

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



August 2025



Allen's Valley February 9th 2020

Hunter Engineer Trainee Ken Long fires the Hunter with Scott Horgan overseeing and Conductor Bob Roberts at the rear of the train. Three and a half weeks later the railroad was shut down due to COVID.

SAFETY FIRST



It's A Hobby...

Borrowing from Monty Python's Flying Circus, "And now for something completely different.."

We haven't had a total shut down of the railroad since the early part of 2020 (COVID). The time prior to that was all the way back in 2010 at the start of the Riverside Renaissance Hunter Park remodel.

The railroad has had vehicle traffic in the past, most has occurred by Big Pine, some by the North entrance of the station yard and even some from the Columbia side of the park. Generally all of these events are citizens that don't want to carry picnic supplies, sports equipment, or concessions into the area they are utilizing. In one notable instance while the track crew was repairing the straight-a-way at Big Pine, a Riverside Police Officer drove onto the park turf, over the track not 50 feet from where the track crew was working on damage from earlier in the week, drove over to the ball diamond outfield and arrested someone playing a pick-up game, then drove out the way he came (got to admit, that was different).



For those of you that may have missed an email or two from me, this traffic issue was actually caused by Parks Department employees. They were working on an irrigation leak between the South Panorama grade crossing and the Panorama way station. Please know that

City Liaison Rich Casford has been constant contact throughout the aftermath of this event with leadership at Parks. They are aware of the scope of the damage to their railroad. They have let their employees know, in no uncertain terms, that the right-of-way is to be crossed only at the grade crossing areas. I'm sure that this was not a light hearted discussion with their staff.

Having worked for a "forward facing" public entity I can tell you that appearances weigh very heavily in decision making and folks up the ladder don't like being made to look bad. This incident came just two months after nearly all of the Park Administrators walked for an hour and a half with Rich and myself discussing how they were going to keep the *public* from driving into and around in the park.

The repair work so far has gone as smoothly as you could hope. Over a third of the track joints and rail that had been driven over have been raised and leveled, there were many locations where the outside rail on the curve had negative elevation. So far, we need to replace 10 feet of bent rail. There is still more to do, we'll see what the work day on the 2nd brings us. If we manage to complete the needed repairs to the right of way on Saturday we may have a operational test on August 9th to make sure we will have no safety issues pulling the public or operating our equipment on the 10th.

See you out on the railroad!

Brook

Brook Adams - President

Photos from the Chronicle, Run Days and more can be found at the Club's website:

<https://riversidelivesteamers.com/2025-photos/>

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Special Events Recap and Up and Coming Op's Meet

Hi, RLS Members,

July 05, 2025's Night Run Demonstration was a light turnout of RLS Members. We had around 12 members and guests show up for the event. Weather was as picture perfect as could be. Lights in the park were off with very few people out enjoying the park.

We had pizza for dinner around 6:30pm. Then ran until around 10:00pm and as many of you know, that is an early shut down time.

August 02, 2025's Night Run has been canceled due to the on-going track work that has yet to be completed after the damage to the track.

Saturday, August 09, 2025: There is a possibility that we may have a Members Run Day to check out the track, if the repairs have been completed before the next public Run Day. This will allow us to check the track out before any passenger trains are on the tracks. Please watch for an announcement on this subject.

September 05 and 06, 2025 is going to be our next Op's Meet Demonstration. Yes, this is a Friday and Saturday Event. We have had good interest in this Event in the past and the September one looks to have more in attendance than past Events. About 20 members from the NMRA are going to be visiting RLS Saturday to participate and observe in the Op's Meet with us. Please register for this event so you can get a Schedule Book. Also, this helps us know how much food we need to order for the lunch. (Books are \$5.00 and lunch is \$10.00) Please register if you can make it, how many, and if you want lunch and a book. <https://forms.gle/iAk6WGY6sx2GBMtR6>

Time Schedule:

Friday September 05, 2025 we will be getting cars out and ready for the Op's Meet on Saturday. We will get to the park around 12:00pm. If you would like to come and run or help get things ready for Saturday that would be great. Open running for

Friday evening and night run until 11:00pm. Scotty and Wesley will be spending the night Friday Night.

Saturday September 06, 2025 is the Op's Meet. The meeting for the Meet will start around 10:00am. Please be in attendance as it is informative and a good time for all who do.

Hope to see you at the club.

- Randy Chase

Riverside Live Steamers Special Events Committee,
Chair

Work Day July 19th

At 8:15am it looked like we would be lightly staffed for our July Work/Fun but by 9:00am we had 14 members in the Compound!!



Compound: Bob Roberts got nearly all of the network installation completed at the station end, Dave Bunts and Mel Hitchcock hammered away on the third level lift



aligning the lift platform to the upper tracks, Mark Spaulding worked at the weeds in the compound and Tom Lebs worked on repairing the bench he repaired previously.

Track Crew: Richard Ronne and Tom Crue worked on the switches in Allen's Valley and out on the mainline, Dan Williams walked the entire railroad with the leveler device, out on the mainline Randy Chase, Chris Neiman, Tom Brody, Mike Harris, Pat O'Guinn and Brook Adams started off where we left off on the special work day of the 12th and continued on around. The team actually got a little farther along than we thought we would including addressing areas that were missed on the initial walk on the 12th.



The work day lunch of grilled burgers and salad was taken care of by Chris and Laranne Enright. A HUGE thanks to everyone that braved the heat to help put the railroad back in order.

- Brook

The Elf and the Compound

Not near as famous as the "Elves and the Shoemaker" but substantially more enjoyable!! It seems that after completing a long cross country trip nothing helps Chris Neiman to unwind like sending unwanted weeds and leaves to their final resting place! Chris spent the week of the 21st scouring the Compound. Chris, thank you very much!!!

2025 Riverside Live Steamers Fall Meet October 24th - 25th - 26th

That's right, the Fall Meet is a mere 2 months and 23 days away!

Our Meet Chairman and Vice President Wes Peterson needs your help! Beat the rush and let him know



now if you are available to lend a hand during the Meet.

Events outside of the Club:

The Southern California Railway Museum Sizzling Summer Nights at SCRm Saturday, August 16th, 2025, 4PM to 9PM. Tickets are \$13 for Adults, Children (5-11) \$9, Children 5 and under are free. Classic cars, music, food and train rides. <https://socalrailway.org/scrm-events/hot-august-nights/> Southern California Railway Museum, 2201 S. A Street, Perris, CA

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For Sale

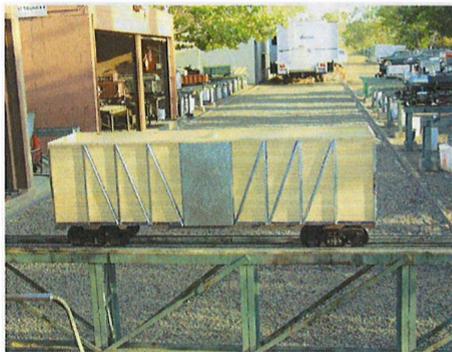
NKP BERKSHIRE 777

Riding Cars, U Haul Truck, etc.

by Tom Lawson

tlawson777@charter.net

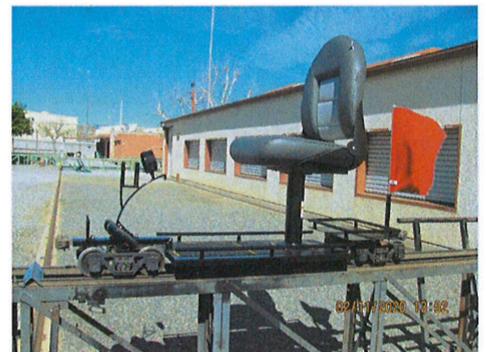
Please, serious inquiries only



Boxcar/Tool car before finished



3 Riding Cars



Brakeman Car



Caboose



1994 GMC 3500 U Haul Truck



Engine & cars loaded in Truck

It is time for me to find a good home for what has been the better part of my life for the last 24 years. Included in this transaction is the NKP Berkshire 777 Engine, Tender, Boxcar, 3 Riding Cars, Brakemen Car, Caboose and the U Haul Truck that can carry it all. Also included are tools, spare parts and everything from soup to nut bolts to keep you running.

August Calendar "Who is it ?"



Top Left: Marty Berg at the 4 track crossing with Tom Crue and Jim Wood walking in the background.

Top Right: Bob Chamberlain leaves the station yard.

Lower Left: Steve and Peggy Borchert enjoying the live steam hobby.

Lower Right: Bob Roberts at the throttle of the Hunter train with Conductor Jim Wood covering the rear.

Thanks to 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

August 9th Possible Operational Test
(watch for more information)

August 10th Eastbound
Outside Loop

August 16th Work/Fun Day 8:00am to
3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm

August 24th Eastbound
Figure Eight

September 5th & 6th Operations Meet
Register at: <https://forms.gle/iAk6WGY6sx2GBMtR6>

September 14th Westbound
Outside Loop

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

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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