

August 2015

The RLS Chronicle

NEWS OF THE RIVERSIDE LIVE STEAMERS



RLS Volunteers...

A big Thank You to those who have been volunteering at the station !!

Are you looking for something different to try on the run days ?

Come to the station and learn to be a switch tender or flagman at the 4-track crossing. Extra help is always welcome.

New member Ken Mitoma is pictured above.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the inimitable words of George Gershwin from the musical Porgy and Bess...
...its summertime and the living is easy.

There isn't a big push to do anything on the railroad except enjoy the long days and try and stay cool during the day while running on the world's best live steam railroad. Yeah, it's true: we aren't as long, or have all the amenities of places like Train Mountain, but we do have a great park to run in, kids that have been moved away from our tracks with the sports field remodel, a wonderful station and the ability (due to the resourceful and ever clever track gangs that work on the right of way on work days) to run our steel steeds without undue hassles. Because it is the summertime, and the living is easy, I'm not going to bore ya'll with stories of guests, old time railroading, and all the sundry other drivel that I am prone to pontificating about. I will however mention the heat once again. It's been bloody hot on some of our rundays, and some of our membership is not quite as young physically as we would like to think we are. We, and I include myself in the 'older' category, have the ability to push our creaking bodies beyond where we should. Sometimes that results in aches and pains the next day, but in the summer that can result in some serious heat related problems. So – watch yourself, watch your fellow members, drink plenty of fluids as you run from Hunter Station and back, and don't overdo it in the sun.

And take heart – I should be out of the summertime and living is easy mode by the next Chronicle and will be able to bore you to tears with some other minutia next month. As the old TV program used to say – Stay tuned to the same bat channel...

Bunts

WHY I'M A MEMBER OF RLS

You would think that someone who has been running scale steam for over 35 years would know just about everything there is to know about live steam. Not so said the engineer to the his fireman. On the June 28 run day I fired up the old tea kettle and quickly had a full head of steam. I headed for the out bound lead. I soon realized I could not comply with rule 505 d.(I'll let you look it up.) One injector barely functioned while the other just drained the water out of my tender. We won't mention the axle pump, although it does work when your moving. Disappointed I decided to blow down and call it a day. I'd recently taken my injectors home and cleaned them and made sure all the water lines were clear. As I rolled the engine back into the compound Paul Quick asked what was wrong. When I told him he knew what the problem was immediately. "Did you adjust the water flow valve on the injectors ?" Paul said. I fired back up, adjusted the water flow like Paul said and both injectors worked as intended. I did not realize how critical the water flow was for the injectors to work properly. Thanks Mr. Quick.

Patrick O'Guinn

Along the Track – Roadmaster Rich Casford

July Work Day was very successful and we accomplished some major milestones!!

The RLS Work Crew managed to consume 3 pots of coffee and 3 dozen donuts because it RAINED in July in Riverside!!!! We attempted to start work at 8:00 AM when the skies turned dark and the wind came up. We rushed to put everything away with the skies opened up with a flash of lighting and crash of thunder! It rain hard for 50 minutes.

The skies started to clear so we starting backing out the work trucks and the power tamper when the wind shifted from the South to the North and the rain came again for an hour!

It's now close to 10:30 AM and the Roadmaster was very concerned we would run out of donuts before it stopped raining!

About 11:00 AM, the hardy track crew decided to make a run for Hunter Station to fix a bent rail from the previous derailment at the last run day. Completing the track work in record time we all headed to the Engine House for lunch and Board meeting at 1:00PM. It started to rain again during the Board Meeting.

Sunday July 19th Riverside had record rain fall. Interstate 10 was washed out East of Palm Springs and the UP had a washout near Pedley that required Metrolink to reposition Monday's Commuter Fleet with a 5 Engine and 26 car train movement during the night and early Monday morning through San Bernardino-Taylor Yard-back through Fullerton and Santa Ana Canyon.

RLS lost several branches off the trees in Allen's Valley. Thanks to Park Supervisor Darren Ramsey, City of Riverside Tree department took care of clearing our tracks on Monday morning.

There is a clipboard by the coffee pot in the Engine House for anyone to mark a track location that needs attention by the track crews. If you have a switch issue, please try and write down the switch number. All switches are numbered with a two letter code (HS=Hunter Station, AV=Allen's Valley, etc) and a number. This helps quickly getting the track crews assigned to the proper division on the Railroad.

Our next FUN (work) Day will be Saturday, **August 15th, starting at 8:00 AM.**
Lunch to the workers at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM open to all.

See you on the Railroad,
Rich Casford, Roadmaster
Radio Call Sign- Road 2



July 12th Run Day

For his first time as Operating Superintendent Larry Fisher had a veritable “sampler plate” of a Run Day!

Before a single locomotive left the Compound in the morning Manny and Cindy Caldera were busy cleaning, clearing and lubricating the switch turnouts and grade-crossings.

The Hunter passenger train was staffed by Engineer Brook Adams in the morning with Mike Gardner taking the controls for the afternoon. Taking care of our passengers were Brakeman John Gurwell and Brakeman Charlie Grisham. Brad Bluth and Cameron McMonigle fired up Brad’s mighty 4-6-6-4 locomotive to handle the Birthday Train.

Not to be held back by the 95 degree heat, out on the railroad were Paul Quick and Manny Caldera running Paul’s 4-4-2 Atlantic, Gary Mocko got some more coal firing practice behind his Berkshire, Ron Wilkerson and Gus Farwick were out with Ron’s Mikado with Mike G. lending a hand as Brakeman at one point.

Charlie Kennemer took his loco out for a few laps as did Richard Miller, Bill MAC had his narrow gauge Ten Wheeler out and lent a hand bringing Richard’s 0-6-0 in when it was having steaming issues.

Signal repair was performed by Bill Hesse and new member Kevin Chung. At the Hunter Station Bob Roberts took care of the four track crossing with an assist from his wife Debbie, our ever present Station Master Glenn Maness was joined at the station by Leone Fisher and Cindy Caldera at the Merchandise Cart.

A reminder from the Station...

Please remember to slow down when going through the station. It only takes a second for a distracted adult, child or even a pet to dart in front of your train. We want to do all we can to have a fun, safe day running trains.



July 26th Run Day

Blue skies, warm and warmer.

Under the watchful eye of our Operating Superintendent Jeff Gorjans our last run day in July went along smoothly. Roadmaster, Rich Casford started his day on the railroad around 7:00am cleaning up after Mother Nature's busy week of wind and rain. Along with that Rich and Bob Beard repaired storm damaged track in Allen's Valley.

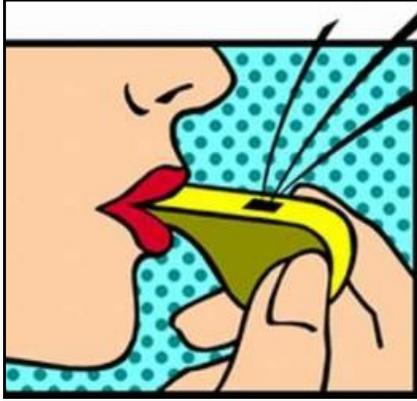
Helping to setup the Station and lending a hand to our Station Master Glenn Maness on the platform were Bill McLaughlin, Leone Fischer, Cindy Caldera, Manny Caldera. Marty Berg and new member Ken Mitoma took care of the four track crossing and Station Switch duties respectively.

Starting out as morning as Brook's Brakeman on the Hunter passenger train was John Gurwell followed by Marty Berg and Cindy Caldera in the afternoon.

Helping out with passenger service was Tom Lawson and his Brakeman Jim Woods. Curtis Claybrook gave Jim a break in the afternoon. Also in passenger service were Brad Bluth and Ryan Briggs taking turns at both ends of the train.

Out on the railroad were Doug Prescott, Bill McLaughlin with Doug operating Jeff Gorjan's 4-6-2 Pacific. Cameron McMonigle was at the throttle of Paul Quick's 4-4-2 and even got a little cushion time on Brad's 4-6-6-4. Richard Miller took advantage of the sunny weather to take his 0-6-0 out for a few laps as well.





Brakeman classes are beginning...

If you are interested in becoming a brakeman, the next class will be on **Saturday, August 22, 2015 at 9:00am**. The sign up sheet is on the soda machine in the clubhouse.

Read your Rule Book and study the hand and whistle signals before you show up for the class. If you need a new Rule Book, they can be purchased for \$5.00, or it is also available online at steamonly.org under the Rules & Bylaws tab.

Coming Events

Aug 9th: Run day

Sept 13th: Run day

Aug 15th: Work day & Board meeting

Sept 19th: Work day & Board meeting

Aug 23rd: Run day

Sept 27th: Run day

Night Run Dates: Aug 1st & Aug 29th

Enjoy some train fun in the dark !

For Work Day and Run Day updates, Visit: www.steamonly.org

The R.L.S. Chronicle is published by The Riverside Live Steamers, Inc., P.O. Box 5512, Riverside, CA, 92518. 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.

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