



Mountain Division Replantings

By Andrew Chaves

About a month ago, Ross Harper, Bill Walker and I met and walked the Mountain Division and had a good discussion about what plants should be installed. Of course, we thought about, size, water needs, flowers, and how they would look as you roll by on a train.

Naturally we came to the decision that anything purchased would be native. Being native, they would be more drought tolerant, and have great wildlife value — providing food and habitat for birds and butterflies, and be naturally adapted to the conditions at our site.

Ross, Bill and I spent the afternoon of Sunday, November 15th planting the Mountain Division. Earlier in the month, Ross and Steve Rodstein installed two sprinkler valves and 16 new sprinklers for this project. We ran the irrigation after we planted, and it worked great. It will provide the new plants with the water they need to establish! It may look sparse now, but they were all planted and placed with their mature size in mind.

Plants are Found in Our Local Mountains

Unlike the redwoods, the plants we selected are the same ones found in our local mountains. All of these plants need very little maintenance and water once established, and will never need soil amendments, fertilizers, or pesticides, saving the Club time and money. We did decide to divide and transplant some of the Christmas ferns from the lower pit area, to the areas under the existing redwoods. I selected the plants from the Theodore Payne Nursery. Bill drove over to pick them up and brought them to the Club.

Why No Redwoods

Someone asked me why we weren't replanting with redwoods. Well, the issue with planting redwoods is that they're naturally found in groves near coast with fog and high rainfall. Summer fog rolls through these groves and keeps the searing sun off of the delicate foliage. The tallest and oldest trees are found in deep valleys and gullies, where year-round streams can flow, and fog drip is regular. In their natural habitat, they can draw the water right out of the fog. Redwoods need to pump water all the way up to the highest part of the tree. No amount of water will protect the needles from a 120 degree Los Angeles heat wave and non-existent (or way-too-deep) water table. See the brown needles? That's heat stress.

As the redwoods on the property succumb, they should be replaced with trees that are appropriate for the area: oak, sycamore, elderberry, maple, California laurel, cherry, and pine. In 30 years, when we're all old and grey, our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will thank us for planting plants appropriate to the area, and ones that they don't have to spend time fertilizing and watering. The following pictures show what we selected instead of redwoods. Be sure to slow down as you roll by to admire the new plantings.



Native Plantings

Behind masthead: California fuchsia, Deerglass, and California buckwheat.

Above left: Ian Bush manzanita; *Above right:* Moss Landing California aster; *above middle:* Dark Star California lilac; *right:* Giant wild rye.

Photo above: l-r Bill Walker, Andrew Chaves, Ross Harper.



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



November 2020

At 7:02 pm on November 2, 2020 the November BOD meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) the meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom, with participants connected by computer or cell phone. All eight of the Directors were present as well as 44 members.

President's Report: Ted again mentioned that the BOD meetings would follow the agenda, and that once the BOD meeting was adjourned anyone was welcome to stay and talk informally. Ted opened the meeting by discussing members not wearing face masks as required due to the COVID 19 LALSRLM safety policy. Every Board member present agreed that this is an important issue, and that any member not wearing a face mask will be asked to leave the Club facility for noncompliance of the Club safety policy.

Ted reminded everyone that the tool car and the meeting car must be locked when members have finished whatever they are doing in them. Ted's statement was prompted by unknown members leaving these cars unlocked after they had left.

Secretary's Report: The October Minutes were approved. There are no events scheduled at the Club due to the Coronavirus. Diana will continue update the Calendar as necessary. It was again stated by the Secretary that anyone not wearing a face mask at the Club will be immediately asked to leave the Club grounds.

Treasurer's Report: Tim presented the prior periods financials. There was minor discussion and then the Board approved them.

Membership Report: Nick presented new member Elizabeth (Liz) Bergmann,

who is the daughter of Ron Bergmann.

Superintendent's Report: Les Kovacs updated us on the progress of the Electric Panel cabinet installation. As of the date of this meeting the doors are in, the brick walls are up, and the rough framing for the roof has been completed. A professional brick mason was hired for a cost of \$300.00 to install the brick walls. The brick mason's cost was included in the original FCR.

Reroofing the Richardson shed roof and the Altmayer shed roof were discussed in great detail. Les provided a rough price estimate. Les proposed a torch down method of application for the new roof, and with that Ted requested that Les provide a formal FCR by the next BOD meeting.

Ted informed the Board that the bill for the additional tree trimming had arrived and will be paid shortly.

Ted stated that he still needed assistance in preparing the proposal for the park service to extend the Club east fence line.

Les requested and the Board approved Les purchasing one three-foot ladder, two six-foot ladders, and one eight-foot ladder for the Club. It was agreed that when the ladders are not being used, they should be locked up so they do not disappear.

Website Update/communications: Diana informed the Board that seven more members had paid their past due 2020 membership dues, and the remaining past due members would be contacted again so that this matter is resolved by the end of November.

Other items: The Board directed the Shed Manager, Michael Murphy, to send out the shed rental invoices within the next two weeks.

Ted stated that James Femino, who is doing his Eagle Scout project at the Club, has completed the foundation and should be starting the walls in the very near future.

Miles requested that the closet that the camera equipment is in be cleaned out so they could get in more easily; Nick & Martha said they would take care of his request. Miles also requested members help him start up and run the Club diesel engines because of lack of use during COVID-19.

A number of members volunteered to help Miles and run the engines.

Nick Guzman stated that he was requesting funds to start a new project regarding a 4 3/4 gauge bridge. The Board advised him that his request was not approved, and not to start the project nor spend any money until he submitted a formal FCR for this new project and it was approved by the Board.

The next public BOD meeting will be December 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm.



Close and Lock Doors – Please remember to close and lock doors on Tool Car, Meeting Car, Phil West Barn when you are finished for the day. Close the Pump House door when done.

Name Badges Available – The new Name Badges are in. The Souvenir Booth was not open November 22 because of family illnesses. A group email and announcement in Members Forum will be published when we know the new date the Booth will be open again.

Holiday Banquet Cancelled – we have had to cancel our 2020 Holiday Banquet this year due to the coronavirus.

Pay 2020 Membership Dues – If you haven't yet, please pay your 2020 dues, or contact us if there is a question or issue. Invoices for 2021 will be going out shortly.

Sheds Rentals – Invoices for renting 1-1/2 inch scale storage track were delayed due to the pandemic. Mike Murphy, our new Shed Manager, emailed those bills this month. Please pay them as soon as possible. We look forward to the 2021 invoices being sent out in May. Invoices to those renting 1 inch scale storage track will be emailed in early December. Please contact Mike Murphy at (213) 247-0776 or smurfmm@hotmail.com if you do not receive these emails or if you have any questions regarding track rentals.

Member Schedule

December

- 2 BOD Meeting via Zoom 7 pm
- 27 Souvenir Booth open 11-2 (tentative)

President's Message



By Ted Merchant, President

Hello Railroad Fans!

Here we are again, in the Holiday Season. I agree with the pundits, that 2020 has been the year I want done! Coronavirus, social distancing, economic slump, unemployment, elections, canceling events, closing LALSRM to the public... I am looking forward to this year being over! That said, I (we) still have abundant reason to be thankful.

I am thankful we have our Club. Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum is amongst the finest large-scale model railroads in the country, and we should all be grateful.

I am thankful no LALSRM member has acquired COVID-19! I know people who have. Some have not survived. Masks, social distancing and isolation have been difficult, but we accept such measures as effective and necessary. We still visit the campus. Members run their trains. Members spontaneously pick up rakes, shovels, maintenance trains and tools and work on their projects. Consequently, the Club looks good, and we can envision an exciting coronavirus-free model railroading future.

I am thankful for James Femino's Eagle Scout project, building the laundry shed north of the Kountry Kitchen. James not only has his father mother and sister helping him, but he has assigned home tasks to other scouts who have participated distantly, framing sections of the shed.

I am thankful for my friends, most of whom are members of LALSRM, one of which is you. Our Club is, indeed, a friendly place.

I am thankful for the families that enjoy LALSRM. I cannot remember seeing so many families coming together to enjoy working on the railroad. The many young people running trains reflects an exciting future for our hobby.

I am thankful for the LALSRM atti-

tude that says: "We enjoy working together to be a large-scale model railroad club. We respect one another, and we are happy to be here."

I am thankful for our Board of Directors. Being your President and working with the Board has been one of the hallmark privileges of my life. Every member of this Board is a good, talented, honest, dedicated model railroader with a servant attitude. It is my incredible pleasure to work amongst them.

I am thankful for the future. Someday there will be a coronavirus vaccine (think winter 2021). Someday we will reopen LALSRM to the public (think Fall 2021). Someday we will have our next meet, and, believe me, it is going to be a BASH (think October 2021). Someday we will again have a Club Thanksgiving dinner (think November 2021). Someday we will have a Holiday Season Banquet (think December 2021). Someday we will have a new Board (think January 2022), and I hope they are as thankful as I am.

And that's the way it is. Stay safe. Stay well. Think railroads. And please accept my best wishes for your happy holidays. Celebrate whatever you celebrate. We have much to be thankful for. Your comments are always welcome. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant
edwardbmerchant@gmail.com



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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 Toluca Lake, CA 91610

LALSRM.org
 (323) 661-8958

2020 Officers and Directors

President	Ted Merchant
Vice President	Bill Schirmer
Secretary	Steve Rodstein
Treasurer	Tim LaGaly
Martha Figueroa	David Holman
Les Kovacs	Nick Suncin



Eagle Scout Project

James Femino and his father.



▲ David Holman's Fairbanks-Morse Trainmaster on the Mountain Division. (David Holman Photo)

◀ Bear Mustoe unloads his new self-built riding car.

▼ Ryan & Marc Weiss's Galloping Goose and Max Roy (Glen Manchester Photos)



Car Truck Projects for Sale

I am offering all of the trucks as one lot. There are parts to assemble 4 trucks but all will need machine work to re-gauge and address wheel profiles. I have rebuilt 2 sets of the American trucks and they are currently operating under my two gondolas and have given good service. The I have rebuilt 2 of the British made trucks and have given them to a friend, so it can be done with some thought and machine time. The British trucks are 7-1/4" gauge (new axles required and adjustment of frame spacing). One of the British trucks has a hand brake and would be especially good as a riding car behind a small locomotive such as a tank engine.

Because of the fact that these are not ready to run I am offering all four trucks for \$100.00

Please call me if you have any questions. Richard Farmer (818) 993-3623



For Sale:

Mosley DUMMY turbo generator. This is an actual Mosley body with no turbine or generating mechanism inside. It is a really beautiful piece, highly detailed in 1-1/2" + scale. It is brand new and never installed on a locomotive, I purchased it several years ago for a project that I was not able to complete. If you have seen these you know how very nice they are and how they add that final touch to any detailed model. \$400

Please call if you have any questions.

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