

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



June 2009



Dave Bunts' "Words O' Wisdom"  
Candlelighter's Run Day on June 14!  
Hunter Park Update  
Train Mountain Travels



## Riverside Live Steamers Optimism:

We don't see this picture as the "end of the line". Rather, we see it as the beginning of a new line... and a lot of digging... and a lot of track re-laying... and a lot of ballasting... and a lot of tamping... and finally, a not-so-distant future filled with steam locomotives!



## Dave Bunts' Words O' Wisdom: Salvation and the RLS



After the moment of silence, I didn't want you all to think that I was shirking my duties as a contributor to this fine news letter. Nothing can be farther from the truth, I do want to participate. However, I may have annoyed the editor of the Chron, so I ended up in some version of print purgatory until he chose to let me out.

I really have nothing of importance to relay to the members of this fine organization. The new station work is about done, with only finishing touches to be completed. The City, in its infinite wisdom, has torn the new roadbed up again to complete another portion of the overpass project, so track work, as of this writing, is still on hold. What I do have is massive admiration of the membership. We have had work days every Saturday for the past 2 months. These have been long days, and they are altogether too frequent for the physical labor that is expended. I, for one, am no longer the spring chicken that I used to be, and on the days following the work, I was sore. Yet every time I go out to go to work, there are people waiting, not necessarily eagerly, but willing to do whatever it takes to get the railroad back into operation as quickly as possible. People like Dayna Adams, Josh Klaske, John Lytle, and John Young are there frequently, doing what they can. The best part of their involvement is that they have no equipment that has run at RLS yet, but each has a certain dedication to make it all work. (As an aside, Chris Enright used to be in that group, and would work until the sun went down. Unfortunately for the work crews, Chris has taken delivery of his cute little vertical boilered thing. I have to admit it is a neat little machine, but he has been drifting off to work on that in preparation of the Train Mountain excursion. I don't see it as an excuse, but then, who am I to judge?) We have even seen Bob Cummings upright, rather than sitting astride his gorgeous engine. I also want to recognize Bill McLaughlin for grabbing the new station project by the horns, and going at it. It's nearly done, and is a thing of joy and everlasting beauty.

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

you really do know your addicted to live steaming... and really, really, really, really, really, really, REALLY like it!

We still have the track ahead of us, and when the workday notices go out for those, please try and make it out. The warm weather is sneaking up on us, and the more folks we can share the work with will make it easier on all of us. Besides, if you are out on the railroad, you can't be someplace where you will be tempted to spend money on non-train stuff. Think of it all as an effort to keep the money you earn in your own pocket. That way, at the end of the whole thing, you will have enough money to really make those improvements on your rolling stock that you have wanted for so long. See, when thinking of it in those terms, working at RLS is saving you from yourself. Come on out and be saved. Bunts



## Current Happenings at the RLS

With the retaining walls in place and a massive drainage pipe install project nearly complete, RLS members will soon be busy with the mainline relay. Recently, because of the “Big Dig” project, more track was taken up at the Columbia Yard. In all, another 80 feet of right-of-way had to be lifted, bringing the grand total to nearly 300 feet. That’s a lot! It will take many hours to rebuild and replace all that has been removed which could begin as soon as June 13. Keep an eye on the RLS website ([www.steamonly.org](http://www.steamonly.org)) for the announcement.

If you haven’t seen it, the sight within our compound is really something. Stacks and stacks of track just waiting to get back into the ground. Some of the track will need to be reconditioned before being relayed. Again, this will take several people to complete this job. Road One and Two will be organizing the reconditioning project soon, so keep your eye on the website ([www.steamonly.org](http://www.steamonly.org)) and read the announcements as they come in the mail.

As seen in the picture to the right, the contractor has almost completed our new right-of-way. However, a realignment job must be finished between Columbia Station and Panoramic Siding that will push the yard leads and our mainline about four or five feet south from its original course.

We’re so close to the end of the tunnel. Just be ready for the “call to arms” as we get one step closer to running our trains again!



More track was removed... that translates to more work-day “fun” at the RLS!



Ready and waiting to feel the weight of a train.





## What about the New “Temp” Station?

So, what about that new “temporary” station being built on the Marlborough (South) side of the park? Well, you just happen to be reading an article written by someone who knows someone who has a father of someone who (when making a secret information drop for the CIA) made mention to someone else who just happen to have some inside information about the new station (so...try to keep it a secret...).

“Why Temporary?” you ask. Firstly, the station had to be moved to the south side of Hunter Park due to the construction of the BNSF overpass on Columbia St. But the title of “Temporary” is because this station will only be used until our new permanent station is built during the Renaissance Project the City of Riverside will do beginning early next year. The permanent station will be on the east side of the park, close to where the Iowa siding sits now.

Now back to business: The Marlborough station is basically finished! The only “things” we’re now waiting for is the 20’ storage container the City will be dropping off at some point soon. This will become the storage area for our merchandise we sell during run days. Also, the treated water lines need to be installed at both ends of the station. And finally, level and tamp the remaining undone portion of the new sidings. Then, we need to get the rest of the railroad put back together so we can fire up and make use of this well-built new station. So many thanks go out to so many fine folks who have donated their time, life, knowledge, and desire to put together this new station, even though it is only temporary. But true to RLS form, even the temporary things we build are suitable for “permanent” status.



A super secret spy camera captured this image of a few RLS members adding the finishing touches to the new Marlborough Station located on our straight-a-way on the south side of the park.

## Candlelighter’s Childhood Cancer Foundation Run Day

You read right: We are going to have a semi-run run day on **June 14**. Even though we weren’t planning to run on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the Candlelighter’s group said they’d still like to come out to the Park for their annual lunch and festivities meet. However, Ron Wilkerson has stepped up to the plate and offered to fire up his ten-wheeler and give rides from Allen’s Valley, around the baseball fields and back again. To pull this off (as there are no leads out of the compound), Ron had four RLS members lift his locomotive out of his truck and lower to the tracks in David’s Yard. Now, we need members to come operate the railroad with him for the enjoyment of children who are really going through a horribly tough time of their life.



### RLS In The News

Riverside Live Steamers made headlines within the Californian Newspaper. The paper reported on the Panoramic Siding Station built by Nickolas Radosevich, 13, as part of his Eagle Scout Leadership project. While the project was being built, Nick learned how to draw blue prints, use a drill press, router, and construct a roof. He also learned how to deal with the Riverside Planning Department and the Parks Department in order to obtain the proper permits.



Also to be thanked is Bill McLaughlin for the generous support and time to help complete the project (Bill also made the fancy signs hung under the roof) and Dave Bunts who did a majority of the welding. Once operation resumes, this station will serve the members well as it is a perfect place to take in all the sites of Hunter Park while waiting to take another lap.

### An Update from the Wandering Bear

Larry Nilles has checked in from the North. He states that all is well and he really likes living in Oregon and the people there are good folks. He also visited Train Mountain for the first time a few weeks ago on an invite from Al Ratliff who was joining the many folks for the annual Narrow Gauge meet held there. His biggest surprise (as is with most) was that one can hop on a train, ride for a few hours and not take the same track twice! Larry also sent a link (<http://www.ecmrr.org/>) to the Eastern Cascade Model Railroad Club so RLS folks can have a look at the organization that he now is part of. His biggest complaint, however, is that he sincerely misses RLS and the family he left behind.

Look for Larry in the not-so-distant future as he plans on visiting So. Cal. for a few days to say "hi" plus pick up some of his belongings.

### Safe Traveling

To all the RLS members who are making the long trek up to Train Mountain for the Triennial Meet: Please... drive safely and have a fantastic trip. Also, bring back pictures and stories to post in July's Chronicle.



### What we do best

Yes, we can rebuild our railroad; make a new station; build the Noble/Quick Building, and run trains. But what we do best is share the live-steaming experience with so many young folks. A.J. Benson eases Paul Quick's Atlantic and caboose down to the compound on an overcast, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 run day.

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### COMING EVENTS:

**June 6:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

**June 27:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

**June 13:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

**July 4:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

**June 14:** Candlelighter's Run day!

**July 11:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

**June 20:** Work Day and Monthly Meeting

**July 18:** TBA Work Day (Check Website)

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Visit the RLS Website: [www.steamonly.org](http://www.steamonly.org)

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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 Days) are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday followed by the Monthly Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Hunter Park.

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