

# ENGINE BOOSTER



November 2019

SINCE

1956

www.lalsrm.org



November 16 was the Steam Only Run at the Museum. Pictured: Ray Burden on Ted Merchant's No 5 Heisler. More photos inside. (Zak Holman Photo)

## Operations Meet a Fun Challenge

By Bill Walker

The Operations Meet on Saturday, November 9 was lightly attended, but those that did come out and play had a great time. Running in the easterly direction made this a very challenging meet, but with a map and general help many were able to complete a few switching tasks.

We are planning on having another operations meet around the end of February or the beginning of March once we have changed directions. A big congratulations goes out to Jim Cammarata and his daughter who completed the most switching moves and in successfully completing the most difficult switching task on the list. It was fun to see you guys working so well together. Special thanks to Alex O'Donnell for co-hosting, Bill Schirmer and Jim Debasio for running the Kountry Kitchen, and Roderick and Tristen Fritz and everyone else that helped the program.

## Holiday Banquet

Saturday, December 14  
RSVP Now—See page 5



## Rodstein, Holman, Figueroa, O'Donnell Elected to Board

Kreider, Schirmer Elected Honorary Members; All Four Bylaw Amendments Pass

Steve Rodstein, David Holman, Martha Figueroa and Alex O'Donnell have been elected to the LALSRLM Board Directors. Jim Kreider and Bill Schirmer were elected as Honorary Members, and all proposed bylaw amendments were enacted.

There were 147 valid ballots, and votes cast represented 64% of all eligible voting members. Last year, 160 votes



Jim Kreider and Bill Schirmer

(Continued on page 3)

## Public Service

### December

- 1, 8 Public rides
- 15 Public rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 22, 29 Public rides

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Diana Manchester, Secretary



At 7:01 pm on November 4, 2019, the November BOD Meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Eight Directors were present as well as 31 members.

**Secretary's Report** – the October Minutes were approved. There were two party requests: Paul Staubach asked for the Picnic Pavilion for his family's baby shower on December 14 from 10 am to 1 pm for about 30-40 guests. The second request is from Gail Woodward for a celebration of life for Bob Woodward on Saturday, February 29, 2020. They will have about 100-150 guests and will need the whole facility all day. These events were added to our calendar.

**Website** – Zak Holman reported that the public side of the website is completed, and he is working on the Membership components (private login section). PayPal will be linked to the site so that annual dues and donations can be paid online. There will also be a choice to pay by check. More info to come on this. In the meantime, Zak and Wilbur asked for some members to volunteer to test the member registration process to make sure it works smoothly and is self-explanatory. We will also need a couple volunteers to join Zak on the IT management team for the site.

**Membership** – Derek Benedict asked for an extension on his probationary hours and was approved.

**Project Updates** – The concrete pads for the railroad signals being donated to us by Steve Altmayer will be poured Friday, November 15. We will hand mix the concrete ourselves. Les reports that work will start on the maintenance of way pit on Crystal Springs this weekend. DigAlert will be coming in and marking the locations of underground utilities. Tim LaGaly reported that the one-inch barn will be getting door latches. Once these are installed, the building will be ready for

equipment storage, which will be coordinated by Alex O'Donnell.

**Operations Meet** – Bill Walker reported he did an extended practice run and everything is in order. It will be held November 9 and should be a lot of fun.

The **Steam Only Run** is planned for November 16 and the host is Harrison Hitchcock. Lunch will be served in the Kountry Kitchen and a Thanksgiving Dinner is planned by Martha and Diana for that evening.

The **Holiday Banquet** will be Saturday, December 14 at Viva Rancho Cantina in Burbank. RSVP now. See article on page 5.

## Tom Urquidez Passes



Tom Urquidez, a Walt's Barn Crew Member, passed away November 7 at the age of 67. It was quite unexpected. We will miss his warm smile and friendly personality.

## Visit our New Website

Our new, improved website is up and running, thanks to webmaster Zak Holman. The "public" side is completed. Zak is now working on the private login section. Register and log in now!

## Live Steam Loses Esteemed Member Larry Fisher, 58

By Diana Manchester

The live steam hobby has lost a valuable modeler, researcher, contributor, mentor, and friend. Larry Fisher, age 58, passed away November 22 at Loma Linda Medical Center where he was being treated for Stage IV metastatic liver cancer, diagnosed on October 9 this year. His wife Leone was by his side during his entire illness. There will be a Memorial Service in the near future and more information will be posted.

Larry indulged his passion for steam in his teen years when he started coming to Los Angeles Live Steamers, and worked for Railroad Supply. His creative talents took him to Disney where he was a master designer of concepts, signage and exhibits. His vision is showcased at many dynamic living history institutions

such as Mystic Seaport, Sturbridge Village, Greenfield Village, and Circus World. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Fairplex. Larry was also passionate about electric vehicles, historic boats, and vintage planes and motorcycles.

Mike Massee writes: "Larry was always enthusiastic about sharing information for the betterment of the hobby, and many locomotives and coaches are adorned with the fine scale jewelry he created through the Fisher Detail Foundry." Dean da Silva posted, "His talent and skill were legendary, as was his kindness."

The family has created a GoFundMe account to help with memorial and funeral expenses. To find out more, please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-larry-fisher-fight-stage-iv-cancer>.



Larry and wife Leone



# From the SUPER



By  
Jeremy  
Steinert

**F**all is definitely here and it brought some great weather for the Fall Steam Only Meet! It was great to see everyone participating; even those who didn't have a steam engine had a great time.

**Clean!** Fall is definitely here and it brought some great weather for the Steam Only Meet! It was great to see so many participating; even those who didn't have a steam engine had a great time.

All of the visitors I talked to commented on how clean and well-kept our facility looks. Thank you to the many members who have been fighting back the onslaught of leaves from our beloved trees!

**Crossing Signals.** You may have noticed that a few small concrete pads have been poured around the facility. These are for a set of full-size wig-wags and semaphores that were donated by Steve Altmayer.

Once these are set up, they will be wired and powered. Some will be active as crossings and others will be used as an educational display for the public. Reach out to Tim and Drew LaGaly if you'd like to assist in moving the signals into place – or to the Signals Crew if you'd like to help pull wires.

**Critters.** Finally, keep an eye out for our local critters. We have a pair of skunks who hide out in the inner loop. Be especially careful coming through Nelson Tunnel and near the Gazebo, as well as over Nelson Summit.

Also, take a peek around the walls before entering the bathrooms. An unnamed member had a surprise a few weeks ago when going to wash his hands after working on his equipment. Also remember to close the doors to the work car and barns, unless you enjoy seeing a black and white bushy tail pointed at you.

See you all on the rails!

## President's Message



By  
Ted  
Merchant,  
President

Happy Thanksgiving Railroad Fans!

Was our Steam-Only-Meet and Thanksgiving Dinner a great time or what?! Approximately fifteen steamers fired up. The camaraderie and conversations were fantastic. Riverside and Bittercreek Western brought in the out-of-towners. And I'm guessing about seventy of us enjoyed the truly gourmet Thanksgiving dinner!

Cary Stewart's homemade cranberry sauce was so over-the-top delicious (see recipe on page 5! I believe his recipe is posted in this Booster! The evening saw a night run, and those who weren't playing trains were watching the Burt Lancaster movie. We even picked up a new member. Dave Lazarus stuck around the next day to give the Public rides behind his Pennsy K5. I can't remember all who helped make this event so good, but they include: Harrison, Bill, Jim, Martha, Diana, Kathy, Debra, Jeannie, and Gregg. Congratulations to all, including our Sunday Station Crew and the engineers who made this weekend such a success!

I am writing this article the day before our General Meeting and Election ballot

count. The election appears to be going well. We have seen an abundance of anonymous bulk mailings, some claiming falsely to be authored by someone else. All containing various "alternative facts." I'm not sure which are serious, and which are sarcastic.... Oh well.... At least they were entertaining... if you can look past the personal attacks. Several things are for sure: We have all joined LALSRM to have fun. We don't want to compromise that for anyone. And we are not going to let a few loose cannons derail our election. I am convinced that you all will collectively choose a quality Board, and I look forward to participating next year.

Remember, this is Thanksgiving week and we should all be thankful for the privilege of our Club. Let's all be friendly, joyful and thankful. Please accept my best wishes for the holidays.

I'll see you at the rails.

Your comments and concerns are always welcome.

Ted Merchant

[EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com](mailto:EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com)

## Election Results

Directors	Votes
Steve Rodstein*	98
David Holman*	83
Martha Figueroa*	77
Alex O'Donnell*	75
Nick Suncin	63
Dan "Bear" Mustoe	49
Brandon Ruiz	44
Roger Williams	42
Jim DeBiasio	13
<i>Write-in Candidates: Peter Knot, Bob Hintz</i>	
<i>*Elected — 160 ballots cast</i>	
Honorary Members (3/4 majority of general membership required to elect)	
Jim Kreider	130
Bill Schirmer	127
Bylaw Amendments (2/3 majority/required to enact)	
1 Anti-discrimination statement	133
2 Director qualifications	132
3 Director's conflicts of interest	128
4 Expelling Members	107

## Election Results

*(Continued from page 1)*  
were cast. Ballot counting took place on November 23.

Directors' two-year term will start in January. They will join continuing directors of the Board Ted Merchant, Bill Schirmer, Tim LaGaly and Les Kovacs. New officers will be chosen in December and announced before or by the General Meeting, December 14. The complete vote tally is on the right



# Old West Comes to LALS's West End

Tom Hansen, one of our newest members, has a vision for more trackside scenery at the Club. He proposed five ideas for miniature buildings and old-fashioned billboards to be designed and placed near the tracks for riders to enjoy. His first and most complex structure is the Western Town, pictured left, located on the west end of our facility. It is about 98% complete; all that remains to be done is to put the roof on the back, install the lighting, and produce/mount the final signage.

The entire town is 13 feet long and 4 feet tall at the highest. It is raised off the ground on pressure treated lumber that is painted with critter resistant paint. The next project will be the industrial grain silo.

## Observation Car

► Old railroad ties & dirt being removed – (Wm Stewart Photo)



## Early "Thanksgiving" Feast

▼ Evening of Steam Only Run



(Photo by Jeanne Olson)



## Museum Featured on YouTube Channel

A new 3-minute video about LALS SRM can be watched on a new YouTube channel called "Visiting with Joaquin."

<https://youtu.be/T6aQHDT86QU>

# RSVP for Holiday Banquet

**M**embers and their guests are invited to LALSRM's annual Holiday Banquet Saturday evening, December 14 at 6 pm.

We will be enjoying an evening of great food and camaraderie at Viva Rancho Cantina at 900 W. Riverside Drive, located next to the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. Free parking will be available across the street at Pickwick Gardens.

The cost is only \$35 a person for the "Viva Gold Buffet" which includes: Beef and Chicken Fajitas, Beef and Chicken Taquitos, Cheese, Chicken and Beef Enchiladas, Chile Rellenos, nachos, steamed vegetables, rice, beans, chips, and salsa. Sodas and iced tea included.

You can purchase alcoholic beverages, including their famous margaritas, at the no-host bar.

Dinner tickets can be purchased at the Kountry Kitchen register or Souvenir Booth on Sundays. Or contact Martha Figueroa, Banquet Chair at: [figthree@msn.com](mailto:figthree@msn.com) or her cell 626.232.7053.

Space is limited so please make your reservations now.

## Flimsies

- **New golf shirts** (navy blue with white embroidered logo over the pocket) are available for purchase in the Souvenir Booth.
- **Workday/General Meeting** has been changed back to the second Saturday starting December 14.
- **Badges** from our first order are available to be picked up and paid for on Sundays in the Souvenir Booth. A second batch was ordered and should be in by December 8.

## Cary's Cranberries

**C**ary Stewart's cranberry relish recipe from our Thanksgiving potluck. He said it's the first time he cooked something from scratch without someone watching over his shoulder. He shared with his neighbors, who then it asked for the recipe. He substituted Splenda (you can use in a 1:1 ratio to real sugar), and used just a little less than the recipe calls for.

### Mom Parsons' Cranberries

*Originally published in the Los Angeles Times, 1998*

**Total Preparation Time:** 15 minutes plus 1 to 3 days chilling time

**Servings:** 2 1/2 cups relish

1 1/2 cups sugar

3/4 cup water

3 whole cloves

3 allspice berries

2 (3-inch) cinnamon sticks

1 (12-ounce) bag fresh cranberries

Grated zest of 1 orange



1. Bring sugar, water, cloves, allspice and cinnamon sticks to boil in 4-quart saucepan. Cook, stirring, until syrup is clear, about 3 minutes. Add cranberries and cook just until they begin to pop, about 5 minutes.

2. Remove from heat, add grated orange zest and cool.

3. Refrigerate 1 to 3 days before serving. Remove cloves, allspice and cinnamon sticks before serving.

**Each 1/4-cup serving:** 132 calories; 35 grams carbohydrates



# Holiday Banquet & Officer Installation

## Saturday, December 14

### \$35 a person

6 pm – No Host Bar • 7 pm – Buffet Dinner

Viva Rancho Cantina

900 W. Riverside Drive, Burbank

### Reserve your seats now

Purchase tickets at Kountry Kitchen or Souvenir Booth

Or contact Martha Figueroa

[figthree@msn.com](mailto:figthree@msn.com) • 626.232.7053 cell



## Steam Run a Big Success

*By Harrison Hitchcock and Diana Manchester*

**T**hank you, everyone who came to the Steam Only Run on Saturday, November 16. It was a fantastic day with great weather and lots of steam in all gauges.

I want to thank Bill Schirmer and the Kountry Kitchen crew for opening the kitchen. And a special thanks to Martha Figueroa and her husband Ron for a fantastic turkey dinner; it came out super.

We had visitors from the Riverside Live Steam, Bittercreek Western Railroad and Chula Vista Live Steamers, as well as many LALS members. The steam meets seem to be getting bigger and bigger with each run and the enthusiasm for steam grows with them.

Happy Steaming! *(Above and right, Zak Holman photos)*

▼ Love of steam spills over to Sunday - David Lazarus pulling the public on his PRR K5-NS-6705. *(Nick Suncin photo)*

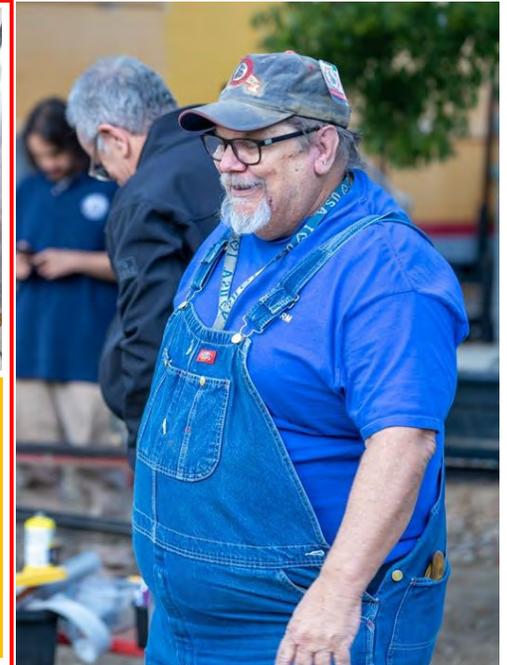




Steam Only Run!



Young Max with his dad, Richard Roy on Sunday. Max is a little powerhouse. If you ask him what kind of engine it is, he will quickly and confidently respond "it's a 2-6-0 mogul." He has named it 'Smoky T. Wilson.' Harrison Hitchcock is going to help them repair the lubricating assembly. Richard and Max had such a great time, they joined the Club. (Zak Holman photos)



## 1.5 " Gauge Six-Track Enclosed Trailer For Sale

\$300 or best offer. Pink slip registered to Mel Bresee (310/553-2039)

# 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      | Martha Figueroa |
| Bill Walker        | Mel Bresee      |
| Bob Crone          | Michael Mahan   |
| Charles Rhoades    | Miles Kristman  |
| Dave Holman        | Nick Suncin     |
| David Clark        | Nick Guzman     |
| Darrell Payne      | Peter Fuad      |
| Diana Manchester   | Ray Burden      |
| Don Kallgren       | Roderick Fritz  |
| Doug Young         | Ron Hitchcock   |
| Frances Barnes     | Ross Harper     |
| Michael Murphy     | Ruth Payne      |
| Glen Manchester    | Ryan Hechinger  |
| Genie Olsen        | Scott Hoagland  |
| Greg Olsen         | Steve Sauber    |
| Harrison Hitchcock | Steve Rodstein  |
| Jack Streit        | Stevo Brock     |
| Jeremy Steinert    | Ted Merchant    |
| Jim Baker          | Tim LaGaly      |
| Jim DeBiasio       | Tim Silver      |
| John DePhillip Jr. | Tom Lang        |
| Joseph Clow        | Wayne Crabb     |
| Kathy Crabb        | Zak Holman      |
| Larry Tighe        |                 |



Harrison Hitchcock at Steam Only Run, which he organized. (Zak Holman Photo)

## SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

October 2019

### October Ridership

October 6	411	October 20	733
October 13	654	October 27	632

**October 2019 — 2,430**  
**Total YTD 2019 — 26,324**  
**Total YTD 2018 — 27,553**

### Engineers and Conductors

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Bear           | Joseph Clow    |
| Bill Walker    | Lisa Lipton    |
| Bob Crone      | Mark Vreeken   |
| Darrell Payne  | Mel Bresee     |
| Dave Holman    | Peter Fuad     |
| Derek Benedict | Roderick Fritz |
| Don Donaldson  | Ron Nelson     |
| Francis Barnes | Scott Hoagland |
| Gregg Olson    | Sean Donaldson |
| Jake Holman    | Tim Silver     |
| Jeanne Olson   | Tom Harwood    |

### Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Michael Murphy

### Station Masters

Robert Guzman, Gail Woodward, Wayne Crabb, Don Donaldson, Gregg Olson, Jeanne Olson, Joseph Clow, Glen Manchester

### Souvenirs and Tickets

Kathy Crabb, Martha Figueroa, Jeanne Olson, Carolyn Hoagland, Jim Dubensky, Marc Weiss, Larry Mitchell



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

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Diana Manchester • Alex O'Donnell  
 Christie Edinger • Drew LaGaly



### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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 Toluca Lake, CA 91610  
 Phone (323) 661-8958  
 Website: LALSRM.org

### 2019 Officers and Directors

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Ted Merchant     |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Bill Schirmer    |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Diana Manchester |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Tim LaGaly       |
| Wayne Crabb           | Diana Manchester |
| Les Kovacs            | Ted Merchant     |
| Tim LaGaly            | Andrew LaGaly    |
| Bill Schirmer         | Doug Young       |

## Member Schedule

### November

28 Thanksgiving

### December

1 Public rides

2 Board Meeting

8 Public rides

14 Work Day and General Meeting

14 **Holiday Banquet — Viva Rancho Cantina 6 pm**

15 Public rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation

22 Public rides

29 Public rides

# Altmayer Donates Vintage Signal Collection to Museum

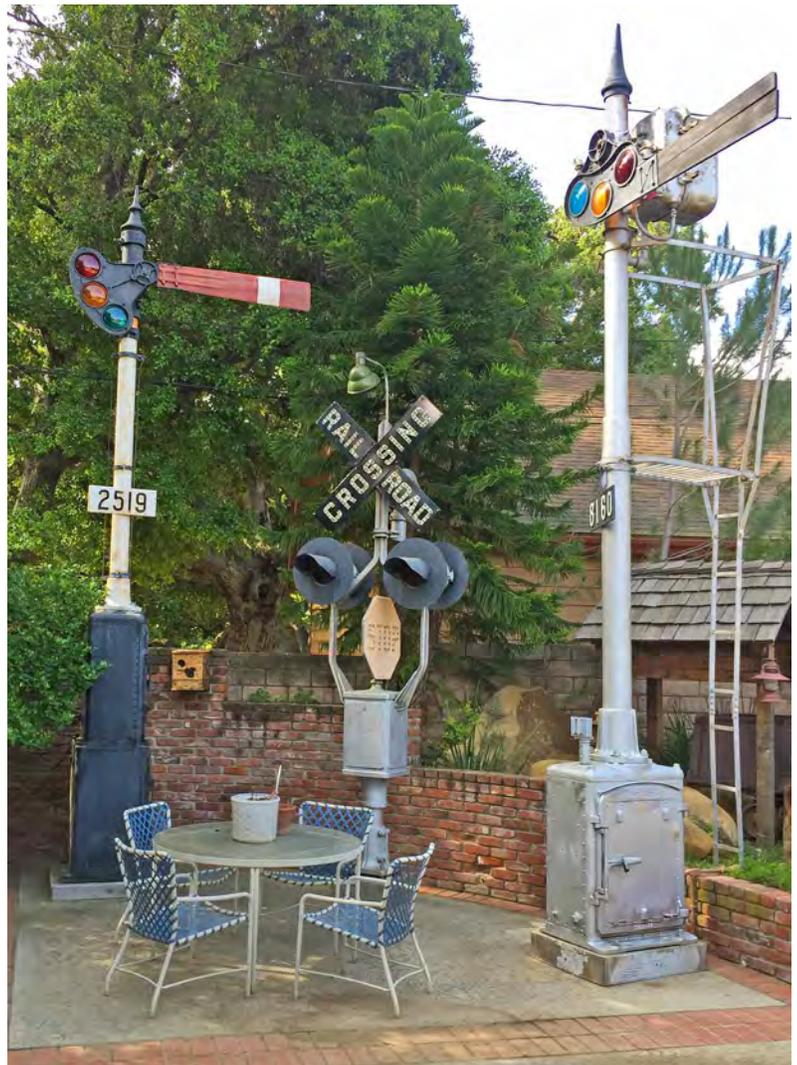
By Andrew LaGaly

Longtime LALS RM members, Steve and Georgia Altmayer have generously offered the Museum the donation of their unique collection of full-scale, vintage and operable railroad signals. For many years, these signals have delighted friends and family in the Altmayer’s backyard patio. The Board of Directors and signal crew were graciously invited to the Altmayer home in August to see these signals and discuss whether they would be a good fit for our facility. It was an unanimous decision that we would accept Steve’s donation of the six signals. They are in immaculate shape for their age: all signals work and each has all its signage intact.

In September, armed with color photos and dimensions, we then walked the facility and identified possible spots for installation. One idea was to have them all in one place, like a “signal garden”. The other idea was to strategically place them around the tracks and facility so that members and guests could view them in more railroad-appropriate settings. The second idea was adopted.

## SIGNALS DESCRIPTIONS

- 1 WRRS Harp Wig Wag
- 2 Magnetic Signal Company Cantilevered Wig Wag
- 3 Union Switch & Signal Co. Style "DW" Automatic Flagman
- 4 Griswold Rotating Stop Sign Signal
- 5 Lower Quad Railroad Semaphore
- 6 Style B Semaphore



With a December deadline of removing the signals from the Altmayer residence, the relocation project of the six signals is well under way. As of November 26, all the pads are poured for the new signals to be placed on directly upon arrival to LALS RM. We have included wiring conduits in the pads so that the signals can be operated.

The schedule for the move of the signals is as follows:

- December 6th, select crew will go to Steve’s house and disassemble signals. Load as many as can fit on flatbed trailer and deliver to LALS RM.
- December 7th, unload trailer and reassemble signals moved previous day.
- December 13th, go to Steve’s house, load remaining signals and deliver to LALS RM.
- December 14th, unload trailer at LALS RM and reassemble signals.

On behalf of the LALS RM Board of Directors, I want to thank Steve and Georgia Altmayer for their thoughtful and generous donation. The Museum is fortunate to have such beautiful signals in their collection.

