

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

A REPORT OF LIVE STEAM ACTIVITIES ON THE R.L.S.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich Casford..... President  
Jack Sessums..... Vice-President  
Andy Carlson..... Secretary  
George Lavacot..... Treasurer

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Dick Bagley  
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### TRACK LOCATION:

1496 Columbia Avenue  
Hunter Park  
Iowa & Columbia Streets  
Riverside, California

JANUARY 1977

JANUARY The East, North and South are frozen over, and out West, we are running at RLS in shirt sleeves. We have had several beautiful run days and some excellent work days the past two months. How fortunate we are to be located in Southern California!

For those of you who were there at our run days and work parties, you know what fun we have had. For those of you that couldn't make it, you missed a lot of fellowship and good times.

There are many activities in the works at RLS. Why don't you look over the coming events schedule and mark your calendar to attend. There is something for everyone at RLS.

Hope to see you soon.

Rich Casford

DECEMBER-JANUARY RUN DAYS As our president has indicated, during the past two months we have been blessed with picture post card days for most of our run days.

On December 26, running on the 1" were Mac McChesney 0-6-0 and Henry Pfaff with his 2-8-2. On the 1-1/2", Dick and Jeanette Bagley 2-8-0, Ken Casford 4-6-2, Doc Creighton 4-6-4, Jack Sessums 4-4-2, John Noble 0-4-2T and Bob Koller 0-4-0T. Members stopping by to help or visit were Babb, Edwards, Jim Keith, George and Paul Lavacot, Piatt, Pierce, Powelson, Al, Brian and Greg Ratliff, Thorpe, Vandenberg, Vener and Willoughby.

The January 9 run day was not observed by your editor, but reports indicate on the 1" were Henry Pfaff 2-8-2 and on the 1-1/2" Dick and Jeanette Bagley 2-8-0, Doc Creighton 4-6-4, Bob Koller 0-4-0T and Roy Penrod 4-4-2.

The weather has been beautiful, so plan now to come out and help run the railroad at the time of the year when it is at its best. Where else are you able to look at snow capped mountains and run in shirt sleeves?

## RLS TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 1977

27 General Meeting, Engine House, Hunter Park, 8:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

10 Board Meeting, Engine House, Hunter Park, 8:00 p.m.

13 Run Day, Eastbound (Back on schedule)

19 Work Party, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Lunch will be served

24 General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.

26 Gala Year End-Beginning Party, Knott's Berry Farm (Details on page 4)

27 Run Day, Eastbound

### MARCH

10 Board Meeting, Engine House, Hunter Park, 8:00 p.m.

13 Run Day, Westbound

19 Work Party, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Lunch will be served

24 General Meeting, Engine House, Hunter Park, 8:00 p.m.

27 Run Day, Westbound

FINAL CALL FOR DUES Our treasurer, George Lavacot, reminds all members who have not paid their dues that dues must be paid by January 31. Regular member dues are \$20.00 and Non-Resident dues are \$10.00. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped as of 2-1-77, so don't let any more time slip by if you have not paid your dues.

1977 ROSTER BOOK Work will soon be starting on the 1977 RLS Roster Book. If you have any changes such as address or phone number since the 1976 Roster Book was published, please let Ken Casford know as soon as possible. It is hoped to have the Roster Book out within the next 60 days.

YEAR END-BEGINNING PARTY On the last page of this Chronicle are the details for the upcoming party that has been such a success in the past few years.

The important point, however, is that George Lavacot must have the firm reservations by the date shown. This promises to be the best ever RLS party, and we hope that all of the RLS members will be there along with their wives and girl friends.

ON THE ROAD During the weekend of January 15-16, the Al Ratliff's and Rich Casford's drove to Phoenix to attend the monthly run day of the Maricopa Live Steamers. Both Al and Rich report they had an outstanding weekend, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of the MLS members and seeing their facility. Both Al and Rich are narrow gauge enthusiasts, and needless to say, the highlight of the weekend was seeing the 5" scale (15" gauge) D&RGW K-27 2-8-2 owned by Hayne Ellis, Jr. of Scottsdale, running on the city owned railroad that surrounds the Maricopa Live Steam facility. They also had a good visit with RLS members Jim Marks, Dick Morse and Roger Netz.

HUNTER 4-8-4 OUT OF SERVICE Once again, the city owned Hunter 4-8-4 has been withdrawn from service due to a flue failure. Upon the recommendation of the Supt. of Motive Power, John Thorpe, the Board has recommended that the City of Riverside be apprised of the situation and a request be made for funds to have the boiler either completely overhauled or replaced.

The withdrawal of the 4-8-4 from our passenger service places an extra responsibility upon our engineers to help fill the gap caused by the removal of the Hunter engine. In the past, our engineers have always come through 100%, and your Board will appreciate your service now.

In a meeting held on January 14 with officials of the Park and Recreation Department, Rich Casford and Dick Bagley outlined the steps needed to put the 4-8-4 back in service. Officials of the department promised an early answer to the request for the needed funds. It is hoped a favorable and immediate response will be made as the Hunter engine is a major factor in our ability to provide the citizens of Riverside the pleasure of riding behind a steam locomotive.

JANUARY IMPROVEMENT ASSN. MEETING On a beautiful winter day, on the 15th of January 17 members put in a very productive day tackling various projects around the railroad.

Over in Redlands, Carlson and Sessums were at work fabricating two new switches for the 1" extension. Meanwhile, back at the railroad, the balance of the crew took on the few weeds showing up, repaired some track damage on the 1-1/2", refurbished 60 feet of rail on the Marlborough curve, and removed a number of dips in the Marlborough curve.

Paul Lavacot and Brian Ratliff spent an entire day cleaning up the caboose and making preparations for repairs. Another lunch brought the members together. Thanks to Lu Severns, Norma Casford and Art Gierloff for their contributions to the meal.

In addition to the four mentioned above, helping make this a great day were Babb, Ken Casford, Creighton, Edwards, Gierloff, Jim and John Keith, Koller, McChesney, Powelson, Severns, Wilcox and Wilkerson. In addition, Noble, Mason and Wilson stopped by to say hello.

Mark you calendar now for February 19 when another good time will be held.

"VAN"DALISM INCREASING Of growing concern to RLS is the damage occurring to our track by motor vehicles. One of the park's neighbors said she had seen a number of vans in the area of the lower loop several weeks ago. Quite noticeable is the amount of automotive traffic coming in from Marlborough and the car tracks running over the railroad.

To give you an idea of the problem, here is a breakdown of the damage during the past five months: September 1-1/2" switch and track near station (auto); 1" and 1-1/2" crossing pad rails (mower); October 1" and 1-1/2" track lower loop (mower); Marlborough curve and siding (auto); November, Marlborough curve (auto); Marlborough tangent (Park truck); December, Marlborough curve (auto), Iowa near Palm Garden (auto); and January, 1-1/2" Summit grade (auto). A total of one switch and 320' of rail have been damaged.

Assistance has been asked of the City of Riverside to increase patrols of the Park, and hopefully this will help cut down on this damage. We can certainly use the manpower elsewhere to good advantage.

RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS  
6th Annual Year End Dinner  
Saturday, February 26, 1977  
10:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M.

Dinner in the GARDEN ROOM of the STEAK HOUSE at KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

If you had the pleasure of attending or heard about the last year-end dinner you will surely won't want to miss this one. Knott's again has graciously offered to open up thier complete railroad facilities to us.

This year we are able to purchase tickets for admission and unlimited use of all Knott's rides, shows, and attractions for all day Saturday. In order for you to go on the train ride with the group, you must have one of the all day tickets as it is your admission to the park.

Reservations must be in and paid for by February 10, 1977.

SCHEDULE OF THE EVENTS

- 10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Unlimited use of the park  
4:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Meet at the Roundhouse and tour shop.  
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. Tour Private Car EDNA, ride the train and examine the other railroad equipment in the park.  
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. THE FUN BEGINS with George's famous ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT HOUR (Cocktails) in the Garden Room of the Steak House during which time you can talk about what a great job I have again with this dinner and tour.  
7:30 P.M. - ???????? Dinner, Choice New York Steak.

The Bar will be open at 6:30 P.M. and will remain open through the entire evening. The drinks will be a modest 75¢.

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Reservation Form

Mail to: George Lavacot 1031 First St. Norco CA. 91760.

-----	Dinner and all day pass for 2	\$25.50
_____	Dinner for one	\$ 8.00
_____	All day pass for one	\$ 4.75

Make the checks payable to Riverside Live Steamers and mail to George. If you have any questions please call me, 714-735-5016.

Tickets will be mailed to you, Thanks, George.

WITH THE MEMBERS Sorry to report that on January 19, Eloise Babb entered the Community Hospital in Riverside for surgery. At this time, it is not known how long she will be confined to the hospital, but we all wish her a speedy recovery.

At the December general meeting, Jeanette Bagley was presented with her official RLS Engineer Card signalling the completion of her training on the Hunter 4-8-4. To our knowledge, Jeanette is the first woman engineer to be officially recognized by a live steam club. Congratulations. (PS, if you saw the 4-8-4 popping off at the top of the Summit grade nearly every time, you can have no doubt that she knows her stuff)

Leo and Arlene Dandurand are now settled in their new home in Santa Ynez, and Leo already has his railroad in operation around their place. We miss seeing them as often in the past, but the Santa Ynez Valley is something else!

John Edwards had his recently completed 1" SP wooden caboose at RLS on December 26 to receive its initial trip over our rails. It is a good looking caboose.

Those Keith boys, John and Jim, are always at work on something. John has taken his 1-1/2" 4-4-2 home for a general overhaul and conversion to oil. Jim has a project underway in his shops that sounds very interesting??????

Bob Koller has converted his 0-4-0T to oil. First time out he said it ran fine, but the second time poor fuel gummed up the needle valve.

Congratulations to Jim Kreider on his election as president of Los Angeles Live Steamers. The club should do well under his leadership.

Don't be surprised to see a couple of ten wheelers on the RLS rails in 1977. Cliff Morgan is hard at work on one, and Jack Sessums is building one for Dean Willoughby. Incidentally, it was good seeing Dean over the holidays as he was home on leave from his new station in Ft. Worth.

Mac McChesney and Fred Wilcox will have new 4-4-0's on the rails this year, both in 1-1/2" scale. Fred's is about ready to go, but he is working on an elevator to lift it out of his basement.

Bill Palmer's Clohe has been steamed up, and as soon as some minor work is completed, another new engine will hit the rails in '77. Paul Lavacot and Brian Ratliff are working hard on their Clohe's.

On January 2, Dave Roher and Rudy Van Wingen had their two narrow gauge engines out for a run on RLS. While it was cold and damp, everyone had a good time. Let's bring them out on a regular run day the next time fellows so you can join in the RLS parade.

Barney Root was in the hospital for two weeks, but is home again. Sorry to see you on the rip track Barney, but hurry back.

Have you seen what Jack Sessums did to the 4-4-2 originally owned by Byers-Smith-Krohne-Cranford? If you have not seen it, it is worth a trip to Riverside to see the "after" of the before & after. Jack and Andy Carlson are both making good progress on their two 1" 4-8-4 projects.

Joe Severns is all smiles these days. Not only has he finished his fifth beautiful passenger car, but he also has a new 2-6-0!!!! We are all looking forward to seeing all six pieces of equipment frequently in 1977.

