

ENGINE BOOSTER



July 2021

SINCE

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26-Year Member Ron Bergmann's Life Honored at Police Academy Ceremony

By Diana Manchester

Under a large white pavilion and blue skies at the LAPD Academy, a "Celebration of Life" was held for LALSRM member and retired LAPD Deputy Chief Ronald W. Bergmann on Thursday morning, July 22.

Many colleagues from the Department attended, as well as members of Ron's Corvette and motorcycle clubs, LALSRM, family, neighbors and friends. Joyce and Elizabeth Bergmann were escorted to the service by a bagpiper in full regalia and LAPD Police Chief Michel Moore. The Air Force Honor Guard brought in the colors and later performed the flag ceremony, honoring Ron's time as a Captain with Strategic Air Command.

Chief Moore Tribute

A warm tribute was shared by Chief Moore, who previously worked as Commander under Ron at LAPD's Operations Valley Bureau. Other officers and friends gave us glimpses into Ron's career and life as well, ending with his daughter Liz's favorite recollections about their shared hobbies and adventures together.

A nine member LAPD Honor Guard stood at attention during the service and honored Ron with a twenty-one gun salute, followed by a flyover by an LAPD helicopter. Both Taps, by the Bugler of the LAPD Honor Guard, and Amazing Grace, by the LAPD Bagpiper, were played.

26-Year Member

Ron was a 26-year member of LALSRM and served as President for three terms. Before moving to Prescott, AZ with his wife, Joyce two-and-a-half years ago, Ron enjoyed hauling the Sunday public behind his Allen Mogul or Santa Fe. His daughter Liz inherited his love for trains and is now a member of the Club. Representing LALSRM at the service were Ted Merchant, Steve and Georgia Altmayer, David Holman, Glen and Diana Manchester, and Peter Fuad.



LAPD Chief Michel Moore presents flag to Joyce Bergmann. Her sister Rhoda and daughter Liz Bergmann sit next to her. (Diana Manchester photos). More photos on back page.



Members Schedule

August

- 2 Zoom BOD Meeting 7 pm.
- 14 Workday
- 15 Disney Barn Open
- 16 Zoom Membership Meeting 7 pm
- 22 **Proposed Reopening to Public**
- 28 Summer Movie Night/Night Run. Members will have to bring their own food.

Special Fundraising Event — Tunnel, Cut & Trestle backyard railroad: July 31 and August 1. Reservations required.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



Vice President Bill Schirmer called the July 12, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:16 pm. The meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom. All directors except Tim LaGaly and Ted Merchant, participated. Thirty-four members participated.

President's Report: Due to President Ted Merchant's absence, Bill opened the meeting by presenting the terms of the sale of the calliope. After some discussion, the Board approved the terms of sale. The buyer will pay all costs related to crating and shipping the calliope. The flat car that it currently sets on is not included in the sale.

Bill also discussed the upcoming meeting with Joel Alvarez from the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks concerning our east parking lot. Bill confirmed that Brandon Ruiz had moved into the caboose.

Secretary's Report: The June Board minutes were approved. The following party requests were approved: Carolwood Foundation on August 21, 2021 (12 noon to 7:00 pm), and Roger Frymire wedding on April 23, 2022 at the east end of the LALS RM property (12 noon to 5:00 pm). Diana Manchester reminded everyone of upcoming events, which are listed in the Members Schedule on page 1.

Treasurer's Report: The prior period's financials presented by Treasurer Martha Figueroa were approved.

Shed rental collections were discussed. Unless they pay shortly, the several members who still have not paid their shed rentals will receive letters from LALS RM requiring them to remove their equipment from the storage sheds.

The Board will review Martha's email concerning the purchase of 65th anniversary and standard T shirts at the upcoming executive Board meeting later this month.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Nick Suncin briefly mentioned new members Charlie Ockwell, Scott Horgan and Jack Reynolds. An application received from Login Hagge will be forwarded to Nick.

Superintendent's Report: In Superintendent Ross Harper's absence, the Secretary presented the Superintendent's Report that Ross had prepared. There had been a good turnout at the last workday, and Ross thanked those members who participated. The track crew leveled the section of mainline track in the western town next to the Davis Mine. Wayne Crabb updated the Board on the progress of the signal crew. Miles Kristman and crew had worked on several of the Club engines. There is plenty of work remaining

to do prior to the Club's reopening. Bill reported that the bee problem under the UP caboose had been resolved. Les Kovacs was working on replacing the Bobcat tires and several of the Gradall's tires.

IT and Communication Committee: The Board reviewed a proposal from Liisa Blackwell to assist in implementing a plan developed by Les Bernell to improve the functionality of the Club's website. After discussion, the Board decided to discuss the matter further at the upcoming executive Board meeting.

Other Items: Bill suggested that all train crews continue to practice running Club equipment since we had been closed for so long. The proposed reopening date is now August 22. Nick volunteered to observe train crews as they run. Bill thanked Roger Williams for repairing the Club's refrigerators. Bill also reminded everyone that the perimeter fences were scheduled to be repaired July 26.

The next public BOD meeting will be Monday August 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Rubber Rods Inserted in Truck Springs Help Avoid Derailing

By Ray Burden

Here is a little idea to help prevent our lightweight rolling stock from derailing, without having to add additional weight on the suspension system.

Ideally, you want to have a spring rate that allows rollingstock to traverse over slightly uneven track without derailing regardless of the car's weight. Often you may not be able to find springs that will work with a wide load range.

One solution I found is to use bump stops to limit spring travel when loaded and provide a soft ride, utilizing polyurethane rubber rods cut to length, with a softness of 40A (medium soft) on the Durometer scale— McMaster Carr part

8695K155, or similar, depending on the size of the compression spring inside diameter.

When a car so equipped is unloaded, the car will ride on the compression springs. When the car is fully loaded, the car will rest on the bump stops. The rod should fit just inside the inside diameter of the coil spring with a loose fit.

I was not able to find polyurethane rubber rods that fit inside springs, so I designed holders in CAD software and printed the holders in 3D for the rods. See photos below. The holders have a small hole in the bottom to relieve any pressure when inserting the rods in the holders.



Left, newly printed rods and, right, rods inserted in springs. (Ray Burden Photos)

President's Message



**Ted
Merchant,
President**

I have been asked to present your Board's perspectives on post-pandemic reopening. There are some issues:

Someday the pandemic will be over and LALSRM will resume its "normal" activities. We need to be prepared.

Griffith Park has an inspection process they apply to their venues. We have requested an inspection at LALSRM.

Reopen Progressively

We will progressively reopen. The first step is to encourage members and their families to resume visiting the Club, run trains, attend movie nights and get involved in the various work groups. That can start now. Start by visiting Sundays. Check the place out and decide how you want to participate.

We expect you to be truthful, use your common sense, your knowledge of current COVID restrictions, and your respect for LALSRM as far as masking and physical separation are concerned. Anyone who wants to mask or socially distance for any reason is encouraged to do so.

Kountry Kitchen Reopening

A second step is to reopen the Kountry Kitchen. This is a more complicated issue since serving food and the recent surge of infections are involved. We will welcome any guidance Griffith Park will give us.

We will not reopen the Kitchen as long as the increasing rates of COVID infection are a concern. Nor if masking and physical distancing are required. As a courtesy, you can expect the Kitchen Crew to be masked, use Lexan barriers, and place condiments for you.

We will not reopen the Kitchen if the Kitchen Crew feels uncomfortable. All of our current Kitchen Crew are fully vaccinated. We are monitoring these situations weekly and will open the Kitchen as soon as the above criteria can be met.

Scheduled Reopening August 22, 2021

Our current target date for pulling the public is August 22, 2021. We will be using the same precautions and benchmarks as we use for the Kountry Kitchen. We continue to monitor the COVID situation weekly and will not pull the public until the entire train crew is comfortable with the decision. We have no reservations about postponing an August 22nd start date.

Fall Meet October 8, 9, 10

Our Fall Meet is scheduled for October 8, 9 and 10, 2021. Again, the Meet will need to fulfill the same criteria as the Kountry Kitchen and pulling the public.

You probably noticed that there are

HUGE subjective components to starting these events. The members responsible for the events need to be comfortable that we are using appropriate COVID precautions. The Board needs to be comfortable that the COVID threat is under control and that we will not regret our actions at a later date. We plan to display "an abundance of caution" as far as those matters are concerned.

And that's the way it is. Come to the Club. Enjoy your friends. Play trains. Let's get going! Your comments are always appreciated. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant

edwardbmerchant@gmail.com

We are now running eastbound (away from the tunnel) at New Sherwood Station)



*By
Ross
Harper*

Greetings, Fellow Railroaders –

We've Been Working on the Railroad

To the many people who regularly help maintain the Club: thank you! LALSRM is a volunteer organization, so it's up to all of us to keep it looking good and running on track. Come out and join us this summer!

Ron Nelson has been mowing the lawns, and Jim DeBiasio has been hauling away the dump trailers full of green waste. Ken Robbins cleaned out the weeds from the overgrown Soibelman garden, and Malcolm and Liam Cook helped me with leaf removal last Saturday.

Bill Schirmer does many things behind the scenes with the kitchen and trash removal. Charles Rhoades and the signal crew were out addressing some of the issues with the signal system now that we

are running eastbound from Sherwood Station. Many of the bench cars and engines were repaired and safety-certified by Jim Cammarata, Miles Kristman and crew. Be sure to thank these guys when you see them and offer to lend a hand!

News from the Western Front

A fence repair company has been hired to address issues throughout the property, including the section west of the Nelson tunnel which had been removed to rotate the green container. Recently, one of the hoses that waters the west end meadow was disconnected from the hose timer and the water was shut off. This caused part of the meadow to get scorched in the summer sun. To keep the meadow green, please don't touch the irrigation hoses and hose timers on the west end. If you need to refill your boiler, please use the hose spigots that are painted red. If you see any problems with hoses, sprinklers, or landscape, please let me know.

Track Projects Update

The track crew is working to address all the major issues before we reopen to the public. Recently Richard Ronne, Steve Rodstein and I leveled the track in front of the western town near the Davis Mine. With plenty to do to keep our trains on track, please contact Larry Tighe (bottleflyblue@gmail.com) to learn a new skill and help maintain our train club.

Even though the summer heat is here, mornings and early evenings are still pleasant for work and train rides. Remember to stay safe and stay hydrated!

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Ron Bergmann Honored at "Celebration of Life" Service at Police Academy



Clockwise from top left: Honor Guard bringing in the colors; LAPD Chief Michel Moore speaking; inset: flag ceremony; Ron at LALSRRM working on his Mogul; Early photo of Ron and Liz with Ron's Santa Fe caboose; Steve and Georgia Altmayer with Joyce, sister Rhoda and Liz Bergmann; inset: LAPD helicopter salute at end of service; bagpiper procession with family, Chief Moore and chaplains. (Photos of Ron, Joyce Bergmann; other photos, David Holman and Diana Manchester)