

# *THE CHRONICLE*

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NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



August 2022



## **Steam in the Dog Days Of Summer**

July 24<sup>th</sup> Run Day, out on the North steaming bays from left to right is: Gus Farwick and Richard Miller in front of Ron Wilkerson's Mikado, Scott Horgan and Doug Prescott along side Doug's Pacific.

**SAFETY FIRST**



## From the Right Hand Seat

Unintended consequences are the results

of action in which an outcome was not anticipated.

It was the summer of 1997; my son Chris and I attended a Cub Scout camporee. These events included games, camping, and an evening campfire. At this camporee campfire there was a ceremony to retire the America Flag. The MC of the event asked the audience for anyone who was in the military and had been in combat to take part in the ceremony. Another individual and I stepped up and were included in the ceremony. When I returned to my seat, Chris looked up to me and said "Dad, were you in a war?" "Yes", I said. He later asked me a lot of questions about my experience; but one that caused a change for the both of us, was "did you get any metals?". "I don't know" I said.

When I was discharged after my tour in Vietnam, in April 1970, the controversy about the America's involvement was very negative. My experience was something I wanted to put behind me. I just wanted to get on with my life and forget the negative experiences. So, I gave away almost everything I had that would remind me that I was a soldier. If it wasn't for my Mom, I would not have had any mementos of my military service.

Chris and I found my DD214 (that's a document you receive upon discharge that summarizes your military service) and on it was a description of some of the citations I earned. I had no idea what any of the words meant. We learned that you could make a request to get the awards. We filled out the required paperwork, mailed it and in a month or so, a large package arrived in the mail. We opened the package, took out several little boxes that contained ribbons of the awards I earned along with an explanation of what I had done to earn them.

I put them back in the package and put it away and forgot about them.

Six years later, Chris earned his Boy Scout Eagle award. His Mom and I were so proud of his accomplishment that we later had his Eagle Badge and his citation framed. When we showed it to him and placed it on the fireplace mantel, he went into his room and brought out a wooden frame with all my metals on display (see the photo) and said, "Thanks Dad for your service."



I still get a little teary whenever I remember that moment.

What was the unintended consequence of that gift? For the first time in over 33 years, I was proud that I had honorably served my country.

So, what has this to do with being a member of the Riverside Live Steamers? We got involved with this hobby because of our fascination with steam locomotives. We wanted to experience the sound, the power and all the moving parts of these machines. We admire all the work that goes into building and maintaining these machines. But there is an unintended consequence of our participation in this hobby. Every time we run our locomotives; we bring a smile to the public who watches us. You can see the joy and happiness of people we had never met. And sometimes we bring back a wonderful memory to someone who is old enough to have experienced a time when steam locomotives were a part of everyday life.

The next time you are out on our run days, take a moment to observe the public, see their smiles and know that it is a gift you are giving to them for your unintended consequence of being a part of Riverside Live Steamers.

- Dan Williams



## Along the tracks...

July workdays in Riverside are usually a warm day. Saturday July 16th

did not disappoint; however we did get some work done.

Track crew worked on the hill by Summit Siding cutting rail gaps at joints to prevent sun kinks from developing.

Work in the compound on general cleanup and the SMP worked on the Hunter Locomotive for routine maintenance.

Roadmaster ran the blower car over the mainline and then fertilized the weeds with anti-growth material.

Roadmaster changed hats for Chef and prepared the famous Roadmaster TSL (tube steak lunch) for the workers at noon.

The Board meeting was held at 1:00PM. Every member is welcome to attend the Board meetings to learn about future projects and activities.

August 20, 2022 will be the next workday. Mark your calendars to come join the fun on RLS Workdays.

**Special Red Cross CPR** learning class provided by President Dan Williams will be held at the August Workday on **August 20, 2022**. This class will be held during our normal workday to educate those members who would like to be certified in CPR, this is an important First Aid class for you, your family, and our communities.

We need a Camp Chef for August 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in future dates to help with the lunch, please let me know at [rich@wmp.net](mailto:rich@wmp.net) or (575) 756-4413. The Club pays for the groceries, so we just need a cook.

- Rich Casford, Roadmaster

## From the President...

My fellow members of the Riverside Live Steamers, it has been brought to my attention that some of you have concerns regarding the decision the Board of Directors made regarding a matter concerning the actions of an individual. In fact, one individual believed it was his right to verbally abuse two of the Board members, using language that was offensive to the individuals, with the mistaken belief that his concerns were heard.

A final decision regarding this issue will be decided at the Board of Directors meeting in September.

What I am requesting from you fellow members to contact me, either by phone or email, to share with me your concerns. I will keep all your comments confidential and will share with the Board of Directors at its September meeting a summary of all the comments I receive. My cell phone number and email address are in the current roster. If I do not answer the phone, please leave a message and I will return your call.

### THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is the story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, But **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

**SAFETY FIRST**

## TANSTAAFL

Mounted on the wall of the club house, between the bathroom door and the kitchen area is that sign – TANSTAAFL. Okay. Cool. I'll look for it. And, oh, by the way, what the hell is TANSTAAFL??? I had no idea until I asked on the old guys who was around when I joined back in the dark ages either. It stands for (are you ready?)

### **There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch**

This is far more true than we want to admit, it applies to everything that happens at RLS. Track work needs to be done, members



need to show up and help run the railroad on run days, water needs to be plumbed out to where our thirsty steeds need to use it, and diesel fuel needs to be there as well for those of us running oil fired locomotives. The City provides us a fixed dollar annual stipend to purchase fuel to support the running of the public trains. In past years, other engines, those not hauling the public, have been able to partake of this largess on the part of the City with no effect on train or club operations. We are no longer living in the past. The skyrocketing cost of petroleum products, especially the diesel fuel that California mandates, has strained our personal budgets, and it has definitely affected how much diesel fuel is in the storage tank at RLS.

RLS has in the last couple of running years (not the calendar Covid Years) has been forced to purchase more fuel than the stipend provides for the yearly operation of trains. We are now in the unenviable position of having to ask oil burning engineers not in the business of pulling the public to

remember the yellow box under the phone in the clubhouse that says "Fuel Donations". If one actually considers the coal burning folks having to find coal on their own, and the propane fired folks bringing their own full propane bottles to play trains, it does seem to make it a bit more equitable – we ALL get to share the pain of buying that burning *something* we use to make steam.

So, those of you burning the refined, liquid portion of dead dinosaurs, please throw some of those fine American greenbacks into the fuel box at the end of the day. It will help RLS stay as active as we are in the capital improvement areas.

- Dave Bunts, SMP

## From the Car Foreman

As we are back into regular runday operations I'd like to remind everyone of the procedures for identifying a bad order car.

If you discover an issue while running a car belonging to the Club please go to Barney's Barn on the North wall is a holder with Red Service Tags in it.



Take a service tag, fill out the top and bottom, tear off the bottom and stick that into the clip holder on the box then attach the tag to the bad order car so that it can be clearly seen by other members or myself (attaching on or near the coupler works great).

Once you've tagged the car please give me a heads up.

- Brook

## July 10<sup>th</sup> Run Day

Board member Kevin Zamp was Operating Superintendent of the first Run Day in July. Temperatures had been on the rise most of the weeks so it was little surprise it was a bit toasty out there.



Tom Lebs hit the railroad early (6:23am) to set switches and clear the grade crossings, Bob Roberts hostled the Hunter engine and got it fired up for the day. Jonathan Rohrbach took the opportunity of not being the O.S. to fire his own engine, Richard Miller worked on getting Charlie Kennemer's Mogul steamed up and Sean and Steve Hagen readied the 2-8-0 for a day of passenger service.



Due to the heat the Hunter Engineer duties were divided up between Bob Roberts, Chris Neiman, Brook Adams and Scott Horgan. Hunter Brakeman for the day were Tom Crue and Mark Spaulding. Assisting in passenger service was Sean Hagen at the throttle of his 2-8-0 with Steve Hagen and Anthony McBride taking care of the Brakeman duties.



Members that braved the heat to help out the Run Day were Station Master Glenn Maness, Tiffany Love at Merchandise, Marty Berg secured the Stations four track crossing, John Gurwell helped out at the platform. When not on the public train Tom Cure and Chris Neiman covered the Station switches. Also out enjoying the day were members: Gus Farwick, Charter Member Ron Wilkerson, Charlie Kennemer, Jim Kreider, Dave Bunts, Bob Beard, Wes Peterson and Patty Ruyle.



## July 24<sup>th</sup> Run Day

Jonathan Rohrbach was once again the O.S. of the day (we may have to get him a personalized clipboard) but he wasn't the first to arrive. Scott Horgan opened the compound up at 7:08am with Doug Prescott, Sean Hagen and Steve Hagen right behind him.

*(July 24<sup>th</sup> Run Day Continued)*

Sean and Steve Hagen were out on the railroad with their 2-8-0 at 8:45am checking the railroad and doing a few laps before public service started at 10:00am.



The station was crewed by Station Master Glenn Maness, Tiffany Love on Merchandise, Marty Berg with flags ready at the four track crossing, and Bill Hesse on the Re-rail Cart. Public trains were crewed by Brook Adams and Jim Wood in the morning. On the Hunter train with Scott Horgan and Matthew Ruff covering the afternoon duties.



Helping in passenger service all day was Sean Hagen at the throttle of his 2-8-0 and Anthony McBride as Brakeman. After some service work in the steaming bays Doug Prescott fired up his Pacific and made several laps to test out the repairs.



Also out enjoying the live steam hobby were Gus Farwick, Wes Peterson, Warren Peterson, Anthony McBride, Jim Krieder, Mark Spaulding, Greg Pack, Aaron Pack, Brian Stephens, Ron Wilkerson, Bob Beard, Richard Miller and Bob Beard.

Even with the threat of 105 degree temps for Sunday from the National weather service earlier in the week, there were more general public in the park Sunday than in the last couple of run days.



It did reach 96 degrees around 2:00pm and the station shut down at 2:30pm due to a lack of passengers.

**It's a little early but...**

Have you thought about running for the RLS Board of Directors?

The outgoing Board members (Adams, O'Guinn, Williams and Lebs) will be leaving vacancies in the President and Treasurer positions. Being a Board member gives you a unique look at what it takes to operate our railroad.

If you are interested in running for the Board contact club Secretary Mark Spaulding.



# Happy Anniversary!

Here are the membership anniversaries for August 2022

**Congratulations!**

And thanks to all of you for your years of support to the Riverside Live Steamers!!

	Years
Brendon Hilton	28
Bill McLaughlin	19
Tim Wheeler	10
Aaron Caldera	9
Ken Long	7
Owen Cascarelli	7
Bob Chamberlain	6
Tom Brody	6

## SAFETY FIRST

### CLUB MEMBER T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE AGAIN

It's time to update your wardrobe in time for the fall meet that's only 3 months away.

Member T-SHIRTS are now available in BLACK for those who work on steam engines or those who won't wear white after labor day.

These are member style T-Shirts with pockets printed front and rear in two colors.



### CLUB T-SHIRT ORDER

Return to Bill Hesse at Clubhouse or Mail to RLS-shirts P.O.Box 5512, Riverside CA 92517-5512 **with check, not later than September 25<sup>th</sup> Run Day.**

<b>Child \$13.00</b>	White	Black	<b>Adult \$17.00</b>	White	Black
Small	_____	_____	Large	_____	_____
Medium	_____	_____	XL	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	XXL	_____	_____
			XXXL	_____	_____

Total Child \_\_\_\_\_ X \$13.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Adult \_\_\_\_\_ X \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Long Sleeve, Add \$6.00 Each \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Sale \$** \_\_\_\_\_



## August Calendar "Where is it?"



The August calendar photo is of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad concrete bridge over the Santa Ana River in Riverside CA (absorbed into the Union Pacific in 1921) .

The bridge was built in 1904 and spans 985 feet. It is still in use today as the U.P. has a yard on the South end of the bridge.

**Thanks to Dan Williams, Rich Casford, Dave Bunts and Bill Hesse for the photos and articles in this months Chronicle.**

If you have photos, an article or anything else you'd like to submit to the Chronicle please email the Editor at: [editor@rlsrr.com](mailto:editor@rlsrr.com)

## *Upcoming Important Dates*

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, Run Day Westbound**

**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, Run Day Eastbound**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, Work Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, Work Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, Run Day Westbound**

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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### **Officers**

President: Dan Williams

Vice President: Bill Hesse

Secretary: Mark Spaulding

Treasurer: Brook Adams

### **Directors**

Director: Pat O'Guinn

Director: Tom Lebs

Director: Kevin Zamp

Director: Jonathan Rorhbach