

THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



December 2013



November Run Days
Brakeman's Class
More New Members
Kenny O'Guinn
and much more...



On A Clear Day...

Talk about the perfect run day! November 10th was a truly delightful day to be at the club, enjoying the hobby and friends. In the above scene, Paul Quick (Daylight 4-4-2) is preparing to take his locomotive to the compound for lunch time. At the same time, Bob Cummings holds the mainline as he passes through Columbia Yard. Bob engineered a special train for the Sea Scouts of Newport Beach (which he is a member and mentor of).



Along the Track – Roadmaster & Secretary Rich Casford

(Because President Bunts has been shipped to India to answer phones for the Etcher-sketch hotline (yep... I can just hear how well that'll go over), Secretary Rich Casford has entered this month's President's Message.)

Another year has come and gone with the passing of the Annual Meeting of the Riverside Live Steamers. The new 2014 Board of Directors retired to the Caboose and held elections for the officer positions of RLS. We will be lead by President Dave Bunts, Vice President Dave Parrott, Treasurer Jim Kreider, Secretary Rich Casford and Directors AJ Benson, Jeff Gorjans, Bob Beard, and David Lazarus.

We have been having great support on our Run Days and Work Days with train crews and workers. RLS has been very fortunate with so many members who volunteer to help out on the Railroad and in the compound.

Membership Dues are now payable. You were recently mailed an invoice for the dues along with a membership roster sheet. We will have a new Roster in 2014 so do not delay in submitting your roster information sheet along with your dues: \$50.00 for Regular Members, \$25.00 for Non-Resident and \$12.00 for Junior Members.

RLS Storage bills will be going in the mail first part of December. For those members who have equipment stored already in the building not much will change. If you need storage and have not talk with me please send me an email (rich@whittiermailing.com) or call my office and leave message (562) 698-7795.

Thanks to Mac McLaughlin, last Saturday November 23rd, he modified the new straddle cars with a bridge plate between the cars. I ran my Santa Fe 2926 on Sunday November 24th as protection power for the Hunter Locomotive the train performed very well.

Dave Lazarus, Asst. SMP for the Big Boy has completed one of the new air cars for air brakes. There will be second car constructed for the Hunter Locomotive and train in the coming months.

AJ Benson completed the rewiring of the 4 track warning signals in Hunter Station so the wires do not stick out of the ground. Manny Caldera has been busy maintaining all the switches before each run day. All of this work is important maintenance work needed to keep our Railroad operating safe.

If any member would be interested in maintaining a section of the Railroad as a Section Leader please let me know. Railroads have in the past divided their Railroad into sections and track gangs would be responsible in making sure the track was level, removing low joints and ballasting areas that need renewal. We have several areas that could use a Section Foreman Leader. Who knows we could see who could maintain the highest track standards.

Our next Fun (Work) Day will be December 14, 2013. I hope to see you all out at the Railroad starting at 8:00AM, Lunch at Noon and Board Meeting at 1:00PM. Who wants to go fight the crowds at the Mall? Come out to RLS and enjoy your Railroad!

See you at the Track!

Rich Casford, Roadmaster/Secretary



November 10th Run Day

A great run day was met by all who showed up! In fact, over thirty members came down to either run locomotives, be a brakeman, perform maintenance on their locomotives, or simply chit-chat and enjoy the beautiful weather and our unique hobby.

Locomotives out for the day were Paul Quick's 4-4-2, Bob Cummings' 2-8-2, Bill Phillips' 4-6-2, Charlie Kennemer's 2-6-0 and the Hunter (4-8-4). There were several other locomotives not fired up that remained within the compound. It seems after our very busy Fall Meet, folks felt this would be a good day to perform TLC maintenance. Among them were Richard Miller (0-6-0), Ron Wilkerson (2-8-2), Jeff Gorjan (4-6-2), Jim Ferguson (2-6-2), Bob Bead (2-6-0) and David Lazarus (who worked on the air brakes for the club's Big Boy). Though the traffic on the mainline was light, overall it was a very busy day to be at the club.

The Hunter train was engineered by Brook Adams and our brakemen for the day were Jim Bromar, Manny Caldera, Vince Battelo and Sam Battelo. Glenn Maness kept the station neat, clean, and well run. Holding down the fort, our Operation Supervisor was Rich Casford.



Dues are Due

Time, once again, for the end-of-the-year mantra: Dues are due. Regular membership dues are \$50 per person, non-resident dues are \$25, and Junior Members are \$12. Think of the RLS dues as an affordable, year-long Christmas gift to yourself: You get to be part of a really terrific club for less than 0.14¢ per day!



Brakeman's Class

Behind every public train; behind every successful run-day; behind every happy child who rides our rails... is an RLS Brakeman. These folks are the unsung heroes at the end of the day. And... behind every successful brakeman is Sergeant Bill Hoey.

Sgt. Hoey will be having one of his annual "Brakemen Boot Camps" on Saturday,

December 14 at 8:30am. It's open to all members (junior members and probationary members included)! As you know (or maybe you don't know), after being an RLS member for more than a year, you can become a Hunter Locomotive Engineer. This will also eventually lead to becoming a Big Boy Engineer. But, before you become a Hunter Engineer, you have to be an RLS qualified brakeman first. Sgt. Hoey can help! With his trusty lieutenant (Lt. Caldera), enrollees will learn hand signals, whistle signals, RLS Operations Rules and the art of proper passenger loading.

The class is not only lecture-driven, but has a practical section as well: Enrollees will board a train and practice their new-found love of being an effective brakeman. If all goes well, at the end of the day, you will be given your very own "RLS Brakeman" badge to wear with pride! If not, you will have to give Sgt. Hoey and Lt. Caldera 50 sit-ups... and jog to the top of Mt. Rubidoux... carrying a backpack loaded with spare locomotive parts.

If you're interested, be sure to show up on time (8:30am), bring your RLS issued Rules Book and a pen or pencil. See you at the park (or... on top of Mt. Rubidoux).

Sage Brush Short Line Christmas Spectacular Event

Our sister railroad (Sage Brush Short Line in Ridgecrest) is having their annual Christmas Invitational night-runs. If you haven't experienced this event, you are truly missing out on something very spectacular. Each evening, the railroad opens to invited guests who take a train ride through their transformed railroad. Everything is lit with Christmas lights... tens-of-thousands of them! They also bring in several large props specially created for this run (Castles, Santa's Village, a prates ship and even a giant sea-serpant). The dates for this run are December 5, 6, and 7 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. There is a special run day/night run on the 4th as a dress rehearsal. If you're interested in attending this event, please contact the Sage Brush Shortline at lp Pruitt@iwvisp.com.





This is a re-print from the December 2007 issue of the Chronicle (thus the reference to Larry Nilles, who open the compound and club-house every run day/work day long before any other members arrived). But, this year, it seems appropriate to run it again. Enjoy! Dave



'Twas The Run-day Before Christmas

By Dave Parrott

'Twas the run-day before Christmas at the RLS complex,
Not a locomotive was stirring, not even a Duplex.
The engines lay quiet and sleeping with care,
With hopes that their owners soon would be there.

When all of a sudden, there came such a rumble,
Larry Nilles scurries in – calm, but with a mumble.
Opening doors, brewing coffee and milling about,
All to make ready for the members in route.

Local children were still nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of Northern steamers steamed through their heads.
Overalls, red handkerchief, and an engineer's cap,
Each child dreams of one RLS mailine lap.

When back at the compound, member arrivals begin,
Some bringing locomotives and some bringing kin.
"Good morning", "How are you", and "How do you do?"
Conversations commence in friendly ado.

The locomotives are lit and soon warming with fire,
Steam pressure's up, no need for ire!
Now Mogul, now American, now Berkshire and Atlantic!
On Northern, on Hudson, on Mikado and Pacific!

The Children arrive, their parents in tow,
To the station they head and stand in a row.
"All aboard! All aboard!" Glenn Mannes proclaims,
"Stay in your seats, be sure to remain".

Over trestles, 'round curves, children shout "Hooray!"
Little trains keep steaming to the end of the day.
Then back to the compound each train does return,
Blow down, cool down, the locomotives adjourn.

As members sadly readied trains for their snooze,
A strange foggy mist descended on the rue.
A whistle, light chuffing, there's a train still out?
"Nobody should be", the O.S. did tout.

When through the mist a headlight did burn,
To Panoramic Siding attention did turn.
A small locomotive and train did appear,
And sitting on the tender was a jolly engineer.

He hopped up from the coal-car and tended the train,
Oiling rods, checking valves with words held in refrain.
He smiled as he worked, giving wonder to the rest,
"A fine locomotive", some did attest.

He walked five cars down to the caboose in tow,
And pulled from within a package and bow.
"You care so much, bringing joy to the kids",
Placed gift by the rails and motioned to his bid.

With a wink of his eye and a spin on one boot,
He sprang to the loco giving the whistle a toot.
We heard him exclaim as he chugged out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all... and to all, a good night"





November 24 Run Day

Another absolutely beautiful Fall day was met by our members as they readied the railroad for great day of railroading fun: A crystal-clear sky, very mild temperature, fall colors in the trees... the perfect day! And, it seems about 30 members thought it was the "perfect day" to be at the park, too!

Locomotives out were Jim Ferguson's 3.75" scale 2-6-2 "Rail Masher", Ron Wilkerson's 2-8-2, Dave Moore's 4-6-6-4, the Casford's 4-8-4, Paul Quick's 4-4-2, Neal Maurer's 2-6-0, Jeff Gorjan's 4-6-2, Bill Phillip's 4-6-2, Charlie Kennimer's 2-6-0, and the Club's 4-8-4 Hunter. Just a couple of special mentions: It was great to see Neal back with his mogul! It's been a long time since his locomotive polished our rails. Also, after a year-and-a-half of rebuilding, Dave Moore fired up his "ginormous", 1.6" scale Challenger. Again: great to see that locomotive back under steam!



Just another note: While we had this perfect run day, nearly 80% of the rest of the country was being over-run by a powerful cold-front, which left some places covered in several feet of snow! Yep, this is that time of year the entire rest of the country wishes they lived in sunny Southern California!

Lots of New Members!

Over the past month, we've added quite a number of new members. When you see these folks, be sure to say hi and strike up a conversation with them. You'll find out real quick why they're as crazy about live-steam as the rest of us: Benjamin Tran, Jonathan Langer-Kane, Cameron McMonigle, Robert Gamero, Larry Fisher, Jim and Hunter Ferguson, Jon Vatani, Phil Broad, and Lars Tempas.

Just another interesting note: Since January 2013, our club has grown its roster with 34 new members! That's an unprecedented amount of growth. See? Steam rules!



November Work Day and Board of Director's Meeting

Not that all of our work days aren't productive, but this work day was a very busy one! Rich Casford took three groups of willing hands and assigned them a number of areas along the mainline. One group worked on the south curve of the Allen's Valley loop; another group worked on the Summit Siding area and parts of the Straight-away; and the third group hit Vandenberg and the Hunter Station tracks. Also out on the mainline, Manny Caldera walked the railroad and tended to all of our switches. While these busy bodies made hast of Rich's punch-list, another large group of members worked diligently inside the compound covering everything from raking leaves and tidying the bathrooms to putting the finishing touches on our second transfer table and performing some heavy maintenance on our riding cars. David Lazarus also added the finishing touches to our new air-brake car for the Big Boy. By noon, everyone was being overcome by the intensely wonderful smell of BBQ hotdogs with all the trimmings (thank you Rich Casford!). So, work day came to a satisfying conclusion with the start of a terrific lunch break.

At 1:00, the club was introduced to our new Board of Directors: Dave Bunts (President), Dave Parrott (Vice President), Rich Casford (Secretary), Jim Kreider (Treasurer), A.J. Benson (Director), Jeff Gorjan (Director), Bob Beard (Director) and David Lazarus (Director). With that, the meeting got right into business covering everything from the daily expenses to lessons learned from the Fall Meet.

One of the more significant topics was the use of our radios: Please be wary these are FRS radio. Meaning, anyone can listen in on our conversations. Please, when an incident happens, call the O.S. and tell him he is needed at (location) for an incident. If the O.S. asks questions over the radios, answer them candidly. Just keep in mind that a non club-member, a couple miles away, could be listening in. Stay classy.

Kenny O'Guinn

Long time RLS member, past RLS President and friend of many, Kenny O'Guinn, passed away on November 29, 2013.

Kenny joined the club in January, 1981. He became a very active member right away, showing up at most run days with his mogul and run until nearly dark. In 1993, the club voted Kenny onto the Board of Directors who then appointed him as the president until the end of his term, two years later. Although he didn't serve on the as president again, Kenny, and then his sons (Stuart and John), became the breakfast cooks at every single Fall and Spring Meet since.

Next time your locomotive is steamed up, give Kenny a toot on your whistle. He will be missed.



Santa's Shiny New Train

It's kind of hard to believe that it's been one year since Santa (Manny Caldera) and his happy engineer-elf incognito, Brook Adams, took the train on December 23rd, 2012 up to the Hunter station with the club's new bench cars. Since this day, those cars have had several hundred miles put on them, and they still look and run as though they are brand new.

COMING RLS EVENTS:

Dec 8: Run Day

Dec 14: Fun Day (Work Day, B.O.D meeting)

Dec 22: Christmas-themed Run Day

Jan 1: New Years Run Day (TBA)

Jan 12: Run Day

Jan 18: Fun Day (Work Day, B.O.D meeting)

Jan 26: Run Day

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Riverside Live Steamers' Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Dave Bunts

Vice President: Dave Parrott

Secretary: Rich Casford

Treasurer: Jim Kreider

DIRECTORS

Bob Beard

A.J. Benson

Jeff Gorjan

David Lazarus