

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



**June 2014**

Big Train Show Wrap-up  
Night Runs are Scheduled  
May Run Days  
Hats Off...  
and much more...



## **Working Hard... Taking a Break**

Panorama Station is a fantastic place to "take in" nearly our entire operation from one vantage point. It's a place where RLS members can flag down a passing train, enjoy a shady moment on a hot day, or take a lunch break to the sounds of passing steam locomotives. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hunter Fergusson was engineering his family's mighty 2-6-2 while pulling a public passenger train. At the same time, Ron Wilkerson parked his beautiful Mikado so he (and all the others) could "re-fuel" with a burger and soda.



### Along the Track – Roadmaster & Secretary Rich Casford

Summer is here!! Time to really enjoy the Riverside Live Steamers Railroad!!

Run Days and Work Days will be filled with steam and the sounds of projects being completed. With our current Work Day schedule, most of the daily projects are finished and the workers are back in the compound for lunch by Noon. This way we beat the afternoon heat of the Riverside Summers.

Run Days, we operate all day long. So, summer is a time we really need your help in Railroad operations so nobody has to be on a train all day long. We always need help in the afternoon for relief brakeman, crossing guard duty at the station, and compound security. We have a big Railroad, and the more members that come out to lend a hand, the easier it is on everyone.

As a side note: Drinking lots of water this summer will prevent heat stroke. Also, wear a hat and use sun screen! Keep an eye out for all of your fellow members and watch for heat stroke which can sneak up on anyone fast.

Speaking of compound security, it is time to remind all Key-holders that you must sign-in on the log book when you unlock the compound and turn off the alarm. When it is time to leave, if you cannot find another Key-holder to sign the log book over to, you need to ask everyone to leave and secure the facility before you turn the alarm back on. Over the past couple of months, we have had some “slipping” on these procedures and have found doors unlocked. As a Key-holder, you have privileges to enter the compound on off-days. However, that privilege carries a big responsibility: Security. You must walk the fence-line, check all the gates, and then check all of the doors in every building (including the tool shed). You never know when a door will accidentally be left unlocked by another member during our regular activity days.

Really, come to think of it, all the members of RLS have a reasonable expectation for safety and security, even if you do not have a set of keys to the facility. “If you see something, say something.” That is why we have an Operating Superintendent at each Run Day and Road Master in charge on the Work Days.

Our next Fun (work) Day will be **June 14<sup>th</sup>**. So I hope to see all of you out at the Railroad. We will be leveling track and rebuilding the picnic shelter in the compound. We start at 8:00 AM with lunch served to the workers at Noon. Board meeting follows at 1:00PM.

Summer is here, so do not stay home! Come out and lend a hand in the operation of your favorite Railroad, and enjoy the lazy days of summer with your fellow members.

See you at the Track,

Rich Casford, Roadmaster/Secretary



## RLS at the Big Train Show

The name says it all: It's a big show full of everything model trains! Layouts ranging from the tiny (so small, they fit under a medium-sized cake cover) to 150' X 140' behemoths; from Z-Scale to G-Scale, electric to live steam; the place had everything! They even had a small 1.5" scale train people (kids) could ride (pulled by a small, 2-axel industrial switcher). Yet, with everything and anything "trains" under the



Like a proud papa, Tom Lawson stands ready to answer the many questions folks had about his locomotive and our railroad.

roof of the Ontario Convention Center, a major show-stopper was the RLS display: Bringing the "Big" to the Big Train Show! Featuring Tom Lawson's immaculate Berkshire and Brian Stephan's mighty mogul, there wasn't a single person attending the show that couldn't stop and admire these two beautiful locomotives. Between the locomotives, tables offered flyers for those wanting more information and a flat-screen TV playing a DVD featuring our railroad on a typical run-day. On the back wall, a beautiful display made up of 8X10 portraits of practically every member and locomotive in our club (Thanks, Mac!). At times, there were 10 to 15 people watching the video while another 10 to 15 were asking questions about the locomotives, while yet another 6 to 8 were admiring the portrait display.

A Big Train Show "thank you" goes out to these fine folks for making sure RLS was well represented: Tom Lawson, Brian Stephans, Glenn Maness, Mac McLaughlin, Manny Caldera, Cindy Caldera, Jim Kreider, Curtis Clatbrook, Donna Claybrook, A.J. Benson, Nathan Parrott, David Parrott, Bob Smith and Bill Hesse.

## Some Positive Press

A few months back, the Wall Street Journal featured a wonderful article about our hobby. If you missed it, here's the link:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304626104579121484021900804>



## May 11<sup>th</sup> Run Day

Lots of locomotives, lots of people, and lots of fun! That about sums up our May 11 run day. The day was warm but not hot, making our park a pleasant place to spend a morning/afternoon.

First out was Paul Quick's fine Atlantic with Nick Battelo as the engineer. Following shortly after was the Hunter, (Bill Hesse, Brook Adams and John Gurwell), Brad Bluth with his Challenger, David Lazarus on the club's Big-Boy and Bill Phillips with his Pacific. Remaining in the compound to tinker were Richard Miller (0-6-0) and Brian Stephans (2-6-0).

Doing their part of being an elite RLS brakeman were Cameron McMonigle, Manny Caldera, John Gurwell and Jack Tabongtong. Glenn Mannes and Cindy Caldera kept the Hunter Station under control and operating smoothly. Finally, keeping everything under control, A.J. Benson was our Operations Supervisor.



## RLS enters the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

Way back in March, the 1980's era CD player that provided the background sounds of trains for the folks waiting in the queue line at Hunter station, died. Feeling hip and "in the know", the RLS Board of Directors approved the purchase of a tiny, postage-stamp sized MP3 player as a replacement. So, after a number of months, the sounds of great steam engines from the past have returned to Hunter Station, played on our totally, "way cool" MP3 player... errr... dude.

## Get the E-Chron!

Speaking of entering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Sign-up for the e-Chronicle! Every issue is in full-color and you'll receive it via email the moment it's ready for release. No more waiting for snail-mail (the postal service): that's so yesterday. It's real easy to get... send your request to [parrottsroost@verizon.net](mailto:parrottsroost@verizon.net)



## May 25<sup>th</sup> Run Day

It was another great day to enjoy our unique hobby. With 11 locomotives either out on the mainline or being worked on in the compound, there was something for everyone to be part of.

As usual, the first locomotive out to the mainline was Paul Quick's spotless Atlantic. With that, the flood gates of steam opened: Brook Adams on the Hunter, Dave Moore with his giant Challenger, Chris Enright on his 0-4-0 upright, Ron Wilkerson with his magnificent 2-8-2, Larry Fisher with Ron's 2-6-0, and Jim & Hunter Fergusson on their mighty 2-6-2. Remaining in the compound to clean, tinker, and/or console their locomotives for not being fired up were Bob Cummings (2-8-2), Brian Stephans (2-6-0), Richard Miller (0-6-0), Jeff Gorjans (4-6-2), and the club's Big Boy.

Jim and Hunter Fergusson used their giant 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-scale Prairie locomotive to help haul public, while Brook Adams engineered the Hunter train all day. With Paul Quick's locomotive, Nick Battelo engineered the Birthday train for the day. Bringing up the rear on every train were our benevolent brakemen Chloe De La Torre, John Gurwell, Paul Quick and either Jim or Hunter Fergusson (depending on who was engineering). The Station Master duties were flawlessly carried out by Tamiann Parrott with Mac McLaughlin's help. Making sure everything operated smoothly, Jeff Gorjans was our operations Supervisor. In all, it was a great day!





## **May Work Day and Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

Busy as bees, we were (as Yoda might say). Out on the mainline, a number of our members continued the bump-removal and tamping project. With the aid of our super-tamper, the work goes rather quickly now. Inside the compound, several folks weeded, cleaned, and provided the TLC our compound regularly needs. As a reward for their service, all members who lent their elbow grease or were going to attend our Board of Director's meeting were treated to a scrumptious lunch, whipped up by our Camp Cooks, Curtis and Donna Claybrook.

Because the work went well and folks had finished their lunch sooner than usual (and it was getting hot inside the Club House), the B.o.D meeting started at 12:32 instead of its usual 1:00. Discussions/topics included our Treasure's Report, Secretary Report and our many committee-member reports.

There were, however, some significant reports/discussions: A healthy debate concerning passenger-train loading ensued. The end result of which can be summed up in one, simple sentence: Don't overload the Hunter Train's beach-seat cars. The B.o.D also set the dates for our summer night-runs (see next article). The club welcomed several new members (see next, next article); Gary Mocko donated a fantastic 1.5" scale caboose for our public-passenger trains (Thanks, Gary!!); Al and Sandy Bondensen donated a beautiful engineering-style print of a Santa Fe 2-10-2 (which the club is getting professionally framed) Thank you Al and Sandy!!! Also, Brook Adams (our Compound Supervisor) reminded all members to please clean up after themselves. The club doesn't have enough funds to employ our mothers to continually nag us. So, take responsibility for your own mess: Clean up your work area and make use of the recycle bins and/or the trash cans. The meeting wrapped up at 2:05.

## **Summer Night Run Schedule**

Here they are! Mark them on your calendars so you don't miss out: June 28, July 5, August 2 and August 30. If you've never attended a night run, you're in for a special treat. There's something magical about boarding a train and taking an evening run around our park. Also, these are for RLS members and their invited guests; no public trains will be running. See you at the park... "at night." (Thank you, Sponge Bob)

## **New Members!**

Our club continues to grow! The month of May brought several new faces to our roll books: Doug Prescott, David Weiss, Barry Ferguson, Joel Najar, Leone Fisher, Evan Charles, Mark Speer, and Jack Westfall. Be sure to look for their distinctive New Member RLS Badges (the yellow badge with the member's name on a red Dymo label). Please make all of these folks feel welcomed into our club.



## Hats Off

We are a close-knit family of folks who enjoy a wonderfully unique hobby. As each of us join, we become part of the “whole” that makes up our club. It is, as always, sad when our members pass onward to the Live steam railroad in the sky. Over the past few months, we’ve had a couple significant members take their last train ride.



Ed Nelson was one of the only three remaining charter members of our club. Trains were just about everything to Ed. Until his health declined, he was regularly seen running either his 1.5” scale American locomotive, or (in the early days of the RLS) his 1” scale 0-6-0 (oh, how those little wheels went round and round). He also served on our Board of Directors and as a president of the Los Angeles Live Steamers.



Phil Mc Fadden joined our club in 1990. He brought with him a passion for live steam and a beautiful Atlantic locomotive and train-set. In fact, Phil just didn’t seem “right” unless he was firing his locomotive and giving everybody his distinctive smile as he passed by. Phil’s health declined a number of years ago. However, when he felt well enough, he’d come out, fire up and start smiling again.

Though each of these members passed away a number of months ago, they still deserve our remembrances... and a long toot from your whistle next time you fire your locomotive.

## Large Train “Meets”

Over the next year, you’ll be hearing more and more about an Operational Special Run Day. Scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015, it may seem like a long way off to put something like this in the books. But, we will need to make some improvements to our mainline (maybe a siding, spurs, etc) and work out the details of how we will run this event. The gist of it will be “passenger” trains and freight trains running on schedules and bi-directional, under the supervision of a dispatcher. There will be long-freight trains, switching duties and pick-up & delivery schedules. As more details emerge, you’ll read about them here!



## WANTED

### Screw-gun Bill and his side-kick, Fearson Flathead (and their horse, Klunker)

Last seen at East Columbia, on the wrong side of the tracks. This duo's hideout is believed to be somewhere in the vicinity of Palm Garden and the outhouse. Known to attack random loose nuts and screws without warning or provocation. If seen, look the other way... DO NOT make eye contact! Report all sightings to your local Makita dealer.

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#### COMING RLS EVENTS:

**June 8:** Run Day

**June 14:** Fun Day (Work Day), B.o.D Meeting

**June 22:** Run Day

**June 28:** Night Run!!

**July 5:** Night Run!!

**July 13:** Run Day

**July 19:** Fun Day (Work Day), B.o.D Meeting

**July 27:** Run Day

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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 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.

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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