

Steam Power! Sean Hagen runs his 2-8-0 loco (left) while Andrew Chaves runs Club #8 (right) September 18. Photo by G. Manchester.



## President's Message

By Ross Harper, President

**D**id the record-breaking heat keep you away from your trains this month? We still had plenty of people come out for train rides on the Sundays we were open! We're all looking forward to cooler Autumn weather for the many fun Club events coming up this season. Come on out and enjoy them!

**Fall Meet:** Our Fall Meet will kick off with a Free Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, October 7 and will run for three days. If everyone signs up to volunteer at least one day over the weekend, then we will have a great event for members and guests. Please contact Tom Lang at [tomlang@pacbell.net](mailto:tomlang@pacbell.net) or (818) 635-5010 to help at the Members Gate. Contact Bill Schirmer at [billfx@earthlink.net](mailto:billfx@earthlink.net) or (818) 621-5424 to help in the kitchen.

**Beginning on Friday October 7,** the inside parking lots will be for loading and unloading only. Crystal Springs Drive will be reserved for handicapped parking. Everyone else, including RVs, will need to park outside the Members/Service gate during the meet. We will not be open to the public on that Sunday.

**Live and Zoom Meetings:** Our first hybrid Open Board meeting on September 5 went well, but we will try a better microphone to improve audio clarity for the next Board meeting on Monday, October 3. I encourage you to join us in-person in the Meeting Car if you can. We always have a nice social time afterwards with some treats. Please note that our General Members meetings will continue to be on Zoom only.

### Upcoming 2022 Events

- **Summer Movie Nights** –Saturday, September 24 and October 29
- **5th Saturday Steam Ups** – October 29 and December 31
- **Gauge-1 Meet** – Saturday, November 19
- **Thanksgiving Dinner at the Kountry Kitchen** – Saturday, November 19
- **Holiday Banquet** – Friday, December 2 at Castaway Restaurant in Burbank

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Bill Schirmer inspects boiler for Steve Ruatta

### Fall Meet Info - pgs 9-10

## LALSRM Calendar

### September

- 24 Movie Night/Potluck/Night Run 6:00 pm
- 25 Public Rides

### October

- 2 Public Rides
- 3 In Person/Zoom BOD Meeting 7 pm
- 7-9 Fall Meet – no public rides
- 10 "Town Hall – Meet the Candidates" General Meeting – Zoom only, 7 pm
- 16 Public Rides / Steam Plant in Operation / Disney Barn open
- 23 Public Rides
- 29 5th Saturday Steam Up – all day  
Movie Night/Potluck – 6 pm
- 30 Public Rides



## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



*By Bill Walker, Secretary*

September 2022

**T**he September Board Meeting was called to order by President Ross Harper at 7:02 pm on September 5, 2022. It was a hybrid meeting: members were invited to join the meeting in person or by teleconference using Zoom. Six Club members joined in person and 34 members connected using their digital devices. Seven directors were present except Bill Walker who was out of town.

**President Report:** Ross welcomed all members to the meeting. He thanked everyone for volunteering and for their assistance.

**Secretary Report:** Bill Walker was not available so Steve Rodstein stood in to give the Secretary's report. A party request was submitted by Garibalde Figueroa for a Gauge-1 live steam meet on Saturday, November 19, 2022. This is the same day as our LALSRM Thanksgiving Dinner program. The Board voted unanimously to accept the Gauge-1 meet, however the request for a

large scale live steam meet and movie was denied

**Treasurer Report:** The August finance report was unanimously approved. Martha reported that she made 23 phone calls to members who are past due on their shed rental payments. Many stated that they would make their payments very soon. Martha notified the membership that it is their responsibility to make their payments on time and not to make the Board act like a collection agency. Please get your payments in.

**Superintendent Report:** Ron Nelson was not able to attend so Ross gave his report. Ross thanked everyone for volunteering around the Club. He announced that we will need a few strong individuals to help install Ted's replacement doors for the Club Maintenance Car. Much work will be needed on the Mountain Division to correct several problems with the tracks. Limbs and overgrowth are being cleared from the fence line next to Zoo Drive by John and Julio Dorado. The Club locomotives have been repaired by Miles and his crew during the week. Lights in the members' restrooms have been replaced with new LED's.

**Green Container Update:** Ross notified membership that Les Kovacs has been working diligently. The lift has now been placed on its rails in front of the green

container. Final preparations are underway.

**Nick Suncin stated that the propane storage tank** remains red tagged by the city and is empty; there is no current time span for the tank to be approved for use. We are in need of a certified plumbing person to help rectify this issue. Members that use propane-fired locomotives will need to purchase fuel off site if they are planning to run. Nick then reported that the air compressor has been repaired and is working normally again.

Ross notified the membership that a new refrigerator was purchased and installed in the Kountry Kitchen. The old refrigerator was given to Thaine Morris.

**Elections Time:** Steve Rodstein reported that Club elections were starting. The Elections Committee consists of Steve, Bill Walker, David Holman, and Nick Suncin. Canvassing for qualified members is continuing and those interested in serving on the Board should contact one of the committee members for further information. Nominations will be accepted at the next General Meeting to be held on September 19.

Ross mentioned that our current Caretaker, Brandon Ruiz has stepped down and moved out. John and Dani Smith will move into the Santa Fe caboose and serve as our new caretakers.

There is a water leak around campus, so the water mains have been turned off until the leaks are fixed. Please do not turn on the water until the repairs have been completed.

## President's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

**Election News:** We are accepting nominations for the Board of Directors from now until Saturday, October 8. Please contact Secretary Bill Walker or Steve Rodstein if you are interested in serving or nominating someone. There will be an opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them questions during our "Town Hall" General Members Meeting on Zoom on Monday, October 10. You will also receive information about the candidates with your ballot, which will be mailed out at the end of October. Ballots must be returned by noon on Saturday, November 19 when the vote counting begins.

See you on the rails!

**Ross Harper** / 818.786.7380  
panmanross@aol.com

*Right: Anders Iversen stands on the LALS hillside  
he and his dad helped clean on September 17.*



## Wilbur Dong Retires after 30 Years as Database Manager

After 30 years as the LALSRM Database Manager, Wilbur Dong has retired from this position on August 31, 2022. His biggest enjoyment was getting to know the members personally as he helped many to resolve their membership renewal issues through the years.

### Wilbur and Pam Active in Many Club Events

While his main focus was building and managing the database, Wilbur has been active in many Club activities, along with his wife Pam. They co-hosted several Spring Meets, participated in Handicapped Runs, and assisted with the City of Hope, Children's Hospital and Ghost Train events. On Sundays they enjoyed hauling the public for over 10 years.

### Served as General Superintendent

Wilbur was General Superintendent during the 1992 landslides that covered the Mountain Division and Crystal Springs Drive after heavy rainstorms. He and many others labored together to manually remove the mud sprawled across Crystal Springs. He did the installation of drainage culverts in the West end with Steve Carlburg; helped build the interim Sherwood Station (where the New Sherwood Station now stands), and assisted with the UP Caboose upgrade and conversion of the Club Meeting Car. He wrote the history of LALSRM for our 50th Anniversary with inputs from Gordon Sherwood and Doug Alkire, which was printed and distributed at the 2006 Spring Meet.

### Took over the Database in 1992

In the early 1990's Wilbur took over the Club database when Membership Chair John Palewitz moved to Las Vegas. The membership was about 450, and the database was housed in an Excel spreadsheet which was limited in its capabilities. He decided the Club needed a more robust and flexible database system and began using an original Mac software called "Filemaker". The database allowed the Club to access information more easily to identify eligible members to vote, mail ballots, manage the annual renewal process, and build a more exten-



*Wilbur and Pam Dong with their steam locomotive in 1990's.*

sive Roster that included members' equipment. It was a labor of love that involved many hours each year.

### Seeking an Online Solution

As online software capabilities evolved, previous BOD's saw the need for a web-based membership management system where the database could be securely housed and managed for various Club applications. Goals included automating the renewal process, creating an online Roster, reducing volunteer workload, and allowing Wilbur to retire. The IT Committee researched possible web programs at the request of the 2021 Board, such as National Solutions and Livesteam.club. The 2022 Board settled on an offer by Zak Holman.

### Nominated for Honorary Membership

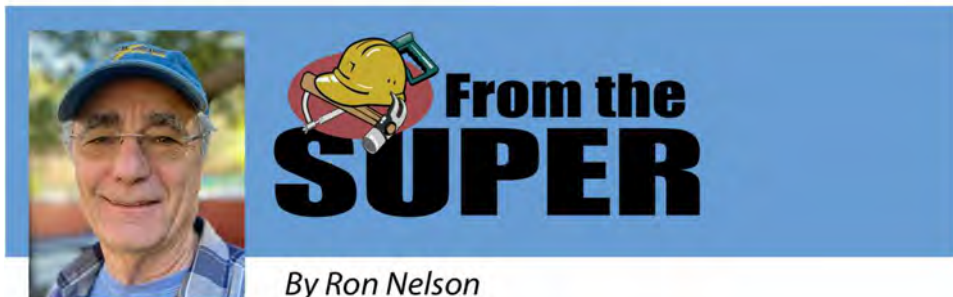
At the August 1 Board Meeting, David Holman nominated Wilbur for an Honorary Membership, to be voted on in the November elections. With the retirement of Wilbur as Database Manager, the Filemaker Pro membership database has been turned over for safekeeping to President Ross Harper as the responsible party. Membership renewals for 2023 will be managed by the Board and our website team.



Massive landslide at LALSRM in 1992. In the photo on the right, Wilbur, General Superintendent, can be seen in the red shirt high on the hill.







By Ron Nelson

**T**hank goodness that the Mother-of-All-Heatwaves is over. Fortunately, Club members got a lot of things done beforehand, and even came out in the mornings during the three-digit weather. Here are some of the highlights:

**Mountain Division:** A number of derailments had happened on the west side of Nelson Summit. We looked into it and discovered that the track had a twist in it, first to the left and then to the right. That section of track was leveled. There was also a substantial dip in the track near the pine trees. That too was brought up and leveled. Michael Strawn discovered that the rails halfway up the grade were below the minimum gauge. A considerable length of track was regapped and additional long stainless steel screws were installed in the tie plates. The crew consisted of Ross Harper, Michael Strawn, Johnny Dorado and myself.

**Club Locomotives:** The Board made a strategic mistake and let Miles go on vacation. It was almost as if the Club's

engines missed their benefactor; on his vacation Sunday, they all but one rose in protest. The UP was already sick; Dave Holman investigating. The SPSF throttle died. The 2468 started running very rough and smoking. The PA was already in the maintenance bay with a leaking hydraulic motor, and suspicious oil had been noticed under the center cab. Fortunately, the Sante Fe was still running and members brought out their own equipment to help haul the public. The next week, with a combined effort by Miles Kristman, Thaine Morris, Ray Burden, Bear Mustoe, Michael Strawn and me, all but the UP were back in service.

**General Landscaping:** With all the heat lately, we have just focused on smaller landscaping jobs or taking larger jobs in small bites as time allows. Another Chinese Elm tree suffered some broken branches, just past the green container.



Hillside cleanup. Left to right: Johnny Dorado, Anders and Justin Iversen and Joe Clow.

Hugo Budd used his forest knowledge to finish removing the limbs from the tree. Ross helped. Later a crew including Justin Iversen, Johnny and Julio Dorado cut up the limbs and hauled them to the black trailer. Johnny and Julio have also begun trimming the fence along Zoo Drive. It is in much need of trimming and is a lot of work, so they are taking it just one section at a time. What they have completed looks terrific. I got up into the Pit north planter and weeded the heck out of it.

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Far left: Johnny and Michael Strawn; Middle: Ross Harper and Hugo Budd. Right: Phil Tucker trims overgrowth on West End. Photos: Michael Strawn, Ron Nelson, and Joe Clow.



## From the Super

*continued from Page 4*

The Saturday following our official workday, I had a crew that accomplished an amazing amount of work. We cleaned up the pit, the Mountain Division stairs area, the LALS sign hillside and a bunch of smaller tasks west of the tunnels. We found two oak trees that were hidden by overgrown bushes, one by the LALS sign and the other near the West End Tuff Shed. Thank you Justin Iversen, Matt Basset and Johnny Dorado.

It is beginning to look like autumn around the property and leaves have begun falling. It won't be long before we will need more people out with rakes to clean up the grounds and tracks.

**Steaming Bays:** Many of us use the steaming bays and they are an important feature of our Club. They have become cluttered with abandoned items such as lumber, gas cans, seats, funnels, etc. Please check if any of these items are yours and kindly take care of them. Next month I plan to clean up that area; anything I find is headed for the blue bin.

**Ron Nelson**

818.802.7394 / rnelson@earthlink.net



## Green Container Update

Work on the green container is nearly done. Last month all internal track work was completed, foundations for the transfer table were formed and poured, rails for the table were installed and the table was moved and placed on the rails. Some finishing details like wiring still need to be completed. The next stage is to install track up to the transfer table and some sidings. Workers include Les Kovacs, Ross Harper, Ted Merchant, Bear Mustoe, Joe Clow and Bill Schirmer.



*Collin Westphal gets down to the root cause of derailment problems on Phil West track siding. There are four more roots to dig out. Photos left and center by Nick Suncin; photo on right by Ross Harper.*



**Uprooting.** Far left: a huge root the size of a small tree was dug out from under a track siding between Phil West Barn and Crystal Springs drive on September 17.

Above: Warren Lincoln gathers and hauls away branch cuttings from West End.



## ELECTIONS UPDATE – WE ARE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS



**W**e are seeking candidates for the 2023 Board from now until Saturday, October 8. If you would like to run or nominate someone, please contact one of our Elections Committee members: Steve Rodstein, Bill Walker, Nick Suncin, or David Holman. Qualifications for candidates include: four-year minimum Resident or Honorary member, active, paid-up, in good standing, and having no conflict of interest.

**Town Hall Zoom Meeting on Monday, October 10** is the next elections event. This is when the Candidates introduce themselves, share their vision for the Club, and answer questions from the members in the audience.

**Please consider running.** We are looking for candidates committed to the goals of LALSRM, have some experience in management and/or business, and can make informed decisions.

## Meet Our New Probationary Members



**Suzy Dalrymple**



**Ryan Pedersen**



**Rex Leong “Pineapple”**

**Suzy** (above left) used to work for Thaine Morris, building miniature models. She and her pyrotechnic husband have been to the Club for ASEPO events. She has her own company, drafting architectural drawings for residential remodels. She joined in July and has been volunteering as cashier in the Kountry Kitchen.

**Ryan Pedersen** – Ryan was introduced to our Club in June by his wife as a birthday present for “her train buff”. After a tour and train ride he decided to join. He and wife Ashley have four children, and he works as a production sound mixer for films. He has been serving as a chef in the KK.

**Rex Leong** – “Pineapple” worked as a locomotive engineer for UP. He has retired, and he and his wife now live in Simi Valley, and can be more involved in the Club. He is an experienced cook for large groups, and has been sharing wholesale resources, as well as railroad-related ideas for the Club.



## Mel Bresee Adopts Actuator Building Project

*By Mel Bresee*

**A**bout 40 years ago the Club asked Doug Alkire to design a switch actuator which would eliminate the guys stumbling over them. At that time we were using proto-typical switch stands with the lollipop on top. One is still in use at the west end on the Akins siding to go down the switchbacks.

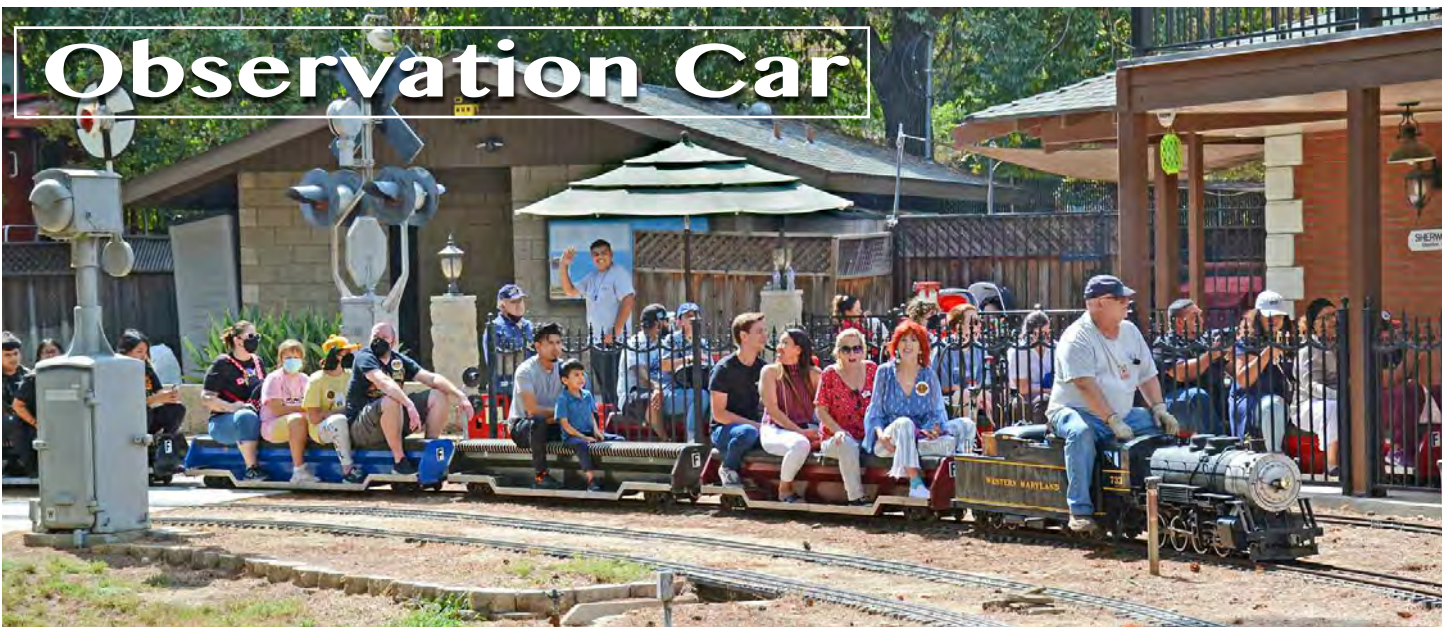
He designed the ones we use today. I have been repairing them and making new ones as needed. Some day we will need several when the sandpit yard is built. Doug gave me his drawings for these which I have in a PDF file. Anyone wanting a copy just email me at [mel.bresee@gmail.com](mailto:mel.bresee@gmail.com).



*Upper left: Mel holds the first of several new actuators built using Doug Alkire’s drawings. Left: An original 1982 Alkire actuator, rebuilt by Doug in 1989, refurbished by Mel in 2022. Right: Doug Alkire builds a ramp near the steaming bays in 1970. Doug was a 49-year member of LALS known for his beautiful, scratch-built, one-inch scale Baltimore and Ohio P7 Pacific.*







**Public Run Day, September 18.** Top: Richard Ronne operates Sean Hagen's steam loco. Left: Bill Schirmer taking out Club #8 for several runs. Above: Ron Nelson and Michael Strawn with SPSF Club engine. Photos: Glen Manchester.

## Mesa Grande Western Work Day and Meet – Oct 15 & 16

The 9" narrow gauge Mesa Grande Western RR near Pearblossom is having a Meet the weekend of October 15 & 16. It is a weekend for both running trains as well as working on the railroad to help with rebuilding after the devastating fire.

Contact Eber West for more information:  
661.400.1880 / eberwest@gmail.com.



## Richard Plewa, former LALSRM member, passes August 26 at age 75

Richard Plewa, a lifelong train, helicopter and planes buff, became a member in 1989, after visiting LALSRM. He served in the Air Force for four years. Later, he earned an ASEE degree (engineering) at ITT Tech, Van Nuys, and worked for AT&T as a Comm Tech. He and his wife Mary raised their two girls in Burbank. He built a 1.5" Chloe (almost done) and 3/4" Tich (ran twice and took apart to do more work); they are not for sale. After retiring from AT&T, he and Mary moved to Las Vegas, where he worked in real estate. A celebration of life will be held at their home on Saturday, October 15 at 3:00 pm. For directions, please call Mary at 702.666.4969.



## Who's been Working on the Railroad

Andy Blake	Larry Tighe
Bear Mustoe	Les Kovacs
Bill Pascarella	Martha Figueroa
Bill Schirmer	Matt Bassett
Carolyn Hoagland	Mel Bresee
Charles Rhoades	Meredith Chinn
Collin Westphal	Michael Murphy
Dan O'Brien	Michael Strawn
Darrell Payne	Miles Kristman
David Bassett	Nick Guzman
Don Donaldson	Nick Suncin
Don Kallgren	Peter Fuad
Elizabeth Bergmann	Richard Ronne
Finn Dubensky	Robert Guzman
Garibalde Figueroa	Roderick Fritz
Glen Manchester	Ron Nelson
Greg McMurry	Ross Harper
Jack Streit	Sean Hagen
James Baker	Scott Hoagland
Jeremy Steinert	Steve Rodstein
Jim Dubensky	Ted Merchant
Joe Clow	Ted Naimy
Joseph Jackson	Tim Silver
Justin Iversen	Tristan Fritz
Larry Sacks	Wayne Crabb
	Zak Holman



Les Kovacs mixes cement for more footings for where the track meets the lift at the Green Container on September 20.

## SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD AUGUST 2022

### Engineers and Conductors

Anders Iversen	Richard Ronne
Bill Walker	Ron Nelson
Darrell Payne	Sara Morris
David Holman	Sparky Hoagland
Jim Dubensky	Steve Harris
Joe Clow	Steve Rodstein
Justin Iversen	Thaine Morris
Matthew Bassett	Tim Silver
Meredith Chinn	Warren Lincoln
Michael Strawn	Will Walker
Nick Guzman	Wyatt Cymbala
Paul Liu	Zachary Bassett
Peter Fuad	Zakary Holman

### Station Masters

Anthony Ambriz	Glen Manchester
Wayne Crabb	Gail Woodward
Robert Guzman	Matthew Bassett
David Bassett	Jim Dubensky
Ted Naimy	

### Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Wayne Crabb

### Souvenirs and Tickets

George Becker	Martha Figueroa
Kathy Crabb	Carolyn Hoagland

### Ridership

Riders—August 2022 2,839  
Total Riders YTD — 10,025

### Got a Drill, Hammer, and Some Time?

You can build 2 Mercer Locomotive Works Gondolas and 2 Flatcars in 7.5 Gauge.

Mercer Locomotive Works Kits provide blueprints, instructions and files with parts inventory. Includes trucks and couplers.

**All 4 kits sold as a lot for \$1,400**

Contact Wilbur Dong for more details:

**626-799-2232**  
pcdong@prodigy.net



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Editor – Peter Fuad  
Associate Editor – Diana Manchester



### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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Toluca Lake, CA 91610

LALSRM.org (323) 661-8958

### 2022 Officers and Directors

President	Ross Harper
Vice President	Nick Suncin
Secretary	Bill Walker
Treasurer	Martha Figueroa

### Other Directors

David Holman	Bear Mustoe
Richard Ronne	Steve Rodstein

**Green Waste Cans:** Please do not put cans and bottles in the green waste cans; use only for food and paper trash. It is ok to put plastic and glass bottles as well as cans in the aluminum recycle cans.



# LALSRM Fall Meet

**Fri – Sun | Oct 7–9 | 2022**

## Private Event for Members, Guests & Visiting Railroaders

### We Need Volunteers

*Help make our Fall Meet enjoyable for everybody!*

#### Volunteer Opportunities

**Gate Duty** (2-hour shifts)

**Kitchen Crews**

Need cooks, food prep, cleanup

Breakfast – Saturday & Sunday

Lunch – Saturday & Sunday

Dinner – Saturday

**Souvenir Table / Cashier**

**Set Up/Take Down**

**President's Auction (Saturday)**

Saturday morning: help set up

Auctioneer's Assistant

**BINGO Callers (2)     Announcers**

**Parking Lot Crew:** help load/unload

### MEET COORDINATORS

#### Kountry Kitchen

Bill Schirmer, Bear Mustoe

#### Souvenir Table, Dinner Tickets

Carolyn Hoagland

#### Promotions, Signage, Movie Night

Diana & Glen Manchester

#### Facility, Safety, Equipment Inspections

Ross Harper, Michael Murphy,

Richard Ronne

#### Parking

Bill Walker

#### Gate Duty

Tom Lang

#### First Aid

Scott Hoagland

**For Meet questions, contact Diana:**

dm.ad@verizon.net / 626.222.7499

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday

6:00 pm

SPAGHETTI DINNER by Board of Directors – no cost

7:45 pm

MOVIE

#### Saturday

7:30–9:00 am

BREAKFAST – All American Breakfast– \$8.00

11:30–1:00 pm

LUNCH – Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink – \$8.00

1:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S AUCTION in New Sherwood Station

3:30 pm

BINGO

6:00 pm

CHICKEN & BBQ DINNER – \$20.00 – *pre-purchase tickets*  
(Cooked Onsite by our own Member Chefs!)

6:45 pm

President's Welcome / Presentation

7:45 pm

MOVIE

#### Sunday

7:30–9:00 am

BREAKFAST – Cereal, Bagels, Pop-Tarts, Fruit – \$5.00

11:30–1:00 pm

LUNCH – Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink – \$8.00

### Camping, Steam Locomotives, Parking

#### Camping

Tent camping in East & West Meadows and lawns around Disney Barn.

NOTE: There will be NO porta-potty in the West Meadow this year.

RV Campers please park in Members Parking Lot outside Members Gate.

RV's must be self-contained; no hookups available.

#### Steam Locomotives

Must have spark arrestors & up-to-date boiler inspection tags. Visiting steam locomotives can get hydro-tested/certified as personnel are available. Propane fuel will not be supplied; please bring your own.

#### Parking

Crystal Springs Drive will be reserved for handicapped parking (No RV's).

NO PARKING INSIDE CLUB Friday through Sunday; loading/unloading only.



# Can You Help at the Front Gate During the Fall Meet?

The "Booth" assignment is greeting visitors, handing out souvenir name tags, accepting donations. The "Gate" person operates the gate, issues unloading passes, and maintains rail crossing safety. Some of the slots already have volunteers.

If you can help out, please do not try to fill out the sheet. Send an email to Tom Lang or call and leave a message. Include your full name, mobile phone number, email address, desired time slot(s), and booth/gate preference. Requests will be handled in the order they are received. Later you will receive an updated schedule and information sheet by email.

It's easy, no prior experience needed. You'll meet a lot of interesting people, perhaps some foreign travelers, and help them make the most of their visit to LALSRM.

TOM LANG / cell 818.635.5010 / tomlang@pacbell.com

## 2022 LALSRM FALL MEET GATE DUTY

### ----- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> -----

TIME SLOT	BOOTH	BOOTH	GATE
5PM - 7PM	(gate only)	(gate only)	Warren Lincoln

### ----- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> -----

TIME SLOT	BOOTH	BOOTH	GATE
7AM - 9AM	(gate only)	(gate only)	Michael Strawn
9AM - 11AM		Dave Bassett	Wayne Crabb
11AM - 1PM			Gail Woodward
1PM - 3PM			
3PM - 5PM		Jean Cochrane	Mark Van Horne
5PM - 7PM	(gate only)	(gate only)	Mark Van Horne

### ----- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> -----

TIME SLOT	BOOTH	BOOTH	GATE
7AM - 9AM	(gate only)	(gate only)	Jack Streit
9AM - 11AM	(gate only)	(gate only)	Dave Bassett
11AM - 1PM			Gail Woodward
1PM - 3PM			
3PM - 5PM	(gate only)	(gate only)	