

Painters working at New Sherwood Station.  
See Splinters for details (Bill Schirmer photo)

# Harper, Bustoe, Walker, Ronne Elected to LALS RM Board; 2022 Officers Named



**R**oss Harper, Dan “Bear” Mustoe, Bill Walker and Richard Ronne, pictured above, have been elected to the LALS RM Board Directors. Ballot counting took place on November 21. Their two-year term will start in January. They will join continuing directors Steve Rodstein, David Holman, Martha Figueroa and Nick Suncin.

There were 108 valid ballots received, representing 54% of all eligible voters. By contrast, in 2019, 64% of eligible voters voted. An election committee comprised of Steve Rodstein, Peter Fuad, Diana and Glen Manchester and Steve Ruatta counted the ballots. The complete vote tally is on [page 3](#).

### New Officers

The new Board of Directors have selected officers for 2022. They are Ross Harper, President; Nick Suncin, Vice President; Martha Figueroa, Treasurer; and Bill Walker, Secretary. They succeed in those positions Ted Merchant, Bill Schemer, Martha Figueroa and Steve Rodstein, respectively.

## Members Schedule

### December

- 4 Holiday dinner at Tallyrand restaurant
- 5 Zoom Open Board Meeting
- 11 Work Day
- 19 Disney Barn Open
- 20 Zoom General Meeting

### January

- 1 Change directions
- 3 Zoom Open Board Meeting
- 8 Work Day
- 16 Disney Barn Open
- 24 Zoom General Meeting

**Important Membership Dues Payment Notice— See [Page 3](#)**

# SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



**P**resident Ted Merchant called the November 1, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:06 pm. The meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom. All of the directors were present. Forty-three members were also present.

**Secretary's Report:** The October minutes were approved. The Board approved a party request from Steve Rodstein for January 29, 2022.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martha Figueroa presented the prior periods financials. After minor discussion, the Board approved them.

Martha reminded everyone about making their reservations for the upcoming holiday banquet at the Tallyrand restaurant on Saturday December 4. Diana Manchester discussed the Griffith Park open house on November 13 that LALSRM will participate in. A number of members from LALSRM volunteered to join Diana.

**Membership Report:** Nick Suncin stated that there was one new member, Michael Strawn, who was welcomed.

**Superintendent's Report:** Ross Harper reported on the ongoing progress of the Richardson, Alkire, Bresee sheds reroofing project. He stated that a great many members had turned out to help. Ted added that on Saturday there had been 26 members working on the sheds. Ted stated that the reroofing project was scheduled to be completed by November 5th.

Ross stated that he had installed a new whiteboard on the side of the tool shed that will list all of the current work that needs to be completed. This will make it easier for members to see what work needs to be done at any time.

Greg McMurphy informed the Board that Schaffer Electric had completed all of the Phase 2 work in the Electrical cabinet (Doug House) and that he would be calling for a final inspection by the electrical inspector in the next week or two. Greg informed the Board that the main disconnect and other wiring in the pump house needed

to be changed. After discussion, the Board approved Greg's request to upgrade the wiring in the pump house. Greg stated that there are other repairs that need to be done in the pump house, and will require other tradesman to complete that work.

The Board discussed whether to purchase battery powered or gas powered equipment going forward. Ron Nelson would check into the matter and report back.

Ross discussed plans for the green sea container to have seven equipment storage tracks on three levels, rather than three tracks on one level as originally planned. The Board discussed moving the three-level transfer table from in front of the Richardson and Alkire sheds to the container. Ross will report back on this change at the next Board meeting.

**Other Items:** Ted discussed using the Ludwick Foundation grant to paint a number of the buildings, cars, and other structures. Based on a painting bid from Portillos Painting, the Board approved using the grant for that purpose. Since the grant will not completely cover the cost of the bid, LALSRM will pay the overage.

Steve advised the Board that Diana and he had requested that Servpro update their proposal to include the cleaning and sanitizing of the meeting car attic ceiling per the Board's prior request.

Bill Schirmer stated that he had ordered two new tires for the Gradall which were to be installed on Tuesday November 2nd.

**Shed Space:** The Board discussed what action should be taken with respect to five members who had not earned enough shed credits for the last three shed rental years to continue renting shed space for their equipment. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to send a letter to those members notifying them that they lacked sufficient shed credit hours to continue renting their tracks, and that as of December 31st their equipment would be moved to the sea container. In addition they would have to continue to pay rent at the same rate they had previously paid, and that they have the right to appeal this determination in accordance with the Policies and Procedures that will be attached to each notice.

They will also be given the option to remove their equipment from the LALSRM. If they do so, they would re-

ceive a 25% reduction in rent towards the current shed rental rate that they have not been billed for yet and still owe.

**More Items:** Ted reported that Jeremy Steinhert was repairing the signal bell that Steve Altmayer had donated. Ted stated there would be further discussion on where to put the signal when repairs were complete. The Board deferred a discussion on whether the pump house should be inspected for termites.

Diana reported on the timeline for mailing, receiving and counting ballots for the Board election.

Martha reminded all members who want to be reimbursed for items they have purchased for LALSRM, must use the LALSRM Reimbursement Form, accompanied by the receipts for the items for which they are claiming reimbursement.

There was also a brief discussion about having a Thanksgiving dinner for members being held at the LALSRM on November 20, 2021 with trains running.

The next General Membership meeting will be Monday November 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The next public BOD meeting will be Monday December 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.



## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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

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



# From the SUPER

By Ross Harper

**G**reetings, Fellow Railroaders - LALS has been a hub of activity recently because many infrastructure needs are being addressed.

### Shed Re-Roofing Complete!

Thanks to so many people who came out before and after the professional roofers to move trains, clean out the sheds, reinforce the buildings, and get everything back in place. Our president Ted Merchant did a great job organizing this project and utilizing the skills of our members. The new roofing looks great and should protect our equipment in the Richardson and Alkire sheds for many years to come.

Thanks to everyone who cleaned up the property for the Griffith Park Open House on 11/13. Many people brought out their larger equipment for display. It was nice to see some trains running in the G-Scale garden again, too. There are plans underway to refurbish that area, a real crowd-pleaser for the public entrance.

### Pump House Upgrades

The long-neglected Pump House is getting some much needed repairs and

upgrades. In preparation for repainting the exterior, Ted and Bill Schirmer have been replacing the rotted paneling. On the inside, Greg McMurry is sorting out the existing maze of electrical wires so that the electrical panel and wiring can be upgraded. Roger Williams repaired the air leak inside the pumphouse as well. A small crew cleaned out the shed so that we can maintain clear access to the electrical panels and the compressor.

### Find It In The Tool Shed:

After cleaning and reorganizing the tool shed, now there are labels for where the tools should go. You should be able to find what you need as well as find a place to put them back for next time.

We've taken inventory, and as a result, some new cordless landscaping tools, including a pole saw and a hedger, have been purchased. They will be stored and charged in the lawnmower shed next door to the tool shed. Roger is going to run some electrical in there for us.

### What's On The Board?

There are landscaping tasks on the white board just outside the tool shed. Besides the constant raking, we need to cut away some limbs and bushes that are too close to the tool car and the office caboose. This is in preparation for their repainting.

Thanks to new member Michael Strawn who started this project by removing the limbs behind the bathrooms and cutting back the bushes that were against the meeting car. The repainting is already underway at Sherwood Station and everything is going to look fabulous with a fresh coat of paint!

Come out to LALS, check out the improvements, and lend a hand to make this Club a great place for all of us to enjoy. I hope to see you there!

Ross Harper  
[panmanross@aol.com](mailto:panmanross@aol.com)  
 818-786-7380

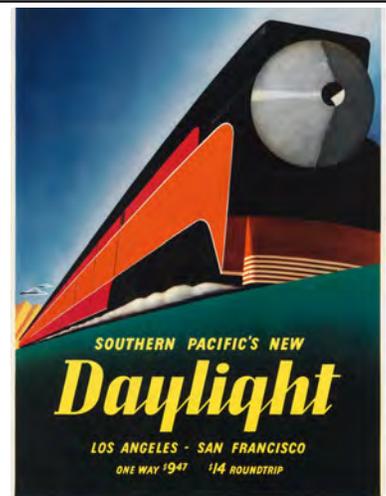
# Important Membership Dues Notice

### 2021 Dues

There are still a few members who have not paid their 2021 membership dues. Please mail a check immediately to our Treasurer, Martha Figueroa at the Club, or call her to arrange a credit card payment. Our Club address is: LALS, P.O. Box 2156, Toluca Lake, CA 91016. Call or text 626.232.7053.

### 2022 Dues

We will be sending traditional paper invoices via USPS mail to all LALS members in December. You may pay by check or credit card, as in the past. The deadline for 2022 dues will be February 15. After that, a late fee of \$25 will be required. A sample invoice is included in this issue. The payment feature on the Club website will be disabled for the year 2022. We are looking into a much better dues management system developed especially for live steam clubs. More information will be shared next year.



## Election Results

Directors	Votes
Ross Harper*	83
Dan "Bear" Mustoe*	58
Bill Walker*	57
Richard Ronne*	50
Jim Cammarata and Michael Murphy (Tie)	49
Roger Williams	41
Don Kallgren	30

Write-in Candidates: (each received one vote) Fannie Gross, Gary Baker, Miles Kristman, Gail Woodward, Richard Priest

\*Elected — 108 ballots cast



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. © LALS.

Editor - Peter Fuad.  
 Associate Editor - Diana Manchester

# President's Message



By Ted Merchant, President

oped one of the best model train parks in the world.

Thankful for this year's \$60,000 grant provided by the Ludwick Foundation, allowing us to repaint 15 structures on our campus, starting with Sherwood Station.

Thankful for the incredible Run Day and Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by Martha Figueroa, Diana Manchester, the Crabbs and Bill Schirmer. The food was outstanding! I can't believe how much we ate! I don't think anyone ate less than two large desserts!

Thankful for our upcoming Holiday Banquet at Tallyrand Restaurant in Burbank.

Thankful for the enthusiasm of our members and the incredible resources each of you provide.

Thankful for our having a respectful election with candidates well suited to carry the responsibility of Director.

I, personally, am thankful to be your President for three years. The most exciting privilege of this position is to engage with each of you. You have pushed me an incredible distance up the learning curve. You have provided me resources that, otherwise, I would not have enjoyed. Most important, I have been able to enjoy each of you as a friend. I know each member of the Board shares these sentiments with me, and the eight of us sincerely thank you all.

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

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

## Who's been Working on the Railroad

We were able to meet all our reroofing goals, thanks to our dedicated, capable and energetic team of member-volunteers. Thank you for a job we can all be proud of:

Ken Adamson

Roger Bacon

Jim Baker

Elizabeth

Bergmann

Les Bernell

Andy Blake

Mel Bresee

Ray Burden

Jim Cammarata

Wayne Crabb

Taylor English

Michael Finch

Roderick Fritz

Peter Fuad

Ross Harper

Zak Holman

Joe Jackson

Don Kallgren

Tom Lang

Lisa Lipton

Ron Nelson

Glen Manchester

Ted Merchant

Michael Murphy

Charles Rhoades

Steve Rodstein

Richard Ronne

Bill Schirmer

Chris Solak

Tim Silver

John Smith

Michael Strawn

Nick Suncin

John Valencia

Bill Walker

Brian Webster

Marc Weiss

Roger Williams



November 13 Griffith Park Open House. Bob Crone's and Nick Suncin's Gauge 1 locos running

# Thanksgiving Dinner and Train Run



## Thanksgiving Dinner at Club November 20.

*Clockwise from top left: Collin Westphal running his loco during night run; Michael Murphy running Ronne's loco; buffet line; diners at table and buffet line ; Don Donaldson and family; dinner table set up in Goudie Pavilion (Nick Suncin and Ted Merchant photos)*

# Many Members Contribute to LALS RM Open House During Griffith Park 125th Anniversary Celebration

By Diana Manchester

We had a successful and fun Open House Saturday, November 13, which was part of Griffith Park's 125th Anniversary celebration.

Many of our members participated (more than 35) and approximately 261 visitors passed through our public gate.

We had an info table with LALS RM brochures and the Griffith Park Passport Map, which we stamped for visitors. Don Kallgren brought several scale models of live steam industrial engines plus a full-sized steam engine that was used in textile mills.

## Members Exhibit Equipment

On the loading platform in the New Sherwood Station we had several trains parked with their owner/operators present to show them to guests and answer questions. Zak and David brought their live steam crane and Zak operated it all day. Joe Clow brought his diesel with the hood off so people could see the internal workings. Ray Burden had Ted's Heisler under steam parked further down and told stories to fascinated visitors about it. Several members worked as docents to welcome folks to the loading platform and accompany them throughout their visit there. Boundaries were set up to keep visitors from entering the facility.

## Garden Scale Locos

The Garden-scale railroad was operational (two lower tracks), due to lots of work done by Ken Robbins, Don Kallgren and Tristan Fritz (and others). Several members operated it all day. The Penny K4 wooden model was on display and our Tour Guide book was out. The Souvenir Booth was open plus a \$5 sale table. Free snacks were offered at the info table.

Bill Schirmer did an outstanding job

in the Kountry Kitchen. He baked chocolate chip cookies in the morning for us, and at noon made cheeseburgers with bacon and grilled onions. We had a large green salad with chicken and grapes. Plus danishes, apples and tangerines. Michael Strawn, our probationary member, who joined during the Fall Meet, assisted Bill.

At the east end of the facility, Walt's Barn was open for tours and the Gauge-1 railroad was in full gear with Bob Crone, Nick Suncin and Don Donaldson.

Although we didn't offer train rides, all our guests had a good time and left with smiles. One guest spoke with Ted for a long while and she plans to apply for resident membership.

This was a positive day, and a chance to reach out to the community with education about our trains and railroad. Maybe we could plan to do another Open House again in the future.



▲ Disney Combine with three LA Conservancy volunteers ► Nancy Cammarata and guests at info table (Glen Manchester Photo)

## Members who Helped With Open House

**Live steam/locomotive exhibits** – David and Zak Holman, Don Kallgren, Joe Clow, Ted Merchant, Ray Burden

**Trains operating on mainline** – Jay Hawver, Liz Bergmann, Ted Merchant, Richard Ronne, Liam and Malcolm Cook, Mel Bresce

**Docents** – Jim and Nancy Cammarata, Wayne Crabb, Bill Walker, Glen Manchester, Louis Mooney

**Station Crew/Safety and Sherwood platform set-up** – Michael Murphy, Jim Cammarata, David and Zak Holman, Joe Clow

**Garden scale railroad** – Don Kallgren, Tristan Fritz, Marc and Ryan Weiss (Ken Robbins earlier in month)

**Gauge-1 railroad** – Bob Crone, Nick Suncin, Don Donaldson

**Souvenirs** – Carolyn Hoagland, Kathy Crabb, Brian Stephens

**Kountry Kitchen** – Bill Schirmer, Michael Strawn, Richard Ronne, Diana Manchester

**Set-up in Sherwood Plaza** – Michael Strawn, Brian Stephens, Glen Manchester, Diana Manchester, Don Kallgren, Louis Mooney, Charles Rhoades, Bill Walker



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 – 6 PM**

*Holiday Dinner at the Tallyrand*

**RSVP now!**

Choice of Turkey Dinner or Steak • No-Host Bar  
Seating is limited to 50 persons

Contact Martha at: 83yosemite13mf@gmail.com cell 626.232.7053

# LALSRM Open House During Griffith Park Celebration



## Our Open House

*Clockwise from top left:*

Ray Burden talking to guests about Heisler.

Zak Holman with steam crane.

Nick Suncin and Bob Crone running Gauge 1 layout.

*(Diana and Glen Manchester and Zak Holman photos)*

**"This Open House was fantastic! The most significant sign of success was everyone's enthusiasm. This is who we are!"** *Ted Merchant*

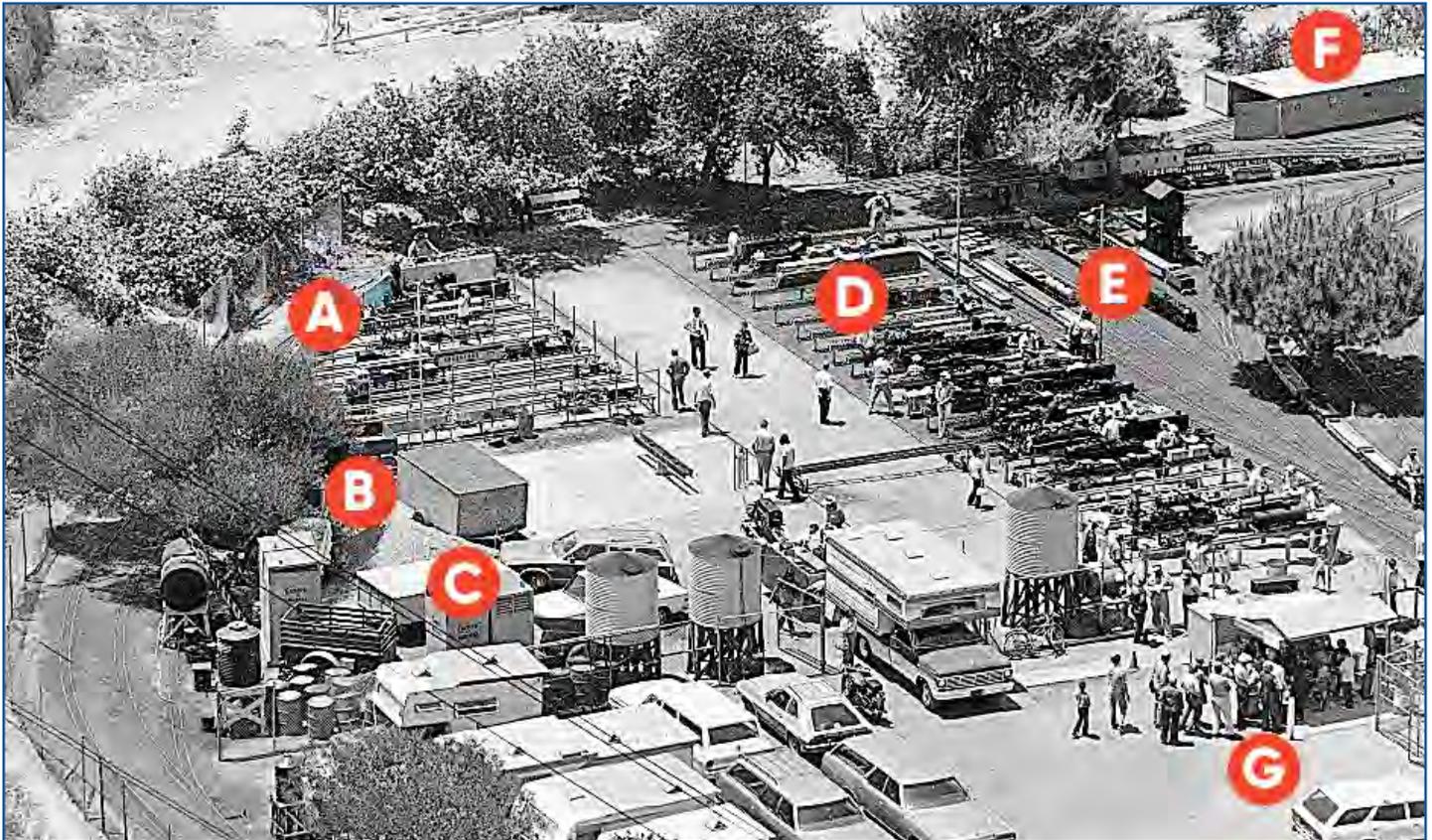
## Sweetcreek Steam Locomotive For Sale



It's big and blue. 3-3/4 scale, 7-1/2 gauge. Lots of extras. Not a stock RMI engine. Features battery-powered boxcab for moving engine when loco not under steam. Engine runs on oil.

See a video of it running at LALS on YouTube. Type in "sweet creek locomotive"

\$40,000 for both. Contact Sam Calderwood at [wilna@pacbell.net](mailto:wilna@pacbell.net) or phone at 818.399.2936



*Alkire, Richardson and Bresee Sheds – 1970-74*

# The History of the Three Red Train Barns

*Compiled by Diana Manchester*

## Alkire Barn

The “Train Barn Project” was submitted to the BOD, following the 1970 BLS Meet by the Facility Planning Committee after Chair Douglas Alkire was informed by General Supt. Buss Sutch that the Club was dying. The thrill and newness of running was wearing thin for members who were getting very tired hauling their equipment to LALS every time they wanted to run. Alkire realized that members needed a storage barn, but the Club did not have money to build one. However, if members were willing to pay a reasonable fee per foot of track per year...it may prove the solution to the “dying club” problem.

To get the money for the barn materials, all interested members were asked to pay five years rental in advance. The membership was approached with the idea and liked it. Members signed up and paid and construction was started. It was named the “Alkire Barn” by the BOD. The rental track concept proved so popular that more barns were built in the parking lot area. [Excerpts from *“The Early History of Los Angeles Live Steamers”* by Doug Alkire.]

## Richardson and Bresee Barns

By 1973, it was apparent that an additional train shed was needed. An FCR was submitted by Alkire in May. The same plan to finance the structure was adopted (\$1 per foot per year, paid in advance for four years). Phineas “PJ” Bresee (Mel’s dad) and Dan Richardson led the effort to recruit new lessees and their prepayments. They managed to raise all the funds needed, plus some.

By January 1974 the construction was well underway. The building crew included Alkire, Milt Harker, Dave Conway, William Stewart, Bruce Ward and others. A tree was removed and hole locations for stanchions were laid out. Members were asked to be on the lookout for some heavy gauge (.020”) sheet or corrugated aluminum for the roof and siding of the building. Mel Bresee was a banker and one of his customers was Armstrong Petroleum in Long Beach. Mel asked them if they had any scrap pipe we could use for stanchions, and the customer replied, “how much do you need and what length?” Armstrong cut the pipe to our specifications and donated it at no cost. PJ Bresee drove down and picked up two truckloads of pipe.

The Bresee Shed was built with money left over from the Richardson fund. It

was made extra long to house PJ’s circus train (recently acquired from Morrie Abowitz), as well as Club riding cars.

*[Based on the May and June 1973 and January 1974 issues of the Engine Booster and input from Mel Bresee whom I wish to thank.]*

## LALSRM in 1970

*Photo above:* LALSRM during the 1970 IBLS Meet. The unfinished engine/car barn is just left of center, the first Phil West barn is at the upper right and the registration booth is lower right. (Milt Harker Jr. photo)

- A. Unfinished Alkire Barn with storage tracks
- B. Site of future Richardson and Bresee Barns
- C. Site of future Pump House
- D. Parallel Steaming Bays (built 1969)
- E. Webb Yard (built 1969-70)
- F. Original Phil West Barn
- G. Members' Parking Lot at Sutchville Station



# Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

P.O. Box 2156 • Toluca Lake, California 91610

## 2022 Membership Renewal

**Your membership payment is due by February 15, 2022. After that, a late fee of \$25 is required.**

Correct **only** if you have **changes** or **additions** to the information below.

You are listed as a **Resident** member.

Resident and Probationary members live within 60 miles of the Facility and pay **\$100** dues. Nonresident members including Foreign live beyond 60 miles from the Facility and pay **\$30** dues. Junior members pay **\$20** dues (Ages 14-17). Honorary, Charter and Special members pay **no** dues. Resident members requesting low income status **\$20** must file Form 019 available from the Membership Chair or website with the Board of Directors by February 1st.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHETHER YOU PAY OR NOT.**

Last name **JONES** First Name **CASEY**  
Street address **429 Cannonball Ln**  
City **Memphis** State **CA** ZIP **90001**  
Country if not USA  
Published home phone **323-987-6543** Published email address **engineer@highball.com**  
Work phone Cell phone **323-135-1111**  
Published FAX

Correct below your equipment that will appear in the Roster **only** if you have **changes**. There is a two line limit. \* indicates projects under construction.

Line 1 **1.5" 2-8-4 NKP, 1.6" 4-6-6-4 Challenger, 3 gondolas, caboose**

Line 2 **Fairmount Speeder**

**If you have not been receiving Club mailers or emails, please make corrections on this form before returning. Please print clearly. Or contact Wilbur Dong or Diana Manchester with any changes or questions.**

Monetary donations to LALSRM, a 501(c)(3) organization are tax deductible and always welcomed.

I am including a donation in the amount of \$100 \_\_\_\_, \$50 \_\_\_\_, \$25 \_\_\_\_, Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order payable to "LALSRM" and mail with this **completed form** to:

**Treasurer  
Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum  
P.O. Box 2156  
Toluca Lake, CA 91610**

Or I wish to pay by credit card:

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code of billing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV2 \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV2 code on back of card (Last 3 digits where you sign your name) Today's date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount to be charged \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following if you pay by check, money order or cash:

Check/MO # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Date \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_