

ENGINE BOOSTER

April 2021



www.lals.org

McKelvey Loop Track Installed



▲ Miles Kristman is cutting replacement rail with Steve Rodstein looking on.
▼ Track crew from left: Chris Solak, Richard Ronne, William Stewart, Don Kallgren, Ross Harper, Steve Rodstein, Marc Weiss and Joe Clow. (Tim Silver photos)
Inset below left: Richard examining uneven rail that was identified through the track periscope. Inset below right: Steve using the track periscope. (Peter Fuad photos)



A crew of dedicated workers joined on Saturday, April 10 to work on re-installing the McKelvey Loop trackage, which had been removed to allow work on the new rail yard behind it. It was part of a four week project.

Larry Tighe and team had previously prepared the grade and compacted the soil. Les Kovacs had used the Bobcat to prepare the area.

Members working on the project that day included Joe Clow, Ross Harper, Don Kallgren, Miles Kristman, Tim Silver, Steve Rodstein, Chris Solak, William Stewart and Marc Weiss. Richard Ronne, an experienced track layer from Riverside Live Steamers, joined the effort and generously shared his knowledge of track laying. He brought a track periscope to identify uneven rails.

Some new rail needed to be bent to conform to the radius of the Loop. The new rails gave an opportunity to stagger the rail joints to help avoid the kinking effect on curves when joints are directly across from each other.

The track project is now finished except for some final leveling and compaction after settling and bedding. Signals will be installed by the signaling crew.

(Continued on page 2)

Member Schedule

May

3 - BOD Zoom Meeting 7 pm.
17 - Gen Membership Zoom Mtg 7 pm
Souvenir Booth — Contact Martha Figueroa for hours

SAVE THE DATE—
Fall Meet: October 8, 9 and 10.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Steve Rodstein, Secretary

these tasks must be approved by the Board. Ted requested that a 240 volt plug be installed in the electrical cabinet when the updates are being done to facilitate welding.

Short- and long-term fixes for the Richardson and Alkire Shed roofs were discussed at length. Alternatives include just reroofing the sheds, building new double decker sheds, and replacing the sheds with shipping containers. The latter two options would require updating, repairing or replacing the double decker transfer table. Ted asked the Board to consider these alternatives and their respective costs and benefits.

David Holman suggested that the new pit maintenance yard should be completed before undertaking any other major projects. The Board decided to hold off making a decision at this meeting other than Ted getting three bids to reroof the sheds. Ted and Martha stated that regardless of what happens, members using the Richardson and Alkire sheds must remove anything that is under their track and clean up the area around their storage track.

Larry Tighe updated the Board on reinstalling track on the McKelvey Loop and other track projects. He also asked that any members who work in the track maintenance area (between the yellow maintenance car and the yellow meeting car) to please keep the area clean. Larry stated that tools that had been set aside for the track crew were no longer there, and replacements are needed. Miles will be holding a class on track assembly in the near future.

Jeremy Steinert and his wife Jasmyn will be vacating the caboose this May. Ted asked if anyone else was interested in being our caretaker

Other items: After discussion, the board decided to hold the Fall Meet on October 8, 9, and 10. This information will be posted on the LALS website, and Diana will publicize the Fall Meet.

Members were asked again to dispose of pine needles in only the blue dumpster, and not any other place.

Nick Suncin stated that he was ob-

taining a bid to purchase our existing compressor and bids to purchase two smaller replacement compressors if the Board approves the sale of the larger compressor. Nick said he should have more information by the next Board meeting.

Don Kallgren stated that he sold some HO models that had been donated to the Club and that he would be turning the money over to the Treasurer. Bill Schirmer informed the Board that he had rented the east parking lot to a movie company and the check for that had been forwarded to the Treasurer.

The next public BOD meeting will be Monday, May 3 at 7:00 pm.

McKelvey Loop

(Continued from page 1)

In order to provide adequate storage tracks for the Fall Meet, the top priority now is the construction of temporary storage tracks in the new pit yard for MOW cars.

The crew did an exceptional job and should be commended for their efforts.



Track leveler rolls along newly installed track to spot areas that are not level.



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

Editor - Peter Fuad.

Associate Editor - Diana Manchester



Our Direction of Travel — Westbound from New Sherwood Station (towards the tunnel)

President's Message



**Ted Merchant,
President**

Hello Railroad Fans!

Many of you ask about our priorities for reopening LALSRM, assuming resolution of the COVID pandemic. Several projects should be addressed: One is cleaning up the green waste. A second is restoring our track compromised by weather, roots, use and time. A third is repairing the leaks in the Richardson, Alkire and Bresee shed roofs. And a fourth is development of West Crystal Springs Drive, otherwise referred to as the "Pit". Which of these projects has a higher priority?... None of them. Each is sufficiently important that we are addressing them simultaneously. Some are straightforward; some are more complex and require substantial consideration and planning.

I discussed cleaning up the place last month. I hope the spring weather and further confidence in pandemic resolution will allow more members to come out and shovel leaves. I am sure it will get done. Feel free to contact Ross Harper or me if you need direction helping with clean-up.

Larry Tighe and team have made a

good start restoring the main line at the McKelvey loop. Most of the main line has been inspected. A punch list has been created for continued restoration. And increasing numbers of Club members are volunteering to help. Feel free to contact Larry if you want to participate.

The Board is evaluating strategies for restoring the roofs on the Richardson, Alkire and Bresee sheds. Some of the work may be contracted out in the interest of time and quality. Currently we are asking roofers to bid on parts of the project.

Development of the Pit is our most complicated and expensive project. We all agree the area should be used for equipment storage. Varied proposals and strategies have been entertained. Unfortunately, those discussions take time before conclusions and plans are made and work is begun. Completion of this project will take time, however it is planned. It is worth accepting the notion that every hour of planning saves two hours of execution. We will keep you informed.

I have not discussed other projects not associated with reopening. Repairing our perimeter fence, upgrading our electrical grid and repairing our irrigation to name a few. Regardless of your skill sets, we can put you to work at LALSRM.

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
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President	Ted Merchant
Vice President	Bill Schirmer
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David Holman	Les Kovacs
Tim LaGaly	Nick Suncin

about track repairs and the latest tools; and thanks to the team for all your hard work getting the project completed. To learn more and join the Track Team, please contact Larry Tighe (bottleflyblue@gmail.com).

Larry and his son Oliver cleaned up the track building area between the work car and meeting car in preparation for some track building classes. If you use this area and these tools, please clean up after yourself to keep the area ready for others.

Whether you come out to run your train, enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery, or lend a hand with a volunteer project, I hope to see you there soon! Look for me running my Pacific Electric engine.

Ross Harper
panmanross@aol.com

From the SUPER

By
Ross
Harper

Greetings Fellow Railroaders— As much as I enjoy running my train at LA Live Steamers, I also appreciate the beauty of Spring in full bloom around the property, with wildflowers in the meadows and hillside, and butterflies trying to keep pace with my engine.

Come out and enjoy the scenery while you run your train, too! Get outside in this great weather, lend a hand on a project to keep the Club clean and running smoothly, and learn something new about tracks, signals or grounds-keeping. There's plenty to do before we can reopen to the public, and now is a great time to fulfill volunteer service hours toward your shed rental.

News from the Western Front

The Sprinkler Crew recently finished adding a second portable hose lawn sprinkler to the west meadow to keep it green through the summer. Thanks to Ron Nelson for the regular mowing. Now, most of the redwood trees under the Moore-O'Brien-Moore bridge are watered with a drip system on a timer. If you see plants that look distressed and not getting enough water, please let us know.

We could still use help removing the leaves from the west end on the Smith Valley Line, especially in the area where the old green trailer used to be. Most of the leaves are raked near the track, so you can just scoop them into cans or bags to haul to the trailers for dumping. (Remember, pine needles must go in the blue trash dumpster only).

Main Grounds

It's exciting to see the McKelvey Loop get reopened. Thanks to Richard Ronne, Miles Kristman, Mel Bresee and Bill Stewart for teaching the volunteers

◀ Continued at left



Brushfire Damages Maricopa Live Steamers Layout

A brushfire swept through Adobe Dam Regional Park in Phoenix last Tuesday, April 20, damaging Maricopa Live Steamers' Adobe and Western Railroad layout.

The fire started around noon and quickly spread to 40 acres. According to the Phoenix Fire Department, the small grass fire was fueled by extremely dry brush and erratic winds. The fire was contained by 2:30 pm.

No MLS structures were damaged, but some bridges and sections of track toward the southern end of the railroad were damaged by the fire and fire fighting equipment. As it happens, a number of the destroyed bridges had earlier been identified as needing replacement. Some rails actually melted. MLS intends to start repairs shortly.

Fire officials say the cause of the fire possibly came from a spark off a welding torch. It was not caused by anyone from MLS.

MLS has 18 miles of track and four different routes. Public runs were already suspended because of the pandemic.

Tracks can be seen in the two photos of the fire at left. (Joe Schnyder photos)

For Sale— 1½" Scale LE Mogul With Tender and Propane Fuel car. • A great steamer.

All 3 for \$10,000

Contact Jim Kreider
909-307-2311
nkp765@aol.com

