

# THE RLS CHRONICLE

News of the Riverside Live Steamers



**February 2010**

Bill Hesse's "Words O' Wisdom"  
January Run Days  
The Annual Dinner  
Welding Class  
Plus so much more...



## **Past Reflections**

Our hobby exists because of a deep adoration for the sights and sounds of a bygone era in railroading. It's moments like the above photo that we live for. With Rich Casford pulling the throttle and Ken Casford working as brakeman, the Casford's big Northern climbs up the Vandenberg grade towards the Iowa Siding on a perfect, post-storm afternoon. Nathan Parrott caught the moment during the January 24<sup>th</sup> run day.



### **Bill Hesse's Words O' Wisdom**

Another milestone in RLS history has come to pass. The 2009 RLS annual awards dinner was a huge success. We tried a little different format and location this year, a little less formal but every bit as much fun with plenty of food and entertainment. About 60 members got a sneak preview of the upcoming 'Riverside Today' television feature, a fine animated video by Nathan Parrott entitled the 'Last Train Home', and an excellent presentation from our guest speaker Mike Masee. If you've never seen his work, be sure to visit his WEB site at [www.mikemassee.com](http://www.mikemassee.com).

Our live steam hobby seems to be growing in more ways than one. Mike's presentation included video of the reconstruction of the Flintridge & Portola Valley railroad as it was upgraded from 1 inch to 7.5 gauge, and the construction of three C-16's in 2.5 inch scale. Not to be outdone, RLS welcomed two new locomotives with our Nutbuster award. Harry Hass brought out a 4-8-2 Mountain locomotive to the fall meet, and Dave Moore's 4-6-6-4. It must be true: bigger is better!

2009 was an unusual year to say the least. It took a diligent audit of OS reports to discover we only had 13 regular run days, but at least 27 work days! That doesn't even count all the undocumented work that went on either at the track or in member's home shops. There are clubs much larger than RLS who would have trouble putting together a 20 man track crew even on a scheduled work day, let alone an extra day with as little as a day's notice. Glenn Maness and Bill Gardner spent many days at the railroad as the road crews worked in the compound. Widening the road required removing and reinstalling most of the track on the north side of the park. To thank everyone who helped out, I'd have to reprint most of the club roster. At the dinner, we honored the top 10 participants who put in 10 or more extra days with the "Golden Shovel" award. Due to the huge contribution of labor and material that the club invested in the project, the city recently made a payment of over \$26,000 to the club. It was the spirit and dedication of our members that earned that award.

The Columbia project should get done just about in time before the Iowa Avenue widening starts on the east side, and the long awaited park renovation begins. 2010 should provide plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sunshine, get a little exercise, and enjoy the camaraderie of RLS 'fun days'. Who knows . . . we might even find time to run some trains.

If you haven't caught this week's edition of "Riverside Today", don't feel bad. I live in Riverside, and my TV doesn't even get channel 3. Thanks to the wonders of the internet, you can go to [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov) . Look for the video in the third column, or find the link to 'city video' and watch show #30. Fast forward to about 16:43 minutes in to the show. You might see someone you recognize. There are also several shots of my train. Look for the gray cars, particularly in the very last frame of the clip. The engine pulling it is Bob Cummings Mikado, the same model as the one I'm building.

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

On a table is the latest Sports Illustrated Swim Suit Edition magazine and also the latest edition of Live Steaming & Outdoor Railroading. You pick up the Live Steam magazine and say, "Ooooooooooooo....."



## New Year's Run Day

Bringing in the New Year doing what one loves to do seems to be the adage. Whether it is fishing, hiking, biking, airplane flying, or a simple stroll by the beach; if that's what you enjoy most, then why not bring in the New Year that way? Thus, at the RLS, a bunch of us brought in 2010 doing exactly what we enjoy most: playing trains! The day couldn't have been better with temps in the low 70's, crystal-clear skies, and just enough dew-point to ensure great showing of steam from the locomotives.

Out that day were Casey Farwick on Ron Wilkerson's 2-6-0, Ron Wilkerson with his Pine Creek 4-6-0, Greg Casford on the Casford big Northern, Rich Casford fired the Pacific, The Parrott's Shay made several laps, Warren Peterson fired his immaculate ten-wheeler for the day, and Andrew Martin brought his narrow-gauge 2-4-2 and put in some serious mileage. To make the run day even more enjoyable, trains ran bi-directional. About 20 other members were also present, all of whom spent a very pleasant day riding trains, making conversation at the club house and/or working on equipment in the compound. It really was the perfect way to bring in the New Year!



Happy New Year!! Casey Farwick eases the Wilkerson mogul out of Allen's Valley while Greg Casford pulls the throttle on the Casford Northern to climb up to Summit. If you break out the magnifying glass, way in the background (upper left corner), Ron Wilkerson heads in the Iowa Siding. Photo by George Bartlow.

## Welding Class

About this time every year, Bill Gardner begins collecting names for those who are interested in learning the very useful skill of welding. Though no date has been set, it looks as though the class will probably happen mid-to-late March. Costs are minimal, but the knowledge gained is invaluable as Bill guides the "student" through a series of small projects while using an arch welder. If you'd like more information (or better yet, to participate), simply give Bill a call at (951) 686-1729 or look him up at the club on any of the run or work days.





### RLS Annual Dinner

They came.. they ate... they enjoyed... they went home smiling. Who are “they”? “They” are the near 60 RLS members who enjoyed an evening of food, friendship, and entertainment at the RLS Annual dinner. As Bill Hesse stated in his “Word’s O’ Wisdom”, the venue was different after the Board of Directors voted to move the event from the Riverside Marriott to the Moreno Valley Towngate Center. This allowed the dinner to be held on a Saturday evening instead of the usual Sunday night.

The food was catered by our now-favorite folks at Southfork Catering with the evening’s menu being prime rib AND chicken, smashed garlic potatoes, two different salads, rolls, and desert. The consensus rating for the dinner was somewhere between “fantastic” and “fabulous”.

Besides the new venue, club members were treated to a few more firsts: the Riverside Today segment about the RLS was debuted, Mike Massee (the evening’s guest speaker) brought his fine production of the Flintridge and Portola Valley Railway for its first public debut, and Nathan Parrott showed his music video “Last Train Home”. Another first was the amount of door prizes available to win. In fact, there were SO many door prizes that nearly everybody won something (The “nearly” applies to Ron Wilkerson. Sorry, Ron... better luck next time).

Only one complaint can be logged with this year’s dinner: many wish that more members could have attended. See you next year!



The Main Dinner Hall filled with our favorite folks who all love our favorite things: Trains and food!



The Golden Shovel Award was given to Ron Wilkerson, Bill Gardener, Bill McLaughlin, Rich Casford, Ken Casford, Dave Bunts, and Brook Adams. Though it is a prestigious award to be given, some of those pictured promptly used the awards as make-shift back scratchers...



Bob Cummings was awarded “Hogger of the Year”



Dave Bunts received the “Live Steamer of the Year” award.



A.J. Benson was given the “Helper Service” award.



## January 10 Run Day

Warm, relaxing, pleasant, perfect; these are just some of the ways to describe the Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> run day. With only five trains on the main, it seemed as though one could pull the throttle back and simply enjoy non-stop running all day long! While the rest of the country was enduring frigid temperatures and blinding snow storms, twenty-five members came out to enjoy a splendid day with temperature all the way into the mid-seventies.



Tommy Bunts eases Bill Mac's ten-wheeler past panoramic siding. Check out that blue sky!

Bringing the "steam" to Riverside Live Steamers, were Tommy Bunts on Bill Mac's coal-fired 4-6-0, Paul Quick with his 4-4-2, Josh Klaske on his Pacific, and Warren Peterson with his ten-wheeler. Brook Adams fired the DeNault Atlantic and pulled the birthday train while Rich Casford

fired his big Pacific and pulled the public train. Making good with the brakeman duties were Dayna Adams on the Birthday Train while Ken Casford and A.J. Benson kept a good eye on the folks who rode the public train. Glenn Maness, our benevolent Station Master, reported 119 people traversed our rails on this fine day. Helping Glenn make sure everyone was loaded and unloaded safely were Tamiann Parrott, Nathan Parrott, and Ryan Turley.

Keeping with a time-honored tradition the club is very proud of, Paul Quick fired up his spotless Atlantic, made a couple laps around the



Dayna Adams gives the smile that pretty much sums up the overall feel of a perfect run day.



Another First: Noel Najara takes Paul Quick's loco and train around the park for his first time.

park, then invited Noel Najara (our newest Jr. Member) to spend most of the day pulling the throttle. Watching Noel's face as he very cautiously pulled the throttle and the locomotive began to move is one of the priceless moments to live through. Paul has experienced this many, many times as he shares the live steam experience with so many young people.

About the only other item to report comes from Brook Adams: He says the Birthday Train is a "chick magnet". No wonder Bob Cummings likes pulling that train....

### Is a Brakeman's Badge in Your Future?

Bill Hoey is planning a brakeman's class on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested should contact Bill at (714-403-8241), e-mail ([willcal770@socal.rr.com](mailto:willcal770@socal.rr.com)). Be a Brakeman!!



## January's Work Day and Monthly BoD Meeting

With the rains showing up in full force for the month of January, the roadbed suffered a bit. As Ken Casford put it, "Lots of dips and bumps." Thus, a crew of several RLSers set out to lower the bumps and raise the dips. The two areas of main concern were just north of the Allen's Valley bridge and just west of the south Vandenberg switch, right on top of the culvert. While two crews set to work leveling the main, other folks pulled weeds, worked on switches, raked leaves in the compound, cleaned inside the club house, finished work on the fuel pumps for the compound, and put more time into the Hunter locomotive.

The folks who made it out were Cameron Lannon, Dean Willoughby, Randy Chase, Dave Moore, Paul Quick, Bill Gardner, Dayna Adams, Brook Adams, Bill Hesse, Tamiann Parrott, David Parrott, Rich Casford, Ken Casford, Norma Casford, Al Bondesen, Larry Jongerious, Ron Wilkerson, Bill McLaughlin, Glenn Maness, John Young, Chris "Good Fortune" Enright, Ryan Turley, Dave Bunts, and Bob Smith.

If ever there is a lunch break that shouldn't be missed, it's the one where Norma Casford serves up her famous homemade chili. And this particular work day was the one that shouldn't have been missed! Norma fed everyone a big bowl of chili, a salad, and a roll. A lucky few received a second round of chili. For those of you who missed out, you'll have to try again next year... it's worth the wait!

President Bill Hesse called to order the Board of Director's Meeting at 12:56 and launched right into the business at hand, beginning with the Hunter locomotive, which is ready for its new coat of paint. The new wheels for the tender arrived in the mail and are being readied by Ron Wilkerson and Larry Jongerious. It shouldn't be long before the venerable locomotive rides our rails again and takes back its esteemed position as the official locomotive of the public train. It's been a long haul getting her restored, but when she returns to service, she'll again be the pride of the club.

Director Bill Gardner, our city liaison, gave his report on the happenings of the City. The Renaissance Project should be going into full swing come late March with the bidding process to finish by late February, early March. The contractors will be pulling up much of the southern portion of the outer loop (From Iowa to Summit) during this project. They will also be responsible for the new grading and re-laying of the track. Again, Iowa siding is being relocated 20 to 30 feet east of its current position. Summit Siding also needs to be move about 10 feet east to make room for the new access road into our compound. Also, as of this writing, the compound's parking lot has almost been completely restored as the BNSF Overpass Project winds down to an end.

Vice President Rich Casford (and Safety Supervisor) would like to remind everyone that the switches leading into the Marlborough Station are set (by default) to the station. If an engineer of a different train wishes to stay on the main, then the engineer and/or brakeman of that train must reset the switch for the siding once they have passed through. This provides a safer environment for our public-pulling trains. These are the only switches on the railroad that are to be operated this way, as all others are to be set for the main. Also, another reminder: Columbia Yard, Allen's Valley and the new siding on Marlborough are all limited to yard speeds (three miles per hour).

Unlike the December BoD Meeting, the Oreo cookies bag was opened and nearly finished before the meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.



## January 24<sup>th</sup> Run Day

Crystal clear skies met RLS members on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> as they prepared for another glorious run day. Just as the run day on the 10<sup>th</sup>, heavy rains fell the week prior to the 24<sup>th</sup>, leaving the sky washed clean and our ponds full of water.

Eight locomotives brought steam to the park and enjoyment to our lives. Among them were Ron Wilkerson and his 4-6-0, Bill McLaughlin and Tommy Bunts on Bill's ten-wheeler, Josh Klaske with his Pacific, The Parrott family on their Shay, Rich and Greg Casford pulled the public train with their big Northern, Chris Enright on his upright boiler 0-4-0, Ryan Turley and Noel Najara on Paul Quick's Atlantic, and Brook Adams on the DeNault 4-4-2 pulling the birthday train (we all know why, now...). Out, but not under steam, was Dave Moore's gigantic 4-6-6-4. Dave spent the day fine-tuning the valve gear of the massive locomotive.



The Operating Supervisor position was well-executed by Dayna Adams, A.J. Benson pulled the brakeman duties on the Birthday train, Ken Casford and Tamiann Parrott shared the brakeman duties on the public train, and Glenn Maness made sure everything at the Marlborough Station flowed smoothly.

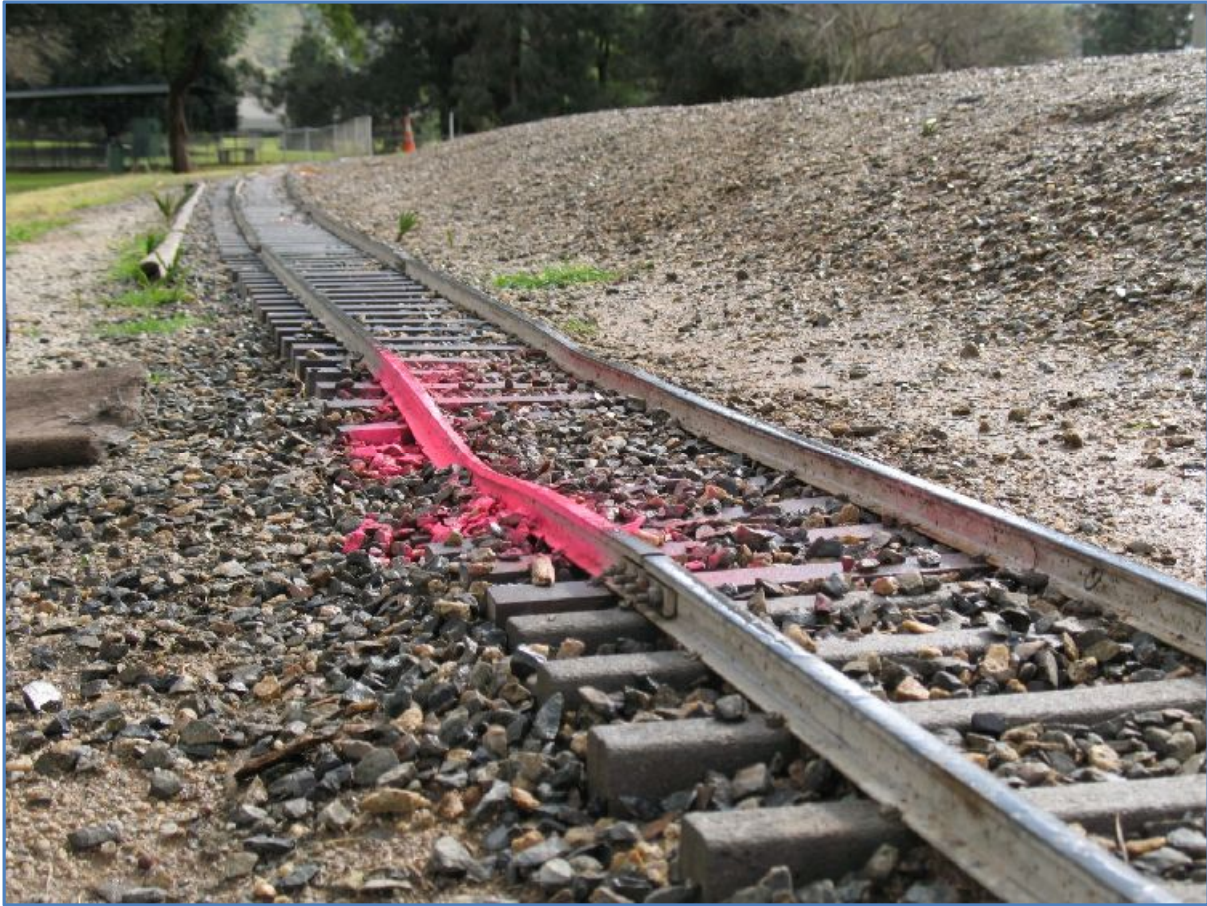
In all, more than 300 passengers, nearly 30 members, and 27 ducks enjoyed a wonderful day at Hunter Park.

## Photos in the Chronicle

If you'd like to submit photos to be printed in the Chronicle, simply send them via email to [parrottsroost@verizon.net](mailto:parrottsroost@verizon.net). (jpeg is preferred). If you'd like copies of any of the pictures you see (or have seen) in the Chronicle, simply send your request to the same email address. Be sure to state the month and page number of the Chronicle the photo exists in, plus give a small description.

## Ridgecrest/RLS Run dates

Mark Your Calendars! The RLS Run at Ridgecrest has been set for the third weekend in May (May 14, 15 & 16). Folks can begin arriving on April 13<sup>th</sup> if they'd like. Don't miss out! Running trains at George and Linda Pruitt's is an absolute ball! Watch the Chronicle for more information.



**One year ago:** As work commenced on the BNSF Overpass project, crews began removing the tall palm trees that lined Columbia Ave. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, a minor miscalculation sent one of the trees crashing to the ground and across both our compound lead and main line.

#### COMING EVENTS:

**Feb. 14:** Run Day: Westbound, outer loop

**Feb. 20:** Work Day and Monthly Meeting

**Feb. 28:** Run Day: Westbound, figure eight

**Mar. 14:** Run Day: Eastbound, outer loop

**Mar. 20:** Work day and Monthly Meeting

**Mar. 28:** Run Day: Eastbound, figure eight

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

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 of Directors Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Hunter Park.

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Bill Hesse  
**Vice President:** Rich Casford  
**Secretary:** Brook Adams  
**Treasurer:** Tamiann Parrott

#### DIRECTORS

Bill Gardner  
 Al Bondesen  
 Dayna Adams  
 John Lytle