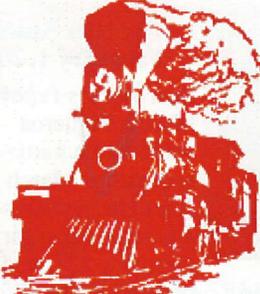


Celebrating 60 years — 1956-2016

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM

LALS ENGINE BOOSTER

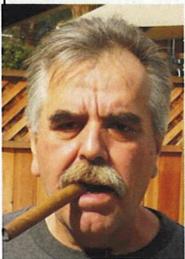


February 2016

60th Year

www.lals.org

President's Message



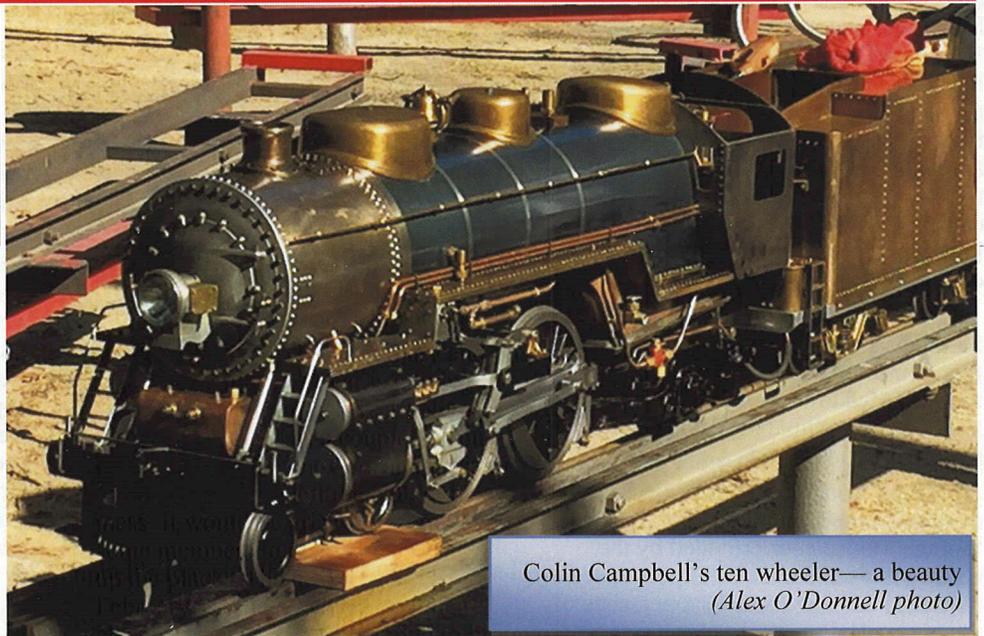
By Les Kovacs
President

It's February and this year is moving on quickly. El Niño gave us a couple of rain showers and it really left the club quite a mess. It would be great if we could get some members to come out and help clean up the place. The next two weekends - February 13th and February 20th are cleanup weekends. We're going to bring a dumpster in and try to clean up the place. There are leaves everywhere so if you can't find something else to do, you could always do some raking. The gunnysacks are in the tool crib and you can just put the leaves by the side of the track.

We have a lot of things that we are planning for 60th anniversary meet. Gary and Martha are working very hard to put something nice together for everybody. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities. All of us working together will make this 60th anniversary meet a big hit!

The East Meadow is almost finished being cleaned. At our last board meeting we decided to start working on narrow-gauge barns. We are building a hoist that will go in place by the steaming bays at the Richardson and Alkire sheds. We hope to double the capacity of the sheds at a minimal cost making it available for

(Continued on page 6)



Colin Campbell's ten wheeler— a beauty
(Alex O'Donnell photo)

Local Small Scales Meet on March 19-20

By Alex O'Donnell

Because of the success of last year's February mini-meet, we will be holding an informal local meet of the smaller scales at LALS on March 19-20. Anybody with running or static equipment in 4-3/4" and 3-1/2" gauges as well as those interested in the smaller gauges is welcome to attend this event.

Lunch will be provided on both the Saturday and Sunday of the meet. Night running will continue on the Saturday night of the meet for those interested. For all 4-3/4" gauge equipment owners in attendance, there will be a very special announcement during lunchtime on Saturday you won't want to miss!

In keeping with traditions, third Sundays are still considered Small Scale Sundays, so dust off that small stuff in the gar-

age once a month and enjoy the constantly improving silver rails at the only small scale club track in SoCal!

Public Service

February

- 21 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 28 Public Rides

March

- 6, 13 Public Rides
- 20 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 27 Public Rides

From the Super



By Ted Merchant
General Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!
Something different is happening at LALSRM. It's called "Winter". That means

less leaves and more landslides!! The Mountain Division experiences new landslides weekly. Those of us that want to shovel slides can do so by shoveling the dirt onto Crystal Springs Dive, next to the wall. We will pick it up with the tractor the following Saturday. Of course, the task is easier if the tractor is immediately available, so feel free to ask qualified members to fire it up.

We had a fantastic extra workday Saturday, February 13. We filled a 40 foot dumpster with all the trash around the East Meadow while Peter Fuad swept the steaming bays and all the area around the Richardson-Alkire sheds.

Doug Young and Les Kovacs leveled the West Meadow site for the new Storage Mausoleum provided by the Carlwood Foundation, so expect to see a new shed out there and disappearance of remaining Halloween props.

Andrew Lagaly, again, deserves recognition for thoroughly cleaning out the tool shed and replacing the defective shovels rakes and picks. Frances and Dee Barns deserve recognition for trimming hedges around Sherwood Station. We greatly appreciate the many of you who come to the club on your own initiative and accomplish significant tasks. Not because you were asked but because you know the jobs need to be done. Many thanks are extended to those members and all who volunteer their hours to make LALSRM so enjoyable. Some of their names are listed under "Who's Been Workin' on the Railroad". Regrettably, we miss recognizing everyone who helps.

And that's the way it is! Keep your fires stoked, your flues clean and your steam hot! Your comments and questions are always welcome.

Ted Merchant, EBMerchant@sbcglobal.net.

Splinters from the Board



By Nick Suncin
February 1, 2016

Secretary's report: Martha Figueroa submitted a party request for March 5th, Ross Harper submitted a party request for February 13th, and

Andrew Chaves submitted requests for February 21st and March 20th. All requests were approved. Flemming Nielsen requested that the "car club" event be made an official club sanctioned event. Nick Suncin motioned, Chuck Mohr 2nd, the motion passed with unanimous approval.

Membership: Probationary member Andrew Mulkeen has successfully passed probation and is now a full member.

General Superintendent: Ted is planning to have a large roll off dumpster delivered for a major cleanup effort on February 13th and February 20th and can use all the help he can get. The main goal is to get the facility as cleaned up and nice looking as possible for our upcoming spring meet.

Facility Planning: We have begun to get bids for the resurfacing and sealing of the station deck.

Safety: Wolf and his team conducted and completed the level 1 safety inspection of all of our club riding cars. A big Thank you goes to everyone who helped.

Operations: The Sunday station and ticket counter crew have been doing an excellent job and have been generating a lot of positive feedback. A very big thank you goes to them!

Old business: Robert Guzman has fabricated a mockup of the proposed gauge one elevated track that is fully adjustable and very robust. Material costs are to be determined. We hope to have a decision made within the next month on how this project will proceed.

Jay Carsman and Robert Guzman have completed the locomotive and boiler display and it looks truly amazing!

A committee to determine how to best proceed with the renovation of the U.P. and S.P. cabooses has been formed. They will also work on a solution for the storage problem in the Kountry Kitchen. The committee appointees are Roger, Les, Tim,

Nick, and John.

We are looking at, and gathering information about different types of P.O.S. (point of sale) systems that we may want to use in the future. We would like the system to be able to print a souvenir type ticket like the tickets we are using now.

The city wants soil samples for the electrical project to move forward. John Smith motioned that we have a new automatic gate installed at our east entrance. David Holman 2nd, motion approved.

New Business: Les proposed a four phase plan to raise the Richardson and Alkire barns:

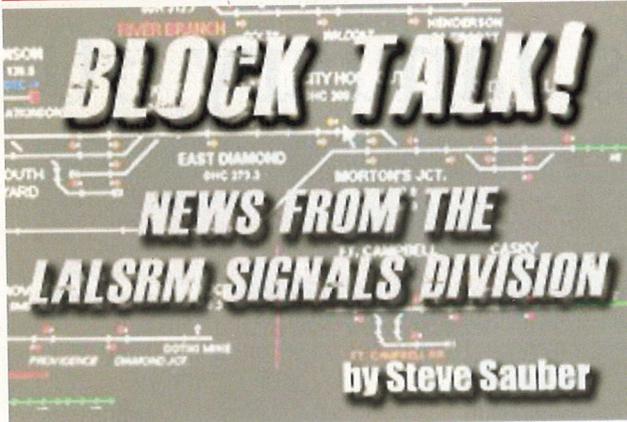
Phase 1: Build and install a solar powered hydraulic transfer table that would access the proposed upper and existing lower storage areas.

Phase 2: temporarily move all equipment out of the Alkire shed to the empty tracks in the Phil West. The Alkire shed would then be rebuilt with two track levels, the lower levels will be able to accommodate narrow gauge equipment and the upper will house inch and a half equipment. The shed would remain a non-occupiable space and the multi-level transfer table will have a winch system on it to make the removal of equipment easier. All work will be done in house.

Phase 3: Build the badly needed warehouse in the East Meadow. This warehouse will be solely for LALSRM equipment such as the bobcat, the tractor, and all of the other LALSRM equipment that is deteriorating out in the elements. This building will allow us to beautify the club by neatly storing a lot of random free floating equipment under one roof and out of sight. The warehouse construction will be mostly outsourced.

Phase 4: Temporarily move the contents of the Richardson shed to the Phil West barn and rebuild it with the same two level layout as the Alkire shed. John Smith motioned that this plan be implemented, Chuck Mohr 2nd, the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Announcements: Peter Fuad has successfully renewed our trademark. We are busy planning for our 60th anniversary and welcome ideas to make this anniversary even better. If you'd like to help plan or have any ideas please see Gary Baker or Martha Figueroa. David Holman has been repairing the chains in the public queue. A big Thank you goes to David!



new member who wants to learn what the signals mean or a longtime member who wants to brush up a bit, we hope you'll find this little cheat sheet useful.

The Signals Division consists of board members Jeremy Steinert, Stevo Brock, Charles Rhoades, Wayne Crabb, Steve Sauber, and Signals Yoda John Smith. Our threefold mission is to ensure the

Welcome to another edition of *Block Talk!*, presenting the latest news and adventures of the LALSRM Signals Division.

If you were here for the 2015 Spring Meet, you may have seen one of the 'Signals Primer' cards making the rounds (kudos to Signals Division board member Jeremy Steinert, who did a great job creating it). In case you missed the meet or didn't see the card, we are providing a reproduction of it below. Whether you're a

safe operation of trains at our club, to educate members about the signal system, and to maintain and upgrade the system so it continues to operate reliably for years to come. You'll find us at the club during Saturday work days or Sunday Public Run days. We'd be happy to discuss any topic regarding the signals system with you.

Look for another installment of *Block Talk!* in an upcoming issue of the Booster. See you trackside!

Member Schedule

February

- 20 Workday
- 21 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 28 Public Rides

March

- 6 Public Rides
- 13 Public Rides
- 7 Board Meeting
- 19 Workday
- 20 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 27 Public Rides

LALSRM Automatic Block Signals Primer

A helpful 'cheat sheet' brought to you by the LALSRM Signals Division



Clear: Next two signal blocks are clear of traffic.



Warning: Next signal is RED OR next double-headed signal and switch is set to a DIVERGING track.



Stop: This block is occupied OR other traffic has priority at the switch. IF track is visibly clear, you may stop and proceed.



A

Absolute Stop: Do not proceed. Absolute signals are placed in areas of low visibility, such as blind curves and switches. Violations are grounds for removal from the railroad.



Diverging: Next switch is set to diverge from main line. All stations and yards are on diverging routes, as are steep grades, crossovers, sidings, and station track 2.



Twice Diverging: Next two switches are set to diverge. There is also a 4 headed version, in which case the next three switches are set to diverging tracks.



Diverging Stop: Next switch is set to diverge AND the next block on the diverging route is occupied or other traffic has priority. Same rule applies to triple- and quadruple-head signals.

Dwarf Signals:



Yard Bypass



Flashing Red or Red over Yellow: Entering Yard

Ladder Track:



Straight Through (stay on ladder)



Diverge to barn

Safety Inspections January 30



The annual safety inspection of all rolling stock took place January 30. Members' private equipment as well as the Museum's bench seat cars and locos were inspected for wheel gauge,

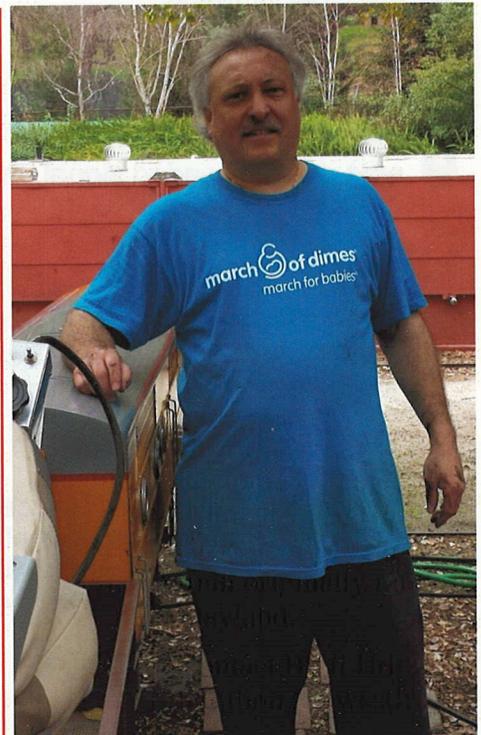
brakes and other safety items.. ▲ Larry Sachs and Dave Clark inspect bench cars. ▼ Jim Camry inspects loco.



For Sale

Restored 10 horsepower 1937 Miniature Train Company G-12 train, 3 cars, and 400ft of track (12 curved, 10 straight). The gauge is 12'. The train originally ran for years at San Francisco's Playland.

Contact Brett Britz, Mobile 559.269.9621
brettbr@sunwestfruit.com



Who's been Working on the Railroad

February

Dee Barnes	Robert Guzman
Francis Barnes	Miles Kristman
Mel Breese	Ted Merchant
Wayne Crabbe	Art Pahr
Gary Evans	Steve Rotstein
Peter Fuad	Bill Schirmer
John Garcia	Doug Young
John Goulding	... and many others
Doug Graham	

Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
5202 Zoo Dr.

Los Angeles, California

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

Website - www.lals.org
General Info - info@lals.org
Membership - membership@lals.org

2016

Officers and Directors

President	Les Kovacs
Vice President	Roger Williams
Secretary	Nick Suncin
Treasurer	Alex O'Donnell
Directors	David Holman, John Smith, Chuck Mohr, Ron Hitchcock



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

Editor — Peter Fuad

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

Road—Owner Engineer Conductor

January 3, 2016 — 659 Riders— High 60°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad,	Bob Quinn
SP PA1—LALSRM	Francis Barnes	Andy Blake
UP—Naimy	Ted Naimy	David Ross, Brandon Ruiz
SP 7660—Breese	Mel Breese	Roberto Lopez
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Daryl Payne

January 10, 2016 — 440 Riders—High 60°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn
SP PA1—LALSRM	Francis Barnes	Larry Mitchell, Sy Seidell
UP—Naimy	Ted Naimy	Brandon Ruiz

January 17, 2016 — 980 Riders— High 71°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad, Greg Pschaida	Bob Quinn
UP—Naimy	Ted Naimy	Sy Seidell
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Tom Gibson,
SP PA1—LALSRM	Jeff Groseth	Bob Crone, Roberto Lopez

January 24, 2016 — 791 Riders— High 65°

SP PA1—LALSRM	Francis Barnes	Ray Secara, David Ross
City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn
No. 8—LALSRM	Harrison Hitchcock	Larry Mitchell, Robert Guzman
SP 7660—Breese	Mel Breese	Roberto Lopez
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Greg Pschaida

January 31, 2016 —Rain— High 58°



Safety Coordinators	Ron Hitchcock, Wayne Crabb
Station Masters	Robert Guzman, Andy Blake, Gary Evans, Wayne Crabb, Larry Mitchell
Souvenirs and Tickets	Lucille Secara, Dee Barnes

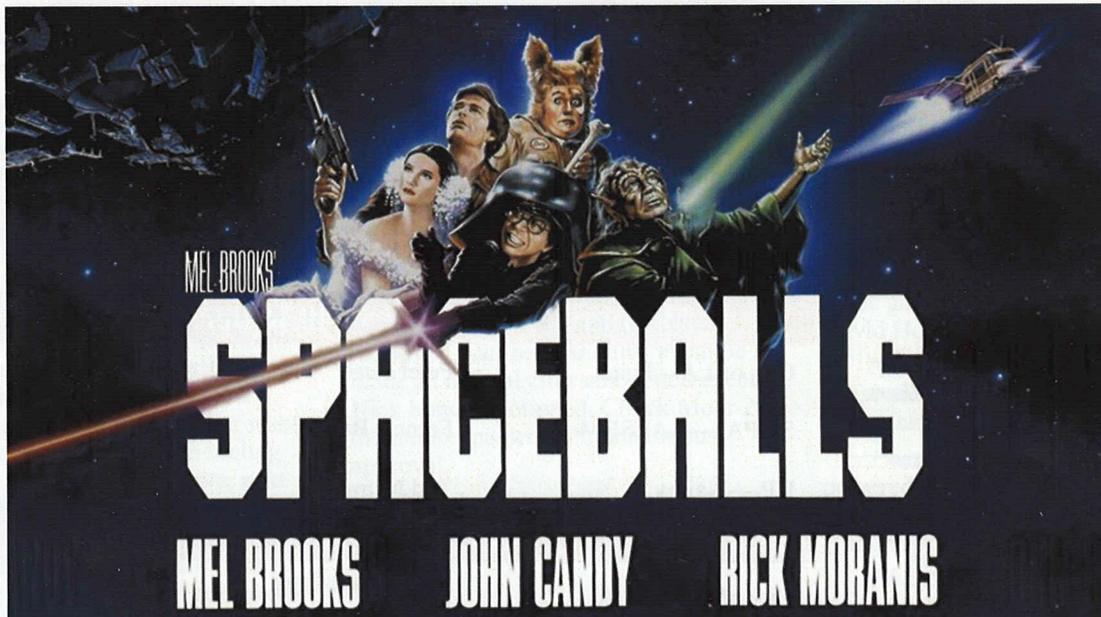
Riders: January 2016 — 2,870
Total 2016 — 2,870 Total 2015 — 2,324

Engineer Classes

Want to be an engineer entitled to pull the public? Engineer classes are held quarterly and include testing. If you would like to attend a class call Michael Murphy at (818) 897-4254 to reserve your spot in the class. You must have passed the Level 1 Conductor class.

SWEETHEART DINNER

Saturday, February 27



MOVIE NIGHT & TRAIN NIGHT RUN

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

Green Salad / Garlic Bread and Drink

Donation for Dinner \$5.00

Dessert - Strawberry Cake

Dinner served at 6p.m. ■ Movie starts at dusk

Call for information: Peter Bowen 805-216-9743
Martha Figueroa 626-232-7053

CANCELLED IF IT RAINS

President's Message

(Continued from page 6)

narrow-gauge equipment. It's an ambitious project and we hope to get it finished

before the end of the year.

Remember, the 20th is our normal workday and also our general meeting. I will not be able to attend but I believe we will have Nick, our secretary who will be able to fill you in on the details of what's going on. Also, remember to come to the general meetings so we know which direction to guide our club members. The club belongs to you the members. It is not only our call to decide how the club should be

run.

It'll be May before you know it and that'll be our big spring meet. Let's all come out and help to make this meet our best one ever. I want to thank everyone in advance who volunteers to ready the club for the meet. It takes an enormous amount of effort, hours and hard work on all our parts so let's work together so our meet will be a success. See you all on the rails