

ENGINE



BOOSTER

May 2023

SINCE

1956

lalsrm.org

President's Message



*By Roger Williams,
President*

Well friends, it's that time of the year to get those steam engines cleaned, lubricated and greased!! The Spring Meet is upon us. We are expecting a larger crowd than usual. We will need help at the Gate,

Kitchen, Souvenir Table, etc. Please contact Meet Host Bear Mustoe at 818.359.0323 / sfxnskye@gmail.com – and let him know where you can assist. Please volunteer to help make it a great experience for everyone.

As far as cleaning up the grounds, we are having two workdays this month. There is always work to be done. If you find yourself at the Club during the week and would like to put in some work hours, you will find a whiteboard near the tool shed with projects that need attention. Any help is appreciated.

It's time to change those ratty hats; you guys know who you are. Please visit the Ticket Booth for your favorite LALSRLM gear. We have a new shipment of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc.

Fire season is here as well. Please help police your fellow steamers, and make sure our locomotives have spark arrestors unless burning propane, and that ash pans have been installed before hitting the rails.

Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone that has been working to get us "Meet ready" – from the signal guys, track crew, train maintenance – and to all the members that work behind the scenes on our website, Roster, member database, etc. It truly takes a village to keep this hobby alive at LALSRLM. Thank you all for your dedication.

Roger Williams / 323-252-9767
williamswiring@icloud.com

Ready for the Spring Meet: our grounds are more open after extensive pruning this month. Complete Spring Meet Schedule of Events on page 8.



57-Year Member Eugene Crowner, 85, Passes

By Diana Manchester

Lavett Eugene "Gene" Crowner, a 57-year LALSRLM member (Honorary), passed away June 17, 2022 at the age of 85. He was born in 1937 in Minnesota, but was raised in Bell, California since the age of three.

(Continued on page 7)



Gene Crowner

LALSRLM Calendar

May

26-29 **Spring Meet** (No public rides on May 28)

June

- 4 Public Rides
- 5 In Person/Zoom BOD Meeting 7:00 pm
- 10 Work Day (KK open)
- 11 Public Rides
- 18 Public Rides / Steam Plant, Disney Barn open
- 19 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm (Zoom only)
- 24 Safety Recertification of Club equipment 8:30 am
- 24 Potluck/Movie/Night Run – 6 pm
- 25 Public Rides
- 30 2022-23 Shed Lease Year ends June 30

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Bill Walker, Secretary

May 1, 2023

The May Board Meeting was called to order by President Roger Williams at 7:00 pm. It was a hybrid meeting (in person and Zoom). Eight Club members joined in person and 34 connected using their digital devices. Seven directors were present; Zak was not in attendance.

President's Report: Roger welcomed all members to the meeting, thanking them for their service.

Secretary's Report: Bill Walker stated that approval of April's minutes was postponed until June as last minute corrections were requested.

Three Party Requests submitted for approval: (1) The Carolwood Foundation wrote that a tour group from out of country was slated to visit the Disney Barn area on May 1. Much effort was made by Bill to get proper insurance information from both groups for this last minute program to continue. The Board approved this party request in Executive Session as the program occurred the same day as our monthly Board meeting. Further review of the appropriateness of these types of programs will be conducted by the Board at a future date. (2) Bear Mustoe requested a party for Anders' 7th birthday on behalf of the Iver-

sens; May 20; 15-20 guests; using the old gazebo; Bear will run his train for guests. This party was approved. (3) David and Kathryn Bassett requested Thursday, July 20 for an Elementary Physical Education Workshop meeting; 30-40 guests; using the Meeting Car, grills and kitchen areas. The request was approved. No FCR's were submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Cammarata presented the finance report; the numbers show a profitable month. The Board approved a proposal by Jim to invest some of the Club's cash reserves into a seven-month CD at our bank.

Membership Report: Nick Suncin announced a new probationary member, David Lundquist. He is a retired heavy equipment operator, living in Lancaster. He used to bring his two sons here when they were young. He has just purchased a Burlington Northern engine he saw at Train Mountain.

Amanda Asamoto requested an extension of her probationary time due to recent time-consuming family issues. She is very serious about becoming a productive member of our Club, and a three month extension was approved.

Scott and Wyatt Cymbala requested extensions to their probationary terms as they have had some difficult time constraints. They were asked to email more info to the Board for further review. David Mitchell has completed his probationary hours and full membership was approved.

Superintendent's Report: Ron thanked members for volunteering at the Club, and gave an update of the tree trim-

ming program. Numerous trees have been trimmed around the east side of the facility (Phil West Barn, Steam Plant, and the Al-kire and Bresee Sheds), as well as the Chinese Elm trees next to the railroad crossing into Goudie Pavilion.

Ron said it is time to start getting the Club ready for our Spring Meet. The next workday is Saturday, May 13, with an additional workday on May 20. He requested as many members as possible come out and help with weed whacking, landscape cleanup, track repairs and signals work. We also need to trim roots of large pine trees at Bowlus siding and reinstall track and rewire signals there. The four large pine trees were not approved for removal by the City.

Renewals and Website: Zak Holman was not in attendance to give a report. Roger Williams reported we are running tight on the Roster deadline; Nick Suncin volunteered to help Jake Holman with the database.

Spring Meet Report: Diana Manchester gave an update. Much of the planning has been completed. She is requesting that members help in donating Raffle presents. Bill Walker requested some more pylons for parking control. Bill will also be taking over the Saturday Dinner reservations as Carolyn Hoagland has stepped down from this duty.

New/Old Business: Miles Kristman reported that he and Greg McMurphy had given the Club a new overhead electric winch/lift for use in the maintenance bay. It has been hung, but members asked not to use it until Roger Williams can complete the new electrical connections.

The next General Membership meeting will be May 15 via Zoom. The next BOD meeting will be June 5, hybrid (Zoom and in person).

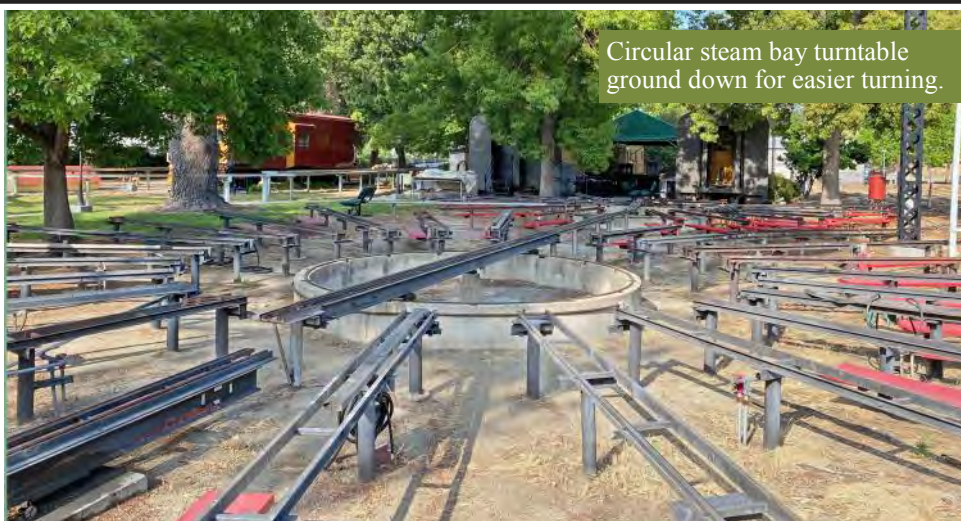
Remember to sign your time cards!

Saturday, June 24 at 8:30 am – Recertification of Club engines and riding cars



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Editor - Peter Fuad.
Associate Editor - Diana Manchester





By Ron Nelson, Superintendent

I would like to again thank all the Club members who have been coming out to help clean up and maintain our Club grounds. The enthusiasm and dedication is infectious.

Have you ever noticed the white paint on the switch points? Ever wonder how it got there? Was it the White Paint Fairy? Well, actually it is the handiwork of Lisa Lipton. She has worked long and hard to visit each and every switch and paint their points white for better visibility. She also gave our parking lot sign a new coat of white paint around the address numbers. Thank you Lisa.

I joined the Sprinkler Crew (Ross Harper and Steve Rodstein) one fine Tuesday for a few projects that I wanted to investigate. We discovered a broken sprinkler riser on the Flag Lawn that was robbing the circuit of pressure. Once the riser was replaced, the pressure came back up to normal and all of the sprinklers functioned properly. However, there were still some dry areas on the east end of that lawn. Steve said we could tie into the adjacent sprinkler circuit and bring more water to the area with some additional sprinklers. A few hours later, including a trip to Home Depot, the job was done. The Flag Lawn now has functioning sprinklers and I have high hopes for a beautiful green lawn this summer. Ross and Steve also found and repaired the water leak just south of the maintenance bay. They are two very hard working members.

Bear and John Smith installed some new lighting in the Kountry Kitchen container that is simply brilliant! The lights now run the entire length of the container and leave no space unlit.

The tree trimming in the center campus has been almost completed. It included trimming seven Aleppo pines, three Chinese elms, two oaks and a cypress. Three dying birch trees were removed. Approval was recently granted to remove the large tree in the garden railroad. That task has not yet been scheduled. The contractor is currently in the process of gaining permission from the City to access the West End through the adjacent picnic

grounds. Work should resume shortly after Memorial Day.

With all the rain this last winter, the water wheel has not been in operation because of all the debris and silt that has washed down from the hillsides plugging up the pumps. Nick Suncin and Collin Westphal took it upon themselves to shovel and hose out the water structure and then clean out the water wheel spillway. Once again the water wheel is working for use during Sunday public rides. Please remember to first turn on the water at the blue handled valve across the bridge near the hose reel and then plug in the pumps. Make sure there is water to the pumps. To stop the water wheel, unplug and shut the water valve.

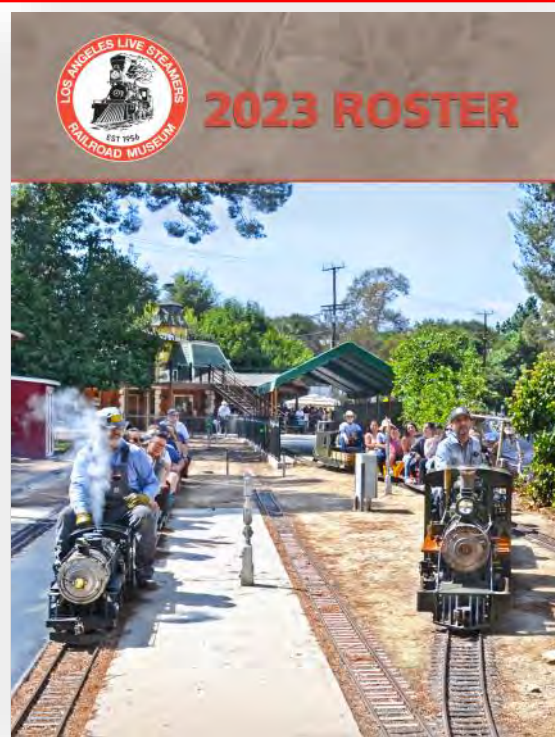
During the Workday, a number of activities occurred. Matt Basset, the Iversens (Justin, Margaret and Anders) and I loaded a bunch of gardening tools on the worktrain and cleaned up the West End. We trimmed low hanging branches; weed whacked and tried to make the grounds look better. Since the City will not allow us to remove the four pine trees along Zoo Drive, efforts began to reinstall the track and wires that were removed for tree removal. Bill Walker and his son worked on installing the south siding and hope to get to the north siding also. The north siding may not be able to continue all the way to the west switch due to the limited space between the tree and fence. The Signal Crew began installing new conduit and reconnecting signal and power wires. Ryan Pedersen and his son grabbed some rakes and cleaned up the steaming bays. Bill Schirmer climbed into the Gradall and removed some of the wood, concrete and other items that were cluttering up the

parking lot area. I believe he took three blue bin loads to empty across the street. Bear Mustoe and Jim DeBlasio were in the Kountry Kitchen and produced some much appreciated hamburgers and hot dogs. Even the weather was nice. The Club thanks all who pitched in.

Ross Harper took it upon himself to investigate the cause of derailments at the double switch behind the Alkire/Richardson sheds. He discovered a suspicious high spot, removed a track panel and with a little digging discovered some root balls that were lifting the track. After a little root surgery, the tracks were replaced and leveled. Another problem solved.

I noticed that there have been some derailments just south of the Station crossing on the mainline. The rails there were under gauge and not level, and have now been corrected.

Ron Nelson / 818.802.7394
rnelson@earthlink.net



Pick Up Your LALSRM 2023 Roster at the Meet!

The 2023 Roster has been printed and will be available to pick up at the Spring Meet. If you have any changes in your listing, please contact Jake Holman at: webmaster@lalsrm.org.

If you have not yet paid your 2023 membership dues, please contact our Treasurer, Jim Cammarata immediately at: jamescammarata@yahoo.com or 818.618.6002.



Jim Kreider's magnificent new scratch-built Berkshire at Riverside Live Steamers last month. He plans to bring it to the Spring Meet.

Welcome New Members!



If you have been at the Club in the past few weeks, you have probably seen these two affable hardworking new members— David Mitchell (*left*), who became a full member this month, and Ryan Pedersen (*right*), who became a full member in April. Welcome to you both. We look forward to working with you around the Club!



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
PO Box 2156, Toluca Lake CA 91610
LALSRM.org (323) 661-8958

2023 Officers and Directors

President	Roger Williams
Vice President	Michael Murphy
Secretary	Bill Walker
Treasurer	Jim Cammarata
Ross Harper	Bear Mustoe
Ron Nelson	Zak Holman

Observation Car



Clockwise from upper left: Jay Leno visits Club in White Steamer on May 1 (Michael Strawn photo); new electric hoist; Max Roy operates Club Loco #8 with Bill Schirmer at the April 29 "Fifth Saturday Steam-up;" Ross Harper and Steven Rodstein repair irrigation system.



Proud Papa— Ten years (so far) in the making: Greg McMurtry's scratch-built EMD FP-45 locomotives and riding car. Both units are powered like the prototype: gas powers electric motors that drive the wheels. He has been working on the innards of the locos and the riding car at the Club for some time, but he debuted the car bodies here just this past week.

He plans to paint the locos in the classic Santa Fe Warbonnet scheme. He says he chose to build FP-40s because, after seeing a prototype, he vowed that "I gotta have one" — and now he has two!

Inset: Prototype FP-40 at the Southern California Railway Museum in Perris.

Anders Gets a Train of His Own

By Margaret Iversen

We ordered an Accucraft Ride-On Plymouth switcher for our son Anders. After months of delay in getting the locomotive, we were finally able to pick it up in Bakersfield in mid April.

We brought the loco to the Club. We are so VERY grateful for all the help we received from Bear, Mike Murphy and Louis Mooney. They helped us install the batteries and figure out the coupler height. We learned so much and greatly appreciated their assistance.

We also bought a flatcar from Don Kallgren for Anders' riding car. It was a very exciting and important day for us that we will cherish. The first week of May we were busy transforming the flatcar into a green gondola. To get the right shade of Burlington Northern green for the riding car, I took Anders to a local paint store, and he brought his HO scale Burlington Northern loco to color match that green. Anders helped with the painting, too. We will add white lettering and gondola detail parts from a supplier later.

We did a test run on May 6 at the Club. The switcher was able to pull the riding car and a work car (see photo) to help his dad Justin with the grounds maintenance. Being able to work and play at the same time is the best.

We are so lucky to be part of the Club and Anders is learning so much. He just loves helping out.



This page, clockwise from above: Anders and Mom Margaret haul landscape debris; inset: Anders selects paint color for gondola; Flat car bought from Don Kallgren; Gondola under construction in Iversen's garage; Anders on his new loco on trestle; Michael Murphy and Bear help Justin Iversen determine correct coupler height new engine. (Margaret Iversen photos)



Honorary Member Gene Crowner

(Continued from page 1)

Worked for Union Pacific for 44 Years

Gene was passionate about railroading from an early age, and immediately after high school graduation, joined the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles, where he worked until retirement 44 years later in 1999. He rose through the ranks to become the Hobart Tower operator for UP and Santa Fe during the freight manifest era, and experienced the transition into the container transport "intermodal" era starting in the 1980's. The 245-acre Hobart Yard eventually became the busiest railyard in the country for transferring cargo containers from the harbor to trucks and trains.

Gene built two steam locomotives: a 1-1/2" scale 2-6-0 Mogul (Harpur) and a 1" scale 4-8-4 UP 800. He joined the Club in 1966 at the age of 29, and his father Louis, (pastor of Grace Lutheran Church) became a member in 1968. Sometimes his dad would bring some church people to the Club on Sunday afternoons, and Gene and he would help hauling the public behind the Mogul. Other times Gene and his dad would come out early on Mondays, their day off, and enjoy a peaceful ride.

Specialty: Track Upkeep

Gene was very active at the Club, quietly spending many hours on track maintenance and laying new track, especially on the Westward Expansion in the early 1980's. He also helped with the building of our Members' Restroom in 1986, and participated in the running of the Stationary Boiler. Gene was an avid traveler, embarking on road trips across the country in his classic, red Austin-Healey, as well as trips overseas.



Who's been Working on the Railroad

A partial list of Club members working on the railroad this past month.

Aaron Emmer	Kathy Crab
Andrew Chaves	Liam Cook
Andrew LaGaly	Lisa Lipton
Anthony Ambriz	Liz Bergmann
Bear Mustoe	Lloyd Davis
Charles Rhoades	Malcom Cook
Chuck Mohr	Martha Figueroa
Collin Westphal	Mathew Bassett
Dan O'Brien	Michael Murphy
David Basset	Michael Strawn
David Lazarus	Miles Kristman
Diana Manchester	Nick Guzman
Dean Gordon	Nick Suncin
Don Kallgren	Peter Fuad
Garibalde	Ray Burden
Figueroa	Rob Nuccio
Glen Manchester	Robert Guzman
Greg McMurry	Roger Williams
James Baker	Ron Nelson
Jim Cammarata	Ross Harper
Jeremy Steinert	Sara Morris
Johnny Dorado	Sparky Hoagland
Joseph Clow	Steven Rodstein
Julio Dorado	Carolyn Hoagland
Justin Iversen	Wayne Crabb

In addition to those listed above, those helping on Sunday are listed on the Sunday Extra Board.



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In Griffith Park

PO Box 2156, Toluca Lake, CA 91610

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SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

APRIL 2023

Engineers and Conductors

Anthony Ambriz	Warren Lincoln
Justin Anders	Paul Liu
David Basset	Glen Manchester
Tiffany Cammarata	Dave Mitchell
Wayne Crabb	Ron Nelson
Peter Fuad	Ryan Pedersen
Nick Guzman	Tim Silver
Scott Hoagland	Michael Strawn
Zak Holman	Jack Streit
David Lazarus	

Safety Coordinators

Wayne Crabb	James Cammarata
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Souvenirs and Tickets

Kathy Crabb	Carolyn Hoagland
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Station Master

Robert Guzman

April Ridership

April 2	614	April 23	638
April 9	502	April 30	534
April 16	816		

Public Riders

April 2023 — 3,104
Year to Date — 7,387



2023 Spring Meet

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 26–29

Private Event for Members, Guests & Visiting Railroaders



RSVP – SATURDAY BBQ DINNER

Reserve now; pay at Meet

Bill Walker – 626.664.7507

loadandgotraindepot9@gmail.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Gate Duty: 2-hour shift. Contact Tom Lang: tomlang@pacbell.net, or call/txt his cell 818-635-5010. Leave your first and last names, cell number, email, and time slot preference.

Kountry Kitchen Crews: Sign up in KK or contact Bear Mustoe

Parking Lot Crew: Help unload/load. Bill Walker: loadandgotraindepot9@gmail.com

President's Auction: Donate RR items. Roger Williams: williams wiring@icloud.com

Steam Locomotives

Must have spark arrestors, ash pan, & up-to-date boiler inspection tags. Visiting steam locomotives can get hydro-tested/certified as personnel are available. Propane fuel will not be supplied; please bring your own.

Night Operations

FREDs & running/parking lights (front and back) are required.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS / MENUS

FRIDAY

6:00 pm SPAGHETTI DINNER by Board of Directors – no cost

7:45 pm MOVIE

SATURDAY

7:30–9:00 am BREAKFAST – All American Breakfast – \$8.00

10:00–5:30 pm SOUVENIR TABLE – New items; Saturday Dinner Tickets

10:00–4:00 pm KIDS KRAFTS

10:30–2:00 pm DISNEY BARN

11:30–1:00 pm LUNCH – Hamburger or Hot Dog, Sides, Drink – \$9.00

1:30 pm **PRESIDENT'S AUCTION** in New Sherwood Station

3:30 pm BINGO

6:00 pm **BBQ RIBS & CHICKEN DINNER** – reserve your tickets now
\$23.00 – Adults / \$10 – Kids 10 & under (smaller portion)

7:45 pm MOVIE

SUNDAY

7:30–9:00 am BREAKFAST – All American Breakfast – \$8.00

10:00–4:00 pm SOUVENIR TABLE

11:30–1:00 pm LUNCH – Hamburger or Hot Dog, Sides, Drink – \$9.00

MONDAY

7:30–9:00 am BREAKFAST – Cereal, Danish, Toast, Fruit, Drink – \$5.00

Camping (Starting 12 noon Thursday, April 25)

Tent camping in East & West Meadows and around Disney Barn. No porta-potty in West Meadow. RV Campers please set up in parking lot outside Members Gate. RV's must be self-contained; no hookups for electricity.

Parking

Crystal Springs Drive reserved for handicapped parking (no RV's). NO PARKING INSIDE CLUB Friday–Monday; loading/unloading only.

Raffle donations for Saturday are requested. Contact Bear Mustoe.

MEET QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Bear Mustoe, Host 818.359.0323 / sfxnskye@gmail.com / Diana Manchester 626.222.7499 / dm.ad@verizon.net