

THE RLS CHRONICLE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Al Ratliff at the throttle of the Hunter 4-8-4 puts in his day on the big engine as a part of the engineers' training program. Al is one of our newest and definitely most active members. He and his family make live steaming a family affair and have become vital parts of RLS.

COMING EVENTS

JULY 1973

- 26..... General Meeting, Engine House, 7:30 P.M. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
28..... Second Summer Night Run, bring your picnic, gather from
3:00 p.m. on, night running.

AUGUST

- 5..... Engineer Training Class for 4-8-4, 10:00 a.m.
9..... Board Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Engine House
12..... Run Day
18..... Third Summer Night Run, bring your picnic, gather from
3:00 p.m. on, night running.
23..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
26..... Run Day

SECOND SUMMER NIGHT RUN SCHEDULED FOR THIS SATURDAY. This Saturday, July 28, will mark the second evening run for this year. The first night run in June was a smashing success with the Allens, Babbs, Bagleys, Casfords, Cranfords, Kepners, Frank Krohne, Lavacots, McChesneys, Bill Nelson, the Wisconsin Nelsons, Nobles, Ratliffs, John Thorpe and Ernie Wilson, all in attendance and enjoying the evening.

It was a great night for running and a good time was had by all. It was really great to see the Nelsons for it was their first visit to RLS since moving to Wisconsin. Ed reports business pressures have kept the two steamers under wraps in the basement, but some day hopefully.

Mark your calendar now for the third summer night run on August 18. The cool evenings make for some fine railroading and fellowship so come on out this Saturday and on August 18.

JUNE 24 AND JULY 8 RUN DAYS Not too many details available on both run days as your secretary had a tire blow out on the way to RLS on the 24th and missed that run as well as the one on the 8th. The NMRA meet was held at the park on the 24th with Carl Allen (4-6-2), Rudy Van Wingen 1½ 2-6-2 n.g. and Jack Sessums (4-10-2) running on the 1". The only 1-1/2" running was the 4-8-4 and its day was cut short due to mechanical problems.

On the 8th, Allen, Krohne (2-4-2) and Sessums running on the 1", with Cranford (4-4-4) and the 4-8-4 on the 1-1/2". About 600 passengers hauled on the passenger trains.

JULY 22 RUN DAY Carl Allen with his 1" 4-6-2 ran all day keeping the weeds off the 1" main line, while John Keith (4-4-2), Ron Wilkerson (2-6-0) and the 4-8-4 kept the passenger trains rolling. Nearly 400 passengers hauled. On hand to enjoy the day and to help with run day were Babb, Bagley, Ken and Rich Casford, Creighton, Hildebrandt, Jim Keith, the Kepners, Krohne at the throttle of the 4-8-4, Nelson, Piatt, Powelson, the Ratliffs, Thorpe and a host of RLS friends.

HELP WANTED: The weed problem at RLS during the summer months is a major one as the park is not lacking for water. As a result, between the heavy watering and the heat, weeds grow almost before your eyes.

What is needed is to have the weed oil car run at a regular interval. At the present time, our efforts are catch as catch can, and we are rewarded with a heavy growth of weeds in both main lines.

It would be a great service to RLS if two or more members would volunteer to run the weed oil car on the Saturday between the first run day and the second run day. This is a job that can be done in the late afternoon when it is cooler or in the early morning hours. How about it, will two or more members please volunteer for this vitally needed service.

P.S. It does not have to be run on a Saturday if arrangements can be made with the rain gods to shut the water off during the week.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM ON VACTION Our regular scheduled maintenance program has been discontinued during the summer months, but some work is still being performed on a volunteer basis.

Jim and John Keith are laying out the stakes for the concrete curb that will be needed at the station area for the new fencing. It is hoped that we will be able to get the curb poured, fence posts placed and fencing installed this summer.

With plenty of power for the passenger trains available on July 22, Rich and Ken Casford, assisted by Bill Nelson, Al Ratliff and George Hildebrandt, the west end trackage in the station area received a full day's attention with the second switch being installed and the station trackage tied into it. The track is not available for service yet as it must be leveled, tamped and finished off, but at least the broken trackage is tied into the other trackage.

A major item that needs immediate attention is the replacement of the ball park road crossing. The track is being pounded constantly by fast moving cars coming in and out of the ball diamond area, and plans are underway to install new trackage in the concrete pad. Some help here will be greatly appreciated when we are ready to move, and we will keep you informed because of the urgency of the situation.

4-8-4 TRAINING CLASS TO BE HELD FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH The very popular training class covering the operation of the 4-8-4 will meet each month on the first Sunday. This will enable the engineer trainees additional time to operate the 4-8-4 and to learn more about its maintenance, repair and operation.

Under the capable leadership of Dick Bagley, 13 RLS members are currently signed up for the program. They are Cranford, Creighton, Ken and Rich Casford, Zappen, Krohne, Ratliff, Willoughby, Van Wingen, Allen, Kepner and Thorpe.

The program is open to all interested RLS members and applications are available from the secretary if you have not signed up and would like to participate in this program.

The next training session will be August 5.

SP'S NEW HUMP YARD NOW IN OPERATION The new SP hump yard in Bloomington was officially dedicated last week with an open house. At the last board meeting, Ted Cranford volunteered to try and make arrangements for a private tour for RLS, and if such arrangements can be made, you will receive full details. Ted is also working on a tour of the Santa Fe shop in San Bernardino.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIVE STEAMERS The annual steam meet of the Pacific Northwest Live Steamers will be held August 16-17-18-19 at Shady Dell. Shady Dell is located two and one half miles east of Molalla, Oregon, and fifteen miles east of the I-15 Freeway and 99-E at Woodburn.

Their facilities include 4,400 feet of dual gauge track, 7-1/2" and 4-3/4" gauge, plus 1,500 feet of sidings, steam bays, storage tracks, etc. Any RLS member in the area at the time is invited to join in the meet.

JULY GENERAL MEETING TO START AT 7:30 P.M. This week's general meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. as we will be treated to more of the excellent films provided by Jim Krieder and Bruce Ward of IALS. Those of you who were fortunate enough to see Jim's movies several months ago know the fine quality of these movies and the tremendous steam coverage.

CLIFF MORGAN DONATES BELL TO RLS Cliff Morgan has donated to RLS a beautiful miniature bell and cabinet for use in calling meetings to order. President Ted has already put the bell to use, and is a valuable addition to our facility. Many thanks Cliff.

WEED SPRAYER DONATED BY JACK SESSUMS A portable hand sprayer has been donated to RLS by Jack Sessums. This handy tool will be invaluable in our war against the weeds, and we thank you very much Jack!

YOUTH COMMITTEE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS The youth committee under the leadership of John Thorpe continues to make good progress in interesting young boys in railroading and RLS in particular. The last meeting saw the boys adjourning to a nearby rail siding where John explained the various markings on the cars and their meaning. John has spent a great deal of time on this project, and I am certain would appreciate help from other RLS members in this very important project.

BUILDING FUNDS UNCERTAIN As reported in the last Chronicle, a request was made to the City of Riverside for funds to build the badly needed car and engine storage building. No word has reached me at time of this writing as to whether funds have been approved or not, but at last word, there was still a chance funds might be approved.

NEW CARPETING IN THE ENGINE HOUSE John Keith has donated two patio type rugs with carpets to RLS and one now is on the floor in the engine house. If the one now on the floor is kept clean and satisfactorily works out, the board will have the other rug put down. Many thanks John for your generosity.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, July 26, 7:30 p.m., time change for General Meeting

Saturday, July 28, 3:00 p.m. on, Second Summer Night Run

Hope to see you at RLS