

THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



November 2010

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Plus so much more...



Little Tracks... BIG trench

If you were to have traveled down to the club on October 16th and just happen to have seen one of the gates into the park open, you would have been mortified by the sight of deep trenches running hither and thither for hundreds of yards. As of this printing, the giant trenches are all filled in, leaving one to think it was simply a bad dream.



Bill Hesse's Final Words O' Wisdom

We're Baaack! After several weeks when it looked like the railroad was being dismantled, we all got a pleasant surprise when 20 members showed up for the November 6th 'extra work day, to discover that the contractor had already replaced, repaired, and even ballasted most of the damaged track on the north loop. There was still a bit of leveling and tamping to do, as well as replacing the lead in to the car barn and clearing debris from the right of way, but everything looks good for us to return to public service on the 14th. Of course, we'll still only be on the short loop for a few more months, but the new park is definitely starting to take shape. Many of the ditches have already been filled in, with more nearing completion. Now that the major grading is done, the contractor has started pouring the concrete pathways that will define the layout of the new park. I even saw a work crew out on Saturday over by where the new Iowa station will be. We're not out of the woods yet. The RLS welding crew, led by Dave Bunts, have been busy preparing the steel rail sections that will be installed at the grade crossings in a dozen locations around the track. Several of those will be on the north loop. That may again cause some disruption of service when short sections of track will have to be removed.

There have been more than a few challenges for the 2010 board in the last year, but all have been overshadowed by the enjoyment of having served the club in many ways. I've had the opportunity to travel to several other tracks and clubs in the last year, having a chance to expound on the virtues of RLS as the nation's only 'steam only' club. Listening to some of the rumors that seem to spread through the hobby about RLS, and then having the chance to set the record straight is an almost full time job. In 2010 RLS has been featured in two local television shows, members have attended hobby conventions where they were able to introduce 'large scale' to the table top modelers, and found numerous other ways to promote the club within the community in spite of our sometimes erratic operating schedule. I'm happy to say the membership has not only stayed active and interested in the club, but our membership has actually grown over the past year. Perhaps one of the most fun duties of being the RLS president is the monthly challenge of coming up with something witty and interesting to say in the 'Words 'O Wisdom' every month. I can only hope that most of the readers have been able to see thru my sometimes twisted sense of humor to glean a little wisdom from my words.

As I've often said, "Time flies when you're having fun". It hardly seems like a year since the 2010 board was elected. By now I'm sure you've all had time to mark and mail your ballot choices for the 2011 board that will take over at the November meeting. I was afraid I was going to end my term with the railroad in a total state of disarray. I'm happy to say the 2010 board will be handing off a railroad ready to begin the building stage. 2011 will be an exciting and busy time at the club.

I'll take this final opportunity to thank the members of the 2010 board, and all those others who have stepped in to keep the club functioning and growing, for all the support they've given me in the past year. I wish the best of luck to the new board, whoever they may be, in meeting the challenges of 2011.

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

To relieve the daily stress of work, you consistently find yourself repeating, "November 14th, November 14th, November 14th...."



November Run Days?

Even though the picture on the front cover of this edition of the Chronicle is alarming, that particular area of the park has been restored to “mostly-normal”: there’s still a few smaller open trenches by the wig-wag crossing, Palm Garden, and the Vanden-berg Grade. Those are all scheduled to be buried soon. But the trenches aren’t the real problem preventing us from having at least one run day this month. The problem is the final amount of re-grading that needs doing. As you read in Bill Hesse’s W.O.W, the contractor replaced and ballasted most of the track they removed for the trenching projects. Now, it up to us to align, level and tamp those areas. Also, a number of spots need to be reworked due to inactivity and the occasional nudge received by the construction equipment.



This trench tunneled under our compound lead and mainline then headed into Allen’s Valley. Fortunately, it’s completely buried now.

So... do we have run days scheduled for November? On paper, the word is “YES!” Our first run day is now scheduled for November 14th! However, we have to show up to the Nov. 13th work day and help get our mainline back into usable condition. The more folks who show up, the quicker we can start steaming up.

So.... How ‘bout it? We’ll see you Saturday... right?

Send in those Ballots!

This is just a simple reminder to send in your ballot for this year’s election. They have to be to the club by the November 20th Board of Director’s meeting in order to be counted. Probably the best thing to do is put down your Chronicle, fill out the ballot, place it in the envelope, stick a stamp out it, and place it by the door so you can mail it tomorrow. I can even wait for you, if you’d like. Go ahead.....

Feel better? Now you can continue your adventurous reading without that nagging guilt trip in the back of your head.



It was suggested by Glenn Maness at the October Board of Director’s Meeting that, while our park is in a state of disarray, the Chronicle should publish a calendar showing all the scale-railroad activities happening in Southern California. Thus, this edition’s planned centerfold picture of nude RLS ladies has been cancelled.... Thanks, Glenn.

November 2010

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6 RLS work day;
7 LALS run day	8	9	10	11 Joshua Tree & Southern RUDY RUN	12 Joshua Tree & Southern RUDY RUN	13 RLS Work day; Joshua & Tree Southern RUDY RUN; Chula Vista Live Steamers Run Day
14 Joshua Tree & Southern RUDY RUN; Chula Vista Live Steamers Run Day; LALS Run Day; RLS RUN Day!!	15	16	17	18	19	20 Orange County Model Engineers Run Day; RLS Work Day and Board of Director’s Meeting
21 Orange County Model Engineers Run Day; LALS Run Day;	22	23	24	25	26 Joshua Tree & Southern Turkey Run	27 Joshua Tree & Southern Turkey Run; RLS Work Day (Maybe)
28 LALS Run Day; RLS Run Day!!	29	30	December 1 Ridgecrest Christmas Spectacular	2 Ridgecrest Christmas Spectacular	3 Ridgecrest Christmas Spectacular	4 Ridgecrest Christmas Spectacular

The Dates for the Ridgecrest Christmas Spectacular are December 1 – 5 with the Christmas trains running and pulling public on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. If you haven’t experienced this wondrous event, don’t miss it this year!



State of the Park

For what has seemed to be the longest two months in RLS history (well...maybe not in the entire RLS history... but pretty darned close!), Hunter Park is about to start a transition from dirt-mound back into a “park”. For those who have watched on a semi-daily or weekly basis, it’s been dismaying to watch the park slowly turn from it’s normal green self into the trench-riden, barren landscape of today. But, have hope as the reconstruction is just beginning!

A couple weeks ago, forms were placed and the first several cubic yards of concrete were poured for the new pathways. In all, there are a few hundred yards of paths planned that will interlink the sports areas to the play areas, picnic areas, and our new station. They are large enough to drive a car or truck onto and sweep along



our right-of-way from the top of Vandenberg to the top of Summit. If RLS ever gets the golf-cart or Gator, we’ll have a regular raceway waiting for it!

As for other signs of reconstruction, taking a close look at where the ball parks and soccer fields will be, one can see the contouring and sculpting for the dugouts and viewing areas. On the far east of the park, ground is being leveled in preparation for the foundations of the gazebos, snack bar, restrooms, and our new station. Along Vandenberg, the stakes exist for the basketball courts, pathways, and the railroad-themed play area. Up by Summit, it appears there are outlines for tennis courts, even though the Park’s Department mentioned they have been scrubbed from the plans because of budget cuts.



Through it all, our tiny tracks wind and weave as if to stay out of harm’s way. They are looking unused and semi-abandoned, but otherwise they are mostly intact. When standing out by the trestle (by what used to be soccer curve) and looking across the vastness of our park, one can truly take in the colossal scope of this reconstruction project. It’s nice to actually see some development towards what will be our future.



New By-Laws

About a year and a half ago, several members of RLS were commissioned to scour over our by-laws, find any errors, and make recommendations to change them. Though it seems like a year and a half is an extraordinary amount of time to complete their work, they have done their task as asked. Now, it's your turn to help the RLS.

Along with your ballots (that you now have filled out, sealed in an envelope, and waiting for you to mail tomorrow... right?) you were given a copy of the by-laws. It would be GREATLY appreciated if you'd take the time to peruse them, make note of the changes, corrections and deletions, and come down to the Board of Director's Meeting on November 20 to comment on them. If all goes well, and you don't see a need to make additional changes or corrections, the members present will vote to adopt these by-laws.

As you can see, the November 20 BoD Meeting will to be very important, what with the voting on the new by-laws and the election of four new board members. Of all the monthly BoD Meetings, this is the one you may not wish to skip out on.



RLS on CNN

The news story that was filmed at the RLS during our Sept. 12th run day will be airing on CNN on Time Warner Cable, Monday, Nov. 15th and possibly on the 16th too. To see the story, tune in at :24 and :54 after the hour, between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 4:00pm. It will be playing randomly with other local stories.





October Work Day and monthly Board of Director's Meeting

Even though the railroad has been shut down, there's still plenty to do in the compound. For those who showed up for the October 16 work day, they soon found out that the list of things-to-do was far more than predicted.

Top on the list was the fabrication of the steel-railed crossings. The contractor will be pouring several hundred yards of concrete pathways which will cross or mainline in no less than six places. At those points, we will need steel rails installed due to steel's durability. Cutting and welding the steel rail with steel cross ties is a long process. Fortunately, a number of RLSers have risen to the occasion and taken on the manufacture of these steel sections of track. Thus, all throughout the work-day morning, people were cutting, grinding, placing and welding the various components of the new pathway crossings.



Using a grinder to smooth out the welds, Bob Smith prepares another length of steel rail for its placement along our mainline.

While the torches and welders were zapping away, folks were also busy raking leaves, cleaning the club house, working inside the caboose, and transferring tools and rail into our newly placed tool storage container. With all of the hard work comes a large appetite and right on cue, Donna and Curtis Claybrook were there cooking up the day's grub. By noon, everyone was busy excising their jaws and working out their digestive systems.

Bill Hesse called to order his final full-length Board of Director's meeting precisely at 1:00(ish). As you know, Bill has served to completion his two year term: his first year as a director and this past year as the president of the club. The meeting skip along through the payment of bills, reports from the secretary (Brook Adams), Treasurer (Tamiann Parrott), Roadmaster (Ken was still recovering from his surgery, so Rich gave a detailed state-of-the-railroad report), Superintendent of Motive Power (Dave Bunts), and from our Car Forman (Brook Adams). It was all informative, interesting, and even comical at times. However, when it came time for our City Liaison (Bill Gardener) to speak, the room listened intently about the state of our park, the dealings with the contractor, and about the upcoming stages of construction.

Somewhere right in the neighborhood of 2:00(ish), Bill concluded his final full-length meeting with the singing of "Take the Money and Run" (of course he didn't... but... what a unique way to go out if he had!) and everyone enjoyed finishing off the bag of Oreo's.



One Year ago in November, Ron Wilkerson, on his 4-6-0, eases out of Allen's Valley after waiting in the hole for the passenger train to pass (engineered by Rich Casford).

COMING EVENTS:

Nov. 13: Work Day -- Final Prep

Nov. 14: Run Day... looks like it'll happen!

Nov. 20: Workday and Monthly Board Meeting

Nov. 28: Run Day!

Dec. 12: Run Day!

Dec. 18: Workday and Monthly Board Meeting

Dec. 26: Christmas Run Day (close enough)

Visit the RLS Website: www.steamonly.org

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OFFICERS

President: Bill Hesse

Vice President: Rich Casford

Secretary: Brook Adams

Treasurer: Tamiann Parrott

DIRECTORS

Bill Gardner

Al Bondesen

Dayna Adams

John Lytle