked to the South that were removed North of the bridge





Along The Tracks

August 2020 is here, along with the hot weather and we still have COVID-19 to deal with. We are making progress on a re-opening plan with the City of Riverside. With the current health crisis still growing when we do get permission to operate, it will be with No Public Train Rides. Social distancing and riding on straddle cars do not mix well together.

In the coming weeks, we will be outlining what the requirements for train operations. Each one of us will be responsible to take individual actions to make sure we are staying safe and those around are also staying safe.

Small maintenance projects have been happening around the railroad and in the compound. Pat O'Guinn has been working once a month in Allen's Valley maintaining the switches and knocking down the weeds. Compound Supervisor Bob Roberts continues with tie replacement on the Bunts By-Pass track. John Gurwell has found time to fix rollers on the rear gate, work on all new locks and brackets on the fence line. Chris Neiman got tired of walking under the tree branches in the compound and has done a great job of trimming the trees.

Steve Borchert and his merry band of electric elf's are finished to a point for the inspections by the City for our new upgraded electrical infrastructure. This will take a few more weeks to complete but we are getting close. During the change over on power drops and interior wiring we will be closing the compound. Watch for announcements when the area will be closed to all except the electrical team.

We all like to run trains, before that can happen, we will need to clear the right of way from the weeds and leaves, along with cleaning the compound. Bob Roberts is the Compound Supervisor, he is not a one man show. If you have time to help prepare the railroad and compound, give Bob a call at (951) 440-2095 or Rich at (575) 756-4413. Clearing track can be done at anytime with your own personal rakes and hoes, you do not even need to go 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. Stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands!

- Road 2

This Month in Railroad History

August 8, 1829: The Stourbridge Lion, first steam locomotive imported into the US, is tested along tracks built by the Delaware and Hudson company.



Correction

In last months Chronicle your Editor made a mess of Tom Leb's Great-Granddaughter name.

Her full name is Madison Alyssa Faillia and she was born on June 18th at 10:18am.

My apologies to parents Stephanie and Cory Faillia and to Tom.

Madison is already a little over a month old and appears to be looking forward to the start of the NFL season



Compound Projects Update

Even with the railroad temporarily shut down RLS Members get things done!!



And the rockets red glare...

Last Fourth of July was definitely one for the books. Most cities in Southern California opted not to have public fireworks displays due to the SARS-COV-2/COVID-19 pandemic. This however did not slow down the personal pyrotechnics going off in every neighborhood, in fact quite the opposite. I dare say that Pyro Spectaculars by Souza will have their work cut out for them next year to top what the residents of my city of Moreno Valley (illegally) pulled off.

What may you ask has this to do with live steam model railroading or RLS for that matter?

Well, the sheer volume of exploding fireworks in the L.A. area left the sky filled with smoke and debris. As news agencies were happy to report on anything not virus related, they were out getting the story of the aftermath and interviewed our own RLS member Manny Caldera!!



“Well Begun Is Half Done” Tidying up the Compound

Well, Mary Poppins and the Chimney Sweeps they ain't but our Compound Supervisor and his able bodied Assistants Chris Neiman and John Gurwell want to clear out the remaining “stuff” that has accumulated over the years in the Compound. If any of the below items are yours and you want to claim and remove them let Bob Roberts know no later than 8-15-20.



STAY SAFE WEAR YOUR MASK WASH YOUR HANDS!

From The Work Bench

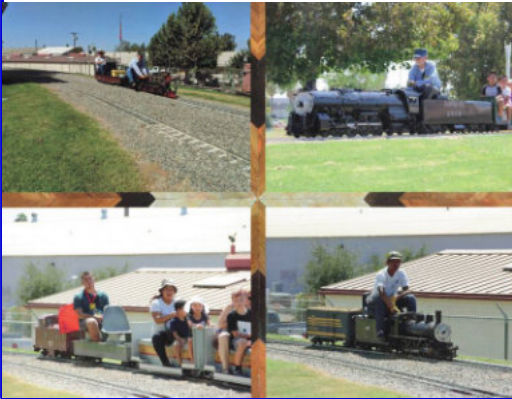
Tom Lebs has passed along some photos of his progress on his tank car, looking forward to seeing it out on the rails:



I want to thank Tom for sharing his project with everyone.

If anyone else has a project they have been working on during this shut down that they'd like to share please email the editor at rockrwreckrr@roadrunner.com

August Calendar "Who Is It?"



Upper Left: Tom Brody at the throttle and Bob Chamberlain as Brakeman.

Upper Right: Rich Casford running his 4-8-4 in passenger service

Lower Left: Micah Carrier covering Brakeman duties on the extra passenger train.

Lower Right: Jack Berg easing into Panorama.

Thanks to Dave Bunts, John Gurwell, Tom Lebs, 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 and City 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.

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