

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



June 2025



Down In The Valley

Jim Kreider rolls through a busy Allen's Valley Yard

SAFETY FIRST



It's A Hobby...

And just like that we are at the half way

point of 2025. Time flies when you are making steam!

Thank you to all of our members who work to safely operate the railroad on the public run days. From setting up the railroad in the morning to closing everything down at the end of the day your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The start of Summer is listed as June 20th in the Old Farmer's Almanac, we know that the Southern California weather can have it's own idea of when that event will take place. So far we've been kind of lucky in that, with the exception of Mother's Day (102), the Run Days have been mild-ish. Summer also means vacations and travel and this year a little place known as Train Mountain will be holding its Triennial meet. With folks out globe trotting it is important that we have enough members to staff the railroad and provide breaks on Run Days. Please volunteer to spend a few hours on a Run Day helping to run the railroad for our public passengers.

Speaking of volunteering, your Club is currently in need of a Compound Supervisor. The position has been vacant since last November with your Board and other members covering duties as needed. Though mostly self-explanatory, the Compound Supervisor sees to the maintenance and well being of the Club Compound.

The Compound Supervisor:

- Works with the Roadmaster to coordinate Compound maintenance as needed on the Work/Fun Days.
- Maintains the Clubhouse supplies.
- Stocks the soda machine.
- Light duty repairs of items within the Compound.
- General cleaning of Clubhouse.

If you are interested in becoming the Club's Compound Supervisor please let me or any other Board member know. In the past 24 years there have been four Compound Supervisors, Larry Nilles, Bill Hesse, myself and Bob Roberts, how about we add your name to the list?

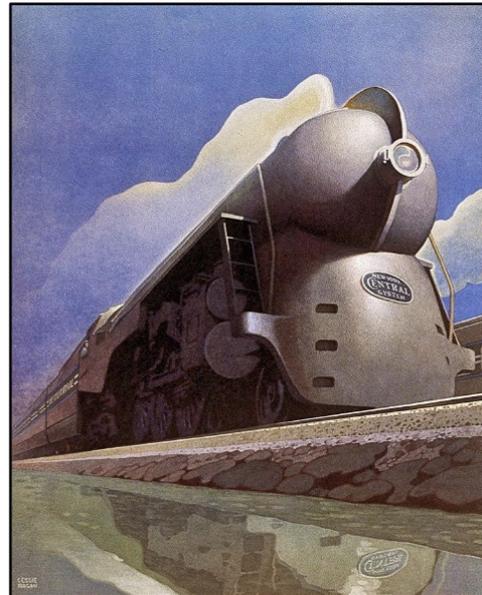
See you out on the railroad!

Brook

Brook Adams - President

This Month in Railroad History

Samuel R. Callaway the first president of the newly formed (just three years before) American Locomotive Company died on June 1st, 1904



The New York Central Railroad express passenger train the "20th Century Limited" started service on June 17th, 1902. June 15th 1938 saw the now familiar streamlined train sets designed by Henry Dreyfuss added to the line.

Image: Leslie Ragan / New York Central System [?], Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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

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

2025 RLS Thank You City Lunch

RLS held their annual Thank You Lunch for the Riverside City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Staff and Parks, Recreation & Community service personnel on May 13th, 2025 at Picnic Shelter #1 in Hunter Hobby Park.



Early confirmation of 40 guests had been provided by the City and nearly all were in attendance, in addition to RLS members Tom Lebs, Tom Crue, Bob Roberts, Bill Hesse, Mark Spaulding, Randy Chase, Patty Ruyle, Rich Casford and Brook Adams.



Several City department managers also came out to learn about what RLS gives back to the community with train service twice a month. Rich Casford provided a history of the park donation by the Hunter Foundation, as well as the creation of the Riverside Live Steamers to operate the railroad for the City. Rich noted that in the last couple years RLS has been part of the Yucaipa High School Engineering Departments field trips and that RLS is more than just a hobby as several of our Junior Members have gone on to work at class 1 railroads and scenic railways.



After the lunch, 20 city staff including the Parks Director boarded the Hunter train with Bob Roberts at the throttle and Conductor Tom Crue covering the rear of the train for a grand circle tour of the park.

Once back at the station Roadmaster Casford and President Adams walked with the Park Supervisors and Inspectors throughout the park to go over items such as keeping vehicle traffic out of the park, squirrel control in Palm Garden, the station mister system and City facility use of the old lake bed area. The Parks Department also offered to provide us clean, screened fill dirt for our sub-roadbed for the up coming reverse loop project.



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.

Run Day 5-11-25

The first Run Day (and Mother's Day) in May started out cool enough but we had earlier warnings from the National Weather Service that the day would be toasty, they weren't kidding.



Bob Roberts was Hunter Engineer for the day with Tom Crue as Conductor. Additional passenger service was provided by Richard Ronne, Anthony McBride and CJ Payne with all three swapping operating positions through the day. Engineer Tiffany Love got some cushion time in on the Hunter as well.



Freight trains for the day were Richard Miller on Chuck Kennemer's Mogul and Mike Harris at the throttle of his 2-6-0. Doug Prescott had his Pacific out on the steaming bay for service.

The Mother's Day Station Crew was made up of Station Master Glenn Maness, Marty Berg flagging at the four track crossing, Tiffany Love at Merchandise and Chris Neiman helping to setup and take down the station.

Other members out enjoying the empty park were Jerry Roth, Tom Lebs, Scott Horgan, Brianna Martinez, Bill Hesse, and Joan Adams

With passengers scarce to non-existent and the heat hitting 102 degrees the Run Day was shut down at 12:45pm.

Thanks to everyone that made it out to help!

- Brook

Work/Fun Day 5-17-25

Saturday the weather was perfect, cloudy and cool. Down in the Compound we had a brand new switch ready to replace the one up at the South end of Station. We had eight guys show up for track work so off we went to the station. In an hour and a half the old switch was out and the new



on in place ready for ballast!! Once we had the switch in the ground three guys took the old switch back down to the yard to see if it could dropped in before lunch. By the time the rest of the track crew met up with them they had a 20 foot section of track out of the way and most of the material cleared to drop that switch in!!

Both switches were in by the time the chuck wagon bell had run.

Work continued on the third level lift with Dave Bunts and Mel Hitchcock.

Chis and Laranne Enright took care of the lunch for the day.

A HUGE thanks to everyone that made it out to the work day and helped!!

- Brook

Run Day 5-25-25

The second Run Day in May fell right in the middle of the Memorial Day weekend. The O.S. for the day was Secretary Bob Roberts. The Station was setup in the morning by Chris Neiman, Tom Crue and Tom Lebs.



Out on the railroad first were Richard Ronne, Anthony McBride and Jerry Vargas ready to help out with public passengers running Richard's Pacific. Shortly after that the Hunter locomotive came out with Kevin Zamp on the cushion and Conductor Jim Wood. Afternoon Hunter service was Conductor Chris Neiman and Engineer Brook Adams.

Once again our ever present team of Station Master Glenn Maness, Merchandise Tiffany Love, flagging the 4 track crossing Mart Berg and Tom Crue helping on the platform had the station under control.



Freight train representation was covered by Tom Brody on his 2-6-0, Jim Kreider and Bob Chamberlain took turns operating the #762, Mike Harris and Demetra Harris-Dean rode behind Mike's 2-6-0, Steve and Peggy Borchert

took a few laps around the railroad behind #1959, Richard Miller was on Chuck Kennemer's 2-6-0, Doug Prescott, Nick Ellis, CJ Payne and Brianna Martinez rode Doug's passenger train with his Pacific leading the way.

Also out enjoying the Live Steam Hobby were Brian and Diane Stephens, Scott Horgan, Bob Beard and Jim Kreider.

The Ol' Switch-A-Roo

On Monday May 4th and Monday May 25th Randy Chase, Chris Neiman, Jonathan Chase and Brook Adams met up with Richard Ronne to experience a learn the fine art of switch building.



Our first day of class was less of a trail by fire and more of an under sea adventure as on the 4th we had a steady drizzle/shower for the first two and a half hours of our day.

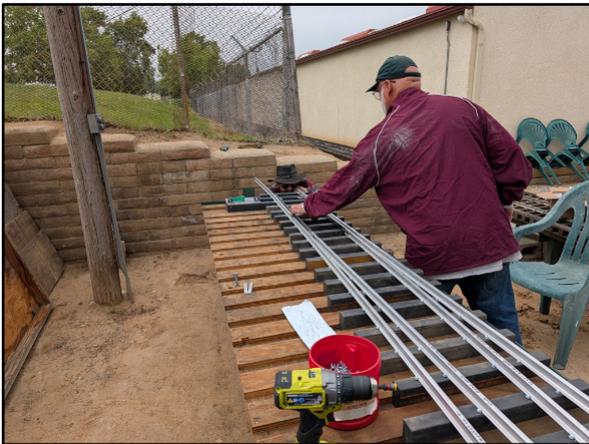
With moisture falling from above Randy and Chris brought out the saw and table so that the various tie lengths needed for the switch could be cut. As Chris read from the soggy cut sheet, Randy and Jonathan sliced the ties to length. We started all of this with the belief that the drizzle would move on out - that was not the case.

Not to be deterred, scrap plywood was laid down around the switch building jig to avoid slip sliding away, freshly cut ties were moved over to the steaming bays and we damply went



about the business of assembly. Richard provided the who-what-where-why on his process of putting together a number 10 switch.

Today's build would be a right hand switch, that is, as you approach the points of the switch the track that diverges away from the straight segment does so to the right. Thanks to Richard's preparation things went smoothly and by 12:30pm a bunch of rookies had assembled their first switch. This switch would be the unit that was installed up at the south end of the Station yard on the May work day. Buoyed by the success of our assembly, plans were made meet up and to do it again on May 25th.



Prior to our next build day, Chris, Randy and Jonathan had pre-cut the ties needed for two switches. Most of the ties were cut from the remaining 12' long board the balance of the 2"x3" ties had to be ripped from 2"x4" material. It was reported that Jonathan looked like a black shag carpet when he was done.

The morning of the 25th rolled around to find us thankfully drier than the previous build day. The days assembly would be a right and a left hand switch. The team got underway and the first switch was completed.



Next up was our left hand switch, now I won't say that it was similar to trying to do anything with your non-dominant hand but... not only is the divergent rail going the opposite route of the last two switches we built, but the entire assembly is swapped end for end on the building fixture! Once our neural pathways realigned we were off and running putting the left hand switch together quicker than the first switch of the day!

A big thanks to Richard Ronne for all of his work and sharing his knowledge and to Chris Neiman for coordinating the build days.

David's Yard is an ongoing construction area!! Use caution when moving cars in or out of the yard.



SAFETY FIRST

June Calendar "Who is it ?"



Top Left: Sierra Cacace at the throttle of Sean Hagen's 2-8-0.

Top Right: Scott Horgan readies the #848 with Randy Chase.

Lower Left: The 4-8-8-4 Big Boy on the steaming bay.

Lower Right: Doug Prescott walks back towards his K27 with Wes Peterson and Kevin Zamp looking on.

Thanks to Joan Adams for the photos and articles in this month's 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

**June 1st Long Pull Day
8:00am to 3:00pm**

**June 8th Run Day Eastbound
Outside Loop and Cancer Kids Run**

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

**June 22nd Run Day Eastbound
Figure Eight**

**July 13th Run Day Westbound
Outside loop**

**July 19th Work/Fun Day 8:00am to
3:00pm, Board Meeting 1:00pm**

**July 27th Run Day Westbound Figure
Eight**

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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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