

THE CHRONICLE

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



September 2025



Last Call

RLS Member and Conductor Thomas Ballard passed away on August 29th. Tom's love of the hobby and being a member of RLS was something he shared frequently.

SAFETY FIRST



It's A Hobby...

Back on track!

After a couple of special work days and productive regular work day in July, August 10th found us back in operation. There are a few sections of rail that were beat up a bit that still need to be replaced but we are 99.80% done. I want to thank everyone that pitched in to put the railroad back in working order.

Fall is around the corner. Some mark Labor Day, September 1st as the end of the Summer season, others go by the autumnal equinox on September 22nd, in either case it is the start of the Club's busiest time of year. First up we have the creation of the RLS Board of Directors nominee committee. This year (as it is in most) it is comprised of your outgoing board members Brook Adams, Bob Roberts, Richard Ronne and Wes Peterson. If you are interested in being a nominee, or would like to nominate a member feel free to let any of the four know (or any Board member) and don't be surprised if one of the four taps you on the shoulder.

At the September board meeting the acceptance of nominees for the election will be made, at the October meeting the board will close the nomination process with a list of approved nominees for the ballot. Ballots will mail out shortly after that with returned ballots to be tallied at the November board meeting.

This September 5th and 6th we have our Operations Meet. The Fall Meet has been moved from October to November 7th, 8th, 9th, At the start of November your Annual Membership dues are payable, November 15th your new Board of Directors will take over the reins. December 1st your Annual Membership dues are due.

Rolling into winter we start the new year of 2026 with our Annual Dinner/Luncheon at 1:00pm on January 10th at Habanero's in Riverside. More information and registration sheet to come.

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There are lots of things coming up, as the weather cools off I hope to see more of you out on the railroad for the run days and coming out for the work/fun days.

See you out on the railroad!

Brook

Brook Adams - President

Rail Safety Month

September is Rail Safety Month in



California. Did you know that California has the highest number of fatalities in grade crossing as well as trespassing incidents? Do your part to help spread awareness. More

information can be found at the Operation Lifesaver website: <https://caoperationlifesaver.com/rail-safety-month/>

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

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

RLS (still) Wants You!!



Your Club is looking for a new Compound Supervisor. If you are interested in taking over the position and helping your Club please let any of the Board members know.

September Operational Meet Reminder

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>

Special Work Day Aug 2nd

With every hope of beating the heat our work day got started at 7:00am. With a great morning turnout we were able to assemble two teams, one went North and continued working from where the crew finished near Noble Junction on the July work day. The other crew went South to Big Pine and worked their way back down to Allen's Valley. By 12:30pm both crews had finished up in Allen's Valley, ready for lunch and cooler air!



Members that made it out to the special work day were: Luke Amrein, Chris Neiman, Mike Harris, Tom Brody, Pat O'Guinn, Randy Chase, Tom Lebs, Bob Chamberlain, Tom Crue, Doug Prescott Nick Ellis, Anthony McBride and Brook Adams. Thanks to everyone that made it out and thanks to Randy and Patty for taking care of the lunch!

Testing, testing, test 1.2.3..

The first Run Day in August was preceded by a track test day the Saturday before. After all of the work that had been done on the railroad over the past month and a half, it was thought it would be wise to roll some iron out on the right-of-way to see if there were any issues that we missed.



With Randy Chase at the throttle of the Hunter, and Jonathan Rohrbach as Conductor, Patty Ruyle, Mike Harris and Brook Adams hopped aboard as "passenger masses". We cautiously hit the rails. After a slow but uneventful first lap Randy brought the train up to a normal operating speed and we ran the outside loop again with no major issues. From his vantage point of the tender Randy was able to identify rails that needed to be replaced that were not obvious from a standing view point. The worst of the damaged rails were replaced right then and there.

Run Day August 10th

After a month off due to the track damage at the end of June, the railroad was once again in public operations! Some winds had whipped up over night

so the O.S. broke out the blower car and gave the railroad the once over. Back in the compound, engines were steamed and readied for the day, by 9:00am we were already in the upper 80's at the park. Assisting the O.S. in



his recording duties was Jerry Roth. Sean Hagen and Anthony McBride were first out on the railroad behind Sean's 2-8-0. Engineer Kevin Zamp fired up the Hunter as Conductor Tom Crue readied the passenger cars. The station crew was ready to go at 10:00 with Station Master Glenn Maness, Tiffany Love at Merchandise, Marty Berg covered the four track crossing at the station and Chris Neiman attended to the station platform. Out on the right-of-way were Mike Harris, Richard Miller and Warren Peterson. Doug Prescott and Mark Spaulding worked on their equipment in the steaming bays. Around 12:30pm the Hunter train crew changed to Engineer Jonathan Rohrbach and Conductor Mark Spaulding.

With the heat rising and the passenger count at the station dropping to zero we called it a day at 1:20pm. Thanks to everyone that came out to help and enjoy the hobby!

August 16 Work/Fun Day

Chris Neiman started out the day disarming at 6:40am. And jumped right in on cleaning the compound.

Track Crew: Jonathan Rohrbach, Mike Harris, Demetra Harris, Tom Crue, Brook Adams, with Doug Prescott and Wes Peterson replaced the bent rail at the grade crossing, replaced a bad rail at big rock, aligned the curve at big rock, reset the

gauge of the track North of big rock, aligned track at the South entrance to the station yard, replaced a bad rail just at the west end of the fence along the Marlboro straight away, and leveled the curve west



of Big Pine.

Bob Roberts continued working on establishing a network connection to the station.

Randy Chase and Chris Neiman worked on the water leak at the station water box and the ice machine in the storeroom.

Randy Chase provided sandwiches, potato salad and tea for Lunch. I want to thank everyone that made it out for the Work/Fun Day, your efforts keep the railroad running smoothly!

Run Day August 23rd

Our second run day in August was a bit of a copy of the first... with a "weather twist". The day before in the Riverside area, we had tropical moisture come up through Baja California scattering cloud cover and showers throughout the region pretty much all day long. This left the O.S. for the run day hopeful that:

1. The cloud cover would remain overnight and stick around until 3:30pm Sunday.
 2. If the clouds moved out, we would have a nice gentle breeze all day drying the air and reducing the sudden gift of moisture.
- Nope on both counts. Zero clouds were left over from Saturday and no breeze was present until 1:00pm. All of the moisture from the day before just hung in the air Midwest style!



The morning got rolling with Dan Williams starting his training as a Hunter Engineer with SMP Scott Horgan. Once again assisting the O.S. in his record keeping duties was Jerry Roth. Sean Hagen and Anthony McBride beat everyone out on to the railroad. Hunter Engineer Kevin Zamp took over for Dan with Tom Crue covering the Conductor duties. Mike Harris fired his 2-6-0 up and Doug Prescott, Scott Horgan, and Nick Ellis brought up steam on Doug's newly acquired K-36 locomotive. Due to the weather attendance on the day was lighter than last run day and the park itself was a ghost town. Up at the station Marty Berg flagged the four track crossing, Chris Neiman assisted at the platform, Tiffany Love took care of the merchandise and Glenn Maness covered the duties as Station Master.



Taking over the Hunter train at noon-ish were Conductor Mark Spaulding and Engineer Jonathan Rohrbach. By 1:00pm not even tumbleweeds were rolling through the station area so we shut down operations and headed for shade and air conditioning!

From the Safety Supervisor:

To all locomotive engineers & members of the Riverside Live Steamers; 08/27/25

I have observed and have talked with others regarding the use of the throttle while moving Locomotives under steam in and around the compound. Chances are good that nothing may happen, but, it is the one time that it does, that presents itself as a danger / hazard. One of our honorary members relayed an incident which has stuck in my mind regarding my observation of throttle usage to move locomotives. The cuff of his glove caught the throttle lever and almost sent the locomotive off to who knows where had someone else not grabbed the foot-peg it would to this day be news. Although there is no rule regarding usage of the throttle it is therefore as your safety supervisor I am asking that locomotives under steam be moved as follows off the steaming bays onto the Engine

Leads . (ref rule # 203 – 10/24 rule book)

A. THE JOHNSON BAR SHOULD REMAIN IN THE NEUTRAL POSITION AND THE LOCOMOTIVE UNDER STEAM BE PUSHED BY HAND UNTIL THE ENGINEER IS SEATED IN THE OPERATORS POSITION ON EITHER OF THE ENGINE LEADS.

B. THE THROTTLE SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED AND THE LOCOMOTIVE UNDER STEAM BE PUSHED BY HAND UNTIL THE ENGINEER IS SEATED IN THE OPERATORS' POSITION ON EITHER OF THE ENGINE LEADS.

It is also in the rule book of October 2024 that CHAINS OR CLAMPS SHOULD BE USED WHILE ON STEAMING / SERVICE TRACKS [405]. ALSO, THE JOHNSON BAR IS TO BE IN NEUTRAL WHILE STEAMING UP/ SERVICING [406]

Thank you in advance for considering

adhering to the above recommendations regarding the method described regarding locomotives under steam in the compound.

Another item is regarding our Cylinder Cocks and remembering to be courteous to others equipment when moving your locomotive. When you plan on moving the locomotive please have someone shield the spray with a piece of cardboard, paper plate or other suitable material to block the spray from others equipment.

Lastly, if you throw a switch and return it to its previous route please assure that the points contact the stock rail. Do not assume because it got thrown back to its position that all is OK ! Be Diligent! Be Aware! No Accidents! It Starts With YOU.

STEAM SAFELY, RICHARD
RLS Safety Supervisor - Richard Ronne

Compound Security Procedures

At the July Board Meeting it was noted to the Board that no formal procedure other than word of mouth has been given to the members that store equipment on site as to the arming and disarming the Compound.

At the July 19th and August 16th Board Meeting the Board Directors clarified what is expected of members using the facilities after hours and the operations of the integrated camera and alarm systems.

Day Use - Arrival:

Once through the Columbia gate, park along small fence along steaming bays 1,2 & 3.

Proceed to the Clubhouse and disarm the Compound.

Once disarmed, you can pull into the Compound and park at your convenience.

Day Use - Exit:

Pull up to the gate, proceed to the Clubhouse and arm the alarm system. Return to your vehicle and exit through the gate securing it behind you.

Overnight Use - Arrival:

Once through the Columbia gate, park along small fence along steaming bays 1,2 & 3.

Proceed to the Club house and disarm the Compound.

Once disarmed you can pull into the Compound and park at your convenience.

Once you have completed your activities for the day in the Compound, close and secure all opened doors and arm the alarm system. There is a built in delay to allow you to get back to your camper or vehicle without triggering camera notifications.

Overnight Use - Following Day:

Before engaging in any activities within the Compound go to the Clubhouse and disarm the alarm system.

Overnight Use - Exit:

Pull up to the gate, proceed to the Clubhouse and arm the alarm system. Return to your vehicle and exit through the gate securing it behind you.

A copy of this procedure will be emailed out to all alarm code holders, there will be an included link for you to verify that you have received it.

Outside Club Events:

OCME's 2025 Fall Meet

OCME's 2025 Fall Meet is coming up on September 26th-28th. <https://ocmetrains.org/2025/07/ocme-fall-meet-2025/>

Southern California Railway

Museum Railroadiana Fall Swap Meet September 13, 2025, The event runs from 9 am to 2 pm: <https://socalrailway.org/scrm-events/fall-swap-meet/>

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

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

September Calendar "Who is it ?"



Top Left: Engineer Kevin Zamp and SMP Scott Horgan head to the station

Top Right: #773 waits for the passengers to load

Lower Left: Marty Berg flags the four track crossing with Conductor Sam Ferguson keeping an eye on the train.

Lower Right: From Left to right - Demetra and Mike Harris, Mark Spaulding, Nick Ellis, Richard Ronne and Jerry Vargas

Thanks to Richard Ronne and Joan Adams for the article and photo 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

September 5th & 6th Operations Meet

Register at: <https://forms.gle/iAk6WGY6sx2GBMtR6>

September 28th Westbound Figure Eight

September 14th Westbound Outside Loop

October 12th Eastbound Outside Loop

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

**October 18th 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

Officers

President: Brook Adams
Vice President: Wes Peterson
Secretary: Bob Roberts
Treasurer: Joan Adams

Directors

Director: Jonathan Rorhbach
Director: Mark Spaulding
Director: Kevin Zamp
Director: Richard Ronne

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