



Santa Ana wind gusts topple Ghost Town Saloon. (Diana Manchester photo)  
More wind damage photos inside.

**From the SUPER**

By Glen Manchester

Hi everybody, I'm going to try my hand at serving as General Superintendent. Ron Nelson set the bar pretty high, so I'll need everybody's help to continue that great tradition.

March has been quite busy for us here at the Club, with our regular "work day" followed by another "special work day" one week later. The timing of these made it possible to have two 40-foot "Rolloff" bins filled and hauled off before the movie company planned to work here. Your involvement really saved us. The wind blew down

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## Winds Rattle Ghost Town

By Diana Manchester

The Davis Western (Ghost) Town got walloped by Santa Ana winds pummeling LA County Wednesday and Thursday, March 13 to 14.

By Thursday morning, several storefronts had broken free of their frames and staggered toward the tracks at various angles. But the two-story LD Saloon had held on.

However at 9:45 am a powerful wind gust tore through the Club like a runaway locomotive. It was so strong that the trees along Crystal Springs Drive bent like palm trees in a hurricane. The saloon ripped out of its moorings and crashed facedown across the tracks.

### Damage Assessed and Repaired

Lloyd Davis, the Western Town builder, was called away from work to assess the situation. It appeared that the saloon structure itself was fairly intact, even though the second story deck and other building pieces were scattered on all sides.

He and Roger Williams, using the Gradall and a strap, pulled the saloon gently back in place and reset it on its mooring. Lloyd and son Andrew also pulled the Assay Office fascia off the tracks, and Lloyd came back Friday to continue repairs.

He was joined by Les Kovacs, Lisa Lipton, Don Kallgren, Gabriel and Ethan Perez, and other members, and the most serious damage to the Town was re-

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## LALSRM Calendar

### March

- 30 Fifth Saturday Steam Up
- 31 Public Rides (Easter)

### April

- 1 In Person/Zoom BOD meeting 7:00 pm
- 7 Public Rides
- 13 Work Day (KK open)
- 14 Public Rides
- 15 General Meeting – Zoom only 7 pm
- 21 Public Rides, Disney Barn open
- 27 Safety Recertification of Club Equipment
- 28 Public Rides
- 30 Prior Shed Credit Earning Year Ends

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Diana  
Manchester,  
Secretary

The March 4, 2024 Board Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Michael Murphy at 7:02 pm. It was a Zoom only meeting with 25 participants. Seven (7) Directors were present. Michael Murphy hosted the meeting in Roger William's absence.

**Secretary's Report:** A party request was approved: Steve Rodstein, a private party Saturday, April 6 from 10 am to 1 pm. An FCR was submitted by Ross Harper and Les Kovacs with a proposed plan for the Pit. The Board will review and discuss in private session.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Cammarata presented the finance report, which was approved. We've been closed five public run days for rain from December through February, but revenue will pick up once the rain stops. Other recent expenses were for new work car brakes and a deposit for our new Club locomotive. The donation from the Netflix project will help offset these costs.

**Membership Report:** Jim Cammarata reported that 63 membership renewals are still unpaid as of March 4. The final deadline for renewals is March 15. On March 16, do we change these members' status to "past members"? A reinstatement fee of \$100 may be assessed for dropped resident members, according to the Club bylaws, plus their past dues and late fees. We need a mechanism that motivates members to pay their dues. The Board will discuss this in executive session. Some members have asked about paper invoices. These take much time and labor for which we have no personnel.

**Superintendent's Report:** Glen Manchester reminded us that March 9 is our usual workday, and on March 16 we're having a special workday. We're renting a 40-foot rolloff dumpster to span the second workday weekend. This Saturday we can clean up the facility and stage the debris, then load it into the rolloff next Saturday. The film company will need the areas east and west of the tunnels cleaned up. Grandpa's Cabin will

*(Continued on page 8)*

# President's Message



Hello Friends,

I would like to spotlight everyone who assisted on the special Netflix TV shoot at the Club. To say we faced some hurdles preparing for this event is an understatement.

### Heavy Wind Required Much Cleanup

The week before the shoot, we had a heavy wind event. It toppled the Western Town Saloon and other storefronts onto the track, uprooted two sumac trees at Davis Mine, and blew small branches all over the railroad.

I helped Lloyd and his son raise the Saloon building with the Gradall that afternoon. The same day Bill Schirmer and Glen Manchester filled the rented 40' rolloff with the accumulated leaves on Crystal Springs Drive before they blew away.

A second rolloff received the large piles of reserved pine needles on Friday, and one of the sumacs, courtesy of Les Kovacs and Lisa Lipton. A full crew of volunteers came out during the special work Saturday and deep-cleaned the railroad, including the West End, and made repairs to the Western Town. The other uprooted sumac was cut down Monday by Ron Nelson and Roderick and Tristan Fritz and put in the rolloff.

### Y Switch Issues

On Sunday, many members commented on how well manicured the Club looked. Later on Sunday, the Y Switch leading into the Station failed and had to be spiked. Tuesday afternoon Ryan Pedersen, Ron Nelson, Tim Silver, Michael Strawn and Miles Kristman, with John DePhillip assisting by phone, had the switch back in service..

### Thanks to Members Who Helped

March 20 and 21, the Netflix prep and shoot days, consisted of very long hours for members volunteering their professional services. I want to thank Zak Holman and Bear Mustoe for helping to develop this contract last year, and see it through until the last truck left on Thursday. See photos on opposite page.

Zak handled many different and stressful jobs for this shoot, and Bear did an excellent job running around and working as our safety representative. Miles knocked it out of the park with the new brake system in the work cars, as well as helping with a multitude of hardware issues that kept arising.

Tim Silver, Bill Walker, Mike Murphy, David Holman, Glen Manchester, Don Kallgren, Ron Nelson, and probably more I'm forgetting, did an exceptional job helping things go smoothly.

Special thanks to Nick Suncin and Mike Murphy for running the steam engine from early morning to the day's end. Because of these volunteers, and everyone who worked on the railroad in the days prior, this fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you all for setting aside your work and personal lives while putting in long hours during this time. We owe our working volunteers a debt of gratitude. I should have a net total of the donation for this project at our April 1 Board Meeting.

In closing, I want to thank our membership for being understanding on the closure of the railroad for these two days. These film shoots at the Club can be a great fundraiser for us, as well as good exposure for our Museum and the steam hobby. We plan to keep filming to a minimum this year, as we have a larger responsibility to our members to provide access to our railroad.

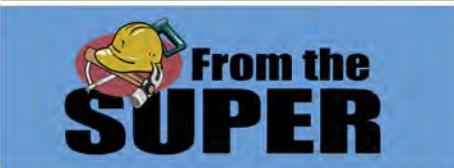
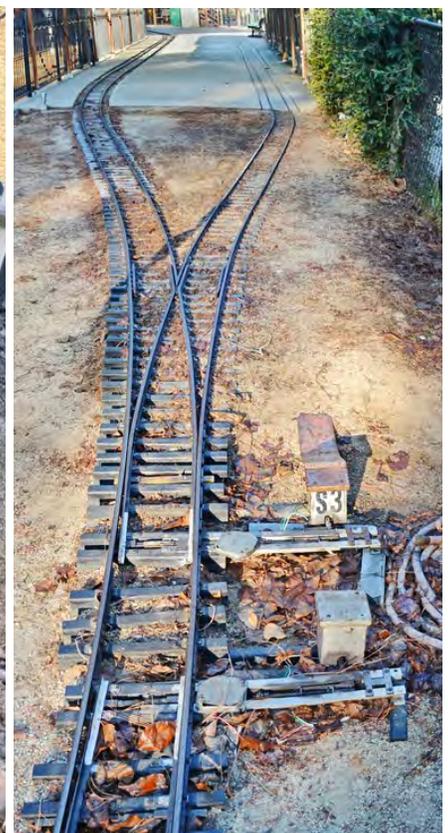
Now enough of this Hollywood Stuff (sorry Tim Silver); let's get back to railroading.

Roger Williams / 323.252.9767

[williams wiring@icloud.com](mailto:williams wiring@icloud.com)

# Netflix Shoot





## Y Switch at New Sherwood Repaired

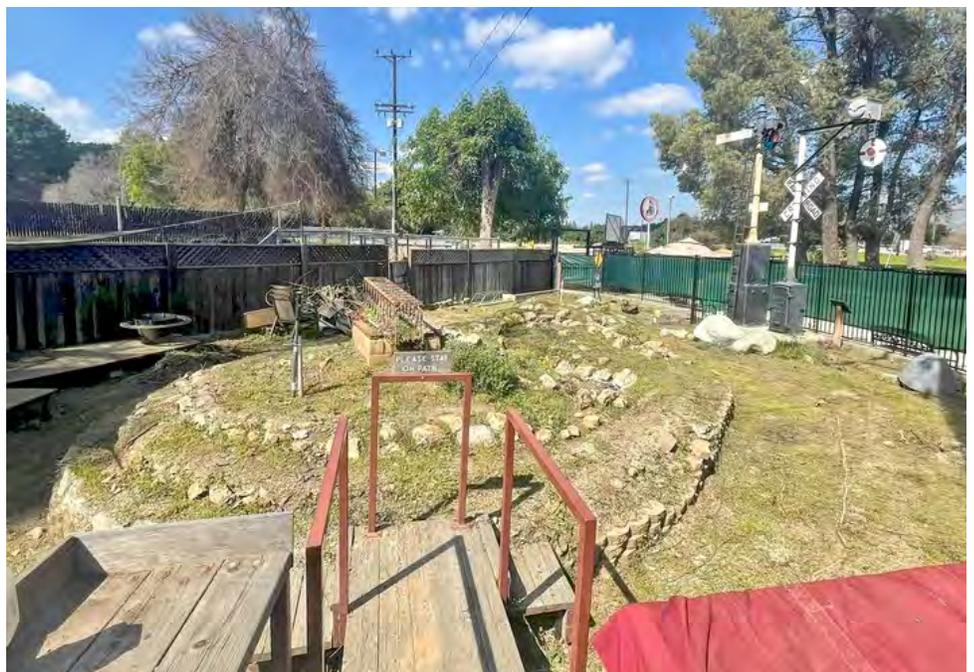
Public running on March 17 was disrupted when loose points in the crucial “Y” switch approaching New Sherwood Station caused trains to derail when running over it. *Above left:* Ron Nelson, Ryan Pedersen and Miles Kristman work on the switch; *Above right:* the Y-Switch controls Tracks 1 and 2 that lead into the Station.

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limbs and debris all over the campus which we could just toss into the rolloff.

I have been shown some of the issues that need attention, and am working to resolve them. I encourage you to share solutions, as well as problems, so we can make our facility better. I will be working with the Board regarding things I feel need addressing as well as those that you bring me.

Glen Manchester / 626.344.3413 cell



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

Editor - Peter Fuad  
Associate Editor—  
Diana Manchester

## G Scale Cleaning/Rehab-Phase 1

*Above:* Mike Finch and John Smith cleaned garden; got the left signal working on a timer.

# GROUND SUPPORT



▲ Crystal Springs Cleanup. Loading old leaves into dumpster on March 14. Cleaning up leaves on March 9.



Signal Crew Repairs. Above left: Randy Sinnott and Michael Strawn. Above right: Charles Rhoades, Karl Strauss, Amelia Asamoto and Phil Tucker.



Grandpa's Cabin Buried by Mother Nature. Above left: partial demo by Ross and Glen. Above right: Site after cleanup.

# March Wind Storms Cleanup

(Continued from page 1)

died. On Saturday morning Lloyd made additional repairs.

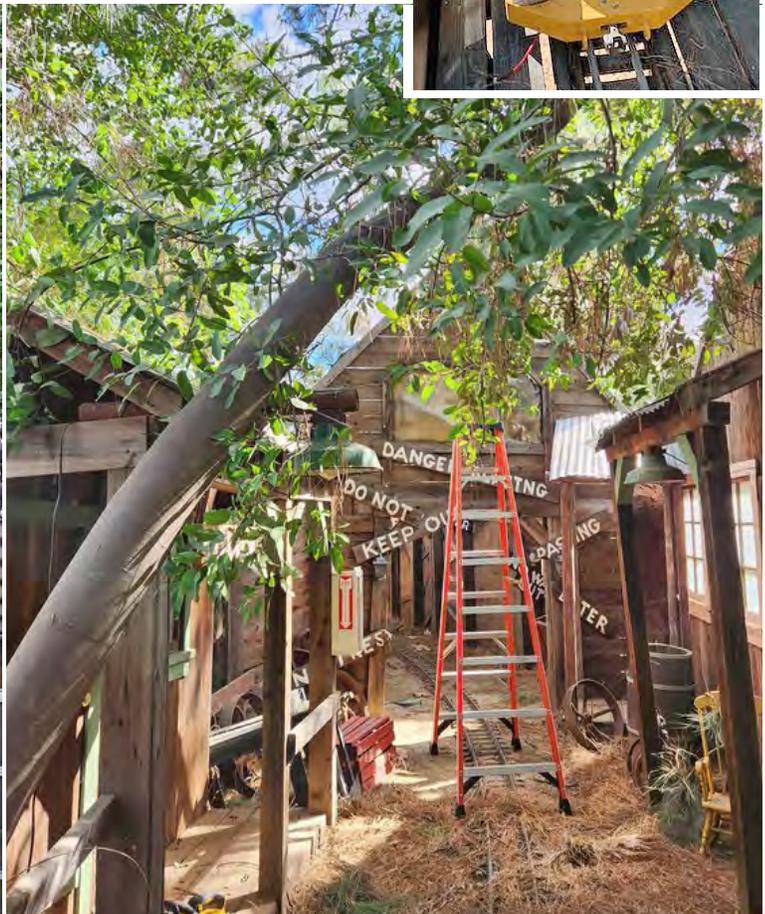
## Sumacs Dangle Across Davis Mine

Winds also buffeted Davis Mine on Thursday morning. Although the Mine itself remained intact, two 20-foot tall sumac tree-shrubs were

blown to perilous angles across the exit and entrance of the Mine. The Board determined the trees should be removed in the interest of safety. Lisa Lipton and Les Kovacs took out one on Saturday, March 16, and on Monday Ron Nelson cut down the other with Roderick and Tristan Fritz. The remnants of both were loaded into the rented rolloff. Public trains were rerouted to avoid this area on Sunday.



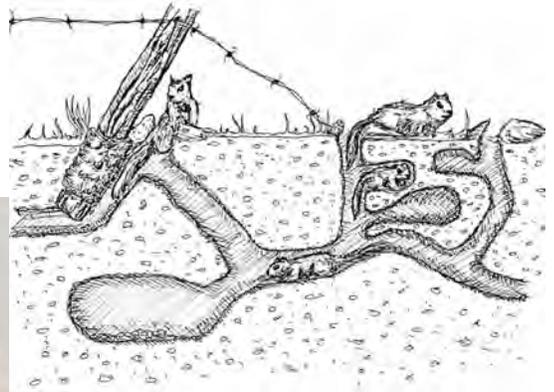
Below: Sumac tree shrubs collapse over Davis Mine. Right: Logs piled on work car.



# Ground Squirrels Tunnel Under Tracks at Minden

On Sunday, March 17 Ron Nelson discovered a ground squirrel hole that was affecting the tracks near Minden. He started to collapse the hole and fill it in, but found instead a large tunnel system that was very wide and quite deep: his shovel handle sank in 2-3 feet. The rest of the fill-in was completed on Tuesday by Ross Harper, Michael Strawn and Ryan Pedersen.

► *The burrowing systems of California ground squirrels can range from five to 30 feet. Most tunnels lie within two to three feet of the surface. There can be a single tunnel or a series of complex branching systems. Because they are social animals, each system may be occupied by many squirrels. – excerpt from [contracosta.gov.ca](http://contracosta.gov.ca)*



LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS RAILROAD MUSEUM

## 2024 Spring Meet

Memorial Day Weekend | May 24-27



In Griffith Park  
California

### Welcome All Live Steamers and Railroad Hobbyists!

- Tracks in four gauges: from Gauge-1 to 7 1/2", 4 3/4", 3 1/2"
- Steaming bays & hydraulic lifts
- Saturday Dinner – BBQ Ribs & Chicken  
RSVP by Thursday, May 16 – visit [lalsrm.org](http://lalsrm.org)
- President's Auction – Saturday, 1:30 pm
- Daily Kountry Kitchen meals for purchase
- RV & Tent camping available; no hook-ups



President's Auction 2023

For more details about the Meet schedule, Saturday Dinner Reservations, steam engine requirements, camping, meals, etc., visit our website: [lalsrm.org](http://lalsrm.org)

# Who's been working on the Railroad

## February 2024

- |                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Amelia Asamoto     | John Smith      | Ray Burden     |
| Andrew Chaves      | Johnny Dorado   | Richard Ronne  |
| Andy Blake         | Joseph Jackson  | Robert Guzman  |
| Anthony Ambriz     | Julio Dorado    | Roger Williams |
| Aram Dergevorkian  | Kathy Crabb     | Ron Nelson     |
| Bill Pascarella    | Larry Tighe     | Ross Harper    |
| Charles Rhoades    | Lisa Lipton     | Ryan Pedersen  |
| Dan O'Brien        | Matthew Bassett | Sam Calderwood |
| Darrell Payne      | Mel Bresee      | Scott Cymbala  |
| David Bassett      | Michael Finch   | Scott Hoagland |
| David Lazarus      | Michael Murphy  | Steve Rodstein |
| David Lundquist    | Michael Strawn  | Stevo Brock    |
| David Mitchell     | Mike Stockton   | Ted Naimy      |
| Diana Manchester   | Nicholas Silver | Tim Silver     |
| Don Kallgren       | Nick Guzman     | Warren Lincoln |
| Garibalde Figueroa | Nick Suncin     | Wayne Crabb    |
| Glen Manchester    | Peter Fuad      | Wyatt Cymbala  |
| Greg McMurry       | Phil Tucker     |                |
| Jack Streit        |                 |                |
| James Baker        |                 |                |
| James Cammarata    |                 |                |
| James Duncan       |                 |                |
| Jeremy Steinert    |                 |                |
| Joe Clow           |                 |                |

*The above list is compiled by Michael Murphy from submitted timecards. The adjacent Sunday Extra Board includes additional members helping during Sunday public rides.*

# SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

need a demolition crew this Saturday.

**Membership Committee Report:** Michael Murphy introduced Brian Quandt, a long-time friend of Stevo Brock, who has been wanting to get involved. He is a software engineer working in media and entertainment, and volunteers for many organizations. He came to our last workday and plans to attend the March workday.

**Safety Report:** Jim Cammarata reported that last Sunday's Run Day went well with the shorter route (avoiding Mountain Division because of recent rains), and recommends we do it again this Sunday.

**Netflix Filming:** The Netflix filming will be two days instead of three.

**Repeater Radio System:** The new repeaters are up and running. Aram Dergevorkian, Charles Rhoades or Michael Murphy can program members' radios, or provide members with the programming information. A Club email went out February 29 about the new radio system, and hard copies are available in the Station and Kountry Kitchen.

## Shed Credit Earning Ends April 30

Shed credit earning period for 2023-2024 ends April 30th. Required for shed rental discount: 40 work hours and 36 hours of running equipment over 3 years.



## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park

PO Box 2156, Toluca Lake CA 91610  
LALSRM.org (323) 661-8958

### 2024 Officers and Directors

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Roger Williams   |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Michael Murphy   |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Diana Manchester |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Jim Cammarata    |
| Ron Nelson            | Lisa Lipton      |
| Don Kallgren          | Tim Silver       |

# SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

## FEBRUARY 2024

### Engineers and Conductors

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Anthony Ambriz | Ron Nelson     |
| David Bassett  | Darrell Payne  |
| Peter Fuad     | Ryan Pedersen  |
| Ryan Hechinger | Steve Rodstein |
| David Lazarus  | Chris Solak    |
| Fred Lack      | Michael Strawn |
| Warren Lincoln | Tim Silver     |

### Station Masters

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Anthony Ambriz | Glen Manchester |
| Robert Guzman  | Joseph Clow     |
| Wayne Crabb    | Bill Walker     |

### Safety Coordinators

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| James Cammarata | Wayne Crabb |
| Michael Murphy  |             |

### Locomotive Maintenance

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Miles Kristman | Ray Burden |
|----------------|------------|

### Souvenirs and Tickets

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Kathy Crabb    | Scott Cymbala |
| Ashley Morgan  | Tom Cruce     |
| David Mitchell |               |

### Public Ridership

February 4  February 18 713

February 11  February 25 607

February 2024	—	1,320
Year to Date	—	2,960
Last Year YTD		2,666