



Nelson Summit Clean-Up and Renewal Begins

By Tom Hansen

On Thursday March 18th, Dan Humfreville and I spent six hours at the Nelson Summit location, working with the jumbled, rotting, dilapidated, and disorganized buildings. See photos at left.

We turned the location into an organized collection of rotting and dilapidated buildings. We added a pressure treated foundation to the cabin which should give it another 10 years of life. We cleaned all of the buildings and removed any and all rotted wood. We moved smaller buildings up the hillside to help in their perspective.

And we moved the two story Queen Anne House a little bit to the left of where it was. This house has a large colony of termites living and chewing the entire floor of the building, and in the not too distant future, it will collapse in on itself. But we cleaned it up in the meantime and it looks "Okay."

We removed several hundred feet of indoor extension cords that were laying all over the ground. All building lighting and wire cords are piled to the right of the new encampment.

The gravel foreground of the area was raked flat and the theme of the area is a pioneer encampment next to a logging company. This is a first attempt to "repair" existing buildings on the layout. Pictures of the revised area are shown above.



It Ain't Glamorous, But Somebody's Got To Do It

Max Roy, Tim Silver, Ross Harper, Jim Dubensky, Richard Roy, and Ted Merchant (photographer) collect leaves at the West End. Saturday mornings are a good time to join in on the fun.

*Tribute to
Doug Young
Back Page*

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



March 2021

The March 1, 2021 BOD meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bill Schirmer. Seven of the directors were present (Martha Figueroa was absent), as well as 44 members. President Ted Merchant was under the weather.

President's Report: Bill Schirmer invited anyone that wanted to stay on for the social hour following the official meeting. Ross Harper was named General Superintendent of LALSRM, and Larry Tighe was named Track Maintenance Superintendent. All the members were reminded to wear a face mask at the facility, and follow the LALSRM COVID-19 safety procedures in place. Bill wanted to remind everyone there is an informal work day every Tuesday, and that COVID-19 safety procedures will be followed at these gatherings.

Secretary's Report: The February minutes were approved. There are no events scheduled at the Club. Diana Manchester stated that LALSRM members are to still use the 2019 Roster.

Treasurer's Report: As Martha was not at the meeting, Les Kovacs filled in and presented the prior periods financials. They were approved after minor discussion. It was confirmed that Tim is working with the LALSRM accountant to have the 2019 tax returns filed on time. Tim stated that he would email to all Board members the conflict of interest statement for each to sign and return to the secretary as outlined in the LALSRM bylaws.

Membership Report: Nick confirmed that all new memberships were on hold until LALSRM opens up and the COVID-19 safety procedures are lifted. Anyone that needs assistance regarding 2021 Membership Renewals should con-

tact Diana Manchester.

Superintendent's Report: Ross discussed the necessity of installing a temporary sprinkler at the west end meadow, until there is a permanent solution. Les brought up that the new laundry room needed a concrete ribbon around the bottom of the structure, Ross Harper will have pavers installed.

Electrical grid extension: Les stated that this was a long-term project which was in the planning stages now. While the electrical expansion was being discussed, the passing of Doug Young was brought up. Greg graciously offered to pay for a memorial plaque over the new electrical cabinet that was Doug's last project that he helped to build. It was also mentioned that Richard Ronne had repaired the track that is in front of the member driveway gate. The ongoing planning of the Richardson and Alkire shed repair and reroofing project was discussed. Bill Walker also brought the Board up to date on the miniature buildings committee projects.

Website Update/communications: The Board was brought up to date on the LALSRM website, member registration, and communicating with probationary members. Anyone who needs assistance regarding 2021 Membership Renewals should contact Diana Manchester.

Other items: Marc Weiss stated that he was interested in joining the track crew, and that he wanted one of the gas heaters that were being removed from the Kountry Kitchen area. Les also mentioned he was interested in one, and would cap off the gas connections. Nick brought the Board up to date on the bids to repair the compressor. After some discussion this matter was put on hold for the moment.

One inch track expansion: Nick Guzman had requested the Board to approve the purchase of additional ties for the 4 3/4 gauge track. The Board requested that Nick make a more formal request outlining all of the ongoing track projects for the 4 3/4 gauge, which would also include the ongoing work west of the tunnels, before the Board could make a decision regarding his request.

The next General Membership meeting will be Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The next public BOD meeting will be Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm.



By
Ross
Harper

Greetings Fellow Railroaders –

It's been nice to see more members coming out to enjoy the Club and the beautiful spring weather. There is plenty to do to get ready for a re-opening later this year.

News from the Western Front: We could still use help removing the leaves from the west end on the Smith Valley lines. Thanks to Jim Dubensky, Ted Merchant, Richard and Max Roy, Bill Schirmer, Tim Silver, Marc Weiss and others who have helped take some bites out of this elephant of a project. If you can help scoop and transport the remaining leaves, but the bags or cans are too heavy to lift into the trailers, just dump them onto Crystal Springs Drive and we will pick them up later with the skiploader. Thanks to Jim DeBiasio for dumping the trailers for us. (Remember, pine needles must go in the blue trash dumpster only.)

To keep the meadow grass green and the redwood trees growing tall, we've added a new portable hose sprinkler on a timer and a new hose spigot for watering the redwood trees under the O'Brien-Moore bridge. The west end looks tidier since the old green trailer was removed.

Walkways and Track: Steve Rod-
(Continued on page 3)

Member Schedule

April

5 - BOD Zoom Meeting 7 pm.
19 - Gen Membership Zoom Mtg 7 pm
*Souvenir Booth — Contact
Martha Figueroa for hours*

President's Message



By
Ted
Merchant,
President

Hello Railroad Fans!
My next Booster articles will focus on our transition to a post-Covid LALSRM. Last month I proposed a calendar of significant events that we may anticipate, hoping we can open to the Public this fall. This month, I want to emphasize our cleaning up.

Many members are working to rake and remove leaves that have collected over the last 14 months. The most popular method uses hamper cars, at least two at a time, to collect leaves and dump them on Crystal Springs Drive. We scoop up the leaves every Tuesday and Thursday morning and dump them every Thursday noon. We have purchased 10 additional hampers, so we have plenty to get the job done. If you collect green waste in trash cans, please dump it directly into the black or yellow trailers so we don't waste time scooping it up. Remember! Always dump pine needles directly into the blue trash bin, not the green waste piles. Those needles apparently wreak havoc on the Park's recycling equipment, so we want pine needles directed to the landfills. We need all the help we can get to remove leaves. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Those of you storing equipment in the Richardson and Alkire Sheds... please clean up the areas below and around your equipment. Please get rid of any trash in those areas and store the remainder neatly so it can be easily moved. We plan re-roofing those sheds in June and we will need easy, safe access. If the occupants are unable to do so, we will assemble a team of members to clean up those areas. We anticipate repeatedly moving all equipment in the Richardson Shed onto the steaming bays and adjacent track beginning Saturday, June 5th. We hope the owners of that equipment will be available to assist. Any members that can

help in this regard will be greatly appreciated. Our plans regarding re-roofing these sheds are in the formative stage, and we will keep you up to date as the plans solidify. We are committed to start the work on Saturday, June 5th, and move aggressively to get the job done. Your participation is vital.

So that's the way it is. Stay safe. Stay well. Wear your mask. And look forward to the future. Your comments are always appreciated. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant
edwardbmerchant@gmail.com



Jeremy and Jasmyn Depart From Caboose

After almost four years of serving as the Club's caretaker, my wife Jasmyn and I will be moving!

We purchased my grandma's house in Sylmar where we both grew up. Thankfully, it's only 20 minutes away from the Club, so we'll still be here often, just not all the time.

Move-out date will be sometime after the escrow closes on May 19. It's bittersweet to leave and we'll miss the quietness of the park and the joys of seeing everyone else on a regular basis.

Jeremy and Jasmyn

**One Inch Equipment
For Sale**

Email Gail Woodward
RJGW1409@yahoo.com

Subject line: TRAINS.
Cash only



(Continued from page 2)

stein and I installed a walkway of concrete pavers from the sidewalk next to the Kountry Kitchen to the new laundry shed. See photo below of Steve. No new pavers were harmed in the process! The project was completed using unused pavers that were found all over the property.

Have you noticed a blue-green color around the tracks? This temporary mark indicates that the areas have been sprayed for weed abatement, which is necessary to run our trains smoothly. Thanks to Ray Burden for that application and maintenance on the sprayer.

Speaking of track, contact Larry Tighe (bottleflyblue@gmail.com) if you would like to help on the track maintenance team he is organizing. Work has already begun on restoring the McKelvey Loop. Les Kovacs removed the excess dirt with the Bobcat where the track panels need to be reinstalled. Bill Stewart has been working on the alignment of the track approaching that section.

This is just a sampling of some of the work that has been accomplished recently. I invite you to come out and find a project to restore or improve the Club. Let me know if you need suggestions. I'm also compiling a list of things that need to be fixed. Please email or text me any issues you discover.

I hope to see you at the Club soon!

Ross Harper
panmanross@aol.com
818-786-7380



Remembering Doug Young – 36 Year member – 1957 – 2021

A Man for All Seasons



Doug was highly committed to the Club; his specialty was building track panels and laying track; he could often be found running the heavy equipment. Upper left: Doug operates the Gradall to lift the refurbished Kheene tower into its new location; inset: Les Kovacs and Doug Young relax at the 2019 Holiday Banquet; upper right: Doug and Miles Kristman install a new track panel on the Disney Loop with Ross Harper.



“Doug was always one to lend a hand, we never could have accomplished so much without his help.” – Les Kovacs

“I would meet with John DePhillip and Les on weekends to fix the tracks or build something for the Club. There isn’t an area you can look and not see something Doug has had his hands in.” – Miles Kristman

“Doug was friendly, outgoing and a hard worker. He was always ready to help with any project.” – Sam Calderwood



Doug was involved in countless Club projects and served on the Board several times. He helped install and run the Ghost Train for many years, was a white suiter for the Tournament of Roses (Fiesta Floats), and a builder/operator for the annual Metrolink Holiday Toy Express. Clockwise from left: Doug, Miles and Tim Silver unload the Club’s newest diesel; Doug and Drew LaGaly reinstall the refurbished girders on the O’Brien-Moore Bridge; Doug serving on the 2018-2019 Board of Directors; Doug helping build the witches house along with Brian Webster and Johnny DePhillip.

