

# *THE CHRONICLE*

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NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



June 2023



## **WigWag Marlborough Crossing**

Tom Brody on his 2-6-0 rolling over the grade crossing

*"The introduction of so powerful an agent as steam to a carriage on wheels will make a great change in the situation of man."*

— Thomas Jefferson, 1802

**SAFETY FIRST**

## ***Presidential Words O' Wisdom***

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The months just seem to run together. I couldn't wait when I was younger, had to be 16 to drive (legally anyway) and that anniversary of my orbiting the sun took forever. Then it was 18, then it was 21,

and none of those seemed to arrive any sooner than did the 16th. Once an adult (at least legally) work/career/family obligations took over, and time seemed to be something in short supply. Somehow, we got most of the things we needed done done, but it always seemed that the 'fun' stuff got pushed back a little too easily in favor of the stuff that HAD to get done. Now that I've hit the age I'm at (at least I've circled the sun that many times, I refuse to get 'old'), time seems to be moving along at a speed I find excessive. There are things that need to be done, I have heard from more than one retiree "I don't know how I found time to go to work" once they pulled the pin and left scheduled employment. I can understand that comment.

One of the things that we all seem to enjoy is playing trains at RLS. While I admit to having missed a workday, and now a run day, it hasn't been because I didn't want to be there. Most everyone can make the run days, that's where the fun is. It is as important to make the workdays. There is a sign on the clubhouse wall that reads "TANSTAAFL". It is one of the truest statements ever uttered by anyone, anywhere, ever. It applies to everything we do at RLS, whether it's running on the rails, helping with the passenger running, or showing up and working for a half day with payments in donuts and lunch. One of our members told me "I figured I had to give something back for all the help I've gotten with my engine. So, I started coming to the workdays. And the satisfaction I get is more than worth the time." We need to pay attention to the sentiment, because it's true. spending a half day, working on club projects, for the betterment of the entire organization and not just your little piece of it, is well worth the effort. All of us are counting

more orbits around the sun than we feel comfortable with. Leaving the work to only those hearty souls who are at the club on all the workdays and some that aren't even scheduled workdays but are needed to 'get things done around here' isn't giving anything back for the enjoyment you get from being a member of RLS.

Yet another benefit of being around and participating on work days besides the free lunch is the general meeting that follows it. Yes, it is occasionally boring, and repetitive, BUT the club needs your input. YOU the members make the place go, and everyone has something to offer towards the running and operation of the place. RLS, at its most basic, and as stated in the incorporation papers is (and I paraphrase) here to educate the public about steam trains and their effect on Riverside and the surrounding area. This doesn't mean that we are stuck in the way we've always done things. Yes, we are steam only, and that ain't changing. That doesn't mean we aren't going to not change, revise, modify the way we operate to meet our evolving environment. We are investigating the use of a computerized money acceptance method (PayPal, Apple Wallet, etc.) at the station for both merch and donations. Other clubs have apparently done it with success, but RLS is in the dark. We are looking for anyone with real world experience with any of those apps to get paid for something to tell us of your experience, both good and bad. Most of us have used one of them to pay for something but have never been on the getting paid side of it. There are other things in the works, and when you come to the meetings, you get 'in the know' early on what those things are. The meeting is after the lunch on the scheduled workdays, so come out, do some manual labor for a bit, get a free lunch and then help guide the way forward for RLS at the meetings. RLS is worth the time.

- Bunts

And, oh, by the by, There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch - 'TANSTAAFL'



## Along the tracks...

After many years of delay due to COVID-19, RLS was able to hold our annual Thank You Lunch for

the Riverside City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Staff and Parks, Recreation & Community Service personnel on Tuesday May 16, 2023 at Picnic Shelter #1 in Hunter Hobby Park.



Over 34 attended our lunch, which also included RLS members Randy Chase, Tom Crue, Jim Wood, Bob Roberts, Glenn Maness, Bill Hesse, and your Roadmaster/City Liaison.

We had all but three council members in attendance plus the Mayor of Riverside. Several department managers also came out to learn about what RLS gives back to the community with train service twice a month.



Unknown to me, one of the gentlemen that was in attendance turned out to be our new fuel oil purchasing agent in the city. When I did an inquiry about our next order of fuel, my prior contact informed me that he had been promoted. Our new contact responded

with a return email stating "the food was fantastic and the history of RLS was very interesting!" He also stated he would get moving on the paperwork coming to RLS very soon for the next delivery.



All members of RLS should really consider how you could help with our Run Day passenger service. This is how we pay the "rent" to have the best live steam railroad in the world. The next time you come out to operate your engine, consider taking an hour or so to help with public trains. Everyone loves live steam; we all have a responsibility to the entire RLS organization to help continue to move forward. We always need Brakemen, switch tenders, crossing guards if you do not want to pull the public with your engine.

Be on the lookout for new NO DRIVING in the Park signs being installed in Hunter Hobby Park. This has been a request by RLS to place signage when cars drive into the park and many times over our track..

- Rich

Rich Casford

City Liaison/Roadmaster

**SAFETY FIRST**

## **From the Compound Supervisor**

As many of you know our main building has been around for a while. At the time of construction, the standard was to primarily use galvanized pipe for water. If you have lived in a house that has this type of plumbing you know that it eventually has to be replaced. That time has come for our old pipes.



At the last Board meeting I was put in charge of getting the plumbing replaced. The job is not overly complicated or difficult. It just takes some time and proper preparation. The month of June for me is not going to have much of the precious commodity we know as time. I am planning on collecting materials and starting the plumbing change out in August. Here is where we get to the preparation part.

Before I can get the plumbing done several tasks need to be accomplished. The drywall in the restroom near the kitchen needs to be removed from the ceiling and the West and East walls. In the kitchen, the shelving and doors below the counter top need to be removed. As much as is possible, the metal shelving around the kitchen sink needs to be disassembled and set aside. Once this is done, I will have full access to get the new plumbing installed.

If you are able lend a hand in doing this prep work, please contact me at (951) 440-2095. I can give you more details so you can help.

- Bob Robert

## **From the Vice President**

Steam is more than trains

From Heron of Alexandria in the first century to modern turbines used in ships and power plants, steam has a remarkable history. RLS is more than just a railroad, but includes our charter as an educational venue.

At the Yucaipa High School field trip to RLS, Jim Wood and Bill Hesse had a demonstration of stationary models and tractors that was very well received by the students. To see if such a demonstration would be of interest to our public visitors, I'd like to try a similar demonstration on the patio across from the station during the **RLS run day of June 25<sup>th</sup>**.



This will be an informal demonstration, just running some engines, a little history, tell how they work, and see where the questions lead us.

Anyone with models of table top steam engines, Mamod vehicles, or even G-gauge engines is invited to join in the fun. There will be a small compressor available, though models with their own boilers would be more impressive. It might be fun to have a vertical locomotive with the works up where they can be seen, operating on track 4.

If interested, call or write Bill Hesse (951-544-2740) [whesse@pacbell.net](mailto:whesse@pacbell.net)

**SAFETY FIRST**

## Night Run May 6th

The Night Run was extremely successful! There were at least 23 members and 14 guests. It was as large as a normal Run Day. The weather was perfect beginning in the low 70s and ending in the high 50s around midnight. There was a dazzling 99% full moon... which Brook Adams describes as a "waning moon."



The Night Run actually began in the morning with Tom Lawson operating his #777 Berkshire, Brian Stephens on his #799 Berkshire, and Bob Chamberlin at the throttle of his #3002 Atlantic. Richard Ronne was entertaining some East Coast guests while preparing his #919 Pacific for nighttime service.

The compound was packed at dinnertime with RLS Treasurer Randy Chase and Board Member John Gurwell swapping shifts on the BBQ grilling up burgers and dogs with some hospitality assistance provided by VP Bill Hesse. There was plenty of fixings along with some fruit, pasta salad, and desserts. Lily Horgan made sure to move in on a cookie or two.

The night shift began with the #919 departing the South Engine Lead while Wes Peterson was in pursuit with the newly acquired #3000 Atlantic. The #1 American under the supervision of

Jonathan Chase and Randy as brakeman entered service shortly thereafter along with Doug Prescott on the #1401 Pacific with Scotty Horgan as brakeman. Passenger and freight service were coordinated by two-way radio on the bi-directional route for the entire shift with no casualties to equipment or passengers to report.

I want to thank John and Randy for coordinating the meal plan for the evening. It was a huge hit! Even Marty Berg was impressed enough to leave a positive review on Yelp! I also want to thank Richard Ronne for providing passenger service to the family and friends that were in attendance. Also, a Big Thank You to Road 2 for having the lights and sprinklers off!



The next Night Run is on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come out and run under darkened skies. Look for the pot-luck sign-up sheet in the clubhouse or coordinate with John Gurwell with inquiries about what is needed.

-Chris Neiman, Director



## Run Day May 14th

The first Run Day in May was Westbound outside loop. Director John Gurwell was O.S. Of the day.

At the station we had Station Master Glenn Maness, with Tiffany Love on the merchandise cart, Chris Neiman manned the platform loading the trains and Marty Berg covered the four track crossing. The morning Hunter train crew was Brakeman Tom Crue with Engineer Brook Adams, afternoon duties fell to Chris Neiman and Jim Wood. Assisting with passenger service was Richard Ronne on his 4-6-2 with

Jonathan Rohrbach as Brakeman. Doug Prescott along with Scott Horgan and Nick Ellis provided the Birthday Train with Doug's Pacific pulling the consist. Also out on the railroad were Tom Brody on his Mogul, and Mark Spaulding on his 4-6-2.



The day stayed cool and the passenger trains kept the station empty. Out enjoying the live steam hobby were Tom Lebs, Mike Harris, Gary Mocko, Bob Beard, Bill Hesse, Randy Chase and Dave Bunts.

## Work Day May 20th

The May work day main project was to move the dirt from the Bunts Bypass retaining wall install out of the steaming bay area.



With the help of one of the O.S. Carts, Tom Brody's Bobcat and a bunch of shovels all the dirt was relocated while still relatively soft and before the onset of summer baked it into an adobe mound. A big thanks to Bob Roberts, Dan Williams, Bill Hesse, Mark Spaulding, Doug Prescott, Richard Ronne, Tom Crue, John Gurwell, Tom Brody, Brian Stephens, Randy Chase, John Gurwell, Glenn Maness, and Bob Robert's grandsons Zayden and Ryker. Also thanks to our Camp Cooks for the

day the Enright family. It was also good to see Dave Moore and his wife Gretchen.

Most of the time when you come out for a work day you could be taking on any of a number of tasks. Some are obviously related to the operations of the railroad like track work, car repair, Hunter service. Some not so obvious like steaming area clean up, weed abatement, club house cleaning. Sometimes your project for the day can be a bit of a surprise like the water leak discovered on the April work day. Other times you'll have advanced notice of a need for track crews, or like last work day, dirt moving. All projects are important, your skills are needed, come on out and help.

## Run Day May 28th

The second Run Day in May was lightly attended with just two trains out on the railroad which included the Hunter.



Richard Ronne supplied the second motive power with Mark Spaulding and Chris Neiman swapping out turns on the cushion.

Operating Superintendent Randy Chase pulled out Lannon Atlantic to have on standby in the event the Station became over crowded. Passenger levels in the morning were higher than they had been in the past few months, but not crazy. This was a bit of a relief as the Press Enterprise had an article on our City Luncheon earlier in the month in the past that has driven up attendance. Total passenger count for the day was 546. Hunter morning train crew was engineer Brook Adams and Brakeman Tom Crue, afternoon crew was

Bob Roberts on the cushion with Chris Neiman and Doug Prescott covering Hunter Brakeman duties.



At the Station we had Marty Berg at the four track crossing, Tiffany Love taking care of merchandise, John Gurwell assisting at the platform and Glenn Maness as Station Master.



Members also out enjoying the day were Bob Beard, Bill Hesse, Gus Farwick, Warren Peterson and Jim Krieder.

### Save The Date!

The 2024 RLS annual Dinner will be held Saturday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Habanero Restaurant/951 Event Center at 2472 University Ave., Riverside.

\$25.00 per person, social hour starting at 5:30pm, chicken fajitas, cheese enchiladas, rice & beans, garden salad, chips and salsa

Use the registration form in this months Chron to get your reservation in early!

### Happy Anniversary!

Here are the membership anniversaries for June 2023

	Years
Dean Willoughby	54
Richard Casford	53
Warren Peterson	25
Brook Adams	22
Paul Minerich	19
Brian Stephens	10
Larry Brown	07
Ken Adamson	06
Garibalde Figueroa	05

Thank you for all your years of support!

### Night Run

The Second R.L.S. Night Run will be Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a Potluck dinner, some folks have already signed up.

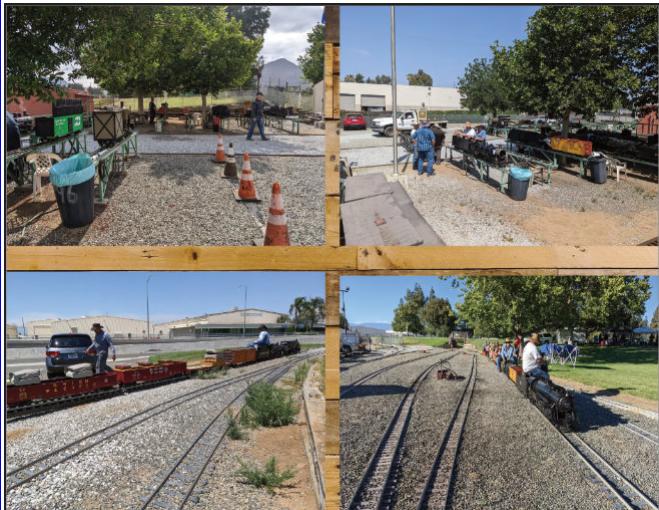
If you plan on being there and haven't signed up to bring a dish, please let John Gurwell know how many will be in your group and what you'd like to bring either by phone call or text at (909)205-7382.



Operating Headlights and Flashing Rear-End devices are required.

Come on out and enjoy the railroad in the cool of the evening!

## June Calendar “Who is it?”



Upper Left: Richard Ronne and John Rohrbach in the background, Ken Adamson in the foreground.

Upper Right: Shot of the Southeast steaming bays.

Lower Left: Jonathan Chase on the engine with Randy Chase walking back to the Brakeman car

Lower Right: Double heading out of Allen's Valley for the Candle lighter's run.

**Thanks to Dave Bunts, Bill Hesse, Chris Neiman, Tiffany Love 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*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> Night Run**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> Run Day Eastbound**

**June 11<sup>th</sup> Run Day Eastbound**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> Night Run**

**June 17<sup>th</sup> Work Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**July 9<sup>th</sup> Run Day Westbound**

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 Rohrbach



**R.L.S. ANNUAL DINNER**

**Saturday January 07, 2024**

**Habanero Restaurant**

**951 Event Center (right next door)**

**2472 University Ave**

**Riverside, CA 92507**

**6:00PM**

Please return the form below. \$25.00 per person. NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

There will be door prizes, 50/25/25 cash drawing, videos, awards.

Social Hour at 5:30PM

Garden Salad Chips and Salsa

Chicken Fajitas, Cheese Enchiladas, Rice & Beans

We need to have confirmed reservations and payment by **December 23, 2023.**

Please list the names of the persons attending at the bottom of this letter and return your reservations, with check payable to R.L.S. as soon as possible to:

**Glenn Maness, 25307 Alta Vista Dr., Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

1. MEMBER \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Guest/ Spouse \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_