

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



January 2024



Working On The Railroad

Rains in California are almost always a double edge sword, yeah we need it but... Nick Ellis and Mike Harris lend a hand as a section of track needed to be lifted and tamped after rains earlier in the week softened the right-of-way. (photo courtesy of Chris "Ansel Adams" Neiman)

SAFETY FIRST



It's A Hobby...

2024 is here and the Holidays of 2023 are a bit of a blur already. Coal burning folks, I hope you were squarely on the “Naughty List” and Mr. Claus saw fit to fill your stockings. In the event that Santa does some cross referencing, oil and propane users should strive to stay on the “Nice List” to avoid extremely dangerous situations around the holiday fireplace.

Though I’ve never been much of a “Resolution Guy”, the first of the year does provide a bit of a mental bench mark (it is a type of starting point after all) that I like to take advantage of. As you gaze out onto the twelve spanking new months laid out before you what are some of the things you’d like to get done this year?

For myself, mid December I started to organize and list all of my projects, hobby and otherwise. This gives me a visual reference and reminder of what I want to get done and need to focus on. It can also be a reminder not to over commit yourself or your time which I think we all find is way too easy to do. With my list in hand I can prioritize and zero in on getting long standing projects completed like a certain Tich locomotive for Ken Long that I’ve been “working” on for years (at this point I really owe Ken rent on that engine) or the connecting rods on Lane Leonard’s Jackson Hole locomotive or those less exciting, more mundane but still need to get done projects like re-caulking my bathtub.

Partial inspiration for my list has come from the Club’s own list of projects. For those of you unfamiliar with it, years ago Roadmaster Rich Casford sat down and made up a spreadsheet of his outstanding projects and provided it to the board of directors. The board, thinking that was pretty neat, took his list and started adding projects to it that they and the membership would like to see done. At one point the list had North of thirty-five items on it. Even as items were completed and new

projects were added, over the years the list has shrunk down to its current size of thirteen. This year the board will be going through the list. We will be looking for new project suggestions from the membership and prioritizing all items to focus in on getting budgeting set up and completing as many of those projects that benefit the Club as possible.

Lists and projects aside, whether it is finding that sweet spot running your engine, machining that part, putting that last lick of paint on a boxcar or just watching trains run on the railroad, take time this year to enjoy your hobby of live steam model railroading.

See you out on the railroad!

- Brook

Per Section 14.2 of the RLS Bylaws -

A vote will be taken at the January 20th regular meeting on the bylaws change to Article IV section 9.3 presented to the members in attendance at the December 16th, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

Membership Directory Update...

The 2024 membership renewal/roster forms have begun mailing out.

We will be publishing a Membership Directory this year. Make sure to update your info and get it mailed in to the Club as soon as you can.

The Board will be updating the Brakeman and Hunter Engineer rosters in this years Directory. Brakeman and Engineers please watch for upcoming requests on your status and if you wish to remain on the respective rosters boards.



Along the tracks

2024 has arrived and the Riverside Live Steamers will be 58 years old this year!

As with all railroads, track maintenance is an important part of successful operations. RLS is no different. Without continuous maintenance and track renewal, our run days could become problematic.

December 16th workday saw the track crew installing a relay switch in the car lead to David's Yard. This switch installation will allow access to the east side of David's Yard. In addition, the west-side tracks will have a better alignment for access to the storage building.

Changing out all the switches in David's Yard will also provide longer switching leads for car access.

Our normal work continued in the compound on several projects and general clean up.

January 20, 2024, Workday Track Crew project will be alignment and leveling of the curve from Big Pine Tree to the Summit Siding Switch #2. This area has been reported in the OS reports as very rough. Additional ballast will also be spread in various areas along the mainline where the end of ties are now showing.

Chris Enright and family will be our chef providing the lunch for the workers at Noon in January. The board meeting will be held starting at 1 PM. Come out and enjoy your railroad.

If you are interested in future dates to help with the lunch, please let me know at rich@wmp.net or (575) 756-4413. The Club pays for the groceries, so we just need a cook.

-Rich Casford, Roadmaster

FULL HOUSE!! RLS STORAGE 2024

Please do not bring equipment to RLS thinking you saw an open space.

All tracks are rented to members and the buildings are filled to the end of each track. Any open space has been rented and you can not place your equipment on those tracks.

If you are interested in storing your equipment, please send me an email rich@wmp.net or call me (575) 756-4413 so I can put you on the waiting list.

We have one engine on the waiting list now so if you need space or want to reduce your space, please contact me.

We are working to get the Third Level Lift installed in early 2024 to open more space, however until that happens the NO VACANCY sign is still lit!!

-Rich Casford, Storage Chairman

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RLS Calendars are still available....

We have calendars left in the Club House, they are \$16.00 each.

Pick up a couple when you come out for the next Run Day!



Run Day December 10th

The first Run Day in December started with early birds Mike Harris and Richard Ronne opening up the Compound, getting the railroad set and the day started. Relatively cool in the morning with high wispy clouds the day got off to a great start.



Firing the Hunter in the morning was Jonathan Rorhbach with Jim Wood as Brakeman/Conductor. Sean Hagen, Richard Ronne and Anthony McBride operated a second passenger train throughout the day with Scott Horgan and Bob Roberts covering the afternoon shift on the Hunter train. We did have a birthday train for the 10th and that was covered by Doug Prescott on his 4-6-2 with Nick Ellis and Tom Crue taking care of the Brakeman/Conductor duties.

Out on the railroad were Ken Adamson on his Mogul, Charlie Kennemer and Richard Miller running Charlie's 2-6-0. Taking care of service work in the steaming bays were Brian Stephen tending to his Berkshire, Greg Casford having a boiler check on the 2926 and Pat O'Guinn working on his 2-6-0



Stations services ran as smooth as always with Tom Crue covering the four track crossing, Tiffany Love taking care of the merchandise cart, Chris Neiman helping

at the platform and Glenn Maness as Station Master. As the day went on Tom went on to being Brakeman so Pat O'Guinn stepped up to help out at the crossing (thanks again Pat!), Glenn had to leave early so Tiffany took over Station Master duties.

Though passenger loads were light in the morning with many guests re-riding we were a little busier in the afternoon and ended the day with 662 passengers.

Thanks to Jerry Roth for helping out with the O.S. clipboard and everyone that pitched in and made the day run smoothly!

Board Meeting 12/16/23

Committee reports were provided to the Board, the Annual Dinner on January 7th was discussed. The reading of the proposed amendment from the September and October Board discussions was completed and approved by 10 members present with 5 or more years in the Club. The Board approved a January 1st members only run day (no public rides), a Bylaws committee and a Safety Rules committee were established to review and recommend updates to the Board for both before the next printing.

In Executive session Randal Wilson was approved for regular club membership (welcome aboard Randal!). In light of David Bunts' soon to be escape to the "Grand Canyon State" the Board appointed a new Safety Supervisor to take over for Dave. For the Board I'd like to thank Dave for all of his work as Safety Supervisor through the years in keeping RLS a Safety First Club.

- Brook Adams, President

Run Day December 24th

It was a fantastic experience to run Eastbound Figure-8 throughout Hunter Park on Christmas Eve during our very last Run Day of 2023. The early morning temperature began at 47° F with sunny and clear skies, but warmed up quickly to the mid 60s. All steam locomotives thrived in such irresistible conditions. An unusual feature of the day was the nearly-empty park. For the first time in years, engineers didn't have to dodge foul balls from the

softball fields, slow down for players kicking soccer balls onto the tracks, or watch for little ones piling rocks on the rails while their parents are sitting at the picnic shelters enjoying the party. All mainlines were clear of obstructions and as a result, all train crews seemed relaxed and at ease performing their duties.



Two passenger trains and two freight trains were in service throughout the day shift. The #573 2-6-0 was the first freight train off the steaming bay with Engineer Richard Miller at the throttle. His brakeman was Non-resident member Colby Hoskinson visiting from Utah (more on Colby in a moment). Sean Hagen and Richard Ronne (and Tiffany Love on 1 run) maneuvered the second eastbound train led by the #733 Consolidation. #5057 was not far behind with Hunter Engineer Jonathon Rhorbach on the throttle with one hand and the Hunter steam gauge in the other. His brakemen were Tom Crue and Nick Ellis. The 4th train in service was the 2-8-0 operated by Steve Borchert, conducted by Peggy Borchert, and supervised by Trainmaster Maggie from the palace car.



All 4 trains were on schedule with Station Master Glenn Maness supervising speed limits and departing trains from Hunter Station. Marty Berg flagged the public at the 4-track crossing as Tiffany Love gladly accepted cash donations for

RLS Christmas swag from the merch cart. The OS was Chris Neiman.

Mike Harris and Tom Lebs provided valuable field support service on the mainline clearing tracks from overnight falling debris before and during rail operations in isolated locations. RLS CEO BROOK ADAMS actually broke a sweat tamping down ballast between the ties near the Casford X-ing while Bill Hesse inspected items related to the railroad's signals. SMP Horgan was present with Starbucks, coffee cake, and plenty of holiday cheer.



I want to thank Richard Miller, Steve and Peggy, Richard Ronne and Sean, and Jonathan for getting Colby onboard every train in operation today. I found that somewhat amusing since that's something I've never even done or heard of on a single day visit. Colby seemed to have had a great time train hopping with all of the train crews as well as speaking with other members working elsewhere. Hopefully, we'll see him in the near future for more coffee and doughnuts.

All in all, there were 19 members in attendance with 5 guests including Club Secretary Bob Robert's son and family. Rail operations concluded at 1:00 pm in time for Christmas Eve events. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Chris Neiman, Director

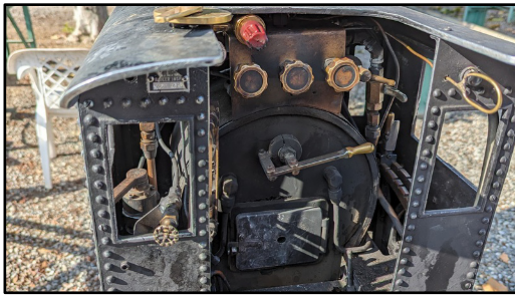
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For Sale

Charlie Kennemer is selling his 2-6-0 locomotive and tender, flat car with tool box, riding car and caboose.



Charlie is asking \$25,000 for the whole set.



You can contact Charlie at
(714)527-6545



If you are unable to get a hold of Charlie you can touch base with Richard Miller who is assisting with the sale.

John Deere... Nope, not a Superhero movie about a guy with antlers but an item for sale!



Gail Woodard has this Deere 3230e for sale.

Though not 1:8 scale, it is a compact utility tractor.



Selling for \$25,000 or best offer, runs excellent,



Contact Gail Woodward
760-868-5343

For more images of events and run days Visit the Club Website at:
<https://riversidelivesteamers.com>

Coming In the February Chronicle:
A full update of the Quick-Noble Hoist project!



January Calendar "Who is it ?"



Top Left: Wes Peterson is at the transfer table, Steve Borcher is at the steam lead gate and Doug Prescott and his daughter Cassandra work on the Pacific.

Top Right: Chandler Kuntz on his 4-8-4.

Lower Left: Bob and Dale Chamberlain get ready to leave Allen's Valley as Steve Borcher and Brian Stephens enter.

Lower Right: Jonathan Rohrbach on the Hunter as Dave Bunts looks on.

Thanks to Rich Casford, Chris Neiman 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

Upcoming Important Dates

Jan 1st Member Run (no Public)

Jan 7th Annual Dinner Habanero Restaurant, Riverside 6:00pm

Jan 14th, Run Day Westbound Outside loop

Jan 20th Work/Fun Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm

Jan 28th Run Day Westbound Figure Eight

Feb 11th Run Day Eastbound Outside loop

Feb 17th Work/Fun Day 8:00am to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm

Feb 25th Run Day Eastbound Figure Eight

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

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