

# *THE CHRONICLE*

---

---

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



March 2023



## **Work in David's Yard**

One of several new switches being installed in David's Yard on the February Work Day in preparation of the Third Level hoist build.

**SAFETY FIRST**

## Presidential Words O' Wisdom



The esteemed editor of this marvelous publication is actually a slave-driver, and has sadistic tendencies. He is constantly all over yours truly in an effort to publish the Chronicle on time, and with things of interest to the general membership included within the covers. Mr. Adams does a phenomenal job with the Chron, and at times I'm almost embarrassed to present to him things that aren't to his exacting standards. This will be one of those.

The weather is horrible, at least from my standpoint. The rest of the country may not agree, but those of us in SoCal are not used to the cold temps, and what seems to be incessant rain. The last week has been both cold and wet, but I do agree that the picture postcard look of the snow-covered mountains surrounding the LA Basin is quite pretty. I'm going to be willing to bet that the members who reside in the High Dessert and the mountains are not going to agree, considering they have to drive in that white stuff. An argument can be made that the whole difficulty thing is self-inflicted as thy choose to live where they do, but that's for another day.

Another of the downsides to the weather is turnout for the work days is seeing limited success. We have a dedicated, but small cadre, of workers who show up each and every work day. They even show up when it's cold. If you haven't been out to a work day recently, come on out and see what it's all about. The

work is usually not too stressful, and we even provide a free meal to those who work. It's not a bad trade-off for having a railroad that performs quite well in terms of the physical plant.

There is going to be a small amount of time where several of the lower tracks in the Noble-Quick building will be out of service to pour the footings for the third level lift. Yes, that project is moving forward. The interruption will be for as short a period of time as we can make it, but it will be there. Kinda like the freeway signs one sees on on/off ramps - "*...may be closed intermittently between now and the coming of the next millenia*". There may be a two to three-week period where the tracks are inaccessible. Please bear with us during this period, it won't last forever. If you've noticed the Roadmaster is happily rearranging the tracks in David's Yard to accommodate the lift. The trackage currently looks like a three-year-old tried to draw straight lines while riding a carousel bucking horse, but again, it's only temporary. It WILL get better.

The Spring meet is coming. Vice President Bill Hesse is reminding us of that fact. Part of the reason the RLS meets go so well is the active participation of our membership in showing our visitors a good time. Let Bill know you want to help during the meet, and if enough of us participate, none of us are stuck all day, we can enjoy the railroad and the visitors after a short stint at whatever job needs being done.

Dave

- Dave Bunts, President

**SAFETY FIRST**





## Along the tracks...

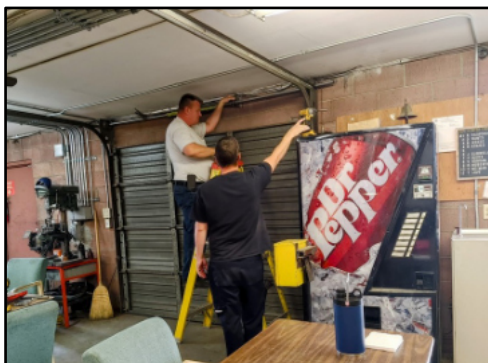
February Workday was a continuation of work in David's Yard for extending yards track for better switching access and removing the need to throw a switch under the pending third level lift.

December workday we spent time waving our arms, pointing to different tracks and moving left & right switches to see which one angles and approaches to yard tracks worked best. We installed one switch for the total morning session.

February, without fanfare, our dedicated track crew installed a switch and had the tools picked up by 11:00 AM. Our fearless leader and SMP Dave Bunts wandered out to the work site as he was waiting for air compressor to fill the tanks for testing of the Hunter Brakes. Dave was shocked with the fast work of the track crew!!

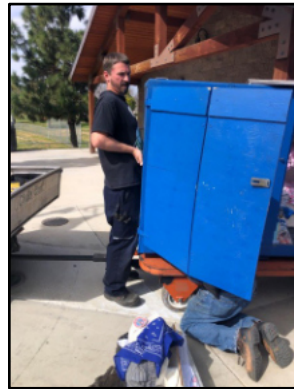


Meanwhile back in the engine house, Master Overhead Door Specialist John Gurwell had a team of helpers replacing the springs on



both over doors in Babb's Building. Thanks to John's business contacts we were able to get replacement parts for the 40+year old doors at a greatly reduced price.

After spring replacements, the same team traveled to the Merchandise Room and moved the sale cart on to the new flatbed donated by Tom Lebs. If any



member would be interested in building a new merchandise sale cart please see Tiffany Love, Chris Neiman or John Gurwell. The wood portion of the cart needs to be built to fit the new flatbed

wheel set.

Lunch was served by our own Glenn Maness as the RLS Pizza delivery person. Thank you, Glenn we did not go, hungry.



Next Workday is March 18<sup>th</sup>, the major project will be extending the tracks straight into track F, G, H, I so the east side of David's Yard will be completed..

Chef Chris Enright and family will be the chef's March for the lunch period at Noon, with the Board Meeting at 1:00PM. See you at the railroad,

- Rich Casford, Roadmaster

## Run Day 2-12-23

The February 12th Run Day started off moderately cold at 45°F with clear and sunny skies. Payroll was delivered just in time from Donut Star near the Colton Hub. Richard Ronne was the first on scene to fire up the commercial coffee pot maker with a fresh brew of Folgers.



Stationmaster Glenn Maness ordered Brakeman Nick Ellis to load the station's first passengers on board Engineer Sean Hagen's #733 West Maryland. Jonathan Rohrbach fired up #5057 and ran the next train with Jim Woods as his brakeman and the fare dodging Safety Weasel as his stowaway.



Engineer Ken Mitsch operated the Birthday Train with Richard Ronne as his brakeman on Ken's #824 Pacific. Second shift on board the Hunter was completed by Tiffany Love, Scott Horgan, and Mark Spaulding. Travel was brisk at Hunter Station with 643 outbound departures.

Two additional freight trains were involved with rail operations on the mainline including Tom Brody on the #7 Yural Mine and Steve Borchert on the 1959 Santa Fe. Railroad operations

were completed according to schedule with the assistance of Tom Crue and Marty Berg handling all the switches and pedestrians at the 4-track crossing. RLS swag was mostly exchanged by Tiffany Love at the Merch Cart while the Pet Monkey handed out suckers to arriving families at the gate.



Five additional Locomotives were out on the steaming bays for maintenance including Richard Miller's 1946 NY Central, Doug Prescott's #1401 Southern, Brian Stephen's #779 Nickel Plate, Richard Ronne's #919 US Mail, and the #609 Pacific by Mark Spaulding. Bob Beard gave a compound tour to John Gurwell's guests while Ron Wilkerson controlled the bonus pay donated by Diane Prescott. 27 members were in attendance including Brad and Laurie Bluth and Gurwell's 4 guests. Operations concluded at 16:00 hours with 57°F partial cloudy skies.

- Chris Neiman, Director

## Run Day 2-26-23

As the weather service promised the Sunday Run Day was rain free in Riverside for Operating Superintendent Kevin Zamp. The morning was cool and damp, perfect weather for live steam.





Sean Hagen and Anthony McBride were first out on the railroad, with Ken Adamson on his 2-6-0 quickly following suit. John Rohrbach fired up his vertical boilered 0-4-0 and made several laps around the railroad.



At the station we had Station Master Glenn Maness, Tiffany Love at Merchandise, Marty Berg covering the four track crossing. Hunter train passenger service started the day with Engineer Brook Adams and Brakemen Bill Hesse. Bob Roberts took over the throttle a little after noon with Jim Wood covering Brakeman duties in the afternoon.



Sean Hagen and Anthony McBride were in passenger service the entire day. Passengers and people in the park were generally few and far between throughout the day, as the clouds rolled back in and it cooled off passengers disappeared from the station. O.S. Zamp shut down operations due to a lack of passengers at 2:15pm.

## Did you know...



... that eggs come in individually wrapped packages?

... that eggs are usually served in pairs?

... that eggs can be scrambled, fried, or poached?

... that eggs are commonly served with sausage or bacon?

... that pancakes are round, and French toast is square?

... that a hot breakfast is a tradition at RLS meets?



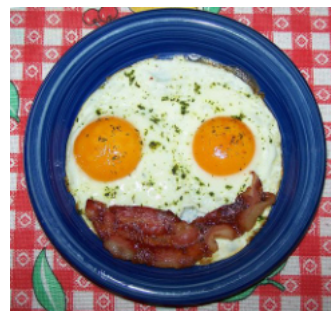
If you were able to answer any two of these questions, you have all the qualifications needed to be a volunteer cook for the spring meet breakfast on April 22 and 23.

Dan Williams has already volunteered as first cook, but we need at least one or two more for each or both days. The menu is planned, the shopping will be done, and the dining room set up.

The only requirement is to get to the railroad a couple hours early to fire up the grill and start cracking some eggs.

If you're ready to help, please contact meet chairman, Bill Hesse [whesse@pacbell.net].

**Remember, a great meet starts with a great breakfast!**



- Bill Hesse, Vice Pres., Meet Chairman

## Things To Do:

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - The Southern California Railway Museum will be holding it's **Swap Meet and Pacific Electric Day**, from their website: "Shop for and learn about railroadians and railroad antiques at Southern California's largest outdoor railroadians swap meet. PE Cars departing every 30 minutes.

*Vendors will be selling railroad collectibles, art, books, models and toy trains. Railroad historians and preservationists will be on hand to tell the story of Southern California's railway history. Fun and learning for the whole family!"*

More information on the event and admission prices is available on their website at:

<https://socalrailway.org/scrm-events/spring-swap-meet/>

### Great Train Show

Victorville, CA

March 18th & 19th 10am-4pm

SBD Fairgrounds, 14800 7th Street, Victorville, CA 92395

Onsite Admission: \$12.00 for Adults on Saturday, \$11.00 for Adults on Sunday

Cash only at the door. Saturday tickets good for both days!

Online price \$11.00 for adults on Saturday. \$10.00 for adults on Sunday.

KIDS ARE FREE (11 and under) with adult and do not require a ticket.

<https://www.trainshow.com/shows/victorville-03-23>



## Heads Up!!

There are several projects under way in and around the Noble Quick Building. If you haven't been out in awhile keep an eye on your surroundings and watch your step as things may not be as you remember.

## Sharing...

George Bartlow passed away a year ago this month and his girlfriend Christine and our own Dave Bunts have been acting as executors to his estate.

As many of you may remember, George was a "Shutter Bug" and even had his own darkroom setup at his house. Dave and Christine have passed along a bunch of photos that George had developed.



Most of the images are from RLS several years prior to the Park remodel, a few from other railroads as well. All the images so far are black and white.



I have scanned a bunch and posted them to the website. A lot of the images are duplicates as George was experimenting with exposure times and such so there are more to sort through and scan.

Please do check them out, I'm sure you'll see members you hadn't thought of in awhile, some equipment you remember or maybe even yourself!

**Photos from the Chron (and more) have been posted to the Club's website.**

**Check them out at:**  
<https://riversidelivesteamers.com/photos/>

## Message from the Compound Supervisor/ Security

Hello again! I am sorry for the confusion resulting from my last article in the Chronicle. I hope this article will fix that.

The new ID will consist of your first and last name with a space and no suffix. i.e. Bob Roberts. If there is a space in your last name it will be removed and the second capitol letter will be lower case. For now, I am not changing the password. It will remain the same as what is on the clubhouse wall. In the future, if we cannot work out a way to put it on the club's web page, I will implement personal passwords. This will be done in steps and I will have to send each of you a personal email with your password.

If you have trouble accessing the camera system, or if you have no desire to have access to the system, Please, email me at: [c17fan@hotmail.com](mailto:c17fan@hotmail.com) and use the subject: RLS CAMS. You can also use this to request a password of your choice (8 numbers/letters). These changes are to help enhance the security of our system. So, for now come to the club, read the notice on the kitchen wall, it has the password that is currently in use. I will soon update it to reflect these changes. So for now, just get the password and enjoy the view of the new cameras.

*-Bob Roberts, Compound Supervisor*

*(Editor's Note - Bob actually sent me a corrected article for last month's Chron, but instead of updating the article he had sent earlier in the month I popped the old one back in and published - My bad, Brook)*



## Happy Anniversary!

Here are the membership anniversaries for March 2023

### Congratulations!!

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

	Years
Allen Ratliff	50
John DeNault	46
Larry Nilles	33
David Moore	16
Corey Kelly	12
Steve Ruatta	08
Tiffany Love	07
Chris Neiman	07
Matthew Ruff	07
Matt Robinson	01

## The Riverside Live Steamers Spring Meet

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>



**Come out and enjoy the Live Steam  
Hobby with us!**



## March Calendar "Who is It?"



Upper Left: Passengers wait to board the Hunter train and Richard Ronne lubricates locomotive 737.

Upper Right: Chris Neiman and Jim Wood bring the Hunter train through Panorama Point

Lower Left: Manny Caldera loads passengers while Glenn Maness and Steve Hagen look on.

Lower Right: Marty Berg flags the four track crossing as Jonathan Chase pulls into the station.

**Thanks to Dave Bunts, Mark Spaulding, Chris Neiman, Bill Hesse, Betsy Shaw and Rich Casford 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*

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Run Day Westbound**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> CANCELED for Easter**

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Work Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Work Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> Run Day Westbound**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Spring Meet**

The R.L.S. Chronicle is published by The Riverside Live Steamers, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA, 92517.  
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: Dave Bunts  
Vice President: Bill Hesse  
Secretary: Mark Spaulding  
Treasurer: Randy Chase

#### Directors

Director: John Gurwell  
Director: Chris Neiman  
Director: Kevin Zamp  
Director: Jonathan Rorhbach