

One Inch Car Barn Rebuilding

By Alex O'Donnell, 1" Scale Shedmaster and Track Foreman

Last year, plans were approved to rebuild the aging red 1" scale car-barn (not to be confused with Inchberg Roundhouse) with a new similar height double-level structure with a much larger footprint area. This will alleviate 1" scale equipment crowding the Phil West Barn as well as provide storage to over a dozen small-scalers. A decade ago when I was 15, I remember helping construct the framework on the existing barn which still only has 60 feet of track space and, unfortunately, is now starting to sag along the roof joists among other issues

The new barn will have over 330 feet of track space that can accommodate both 1" standard and 1-1/2" narrow gauges. Divided into 3 staggered bays, the first level will house locomotives mostly while the second level will house lightweight cars only which can be easily lifted by hand. Frontal doors as well as side access doors, in case of equipment getting stuck in the back, will be reinforced and weather sealed on all edges. As seen inside the narrow gauge barn, tracks will be ballasted with pea

(Continued on page 4)



Nelson Summit Bridge Removed, Powder-Coated, and Reinstalled

Repair of the Nelson Summit Bridge is almost complete. The old wooden ties supporting the ends of the bridge failed last year and temporary wooden supports were installed. Those have now been replaced by concrete.

While that was being done, the bridge itself was transported offsite to be powder-coated. The bridge was brought back, put in place by our new crane and new

track panels have been installed. The bridge won't be ready for use until the track has been completed installed, and electricity, signals and water reconnected and tested.

Above, Doug Young and Tim LaGaly work on placing the new bridge.

More photos inside on page 6.

Griffith Park Half Marathon and 5K Races

Limited Access to Griffith Park This Sunday

All car traffic entering Griffith Park on Sunday, January 27 must enter from Los Feliz Blvd. until Noon. All other entrances will be closed from 5 am until then. The Club can be accessed from that point by driving north.

The Half Marathon takes place in the

hills. The 5K follows along Crystal Springs Drive. Both races begin and end at Park Center, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive.

The Half Marathon starts at 7 am and the 5K at 8 am. EXPO and other events run from 6 am to noon at the Park Center.

Public Service

January

27 Public Rides

February

3, 10 Public Rides

17 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant Operating

24 Public Rides

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Diana Manchester, Secretary



January 2019

By Diana Manchester, Secretary

At 6:58 pm on January 7, 2019 the January BOD Meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. All eight Directors (a quorum) were present, as well as 29 members.

President Ted Merchant thanked the retiring four members from the 2018 Board – Peter Fuad, Christie Edinger, John Garcia and John Garcia – for their service. He said the Board's theme for the new year is to complete the “low-lying fruit” projects: the Nelson Summit Bridge, the electrical panel, the O'Brien-Moore Bridge, and the renovation of the Smith Valley Line.

Secretary's Report – The minutes from December 2018 were approved with no changes. Five party requests were submitted and placed on Club calendar: (1) Rick Gross, EVL 13th annual picnic, Saturday, May 11, from 3 to 7 pm, about 100 guests; (2) Bill Schirmer, ASEPO annual picnic, Saturday, June 1, from 11 am to 4 pm, about 200 guests; (3) James Cammarata, retirement party, Saturday, September 14, from 11 am to 4 pm, about 100 guests; (4) Don Kallgren, TTOS annual picnic, Saturday, August 3, from 11 am to 3 pm, about 300 guests; (5) Larry Boone, 20th Anniversary of Walt's Barn, Saturday, July 13, from 4 to 9 pm, about 215 guests.

Membership Report – Chair Wayne Crabb announced that two probationary members have finished their hours: congratulations and welcome to Michael Mahon and Nels Nelson. He introduced two new members: Heidi Mattson and Jason Thompson. Heidi has loved trains since a child, enjoys travel by train, likes the mechanical aspects of railroading and modeling, and would like to learn more. Jason grew up enjoying his grandfather's elaborate model

train layout, and loves steam engines. He got involved in the Club by meeting Gary Baker and helping with Ghost Train; he created and built the Dino Land feature for the 2019 GT show. He also envisioned the holiday light display that he and Gary installed at the New Sherwood Station this Christmas. He is a magician's prop builder and can weld. He works for the Walt Disney Company in Marketing and Promotion.

Operations Report – Chair Doug Young reported that the cleanup and assessment of the Smith Valley Line has started. Renovation is planned to start as soon as the work on the Nelson Summit is finished. Ted added that we have a series of projects that lean on each other, and we will have timelines for each project. Even if the SVL restoration is not finished by the time we need to take down the plate bridges on either side of the O'Brien-Moore Bridge, we will move forward, and can restrict public rides to the East End until the track is finished.

Facility Superintendent's Report – Chair Jeremy Steinert, who has volunteered to take the position. Tree trimming is about finished, thanks to Ted. A big wind storm followed soon after, and a number of members showed up for cleanup – thanks all. By mid- to end of February, the O'Brien-Moore Bridge project will start and the Nelson Summit project will be done. A white board with a list of current projects will be hung in a prominent area (Kountry Kitchen) which members can refer to for facility cleanup / maintenance work that needs to be done each week. Jeremy invited members to keep him apprised of issues around the facility. Sprinklers report by Ross Harper: he was given permission to purchase what is anticipated for a several month maintenance period. Budgets are based on what department heads spent last year unless they anticipate more (or less) this year. The 2019 Budget will be developed in February.

Track Storage / Shed Rentals Report – Jay Hawver and Tim have been working together. They wrote a letter to all Phil West track lessees asking for (1) Inventory of equipment, (2) cleanup of non-equipment articles, and (3) removal of all flammable materials. Goals are to free up space in Barn; bring electrical up to code; and find a new storage space for Club articles that are now in Phil West. Will use funds raised by

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From the SUPER



By
Jeremy
Steinert

It's cold, it's wet, but that hasn't stopped us! We've had a lot to clean up after our recent winds and rains but you all stepped up and got the Club looking great! There are still a few spots that will need some touching up, but I can see the soil, not the leaves!

The Nelson Summit Bridge is back at the Club and is resting on its new foundation. The installation team reports that the bridge should be back in operation in a couple weeks or less. Also, some more leftover Halloween props have been removed and stored. A hard-working crew put in extra time on Friday to help clean up the East Meadow.

Alex O'Donnell and others have been putting a lot of time into the one inch expansion on our West End. The current plan is to have a balloon track in place by the Spring Meet. They could use an extra hand, so if digging in the dirt is your idea of fun, they'd be happy to have an extra set of hands.

Andrew Chaves and the Theodor Payne Society donated new trees to replace some of those that were removed earlier this month. Mark Vreeken led the charge to get them in the ground.

Finally, the LALS Signals Division spent a lot of time hunting down and fixing a couple of shorts in our electrical system. Keep up the good work guys!

As you may know, I've taken over the Superintendent duties from Ted, who is leaving behind some big boots to fill. In the coming weeks, I'll be requisitioning a whiteboard to keep track of the projects that are happening here at the club. If you are looking to lend a hand, keep an eye out for my multi-colored chicken scratches! Exact location TBD.

Feel free to reach out to me at any time!

President's Message



By
Ted
Merchant,
President

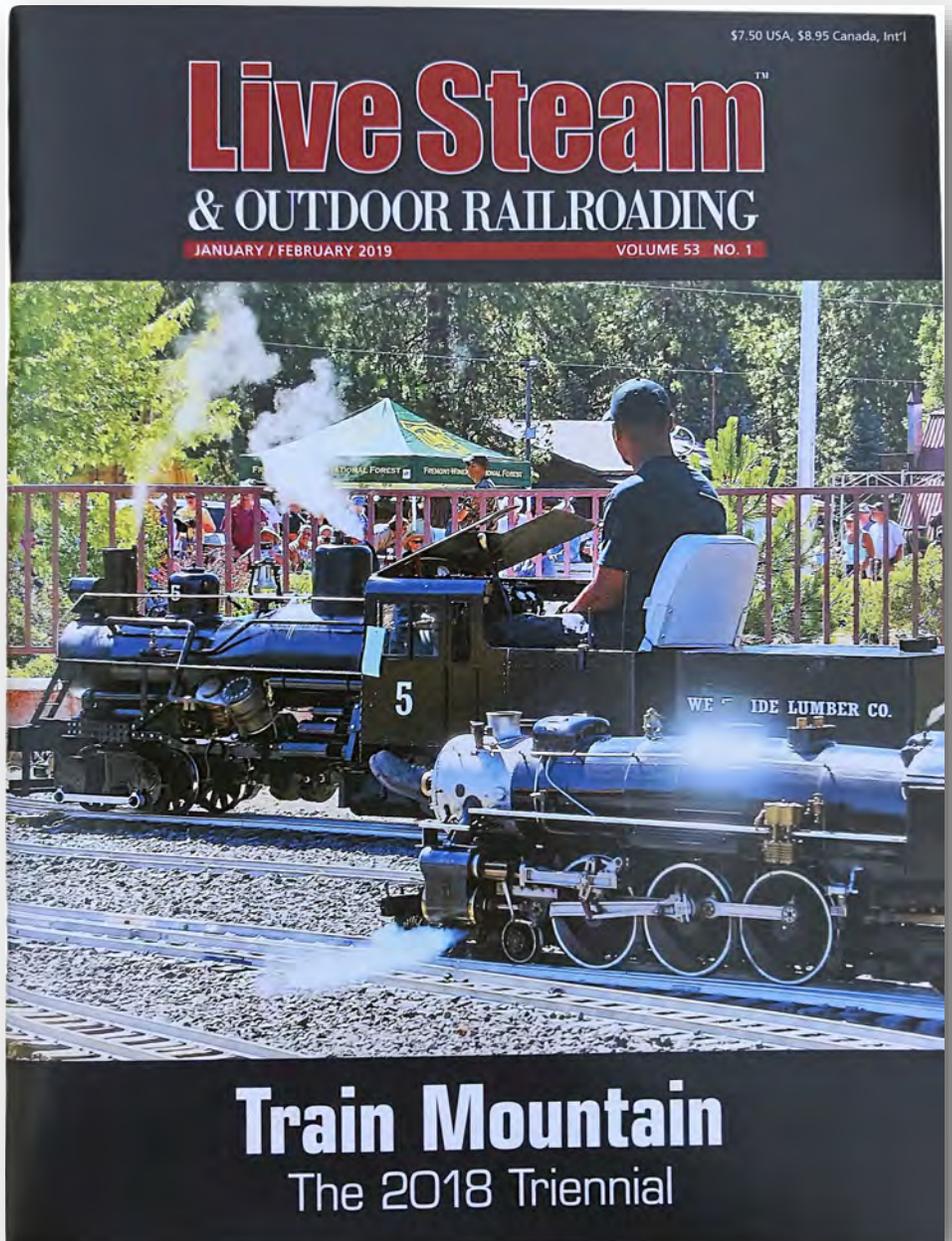
Hello Train-Fans!

I hope you all enjoyed a pleasant holiday season and I welcome you to the new year! We have a new Board of Directors. They have entrusted the responsibility of President to me. And I am gratefully humbled by the assignment. I propose several themes to guide us through 2019:

Get it done! Our membership deserves the opportunity to express itself. We all deserve the privilege to dream, and we should. But, at the end of the day, we want to accomplish something. Our Board anticipates addressing the obvious, do-able projects first. Routine maintenance, Spring Meet, shed clean-up, painting the Moore O'Brien Bridge and the new electrical panel are examples. More creative, extensive and contentious projects come next: Halloween, storage barns and structural retaining walls. We want to get it done and get it done well.

Transparency and accountability. Our membership deserves to understand Board decisions. I guarantee you: The Board will never make a financial allocation without a motion, discussion and vote at our public Board meetings. Every project will have a Board member that is accountable for its timely success. Furthermore, your Board is always available to discuss issues. Our phone numbers and emails are in the Roster. My email is posted monthly in the Booster. Please contact us if we can serve you better.

We're all just a bunch of guys and gals playing with trains. We are all a little strange or we wouldn't be in this hobby. Being strange is good! Let's not take ourselves too seriously. The most



The January-February Live Steam & Outdoor Railroading magazine cover features Ray Burden at the controls of Ted Merchant's mighty Heisler at Train Mountain's 2018 Triennial. (Photo by Michelle R. Moore.) Another photo of Ray and the steam locomotive can be found on page 17 along with other train images captured during the one-week event by Michelle in a five-page photo essay. There is also an article about Train Mountain by first time visitors David Brush (editor of LSOR) and friend Steven C. Diehl.

This is the second time the Heisler has been featured on the cover of Live Steam magazine. The first was with Ted at the throttle for the November-December issue, honoring 60 years of live steam at LALSRRM, with photos and feature article by Mike Masseur.

important measure of our success is the amount of pleasure we create for ourselves and guests. Let's all work together so we can support each other and have fun. Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum should distinguish itself with hospitality.

So that's the way it is, and I'm sticking with it. **Now, get down here, and have some fun!**

Your thoughts are always welcome.

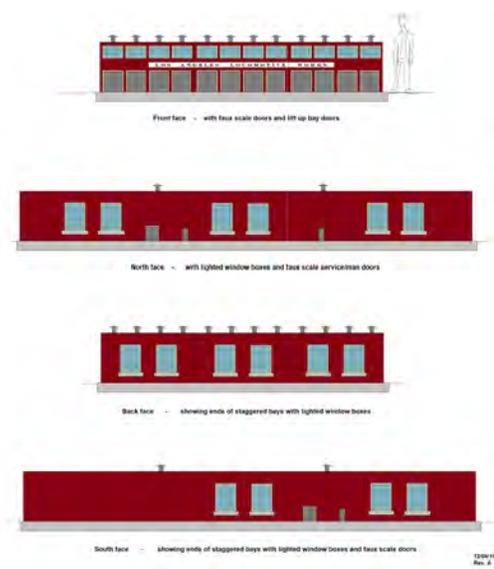
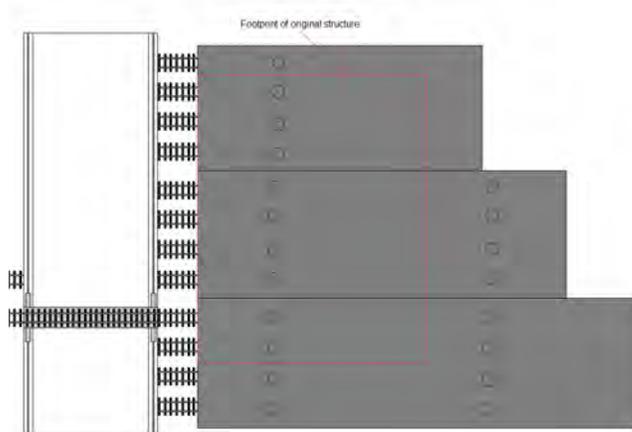
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

One Inch Car Barn Expansion and Rebuilding

(Continued from page 1)

gravel instead of decomposed granite to reduce dust and debris indoors. The external cladding will be loosely based on SP's Sacramento Shops with scale lighted false windows, doors, and other details.

To date, foundation work has already commenced on the structure and, in the coming weeks, portions of the framework will start to be constructed off-site for eventual installation – contact me for construction updates. In the last year, I've begun a list of members interested in small scale storage – those who I've already talked to are on the list, but anybody else interested should feel free to contact me. We can also accommodate and welcome any 3-1/2" gaugers that are interested in storage too. Lastly, I want to remind all interested parties that due to the small scales ease of portability, having on-site storage for small-scale equipment is really only a good idea if you plan on running it on a somewhat semi-regular basis.



Level 1 Tests Mailed

The Level 1 Test has been mailed out with the Member Renewal package. If you have not received your membership package, please contact Wilbur Dong at: Wdpcdong@gmail.com.

The test is open book. The questions have been taken directly from the LALS SRM Safety and Operating Rules booklet and the Safety Program. They have been uploaded to the LALS website under "Documents", and are also available at the Club on Sundays.

Each test will be graded by either Michael Murphy or Jim Cammarata. The minimum grade for passing is 80% (up to four questions missed). Five or more questions missed is a non-passing grade. The results are posted regularly on the red bulletin board in the picnic pergola. If your name appears in a white rectangle, you have passed. Names on gray backgrounds indicate you are still uncertified. You may retake the test at any time.

Tests may be returned by mail with your completed renewal application, or put in Michael's mailbox in the UP caboose ("Probationary Cards"), or handed in person to Mike or Jim at the Club. Please return tests by the end of February.

Meet our Newest Probationary Members



Heidi Mattson



Jason Thompson

SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

higher shed rental fees to pay for repairs/materials. Miles Kristman and Greg McMurray need space for their GPS materials and equipment; will probably use the red tractor barn.

PROJECTS

(1) Electrical Drop – six conduits (and electric wires in them) need to be moved, the bollards replaced, and the pole placed in the hole. The permit has been pulled by our electrician, Ken Schaeffer (online). DWP inspector sign-off when this work completed. Then Ken will come and install the new subs into the panel. Then the cement slab pour and a new panel shed built. We can call DWP and let them know when our work is done and we are ready for them. Fees have not been mentioned by the DWP, per Tom McCarthy and Tim. There will be no interruption in power whether we are hooked up to old service or new service.

(2) Nelson Summit Bridge Rebuild – scheduled for Saturday, January 12, if powder coater is finished with metal tres-

ties, and if it doesn't rain. Contractor was great; excavation was less than anticipated. New base is now 16-18" thick and reinforced. Drew spent a day reinforcing the metal girder before it was sent out for powder coating. Conduits will go underneath instead of over top. Then track installation by Doug and Johnny, and signals and water will be hooked up again.

(3) Tree Trimming – done except final walk-through and treating of stumps.

(4) Library Furnishings – Gary Baker submitted receipts for Library furnishings. Doug Young moved that Gary be reimbursed. Diana Manchester provided a second. The motion was discussed with significant membership participation, then passed by a vote of 4 to 3. Gary abstained due to his conflict of interest. Several Board and audience members expressed interest in further Library improvements. Nick Suncin will consider these concerns and submit the appropriate FCRs as necessary.

(5) Ludwig Projects – O'Brien-Moore Bridge – bids to be gotten by Drew and Tim LaGaly in January, with project coordination by Les Kovacs and Tim LaGaly. We will consider whether to hire a

General Contractor who will handle the whole project for us; it will free up Les and Tim from running back and forth, supervising sub-contractors. Doug and crew need to build new track panels.

(6) Online Update – John Garcia provided an update. The website will have a public face (static) as well as a private members' section where members can interactively manage their database records, keep track of volunteer hours and shed credits, and pay dues. Documents members want to see will be more easily accessible. We will be able to vote and do surveys via the new site. Website to be launched by March.

(7a) One Inch Scale Storage – Alex O'Donnell brought color drawings of exterior and described finishes and lighting. Drew LaGaly to build structure at the shop; Al Rowsell's grandson, Vincent will assist Drew.

(7b) One Inch Track Expansion on West End – Alex brought diagrams and gave a report on progress and goals. It's been about two years since he got approval on the project. They have laid about 1,500 feet of track so far. A west end loop is planned for completion in time for the Spring Meet. On the east end near the Steam Plant, where a large tree was removed, Alex, Jeremy and Nick Guzman are planning to shift the yard tracks and add an annex.

(8) Committee Chair Appointments – The Board unanimously agreed to ask all committee chairs to continue without change. Ted will be calling all chairs.

(9) Ghost Train Survey will be expanded with some general questions and be distributed soon. Committee is Drew LaGaly, Peter Fuad, Ted Merchant, Bill Schirmer and Diana Manchester.

Insurance – Ron Hitchcock reported that our Insurance policies are due for renewal.



360 feet (130 track feet) of Used Little Engines 1" Scale Rail and Ties for Sale

Mostly full length 10' and some shorter cutoffs. Rail is 5/8" tall. Some with easy bends, not hard to make straight also some dirt attached (free). Also many redwood ties some treated and used, some new. Some of the ties have Little Engines spikes still in them I also have some already pulled.

Value of rail based on 1977 - 1978 Little Engines catalog. Cost per 100' - \$31.00 + tax. I will sell all for \$100.00 as is.

Please contact Richard Farmer at (818) 993-3623



Dumpster #1 filled with junk Friday, Jan 18. A second dumpster is on order; volunteers needed to help fill it.

Nelson Summit Bridge Reconstruction Project

Scenes from the Nelson Summit Bridge reconstruction project. See page 1 for more details.

Clockwise from left: with the bridge removed from its site, John DePhillip removes steel supports for track panels; deteriorated wooden tie supports revealed when bridge is removed; forms in place for concrete pour; our crane is used to position newly powder-coated bridge into place; bridge rests on new concrete supports; bridge with track panels being installed. Miles Kristman and others also helped on the project.

Photos by Alex O'Donnell and Diana Manchester.



Who's been Working on the Railroad

Jeremy Steinert, General Superintendent

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Alex O'Donnell | Larry Tighe |
| Michael Mahan | Mark Vreeken |
| Andrew Chaves | Les Kovacs |
| Bill Schirmer | Mel Bresee |
| Bill Walker | Miles Kristman |
| Charles Rhoades | Ray Burden |
| Christie Edinger | Roderick Fritz |
| Diana Manchester | Ross Harper |
| Don Donaldson | Ted Merchant |
| Don Kallgren | Mike Stockton |
| Doug Young | Harrison Hitchcock |
| Frances Barnes | Brandon Ruiz |
| Michael Murphy | Wayne Crabb |
| Glen Manchester | Lisa Lipton |
| Jack Streit | Doug Young |
| Jay Hawver | John DePhillip Jr. |
| Jeremy Steinert | Scott Hoagland |
| Jim Baker | Tim LaGaly |
| John Garcia | Andrew LaGaly |
| Joseph Clow | ... And so many more! |
| Stevo Brock | |



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

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

December

Engineers and Conductors

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Bill Walker | John Garcia |
| Bonnie Kaufman | John Heltsley |
| Christie Edinger | Joseph Clow |
| Daryll Payne | Larry Tighe |
| Glen Manchester | Michael Mahan |
| Greg Pschaida | Nels Nelsen |
| Harrison Hitchcock | Paul Liu |
| Jay Hawver | Peter Fuad |
| Jeremy Steinert | Ryan Hechinger |

Safety Coordinators

Michael Murphy, Wayne Crabb, Jim Cammarata, John Garcia

Souvenirs and Tickets

Brenda Garcia, George Becker, Larry Mitchell, Larry Tighe, Kathy Crabb

Station Masters

Larry Mitchell, Ron Nelson, Robert Guzman, Greg Pschaida, Jim DeBiasio, Glen Manchester, Gail Woodward, Roger Caiazza, Wayne Crabb, John Garcia

December Ridership

Dec. 2	453	Dec. 23	705
Dec. 9	511	Dec. 30	887
Dec. 16	761		

Total December 2018 — 3,317
 Total 2018 — 33,114
 Total 2017 — 31,692



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
 Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,
 Toluca Lake, CA 91610
 Phone (323) 661-8958

2019 Officers and Directors

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Ted Merchant |
| Vice President | Bill Schirmer |
| Secretary | Diana Manchester |
| Treasurer | Tim LaGaly |
| Directors | |
| Wayne Crabb | Diana Manchester |
| Gary Baker | Ted Merchant |
| Andrew LaGaly | Bill Schirmer |
| Tim LaGaly | Doug Young |

Member Schedule

January

- 26 **Safety Inspection:**
 9 am Club Riding Cars
 2 pm Member Equipment
- 27 Public Rides **Marathon 6 am to noon: Enter Griffith Park via Los Feliz Blvd. entrance**

February

- 1 **Membership Renewals Due**
- 2 Safety Inspection
- 3 Public Rides
- 4 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Public Rides
- 16 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 17 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant Operating
- 24 Public Rides

Track Storage and Shed Rentals Update

By Jay Hawver

A letter was mailed in October 2018 to all Phil West track lessees asking for an inventory of equipment. It also asked that flammable materials be removed.

Most of the inventories have still not been reported. We also noted there still remains a great deal of unauthorized equipment, tools, and other items that are being stored in the Phil West Barn. Members who are not authorized to store equipment in the Phil West Barn (under a recognized lease) will need to remove their equipment immediately.

Members are also responsible for the removal and appropriate disposal of all other non-authorized equipment, tools, and supplies.

The ultimate goal of the inventory/clean-out is to ensure that members are following Club rules with regard to storage and lease of Club track space.

In addition, we hope to upgrade the electrical service in the Barn, and we would like to explore the possibility of adding additional storage for Club equipment that will need to be removed from the Barn. Plans are to use funds raised by higher shed rental fees to pay for repairs/materials.

For members who are currently leasing track space, please pay your storage fees, and return your equipment inventory. Also remember to complete the requisite number of volunteer hours to maintain your lease.

Willie Wilhelm Memorial Service



A memorial service for 39-year member Willie Wilhelm was held December 27 at Oakwood Memorial Park and Cemetery in Chatsworth. Willie was 96. A number of Club members attended.

Photos, clockwise from top: Pam Dong and Flora Wilhelm, Willie's second wife; a young Willie and Arliss, Willie's first wife; Club attendees at service; memorial table. (Service photos: Glen Manchester)

