

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



November 2024



At The Station

Jery Vargas is at the throttle of Richard Ronne's Pacific, Chris Neiman readies the Hunter for its next lap while Richard and Warren Peterson discuss the finer points of live steam.

SAFETY FIRST



It's A Hobby...

Hi everyone!

It's been a good year for the club and I'm pleased that everything has gone smoothly this year.

Just to recap; we've started accepting digital donations and payments for merchandise this year, had Night Runs and Operational Meets. The Spring Meet went well and wasn't rained out. The City Lunch was a big success, work continued on the third level in the Quick Noble Building with track realignment in David's yard and progress on the third level lift in spite of the heat. The Bylaws and Rules Book went through committee reviews, Locomotive #4026 (the Big Boy) got out and stretched it's legs, there was a Conductor class, Hunter engineer trainees have been getting cushion time. Work on the C16 has moved forward and the chassis is back from the back-shop (thanks Dan!). We did have to contend with public drive through traffic a couple of times over by Big Pine but the track crews made short work of the repairs, all the while keeping the railroad operational.

The Fall Meet, while quiet engine-wise Friday and Saturday, still had a good bunch of folks hanging out and enjoying the live steam hobby. A big thanks to our morning breakfast crew Mark Spaulding and Bill Hesse and everyone that helped out with the meet. Thank you to Meet Chair Tom Crue for smooth handling of both Meets. For those of you that don't know Tom was elected last year to fill the final year of Dave Bunt's term. So what does he do his Freshman year on the Board? He volunteers to be Vice President! Kudos to you Tom.

I would like to say THANK YOU to the club. I've enjoyed being President for the last 12 months. It's been said before but it bears repeating that the people that make up our membership are the key to RLS's success as a club. Your willingness to step up when the club needs you is incredible. The number of members that do so much on Run Days, Work Days, Meets, and behind the scenes during the week without so much as a "howdy-doo"

make this club a joy to participate in – thank you.

I know many of you have had your fill of the word "election" these last couple of months but Regular Members need to get their ballots for the Board of Directors election mailed in. No walk-in, hand delivered ballots will be accepted. They have to be received by mail at the P.O. Box to be counted. We have a good selection of people to choose from, and the direction the club is going to take is set by the membership during these elections, so get them in.

See you out on the railroad!

- Brook

Brook Adams, President

RLS (still) Wants You!!



Your Club is looking for a new Compound Supervisor. After seven and a half years Bob Roberts is passing on the torch. If you are interested in taking over the position and helping your Club please let any of the Board members know.



2025 RLS Calendars

The 2025 RLS Calendars will be in stock at the October 13th Run Day.






\$10.00 each

Meet the Candidates!

Below are the Board approved candidates for the four upcoming Board of Director vacancies for 2024-2025.

Be sure to get your ballots mailed back before the November 16th Board Meeting.

Only ballots received via the Post Office will be counted, NO walk in/Hand Delivered ballots will be tallied.

	Nick Ellis - Member since 2022, Conductor.
	Mark Spaulding - Member since 2012, Past Board Member - Secretary, Conductor.
	Joan Adams - Member since 2004, Past Board Member - Treasurer.
	Kevin Zamp - Member since 2018, Past Board Member, Club Webmaster, Hunter Engineer Trainee, Conductor.
	Jonathan Rorhbach - Member since 2017, Past Board Member, Hunter Engineer, Conductor.

Ballots have been mailed out, they should be showing up in your mailbox within days.

Cast your vote and get it mailed back in!!

Run Day October 13th

Engineers, conductors, and train crews at RLS are always on the lookout for stray soccer balls, foul soft balls, and children piling rocks on the tracks during our busiest Run Days at Hunter Park, but this day was a day to watch out for darts instead... Nerf darts that is.



War was amidst between assault teams in Palm Garden. Heavily armed commando teams were advancing on one another taking cover behind inflatable boulders and other obstacles while passenger trains filled to capacity proceeded with vigilance. Luckily, SMP Scott Horgan stepped in between warring factions to form a compact that allowed for the safe passage of RLS travelers. Railroad operations subsequently proceeded Eastbound Outside Loop without incident.

It was a sparkling 65°F sunny day for the 4 trains out occupying mainline positions in the morning. Engineer and CEO Brook Adams operated #5057 for the entire shift with Jim Woods as conductor while Engineers Sean Hagen, Rich Ronne, and Jery Vargas split duties on #733. Together, both trains boarded 616 passengers during their 5-hour shifts where afternoon temps reached 86°F. In addition, SMP Horgan supervised the train crew of Nick Ellis, Tom Ballard, and Jason Ballard on Doug Prescott's #1402 for Birthday Train operations during which Engineer Richard Miller moved freight on #573. Two locomotives were on the steaming bays for service including Mark Spaulding with #509 and Bob Chamberlain with the #573 Berkshire. No injuries were reported during mainline operations from the conflict zone.

The station was flurrying with hundreds of travelers departing from the platform, however, Station Master Glenn Maness kept order with the assistance of Tiffany Love, Tom Crue, Sam Ferguson, and Mark Ferguson. A huge highlight of



the day was the surprise visit of RLS Member Ken Mitoma. He was in attendance covering the 4-Track crossing while his new wife supervised his work. Other hands-on-deck included Jerry Roth protecting the compound throughout rail operations as well as Chris Neiman handling OS responsibilities. Collectively, there were 23 members and 4 guests in attendance. Just know... it was the perfect day, with the perfect staff in the perfect place to run the imperfect technology of live steam. See you next Run Day!

-Chris Neiman, Director

2024 Fall Meet

Historically the Spring Meets have a larger attendance than the Fall Meets, 2024 was no exception. Saturday ended up being the busiest with thirty-two members and guests checking in throughout the day.



As our Roadmaster is fond of saying, it was "Chamber of Commerce weather" for the Meet. Overall there was a good representation

of motive power, from Jonathan Rorhbach's 0-4-0 vertical to Kim Ziepke's Northern.



The Sunday of the Meet is normally the lighter attended day as most have had two days of running already, but this past Run Day was the exception to the rule! Many folks stuck around and operated, running freight and helping out with passenger service at the station, and what would the final day of the meet be without a visit from our favorite train robbing bad guy Richard Weathersbee. Thanks to everyone that helped out at the Meet, and to Meet Chair Tom Crue.

From the Special Events Committee

Hi all RLS Members,

Just a quick reminder about the up-and-coming Night Run after our Annual November Meeting November 16th and the Operations Meet on Sunday November 17th. If you're interested in participating, please follow this link and fill out the associated form: <https://forms.gle/wPWqQ5cK2wqPY1LA> If you cannot fill out the form for some reason please RSVP to let Wesley at: wpeterson458@gmail.com

On another NOTE: I have been working with the Yucaipa High School Students STEM Program to set-up another field trip for them. After talking to our Special Events Committee and the students we have decided to have

them come out Tuesday, December 3, 2024. They will be at the railroad about 10:00am and heading back to school about 2:30pm. We will be setting up stations like we have done in the past and rotate the groups around until we get everyone through all the groups. We will need help to set-up before the students get to RLS and I will need someone to stay at the park when I leave about 7:15am to meet them at their tour of a rock quarry that I'm also setting up. If you are interested in helping please give me a call or send an email to the (specialevents@rlsrr.com).

Thanks,

- Randy Chase, Special Events Committee

C16 Update October 2024

One of the lessons I learned from doing this project is to measure everything and not make any assumptions that everything is the same measurement. In the case of the front driver crank pins, after examining the cause of the clicking sound, I found that the front crank pins should be 0.030 inches shorter than the other crank pins. To correct this, I plan on dropping the front drivers and either making new crank pins or having them shortened on a surface grinder. That should happen in the next month or so. Photos 1 and 2 show loading the



chassis on to the back of my pickup. I made the stand, which has a 8 ton hydraulic jack that can raise the top rails to a height of 40 inches.



I can lower the lift to 20 inches, which is just the right height of my trailer. Photo 3 shows the chassis back at RLS.

In the near future, the Supervisor of Motive Power (SMP) and I will place the boiler on the chassis and do the necessary plumbing to get the engine back on the rails once again.

This project was a great learning experience for me. Having to figure out how to make parts that would work correctly without any plans was a satisfying challenge.



My next project will be retrofitting my oil burning locomotive to burn propane. I hope to have this done in the next several months. My goal is to take it to the Train Mountain 2025 Tri-Annual.

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Events outside of the Club...



Southern California Railway Museum

Thomas is returning to the Southern California Railway Museum November 2, 3, 9, 10 & 11. Advanced Ticket Purchase is highly recommended and will be available online prior to the event. For more information check out their website at: <https://socalrailway.org/scrm-events/thomas/>



South Coast Railroad Museum at the Historic Goleta Depot

South Coast Railroad Museum will be running their Candy Cane trains starting November 30th, trains operate from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Find more info here: <https://goletadepot.org/>



Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

Railtown 1897 State Historic Park will be hosting their 2024 Polar Express train starting November 22nd. Tickets are \$80.00 to \$85.00 per person. Additional dates and information is available at their website at: <https://www.railtown1897.org/events/polar>

RLS Annual Dinner

The 2025 RLS Annual Dinner will be held at Habanero Restaurant January 19th in their 951 Event Center at 2472 University Ave Riverside, CA 92507. Watch for more information on prices and menu items.

November Calendar "Who is it?"



Top Left: Dave Bunts, Dan Williams, Doug Prescott and Jonathan Rorhbach work in David's Yard.

Top Right: Bob Roberts and Chris Neiman working on the Bypass retaining wall.

Lower Left: Randy Chase, Bob Roberts, Chris Neiman and Bill Hesse's elbow doing demo work in the kitchenette.

Lower Right: Doug Prescott, Tom Crue, Rich Casford, Dave Bunts, Chris Neiman, and Dan Williams installing a switch.

Thanks to Chris Neiman, Dan Williams, and Randy Chase 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

**November 10th Run Day Westbound
Outside Loop**

**November 24th Westbound Run Day
Figure Eight**

**November 16th Work/Fun Day 8:00am
to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm,
Board of Directors Election**

**December 8th, Run Day Eastbound
Outside Loop**

November 16th Night Run 5:00pm

**December 14th Work/Fun Day 8:00am
to 3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**November 17th Operations Meet
9:00am**

**December 22nd 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

Treasurer: Randy Chase

Directors

Director: John Gurwell

Director: Chris Neiman

Director: Wes Peterson

Director: Richard Ronne

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