



Spring Meet Issue!



Tim LaGaly and Gary Evans at work on track supports (Richard Gross Photo)

## Gauge 1 Track Work Advances

By Richard Gross

Tim and Andrew LaGaly, Robert Guzman and Gary Evans have continued to advance the Ga1 track with amazing speed. The bridge sections that are missing are at the galvanizers and we await their return. The top material has been cut and fitted to all the sections on site and attaching it and the edging will start soon.

This track has so many points of departure from any other permanent Ga1 track, it's hard to find an area that isn't unique. Many clubs follow light weight material or wood construction while ours is heavy duty, hot dipped galvanized steel and should require very little adjustment once commissioned. The running surface

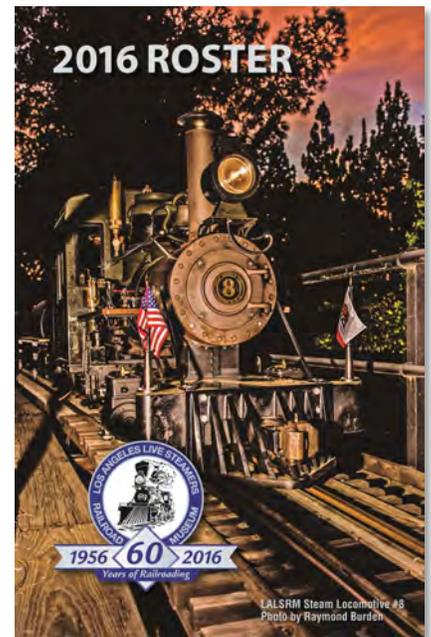
is outdoor rated shower backer board and as such should also need minimal maintenance. Our mainline is huge at about 250'. The view block in the middle of the track, our SP bay window caboose, is the unlike any other track I've ever seen or run on.

Sadly, we are currently also unique in that we will only be able to put 2 loops of track around as we do not have the funds for switches and ground throws. If you intend to run Ga1 trains and have been waiting for the perfect time to help, this is it! To outfit the entire support system requires 18 switches and they're expensive. If you can help, please deliver checks made out to LALSRRM to Tim LaGaly. Remember, the contribution is tax deductible.

## Get Your 2016 Roster at the Meet

The 2016 Roster – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition is hot off the press and will be available to members at the Spring Meet. Your 2016 dues must be paid in order for you to get your Roster.

(Continued on page 4)



## Public Service

### May

- 22 Public Rides
- 27-30 **SPRING MEET (No Public Rides)**

### June

- 5, 12 Public Rides
- 19 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 26 Public Rides

# From the Super



By Ted Merchant  
General Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!

Well, it's crunch time now. The Spring Meet celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming,

May 25-30 to be exact, and we have considerable work to do! There will be plenty of locomotives with engineers wanting to burn all types of fuel so we need to be sure ALL RIGHT-OF-WAYS ARE CLEARED OF COMBUSTIBLES. This includes the smaller gage tracks.

All of you willing to come to the club and rake leaves and pine needles on any day are more than welcome! The West End is particularly problematic. I recommend that anyone, willing to work at the West End, try to clear the branches and twigs and place them in the green waste pile on Crystal Springs Drive or in the middle of the lawn at the West End.

We have plenty of dead weeds on the right-of-ways. They need to be removed with scrapers, pruners or whatever works and taken to Crystal Springs Drive.

Saturday, May 21, is going to be an important work-day. We will use blowers, rakes, shovels and the Super Sucker to direct leaves to the lawn in the middle of the West End. We will then use the tractor and trailer to get all that debris out of there. There is plenty of pruning that needs to be done along the right-of-ways particularly along the Mountain Route and the Smith Valley Lines.

If you find something that needs to be cleaned up... then clean it up! Let's make the Club something we can proudly show off to our friends.

As far as general information is concerned, I found more Poison Oak on the cliff above the Eucalyptus Grove. It shouldn't be a threat since no one goes back there, but I will try to spray it in the next two weeks.

Ted Merchant, [EBMerchant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:EBMerchant@sbcglobal.net).

# Splinters from the Board



By Nick Suncin  
May 2, 2016

## Secretary's report:

Party requests for Bill Schirmer June 25th , Mel Bresee June 18th Both party requests approved.

Membership: Congratulations to David Rossi , he has passed probation and is now a full member. Prospective resident members William "Tom" Crue, Lynn Bebenroth , Iran Ausley , Amy Roehm , and Bradley Postle were introduced. In addition Mike Crone is a new nonresident member.

**Superintendent:** The final push to get the facility cleaned up for our upcoming Spring meet has commenced. The wooden ties on the O'Brien Moore bridge will need to be replaced at some point.

**Operations:** When operating the new SW 1500 club engine, it is important to shut the engine off during loading and unloading until the control lever lockout is installed. It's very important to keep a close eye on your speed and never exceed 6 mph when running public trains. Please stay off of the station and platform area unless you are helping to run the station or part of a train crew during the Sunday run.

**Old business:** The S.P. Office caboose is nearly finished, all that is left is the installation of the air conditioner. We want to thank Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Tim and Andrew LaGaly for working so hard on the completion of the gauge one railroad. The major repair to the Sherwood station deck will be deferred until after the meet.

**New Business:** Ron Hitchcock motioned that we dedicate the Library to Bruce

Ward and have a dedication ceremony during the spring meet. Nick Suncin 2nd, the motion passed with unanimous votes

**Announcements:** Miles and Thaine have put a tremendous amount of work into the two new club engines. The President and the rest of the board thanks them both for their dedication and time. The President also personally thanks Alex O'Donnell for volunteering his time to set up and run the LALS RM booth at Fullerton railroad days. Please come out and run your equipment, Sunday is our run day! Just be sure you have a working radio with you on the proper channel and please keep your train off the station platform. Otherwise come on out and run your trains, steam or otherwise and enjoy your railroad. The public loves seeing our equipment and the more LALS RM is enjoyed the better!

## A Complimentary Letter

11 MARCH 2016

GARY-

I HOPE THIS NOTE FINDS ITS WAY TO YOU.

YOU MIGHT REMEMBER SHOWING A GUY AND HIS DAUGHTER AROUND THE LALS RM LAST SUNDAY, MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>. THAT GUY WAS ME, AND I WANTED TO SEND YOU A NOTE TO SAY THANKS FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND THE TOUR.

ALEXIS AND I WERE IN L.A. FOR A SPRING BREAK TRIP FOR HER. WE DID LACTY MUSEUM OF ART, THE GETTY CENTER, AND WARNER BROS STUDIO TOUR FOR ALEXIS, AND THE ALTRY WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM AND LALS RM FOR ME. GREAT TRIP, AGAIN, GARY, THANKS FOR HOSTING US AT LALS RM. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO MAKING OUR TRIP A GOOD ONE, SINCERELY,  
LANE LITTELL

Gary Evans received the above letter from a member of the public. It's rare that such a nice compliment comes our way and it really shows how a little effort can help to make new friends for our club.



LALSRM 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# Collector's Apparel and Souvenirs Now Available

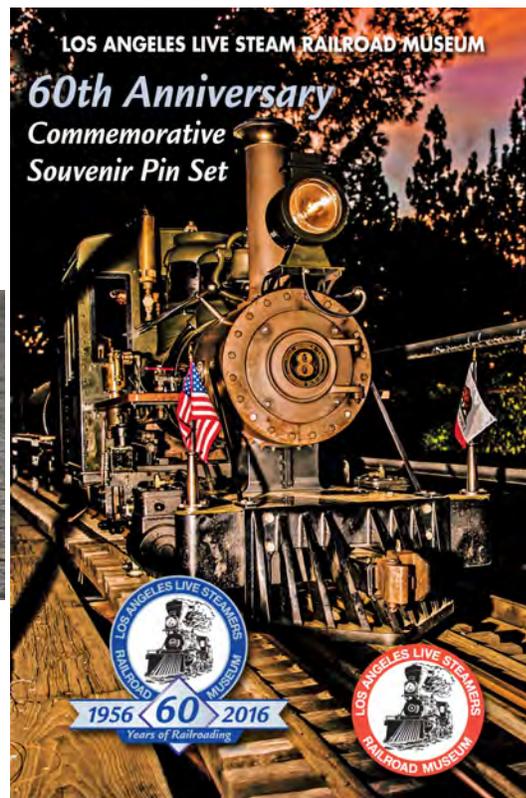
Silkscreened T-shirts and embroidered caps with LALSRM's blue and silver anniversary logo are now available for purchase at the Souvenir window at the Station. T-shirts come in both youth and adult sizes.



Also newly arrived are the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary cloisonné pins for your lapel or cap (*below*). These distinctive pins can be purchased singly – or paired up with our standard Club red pin on a special 4" x 6" commemorative card (*right*). All are priced attractively so you can collect some for yourself as well as your family and friends.



Navy blue polo shirts with the 60<sup>th</sup> logo embroidered above the pocket will be on hand by Sunday, May 22. These high quality shirts by Port Authority are in limited quantities, so be sure to check them out.



Vintage and classic trains, cars, trucks, steam-powered toys, and collectibles of all kinds will be displayed on the LALSRM grounds. If you would like to participate, please call event coordinator Flemming Nielsen at (818) 843-2751.



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

# Early Days of LALS RM

*(Editor's Note: The history of LALS RM, compiled by Doug Alkire in July, 2004, will be printed monthly in the Engine Booster this year, beginning in this issue.)*

## Part 1

### Finding Interested Live Steamers

Early in 1956 Gene Paul, a member of the Southern California Live Steamers, based in Lomita, California, on the property of "Little Engines," a commercial hobby supplier, began to contact other members about starting a new club of live steamers. Many of the original SCLS members had dropped out, and Mr. Paul was making an effort to get them back together in a new location.

Among the first members to be contacted were Dick and Dorothy Bagley, the organizers of SCLS. They were the best source of names and addresses of live steamers in the area because of their publication, with their partner, Bob Day, of "The Miniature Locomotive" magazine. They met in members' homes.

### Finding a Site

The big problem was to find a site for a track layout. With no funds to buy the acreage needed, a "zero cost" piece of land was needed.

Mr. Paul's first thought was the infield of the Hollywood Park race track, but that was rejected by the owners.

Mr. Paul's next thought was to seek an area in a city park, since "recreation" is the purpose of a city park. This seemed like a good possibility, and it brought him back to Dick Bagley, since Gene knew him and knew that he worked with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Bagley had become closely associated with Charley Atkins, the Director of Griffith Park, at the time that Mr. Atkins conceived the idea of creating Travel Town. This new Griffith Park feature had become a reality and was well established.

Almost a year before Gene's request, Charley Atkins had considered having a miniature live steam railroad located close to Travel Town. There was only one steam train in operation at Travel Town at the time, and a group of operating small steamers would provide a more active exhibit for the tax-paying public.

In June, 1956, local live steamers were told of two sites being offered by the Recreation and Parks Department. The first site a plot of land in the northwest corner of Travel Town. A second plot was just east of the Travel Town maintenance yard. The live steamer group picked the latter site, which is where the Los Angeles Live Steamer Railroad Museum has been located since 1956.

On August 18, 1956, letters were sent to all known live steamers in the Los Angeles area. The letter stated that the Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks was allowing scale live steamer trackage to be installed on a 2 1/2 acre plot east of Travel Town, and that there would be a "gabfest" and "Dutch" picnic at Travel Town on Sunday, September 9, 1956.

### Name Selected

At that meeting, there was discussion of priorities, the first of which was to select a name for the new club. Most attendees thought that since so many lived in the San Fernando Valley, that location should be in the name. Mel Roberts suggested "Los Angeles Live Steamers" since there would be potential new members from all over the huge Los Angeles area. That name was selected.

Those present were asked to sign up. Suitable paper was not available, so the signatures were made on a piece of brown wrapping paper found in the area.

### Annual Dues Set at \$10

A third meeting was held on Sept. 21 at which 20-30 live steamers attended. It was decided that the initiation fee would be \$10.00, and the dues \$10.00 per year. All of those present signed up and became Charter Members.

The first Membership Roster was published early in 1957 with a total of 51 members, which was very good for a new club. At the next meeting Gene Paul was elected President, Garold Kubicek, Vice-President, Jim Lesovsky, Secretary/Treasurer, and "Buss" Sutch, General Superintendent.

Members were advised to contact Charlie Atkins, the founder of Travel Town, because Mr. Atkins could help LALS procure decomposed granite, top soil, and a sprinkler system for the site at no cost to the club.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Chance to Buy "1956" Jackets With Your Name

By Christie Edinger

Many members have been asking about "forever" club jackets that have only "EST 1956" on the logo. A minimum order of 25 is required in order to get a decent price. Here's how it's done:

You must provide a plain jacket of your choice. The Dickies Eisenhower jacket is recommended but any jacket will do. The Dickies jacket is available with a light quilted lining or unlined, and is available in a wide range of sizes for both men and women. With each jacket include a note with your contact information and the name you wish to have embroidered on the front. Get this to us by May 1.

Bring your jacket to the club any Sunday along with a \$50 check to LALS or contact Christie Edinger, [k0iu@att.net](mailto:k0iu@att.net), 818-653-4481 and I will make arrangements to meet you.

## Roster Available at Meet

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will not be having any ads in this year's Roster, but anyone who had hoped to advertise is welcome to place an ad in the Booster. Please contact Diana Manchester or Peter Fuad.

If you have not yet paid your annual dues please contact Tim LaGaly (payments) and Wilbur Dong (database) immediately.

# FOR SALE 1-1/2" SCALE NICKEL PLATE BERKSHIRE

Ron Rees  
110 Marsyla Hts. Dr., Winlock, WA 98596  
NKPBerk@gmail.com

- The majority of castings and parts are from Jim Kreider. The engine frames are scratch built from flat bar. Also the tender frame is scratch built. The tender trucks are Buckeye from Mountain Car co. Kreider brass tender sides and back top are used, and the rest of the water compartment is all stainless steel with about 2500+- copper rivets all hand driven. The cab on the engine is Kreider sheet metal parts also.
- 7 -1/2" gauge
- Propane fired. From the time you light the fire until pop off of the safeties is 35 min. That is with a propane psi of 5.
- Most of the model valves are from Super Scale.
- Includes refrigerator car which holds propane bottles. The Refer car carries the two 5 gal propane bottles. It is totally scratch built except for the couplers. The top lifts up for access.
- The tender holds 27 gals. of water.
- Includes a 16ft flat 7000# double axle car trailer with three tracks. There are top boards that span across the top to put a tarp over. Also includes a transition track that goes between the trailer and turntable
- Asking price for all of the above \$85000.



# President's Message



By Les Kovacs  
President

IT'S FINALLY HERE THE SPRING MEET AND 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LALS. I hope to see every one come out and enjoy the facility. Every-

one's been working hard to fix the place up and I would like to thank you all for your help. It's been fun with good times and bad for the last 60 years. This spring meet I would like to see us get together - put our differences aside have fun and move forward to the next 60 years with a new outlook on the future of LALS. Our hobby is a brotherhood of people with the same goal in mind which is the preservation of the live steam and railroad history. So, moving forward let's think of ways we can make the hobby better for the future of all of us.

There are plenty of activities planned during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meet and I hope you can all show your support by joining the fun.

See you there!

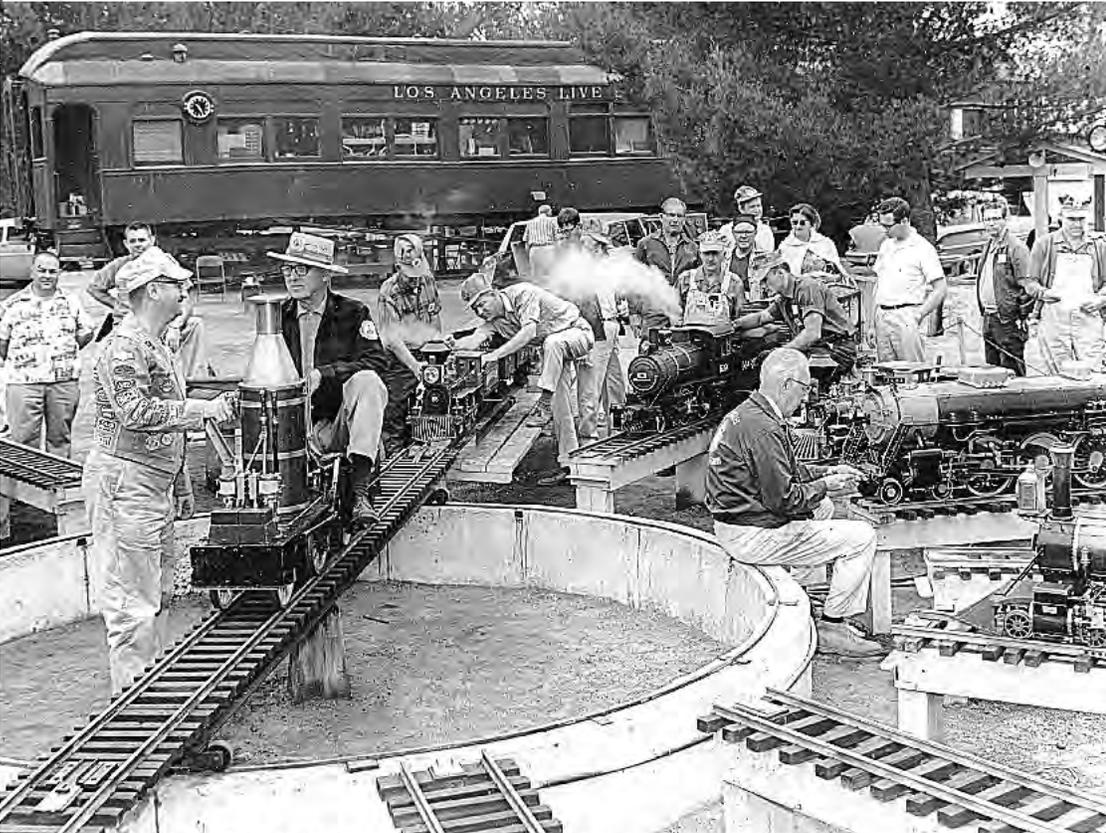
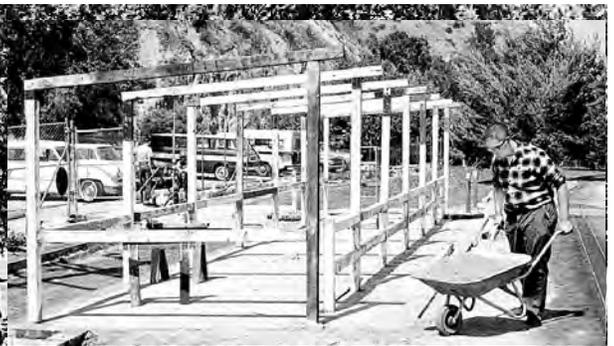
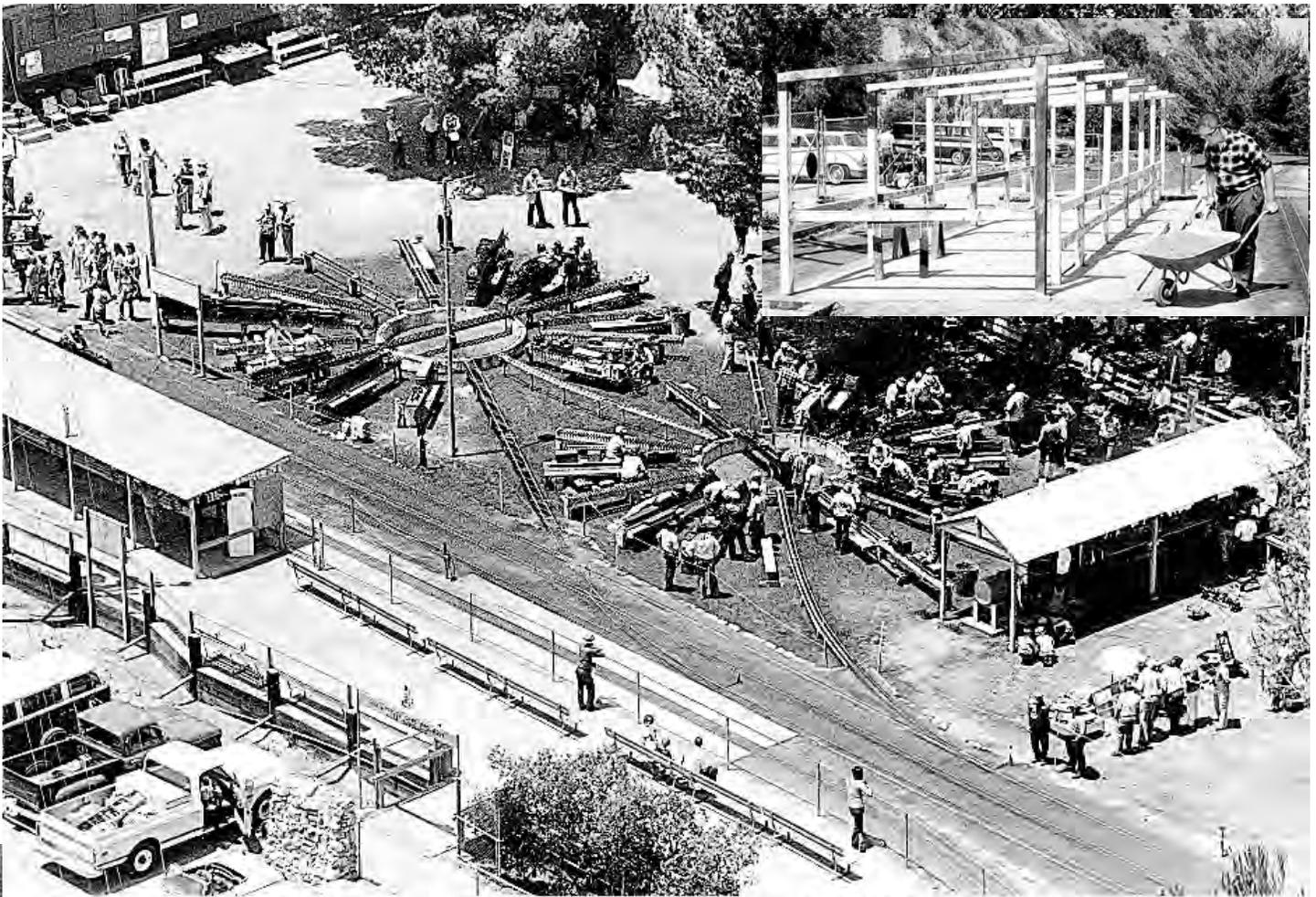
# Early Days of LALS RM

(Continued from page 4)

### LV&T Coach

Mr. Atkins made available from the Travel Town collection our first full-sized car, a wooden coach, #32, built in 1903 for the Las Vegas & Tonopah R.R., and used later on the Tonopah & Tidewater R.R. as car #1508. It was moved in late 1956 to the west end of the infield, and rested on full-sized rail and ties for a number of years before being purchased by the Nevada State Museum for its railroad exhibit.

More about rehabilitating the coach and other early developments in the next issue of the *Engine Booster*.



## Observation Car

LALS SRM has been a work in progress for 60 years, including much enjoyment of the live steaming hobby along the way.

▲ *Inset:* building of Sutchville Station in 1964.

▲ Looking north by west at the infield steaming bays during LALS 1970 IBLs meet. At the left is Sutchville Station with its outside view area for the public. At the right is the stationary steam engine shelter.

◀ Morris Abowitz talks to Hutch Cooper (on the turntable with his vertical boiler locomotive). Harry Harper, right works on his 4-6-2 at LALS 1968 Spring Meet.

# Member Schedule

## May

- 21 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 22 Public Rides
- 27-30 **SPRING MEET (No Public Rides)**

## June

- 5 Public Rides
- 6 Board Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Public Rides
- 18 Work Day/ Member Meeting
- 19 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 25 **Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night**
- 26 Public Rides
- 30 **2015-16 Shed Lease Year Ends**

# SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

## April

Locos	Engineers	Conductors	
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Sara Morris	Bob Quinn
SP PA1—LALSRM	Greg Pschaida	Ted Merchant	Ray Secara
SP 7660—Breese	Mel Breese	Sy Seidell	Robert Guzman
Santa Fe Electric—	Thaine Morris	John Garcia	Bob Crone
LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Brandon Luis	Wolf Fengler
SP 2468	Larry Mitchell	Darrell Payne	Jeff Groseth
MoPac—Morris	Peter Fuad		Roberto Gomez
	Sy Seidell		
	Ray Secara		

**Safety Coordinators**—Ron Hitchcock, Bob Crone

**Station Masters**—Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Larry Mitchell, Wayne Crabb, Al Way, George Becker

**Souvenirs and Tickets**—Lucille Secara, Dee Barnes

## Ridership and Max Temps

April 3	755	83°
April 10	428	67°
April 17	663	88°
April 24	670	73°

**Riders: April 2016 — 2,516**

**Total 2016 — 11,039**

**Total 2015 — 10,177**



### New Water Heater for Kitchen

The Kountry kitchen has a new tankless water heater! All volunteer labor was donated at no charge to the club. We need more members to come out and help not just with railway projects but also with the maintenance of the grounds. I'm usually around on the weekends and after hours at the club and always willing to teach plumbing or electrical.

Roger Williams

## Who's been Working on the Railroad

### April/May

Steve Altmayer	Darrell Payne
Stevy Brock	Charles Rhodes
Wayne Crabb,	Dylan Ross
John DePhillip	Steve Sauber
Gary Evans	Bill Schirmer
Martha Figueroa	John Smith
Robert Gomez	Dani Smith
John Goulding	Steve Sauber
Ross Harper	Jeremy Steinert
Scott Hoagland	Nick Suncin
Les Kovacs	John Valencia
Miles Kristman	Doug Young
Time LaGaly	Mark Vreeken
Ted Merchant	Collin Westphal
Scott McCullough	Roger Williams
Greg McMurry	... and many others
Alex O'Donnell	

## 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

### 2016

## Officers and Directors

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



1956 **60** 2016

Years of Railroading

# 60th Anniversary Spring Meet

Memorial Day Weekend  
Friday to Monday ♦ May 27-30, 2016

- ♦ Trains, trains and more trains!
- ♦ Saturday Night Catered Dinner by Naples Rib Company
- ♦ Big Band Music by the Esquires
- ♦ Hearty home cookin' at the Kountry Kitchen
- ♦ President's Auction on Sunday
- ♦ Family Fun Activities & Bingo
- ♦ Railroad Items for Sale
- ♦ Saturday Night Raffle

*See YOU there!*