

## Ramp Removed From Mountain Division



*By Bill Schirmer*

The dirt ramp to the Crystal Springs Pit area (next to the Mountain Division) has been dug out and the extra dirt moved to the pit floor. Top photo: Les Kovacs moving dirt on Saturday, February 20; bottom photo: the McKelvey Loop track that traverses this area has been cleaned up, repaired and is operational again. Bill Schirmer and Ross Harper also worked on this project.

A big thank you to Big Jim DeBiasio for emptying every Thursday our green waste trailers at the City recycling parking lot disposal station.

*Top photo Bill Schirmer, bottom photo Ross Harper.*

## Larry Tighe Signs On as Director of Track Maintenance

*By Ted Merchant*

Larry Tighe (pronounced “Tie”) will be serving as LALSRM’s Director of Track Maintenance. We thought you would enjoy knowing more about him.

Larry, known by many as “Oliver’s Dad” was born and raised in Philadelphia, earned a bachelor’s degree in visual arts, worked in theatre production, moved to Los Angeles, and earned a master’s degree in architecture. He began working at Gehry Partners, LLP (think Disney Concert Hall) in 1991, where he remains as partner, overseeing development, documentation and construction.

Larry’s father was an architect that collected pre-WWII, Lionel, tinsplate trains. In 2010, Larry shared that collection with his son, Oliver, and they were both hooked! They visited LALSRM in 2011, befriended Gary Evans, bought a GE box cab, and joined the Club in 2016.

This year, Larry bought Dave Glidden’s Little Engines Pacific. Richard Ronne taught Larry and Oliver how to run it. Oliver, now 13 years old, runs that engine weekly while Larry works on Club infrastructure, including track.

Please join your Board in welcoming Larry as Director of Track Maintenance. We are excited to enjoy his technical, organizational and leadership experience. Larry can be reached at [bottle-flyblue@gmail.com](mailto:bottle-flyblue@gmail.com) if you want to participate in track maintenance, or just have related questions.

# SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



## February 2021

Due to coronavirus the February 2021 meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom. Seven Directors were present as well as 49 members.

**President's Report:** Ted opened the meeting by discussing the prior public Board meeting and how undisciplined it had become. Ted suggested that BOD meetings should have members muted until they are recognized by the president to speak. Members are welcome to use the Zoom Chat Column at will; Vice President Bill Schirmer will attempt to monitor the chat column during the meeting.

The Board approved Ted's suggestion to hold a membership meeting on Zoom every third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm to replace the traditional membership meeting. When the COVID-19 restrictions at the Club are removed the membership meeting will resume at the LALS RM facility as it used to be.

Ted anticipates the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions may be lifted at some point later this year, so we must start planning for the future. He could not predict exactly when or if that would occur.

He suggested we start putting together a timeline for a 2021 Fall meet, workdays, reroofing of the Richardson & Alkire shed roofs, public rides, LALS RM elections in November, holiday dinners, and the year-end banquet. He said if the timeline does not work for whatever reason, at least we tried. All of the Board members at the meeting agreed with Ted, and planning will start as soon as possible.

Ted confirmed that the Laundry room was completed.

**Secretary's Report:** The January 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. The current Microsoft cloud account was briefly discussed, and it was decided that this account would not be used until the JG matter is finished.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martha Figueroa presented the prior periods financials, with the assistance of Tim. There was minor discussion and then the Board approved them. Martha confirmed that she was completing the paperwork to renew the LALS RM business license. Martha also discussed how the 2021 membership fee renewal collections and the 2020 shed rental collections were going.

**Membership Report:** Nick Suncin stated that Brian Stucka had applied to join LALS RM, and then briefly commented on the current membership renewal collections.

**Superintendent's Report:** Les Kovacs was not available, so Ted presented the report. Ted stated the 4' x 8' section of the Richardson shed roof, replaced prior to the rainstorm, had stopped the water from coming in and damaging any equipment. The repair gave us a good idea as to how the upcoming reroofing project should move forward.

Ted suggested that an initial FCR be submitted by April 5, 2021, to be approved by May 3, 2021. The reroofing would tentatively start June 4, 2021, due to the fact that most of the members would have had their COVID-19 shots by then. We anticipate project completion by July 12, 2021.

The Parks department has informed Ted that they will no longer pick up the green waste or trash from the LALS RM facility, and that we pay a company for pick up. A discussion revealed that LALS RM may be allowed to dump our green waste at the city composting site. Ted will discuss this matter further with the city department that handles this site.

It was agreed that the roll-off dumpster will be delivered mid-March and placed on Crystal Springs Drive.

The next item discussed was Jeremy's recent email concerning several damaged locations of the LALS RM fence that surrounds the facility. Several of the Board

members had met at LALS RM on Saturday, January 30, 2021 to inspect these areas. At that time, several other damaged areas were also identified. Based on the findings of the January 31 inspection the Board approved obtaining three bids from licensed fencing companies, so that one could be selected to perform the needed repairs.

Ted informed the Board that Gary Baker has notified him that he might not meet the February 28 deadline to remove his personal items from the LALS RM facility. Ted and Gary will stay in contact, and this matter should be resolved shortly.

Ted thanked Roger Williams for installing all of the wiring & plumbing in the new laundry facility.

**Website Update/Communications:** The Board was informed that Jeremy will now be in charge of the website, and that the website will be moved off of Zak's server to another location. Ted and the Board thanked Zak for all of his good work concerning the website. Additional items related to the website such as registration, invoicing, additional software items, and data storage were discussed as well.

**Other items:** There was a brief discussion regarding the ongoing collections of the recent Shed Rental invoices (7/1/20 through 6/30/21), and the next billing cycle (7/1/21 through 6/30/22) that will be forthcoming in July.

The Carolwood Foundation's Mine Train project was discussed. The Board reviewed and approved a letter prepared by Ted to the Carolwood Foundation explaining why the mine train project had been rejected by the LALS RM Board.

Members were again reminded not to put their trash from home in the LALS RM blue dumpster.

Miles requested that all members using the Club engines please remember to complete the engine log sheets that are located near or under the engineer's seat.

Members were reminded to refill Club engine fuel tanks with high octane gas when they are finished running the engine.

The Board reminded everyone that the trains are running clockwise (eastbound).

Ted and a number of members reflected on the recent passing of Doug Young, how he would be missed by all LALS RM members, and expressed our deepest sympathies to his wife and two daughters. Due to COVID-19 no memorial service has been yet scheduled for Doug; we will notify members should one be scheduled.



# President's Message



**Ted Merchant,  
President**

**H**ello Railroad Fans!  
I remain optimistic regarding COVID-19. I had my two vaccines last month. The pundits remain optimistic about the economy and declining rates of COVID-19. We have an enthusiastic membership. And I recommend we transition toward the re-opening of LALSRM!

Additional good news is that Ross Harper volunteered to serve as our new Superintendent. Ross is engaging, organized, pleasant and works tirelessly for LALSRM. He will do a great job. If you want to work but don't know what to do, contact Ross. His email address is [panman-ross@aol.com](mailto:panman-ross@aol.com).

I suggest we spend March, April and May cleaning up. We reached an agreement with Parks and Recreation regarding our green waste and trash disposal. You can place the green waste EXCEPT PINE NEEDLES in one of the two trailers on Crystal Springs Drive, and we will dump them every Thursday. Feel free to dump green waste next to the wall on Crystal Springs Drive if the trailers are full. PLACE PINE NEEDLES IN THE BLUE TRASH BIN, and we will dispose of them as often as needed. So, you who want to rake, clean and dump, have at it! Just remember the pandemic. Masking and physical distancing remain necessary even if you have had a vaccine! Contact Ross Harper if you have questions.

A roll-off has been placed on Crystal Springs Drive. There are several projects that include our dumping bulky materials. You can put green waste in the roll-off if the trailers are full and the tractor is available.

You can anticipate our disrupting the inner parking lot while we extend the electrical service from the new panel to the Phil West Barn. Contact Les Kovacs if you want to help.

We all deeply mourn the passing of Doug Young, our Director of Track

Maintenance. Larry Tighe has volunteered to assume Doug's responsibilities; you can read about him on page 1. Larry can be reached at [bottleflyblue@gmail.com](mailto:bottleflyblue@gmail.com).

Our Spring Meet remains doubtful, but you never know. We plan to use May to organize re-roofing the Richardson and Alkire Sheds. This is a big project that can be done in a short time if we get all hands-on-deck and organize how we work. If you have a 'sawzall' and can lend it to the project, preferably with you operating it, let Bill Schirmer or me know. We will put you to work in June.

Let's all focus on a knock-down-drag-out sensational Fall Meet in early October. We should start talking this up now. Let's have a Club Halloween Family Dinner in late October. Our election will be held as usual in November. We can have a Club Thanksgiving Family Dinner in late November and our Annual Holiday Banquet at a restaurant in December. This timeline should create an exciting re-opening and give the newly elected Board an exciting Club/Museum to lead!

All this is dependent on effective resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, of course, is not certain. But it aims us toward exciting benchmarks. If I am wrong, and the pandemic wins, then at least we are fighting the hard fight in the best interests of LALSRM.

And that's the way it is. Stay safe. Stay well. Wear your mask. And look forward to the future. If you want to participate in our transition to re-open, this article gives you several people you may contact. Your comments are always appreciated. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant  
[edwardbmerchant@gmail.com](mailto:edwardbmerchant@gmail.com)



**Shed Rentals:** Mail payments to:

Martha Figueroa  
LALSRM  
P.O. Box 2156  
Toluca Lake, CA 91610-0156

Or drop off in the Treasurer's mailbox in the yellow UP Caboose. Please attach your invoice with your check.

**Membership Renewals:** Our website team is in process of moving our website to a new hosting site.

We are also updating online membership renewal system. If you renewed less than 12 months ago, you can wait to pay your 2021 dues until we have finished testing, sometime in the next month or so.

We will be in touch once everything is in place. Until then you are considered a member in good standing. If you have questions, please contact Diana Manchester at [dm.ad@verizon.net](mailto:dm.ad@verizon.net).

## West Meadow Green Trailer Update

*By Bill Schirmer*

**O**ur green utility trailer in the west meadow has gotten new lease on life: it is being recycled and will now live in Palmdale as a storage trailer.

This all happened very quickly. I made a phone call to a metal scrap collector to remove and dispose of our green storage trailer at 10 o'clock, and the man met me at the Club at one. Ron Nelson and Ted Merchant were there so I grabbed them, and we towed the trailer out with the tractor in one piece, and didn't damage anything in the process.

*One Year Ago . . .*

It was almost one year ago in March that we halted public activities. How our lives have changed since then!

### Coronavirus Halts Public Rides and Events





## From the SUPER



By  
Ross  
Harper

**M**y name is Ross Harper and I'm pleased to take over as General Superintendent, handling the volunteer coordination of smaller general maintenance projects so that Les Kovacs can use his time and skills on the major improvement projects for the Club. I've been repairing and maintaining the sprinkler system with Steve Rodstein for the past few years. Seeing all of the maintenance projects that need to be done to keep our Club functioning and looking good, I will be developing a clear and simple communication system to let you know how you can help, too.

At the last meeting, the Board expressed the Club's goal to get ready to reopen LALS to friends and the public in the Fall. We need your help! You are invited to come volunteer at the Club anytime on an individual basis. (For now, we are not hosting group work days just informal

gatherings of limited participants.) For your safety and the comfort of other members, please wear a mask and social distance when working around others. Please contact me if you need suggestions for work projects. The Winter days have been beautiful! Thanks to the volunteers who have kept the Club in good shape recently by mowing lawns, raking, recycling and various other projects.

**West End Leaf Haul-Away-** With Spring approaching, we need to get rid of last Fall's leaves on the west end. Tim Silver and others have raked most of the leaves into piles near the tracks, so we need volunteers to move them to the dump trailers on Crystal Springs Drive.

If you can come out and help, here's what you need to do: 1) Grab a snow shov-

*Please put pine needles only in the BLUE dumpster with the regular trash. They can no longer go in the black or yellow dump trailers. Thank you.*

el and some plastic trash cans and load them in a flat car or gondola. Drive your train out to the west side and enjoy the ride! 2) Load the leaves into the trash cans and haul them close to the black dump trailer. If the cans are too heavy to lift and dump, just leave the cans by the trailer. Please fill the black trailer before using the yellow one.

I look forward to working with all of you to get our Club in shape so that we can all enjoy running our trains again. Please feel free to contact me with your comments or suggestions.

Ross Harper [panmanross@aol.com](mailto:panmanross@aol.com)

## Equipment For Sale

**One Inch Scale Diesel Locomotive**  
Email Gail Woodward at [gail080953@yahoo.com](mailto:gail080953@yahoo.com),  
subject line "Trains."  
Cash or cashiers check only.

## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park  
Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,  
Toluca Lake, CA 91610

[LALSRM.org](http://LALSRM.org)  
(323) 661-8958

### 2021 Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Ted Merchant
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Schirmer
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Rodstein
<b>Treasurer</b>	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

# My Big Shot Day

Enthusiastically submitted  
by Bill Schirmer

Last week, I drove my neighbor to Calabasas for her first of two Covid-19 vaccinations. Afterward, I thought, "What about me?!"

I ventured online and dug deep for a shot location, finally landing at LA County Health. I filled out all the forms and pushed "enter." Success! In moments I was invited to receive my vaccine.

The next day I headed down the I-5 to Dodger Stadium. There was a line three cars wide and a mile long at Stadium Way, so I ventured to Chinatown and College St. and wound back to the stadium. I was directed to a line of 25 cars. There was a wait of about two minutes, then a four-minute drive through thousands of orange safety cones to a "Shot" lane.

A lady with an iPad approached. I thought I was at In 'n' Out! I told her "I'll take a double-double animal cheeseburger with fries and a chocolate shake." She laughed. Moments later a nurse rolling a tool cart gave me a shot.

They observed me for any reactions for 20 minutes while I remained in my car, then I was released. I felt so happy on my way home, I had tears. There is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel! I might see my four grandsons again! LALSRM will reopen!

When it's your time to get your shot, I SAY GET IT!!!!

*Associate Editor's Note – The CDC has noted that several people have had allergic and other reactions to the experimental mRNA vaccines. Do your research prior to scheduling a shot.*

## Member Schedule

### March

1 - BOD Zoom Meeting 7 pm.  
15 - Gen Membership Zoom Mtg 7 pm  
Souvenir Booth not open this month.