

# THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS

Celebrating  
Sixty Years of  
Live Steam



March 2026



## Fallen Flags

Three RLS Members have passed away last month: Charter Member Ron Wilkerson, Marlene Borsuk and Dale Chamberlain.



**SAFETY FIRST**



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

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Hopefully everyone remembered Valentines Day a few weeks ago. Having a happy spouse makes it easier to escape and come play trains with friends.

The weather has been pretty good for the run days so far this year. We've had pretty good turn outs for members and public riders. We even had two new members sign up on the Feb 22 run day. If you see someone you don't know walking around the compound, please introduce yourself.

The best way to retain new members, is for them to feel welcome and have a friend. I do feel we do a pretty good job with camaraderie, but meeting new members and getting them involved with helping out and feel needed is a must.

We also have the Spring Meet coming up on April 24-26. We have quite a few members that are also members of surrounding clubs. It's a good time to tell everyone you know so they can plan ahead. Randy Chase and the activities committee are working on some really neat things for the 60 year anniversary of the club. Let's try to get as many people as we can to come out and share in our festivities!

- Jonathan

Jonathan Rohrbach  
President

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

**<https://riversidelivesteamers.com>**

## **2025 RLS Conductor's Training Class**

**Mark your calendar and sign up for the 2026 Conductors Training Class March 28th from 9:00am to 2:00pm**



**RLS Conductors are a huge part of our passenger train operations. If you haven't attended a class, or it has been awhile since you did and want a refresher, sign up now!!**

**A sign up sheet is available on the soda machine.**

**You can also sign up online at:**

**<https://forms.gle/1VDzUKAn1PsY6ymk6>**



## Along The Tracks

Work (FUN) Days are increasing at RLS! We are having more project days than

Run Days this year. February was no exception to this wonderful experience.

Starting on February 10, 2026, under the direction of Bob Roberts a crew of Randy Chase, Luke Amrein, and Brook Adams started sandblasting and grinding the rust off the bare steel for the Noble Quick Third Level Lift. After a full day of work, Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> it rained, delaying work until Thursday. On Thursday, the same crew with the addition of the Roadmaster tackled the remaining grinding and preparation for painting. Bob Roberts and Rich Casford started the primer painting work at 11:00AM. Painting continued the following day, with Bob Roberts, Brook Adams, and Randy Chase. Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob Roberts, Randy Chase with the addition of Mark Spaulding completed 99% of the finished color coat of paint.

The Westbound Safety Reverse track project continued Saturday with the first 110 feet of curved track panels assembled by Richard Ronne, Jonathan Rohrbach, Chris Neiman, and Paul Lavacot.

While all this work was being accomplished in the Compound, the track crew was busy in Allen's Valley moving Switch AV-6 north fifteen feet and installing the new Switch AV-5.5 switch for diverting to WSR trackage once installed.

It sounds easy to move one switch and install another switch, however track connections involved were much more complicated in the Allen's Valley yard. Six different track connections were needed, plus the normal alignment of the tracks to match correctly with the switches. This resulted in a much longer workday than anticipated. Part of the track crew stayed working during lunch and the Board

meeting, so we did not have to pick up all the tools.

Thanks to Chris Neiman, Dave Bunts, Jonathan Rohrbach, Brook Adams and the roadmaster for staying on the project until completed at 3:45 PM.

We are still looking for a Compound Supervisor. Since we do not currently have a supervisor, it is responsibility of all members to keep the compound clean.....that means YOU!


Lunch was provided by Chef Bill Hesse to the workers at noon and an interesting Board Meeting was led by President Jonathan Rohrbach.

Members working **four days** this week: Bob Roberts, Randy Chase, Luke Amrein, Brook Adams. Saturday crew Chris Neiman, Dave Bunts, Richard Ronne, Bill Hesse, Doug Prescott, Paul Lavacot, Mark Spaulding, Tom Crue, Jerri Vargas, Jonathan Rohrbach, Joan Adams, Jim Kreider, Kevin Zamp, Glenn Maness, Dean Willoughby. Roadmaster Rich Casford for 2 days

Mark your calendar for our next workday, Saturday March 14, 2026, starting at 8:00AM. Lunch at Noon for the workers by Chris Enright and family. The Board of Directors meeting will follow at 1:00PM.

For over 60 years, RLS members have been encouraged to join your fellow members on the Work (FUN) Days. There is always something for every skill set and physical abilities. We have a large railroad to properly maintain for the enjoyment of all the members. Our collective skills can handle any project. Be a part of the RLS family of innovations.

Rich Casford, Roadmaster



Attention!!

Engineers are reminded that station speed restrictions apply as you are leaving the platform and should remain slow order until your train has cleared the platform.

# SAFETY FIRST

# Memorium

## Ron Wilkerson

December 22, 1929-- February 4, 2026

Ronald Wesley Wilkerson was born in Covina, CA, and passed away peacefully at Evergreen Assisted Living in Menifee, CA, at age 96.

Although he had no children of his own, Ron will be remembered by stepchildren George, Loren, Fred (Charlene and Roxanne have passed away), their families, as well as remembered by the numerous Bouris family members and Ron's wide range of friends.

The main passion of his hobby-life was any type of train: from hundreds of H.O. scale models, to constructing 1:8 scale live steam locomotive engines, machining many parts on his own lathe. He was active in Riverside Live Steamers for decades, having been one of its Charter members in 1966.

Ron will be memorialized at the Riverside National Cemetery on March 4, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.

## Marlene J. Borsuk

December 14, 1978 – February 15, 2026

Hi All RLS Members, Family and Friends,

It comes with great sadness to announce that Marlene Borsuk, daughter of Stewart (Skip) Borsuk's (who passed away some years ago from a heart attack) has passed away from cancer. She fought it to the end and was in good spirits the last time I got to chat with her. She thought she could beat the cancer. Although Marlene and the family didn't make it out much to the park, the family has donated and supported RLS for many years. She will be greatly missed. She leaves behind her 7-year-old daughter, Natasha, her mom, Jewel, and sister, Corina. I unfortunately I do not know the rest of the family.

Visitation will be at; Mt. View Mortuary, 570 East Highland Ave., San Bernardino CA 92404 on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 from 3:30 to 7:00pm. The

services will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00pm with burial to follow at Mt. View Cemetery.

Our condolence's go out to the whole Borsuk Family.

- Randy Chase

## Events Outside of the Club

### Southern California Railway Museum Dinosaur Express,

**March 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** - Hop on Board for the Dinosaur Express at Southern California Railway Museum, featuring "Buddy" from the PBS SoCal KIDS Show "Dinosaur Train" — plus a brand-new Lego Masterbuild Competition! Southern California Railway Museum 2201 S. A Street, Perris, CA <https://socalrailway.org/scrm-events/dinosaur-express/>

### O Scale West O Scale West Meet,

**March 6-7** - 2026 will see the 33rd consecutive annual (except COVID shutdowns) O Scale West meet. O Scale West combines a swap meet with clinics, a model contest, on-site operating layouts, and home and club layout visits.

**The Big Boy** - The Big Boy tour starts Sunday, March 29, 2026 with this steam locomotive departing Cheyenne, Wyoming with several historical passenger cars from Union Pacific's Heritage Fleet. This special train will be traveling west to California from Cheyenne, Wyoming and return on Friday, April 24, 2026. Tour Info: <https://www.traintrips.biz/1-union-pacific-big-boy-steam-locomotive.php>

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

<https://riversidelivesteamers.com>

## Assistant Chefs Wanted



**With the  
RLS Spring  
Meet a little  
less than  
two months  
away we  
need your  
help!!**

Morning

Assistant Chefs are needed for Saturday and Sunday if you are interested in helping out please let Bill Hesse know.  
whesse@pacbell.net

## Run Day February 8th

Operating Superintendent Mark Spaulding got the ball rolling at 7:40am, with cool temps in the morning warming up to the low 80's by 1:00pm. The morning Hunter train was handled by Engineer Jonathan Rohrbach and Conductor Tom Crue with Brook Adams and Chris Neiman covering the afternoon shift. Additional passenger service was



provided by Sean Hagen and Richard Ronne behind Sean's 2-8-0. Taking advantage of this less than winter like day to get some cushion time in were Doug Prescott running his 2-8-2 narrow gauge with Micheal Capalety, Jery Vargas and Scott Horgan getting some throttle time behind the K-28 as well, Bob Chamberlain was at the controls of his Berkshire.



At the station we had Station Master Glenn Maness, Marty Berg covering the four track crossing, Chris Neiman, Paul Lucero assisted at the platform, and Tiffany Love took care of the merchandise cart.

Making the most of the Run Day were Thomas Lucero, Bob Roberts, Ken Adamson, Steve Adamson, Jim Kreider, Brian Stephens, Bob Beard, Micheal Capalety, Jennifer Capalety, Lilly Horgan, Harrison Hitchcock and Joan Adams.

## Run Day February 22nd

The week leading up to the second run day for February had three days of rain and showers. By the run day the skies had cleared and it felt more like Spring than two and half weeks past the mid point of Winter (but hey, that's California for ya).



The O.S. for the day was Jonathan Rohrbach. Bill Hesse and Marty Berg got the station set up. Afterward Marty took care of flagging the 4 track crossing and Bill worked on signals.

Station Master Glenn Maness covered the platform duties.



Passenger service for the day was taken care of by Sean Hagen and Anthony McBride running Sean's 2-8-0. The morning Hunter train was staffed by Engineer Bob Roberts and Conductor Tom Crew with Conductor Jim Wood and Engineer Brook Adams taking the afternoon shift.

Also out on the railroad were Randy and Jonathan Chase running the 2-6-2, Mike Harris got out onto the rails after his boiler check and Ken Adamson fired up his Mogul and ran for quite awhile. Richard Ronne fired up his Pacific and gave new Junior Member Abraham McBride some throttle time.



Enjoying the live steam hobby were Clark Rohrbach, Jerry Roth, Paul Lucero, Thomas Lucero, Mark Spaulding, Tom Lebs, Scott Horgan, Doug Prescott, Gus Farwick, Bob Beard, Dan Williams, David Moore, Jery Vargas, Jim Kreider, Joan Adams, David Weiss and Patty Ruyle.

## Turnout for Turnouts

There are always partially finished projects around the railroad. The new third level lift has required extending all the lower storage tracks out past the new structure, and eliminating the wye switches that were too short for the longer cars. Three regular switches were also replaced to re-align the yard tracks. The old turnouts were too short to be re-used anywhere else on the railroad so the board opted to try to sell the leftover turnouts.



One club's trash is another club's treasure. The Yuma Crossing Railroad in Arizona is building a small yard where junior engineers can practice switching with the smaller diesel locomotives that will have no difficulty with the short turnouts. Bill Hesse purchased the turnouts from RLS, and donated them to YCRR. Now the only problem was how to get them there.



A truck from Pacific Steel Inc., driven by Martin Montanez was making a pickup in Downey on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> and offered to pick up the turnouts and take them to Yuma at no charge to either club. Now the only problem was finding a crew available mid week to load the truck.

The truck arrived at 9 AM, and the volunteer crew of Brook Adams, Mark Spaulding, Randy Chase, and Jonathan Rohrbach (does that sound like half the board?) Made quick work of loading the turnouts.

The Yuma club sends a big THANK YOU to RLS and all the volunteers who helped make this possible.

- Bill Hesse

# DICKIES SHIRTS and JACKETS

Eisenhower Jacket (JT78 Unlined) \$53.00  
 Eisenhower Jacket (TJ55 lined) \$60.00  
 Basic Short Sleeve Work Shirt (S535) \$23.00  
 Deluxe Short Sleeve Work Shirt \$26.00  
 Basic Long Sleeve Work Shirt (L535) \$26.00

Sizes 2X, 3X, 4X, add \$2.00

Embroidery additional, depending on quantity of order.

Full Back Embroidery \$55.00  
 Embroider First Name (left side) \$ 5.00  
 Embroider First and Last Name (left side) \$10.00

PRICES MAY CHANGE DUE TO QUANTITY.

The above DICKIES jackets and shirts may be ordered though Dean Willoughby.  
 at [dean.c.willoughby@att.net](mailto:dean.c.willoughby@att.net)

Please, when ordering, place the following in the subject line: **RLS Jackets**

Clothing Item	Size	Color	Name	Cost of Item	Embroidery	Total Cost
Eisenhower Jacket Unlined	M	Navy Blue	Supeman	53	60	113
Long Sleeve Work Shirt	M	Black	Clark Kent	26	65	91

The above table is an example of how to make your order. Also include your phone number in case Dean needs to contact you.

As far as shipping goes, we are trying to get all the jackets and shirts ordered by March 28, 2026 so we can get the shipping for free. Dean Willoughby will be coming to the April Spring Meet with your items. Shipping will be extra any other time.

Randy Chase, RLS Special Events Committee, Chair

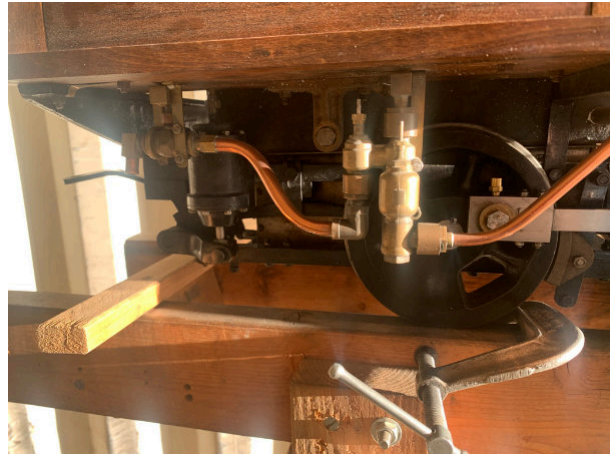
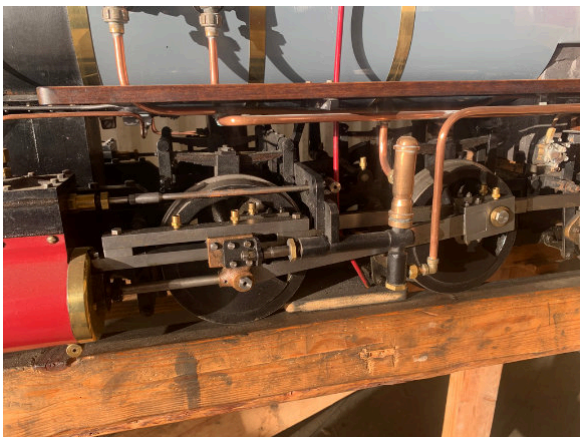
# For Sale



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



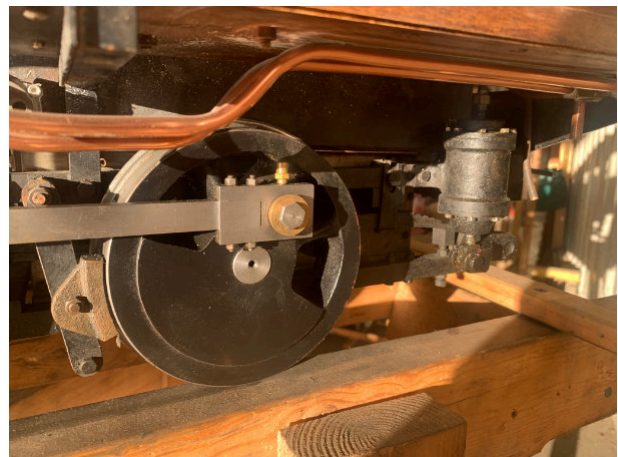
runs great on wood, never could get a successful coal fire to not clunker and loose heat)



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



## March Calendar "Who is it ?"



**Top Left:** 1971 John Noble watches #10 roll onto the steaming bay.

**Top Right:** 1982 Spring Meet.

**Lower Left:** Eastbound operations at Columbia Station.

**Lower Right:** Station Master Glenn Maness provides the passenger safety rules to the Hunter Train.

**Thanks to Joan Adams, Rich Casford, Jonathan Rohrbach, Bill Hesse and Randy Chase 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

**March 8<sup>th</sup> Run Day Westbound  
Outside Loop**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Run Day Eastbound  
Outside Loop**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> Work/Fun Day 8:00am to  
3:00pm, Meeting 1:00pm**

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

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Run Day Westbound  
Figure Eight**

**April 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>  
RLS Spring Meet**

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 Rohrbach

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**