

# ENGINE



# BOOSTER

December 2021

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## Celebrating Year-End and New Beginnings at Tallyrand

By Diana Manchester

Our annual holiday banquet was held on Saturday, December 4 at family-owned Tallyrand Restaurant in Burbank, which has been a Club favorite since its founding in 1959.

We were warmly welcomed by Manager Karen and her staff in the private banquet room. Happy Hour began at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7 (New York steak or traditional turkey with all the trimmings), followed by very generous slices of house-made lemon or chocolate cake.

An intimate gathering of 31 made it possible to visit with everyone. It was great seeing Jeanne and Gregg Olson, who were able to join at the last minute during their visit from Texas. A good-sized contingency from Riverside Live Steamers who are also LALS RM members rounded out the party.

George Becker very kindly kept account of everyone's payments and handed out raffle tickets. Kathy and Bill Walker, Don Kallgren and the Merchants came early and helped us decorate the room. Glen Manchester was our photographer.

Banquet Chair Martha Figueroa was unable to attend because of an injury, but her presence was felt by her thoughtful preparations, festive decorations, raffle gifts, money jar, and the surprise gift bottles of champagne for each person from San Antonio Winery. Martha and Diana collaborated on the design of the holiday labels adorning the bottles.

Raffle winners included Richard Ronne, Steve Borchert, Kristen Harper, Don Kallgren, Michael Strawn and Scott Hoagland. Meredith Chinn had the winning number for the money jar.

Ted Merchant (President 2019-2021) thanked the outgoing directors finishing their terms and expressed his pleasure at serving the Club the past three years. He officially welcomed the new officers for 2022: Ross Harper, President; Nick Suncin, Vice-President; and Bill Walker,



**Tally Ho!** At the Holiday Dinner: *Left to right:* Nick Suncin, Brian Webster, Don Kallgren and Roger Williams. (Glen Manchester photos) More photos inside.

Secretary; as well as the four directors: Bear Mustoe, Richard Ronne, David Holman, and Steve Rodstein. Martha Figueroa will continue as Treasurer.

Ted presented the 12 directors (2021 and 2022 Boards) with an embroidered LALS RM hat and gold-toned name badge personalized with names, titles and dates of service. Congratulations and much thanks for your leadership and hard work during such challenging times.

Happy New Year everyone.



**2021 Year in Review!**  
**Pages 6-7-8**

## Members Schedule

### January

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

### February

- 7 Zoom Open Board Meeting
- 19 Work Day
- 19 Disney Barn Open
- 21 Zoom General Meeting
- 26 Winter Train Run and Catered Lunch

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



**P**resident Ted Merchant called the December 6, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:06 pm. on Zoom. All directors were present plus 46 members.

**Presidents Report:** Ted thanked the four retiring Board members (Bill Schirmer, Ted Merchant, Les Kovacs, and Tim LaGaly) for their service. He welcomed the four new Board members (Ross Harper, Bill Walker, Dan “Bear” Mustoe and Richard Ronne) that will join the Board as of January 1, 2022. He also thanked the four continuing Board members (David Holman, Nick Suncin, Steve Rodstein and Martha Figueroa) for their service.

**Secretary’s Report:** The November minutes were approved by the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Martha presented the prior periods financials. After minor discussion, Board approved report.

**Superintendent’s Report:** A number of items were discussed:

**Pump House Improvements:** Bill and Ted had completed the exterior wood siding repairs to the pump house. In addition, the interior of the pump house has been cleaned out to enable completing the ongoing electrical work.

**Electrical Projects:** Greg McMurry reported that he will shortly be scheduling Schaffer Electric to complete the installation of the new wiring to the pump house. Greg is looking into installing wiring in the Richardson and Alkire Sheds for plugs to charge batteries. He is also investigating which wires supply the water wheel and pumps so they can be reconnected.

**Electric Tools:** The Board discussed the purchase of a new cordless electric pole saw and hedge trimmer that Ron Nelson had been authorized to buy. Roger

Williams has installed the wiring and plugs so those tools can be recharged in the blue tractor shed.

**Sea Container:** Ross and Ted have investigated how shelving can be installed in the green sea container to add additional track storage space (seven tracks in total). The Board approved an FCR presented by Ted to purchase metal for building the shelves. The Board discussed moving the three-level transfer table to the container to use there.

**Painting Project:** The Board approved an FCR for painting 15 facility structures by Portillo’s Painting Company and for making additional repairs to these structures. The Ludwig Foundation grant will partially pay for this project.

**Cleaning Meeting Car:** After discussion, the Board approved a bid by Servpro to clean the meeting car and a bid by Action Duct Cleaning Company to clean the HVAC ducts in the car. The work should be completed in the next 30 days.

**New Lawn Tractor:** After discussion, the Board approved an FCR presented by Ron Nelson to purchase a new lawn tractor and some additional parts. (See photo, bottom right) He noted that the current tractor is broken, and the cost to repair it will exceed the cost of purchasing a new one.

**Shed Doors:** Ted informed the Board that the new devices to hold open the Richardson and Alkire shed doors are being finished and will be installed shortly.

**Insurance:** After a short discussion, the Board approved the quote presented by Ron Hitchcock to renew the Board of Directors insurance.

**New Officers:** The officers for 2022 are Ross Harper will be President, Nick Suncin will be Vice President, Bill Walker will be Secretary, and Martha Figueroa will continue as Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

The next General Membership meeting will be Monday, December 20 at 7:00 pm, and the next public BOD meeting will be Monday January 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

## Members to Receive Paper Dues Invoices

**T**raditional paper invoices have been mailed to the entire membership via USPS. They will arrive at your home the week of December 27.

Please mail back the personalized form (with any necessary corrections) so we can update our database. You may pay by check or money order, or by credit card (VISA, MC or Discover). Payments are due by February 15; after that an additional fee of \$25 will also be due.

If you have already paid for 2022, thank you! If you have not yet paid for 2021, please pay for both 2021 and 2022 so your account remains up to date.

The payment feature on the Club website and PayPal payments will be disabled shortly. We are looking into a much better dues management system designed specifically for live steam clubs. More information will be shared in 2022.

If you do not receive your invoice mailer, please contact Diana Manchester or Wilbur Dong.



**Cutting Edge.** Ron Nelson rides the Club’s new Husqvarner mower TS-148 powered by a 24 hp, Briggs and Stratton engine. It can also be used as a mulcher. (Ross Harper photo)



**Effective in January—Direction of travel will be westbound (From New Sherwood Station towards tunnel)**



## From the SUPER

By Ross Harper

**G**reetings, Fellow Railroaders - Hopefully you have enjoyed the changing colors of Autumn, and the brisker temperatures and rain storms that come with Winter. Although the seasons are more mild here in Southern California, they do create maintenance issues and projects around the property. Besides an update of what's been done recently, here are a few things that need to be done over the next few weeks.

**Shed Updates:** It's great to have our trains kept dry and protected under the new shed roofs. Recently, Ted Merchant and Bill Schirmer replaced the sheet metal in the Alkire shed doors so that the barn is ready for repainting. The new door locking mechanisms have been machined by Thane Morris's company and will be installed soon. The Board approved plans for shelving inside the Green Container to turn it into multi-level train storage with seven tracks for 308 feet of storage.

**Pump House Upgrades:** The repairs to the exterior were finished and the repainting is underway. Schaffer Electric has begun work on the electrical upgrade, which will include pulling new wires from the Doug House. Thanks to Roger Williams for repairing the air compressor plumbing and removing the old damaged air reservoir tank. This means we should be able to get a re-certification from the city to operate the Steam Plant again.

**Rain Washes Down the Hillside:** Some dirt and debris came off the hillside of the Mountain Division and temporarily blocked the track. Thank you to those who dug it out! We also captured a lot of silt and debris in the pond beneath the water wheel. We are looking for volunteers to help clear out the pond.

**Direction Change January 1<sup>st</sup>:** We will begin running westbound out of Sherwood Station on Saturday, January 1. Charles Rhoades and the signal crew were already out addressing some of the issues with the signal system in anticipation of running the other direction. Now is a great opportunity to learn about the signal system, so please reach out to Charles or

Jeremy Steinert if you can help.

**Not sure what needs to be done?** Come by the Elub any day and take a peek at the white Board just outside the tool shed. Besides cleaning out the Water Wheel pond, there are several areas where leaves and pine needles need to be raked and hauled off. Our first official club work day is **Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. Work days will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month.

This will be my last column as General Superintendent. You can read my ramblings next month in the President's column. Ron Nelson is going to take over in January as the General Superintendent.

Ross Harper  
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## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park  
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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



## GP35 Chessie Locomotive For sale \$8,900

7 1/2" Gauge • 8 HP Kohler Engine

Wired Remote Control

Features Strobe Ditch Lights,  
Lighted Engine Number Board, Headlights

Very similar to Orange County  
Model Engineers Chessie Loco

Call OCME Member Terry Cummings at (714) 293-7179

# President's Message

By Ted Merchant, President



Hello Train Fans!

What a ride! In 2021, we replaced the retaining walls surrounding the "Pit". We rebuilt the roofs overlying the Richardson, Alkire and Bresee Sheds. We increased our membership despite COVID-19. We completed several phases upgrading our electrical grid. We held our successful Fall Meet, Thanksgiving Dinner, and Year-End Banquet. Now, we are restoring and painting fifteen structures.

Our restoration and painting project is proceeding well. The quality of the work by Portillo's Painting Company is superb. The Sherwood station and restrooms look better than new. The Richardson, Alkire and Bresee Sheds and Pumphouse are being addressed. Defective trim on the Pumphouse has been replaced. Roger Bacon is replacing the door. New retention systems for the shed doors have been designed by yours truly, fabricated by Thaine Morris and Garibalde Figueroa, and will be installed by Club welders. A new ladder

caddy has been fabricated and will be installed next to the Phil West Barn behind the maintenance shed.

The meeting car is being cleaned after a significant rodent infestation. Leaks around the windows will be addressed and dry wall will be repaired. Mike Murphy will research Union Pacific and Southern Pacific paint samples. Portillo's Painting will match those samples before repainting the meeting car, tool car, Union Pacific Caboose, and Southern Pacific Caboose.

Additional structures scheduled for restoration and painting are the yard observation tower in the parking lot, Sutchville Station, the water tank adjacent to Old Sherwood Station, East Gate Welcome Shed, the fuel shed, the tool shed, and the

green cabinets in the Kountry Kitchen.

We are forever thankful to the Ludwick Foundation for making this extensive restoration possible. The Foundation is allowing us to end 2021 with optimism and excitement for the future.

An additional year-end project is repurposing of the green sea container into a train storage barn. The storage racks have been designed. The access track is being placed. We plan to repurpose the elevating transfer bridge, currently in front of the Richardson and Alkire sheds, and use it for access to the sea container storage.

So, we are ending 2021 with excitement! Thank you all for your support during the last three years. I am pleased to be handing my presidency to Ross Harper who will be leading a quality Board in 2021. And that's the way it is.

Happy New Year! And I'll see you at the rails.

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

## Thanks to the Ludwick Foundation

Their generous grant made painting and restoration of Club structures a reality. *Right: New Sherwood Station; below left: pumphouse; below right: restrooms.* (Diana Manchester photos)

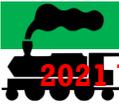


# Holiday Dinner 2021



**Scene at the Tallyrand:** Clockwise from upper left: Tim Silver & Cymbala-Chinn family; Bill Walker; Ted presents hat & badge to Bill Schirmer; Riverside/LALSRM Live Steamer members; Gregg & Jeanne Olson; and Ross & Kristen Harper. Center: Scott & Carolyn Hoagland. (Glen Manchester photos)





2021 Year in Review

# Projects Accomplished

## Facility Betterments

### January-June

Laundry shed plumbing and electrical  
 Doug House construction (*Continuing*)  
 MOW Pit – ramp removed, track opened  
 Richardson shed roof patch (*See photo below*)  
 Electrical grid expansion – Continuing  
 Portable sprinklers installed - west end  
 Small scales track repair and switch installations –  
 through September  
 Tree removal, west end  
 Soibelman Garden cleanup  
 Kountry Kitchen refrigerator/freezer wiring repairs

### June –December

Perimeter fence – five sections replaced (*See photo above*)  
 Track installation at MOW Pit and green container  
 Work on green container train storage (*See photo right*)  
 Water/air mainline pipe repairs (*See photo far right*)  
 New mower and landscape tools purchased (*See page 2*)  
 Nelson Summit cleanup  
 Reroofing of Alkire, Richardson and Bresee Sheds  
 Ludwick Foundation grant received and facility-wide  
 repainting started (*Photos and story, page 4*)  
 Electrical power to tool shed  
 Pumphouse renovation, electrical cleanup including  
 removing unused circuits  
 Disconnected air tank in pumphouse  
 Electrical panel (Phase 2) inspection  
 Meeting Car disinfecting, cleaning

*2021 Club Events on next page;*  
*2021 Operations Accomplishments on back page.*



**Notable:** Above: New fencing at Nelson Summit. below left; New track to green sea container. below right: Repair of air line and boiler water line at Sherwood Station. Bottom left: Liz Bergmann, Bill Walker, Jim Cammarata, Richard Ronne and Ken Adamson work on sheds reroofing project. Bottom right: Miles Kristman assembling track panels with Ted Merchant on right.





2021 Year in Review

# Club Events We Enjoyed This Year

Photoshoot for Auto Club Magazine – April  
 Tunnel, Cut & Trestle Run – July 31, August 1  
 Movie Night/Night Runs - August - October  
 Fall Meet & President’s Auction– October 8-10  
 Travel Town Depot Days Exhibit – October 17  
 Open House – November 13  
 Thanksgiving Train Run and Dinner – November 20  
 Elections – November 21  
 Holiday Banquet – December 4



Fall Meet

**Club Events:** Above: Three locomotives at Disney Loop during 2021 Fall Meet. Below left: Martha and Ron Figueroa, Scott and Wyatt Cymbala at Movie Night Dinner. Below right: Bill Schirmer, Diana Manchester, Roger Williams, and the Crabbs serve Thanksgiving Dinner.



Movie Night Dinner



Thanksgiving Dinner

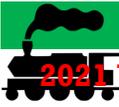


Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum. | Photo by Jim Krantz

**4. The Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum**, an all-volunteer institution, is dedicated to scale trains and is open to the public on Sundays. Check out the historic cars and steam plant or take a train ride. The route follows a track for more than a mile through tunnels, across bridges, and past miniature towns.



◀ Ron Nelson pictured in Auto Club of So. Cal. August *Westways* magazine’s article on “Things to Do in Griffith Park;” ▲ Larry Tighe and others laying track for MOW equipment in new Pit Yard on September 18.



2021 Year in Review

## Operations Accomplishments

Recertification of Club equipment – June 19

Track upgrades – McKelvey Loop, Davis Western Town, and Minden Siding

All signal block detectors upgraded – April

Signal panel J upgrade, Smith Valley – May (*See photo below*)

Train practice run days - June, July and August

*Thanks to Diana Manchester for compiling 2021 Year in Review.*



▲ Les Kovacs removes dirt at MOW ramr 0Vqr <Zak Holman runs j kú'steam crane.



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Diana Manchester

## Green Light for Signal Maintenance and Improvements

*By Stevo Brock*

**F**or Signals, maintenance is a year-round operation. Here are some highlights from 2021 projects (working with a reduced crew due to life changes and moving away):

- **April**—Completion of the Block Detector upgrade for all blocks. This provides improved reliability as well as significantly improved diagnostic capabilities which we've already hugely benefited from in the last month!

- **May**—Completed Signals Upgrade for Panel J, Smith Valley. This was a significant and time-consuming upgrade that results in rebuilt signals for significant improvements in reliability and maintenance, as well as significantly improved diagnostics at the Panel - and as a bonus, each "bulb" now has adjustable brightness!

- **December**—Completed Signals Upgrade for Panel L, West End High Line. Since deploying the Panel J upgrade would require a significant time investment to replicate for all the Panels, especially the packed ones, we have devised an interim solution that allows us to perform the Signal upgrade, and still add additional diagnostic capability at the Panel and also still have adjustable brightness. Panel L is the first to receive this upgrade and the rest will follow



Stevo Brock with Wayne Crabb.