

THE RLS CHRONICLE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF R.L.S.

As your elected president, I would like to share a few thoughts with you about our club.

One must wonder, when you note the surprised expression on the faces of the many visiting live steamers from all over the country, when they first climb the hill and look over our trackage. Wow, what a tremendous railroad for your members to operate!!

Yes, it is a great railroad to operate, and I personally feel it is a real shame that so few of us have tasted this joy. I cannot grab you by the arm or neck and order you to get out to Hunter Park so that you can enjoy the hobby for which you pay money to support!

I can tell you how much fun you are missing out on, and fellows, it is not work I can guarantee. During the last several run days, we have really railroaded, and that is fun!

All "needling" aside, come on out and participate in and enjoy the club you belong to.

Ted Cranford
President

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND A full schedule of live steaming is in the works for May 26-27-28 in southern California. On May 27, RLS will have its regular scheduled run day. In addition, members are welcome to use the facility on May 26 and May 28.

The annual spring meet of the Los Angeles Live Steamers will be held on the same three days. If you have not been to a three day Los Angeles meeting in recent years, why not plan to attend. Not only will you have the pleasure of visiting another club, but hundreds of live steamers will be present.

COMING EVENTS

MAY 1973

- 19..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
24..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
26-27-28..... Memorial Day Weekend, official Run Day May 27, run days on Saturday and Monday for interested members.
26-27-28..... Annual Spring Meet, Los Angeles Live Steamers, Griffith Park

JUNE

- 2..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
9..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
10..... Run Day
14..... Board Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
16..... First Summer Night Run, picnic dinner, gather from 3:00 p.m., family dinner, night running.
24..... Run Day
28..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.

EVENING RUNS AND PICNICS DURING SUMMER One of the most popular events of the year in the past have been the summer night runs and picnics. The first one this year will be on June 16. Plan now to bring your family and have a picnic, enjoy night running. The weather should be great!

WELCOME TO TWO NEW MEMBERS At the May Board Meeting, applications of two new members were approved. The first is Bill Nelson, 4740-4 Bandera St., Montclair, CA 91763. Bill is a craneman for Kaiser Steel, and even before his membership was approved, he put in three days on track work and three days on the passenger trains!

The second new member is Joe Severns, Box 431, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352. Joe is retired, and currently is building a 2-1/2" scale D&RGW C-16 which he hopes to finish in 1974.

RLS is pleased to have these new members, and introduce yourself to them next time you are at the club.

APRIL MEETING OUTSTANDING Almost 2-1/2 hours of beautiful color movies of steam in action in South Africa highlighted our April meeting. The movies were presented by Jim Krieder of the Los Angeles Live Steamers. Jim spent a month in South Africa in 1971 accompanied by Bruce Ward of LALS, and they covered many miles of railroading. Beautiful 4-8-4's, 65 mph on 42" gauge track, two foot gauge Beyer-Garratt with the engineer's seat outside the cab, 16 steam powered trains by a photo point within less than two hours are just a few of the highlights of their trip. Like many others, it is hard to believe so much steam still exists although the diesels are moving in. Jim's photography and comments were excellent, and it was a great pleasure to have him as our guest.

If you know of any programs that RLS might have, please contact George Lavacot, our program chairman, with details for George is always looking for excellent programs for our general meetings.

GREAT PROGRESS MADE ON TRACK So far this year, more than 1,700 feet of track have been worked on since we started our major track program. Rebuilding of the original Hunter track in the ground, reworking the station trackage and eliminating the highs and lows of joints are the main areas of work at this time.

During April the following members made the effort to help their club and RLS is indebted to them for their efforts in making our railroad a better railroad: Allen, Bagley, Ken Casford, Cranford, Jim and John Keith, Bill Nelson, Noble, Root and Wilson.

With warm weather approaching, only two more work days have been set up for June, and they are primarily to finish the work on the station trackage. Actually, the weather for all of our work days this year has been great, with several in May actually on the cold side. While many of our members avoid "work" days like the plague, those who have been so faithful in turning out this year have had a lot of fun and good fellowship while accomplishing some long overdue tasks. As our president Ted stated earlier in this issue, come on out and enjoy yourself by supporting RLS. The efforts put in on the track so far this year are clearly evident. What may not be so clearly evident is that the small group of dedicated members doing the work have had a lot of fun and pleasure doing it.

FROM THE RIP TRACK Glad to report our ailing members Bob Babb, Ken Kepner and Sir Francis Smith doing much better. Bob Babb has been out to the club many times and installed additional chains on the steaming bays. From all reports, Ken is progressing nicely at home, and Sir Francis is at home itching to get into some kind of mischief.

DON'T WATER THE TREES, with boiler water that is. Engineers are reminded to make certain that when blowing down engines that the hot water be diverted away from the trees in the steaming area.

STATION FENCING AUTHORIZED At the April board meeting, it was voted to allocate funds for purchase of permanent fencing for installation at the east and west ends of the station. This new fencing will be a great aid in crowd control at the station.

YOUTH COMMITTEE PROGRESS Under the leadership of John Thorpe, the first meeting of the proposed Youth Committee will soon be held. It is hoped that from this meeting there will be some indication as to the interest of the community's youth in learning about steam engines and railroads in general. A lot of thought and work has gone into the planning for this program, and we wish John and his committee much luck in their new program.

HIGH FIRE DANGER At the present time, there is a high fire danger in the park due to the cutting of the oat crop. Until the stubble has been disced under, all members should be on the alert for any fires resulting from cigarettes, etc. At the first sign of a fire, all members should stop what they are doing and assist in putting it out.

APRIL RUN DAYS Nearly 700 passengers hauled on the special Easter Egg Hunt with 19 members turning out to man the trains, etc. It appears that traditionally something unusual happens on this special run and this year was no exception. On his first run, Barney Root had the right main crank pin shear off, so he spent the morning on the Marlborough siding. Passenger service was provided by the Hunter 4-8-4 with Bagley, Cranford, Zappen and Ratliff at the throttle. Ken Casford and 4-6-2 provided the second train. Thanks for the help men!

APRIL RUN DAYS (Continued) On April 8, Jack Sessums (4-10-2) and Carl Allen (4-6-2) running on the 1". Passenger service handled by Hunter 4-8-4, Barney Root (2-8-4), John Keith (4-4-2) and Rich and Ken Casford, (4-6-2). Ted Cranford had his 4-4-4 in service as well, with Ron Wilkerson out in the morning breaking his 2-6-0 in after overhaul.

On April 29, Don Day was out with Railroad Supply's new 4-4-0 and put in a full day on the railroad. Passenger service provided by Hunter 4-8-4 with Cranford and Bagley at the throttle, and Ken and Rich Casford (4-6-2). John Noble out providing helper service with his 0-4-2T. Carl Allen had the entire 1" railroad to himself. During April, nearly 1,700 passengers handled bringing season total to almost 10,000. Passenger loads continue to rise even with some poor weather.

MAY 13 - A RED FACE Ten brownies for the Secretary for scheduling a run day on Mothers Day. Didn't realize the goof until my own mother pointed it out. As a result, no run day for all engineers except Jack Sessums had other plans. Jack was out running and the entire 40 acres to himself.

4-8-4 ENGINEER TRAINING PROGRAM Good progress continues to be made in training engineers for the 4-8-4. Under the supervision of Dick Bagley ten members are currently undergoing training. Signed up are Cranford, Creighton, Ken and Rich Casford, Zappen, Ratliff, Willoughby, Allen, Van Wingen and Nelson.

If you are interested in signing up, contact the secretary for the application form. This is an excellent opportunity for all members.

NEW ENGINE HOUSE PLANNED To meet the urgent need for additional car and locomotive storage, Facility Planning Committee chairman Jim Keith has spent many, many hours preparing detailed plans for an additional building. The plans have been approved by the board of directors and the city, and means of financing the structure are being investigated.

There are a number of pieces of equipment and several locomotives not being used due to lack of storage, and it is hoped that efforts to accomplish construction will be successful. The addition of additional storage will enable us to move a lot of equipment out of the club house portion and give us more room in that building.

NOTED DURING THE TRACK WORK: "Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact he uses his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he started."

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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