

THE RLS CHRONICLE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Casford.....President
George Hildebrandt....Vice-President
Rich Casford.....Secretary
George Lavacot.....Treasurer

MAILING ADDRESS:

Riverside Live Steamers, Inc.
P.O. Box 5512
Riverside, Calif. 92507
PHONE: (Engine House) 683-9628

Dick Bagley
Barney Root
Jack Sessums
Fran Zappen

TRACK LOCATION:

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

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED From the masthead above, the new Board of Directors and officers elected at the November general meeting will be found. Once again, our members indicated their interest in R.L.S. with an amazing 71% of eligible members casting their vote. This exceeds by so far the votes cast by comparable clubs that it has to be a source of great pride for RLS.

Using the new procedure for electing officers as covered by the recently approved By-Law changes, the membership for the first time participated in the election of officers. An additional responsibility of the membership is to help fill the important jobs that make up the backbone of R.L.S., and it is hoped that each and every member will want to assume a portion of the organization in 1974. At the general meeting on December 27, we will need to fill the following important jobs:

Roadmaster - Stationmaster - Program Chairman - Supt. of Motive Power

Skip Borsuk will act as Roundhouse Foreman; Bob Babb, Safety Inspector; and your Membership Committee is composed of Chairman Fran Zappen with George Lavacot and Jack Sessums.

The success of any organization is totally dependant upon the degree of interest and participation of its members. At RLS, we have the finest live steam facility anywhere, and one of the reasons for its success is that so many members take an active part in club activities. We are hopeful that you will want to do your part to make 1974 a really great year for R.L.S.

MANY THANKS TED, JIM AND ERNIE With the conclusion of our election, three long time R.L.S. members stepped down from the board. Retiring from the board were Ted Cranford, Jim Keith and Ernie Wilson. The thousands of hours of service to R.L.S. these men have put forth will never be counted, but the appreciation of the membership for their faithful service is a well known fact. Each of these men has made their own unique contributions to R.L.S., and each deserve a special "thanks" as their board service concludes.



Happy Holidays

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 1973

- 23..... Run Day
- 25..... Merry Christmas
- 27..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 29..... Informal Work Party, 9:00 a.m. until finished

JANUARY 1974

- 1..... Happy New Year
- 10..... Board Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 13..... Run Day
- 24..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 27..... Run Day

NOT ONCE--

NOT TWICE --

BUT THREE TIMES!!!

It is almost impossible to believe, but the engine house has been broken into three times since Thanksgiving with nearly all of our R.L.S. tools stolen. Fortunately, no locomotives or cars were touched, but the loss is staggering after working so hard so many years to accumulate our tools.

The pattern of entry has been the same each time indicating the same party or parties are returning. The lead track gate chain has been cut with bolt cutters, and both of the doors to the engine house have been pried open. The first time, the lock on the compressor house was cut with the cutters, but nothing removed from the compressor house.

On their first trip, all of the hand power tools were stolen including our brand new Miller Falls 3/8" drill motors (used only once). On the second trip, the night of our general meeting on November 29, all of the hand tools and the irreplaceable club house radio were stolen. During the night of December 11, the Lincoln arc welder and a space heater were stolen.

Steps have been taken to increase the security of the engine house, and it has been checked out by the Riverside Police Department with one or two additional suggestions being made by them. We are leaving the compound lights on at night, the city is aware of our problem, and hopefully we will not have any more problems. But the loss is great financially, and we will have to start all over again in equipping our work forces with good tools.

MORE ON COMPOUND SECURITY While the breakins we have experienced so far indicate the work of professionals, an equally, or possibly more important problem facing R.L.S. is the potential damage from vandals. Tools can easily be replaced, but how would we replace a damaged locomotive or cars???

To combat the possibility of vandals climbing over the fence, your new board at the December board meeting approved expenditure of funds to cover improvements in our current fencing. Work should be underway within a few days at the most, and the new fencing should discourage the vandals.

With this rash of burglaries, every member of R.L.S. now carries a heavy responsibility to see that the facility is properly secured when leaving. Take nothing for granted, and please check every lock and gate to see that they are locked. Also keep an eye on the place if you should drive by.

NEW B.L.S. SECRETARY VISITS RLS Ken Shattuck, the new Brotherhood of Live Steamers Pacific Coast Region Secretary, visited R.L.S. on Sunday, Dec. 16. Ken and his wife, Susie, came to Southern California that weekend to visit Los Angeles Live Steamers and to attend their annual dinner. House guests of Dick Bagley, Dick brought them out to RLS Sunday morning to meet a number of our members and to see our facility.

The Hunter 4-8-4 was steamed up, and Ken was offered a chance to take his hand at the throttle. This marked the first time that a B.L.S. Secretary had visited R.L.S., and a special thank you to those members who came out to make him feel at home. Carl Allen also brought over his 1½ 2-8-0.

Ken is no newcomer to live steam and will make a valuable contribution to the live steam field in the days to come. While your president could not be at Riverside on Sunday, he did have an opportunity to visit with Ken at length over the weekend, and was very impressed with his interest and knowledge of the live steam fraternity. Look for new things from Ken.

R.L.S. ANNUAL DINNER For the past several years, the annual dinner for members has been one of the highlights of the year. This year, George Lavacot has volunteered to head up the arrangements committee, and will set up the dinner for either January 31 or February 1 at a central location. If you have any special feelings about holding the dinner on either a Thursday or Friday night, please let George know. In the meantime, plan now to attend. It is one time of the year when it is hard to recognize the members when they are all duded up in their finery and not dirty old overalls.

SESSUMS TO BECOME A CAPITALIST? Latest word from Jack is that he hopes to open shortly a new foundry specializing in short run casting. From what Jack says, this will not be a part time operation, but that he will devote all of his time to the venture. Incidentally, Jack has a good supply of 33" cast iron wheel castings for sale at \$1.75 each.

Also, congratulations to Jack for having the front cover of the November Live Steam feature his beautiful 4-10-2. A full length story accompanies the cover, and we are all very proud of Jack for the national recognition. Thanks, also to Jack, for performing some maintenance work on the new club cars. His efforts will do much to lengthen and improve the service on the cars.

DECEMBER 23 RUN DAY There will be a run day on this coming Sunday, Dec. 23. Several engines will be running, and there will be need for trainmen and station personnel as many members will be tied up in Christmas activities. If you can come out to the club, please plan to do so as we need some help. If the present weather continues, it should be a fantastic weekend.

FOR SALE: 1½" 4-4-4 steel boiler, excellent running, includes new Vander-bilt tender, oil burner, good firing, with one rider car, \$2,000.00.

1" 2-8-0, copper boiler, coal burning, good firing, with two tank cars (can be used for riding), \$2,000.00. Contact Ted Cranford, 1135 Center St., Redlands, CA. Phone: office, 714-825-2902; home, 714-792-2403.

SEABEES VISIT RLS On Sunday, December 16, representatives of the Navy Seabees visited RLS to make an inspection of the site for the new storage building. No details are available at the present time, but your board is keeping in close contact with the Seabees and hopefully we will have news before too long. Skip Borsuk is our representative with the Seabees.

INFORMAL WORK PARTY Nothing fancy, but an informal work party is being called for Saturday, December 29, at 9:00 a.m. No maintenance has been performed on the railroad since the days before the three day meet in October, and some weeds need to be eliminated, some kinks removed, and some ups and downs in the track smoothed out. Quite a few members turned out last year on this holiday weekend, and we could sure use some this year.

TRACKSIDE FUELING FACILITIES The new trackside fueling facilities are working out very well. Designed by John Keith, and constructed primarily by him, soft water and fuel oil are brought to trackside through a series of pressure pumps. The key for this facility is in the engine house, but please, return the key at once when you open up the box. Also, don't forget to lock it up when you are through as it has some valuable fittings.

This new addition to RLS is a major step forward. Constructed at a not so small cost at board approval, John contributed 50% of the total cost to RLS and we thank him very much. Incidentally, there have been instances where the soft water tank has been allowed to overflow. Please just use the water from the tank, and do not attempt to open any valves. This will make our soft water last longer. The weeds grow fast enough without soft water.

DUES ARE DUE A reminder that dues are payable now. In fact, if dues are not paid by the end of January, those delinquent will be dropped from the roles. Annual dues are \$10.00 each for regular members, \$6.00 non resident.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER At the December board meeting, membership of William W. Ray was approved. Bill is the new County Historian for Riverside County and has been a member of G.G.L.S. for a number of years. He has a 1" 2-4-0 and is looking forward to getting it down here from northern California during the holidays. Welcome Bill to RLS first chance you get.

RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS
Box 5512
Riverside, CA 92507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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1410 SOMBRERO DR.
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754

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JAMES KEITH VICE-PRESIDENT
ERNEST WILSON TREASURER
KEN CASFORD SECRETARY

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This issue of the Chronicle will be a short one as not much news forwarded to me while I was away for a couple of weeks.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The Annual Meeting of RLS will be held at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, November 29, in the Engine House. With new procedures for the election of officers in effect as a result of By-Law changes, every member of RLS is urged to attend and participate in the selection of new officers.

The Nominating Committee has submitted the names of Rich Casford, Dick Bagley, Barney Root, George Lavacot and John Thorpe for your voting to the Board of Directors. If you have not mailed your ballot, please do so at once so it will be in the P.O. Box by November 29. Each of these men has contributed a great deal to RLS and it will be difficult to chose four from the five nominated.

HARRY DIXON STEPS DOWN AS BLS SECRETARY In a letter received several weeks ago from Harry Dixon, Harry announced he was stepping down as Pacific Coast Secretary of the Brotherhood of Live Steamers. Due to poor health, it was necessary for Harry to relinquish the post he has held for so long, and has performed so admirably for many, many years. Live steamers owe this man a debt of gratitude that is virtually impossible to repay.

The new secretary is Kenneth V. Shattock, 33300 Mission Blvd., Apt. 18, Union City, CA 94587. Ken Shattock has been a live steamer practically all of his life, having been associated with his grandfather Victor T. Shattock for many years. Vic Shattock was one of the original organizers of the Golden Gate Live Steamers, and the Shattock name has long been recognized in live steam activities.

TWO NEW RLS MEMBERS We are pleased to announce two new members: Frank R. Kramer, Box 1028, Fontana, CA, and Jim Kreider, 7867-A Seveille Ave., Huntington Park, CA. Frank was out helping us get ready for the meet before he was a member, and Jim has been out several times with his super movies of steam, and lately with his new 1-1/2" 4-6-4. Welcome aboard men.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1973

- 25..... Run Day
29..... Annual Meeting - Election of Officers, 8:00 p.m.,
 Engine House

DECEMBER

- 9..... Run Day
13..... Board Meeting
23..... Run Day (?) If locomotives and crews available
25..... Merry Christmas
27..... General Meeting
30..... New Year Weekend Run Day if sufficient interest

WHAT WILL 1974 BRING TO RLS? I am certain that the current problems that seem to arise almost daily, especially those problems dealing with the energy situation, are foremost in the minds of all people these days. At this writing, no one that I know can even make a slight guess as to how the problems will be solved.

As we look to 1974 with a great deal of uncertainty, the current year for RLS is drawing to a close, and will culminate with the election of new officers. A quick review of 1973 at RLS shows that a tremendous amount of work and progress was made during the current year. Just consider:

1. The Hunter 4-8-4 has been in almost constant service since September 1972. Not only has it provided a lot of mileage in hauling the public, but a number of qualified engineers are now available to run the locomotive.
2. The club acquired six new passenger hauling cars, and in addition, members have acquired six other cars. We were able to haul a growing number of passengers with greater efficiency than before.
3. More than 2,000 feet of our main line has been worked on bringing our track into the best condition it has been in for some time.
4. The ball park road crossing has been rebuilt and is a honey.
5. About half of the station trackage realignment has been completed and all of the new station fencing has been installed. Early in the year, the Stationmaster's covered area was completed.
6. Water conditioning facilities and the installation of trackside oil and water facilities provide RLS with excellent servicing facilities.
7. A new track tool box completed and equipped with many new, useful and time saving tools.

I'll wager few, if any, live steam clubs in the USA accomplished as much in 1973. It has been a great year for RLS, and for all those who participated and supported RLS. Let's make 1974 an even better year!!!