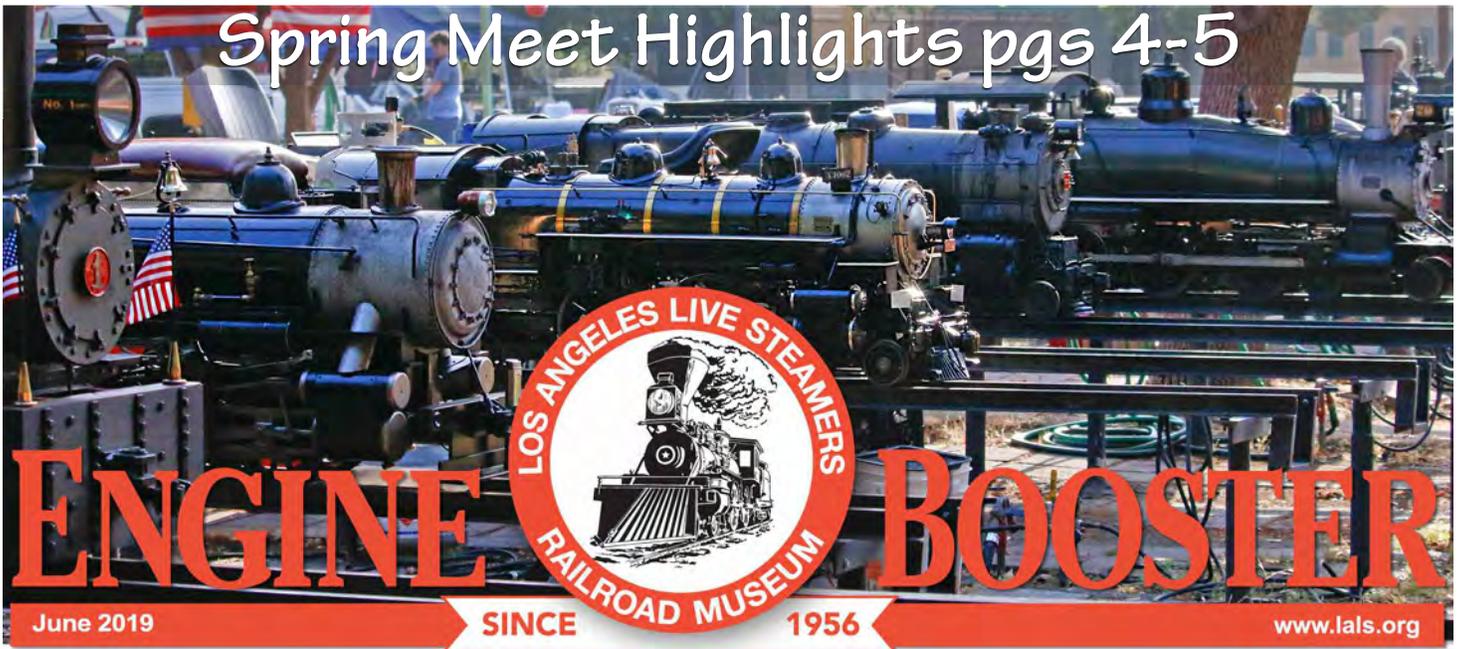


# Spring Meet Highlights pgs 4-5



## 2019 Spring Meet an Enjoyable Time for All

By Martha Figueroa and Diana Manchester

**M**any thanks go out to our fantastic crew of volunteers who worked so hard to make our Spring Meet a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all who participated.

For months a passionate crew of volunteers have spent many hours getting our Club ready. The facility has been raked, cleaned, pruned and reorganized; we have a freshly-paved driveway and parking lot (goodbye potholes!), a grassy east meadow camp-ground, and the O'Brien-Moore Bridge has a glossy new coating and all new track panels. We couldn't show off our Club to visiting guests without hard-working and dedicated volunteer/members like you. What an AWESOME & BEAUTIFUL sight to see so many DIRTY HAPPY FACES & TRAINS. It was great seeing so such a variety of engines on our tracks and so many members and guests enjoying themselves. We heard over and over how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

Thank you, Tom Lang for arranging volunteers at the East Gate, which is our point of welcome for the whole weekend. Tremendous applause goes out to the Kountry Kitchen, starting with our marinated chicken lunch Friday, to homemade lasagna by Chef Tim LaGaly at our Board of Directors' Dinner on Friday, to all-American hot breakfasts and lunches. Saturday we served 219 lunches and had to make a Costco run during and after to keep up with our appreciative guests. Thank you to our wonderful Kountry Kitchen Manager, Bill Schirmer and our dedicated cooks, including Bill, Doug Young, Les Kovacs, Frances Barnes, and Peter Fuad. And to our Kitchen crews who helped with all the

*Continued on page 6*

## Beam Engine Ready for Engineer Classes

By Nick Suncin

**I'm really happy** to report the Club's beam engine renovation project is completed and we accomplished our goal of having it available at the Spring Meet. The engine runs superbly. The Board allowed me to use the beam engine as a training tool for what I envisioned as an "introduction to steam" course. The Connor

*Continued on page 3*

## Public Service

### July

- 7 Public Rides; Disney Barn open
- 14 Public Rides; change direction
- 21 Public Rides; Disney Barn open; Steam Plant operating
- 28 Public Rides

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Diana Manchester, Secretary

At 7:04 pm on June 3, 2019, the May BOD Meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. All eight Directors were present, as well as 42 members.

**Secretary's Report** –Party Requests: Saturday night, June 22, Scott Hoagland's birthday party will take place concurrently with the Club's first Movie Night-Potluck-Night Run of the summer. Saturday, August 3 with be the Theodore Payne Foundation dinner hosted by Andrew Chaves, from 5 to 8 pm. That is the same day as the TTOS Picnic, which will run from 11 am to 3 pm, coordinated by Don Kallgren. Bear Mustoe requested a party for June 8 for his neighbor's daughter, Chelsea to celebrate the end of the school year. This party and the TTOS event are Club sanctioned, so members who help can earn hours.

**Membership Report** – Wayne Crabb announced that **Jason Thompson** has fulfilled his probationary hours and is now a full member. Congratulations! New probationary members were introduced: **Gregg Olson** (wife Jeanne) is a fire captain and Lionel model railroader. Born in Santa Monica, he now lives in Simi Valley. He has stopped by the Club from time to time and wants to try it out. **Derek Benedict** (wife Emily) is a Disney fan and model railroader living in Santa Monica, originally from Donner's Pass. His dad was a train fan and knew Ward Kimball. He received his Civil Engineering degree from Cal Poly and currently works on rail projects for MetroLink. **Jeff Hall** is Matt Yoder's dad and originally hails from upstate New York. He and his son make it annual event to attend a big rail gathering somewhere in the country. He has degrees in marketing and business, and does market research for the film industry.

**Fast track membership** for other railroad club members was discussed. It's a good idea, but how do we do it? A discussion followed with input on what other clubs do, and a number of suggestions were made. No decisions were reached. Ted said we want our Club to be

more hospitable, and we will continue to explore this matter.

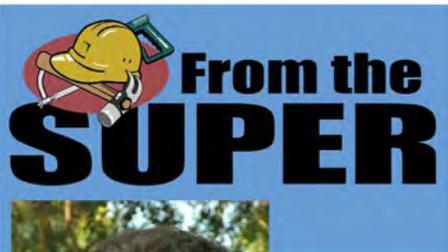
**Facility Superintendent's Report** – Jeremy Steinert reported that the next workday is the second Saturday, June 8, plus the forth Saturday. We will keep it a trial until bylaw changes.

**Spring Meet recap** – Martha Figueroa did an extraordinary job; everyone, please thank her. Thank you Bill Shirmer and the Kountry Kitchen crews: you did a great job managing the Kitchen and feeding us. The caterer, Handy Market, provided a delicious meal and overall people were pleased. Two compliments which were heard throughout the week-end were: "the place looks great" and that there was a high level of friendliness and camaraderie. Jim Cammarata felt that safety at the Meet could have been better, although traditionally we have not had a designated Safety Coordinator since we are not pulling the public. The President's Auction was well attended and quite a success, despite the inclement weather.

**Fall Meet** – still planned for September 6, 7 and 8 until further notice. Alex O'Donnell is Chair Meet, and has begun making plans.

Green waste dumpster – ideas proposed were to put a dumpster trailer outside the members' gate in the pit; or put one in

*Continued on page 3*



By  
Jeremy  
Steinert

**Hello Rail Fans!**

Welcome to June gloom and the beginning of summer! We've been working so hard the last six months that now is the time to take a bit of a breather. We've earned it! That said, there is still much to do if you have some time to spare. There's always debris to be picked up and leaves to be raked. Make sure you bring some water and sunscreen!

One thing I'd like to tackle is the state of the track. There are a number of sections that need some minor adjustments (leveling, dirt removal, etc.) that would be perfect to learn how to do track work. A number of people helped put the track back together for the bridges, so let's keep that momentum going! Let me know if you are interested so I can gauge participation levels. Details to follow,

once I coordinate with the appropriate people.

The Signals Division has been working on a number of improvements to the electronics that drive our system, and a few of those will be installed and tested throughout the summer. Keep an eye out for issues and we'll keep tackling them! There is also a chance that they may hold a soldering class. If you've wanted to learn, send me an email and I'll get something organized. You'll have to bring your own equipment, though!

In the meantime, be prepared to reverse direction in a couple of weeks! Also, summer movie nights are starting this next Saturday. Bring your family to the potluck! See you on the railroad!

## President's Message



By  
Ted  
Merchant,  
President

### Hello Railroad Fans!

How about that Spring Meet! I had a blast and was endlessly pleased by compliments from members and visitors. The two most frequent comments praised the quality of our grounds and our hospitality. It made me proud to be a member. We could have used some help from the weather forecasters that predicted doom and gloom which never happened. Oh well! About 550 name tags were handed out to people who had a great time and look forward to doing it again. It seems to me that the number of attendees was slightly reduced. The number of locomotives, especially the smaller gages was unchanged. And the congestion on the track was typical. It is worth noting that our Fall Meet will be September 6, 7 and 8, just around the corner! I can't wait.

Our website is shut down because of change of administrator issues. We are building a new site at a new location, LALS RM.ORG. Currently the site is only a picture which we hope to progressively develop over the next several months. Please send out the word that our site location has been changed to LALS RM.ORG.

Summer is here. The days are long. And the track is ready to go. So, let's all get out and play trains! I'll see you at the rails. EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

*Continued from page 2*

the location on Crystal Springs where we used to dump green waste. Dump trailer would be yellow, 8' x 10' with 3' sides, have stake pockets and a tarp.

### Projects – (1.) Gauge 1 drawbridge:

Ted reported the drawbridge is installed, but do not attempt to lift it because the track is not divided yet. It will take at least another month to complete. (2.)

**O'Brien-Moore Bridge** – Drew reported it is 96% completed. The contractor plans to re-tarp the bridge and give it one more coat. (3.) **Richardson/Alkire Sheds** – need to be cleaned up. This is our next area of focus. (4.) the **Driveway Sensor** has not yet been re-installed on Crystal Springs, but Ross Harper and Steve Rodstein have suc-

ceeded in bringing all the needed wiring to the site.

**FCRs** – Drew shared preliminary ideas for a 220' concrete tunnel to be built in Eucalyptus Canyon just west of the Mountain Division tunnel. Would use 72" diameter, 7" thick reinforced concrete pipe (RCP). The first step would be to dig out the old track and see if restoring the line looks doable.

**Ghost Train** – a long discussion was held. The survey results demonstrated a significant and near-equal number of members favor both continuing and discontinuing the event, presumably for different reasons. It was concluded that we don't want to continue to polarize the Club and that it will take considerable

time to create solutions to resolve the conflicts and to then implement those solutions. Wayne made a motion we suspend the event this year and brainstorm about retooling it for next year. Drew seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. This motion does not include Boney Island; they are welcome to contact Ted and submit a proposal for this year.

Bill Schirmer's ASEPO group had a great picnic at the Club and gave us a generous donation.

Nick Suncin publically thanked **Nick Guzman** for his hard work getting the new Club beam engine in service. It was tested extensively at the Spring Meet and found to be a sound and enjoyable engine to run. The two Nicks and Jeremy Steinert will conduct steam classes for anyone interested.

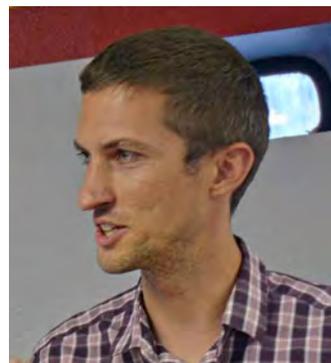
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.



Jason Thompson



Gregg Olson



Derek Benedict



Jeff Hall

# 2019 Spring Meet!



*Clockwise from upper left: Anthony Duarte's locomotive (Zak Holman, photo); Roger Williams' steam tractor; Saturday morning at steaming bay; wood cab steamer; Jim Cammarata's locomotive. Photos by Christopher Courter.*



# Good Eats, Great Time!



*Clockwise from upper left: Saturday night chow line; Merced Mining Company; T-Special Jazz Trio Saturday night; Oliver & Larry Tighe at President's Auction; on the steaming bay; Martha helps Jay Carsman pick out his raffle prize. Photos by Christopher Courter and Diana Manchester.*



## 2019 Spring Meet

*Continued from Page 1*

supportive tasks throughout the weekend. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!

Compliments were heard about our BBQ dinner by Handy Market; every table was filled with people enjoying the ribs and chicken, while listening to the T-Special Jazz Trio. Our dinner raffle was a treasure chest of prizes; Jay Carson won a train quilt, the Bassett family walked away with four gifts, and Harrison Hitchcock won a gift certificate from Fannie Gross, Headline Salon... time for a haircut!

Thank you, Mrs. Kathy Crabb for helping us with our new LALS apparel, and for your and George Becker's help with the souvenir table and dinner tickets. We loved getting our new 2019 Rosters; thank you, Wilbur Dong and Diana Manchester; also for all the beautiful Meet posters and menus. B-I-N-G-O was a welcome activity with fun prizes on Saturday afternoon; thank you to our friendly hosts, Lloyd and Charmaine Davis. And to our crafts coordinator, Carolyn Hayes, for giving our kids lots of creative fun on both days.

We are excited about the vendors who joined us: Newcomers Bruce and Joanne Miessner of "Somethin' Different" with assorted lanterns with low-voltage flickering lights and sounds; Channing Cheng of Accucraft Trains; Howard Gorin of The Machinery Works and SuperScale from Massachusetts; Anthony Duarte, Eccentric Engineer, with his injectors and other beautifully-machined parts; and our own Fran and Dan O'Brien of RailRoader Supplies with their Fairmont speeders.

Our opening ceremonies were made more special by the flag presentation by Scout Troops 682 and 678, under the leadership of Peter Bowen. Thank you, Ted for the idea of the easy-to-read name badges, and to Garibalde for designing them.

The President's Auction on Sunday was a huge success and a lot of fun.

We are grateful to Jeremy Steinert and Wayne Crabb for your help with the tables and chairs after the Meet was over.

We have an extremely dedicated Board of Directors that click, and we are making connections on and off the track. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this a fun and friendly Meet for all!



## Beam Engine Classes

*continued from Page 1*

beam engine is an extremely forgiving engine, but requires a lot of maintenance as it runs. This constant need to fill the steam oil lubricator, oil the rods and motion, fill the tender, check for linkages coming undone, etc. instills really good habits from day one in the new engineer for safe and responsible steaming. It's also a really fun and rewarding locomotive to operate; it's almost impossible to not smile with those beams rocking away and the plumes of steam going everywhere! It makes all the right noises and you even get a little bit of a bath from the exhaust. A quarter inch difference in water level on the gauge glass can make the difference between climbing the Mountain Division or slipping. It's an excellent tool for introduction to the world of steam. A very non-threatening unassuming little engine, it opens the doors even wider to all ages and types of LALS members.

The second major goal for me was to offer a little bit of guidance, but mostly to be a safety net for Nick Guzman to succeed on this project. He's a very capable driven young fellow and I knew he could knock this project out of the park, and he did just that! The feed water system is much better than it ever was, especially with the addition of an injector. Nick did all the work and made this happen by our goal date. He's proven himself in many ways, and he's a great teacher who really wants to mentor the younger generation and keep the flame alive for live steam.

The introduction to steam course is now available and will be held a couple weekends a month. It will be open to all LALS members. The hope is to ignite a passion for steam, to possibly get their own equipment, and (or) move on to pulling the public with Club steam locomotive #8. Between Nick Guzman, Jeremy Steinert and myself, we plan to have open "revolving door" style classes on Saturdays, and after public operations on Sundays about twice a month in a very low pressure (non-Level 1) setting. This proved a huge success during the Meet, and the people who didn't get a chance then will have many opportunities in the following weeks.

I am thankful to the Board for approving this project. It's already brought so much joy to our membership, and is going to help our overall mission greatly. Please contact me (Nick Suncin, cell 323-788-3033) for more information.



# Who's been Working on the Railroad

Jeremy Steinert, General Superintendent

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Alex O'Donnell      | Les Kovacs     |
| Andrew LaGaly       | Mark Vreeken   |
| Bear Mustoe         | Mel Bresee     |
| Bill Schirmer       | Michael Mahan  |
| Bob Crone           | Michael Murphy |
| Charles Rhoades     | Miles Kristman |
| Christopher Courter | Nick Suncin    |
| Caroline Courter    | Nick Guzman    |
| Dave Holman         | Ray Burden     |
| David Clark         | Robin Walsh    |
| Darrell Payne       | Robert Guzman  |
| Diana Manchester    | Roderick Fritz |
| Don Kallgren        | Ross Harper    |
| Doug Young          | Ruth Payne     |
| Drew LaGaly         | Ryan Hechinger |
| Frances Barnes      | Scott Hoagland |
| Glen Manchester     | Seamus Walsh   |
| Jack Streit         | Steve Sauber   |
| Jay Hawver          | Steve Rodstein |
| Jeremy Steinert     | Stevo Brock    |
| Jim Baker           | Ted Merchant   |
| Jim DeBiasio        | Tim LaGaly     |
| John DePhillip Jr.  | Tom Crue       |
| Joseph Clow         | Tom Lang       |
| Larry Tighe         | Wayne Crabb    |
| Lisa Lipton         | Zak Holman     |

## Work Day Announcement

We have four large events on the LALS RM property the last three Saturdays of July.

### We are cancelling our General Meeting for July.

Saturday workdays will be scaled back in July to track work (repairs and green waste removal), signals work, cement block deliveries, and engine and rolling stock repair in the maintenance bay and parallel steaming bays. Please continue to clean out Richardson & Alkire sheds.

The east camping meadow, west end, and the members' parking lot will not be affected, although the Disney folks will need our members parking lot for their guests on Saturday, July 13 from about 3 pm through the evening.

Any work that is needed to be done to the interior of our facility (lawn maintenance, sprinkler repairs, hardscape cleaning, leaf blowing, tree pruning, etc.) should be planned for weekdays or evenings during July, and not at all from 2 pm Thursday, July 11 through 7 pm Saturday, July 13.



## 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       |

## Safety on Public Trains!

**Important for Conductors:** If a train stops for any reason other than a red signal, use your radio and call it in to the Safety Coordinator.

## Member Schedule

### June

- 30 2018-19 Shed Lease Year Ends

### July

- 1 2019-20 Full Shed Lease Year Begins
- 7 Public Rides; Disney Barn open
- 8 July BOD Meeting 7:00 pm
- 12, 13 Scent Work Dog Event
- 13 Limited Work Day. General Meeting cancelled for July
- 14 Public Rides; Change Direction
- 21 Public Rides; Disney Barn open; Steam Plant operating
- 27 Movie Night/Potluck/Night Run
- 28 Public Rides

### August

- 3 TTOS Picnic – 11 am to 3 pm
- 24 Movie Night/Potluck/Night Run



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

Editor – Peter Fuad

Associate Editors – Diana Manchester, Christie Edinger, Alex O'Donnell, Drew LaGaly

The right is reserved to edit all copy.

## Movie Night/Potluck

Saturday, July 27

"Hugo"

## Dog Scent Trials Friday, Saturday July 12-13

By Diana Manchester

The dog days of summer are due the end of this week and so are the Scent Work Dog Trials. This event will take place two days, **Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13 from 6 am to 7 pm**. The coordinators, Penny Scott-Fox and Kim Morton anticipate about 65-80 dogs and their owners each day, plus about eight judges and several staff. Contestants will be using the public entrance (at New Sherwood Station) for coming and going both days, and the two parking lots west of the public entrance. The judges and staff will park in our Sutchville lot and on Crystal Springs Drive. Facility preparations (using cones, yellow tape and sheeting) and concealing the “scent hides” will take place Thursday afternoon starting at 2 pm.



Participants will be arriving and leaving throughout the day Friday and Saturday, depending on the times of their trials. Most will wait outside the facility until their trial time. Only about seven to eight dogs each -- with their designated handler and judge -- will be performing a trial at any given time, and the dogs will be on leashes the entire time. They will be sniffing out cotton balls that contain a drop of essential oil such as anise and clove, that are tucked into small tins and hidden. Each individual hunt will last about 10 minutes. The dogs are well trained and well behaved, and the owners/judges will be very respectful of our property. You can see a scent work trial in action here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFYKoldNrFM>

The Scent Work Trials will be utilizing three of our restrooms for hunts (except the men’s public restroom), as well as the Kountry Kitchen and Pergola picnic areas for searches, which will restrict usage to our members on both days. The members men's restroom will be available to members during lunchtime on Friday and Saturday for 30 minutes or so. The trials will also make use of our lawns, stations, loading areas, circular steaming bays, library, ticket booth, office caboose, UP caboose, work car, area between the work car and meeting car, and the meeting car. We ask that there be no access in these buildings from 2 pm Thursday until 7 pm Saturday, so that the “cotton ball scent hides” are undisturbed. Members can run their trains, if they do not use the inner hoist and circular steaming bays. **See “Work Day Announcement” on page 7.**

We will need about four to five volunteers each day to help us monitor the public entrance and provide some hosting services. Please contact **Diana Manchester** by text or cell: 626-222-7499, or by email: [dm.ad@verizon.net](mailto:dm.ad@verizon.net).

## Colonists at LALS RM Creating a “Buzz”

By Glen Manchester

**A**s most members who have come to the Club with in the last few weeks have noticed we have become hosts to two colonies of honey bees.

The first I noticed was under the U.P. Caboose. Here the industrious bees have found a very secure location, inside the quarter inch steel bolster. Bee experts been consulted, and the work will be very extensive. Using an infrared camera our consultant stated the location appears close to being full. A section of the wood floor will need to be removed, then the steel surface of the bolster will need to be cut open. This procedure will not be well received by the hive defenders and could result in angry bee attacks. After the removal the beekeeper will try to find a

new home for the colony. Replacement material then needs to be installed to prevent a new colony from utilizing the location.

The second location, although longer established and ignored, is in the semaphore. This is a much larger colony but it hasn’t seemed to have exhausted its space for expansion. The colony does, however, seem to be a more hostile group. Our bee consultant was chased clear to the inner parking lot where he parked his truck. I rode with him to the gate to let him out, and when I returned that angry bee began bussing me! I escaped to the car and left. I bring this up to underscore the need to follow the advice of our bee consultant, and shut

down most or a large part of the Club area during the proposed removal of these bee colonies (will be on weekdays).

We hope the bees will not swarm to create a new colony before the hives can be removed. Usually a new colony is established nearby because the queen cannot fly very far. If a swarm does occur, it will need immediate attention to be removed to a backyard hive.

Each colony may take two days to eradicate with a two-man team in full gear. An early morning attempt seems best to catch them while still sleeping. It will take a careful strategy to handle this project. Once we open “PANDORA’S BOX” we’ll be up to our eyeballs in trouble, and forced to press on until each hive is safely encapsulated and the sites shored up against future colonization. August may turn out to be a BEE-ZEE month.