

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

March 2021



Activity in Allen's Valley

February 14th Run Day engine servicing in the Valley

Photo by Steve Borchert

STAY SAFE WEAR YOUR MASK WASH YOUR HANDS!

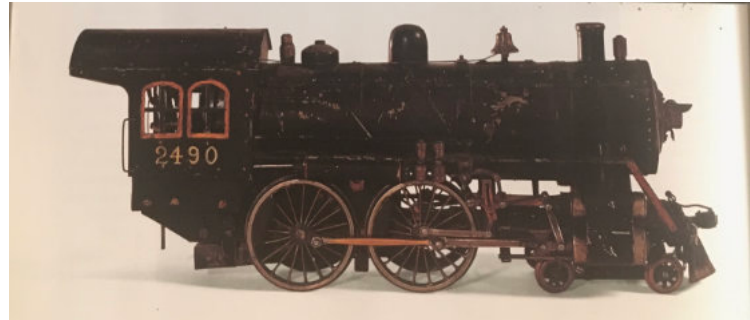


From The Cupola

Well what shall I write about this month. As one illustrious member once said to me, and I quote, "It doesn't matter, I never read the Chronicle anyway". Not being an easily discouraged fellow I have decided to press forward.

Have you ever asked yourself how old the live steam hobby is? You haven't? Well I have. Going through my many railroad books given to me over the years by people who think I am fascinated by very large (and small) self propelled huffing and puffing objects, which I am as a matter of fact, I have discovered some interesting things.

Adults like children can be easily captivated by steam locomotives. How do I know? Yours truly has driven many miles to witness steam locomotives from the past roll by in all their glory. Never did that for a diesel loco. Well maybe U.P.'s DDA40X but that was the largest diesel loco ever built (it was like the Boeing 747 of railroads). It comes as no surprise that some individuals built working live steam locomotives as far back as 1910 (see pic).



I don't want this article to drag on as long as a board meeting so in conclusion all of us at RLS are not only preserving the history of steam railroading but also the history of live steam railroading.

I would like to thank all those members who came out for the February work day and board meeting. Projects, compound cleanup and track maintenance continue thanks to our dedicated members like Steve Borchert.

Patrick O'Guinn

President

Riverside Live Steamers

This Month in Railroad History...

March 27th 1938 the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad started the "San Diegan" along the Surf Line from Los Angeles to San Diego.



Along The Tracks

The new schedule for Workdays and Board Meeting has proved successful.

Members arrived in the morning to work on various maintenance projects both on the mainline and in the compound.

Work completed in the morning session 8:00 AM-10:30 AM consisted of the following projects: Work on transfer table track to eliminate the binding of the table; wiring conduit installed in Storage Container #1 for overhead lights; work on additional steam bay electrical plugs; out on the mainline replacing switch ID numbers that had faded; cross leveled from SS#1 switch to 70 feet east of the Big Pine Tree; removed dirt at VC#2 switch for proper draining; replaced batteries in weather head on engine house roof for proper operation.

Wrapping up all projects by 10:30 for the Board Meeting at 11 AM. The highlight of the Board Meeting was Past President Dave Bunts handing out COVID-19 Support Awards to those members who continued to maintain the facilities, improve the security and re-wire the entire compound for better electrical service. The following members went over and above duty to support RLS during the pandemic closure: Steve Borcher, John Gurwell, Brook Adams, Tom Lebs, Bob Roberts, Tiffany Love, Chris Neiman, Randy Chase, Jonathan Chase.

After the awards ceremony (since we cannot hold annual dinners during pandemic) the Board meeting was handled by President Pat O'Guinn. Normal department reports were given. The major project list was tabled at this time since we are not allowed to start any

large projects. As the year progresses the Board will determine when it is possible to take on a large major project. Routine maintenance and repairs will continue per normal practice. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted we will return to our normal schedule of Workday 8AM-Noon, lunch to the workers at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM that is listed in our By-Laws. This adjustment to the start times are temporary changes only due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Plan now to join us on the March 20, 2021 Workday and Board Meeting starting at 8:00 AM for the Workday and 11:00 AM for Board meeting. All RLS members are welcome to attend the board meeting.

In the meantime, stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, social distance!

- Road 2

Its Not Always Dry

Any of us that have lived in Southern California for years or have railroad books about Southern California floods most likely will remember stories about the floods of 1938.

During that winter rain season of 1938, it was the 100-year flood that cause millions of dollars in damage to all railroads, all highways and many of the bridges coming into or out of Los Angeles to be destroyed. Millions more have been spent since that time to prevent flooding with storm drains and concrete riverbeds.

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RLS had a scale version of that flood in January 1993. Several days of rain completely filled the old lake East of Allen's Valley.

Prior to the park remodeling, the drain for the lake was the overpass bridge into Allen's Valley continuing to the neighbor's property to west of RLS.

These photos show the amount of water that completely covered the mainline and Allen's Valley. The drain in Allen's Valley was under the raised track of the 1" engine lead that was mounted on full size rail that we now use as parking bumpers in the compound!

Cleaning out Ken Casford 46-year collection of photos and documents of RLS activities, you find all sorts of things to look at.

- Road 2



Run Day - February 14th



O.S. Rich Casford covered the first Run Day of February.

Weather was cool in the morning but warmed up a bit towards noon. The O.S. reported no issues for a typical COVID-19 Run Day with most of the activity occurring between 10:30-12:30PM.



The 4-8-8-4 Big Boy did make an appearance as David Lazarus and new member Brandon Ruiz took the engine out to see how the recent service work performed.

Be sure to say "Hi" to Brandon and welcome him to the Club when you see him.



Run Day - February 28th

The Run Day of the 28th was clear and breezy with a few gusts now and then. Seven locomotives made it out on the railroad, several others saw service work on the steaming bays.



Our SMP oversaw 4 boiler checks, we had thirty members and six family member show up spread out through the day.



A big thanks to all members and their families for maintaining social distancing and keeping their masks on!

R.L.S. 2020 Club Awards

As with everything else related to the COVID-19 pandemic our normal annual Club awards presentation has changed for this year. Generally we gather to honor the Live Steamer of the Year, Hogger of the year as well as awards for support of the Club and the Railroad. As we were shut down for passenger service for nine months of 2020 the Board of Directors decided to honor those members that continued to come out and support the club during the lock-down.

Some of the tasks that have been accomplished are as follows:

- The electrical service to the compound and three buildings has been upgraded.
- The Bunts By-Pass ties have been replaced.
- A storage container was re-positioned and braced on its concrete pad.
- Fences patched after being cut by vandals.
- Fences were upgraded on the west side with cut resistant materials.
- New lock hasps were designed, fabricated, and installed on the storage containers and most gates.
- New locks were purchased and re-keyed to go on the new lock hasps and Nobel-Quick doors.
- New fixtures and dispensers installed
- Continued maintenance on David's Yard and Allen's Valley switches.
- General cleanup of the compound and Bab's

And a whole lot more.

Members receiving the awards were:

Chris Neiman, Tiffany Love, Pat O'Guinn, Bob Roberts, John Gurwell, Randy Chase, Jonathan Chase, Steve Borchert, Tom Lebs



For Sale: 1 Inch Equipment...



One inch live steam propane fired 0-6-0 Canada National switcher, does need work on it. Asking \$8,000 or best offer



One inch Union Pacific diesel needs a control box , \$10,000 or best offer.

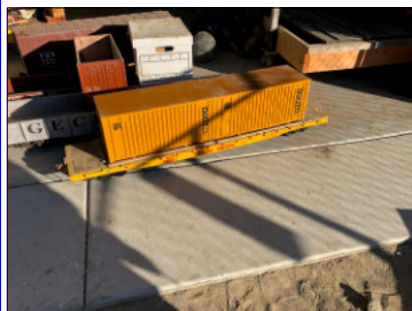
One inch scale Geko Belt gondola \$500.00 or best offer.



One inch flatbed car with trailers \$500.00 or best offer.



Drop center flat car for your high center of gravity loads \$500.00 or best offer.



Union Pacific flat car (several available) \$500.00

Please email Gail Woodward:
gail080953@yahoo.com Subject: Trains

Cash or Cashier check only please.

March Calendar

“Who Is It?”



Top Left photo: Paul Quick in the Brakeman's chair of his train.

Right Top: Tiffany Love, Lex, Scott Horgan and John Gurwell at the Merchandise Cart. Station Master Glenn Maness on the station platform and Brakeman Bob Chamberlain helping out with passenger service.



Left Bottom: Steve and Peggy Borchers and Maggie headed into Panorama.

Right Bottom: Chris Neiman tending switches in the background, Marty Berg at the 4 track crossing, in the Brakeman car are Bob Chamberlain and Richard Ronne.

Thanks to Rich Casford, Pat O'Guinn, Steve Borchers, Randy Chase and Joan Adams for the photos and articles in this month's 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

March 14th Run Day Westbound

April 11th Run Day Eastbound

March 20th Work Day - 8:00am to 10:30am, Board Meeting 11:00am

April 17th Work Day - 8:00am to 10:30am, Board Meeting 11:00am

March 28th Run Day Westbound

April 25th Run Day Eastbound

The R.L.S. Chronicle is published by The Riverside Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA, 92518.

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.

THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Pat O'Guinn
Vice President: Dan Williams
Secretary: Rich Casford
Treasurer: Brook Adams

Directors

Director: David Bunts
Director: John Gurwell
Director: Tom Lebs
Director: Chris Neiman