

# LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



February 2015

Celebrating 59 Years

www.lals.org

## President's Message



By Les Kovacs  
President

It's our second month as a Board and we haven't burn the place down yet! Last month, we had our first general meeting and the attendance was great. Remember these meetings are for you, the club members. With your input we can get a feel of where you would like the club to go and plan agendas for the Board.

### More Participation

We need to focus on moving forward not back to make this club better for all. One item discussed at the meeting was how to get more participation. This has to be done by the Board but mostly has to come from you, the members. If you've been coming out and haven't seen someone in a while, give them a call and ask them to join us again. If you haven't been here lately, come out and join the fun. We've been having great weather so come on out and enjoy one of Jaime's specialties with your friends on a Sunday.

Also, it's not too early to think about the Spring Meet. It'll be here before you know it. Tell your friends from other clubs to come join us. We'd like to make it bigger and better than ever. Remember, it's run what you brought. This year, dust off your steam powered boats because we're going to have a small lake to run them!

### Need More Help

As always, the club can use help. Ted Merchant has been doing a wonder-

## Bylaw Membership Vote Set For February 21

A membership vote to amend the Museum's bylaws is scheduled for the General Meeting on February 21 at 1:00 pm. That is a work day.

## Tie Replacement Continues on Smaller Scales

By Alex O'Donnell

In the last two months alone, the smaller scales have had another 100 feet of wood ties replaced with new plastic ties. The replaced sections are mainlines mostly concentrated along the north side of the outer loop adjacent to Cooper Yard and Old Sherwood Station, some of which were ballasted with hardened asphalt. Fortunately, with those sections now complete, only 100 feet or

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ful job with everyone's help. However, he can always use more.

I'd really like to thank Gary Baker, Ted Merchant and their crew for cleaning up Halloween in one month. The trailer is ready to go back to its parking spot until next time.

Tim LaGaly is putting the finishing touches on the library and we'll be moving the books, etc to its new home soon. We are moving forward with the signal bridge to the second floor as soon as possible. This will be a club project.

The 2015 budget and allocated funds for the club are now in place. Don't forget, if you would like to work on a project, and the cost will exceed

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The changes are driven by a need to insert certain provisions in our bylaws that are required to maintain our 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We are also taking this opportunity to correct various grammatical and spelling errors. No other substantive changes are being made.

The recent Constant Contact emailing to members contained a link to the bylaw revisions. Please ask a Board member if you need to see a copy of the changes.

Approval requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those attending the general meeting. At least 25 members must attend the meeting for the vote to be effective.

Your attendance is critical. Please plan to attend the meeting.

## Public Service

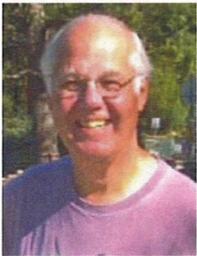
### February

- 15 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 22 Public Rides

### March

- 1 Public Rides
- 8 Public Rides
- 18 Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
- 22, 29 Public Rides

# From the Super



By Ted Merchant  
General Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!  
We had another terrific work-day, Saturday, January 17.

More than 37 members came and accomplished a tremendous amount. Hal-loween is totally cleaned up. Sutchville Station is open and available to pick up private riders (on private trains). Most of the debris that chronically litters our park has been removed. And the plumbing and electricity for the drinking fountain by the steaming bays has been energized. It is exciting coming to the track on week days and non-work-day-Saturdays and finding members, old and new, working at random jobs, usually raking. This is a tremendous help and a good way to log shed credit and probation credit hours. The amount of member participation in Club maintenance is terrific' (ref. *Who's been Workin' on the Railroad*), and our Board continues to sincerely thank you for your efforts.

Next month's projects include: connecting the drinking fountain at the steaming bays, removing the mulch pile next to the maintenance of way barn, replacing the awnings at the maintenance of way barn and Sherwood Station, spraying herbicide to eliminate the weeds germinated by recent rains, upgrading our fleet of pull carts, now numbering nine, and, of course, raking leaves.

A large future project is the inspection, pruning, and in some cases removing ailing trees. We anticipate hiring a trimmer to help us in that effort. If you have concerns about certain trees, please express them at the general meeting and official work-Saturday, February 21. I look forward to seeing you there.

So that's the way it is! Relax, be happy and think steam! Your comments and questions are always welcome. See you at the rails.

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

# Splinters from the Board



By Nick Suncin  
February 2, 2015

**Party Requests:** Chris Mahoney's (small scale meet 3/22 ) and Fleming Nielsen's (6/14) party requests were approved.

**Membership:** Probationary members Ross Harper and Christopher Markham are now officially full members. Andrew Chaves introduced Sy Seidell, a prospective resident member. The membership committee is looking for experienced members to be mentors for future new members

**General Superintendent:** January had two very fruitful work days and Hal-loween is officially gone. Ted sincerely thanks everyone for their participation. The drinking fountain that has been languishing in the parking lot will be installed soon. The mulch pile, weed abatement, and tree trimming will be the next big tasks. Three new wheelbarrows and five new pull carts have been added to the club's existing fleet. The expansion and renewal of the maintenance of way awnings will soon be under way. The eucalyptus canyon project will soon have elevations to see.

**Facility Planning:** There is a design pending for the future one inch station. A new F.C.R. has been submitted for the proposed gauge one track. A request for elevations and a plot plan has been made by Steve Altmayer.

**Safety Committee:** Wolf and his crew has completed the inspections of club cars.

**Old business:** Drawings for the electrical project should be done by the end of February. Painting of the N gauge building is under way and soon a door will be installed. Once the building is secure the construction of the layout will begin.

The bridge to the library will be built in-house.

Bylaw modifications consisting mainly of correcting grammatical and spelling errors will be up for a vote at an upcoming general meeting. These corrections are necessary for the retention of LALSARM's 501c3 status.

**New business:** The #8 caboose will

no longer be stored in the maintenance bay. It will be stored in the maintenance of way area as soon as the awnings are repaired. It is very important that we keep the maintenance bay open and accessible. Please do not store or park equipment in the maintenance bay.

A proposal for future Adventures by Disney events entailing the use of the railroad and select club equipment has been submitted. Adventures by Disney and Carolwood would both carry their own insurance for these events. A decision has not been made.

**Announcements:** The sweetheart dinner, movie, and night run will take place February 28. Train crews and station personnel have been asked to please coordinate their lunch breaks so that everyone doesn't leave for lunch at the same time.

When tagging equipment with a bad order tag, please be specific in writing on the tag about the problem and please let us know that there is a problem.

The innermost parking lot will be closed on Sundays to all parking due to safety concerns. Handicap spots will be designated in the main lot. Only loading and unloading of railroad equipment will be allowed in the innermost parking lot on Sundays.

The general meeting will be at noon on the work Saturday.

## Member Schedule

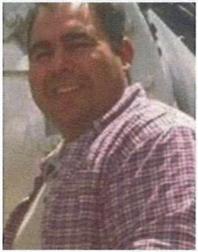
### February

- 15 Public Rides/Disney Barn
- 21 Work day; General Meeting;  
**By law vote**
- 22 Public Rides
- 28 **Sweetheart Dinner and Run**

### March

- 1,8 Public Rides
- 15 Public Rides/Disney Barn  
Open
- 21 Work day; General Meeting
- 22, 29 Public Rides

# NUTS AND BOLTS



By Roger Williams

Well, first of all I want to thank all the members that have been coming out and volunteering. Our grounds look great. We now have a forge located at our steam tractor shack. If anyone is interested in the fine art of blacksmithing or just want to make a few horseshoes, please go and bug Terry Spahr for a demo!

Progress is being made on our n-scale building! New coat of paint has been applied. We are hoping to see full nscale operation by the spring meet. As far as our Gauge-1 project, Bob Crone has submitted updated plans that the board is currently reviewing.

We will be cleaning out the wash alongside our MOW tracks to install our new donated pond liner for steamboat operation during the spring meet. If you are interested in participating, drop me an email.

One last thing, I would like to remind that if you are conducting a train on Sunday, you are responsible for helping to guide passengers on and off your train as well as opening and securing exit gate when needed.

Happy Steaming!!

## Smaller Scale Tie Replacement

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so of track remains to be replaced on the outer loop.

The next targets for tie replacement are along the westernmost curves of both loops, the northeast curve of the dual-gauge inner loop, and other various sections along the north side of the inner loop. As mentioned last December, aside from the occasional route detour during an active work session, the lines will remain continuous for regular use during this long term project, so make sure to bring your 4-3/4" and 3-1/2" gauge equipment in the coming months to enjoy these recent improvements on the smaller side of the railroad.

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

\$500.00, you must get Board approval. Even if your department has monies allocated, you still need approval.

If you have an idea for a project, talk to Steve Altmayer or Ted Merchant to see if it has to go through the FCR process.

### Weights in Station Taken

Unfortunately, I discovered something disturbing on Sunday's run. Someone took the weights and the weight hanger from the old antique hanger we have in the station. Things like this hurt all of us. Please if anyone has any information, let a Board member know and there will be no questions asked.

Remember to attend the next general meeting, which is very important. You will be voting on the bylaw update for our 501C3 status for the State and Federal government.

### Sweetheart Dinner and Run

Martha Figueroa will be putting on a club party/dinner on February 28<sup>th</sup>. She generally handles everything herself but I'm sure she would appreciate any extra help.

Let's all show up and have a good time. That's what we are supposed to be doing – having fun and running trains!

# Sweetheart Dinner Train Night Run

Saturday, February 28 at 5p.m.

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Sausages, Garlic Bread, Salad,  
Strawberry Cake

Donation: \$5.00 Sign-up sheet  
Kountry Kitchen

For Information, call Martha Figueroa or Peter Bowen

*Please join us for a night of being loved  
You are my Sweetheart*

**FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE**

# Who's been Working on the Railroad

## February

Steve Altmayer	Miles Kristman
Glen Austin	Tim LaGaly
Gary Baker	Roberto Lopez
Jim Baker	Greg McMurray
Sam Calderwood	Ted Merchant
Andrew Chaves	Michael Murphy
Bob Clark	Flemming Nielsen
Dave Clark	Alex O'Donnell
Wayne Crabb	Charles Rhoades
Bob Crone	Steve Ruatta
Lloyd Davis	Larry Sack
Christie Edinger	Steve Sauber
Gary Evans	John Smith
Peter Fuad	Steve Sauber
John de Phillip, Jr.	Chris Solak
John Goulding	Nick Suncin
Carolyn Hoagland	Ron Tarjany
Scott Hoagland	Mark Vreeken
David Holman	Doug Young
Don Kallgren	Roger Williams
Les Kovaks	... and many others

### 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](http://www.lals.org)  
General Info - [info@lals.org](mailto:info@lals.org)  
Booster - [booster@lals.org](mailto:booster@lals.org)

### 2015 Officers and Directors

President	Les Kovacs
Vice President	Roger Williams
Secretary	Nick Suncin
Treasurer	Steve Ruatta
Directors	David Holman
	Andrew Chaves
	Ted Merchant
	Steve Ruatta

## SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

### Road Engineer Conductor January 4, 2015 — 763 Riders — High 70°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn
LALS No. 8	Andrew Chaves, Roger Frymire	Robert Guzman, Steve Sauber
SP PA1—LALSRM	Jeremy Steiner	Wayne Crabb
CS 73	Christie Edinger	Steve Sauber
SP 7660—Breese	Mel Breese	Roberto Lopez

### January 11, 2015 — Rain — High 61°

### January 18, 2015 — 841 Riders — High 75°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn
LALSRM No. 8	Andrew Chaves	Scott Hoagland
Frisco—Mitchell	Larry Mitchell	Robert Guzman
CS 73	Christie Edinger	Steve Sauber
Santa Fe—LALSRM	Mark Vreeken	Ray Secara
SP PA1—LALSRM	Francis Barnes	Steve Sauber

### January 25, 2015 — 720 Riders — High 79°

City of LA—Fuad	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn
SP 7660—Breese	Mel Breese	Roberto Lopez
CS 73	Christie Edinger	Carolyn Hoagland
SP PA1—LALSRM	Francis Barnes	Steve Sauber
Sam Calderwood, Wolf Fengler	Sam Calderwood, Wolf Fengler	Ray Secara

Safety Coordinators	Collin Westphal, Ron Hitchcock
Station Masters	Francis Barnes, Mark Vreeken, Bob Crone, Gail Woodward, Larry Mitchell, Gary Evans, Wayne Crabb, Robert Guzman
Souvenirs and Tickets	Lucille Secara, Dee Barnes

Riders: January 2015 — 2,324  
Total 2015 — 2,324 Total 2014 — 2,346

## ROSTER ADS

Promote Your Products — Deadline is March 7

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