



Doug Young, 36-Year Member, Passes

By Diana Manchester

We are sad to report that longtime LALSRM member and friend Doug Young unexpectedly passed away of a heart attack at work on Saturday afternoon, January 16. He was 64.

Member Since 1985

Doug had been a member of LALSRM since 1985. In 2004, he became track foreman, helped Bob Woodward with the air compressor maintenance, and joined the boiler inspector crew. He also served on the Board that year for the first time, and several administrations after that.

Doug could be found at the Club every scheduled workday, and many other Saturdays, working on the track, running the heavy equipment on maintenance work, and building and repairing our Club's infrastructure.

He worked many facets of the O'Brien-Moore Bridge renovation, as well as the Nelson Summit Bridge project. He, Les Kovacs and Bill Walker dug out the Crystal Springs pit area and



installed all the concrete block walls.

He worked tirelessly to help install and operate the Ghost Train event every year. He was a member of the Tournament of Roses, and was one of the producers of the Metrolink Holiday Toy Express.

Les Kovacs writes, "The Club lost a great member and my right-hand man. Doug was always one to lend a hand and we never could have accomplished so much without his help. He will be greatly missed."

Miles Kristman shares, "Doug was always doing one project or another. There isn't an area at the Club that you can look and not see something Doug has had his hands in. He loved our Club and his friends. But most of all he loved his family, wife Cindy and the girls, Emily and Sarah. I will miss Doug greatly."

Our sympathy, prayers and love are with his family. Funeral services are pending. A more detailed article will be published in the February Booster.



L.A. Councilman Tom LaBonge Dies at 67

By Peter Fuad

Tom LaBonge, who served on the Los Angeles City Council from 2001 to 2015 passed away January 7. He was 67. He died at home in his sleep. No cause of death has been given.

LaBonge was well known for his love of the city's history, its landmarks and its public spaces, particularly Griffith Park, which was within his council district. LaBonge's enthusiasm extended to LALSRM, which had no better friend and

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Left: Tom LaBonge presenting city proclamation to Gordon Sherwood on his 100th Birthday in March 2011. President Les Kovacs joins in the ceremony.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



January 2021

At 7:03 pm on January 4, 2021 the January BOD meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Due to the coronavirus the meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom, with participants connected by computer and cell phone. All eight Directors were present as well as 43 members.

President's Report: Ted again mentioned that the BOD meeting should follow the agenda, and that once the BOD meeting was adjourned anyone was welcome to stay and talk informally. Ted opened the meeting by reviewing the COVID-19 protocols for the LALS RM facility, and that the membership must continue to follow the safety procedures now in place.

Ted discussed the plumbing and electrical that Roger Williams is installing in the new laundry shed, and that an FCR needs to be submitted. Ted then questioned different members on the types of cloud service LALS RM now has. It was determined that the Club's website is on Zak's server, and QuickBooks is on a cloud service, as well as the computer in the office.

Secretary's Report: The December minutes were approved. There are no events scheduled at the Club due to the coronavirus and Diana will continue to update the calendar as necessary.

Treasurer's Report: Martha Figueroa presented the prior period's financials. There was minor discussion and then the Board approved them. Martha then confirmed that Tim, the previous treasurer, had authorized the accountant to prepare the tax returns for the tax year ending 11/30/20 that are due April 15, 2021. Tim confirmed that he was getting everything together and the accountant would receive it shortly. Martha also discussed with Tim

the renewal of the 2021 business license, which he will assist her with. Lastly, the P.O. Box renewal for LALS RM was discussed, and it was confirmed by Tim that the renewal date is November of each year.

Membership Report: Nick Suncin stated that there was no new membership business pending. Then Ted revisited Family Member status that has been brought up several times now. It was determined that family members have all membership rights, except that they cannot vote on any LALS RM matters; should they wish to have voting privileges, they can become a full paying (resident) member.

Superintendent's Report: Les Kovacs stated that he had completed the roof on the electric panel cabinet as well as the wooden walls that are above the brick and below the roof.

The Richardson shed roof was discussed again in great detail. Ted stated that he purchased plastic during the last rain storm, and covered the equipment that was exposed to the rain so it would be protected. Ted also offered that any member can contact him who wants to cover their equipment with the extra plastic he has. It was agreed that the permanent fix for the Richardson and Alkire Shed roofs should be initiated by June 1, 2021, not necessarily completed by that date. That means that all the planning and the FCR needs to be approved by that date.

Ted also stated he would discuss the green waste issue with the Parks department. Roger Williams was recognized for repairing electrical outlets at the Club.

Website Update/Communications: Diana informed the membership that they are to use the website to renew their 2021 membership dues, and should anyone have any questions please feel free to contact her.

Shed Rental Billing: the bills members are currently receiving are for the billing period of July 1, 2020 through and including June 30, 2021. The shed rental billing cycle is a fiscal year and starts July 1st and runs through and including June 30th of the following year. Unfortunately, due to the current bills being sent out late there has been a little confusion among the members regarding the billing period that the current shed rental bills cover. The shed rental billing for the 2021-2022 shed

rental cycle should be sent out July 2021.

Proposed Carolwood Mine train project: The current FCR presented by the Carolwood organization regarding the mine train project was rejected by the Board.

This was followed by a lengthy discussion regarding this matter between the Board, LALS RM members, and the Carolwood Board. It was decided that both Boards should meet via Zoom protocol due to COVID-19 to discuss this matter further.

After some discussion with all of the parties involved, the Board approved the proposed letter to be sent to Larry Boone regarding his removal of personal property from the Tuffshed by 8/31/21. Seven Board members approved the letter and one member abstained.

After minor discussion the letter to Gary Baker regarding the removal of the green sea container and its contents with a removal date of 2/28/21 was approved by the Board. It was also agreed that LALS RM would purchase the green sea container from Gary should he want to sell it rather than remove it.

Other Items: It was agreed that any discussion about repairing or purchasing the vending machines and the freezer be put on hold for now.

LALS RM members were informed that the Souvenir Booth would be open January 10th and 17th from 11 am to 2 pm to conduct membership business.

Bill discussed propane tank safety, and reminded all members that we cannot refill expired tanks.

The members were reminded that the trash dumpster is for Club trash only, and that Level 1 equipment certification that is normally done in January remains postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Lastly, a new voice message has been recorded on the Museum phone informing all incoming callers that the Club is closed due to the coronavirus.

The next public BOD meeting will be February 1, 2021

Member Schedule

February

- 1 BOD Meeting via Zoom 7 pm
Souvenir Booth not open this month

President's Message



By Ted Merchant, President

Hello Railroad Fans!

I hope you all had peaceful, happy, and safe holidays. And please accept my heartiest wishes for a wonderful 2021. There is room for optimism. Everything but your Board of Directors should change in 2021!

I am quite excited about the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. Unfortunately, they cannot be rolled out fast enough! It appears that we 65-year-old-or-older MAY be able to get vaccines as early as February. Some say as late as June. I plan to get mine as soon as I can.

Our having a Spring Meet in late May appears doubtful, but you never know. Most pundits predict that the COVID vaccines will be effectively distributed by the end of summer and, hopefully, society can start opening at that time.

The vaccines are effective in eliminating the symptoms of COVID-19 but there is no data demonstrating that they elimi-

nate the infection itself, so it will be necessary for even vaccinated members to continue to wear masks to avoid transmitting virus to others.

Your Board has decided to wait for Travel Town to open and establish acceptable COVID sensitive procedures before we attempt to open LALSRM to the public. I hope we will be pulling the public by October.

We should each consider what we can do to have a knock down, drag out incredible Fall Meet! Similarly, we should each consider how we can have Halloween and Thanksgiving Dinners at the Club and a Year-End dinner party at a local restaurant. WE WILL RE-OPEN SO LET'S DO IT BIG!

Your Board remains humbly thankful for all you enthusiasts who come to the Club, sometimes mid-week, respect the multiple COVID-19 precautions and independently work to maintain the campus. You are the heart of Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum. I thank you again.

And that's the way it is. Stay safe. Stay well. Think railroads. Your comments are always appreciated. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant
edwardbmerchant@gmail.com



Shed Rentals: Payments can be mailed to: Martha Figueroa
LALSRM
P.O. Box 2156
Toluca Lake, CA 91610-0156

Or dropped off in the Treasurer's mailbox in the yellow UP Caboose.

Include your invoice with your check. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR PAYMENT IN THE BLACK MAILBOX OUTSIDE THE MEMBERS GATE; IT IS NOT SECURE.

Membership Renewals: Our website team is in process of updating our online membership renewal system for 2021. If you renewed in less than 12 months ago, you can wait to pay your 2021 dues until we have finished testing. We will be in touch once everything is in place. Until then you are considered a member in good standing. Thank you for your patience!

Facility Winter Maintenance – We continue to need help keeping leaves and landscape debris cleaned up. With the coming wind and rains, we'll see more dirt and rocks coming down the hillside. We welcome your help, but please be take proper precautions during this winter COVID, cold and flu period (masks, social distancing, etc.).

Tom LaBonge Dies at 67

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supporter within the City of Los Angeles political sphere.

He helped the Club navigate the city's bureaucratic shoals when we were constructing New Sherwood Station, creating our Halloween Ghost Trains (which he visited) and numerous other projects.

He would drop by on Sundays to observe our operations and greet our members and members of the public.

Even after he retired he remained interested in our welfare. He knew the right people to contact if we needed help.

Among his many accomplishments, he worked to expand Griffith Park by hundreds of acres.



Les Kovacs paints studs for new electrical house. (Ross Harper Photo)

Richardson and Alkire Sheds Need Repairs

The roofs of the Richardson and Alkire sheds need serious attention after 35 years of service.

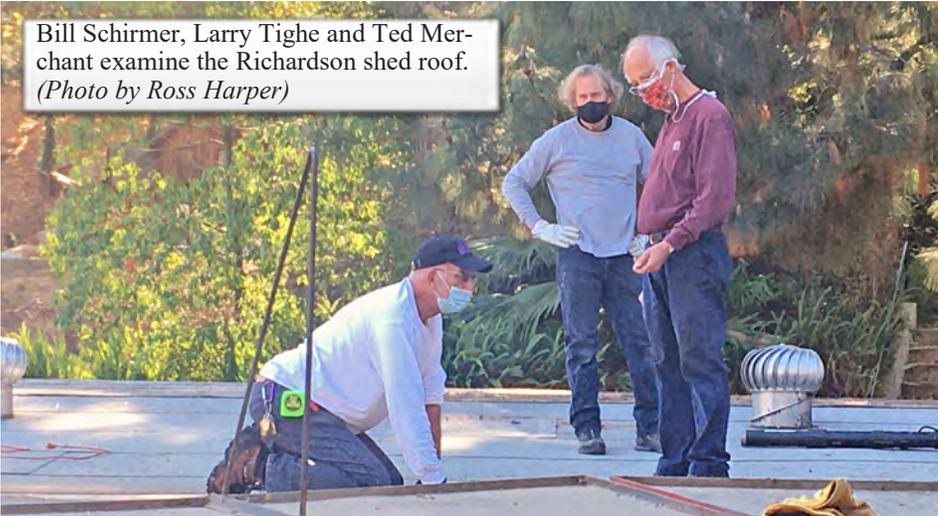
Many of the 4x8 plywood panels are rotted and or sagging and there are multiple leaks. Bill Schirmer, Ted Merchant and Steve Rodstein cut out the most defective panel and made a temporary patch using plywood, roofing paper and Henry's

roofing patch, with Les Kovacs supervising.

We learned quite a bit regarding the construction of these roofs and were able to eliminate about 95% of the water intrusion. Complete restoration will require more strategic planning, membership participation and summer weather.

We will keep you informed.

Bill Schirmer, Larry Tighe and Ted Merchant examine the Richardson shed roof. (Photo by Ross Harper)



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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(323) 661-8958

2021 Officers and Directors

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



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum.

Editor Peter Fuad.
Associate Editor: Diana Manchester

Equipment For Sale

7.5 Gauge:

Black tank cars (2) \$2,500 each Caboose \$500.

One Inch Gauge

Black steam locomotive \$8,000

Flat cars with boxes (3) - \$500 each

Gecko car - \$500 Flat car with trailer - \$500

Email Gail Woodward at gail080953@yahoo.com.
subject line "Trains." Cash or cashiers check

