

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



**January 2013**

Happy New Year!  
Let's Party  
December Run Days  
Ridgecrest Christmas Run Revue  
RSVP for the Annual Dinner



## Lining Up For the New Year

What a great and unique way to celebrate the New Year! About 35 RLS members made it out for our traditional New Year's Day Run. With six locomotives steamed up, everyone was able to enjoy several trips around the park. At the end of the day, Gus Farwick snapped this picture-perfect, New Year's line-up in front of the Hunter Station. From left to right: Bob Cumming's 2-8-2, Mel and Mike Hitchcock's 4-4-0, Rich Casford's 4-6-2 and Ron Wilkerson's 2-8-2.



## View from the Right Hand Seat Box – President Rich Casford



Happy New Year! 2013 started off with another special event at the Riverside Live Steamers: The annual New Year's Day special members-only run was a huge success. Eight locomotives were either running long trains on the Railroad or out on the bays. Close to 35 members were present to witness the tradition of steam locomotives on the first day of a new year! There's nothing better than the sights and sounds of working steam pulling long trains over the road.

Our next special event is our Annual Dinner on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Hidden Valley Golf Course. **IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT THE FIRST RETURN ENVELOPE HAD A MIS-PRINT FOR GLENN'S ADDRESS. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO CONTACT GLENN AT (951) 242-4963 OR EMAIL [gmaness@aol.com](mailto:gmaness@aol.com) if you are coming as some reply envelopes have been returned to members as undeliverable by the Post Office. Reservations are required by January 19<sup>th</sup>, so let's all make sure we are on the list. Cost is \$28.00 per person. Hope to see you all there.**

Some important projects are coming to completion at the Railroad. December 23<sup>rd</sup> Run Day saw the debut of the new Straddle-seat Passenger Cars. These RLS designed and built cars proved themselves worthy of the tradition of RLS building things to last. Under the direction of Supt. of Motive Power, Dave Bunts and Car Foreman, Brook Adams, the team of Mac McLaughlin, Paul Quick, George Bartlow, Larry Jongerius, and the Roadmaster designed, welded, powder coated, and lettered the 6 new cars in less than a year! The Pullman Green cars carry the names of 6 Riverside-developed citrus trees as a reflection of the important history of Riverside and Hunter Hobby Park.

Work continues at Hunter Station for the installation of track side water boxes and the birthday party gate. We plan on offering limited birthday parties in 2013 now that the regular public passenger loads have leveled off after the first year of operation in the new Hunter Hobby Park.

The theme for this year is "This is your Railroad". You are the reason RLS has been so successful the 47 years we have been operating. Member participation is what makes RLS so special. Cold steam locomotives do not make a Railroad. Get involved with your fellow members. It was amazing to see so many people out on January 1<sup>st</sup> with the many trains running. Plan now to be a part of RLS fun in 2013.

Last month, I mentioned a couple of members who have been ill. It was great to see Lew Kader out the following Run Day. I even got him to rebuild some switch machines that needed servicing. Lew built nearly all the switch machines on the Railroad. I also understand that Kenny O'Guinn made a short visit on the Friday after the Thanksgiving operation day. If you hear of a member under the weather, please let Glenn Maness know.

**You know you're addicted to live-steaming when...**

New Years just isn't all that happy if you don't "ring it in" behind a live-steam locomotive.

Highball! Rich Casford, President/Roadmaster



### December 9 Run Day (photo by Nick Battelo)

Just as the April/May run days are the final run days before the summer heat sets in, this run day was the final one before a series of cold days set in. The day was perfect! The showing of members and steam locomotives proved it.

Locomotives out “making tea” (as Charlie Gresham likes to say) were Paul Quick’s 4-4-2, Ron Wilkerson’s 2-8-2 and 2-6-0, Rich Casford’s 4-6-2 and the Hunter. President Casford stated, “You are the reason RLS has been so successful...” On this run day, that “success” was very visible as approximately 30 members were present for the day’s festivities.

Paul Quick’s loco was first out of the compound and came under the engineering prowess of both the Battelo brothers (Nick and Sam) and was also used to train another up-and-coming engineer, Jon Gurwell. Bob Beard fired and ran Ron Wilkerson’s mogul for a couple laps before needing to return to the steaming bays. Bob has been working on a problem with the flues plugging up quickly, even after adding a fire arch (is there such a thing a Metamucil for steam engines?). Ron would have helped Bob, but Ron’s big Mikado needed to pull a long train all afternoon. As you know, that’s something that can’t be ignored. Rich Casford put his big Pacific into passenger service for most of the day; between he and Bob Smith (Hunter engineer), the two trains kept the queue times down to about 15 minutes. Our brakemen for the day were Jim Woods, Curtis Claybrook and Ken Casford. Station duties were more-than-adequately-covered by Station Master, Glenn Maness and our Operation Supervisor was Brook Adams. There were a couple other locomotives out, but not under steam: Bob Cummings spent the morning servicing his 2-8-2 and Dave Moore worked on his giant 4-6-6-4.

For photos of this day’s run, check our website, [www.steamonly.com](http://www.steamonly.com) as both Joan Adams and George Bartlow posted about 50 great pictures.

### Get the “E-Chron” (RLS Chronicle via email)

Harkening back to the days of Disney’s “E” Ticket, the E-Chron is not the equivalent to taking a ride on the Pirates of the Caribbean (you don’t get splashed with water on page 1). However, like the swash-buckling adventure, the e-Chron is always in full color! Also, taking the Chronicle via e-mail cuts down on the cost of printing and mailing. Moreover, you’ll take delivery of the each month’s exciting edition (well... maybe not so much “exciting” as is “confusing”) the moment it’s finished. No more waiting for a snail-mail delivery. To get yourself on “The List”, simply zap Dave Parrott ([parrottsroost@verizon.net](mailto:parrottsroost@verizon.net)) an email stating something to the effect of, “Sign Me Up!”





### Did you get a 2013 RLS Calendar?

No? Well ya better hurry-up: There are only 30 of them left. These calendars are full-color and printed on high quality stock. Each month is pre-marked with run day, work day and annual meet information. The pictures are "themed" (you get to figure it out). If you live too far away to make a trip to pick up one or two of these gems, simply send a check, made out to the Riverside Live Steamers, to the Parrott's residence (the address is in the RLS membership directory). The price is \$7 per calendar and \$4 for shipping. If you order more than one calendar, the shipping charge remains the same.

These calendars are nice mementos of our club, the locomotives that operate there, and the good people who make up our family.

### Let's Party!!

On a semi-rainy December 29<sup>th</sup>, John Gurwell, Rich Casford, Dave Bunts and supervisor George Bartlow spent the morning installing the new birthday party gate at Hunter Station. The work is top-notch and blends right into the custom gates the city installed. This will finally allow the RLS to resume (on a limited basis) its tradition of offering the public a scheduled Birthday Train.





## December 23<sup>rd</sup> Run Day

To sum up in one word: “Wuhtuhday!” (that’s the Native-American word for “good buffalo hunt without getting crushed”)! This year’s Christmas run was fantastic... and Santa Claus himself came down to help with brakemen duties! Even the weather held out until all the locomotives were back in the shed before turning sour.

To start: as the members arrived one by one to start the cool day, they were greeted by a sparkling new train-set of RLS straddle cars sitting at Panorama Siding. These beauties are awesome! And this day was their inaugural run with RLS passengers.

Before the morning chill lifted, several locomotives has fire in their bellies: Andrew Martin with his big narrow-gauge 2-4-2; Josh Klenski with his stout 4-6-4; Brook Adams was readying the Hunter for a day’s activities; Ron Wilkerson and Gus Farwick were

prepping Ron’s 2-8-2; Dave Parrott was warming up Moana (that doesn’t sound right...); and Mac McLaughlin was bringing out his ten-wheeler. Also in the compound was Richard Miller with his recently purchased 0-6-0 and Bob Beard with Ron’s 2-6-0. But



the coup d’ gra was when Santa (Manny Caldera) showed up, ready to hand out a sack-full of candy canes to the kids who would ride our train. You should have seen the kids’ faces!

Station duties were performed flawlessly by Glenn Maness, Tamiann Parrott and Cindy Caldera. Our brakemen were Charlie Gresham, Ted Johnson, Manny Caldera (Santa), and Tamiann Parrott.





## Annual Dinner 2013

As President Casford mentioned in his opening statement, the Annual dinner is just about here. In fact, it's so close, you might as well consider it "here". The date of this RLS tradition is January 26 (your 2013 RLS Calendar has it marked already...). It's being held up at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in Norco, which is in the hills above Corona.

If you haven't had a chance to attend this event, you're really missing out on something extraordinary. Firstly, as this is a "dress-up" event, you probably won't recognize too many of the folks who show up... since nobody will have soot and oil on their face and clothes. Secondly, the dinner is great! There's plenty of beef and chicken plus all the fixings to round out a good meal. Thirdly, the door prizes, awards, and the 25/25/50 cash raffle add a ton-of-fun to an already festive evening. Fourthly, George and Linda Pruitt had a professionally produced video made about the Sage Brush Short Line. It will be premiered at our annual dinner and is sure to be a delightful treat.

But, above all, is the fifth reason: RLS fellowship. We are a close-knit group of like-minded individuals. There is something special about being together, eating, laughing, and enjoying an evening of friendship with a bunch of good folks. Yes, we do that at the club too, but our attention is divided between a quick visit and the duties of firing a locomotive, or being a brakeman, or working the station, or being the Operation Supervisor, etc., etc. The Annual Dinner is exceptional... it's a celebration our camaraderie and our hobby.

Should you like to attend (and we really hope you do), you'll need to contact



Glenn Maness at 951-242-4963 before January 19<sup>th</sup> as this is the last day we can make any changes to our reservation with the Hidden Valley Golf Course. The golf course is located at 10 Clubhouse Dr, Norco, CA 92860. Make sure you have the directions "down pat" (or use a good GPS system) because this place really is "Hidden".

Something else: For those of you who come from a far-off land and don't like to drive all the way back

home after the dinner and/or would like to attend our run day on Jan. 27, Mac McLaughlin worked out a special "RLS Rate" of \$69 per room with the Ayers Inn of Corona (just a few minute's drive from the golf course). Reservation can be made on or before Jan 21 by calling 951-724-2140.



## Sage Brush Short Line Christmas Run Revue (by Mac McLaughlin)

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Mary Lou and I were able to travel up the 395 to visit and assist the Sage Brush Short line Railroad with their 7<sup>th</sup> annual, Christmas Train Ride & Light Spectacular. We took three of our new straddle cars up. Bill Hesse and I put the trucks and couplers on them and they were ready for business.

On Wednesday night (12/5), they had a trial run where they invited 80 visitors with disabilities to enjoy the ride and light show without the crowds. This year, they had 76 volunteers ("Tie Owners" as George Pruitt calls them.), including ten RLS members who live in the Ridgecrest or Tehachapi area, to ensure a smooth operation. The weather was perfect, with night-time temps in the upper 40s and no wind. George said they had over 33,000 lights on the many displays!

On opening night, Thursday 12/6, the line started to form about 5:00. By 8:30, over 1000 had ridden the trains! Then, as quick as it started, the people stopped coming and the night was done. This was not only train ride and light show, but they also had Santa and his elves

available to hear the Christmas requests from alot of kids. They even showed a continuous video of last year's Christmas run so kids could look for themselves on the TV.

On Friday night, it started all over: from 5:30 till 8:30 another 1200 riders! This year, they had seven diesel trains running, each pulling two or three bench cars. On Saturday, a few more RLS members arrived to help: Charlie Gresham, Rubin Marroguin, and Dave Bunts. Saturday night was the largest crowd ever with over 1300 visitors. The total number of riders for the four-night event was just over 3700! There were no incidents and everyone had a great time.

Some of the highlights I remember came during the Saturday night "debriefing" meeting. Santa Clause told us how much he enjoyed talking with all of the kids. He mentioned he heard requests for just about every electronic toy available. But one child said he would like to have a couple pairs of new socks... and another said he was learning to read in school, and he would like to have his own book.

The Christmas run in Ridgecrest was a great success. The story of the Sage Bruch Short line Railroad will be shown at our January RLS dinner. It was my pleasure to attend and assist this fine Railroad.







### And they call this “Winter”?

Generally, when one mentions the word “January”, folks will conjure up images of snow, freezing rain and a thermometer needle sitting well below freezing. That certainly wasn’t true for our January 22, 2012 run-day: Bob Cummings (sporting a fashionable sweater) is pictured steaming his caboose-hop past Summit Siding during a perfectly pleasant “winter” afternoon.

---

### COMING RLS EVENTS:

**Jan. 13:** Run Day

**Jan. 19:** Work Day, Board of Directors meeting

**Jan. 26:** Annual Dinner

**Jan. 27:** Run Day

**Feb. 10:** Run Day

**Feb. 16:** Work Day, Board of Directors meeting

**Feb. 24:** Run Day

---

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 scheduled activities for more information. Public run days are the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Work days (Fun Day) are held the Saturday following the first run day of each month. The monthly Board of Directors Meeting is held at 1:00 p.m. at Hunter Park on the same Saturday as our work days.

---

### Riverside Live Steamers’ Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Rich Casford

**Vice President:** Mac McLaughlin

**Secretary:** Brook Adams

**Treasurer:** Jim Kreider

#### DIRECTORS

Chris Enright

Bob Beard

David Lazarus

Bill Hesse