



Disney Barn Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Larry Boone

After months of careful planning, the Carolwood Foundation held its special event on Saturday, July 13, 2019 celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Walt's Barn at LALSRLM.

With about 20 volunteers and 190 guests the party got started about 5:00 pm. Music, decorations, party gifts, a fantastic dinner by the Stonefire Grill, films, awards, a raffle, live auction, panel discussion and lots more were all part of the festivities.

One of the auction items was a Hollywood Tour in a classic and beautifully restored 1957 Rolls Royce. Each attendee received a custom mug, bandana

(Continued on page 5)



Guests at the BBQ with the new banner (Stephen Russo photo) More photos on page 5

Public Service

July

28 Public rides

August

4 Public rides; Disney Barn open

11 Public rides

18 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant operating

28 Public rides

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Diana Manchester, Secretary

July 8 Board Meeting

The July BOD Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bill Schirmer. Seven Directors were present, as well as 42 members.

Secretary's Report – events this month include the Scent Work Dog Trials on July 12 and 13, the Disney Barn 20th Anniversary on July 13, a birthday party for Sam Calderwood on July 20, and Steve Harris's Shriner's picnic on July 27. The general meeting has been cancelled for the month of July; tonight's Board Meeting will serve this purpose.

Boney Island – all indications point to doing it this year in the west meadow again. We are working out some contractual and practical details so it will work for both organizations. We will make the final determination in the August Board Meeting.

Website development – our committee is looking closely at our options and needs.

Fall Meet September 6, 7 and 8 – Alex is the Meet Chair and will need volunteers for Gate duty; a sign-up sheet will be available in a few weeks. Notices will be sent to the other live steam clubs, our website and in Discover Live Steam. We will have a President's Auction; some equipment will be available; please check your garage for good items to donate.

Plumbing – we hired a plumbing company to hydro-jet a significant plug in the sewer line from the public men's restroom a few Sundays ago. Under the garden scale railroad is a swale where the sewer line dips down and up again, and the drainage isn't correct, which means we will keep having this problem every few years. To replace the sewer line would require digging up the G-scale railroad. Would we rather have the plumber clean it out every five years or so, or do a permanent fix? To be discussed.

Green waste dumpster – our old dumpster is broken and is probably not worth trying to repair because of several issues it has. Drew has researched a new dumpster; it is 8' x 10' and has 3' sides and stake pockets; it is about the most inexpensive one you can buy and it would do the job for us. We could use it for more than just green waste. It has a twelve thousand pound lift, two 3,500 pound axles, 12 cycle deep cycle battery, and can be delivered to us. There was a unanimous vote that we get it.

Membership – Wayne reported that Jim Dubensky has finished his probationary hours and has qualified for full membership.

General Superintendent – Jeremy reported on several topics: (1.) Bee issue. Glen Manchester has helped assess the situation. We have a couple of members who are apiaries who have volunteered to help remove them if they are accessible. We have to take up the floor in the UP caboose to get at one hive, and the semaphore bees are hostile. Whether it's them or someone professional, it's a problem that needs resolution. The issue is not just about beekeeping, but about bee removal, with a solution to keep the bees from returning. Still under discussion. (2.) It's spider season, so take a broom with you when you go around the tracks. (3.) Power got hooked up, thanks to Tim and Drew. Also thank you Roger Williams for reactivating the compressor. (4.) Reversing directions has been put on hold until August because of signal issues that will take some time to handle. Doug reported we need to take out four track panels and level the track bed. Jeremy said we have some members wanting to learn to do track work, so this might be an opportunity for them to help.

Gauge One Track – Bob Crone reported that the drawbridge is still being worked on. Please do not raise it without talking to someone and getting proper help, or you could severely hurt yourself. It will require some training to learn how to use it.

2019 Elections – since we won't be able to approve any bylaw changes prior to the election to add stricter qualifications for Board nominees, we are proposing that they get a whole page in the Booster to

describe their qualifications instead of the 75-word blurb of previous years. We are gathering questions for a questionnaire that nominees would answer, such as: what are your qualifications to be on the Board, what is your background at LALS, how long have you been a member, etc. Audience suggestions included: Do you have a locomotive, or planning to build one? Can you pass a background check with no criminal charges? Have you held any leadership positions in the past? What is your skillset? What are some projects you have worked on? Members were invited to think about this and get back to the Board.

Big cement blocks are in a holding position in the members' parking lot until we are ready to set them in place. Some will be used for retaining walls at the maintenance of way area as well as the east meadow and east boundary. Members involved in the pick up and delivery of these blocks include Les Kovacs, Jim DeBiasio, Bear Mustoe and Doug Young. Thank you for your hard work.

Probationary members orientation ideas – we need to show new members how to operate the Phil West Barn lift, the hydraulic lifts, the switches, and other practical things that are not on the probationary list to learn, but important to know as an active member. Tom Crue suggested probationary members learn to run the station. Bill Walker suggested a "learning check-off list". We welcome input from the membership.

Respect towards other members – please be patient with members learning the ropes, and those with different abilities and backgrounds than you. When you're at the Station, act professional. Members are invited to contact a Board member about inappropriate treatment from other members. Our goal is to have a welcoming place to learn, operate and enjoy railroad-ing.

Phil West lift – long discussion about safety and how to operate this lift. If you don't know how to use it, ask. Always bleed off the air and leave in down position.

GPS tracker – Important reminder for train crews: transponders in cabooses need to be turned off at the end of runs, or the battery will die. New batteries are expensive.

Ghost Train – question from audience: are we having it this year? Ghost Train is on hold this year. Gary said the problem is that the members don't want to

(Continued on page 3)

SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

see anything “Halloween” until after the Fall Meet. That gives us only four weeks to put up the entire show; last year we had 50 displays. Our crew works nights and all day Saturday, because we all have full-time jobs during the day. We can’t put up a show of this size in four weeks, and usually start the end of August. Questions about track blockages: the track closest to Zoo Drive hasn’t been used for four to five years. The crew doesn’t put up the fire-place scene around the track entering the Station until after the Fall Meet. Any concerns about track or ash pit blockages can be addressed and resolved.

Rocks on lawn – Ron Nelson, who does a lot of the lawn mowing, asked that if members dig holes in the lawn for post holes and repairs, please don’t put the dirt and rocks on the grass. The mower doesn’t like rocks.

Eucalyptus Canyon Tunnel – Mark Vreeken learned of some factory seconds of eight foot sections of cement pipe. They would be donated free to us except for the shipping. Drew asked Mark to send him the contact info and he will look into it.

Station operations – there are too many people hanging around in the Station each week. Don’t hang out there to talk during Sunday operations. The engineers and conductors can’t see the train master to tell them how many guests to send to be seated. Jim Cammarata said there should only be the Station Masters, engineers, conductors and the public in the Station during public runs.

Miniature buildings – Seamus and Robin Walsh mentioned that the small buildings along the tracks need shoring up and other repairs. They are forming a committee to work on the miniature buildings over the next few months. Please contact Jeremy Steinert or Seamus if you are interested in participating. Dr. Pedro Ruggiero has built many of these remarkable buildings and the Walshes are working in coordination with him.

One inch railroad on West End – thank you for your hard work on this project, Nick Guzman.

Steam classes on beam engine – introduction to steam class is open to members. Classes are informal and can set up during the week or weekends. Contact Nick Suncin, Nick Guzman or Jeremy Steinert.

President's Message



By
Ted
Merchant,
President

Hello Railroad Fans! Lets All Live Safety! That’s one thing LALS stands for. That is why our direction change was postponed. Many thanks to the signal crew for correcting the problems and allowing the change to happen. That is why our safety officers exist, not to throw their weight around, but to assure the railroad is running safely.

Every now and again a member needs to be reminded that **Safety Comes First**. I have been reminded to blow my whistle when stopping at the station. I have been reminded to stop for red lights (fortunately not by creating a collision). And I have been reminded to have proper safety chains. I won’t list the other dozen times I had to be reminded. I appreciate the safety officers advising me. That is one of the ways I learn.

My experience is that safety officers are tactful, courteous and friendly. As our new Anti-Harassment Policy says “Our interactions should promote friendship, mutual respect of one another and the furtherance of our hobby.” I’m proud to be part of an organization where safety comes first and the values of friendship and respect are expected.

Please mark your calendars: The Fall Meet will be September 6, 7 and 8, just around the corner!

Please visit our developing web site at LALSRM.ORG.

Now, come on down and let’s play trains!

EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com



By
Jeremy
Steinert

Hello Rail Fans! Summer weather is finally here! I hope you all are staying cool, and if you visit, make sure you bring some water and sunscreen! Although we’ve had a few disruptions to the Club, a lot of you have been working anyway. Here are a few highlights:

On top of the usual fixes needed to reverse direction, the Signals Division has developed, tested, and has slowly been deploying new block detector boards. These boards make a number of improvements, allowing the crew to track down issues much more quickly while still being compatible with our existing system. At this time, about 25% of the railroad has been switched over! This will lay the groundwork for additional improvements in the future. Good job team.

A big-shout-out to Ross and Steve, both of whom have been keeping on top of our sprinklers and water lines. They’ve been out almost every other week repairing our extensive network of water pipes that keep our trees and grass green. If you see them around, thank them for all of the unsung work they do! And remember: they could always use a helping hand if you love playing in the dirt!

Finally, a few people have answered the call to help repair our track. Alex O'Donnell has been working on some of the yards, Miles and Doug leveled an area near the Disney Crossing, and some of the Signals Division repaired a few small sections and a couple switches on the West End. However, there is still much to be done. Come learn the basics of leveling track!

We have reversed direction. See you all westbound!

Concrete Blocks Will Be Used for Retaining Walls

By Drew LaGaly

Many of you may have noticed the cement blocks that have been lining up in the members' parking lot on Zoo Drive.

These blocks are being donated to us from Webcor Builders, who are the general contractors building the big water tanks off of Zoo Drive just south of the 134 Freeway exit.

Many thanks go to Les Kovacs for organizing all this with his contact at Webcor. These blocks are not cheap and would have cost the Club dearly had Les not stepped in and contacted Webcor.

The blocks are interlocking (like Legos), and will be used on several retaining wall projects around the Club, the most obvious being the East Meadow. For the moment, they are being stockpiled in our parking lot.

I would also like to thank Big Jim for hauling the blocks, Doug running the Gradall, and Bear for allowing us to use his trailers. These guys are working on Saturdays moving as many of these blocks as they can, roughly 22 per day. It is not an easy feat given the weight and size of these blocks.

Order Your New LALS Badge

We are almost out of our old LALS badges, so Fred Lack found this new badge. It is a 2-3/16" x 1-9/16" rectangle with oval top and custom-printed with the member's name in black letters.

The fronts are a fade-proof, domed polyurethane, and the magnetic backing is very strong. It can be attached safely on shirts, sweatshirts, light jackets, lanyards, etc.

To order your badge, please email Fred (atlantis90230@yahoo.com) with your first and last name. They will be available for a small fee in the Souvenir Booth once we receive shipment from the vendor.



July Movie Night

Potluck & Night Run

Saturday, July 27

- Dinner at 6:00 pm
- Movie at Dusk



Orphaned and alone except for an uncle, Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield) lives in the walls of a train station in 1930s Paris. Hugo's job is to oil and maintain the station's clocks, but to him, his more important task is to protect a broken automaton and notebook left to him by his late father (Jude Law). Accompanied by the goddaughter of an embittered toy merchant (Ben Kingsley), Hugo embarks on a quest to solve the mystery of the automaton and find a place he can call home.

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(Continued from page 1)

and coin with 20th anniversary logo.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion was moderated by Camille Dixon, the voice of Disney California Adventure. On the panel were Bill Able who, along with his company, did the actual disassembly of the Barn at the Carolwood property, labeling of all the pieces, temporary storage and final assembly at LALSRM; Miguel Fernandez who did all of the architectural plans for the Barn's reconstruction; and Michael Broggie who is the cofounder of the Carolwood Society and was the catalyst that made all of the different elements of moving the Barn a possibility.

"Heart & Heritage" Awards

A new recognition was initiated at this event with the presentation of the "Heart & Heritage" awards. These were given to people who had made a lasting and significant impact on the Barn through a variety of ways.

The recipients were:

- Bob Gurr (former Imagineer who designed most of the vehicles that have wheels at Disneyland);
- Tony Baxter (former Imagineer who helped design Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Splash Mountain, the Indiana Jones attraction and many more);
- Ray Spencer (former Imagineer who contributed to the Red Car Trolley, Expedition Everest Trains, Engine #5/the Ward Kimball at Disneyland and much more); and
- Kim Irvine (currently an Imagineer who works with Disneyland and who helped with the redesign of the Lilly Belle Coach at DL, rerouting of the Disneyland Railroad in 2018, two train exhibitions celebrating Walt's love of trains and dozens more).

Barn a Workshop

The Barn was Walt Disney's workshop back in the early 1950s. It was a place where Walt could go and relax and get away from all the pressure of his studio. He did a lot of dreaming and planning there, so much so that it was dubbed "the birthplace of Imagineering".

It wasn't until Walt's wife Lillian



passed away in 1997 that the idea of saving the Barn happened. Diane Disney Miller (Walt's oldest daughter) knew how important this structure was to her Dad and what a special place it could continue to be for future generations. She was ultimately responsible for saving the Barn and getting it relocated.

With help from Michael Broggie, the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles live Steamers, L.A. Recreation and Parks Dept. and many more a plan was crafted and the Barn was eventually placed in its current location. It was dedicated on July 19th, 1999. Upon arrival in Griffith Park the Barn was turned into a mini museum and has continued to evolve over the years. New displays are happening all the time and there were several fresh ones unveiled at the anniversary party.

The Carolwood Foundation would like to thank the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum for all of their help and support over the years.

▲ Guests at BBQ-

▼ Panelists Camille Dixon (voice of Disney California Adventure), Michael Broggie (co-founder of Carolwood Society), Bill Able (general contractor who moved Barn to Griffith Park), and Miguel Fernandez (architect who drew up the plans for the Barn's relocation) (Stephen Russo photos)



Our Country, Our Club — Melting Pot or Stew Pot?



Members enjoying lunch in the Kountry Kitchen on July 14. Photo by Zak Holman.

By Carolyn Hoagland

For generations America has been called the Melting Pot of the world. I say that is a poor analogy. In a Melting Pot all ingredients put in become homogeneous, and indistinguishable from each other. We are not, never will be, nor should we ever become “homogeneous”.

It is better to call America a Stew Pot. In a Stew Pot each ingredient retains its unique properties. A piece of English beef never becomes a chunk of Irish potato or an Indian bay leaf. The items never lose their identity. However, they do take on the flavors of the ingredients around them and are enriched for being in the pot together.

Just like the ingredients in the Stew Pot, the different people that have come into America retain much of the unique flavor of their cultures. They bring language, food, celebrations

and traditions that they teach their children and share with their neighbors and colleagues. Each individual that comes into America adds to the strength of our rich culture just as each ingredient adds to the flavor of a stew.

Member Opinion

This is even true at our Club, with the differences between men and women, machinists and media pros, welders and electronic engineers, retirees and students, able bodied and disabled.

There are those who may not know much yet about our Club or railroading, but bring valuable skillsets and experiences to the table. New members are eager to join in and be mentored. They can learn from us and visa versa. We will never be exactly like each other. However, together we ALL make this Club stronger and better. Let’s enjoy the stew and the different flavors we find in it.

Save the Date!

LALSRM

Fall Meet

September 6, 7 & 8

Alex O'Donnell, Chair

Who's been Working on the Railroad

Jeremy Steinert, General Superintendent

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

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

June 2019

June Ridership

June 2	716	June 23	628
June 9	510	June 30	530
June 16	707		

June 2019 — 3,091
Total YTD 2019 — 15,827
Total YTD 2018 — 15,959

Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Michael Murphy

Souvenirs and Tickets

Larry Tighe, Kathy Crabb, Heidi Mattson, Dale Mattson, Martha Figueroa, Jim Dubensky

Engineers and Conductors

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Bear Mustoe | Gregg Olson |
| Caroline Courter | Jim Dubensky |
| Christopher Courter | Joseph Clow |
| Dale Mattson | Larry Mitchell |
| Don Donaldson | Mark Cox |
| Darrell Payne | Mel Bresee |
| Derek Benedict | Paul Liu |
| Francis Barnes | Peter Fuad |
| Glen Manchester | Robert Guzman |
| Grace Mattson | Ryan Hechinger |
| Greg Pschaida | Scott Hoagland |
| Heidi Mattson | Tom Crue |
| Jeanne Olson | Tom Harwood |

Station Masters

Robert Guzman, Jim DeBiasio, Martha Figueroa, Gail Woodward, Wayne Crabb, Greg Pschaida, Don Donaldson, Bob Crone, Larry Mitchell



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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

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 |



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 Editors:
 Diana Manchester
 Alex O'Donnell
 Christie Edinger
 Drew LaGaly



Member Schedule

July

- 1 2018-2019 Full Shed Leasing Year Begins
- 15 Change directions
- 27 Pot Luck/Night Run/Movie Night
- 28 Public rides

August

- 3 TTOS Run
- 4 Public rides; Disney Barn open
- 5 BOD Meeting 7 pm
- 10 Workday and General Meeting
- 11 Public rides
- 14 Park employees appreciation steak lunch/train rides
- 18 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant operating
- 24 Pot Luck/Night Run/Movie Night
- 25 Public rides

Meet Ross and Steve, Our Irrigation Repair Team

By Bill Schirmer

Every day a member, or group of members, distinguishes themselves without expectations. This probably applies to many of us. I'm writing this column to bring such members out of the woodwork and encourage them to accept the recognition they deserve. Our **Irrigation Maintenance Team**, Steve Rodstein and Ross Harper has worked together for three years. They epitomize what I am talking about.

Steve is a 33-year member of LALS RM. He is President of North Oak Property Management of Woodland Hills, a company he founded 42 years ago. Steve now manages 130 properties including shopping centers and apartment buildings. I asked Steve what he does for fun, and he replied, "I play with trains. I like to stay below the radar."

He owns a three truck, 1 1/2 inch scale, standard gage Shay and one riding car. He recently replaced his steam dome with a taller, hopefully dryer, fabrication. We hope to see him out playing more.

Ross Harper is a 5-year member of LALS RM. He is a professional musician, percussionist and guitarist. He started the



Ross Harper and Steve Rodstein

Caribbean band *Island Times* 15 years ago and has composed several children's albums. He runs a 1 1/2 inch scale Plumcove box cab electric, a 1 1/2 inch scale speeder and 4 riding cars. Interestingly, Ross bought his electric locomotive from Tom Akins, 36-year LALS RM member and irrigation repair guru.

The hot summer weather is upon us, and every week, both Steve and Ross contribute hours repairing and maintaining our irrigation system and the high pressure plumbing that supplies it. They have replaced most of the irrigation control valves.

The Liquid Amber and Jacaranda trees along Crystal Springs Drive are this week's benefactors. The newly planted Toyon and Oak trees at the West End and the Iron Wood trees along the inner parking lot were addressed last month. Cars, forklifts, tractors, pressure surges, feet, partygoers, shovels and well-meaning people routinely break the system while Steve and Ross routinely repair it. And they are still smiling!

Thank you, Steve and Ross for your persistent hard work, keeping our grounds green. We hope to see you playing more in the future.



English Live Steaming and Mail Rail



While visiting London last month, Peter Fuad visited a number of live steaming clubs. Above is the very English public loading station at the Swanley New Barn Railroad in suburban London. The club is in a public park. Gauge is 7-1/4 inches. *Inset:* The elaborate switching board originally used on British Railways is used by Swanley to direct public trains. LALS RM route is much longer.



Peter also visited (at Tom Lang's suggestion) the Postal Museum and the Mail Rail. This train was used to move mail underground between sorting offices in London. It was patterned on the Chicago Tunnel Company. The two-foot gauge railway was shut down in 2003. Today, a portion of the route is open for rides as part of the [Postal Museum](#).