

# *THE CHRONICLE*

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NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



May 2024



## **Long Shadows in Allen's Valley**

**It's a little after 5:00pm in this picture from the Saturday of the Spring Meet.**

**Some of the die hard hoppers ran until after 1:00am!**

**Thanks to Anthony McBride for the image**

**SAFETY FIRST**



## It's A Hobby...

Last month was busy but mostly a good kind of busy! We had our Operational Meet (that by all accounts went really well for a first time doing it), our regular Run Day, Rules and Bylaws committee meetings, some mid week repaint and track repair, our regular Work/Fun day, a mid-week track inspection due to tree trimming in the park, the Spring Meet and regular Run Day and finished off the month with a meeting with the City Parks Dept.

Speaking of the Meet, I want to thank Bill Hesse, Mark Spaulding, Tom Lebs and everyone that helped out Vice President Tom Crue so that all could have a smooth running Meet. It was great to see everyone out and enjoying the hobby. A big thanks to everyone that stuck around to help out with the regular Run Day too, RLS members are the best!

Health and Safety Note: We have been rather fortunate so far this year that the weather for our Run Days and Work Days has been a lot milder and in some cases moister than normal. The month of May on the railroad can be very much like the "slow frog boil", it doesn't feel hot or may even be down right cool in the morning but as the hours move forward the "burner" increases ever so slightly on each tick of the clock. By the end of the day you are boiled, roasted, braised or fricassee. Plan ahead, drink your fluids early, sip regularly throughout the day.

The month of May will not be quite as busy as April but we still have lots of things going on with more on the horizon. We have our second Operational Meet on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Run Days on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the City Lunch May 14<sup>th</sup> and the Work/Fun Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Make a point to come on out and participate when and if you can.

See you out on the railroad!

- Brook

### RLS Brakeman/ Conductor Class

The RLS Board is gauging interest in a Brakeman/Conductor Class for 2024.



A date will be set once we have an idea how many people are interested.

A sign up sheet will be posted on the soda machine in the Clubhouse or you can add your name to the list here - <https://forms.gle/yLyGM1fCzpy8uwYf9>

### Outside of the Club Events

**Los Angeles Live Steamers:** LALS will be holding their 2024 Spring Meet May 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. From their website: "*May 24 to 27, Friday – Monday (Memorial Day weekend) No public train rides on Sunday, May 26. Welcome All Live Steamers and Railroad Hobbyists This is a private event for members of LALS RM and other train clubs, as well as railroad hobbyists.*" More information can be found here: <https://lalsrm.org/events/2024-spring-meet/>

**Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad:** Cumbres & Toltec scenic railroad 2024 season starts with their opening day on May 25<sup>th</sup>. 64-miles between Chama, NM and Antonito, CO. More information on schedules and fares can be found at their website: <https://cumbrestoltec.com/schedule/>

**O Scale West:** O Scale West presents the 32nd Annual 2024 O Scale - S Scale - Narrow Gauge Train Show May 24-26, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Santa Clara, California. Additional info on their website: <https://oscalewest.com/>

**SAFETY FIRST**



## Along the tracks

The day after the Spring Meet, Brook Adams and I met with the senior leadership of the Parks Department at the railroad to

discuss the increasing issues of vehicles driving into the park over the track.

Walking the entire park, Brook and I were able to show firsthand the areas of major concern. We spent over two hours discussing how best to protect the railroad and park infrastructure.

The Park Leadership team were impressed with the strength of the RLS membership to manage any construction issue or project in relationship to operating the railroad.

Plans and funding are being developed to provide a level of security from vehicles driving into the park.

In addition to vehicle barriers around the park, work orders have been issued to service and repair the mister system at Hunter Station. The main pump is not working on the mister system.

On our inspection walk, Brook and I were also able to identify the location for the new Wig Wag installation at the sidewalk crossing on the Columbia Ave side of the park. Once again, the Park Leadership team were amazed that RLS crews were able to rebuild an historic Wig Wag Signal with solar power and install the unit using Santa Fe Railroad standard drawings!

On a final note, the Park Managers complimented RLS on having a City Liaison position to have a single point of communication between RLS and the City. With one point of contact the message does not get lost. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Mike Gardner, John Gardner, and Ken Casford who established this position.

*Rich Casford, City Liaison - Roadmaster*

PS: Next workday is May 18, 2024. Plan to join the fun at RLS.

## From the Safety Supervisor

**This** months safety tip has something to add to our experience in and around the compound. I would like to talk about being **courteous and considerate**. We enjoy our hobby and follow the rules but being courteous and considerate makes everything better and we all benefit.

**Being** courteous / considerate starts by not leaving a mess for others to clean up after you. Our compound supervisor is not a school janitor! He is a volunteer hobbyist that has duties above and beyond just being a hobbyist. Lets all be responsible for ourselves to not add more to others workload.

**On** the occasion you overfill the boiler or if something is not working and the locomotive or tender water needs draining lets try not making a muddy mess in the steaming bay areas! Instead, let's try to put the engine or tender on a transfer table and drain it out in the gravel from one of the transfer tables. If you overfill the boiler drain it into a bucket then dump the water in the gravel. This is so simple and should not disrupt things. Mud is not only messy but its slippery and can cause a serious accident should someone slip and fall. I will be on the lookout for this because of the safety aspect of wet, muddy and slippery.

**Speaking** of transfer tables. Please limit their use to "transfer" equipment from your storage track or the hydraulic lift track to the steaming bays or out to the engine leads. Do not perform repairs, change couplers, plumb, grease, connect, etc. while on the transfer tables. We have probably all done it out of convenience but if someone is waiting it is not courteous nor considerate!

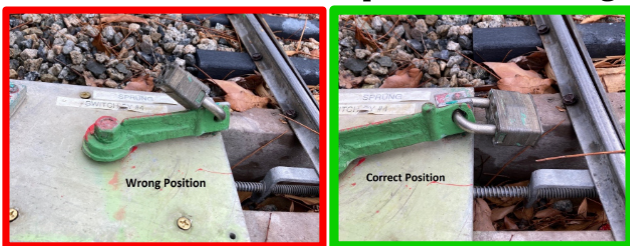
**Lift Etiquette**. When loading or unloading on the lift please vacate the lift in a timely manner so others have access if there are others waiting. This also includes moving your vehicle in a timely manner so others can move in to load or unload equipment. Do not perform repairs, change couplers, plumb, grease, connect, etc. while on the lift! When using the lift extreme care should be taken when lowering that the shut-off valve be quickly shut off when beam touches and stops. Damage to the seal may occur if beam is angled due to not stopping it in time when lowering it.

**Returning Property**. Put things back

where they belong !!! This is something to note. If you use a rake or shovel return it to the rack where you got it from. It is very frustrating for those who need a tool and its not where it should be!!

**Steaming Bays** should be kept neat and clean for the next person. Route water hoses so they are not tangled and thrown about with the open ends laying in the dirt. Nobody wants a slug of debris in the water supply to plug injectors.

Remember to keep the locks pointing DOWN on those switch boxes unless you feel like joining the work crew to repair damage to the switch plate that gets torn off when the locks are irresponsibly left in an upright position. Please don't be lazy. Put the locks down! See pictures following!



Until next month, Richard  
- Richard Ronne, Safety Supervisor

## Run Day April 14th

It wasn't the upcoming Monday tax deadline, but it was the weather that created a dreary Sunday instead. Was it going to rain or not? Well, of course it was... sort of. Jim Wood had his money on a short run day, but somehow, just ever so slightly, RLS pulled off a complete day of rail operations despite the misty conditions here and there.



Three passenger trains, a birthday train, and 4 freight trains braved the elements as well as 571 public passengers including two dozen birthday party attendees. Station Master Maness directed passenger service at Hunter Station as Brook Adams and Jim Wood departed with #5057 on the morning shift. Second shift saw Bob Roberts at the throttle with President Adams conducting train operations. Additional service was provided by Richard Ronne/Anthony McBride, and Jerry Vargas on #919 as well as Randy and Jonathon Chase on #3520. The crew of Doug Prescott/Nick Ellis/Tom Crue/Tom Ballard/Jason Ballard provided last minute party service to our reserved guests. A huge THANK YOU to the Prescott and Chase crews for making Leo's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday a very special day, indeed!

Freight operations were demanding too. Mike Harris promptly began rail operations with #76 at sunrise while SMP Horgan and Prescott entered service with #476 at full steam shortly thereafter. Richard Miller completed (scale) miles of service with #573 working at capacity as Jim Kreider and Bob Chamberlain used the #762 Berkshire to close out their shift later that day. Marty Berg kept a watchful eye out at the 4-track crossing to make sure all pedestrians passed the tracks and trains safely.

Other highlights include Jerry Roth volunteering for morning training on the Hunter. Oh, and Bob Beard showed up!!! However, it was #919 that topped the cake. There were several times we thought we would wrap up operations at any moment. The #919 with Ronne at the cab was the train that I thought would be the last train of the day when he departed Hunter Station in heavy misty conditions. However, the sun was out and shining just 20 minutes later as he returned to the passenger platform with delighted passengers in hoodies and sweatshirts. We were laughing about the sudden drastic change of weather when he returned. We agreed it was kind of weird. All in all, this run day was a very busy day running Eastbound Outside Loop.

-Chris Neiman, Operating Superintendent

## 2024 Spring Meet Recap

Vice President Tom Crue got to check off a couple of Board Member boxes; his first Operating Superintendent day and his first O.S. for a Meet!

The Meet started out a bit slow on Friday morning but as Tom reports things did pick up later on with over 30 members and guest in attendance that day.

Saturday started off with traditional Meet breakfast then out to the steaming bays for the days run. First out on the rails was Richard Miller and Charlie Kennemer. 42 guests and members made it out on Saturday with train operations running to the early hours of Sunday morning.



Sunday, the final day of the meet and the regular public run day, again started with a hardy breakfast. Members fired up and headed out onto the railroad. In public passenger service were Tom Lawson at the throttle of his Berkshire and Jerry Roth taking care of Brakeman/Conductor duties. Anthony McBride got some cushion time in on Richard Ronne's Pacific with Richard covering the rear of the train. The Hunter train crew in the morning was engineer Bob Roberts and Brakeman Jim Wood with Doug Prescott taking over for Jim in the afternoon and Brook Adams swapping seats with Bob Roberts on the Hunter loco.

Station Master Chris Neiman saw that everything went smoothly on the station platform with assistance from John Gurwell, Tiffany Love took care of merchandise with Randy Chase stepping in to give her a break. O.S. Crue covered the four track crossing flags as well as

switching at the South end of the station yard as needed.

Thanks again to everyone that helped out with the Meet and came out to participate, let's do it again in six months!

## OPERATIONS MEET MAY 05, 2024

Hi All Members,

It's that time again. We are having another Operations Meet and we have made some changes from the last one. The changes are minor and we hope this will move the railroad around quicker and we have fixed some other minor problems that are a little misleading.

Let me take a minute for a special THANK YOU that goes out to all the ladies for their help. Diane Prescott made Brownies that were gone in no time flat, Patty Ruyle made a salad and we couldn't find a leaf left in the bowl, Kim Chase picked up all the food from the restaurant, and all the ladies helped in getting everyone fed and cleaned up afterwards. If you didn't make it to the last Operations Meet you missed a great time by all, but I do remember a few complaints. Doug complained about not getting any brownies and Diane didn't have any more at home for him, and Patty told me she needed to make more salad because it went to fast!



Okay, back to the May 5th Meet. Please advise us if you are coming to the Operations Meet. If you didn't make the

first one, that is fine. Come out to this one because you can still join in. We need to know this so we can get the Operations Booklets made up and have a sufficient amount on hand without making too many. They will look similar to the last ones we made up. If you let us know you are going to be there, yours will have your name on it too! Also, we can still get you on the list if you want to run your engine for this event. This will be a FIRST to ADVISE gets the spot to run. If you DON'T ADVISE us, we may not have a spot for you to run!!! Everyone else that just wants to participate still let us know.

Please advise me if you are coming, how many, who for lunch, or whether you're just running in the Operations Meet by 8:00am May 02, 2024. Lunch and Operations Booklet will be \$10.00 a person, if No lunch Operations Booklet is \$2.00. I am ordering the food and getting the number of Booklets required for this event.

The morning meeting will be held at 10:00am in the compound. If you weren't at the last morning meeting you must show up for the morning meeting to run an engine. This meeting is when we hand out your books and go over how the meet works, so it is beneficial for everyone participating. Also, for engineers participating, your locomotive does not need to be ready to go out onto the railroad immediately following the meeting. Once you have a train number (issued at the morning briefing) you can come out onto the railroad at your leisure.

We look forward to seeing you out on the railroad!

Thanks,

Randy Chase, Riverside Live Steamers  
Special Events Committee Chair  
Email: [csjiggrinding@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csjiggrinding@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: (909)725-6012

Photos from the Run Days, Work/  
Fun Days and from the Chronicle  
can be found at our website:  
<https://riversidelivesteamers.com/>

## 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.**

**As Charlie has a hard time hearing over**



**the phone Richard Miller is helping out with the sale. You can contact Richard at (951)905-0147**

## May Calendar "Who is it?"



Top Left: Kevin Zamp, Tom Crue, Doug Prescott and Bob Roberts working on track in David's yard.

Top Right: Dan Williams, Bob Roberts, Tom Crue and Tom Brody (on the tractor) work on dirt removal.

Lower Left: John Gurwell on the ladder works on installing new door spring with Jonathan Rorhbach assisting.

Lower Right: (Background to foreground) Rich Casford, Tom Lebs, Bob Roberts, Tom Crue, Dan Williams, Jonathan Rorhbach and Doug Prescott.

**Thanks to Betsy Shaw, Anthony McBride, Chris Neiman 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

**May 5<sup>th</sup> Operations Meet**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Run Day Westbound  
Outside Loop**

**May 14<sup>th</sup> City Lunch**

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

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, Run Day Westbound  
Figure Eight**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> Run Day Eastbound  
Outside Loop**

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

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

### Officers

President: Brook Adams

Vice President: Tom Crue

Secretary: Bob Roberts

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Director: John Gurwell

Director: Chris Neiman

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