



## Chris Mahony, 17-Year Member, Passes

We are sad to inform you of the unexpected passing of Chris Mahony on January 21. Chris had been very active in the smaller scales track restoration and operations. We will have more information next month.

## A Promising New Year Ahead

By Diana Manchester

Following close on the heels of a very productive 2019, the new year looks bright. Our new Board of Directors is well qualified to lead us into the new decade, with a cumulative 219 years of LALS RM involvement. We are retaining four Board Members from last year who helped plan and work on many facility improvements, including the O'Brien-Moore Bridge and Nelson Summit Bridge renovations, design/installation of our Gauge One drawbridge, and overall campus cleanup and repairs. Our new directors coming on board bring additional skills, experience, vision and ideas. Among 2020 goals include the enlarging/repurposing of the Crystal Springs pit, the one inch expansion, and track and points work. More plans will evolve as the year gets underway.

The New Year will bring many special events for our members and guests, including the annual Spring and Fall Meets, the Rail & Road Event in April, and Steam Only Meets in April and November. May 16 we will host a large reunion for Walt Disney Imagineers. Movie nights/night runs will resume in June, and Sunday Public Run Days will continue weekly with monthly Steam Plant and Walt Disney's Barn operations. Your ideas, help and participation are key to a great new year. Come join us and let's have fun!

## Welcome to our 2020 Board of Directors



*Ted Merchant  
President*



*Bill Schirmer  
Vice-President*



*Steve Rodstein  
Secretary*



*Tim LaGaly  
Treasurer*



*Les Kovacs  
Director*



*David Holman  
Director*



*Martha Figueroa  
Director*



*Nick Suncin  
Director*

## How to Renew Online

Step-by-step info on page 4

## Public Service

### January

26 Public Rides

### February

2, 9 Public Rides

16 Public Rides / Steam Plant in Operation / Disney Barn open

23 Public Rides



## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



At 7:05 pm on January 6, 2020 the January BOD meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Seven of the Directors were present as well as 30 members.

**Secretary's Report:** President Ted Merchant presented the Secretary's report due to the resignation of the 2020 secretary. The December minutes were approved unanimously. Steve Rodstein was nominated and approved by the Club to be the new Secretary. Nick Suncin, who was next in line from our November elections was nominated and approved by the Club to be the eighth director.

**Calendar:** The following calendar events were scheduled and approved: Diana Manchester requested Sunday,

April 26th for the Rail & Road Event, Don Kallgren requested August 1st for the TTOS Picnic, Martha Figueroa requested November 14th for the Thanksgiving Dinner at our Fall Steam Only Day. The Club then discussed and confirmed that February 29th is the day Gail Woodward will be having the memorial for her husband, Bob Woodward. The Club then confirmed that any memorial held at the Club will be considered a Club event. There was also a discussion regarding the installation of the new name plaques on the Bell Tower in the grass area.

**Vice President's Report:** There was further discussion concerning scheduling lunches for Rees & Parks and Webcorp.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim was not available as he was celebrating his wife's birthday. The Club was unanimous in wishing Carolyn a very happy birthday. Tim will present the December information at the next BOD meeting.

**Membership Report:** Nick Suncin stated that he was to receive a new member application from Jeffrey Pardee

shortly, and that he would be introduced at the General Meeting on January 11.

**Superintendent's Report:** The Club approved an additional workday for January; it will be Saturday, January 25th. There was minor discussion of the Eagle Scout project. It was agreed that if the lockers at the Sutchville Station are not needed they should be removed. The pressure regulator at the Sherwood Station will be changed. There was some discussion regarding ongoing track repairs. Also the keys were located for the restrooms and closet in Sherwood Station. Les Kovacs also discussed tool safety. Gregg Olson submitted an FCR for repairing the roof of the Picnic Pavilion, which was approved by the Board.

**Website Update:** There was a discussion on membership renewals; members are being asked to renew through our new website which is [www.lalsrm.org](http://www.lalsrm.org). A committee is being formed to handle our website, IT and database operations.

**Other items:** The rental cost of track at the one inch barn was discussed. Also souvenirs that are sold to the public were discussed. Martha shared that we have a supply of new FREDs at the Souvenir Booth. Lastly it was mentioned that there will be a Conductors' Class on Sunday, January 12th at 10:30 am.



By Drew LaGaly  
and Les Kovacs

### First off, Happy New Year to all!

I am very excited about my new position as superintendent, though I am not doing it alone. Les Kovacs and I will be co-chairing the position. A big thank you to Jeremy for all his hard work as our previous superintendent, and thank you for all that you continue to do for LALSRM.

I am looking forward to all the projects in the pipeline this year at LALSRM. The pit expansion project is moving along rapidly. There have been some delays with rain, but other than that, there has been a lot of dirt moved. The potential and size of the area is beginning to show. There have been many volunteers working on that project, but a big thanks is needed to Les and Doug for their hard work.

Moving forward, Les and I would like to have a better system of communication with the membership. One of our goals is to use our new website to communicate with members about larger projects that are being done and also the general maintenance that needs to be completed around the facility. In a perfect world there would be weekly posts on the

members' side of the new website that share with the membership specific items that need to be done at the facility. These items can range from something more involved, or to an item that might only take a few minutes. Whether you have an hour to kill at the museum or a whole day, there will be a project that you can find to fill the time.

One of the main things that I hear at LALSRM is that members are coming out during the week to volunteer, but "just don't know what to do." We are hoping that keeping this running list will point members in the direction of something positive to be accomplished around the facility.

Please feel free to come up to Les or me with any questions or concerns.

## President's Message



By  
Ted  
Merchant,  
President

### Hello Railroad Fans!

Welcome to 2020! Last year was a good year from your Board's perspective. I reference December's Booster which summarizes the Club's accomplishments. Congratulations and thanks are extended to all who help make LALSRM the train club it is. We have four new enthusiastic Board members, and I look forward to working with them. I propose several goals for 2020:

**Let's keep LALSRM fun.** We each have our reasons to be members, but all of us expect to enjoy the Club. We need to respect the diversity of our members and guests and work to make everyone comfortable.

**Let's keep LALSRM a railroad club.** We can and should have activities not necessarily focused on trains but always be experienced in the context of a vibrant railroad club (e.g. handicap runs, fundraisers, City of Hope runs, Disney Alumnae Party, Road & Rails, private parties). Everyone comes to our campus with the expectation of enjoying trains. Let's not disappoint them.

**Let's be good ambassadors.** People and organizations including train clubs want to know about us and can benefit from LALSRM. Being a good ambassador starts with being friendly. I hope many of you will join me in visiting other train clubs and inviting them to join us.

**Let's commit to outreach.** Outreach includes but is not restricted to charity. Outreach includes Eagle Scout projects, Scout outings, pulling the public and fundraisers. Outreach includes steak picnics for Recs and Parks, Webcor and Ludwick Family Foundation. Outreach makes us feel good when we look in the mirror, and it's fun.

**Let's be good stewards of LALSRM.** A good steward is all the above. It also includes volunteering your time to improve and maintain the Club, picking up after yourself, finishing the work you start, respecting one another and most of all, having serious fun!

I look forward to the future. Please join me. Your comments and concerns are always welcome.

**Ted Merchant**

*EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com*

## Larry Fisher Memorial Service – February 15

A **memorial service** for Larry Fisher will be held at the NHRA Motorsports Museum on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 1 pm. The museum is located at 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona.

Larry had been the executive director of the NHRA, as he was an avid motorsports enthusiast and promoter. He was also a passionate live steamer and the owner of "Fisher Detail Foundry" which provided precision detail parts for large-scale locomotives and cars.

Larry tragically passed away unexpectedly November 22, 2019 after a short but heroic fight with cancer. He is survived by his sweetheart and wife, Leone Bohler Fisher, his sister, Elizabeth Fisher, his dad, and his son Matthew Fisher.

In addition to Larry's many friends in the railroading and live steam communities, the service is for all of Larry's friends and colleagues, including those from the various clubs, museums and organizations that he was involved in. We will be sharing our best memories.

*Kindly RSVP to the NHRA Museum at 909.622.2133.*



*Larry and his wife, Leone*

**Saturday, February 15 • 1:00 pm**

**NHRA Motorsports Museum  
1101 W. McKinley Avenue  
Building 3a  
Pomona, CA 91768**

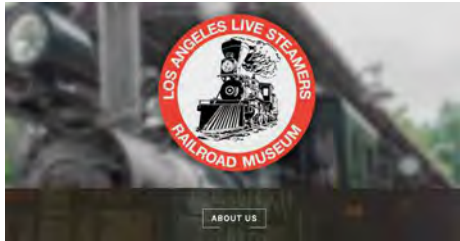
*(Pomona County Fairground, Gate 17)*



# How to Renew Your Membership Online – Step-By-Step

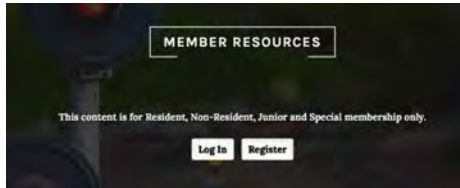
## Step 1 - Go online

If you are a current member and registering for the FIRST TIME – or AGAIN – go to [www.lalsrm.org](http://www.lalsrm.org):



## Step 2 - Register

Scroll down until you see **Member Resources** page. Click "Register".



NEXT select your Membership Level.

## Step 3 – Fill in form

A new window will appear with a **form** (see "Example"). Since this is a new renewal system you must enter your information. Create any user-name & password you'd like. Enter the **same email & first/last names you used in the 2019 Roster**. Then select a payment option: **PayPal** or **check**.

## Step 3 – Example

**Membership Checkout**

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL CHANGE

You have selected the **Resident** membership level.

Basic local membership

The price for membership is \$100.00 per Year.

Make a Gift: \$0.00

Enter an amount between \$0.00 and \$1,000.00

ACCOUNT INFORMATION ALREADY HAVE AN ACCOUNT? LOG IN HERE

USERNAME  
georgewashington

PASSWORD  
\*\*\*\*\*

CONFIRM PASSWORD  
\*\*\*\*\*

FIRST NAME  
george

LAST NAME  
washington

E-MAIL ADDRESS  
yorktown1781@aol.com

CONFIRM E-MAIL ADDRESS  
yorktown1781@aol.com

Choose Your Payment Method

Pay with PayPal Pay By Check

## 3a – Paypal option

If you choose **PayPal**, it will take you to a new window where you can pay with PayPal. If you do not have a PayPal account, sign up for an account on this window (you can link a credit card or a checking account).

Follow the directions on the PayPal form to complete your payment. A PayPal **Receipt** will appear. Click on "Return to Merchant". A **Confirmation** from LALSRM will appear. You will get an email notification with your receipt.

## 3b – Check option

If you choose the **check** option, it will take you to a new window where you will see your **Invoice** and you will also get a **Confirmation**.

If you are having trouble with the process, send a message via the "Contact Us" box at the bottom of the initial screens, writing what is the problem.

**Log Out** either at the upper right of the screen or from your Profile screen.

## 4 – Invoice (if paying by check)

Please **write the Invoice # on your check** and **print out the invoice**. Mail both the check & invoice to LALSRM, or bring both in an envelope to the Club and place in the Treasurer's mailbox in the yellow UP Caboose.

Once we verify receipt of your payment, your member registration and renewal for 2020 will be complete. You will receive a notification by email when confirmed.

## 4 – Invoice example

1/19/2020 Membership Confirmation - LALSRM

[Skip to content](#)

**Membership Confirmation**

Thank you for your membership to LALSRM. Your Resident membership is now active. Membership access in review.

Below are details about your membership account and a receipt for your initial membership invoice. A welcome email with a copy of your initial membership invoice has been sent to yorktown1781@aol.com.

Invoice #71F54B7231 on January 19, 2020

- Account: george washington (yorktown1781@aol.com)
- Membership Level: Resident
- Membership Cost: \$100.00
- Donation: \$0.00
- Membership pending. We are still waiting for payment for [your latest invoice](#).

Check Total Billed \$100.00

[View Your Membership Account](#)

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## 5 – Confirmation example

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[View Your Membership Account](#)



# Expansion of Crystal Springs Drive



**You have probably noticed the extensive grading and widening at the western end of Crystal Springs Drive.**

Les Kovacs is heading a team of members who have removed the deteriorating wood tie wall in that area, widened the area by an estimated 10 feet, and brought the grade up to the level of the existing maintenance-of-way shed. This has created impressively usable terrain which previously only served as a wash. We anticipate the additional space will have minimal visual impact for riders on the Main Line or Mountain Division.



Les's next steps are to build new retaining walls using concrete blocks currently stored in our outside parking lot. Future anticipated projects in this area include the creation of a drainage system under the new grade and the construction of improved train storage.

Stay tuned! *(Photos by William Stewart)*





## Gene Allen's Book Collection Added to Library

By Nick Suncin

The Bruce Ward Memorial Library started off the new year with a huge donation of amazing books from the late Gene Allen's personal library. LALS is honored and grateful to add this treasure trove of information to our already expansive library. Many of these recent additions are antique volumes that deal with steam power and locomotion when it was the cutting edge state of the art! There are also many titles dealing with specific railroads or specific types of railroad equipment. Some of these books are instructional steam equipment books from the turn of the century.

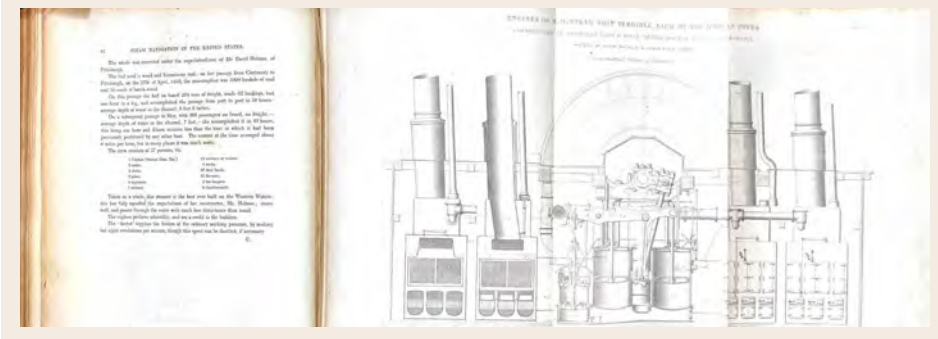
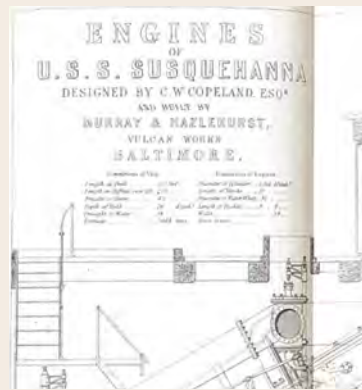
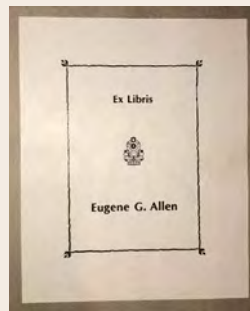
Space in the library is an ongoing issue, so finding spots for 75 or so books in our completely full bookcases was a tall order. The library team decided to move almost all of our coffee table type books to the library's annex in order to make way for the Gene Allen collection. The displaced titles will still be available to check out through the database, but will be stored in the annex and available by request.

The library team has also been working on updating the database now that the new books are on the shelves. These newly-added books are packed with drawings, photographs and general railroad knowledge and will be an incredible source of information available to our members.

Contact Nick Suncin, Lisa Lipton, Mike Murphy or Jeremy Steinert anytime for more information, or to set up a time to access the goldmine of information, or even just to browse through our very extensive library.

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**Thank you everyone** who helped out on Saturday January 11, 2020 in recertifying the Level 1 riding cars. **We recertified a total of 55 Club cars.** Special thanks to Dave Clark, Larry Sack, Miles Kristman, Joe Clow, Doug Young, Bill Walker, Bear Mustoe and anyone I missed. — Jim Cammarata



## Lights Installed in One Inch Car barn



*New electrical service and lighting installed by Alex O'Donnell for the new 1" Scale Car barn. Members interested in reserving track space for 1" scale equipment should contact Alex since space is limited.*



# Who's been Working on the Railroad

Drew LaGaly, General Superintendent

## December 2019

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	Ray Burden
Diana Manchester	Roderick Fritz
Don Kallgren	Ron Hitchcock
Doug Young	Ross Harper
Frances Barnes	Ruth Payne
Michael Murphy	Ryan Hechinger
Glen Manchester	Scott Hoagland
Jeanne Olson	Steve Altmayer
Gregg Olson	Steve Sauber
Harrison Hitchcock	Steve Rodstein
Jack Streit	Stevy 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	

## It's Time to Take Level 1 Test

For any member working the Station or on public trains, and/or operating your own equipment on the tracks, it's time to take the Level 1 Test again. It is open book. Tests will be emailed to members via Constant Contact, or can be downloaded from our website (once you've registered), or can be picked up in the UP Caboose in the shelving under the mailboxes. Please turn in your completed test to Michael Murphy, or place in his mailbox in the UP Caboose (Time Cards slot). Or mail to the Club, Attn: Michael Murphy.

### Extra Work Day January 25

We will be working on the Crystal Springs Pit. We also need help with leaf and pine needle cleanup throughout the facility.

# SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

December 2019

## December Ridership

December 1	513	December 15	544
December 8	Rain	December 22	494
December 29	776		

December 2019 — 2,327

Total 2019 — 31,223

Total 2018 — 33,114

## Engineers and Conductors

Andrew Chavez	Monica
Bill Walker	Nick Guzman
Bob Crone	Nick Suncin
Darrell Payne	Peter Fuad
Francis Barnes	Ron Nelson
Gregg Olson	Stephen Rudy
Harrison Hitchcock	Tim Silver
Jeanne Olson	Tom Gibson
Jeremy Steinert	Will Walker
Marc Weiss	Tom Harwood

## Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Joseph Clow, Michael Murphy

## Station Masters

Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Don Donaldson, Bear Mustoe, Jeanne Olson

## Souvenirs and Tickets

Kathy Crabb, Martha Figueroa, George Becker, Jim Dubensky, Larry Mitchell, Bear Mustoe

## Presidents' Day - Feb 17

## Member Schedule

### January

- 25 Extra Work Day
- 26 Public Rides

### February

- 2 Public Rides
- 3 February BOD Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8 WorkDay/General Meeting
- 9 Public Rides
- 15 Larry Fisher Memorial – 1:00 pm NHRA Motorsports Museum  
*See page 3 of this issue for details*
- 16 Public Rides; Disney Barn open; Steam Plant operating
- 23 Public rides
- 29 Bob Woodward Memorial – LALS  
*Private event for invited guests only*



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Editor Peter Fuad

Associate Editors:

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



## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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

### 2020 Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Ted Merchant
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bill Schirmer
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Rodstein
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim LaGaly
David Holman	Les Kovacs
Martha Figueroa	Nick Suncin

# Save the Dates — 2020 Events

## Steam Only Day

- **Spring** • Saturday, April 4 – with Ham Dinner-Potluck and Movie
- **Fall** • Saturday November 14 – with Thanksgiving Dinner-Potluck and Movie

## Rail & Road Event

- Sunday, April 26 – 10 am to 3 pm

## Spring Meet

- Friday through Monday, May 22 – 25



## Potluck-Movie Night-Night Runs

- Saturday, June 27
- Saturday, July 25
- Saturday, August 22
- Saturday, September 26
- Saturday, October 17  
(Halloween theme)

## Workdays & General Meetings the 2nd Saturday

We have reverted to our traditional schedule of the second Saturday of each month for our official Workday and General Meeting. We may add special workdays from time to time and you will be notified. Some of the General Meeting dates might change during our Fall Elections months. A complete Calendar for 2020 will be published in the February Booster.



## FOR SALE – HO Layout

Tabletop 4'x8' HO-scale layout with Atlas code 100 track & switches. It has basic ground cover and mountain features in need of some work. Setup for DC block isolation. It was tested and it is operational.

**\$100** Please contact Ted Merchant.

## Name Badges: Order 3



We will be ordering additional name badges in **March**. The fronts are a fade-proof, domed polyurethane, and the magnetic backing is very strong. Please let Diana Manchester or Fred Lack know if you would like one (or more). Cost is \$10; you can pick up and pay at the Ticket Booth when they come in. If you picked up your badge(s) earlier and haven't paid yet, please stop by the Ticket Booth.