

# *THE CHRONICLE*

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NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



December 2025



## **Westbound at Big Pine**

Sean Hagen at the throttle of his 2-8-0 and Conductor Richard Ronne bring their passenger train in to the curve at Big Pine

**SAFETY FIRST**



## ***From the President...***

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No surprise, we're all getting older. Priorities change, people get sick, have family and job commitments.

We all got into this hobby probably because we like trains. I'd say second to that is the friendships we've created from this hobby.

Standing around while getting up to pressure, asking for tips on how to repair something, or debating on who's engine can pull more. I'd like to make a challenge to everyone. Call, text, email, whatever your connection is; contact someone in the club you haven't seen in a while. Talk about trains. Talk about the good times you had at the club.

I'd like to see our regular attendance go back up. Even if you don't have an engine, or can't be a conductor on the Hunter locomotive. I like to see people that love trains, talking and hanging out with people that love trains.

*- Jonathan*

Jonathan Rohrbach  
President

### **November Board Meeting**

**Though the November Work Day and the Board Meeting were canceled due to unseasonable heavy rain throughout Southern California, your RLS Board was still at work:**

Randy Chase offered to join the Board as Vice President. After an online discussion the Board approved Randy's offer, Randy will take the interim position held by Bob Roberts.

The Board would like to thank Bob for his past term on the Board as Secretary and for all of his support to the Club.

The Board approved SMP Scott Horgan to pick up the Hudson Locomotive donated by the Keith Family in Cincinnati Ohio.

And last, the Board approved moving Harrison Hitchcock from "Probationary Member" to full "Resident Member" status.

### **RLS Annual Awards Luncheon**

This years annual awards banquet and get-together will be a luncheon.

It will be held again at Habanero Restaurant's 951 Event Center at 2472 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92507.

The date will be January 10<sup>th</sup>, social hour starting at 1:00pm. Luncheon at 2:00pm. There will be Door Prizes, a 50/25/25 raffle and more. The cost is \$25.00 per person, look for your reservation form in the mail or you can use the one included in this month Chronicle.

There is an link on the form if you'd like to pay online, we just ask that you cover the credit card processing fee, and please send Glenn Maness the event registration form with you and your guests names.

**SAFETY FIRST**



# FULL HOUSE!!

## RLS STORAGE 2026 Opening soon, third level car storage tracks

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 cannot place your equipment on those tracks.

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

We have three engines 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 2026 to open more space, however until that happens the **NO VACANCY** sign is still lit!!

Rich Casford  
Storage Manager



### 2026 RLS Calendars

The 2026 RLS Calendars celebrating 60 years of the Riverside Live Steamers are in the Clubhouse.

These will be the same size as last year, 11" x 8.5" (11" x 17" opened up) and the price will be \$10.00. Get yours now!!

## In Memory

### James Keith



James was the son of Charter Member and past President Jim Keith. James was a Non-Resident member since 1988, he passed in August. RLS was informed by James' sons William, David and Mike when they offered to donate their Grandfather's locomotive (pictured above) to the Club.

### Irma Caldera

Irma had been a member of RLS since 2013 and was a Conductor. Often times she would be out to the railroad with Manny and Cindy. Irma passed away November 5<sup>th</sup>.



### Betty Bouris



Betty was the wife of Ron Wilkerson, they had been together since 2006. Though Betty wasn't a member she was a big supporter of our Club and history of the Menifee Valley. Betty passed November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **RLS Fall Meet Potluck November 07, 2025**

Hello All RLS Members and Guests,

As you know, our Fall Meet was moved from October to November 7 – 9, 2025 due to some unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. We have been having our meets for almost 55 years at the same time, fourth Sunday in October and that Friday and Saturday.

Okay, so how did it go you may ask if you weren't there. It went very well. We started off Friday, as members and guests were showing up throughout the day, with our potluck dinner, movies, discussions, and show-and-tell evening. We had over twenty folks participating in the event. We started off with a simple social time with appetizers for about a half hour then got into show and tell. Ben, from Bengie Burners showed and talked about his burners as well as his brake system. I talked about Oil Firing engines and we had a great discussion on the "dos and don'ts" as members and guests chimed in.

After the discussions, which actually took longer than I had anticipated, we had dinner. What a meal we had! The food was incredible and plentiful, and if you left hungry that wasn't because there wasn't enough food.

When everyone was sufficiently stuffed from all the great food, I asked the group if they would like to see the inner workings of a full-size Safety Valve. Everyone wanted to see and understand how they worked. So, Jim Kreider brought in a full size 3" Safety Valve which he took apart and described what the parts were, how they worked, and how to correctly adjust them. We had a great discussion about the valve.

Okay, so on to the movies. Dean Willoughby set up his laptop and Chris Neiman brought in his projector. Jim Kreider brought in some old movies that he had digitized to a flash drive that were taken by Barney Root who was a previous member of the club who has unfortunately passed on. Barney was a watch maker, you might say. All the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific employees had to go to Barney to have their watches

calibrated and checked by him for accuracy. Although the movies were a little jumpy or faded in sections, it gave you a real perspective of how steam railroading was in our area (Colton, Cajon Pass, Fresno, Riverside, and a few more places) back in the 30s and into the 50s.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this event, we had a great time and we look forward to future potlucks. If you participated in this event and had a great time, you may want to pass on the word to other club members and hopefully we'll have even more attendees in the future.

A special "thank you" to Chris Neiman, Dean Willoughby, Patty Ruyle, and Jim Kreider for helping me organize this event from the potluck, the entertainment, and all the other things that I forgot to do.

- Randy Chase,

RLS Special Events Committee Chair

## **Run Day November 9th**

Historically the Run Day of the Fall Meet is lightly attended, that was not



the case for the Run Day of the 9<sup>th</sup>! A bunch of folks stuck around, ran their equipment throughout the day and pitched in on public operations. It was a good day to cap off a great Fall Meet. Thanks to everyone that made it out, as well as those that helped out Meet Chair Wes Peterson make it a successful event.

## Run Day November 23rd

Fall in Southern California - the week prior to the Run Day of the 23<sup>rd</sup> it was weather only a duck would love. Seven days later, what a beautiful day for live steam!



Our O.S. for the day was RLS President Jonathan Rohrbach. Public passenger service was covered in the morning by Sean Hagen at the throttle of his 2-8-0 and conductor Jake Weiss covering the rear of the train with Richard Ronne taking over for Jake. The morning Hunter train was staffed by Engineer Kevin Zamp and Conductor Jim Wood. Station crew for the day was Tiffany Love at Merchandise, Tom Crue at the Four Track Crossing and Station Master Glenn Maness.



Out on the railroad were Andrew Martin at the throttle of his narrow gauge 2-4-2, Bob Chamberlain on his Mogul, Tom Brody ran his 2-6-0, Richard Miller was at the throttle of Charlie Kennemer's Mogul, Doug Prescott and Wes Peterson took turns on the cushion of Doug's narrow gauge 2-8-2

Afternoon Hunter train was staffed by Brook Adams and Conductor Richard Ronne. Passenger count was 325.

Also out enjoying the live steam hobby on the 23<sup>rd</sup> were Clark Rohrbach, Bill Hesse, Bob Beard, Jerry Vargas, Jim Kreider, Randy Chase, Jonathan Chase, and new member Ashley Carlos.



### Your 2026 RLS Membership Dues are due December 1st

Get them in before the January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline!

**Resident Member - \$70.00**  
**Non-Resident Member - \$35.00**  
**Junior Member - \$15.00**

You can mail your checks to the Club at:

Riverside Live Steamers  
P.O. Box 5512,  
Riverside, CA 92517-5512

**Dues can be paid online through the Club's Square account, there is an added processing fee to do so. You can use the links below for the appropriate membership dues:**

Resident Member:  
<https://square.link/u/IVglU63z>

Non-Resident Member:  
<https://square.link/u/DzVYcOle>

Junior Member:  
<https://square.link/u/8pfYodxt>

## **RLS New Year's 2026 Run Day** **Demonstrations**

Hi, All RLS Members and Guests,

As a tradition, we are going to be running on January 01, 2026, weather permitting. I should be there by 8:00am to start things off and will plan on running until about 3:00pm or maybe later depending on weather and participation. This day is a "Demonstration Day", no public rides. If asked by the public, just advise when we give public rides. Also, it is a good time to chat with the families and talk to them a little about your engine.

On that note, bring out your family and friends. Show them and teach them how to run your locomotive and get them more involved in our hobby. Let's try and keep the family tradition alive.

We are considering a potluck lunch in Allen's Valley this year if we can get enough interest. We have had some fantastic potluck dinners so let's see what we can do for lunch. If you are interested in joining in the potluck, please contact RLS special events so we can make plans. Please RSVP by Monday, December 29, 2025. [se@rlsrr.com](mailto:se@rlsrr.com)

- Randy Chase  
RLS Special Events, Chair

### **Please No Food Waste in Steaming Bays**

After the successful Fall Meet, all the trash can buckets were full of waste. So lot's of steaming activities—that's a good thing.

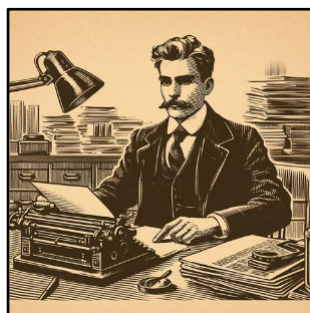
Afterwards, we hand picked out the plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling and funding the club. The other paper trash, metal parts, etc were then sorted as throw away

garbage. But the waste food was full of ants and will eventually lead to cock roaches ('Palmetto Bugs' as we say in Florida).

So please put our waste food in the large garbage near the main clubhouse door. That way, it will get properly emptied at the end of the event or day run.

Signed: From your volunteer  
Compound Supervisor (for the day).

### **From the Chronicle Editor**



A super big thanks to everyone that submitted articles and photos to the Club's newsletter in this past year!

More good stuff is on it's way in 2026, if you have photos or articles you'd like to send in you can do so at [editor@rlsrr.com](mailto:editor@rlsrr.com)

Brook  
*Brook Adams - Editor*

### **Another Note from the Special Events Committee**

I would like to advise everyone that we have a new member joining the RLS Special Events Committee. We want to Thank Tom Crue for joining our group. We believe that Tom will be a big help to our group and will be able to put some good ideas into our event planning. Tom, after some begging and arm twisting, has accepted to take on this challenge and we greatly appreciate his expertise.

Thank You, Tom!

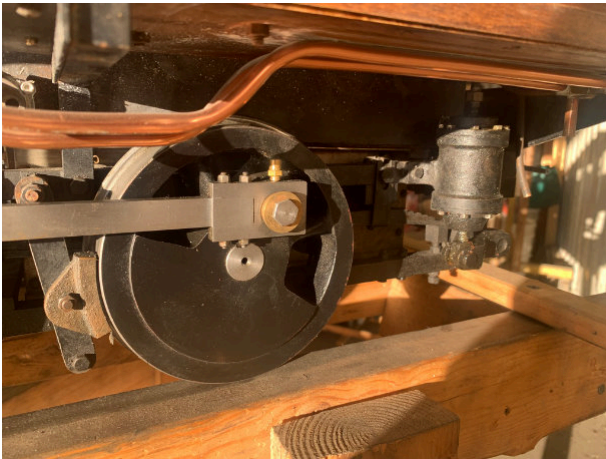
Committee Members are: Chris Neiman, Brook Adams, Jonathan Chase, Tom Crue, and

Randy Chase, Committee Chair

# For Sale



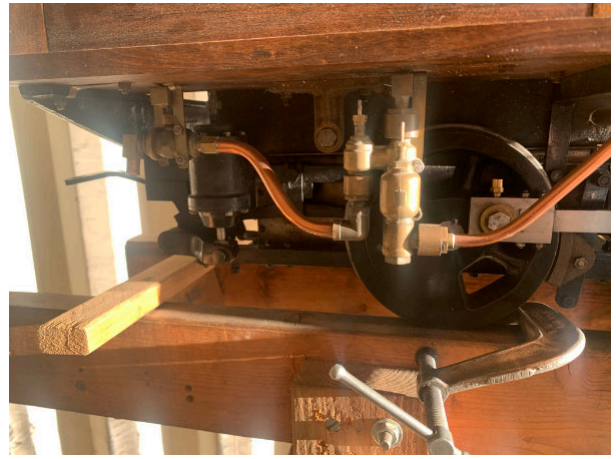
For Sale is an Allen Models, Fitchburg Northern built by Johnny Hoffman appx in 2012. 2.5" Scale 7.5" Gauge Has 3 ways to inject water, Steam Injector, Cross Head Pump and Manual



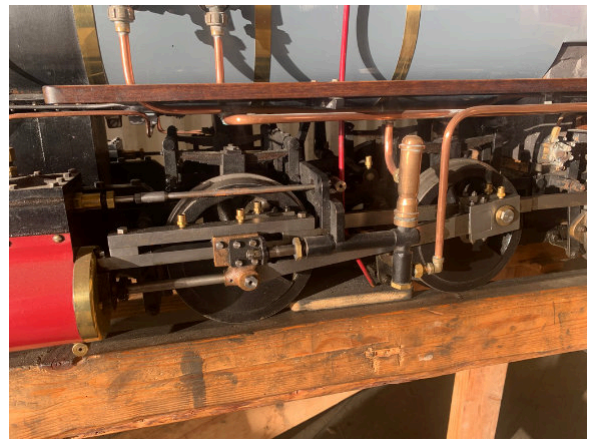
Pump on tender. Comes With two firing grates, Wood Pellet and Coal (though she runs great on wood, never could get a



successful coal fire to not clunker and loose heat) Has a Steam Brake system on the locomotive only. Included in the sale is a 50' scale ridding car that attaches to the tender with



a draw bar and a standard coupler on the other end



and additionally a modified Motorcycle trailer set up to haul the locomotive and flat car included. Locomotive is in The High Dessert east of Lancaster CA, Near Phelan CA to be picked up only Asking \$25,000 O.B.O., Contact Victor D'Agostino 310-313-1249



## December Calendar "Who is it ?"



**Top Left:** Berkshire power in David's Yard.

**Top Right:** Tiffany Love and Glenn Maness at the station.

**Lower Left:** Greg Casford on the 2925 with Tom Lawson tending his engine in the background.

**Lower Right:** From Left to right -Dan Williams, Scott Horgan, Nick Ellis and Dave Bunts look over the chassis of the C-16 locomotive.

**Thanks to Joan Adams, Randy Chase and Tom Crue for the photos 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

**December 14<sup>th</sup> Run Day  
Eastbound Outside Loop**

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Work/Fun Day  
8:00am to 3:00pm, Meeting 1:00pm**

**December 28<sup>th</sup> Run Day  
Eastbound Figure Eight**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Run**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> Run Day  
Westbound Outside Loop**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> Work/Fun Day 8:00am  
to 3:00pm, Meeting 1:00pm**

**January 25<sup>th</sup> Run Day  
Westbound 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: Jonathan Rorhbach

Vice Pres Randy Chase

Secretary: Brook Adams

Treasurer: Joan Adams

### Directors

Director: Mark Spaulding

Director: Kevin Zamp

Director: Richard Ronne

Director: Wes Peterson

**SAFETY FIRST**

# R.L.S. ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Saturday January 10th, 2026  
1:00PM

Habanero Restaurant  
951 Event Center (right next door)  
2472 University Ave  
Riverside, CA 92507

Please return the form below. \$25.00 per person. NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

There will be door prizes, 50/25/25 cash drawing, videos, awards.

Social Hour at 1:00PM

Lunch at 2:00pm

Garden Salad Chips and Salsa

Chicken Fajitas, Cheese Enchiladas, Rice & Beans

We need to have confirmed reservations and payment by **January 01, 2025.**

Please list the names of the persons attending at the bottom of this letter and return your reservations, with check payable to "**Riverside Live Steamers**" as soon as possible to:

**Glenn Maness, 25307 Alta Vista Dr., Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

You can also pay online at: <https://square.link/u/y2hDoA1s> , if you do, **please still send Glenn your reservation and check the box below.**



1. MEMBER \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Guest/ Spouse \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Guest \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Guest \$25.00 per person - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Online