



President's Message

By Ross Harper, President



A new calendar year always brings optimism and an opportunity to set some new goals for the year ahead. I prefer goals since resolutions seem to be short-lived. **The first goal of your new board is finishing the projects that have already been started.** This includes addressing our train storage issues by adding track space in the Green Container and developing the Pit. The electrical upgrade is a multi-phase process that has already begun. Modifications to the Richardson & Alkire shed doors are underway.

The repainting made possible by the Ludwick Foundation provided us with an opportunity to clean things up and make the grounds more presentable to the public. The fresh new paint on the Sherwood Station, the Pump House, the Richardson and Alkire sheds and the elevated Control Tower looks great. Next up are the two UP cars and the SP office caboose. The UP Meeting Car has new air ducts now and has been professionally cleaned.

Another goal is examining the feasibility of re-opening to the public. We will determine what is legally required of us to pull the public again. We also have the goal of increasing our membership participation while prioritizing the health and safety of our members. One of the benefits of running our trains outside is the open space and fresh air, so we invite members to come out and enjoy the Club. To that end, we have developed a calen-

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50-Year Club Member Bill Stewart Passes

By John Reynolds

William (Bill) Stewart has been involved with LALS for over 50 years now.

One early effort of his was pioneering automatic brakes. He and Hal Hoadly developed a vacuum brake system that was tried out first on a set of log cars (I have them but they need restoration). Shortly thereafter it was applied to the train of cars Richard (Dick) Priest pulled behind his Daylight 4-8-4. This was followed by application to one of the four sets of Buzz Sutch built riding gondolas.

Trash Spur

Another Bill Stewart project was the trash spur that was right behind the old registration booth. The switch for that spur was built with a spiral easement (Hal Hoadly's father William provided the design). The switch began at tangent and

ended in a 20 foot radius. When the trash spur was removed, Bill reclaimed the switch (It had aluminum rail and the Club was transitioning to steel rail at the time. I acquired the switch in 2021 and refurbished it; it is now part of my railroad in Nevada.

Puzzle Switch

Bill also rebuilt the "Bill Webb" slip switch (aka "Puzzle Switch") around 1979. He added the fiberglass ties that hold the switch together today. Bill also added the lights to hopefully help people navigate the switch easier. Many of his projects were done as donations to the Club.

In the last two years Bill made historic signage for the older track sections. Recently he also helped supervise some track projects and give advice where possible.

The Stewart family members have all been very active Club members. Cary, Bill's brother served on the board in the early 1980s. His father, Erich, did machine work on several things and built a gas powered 2.5 inch scale boxcab locomotive. Cary's children (Bill's nephew Scott and niece Linda were regular attendees in the 1980s). Scott, Bill's nephew, still attends the Club regularly.

A little more...

Bill was a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Navy. Some of his stories of his experiences there qualify as "hair raising." He also did electrical engineering work for a long time and later was doing related work for the studios. He retired officially in 2021.

A memorial service for Bill Stewart will be held Friday, February 11 at noon at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, Old North Church.

Members Schedule

February

- 7 Zoom Open Board Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Work Day (KK open)
- 21 Zoom General Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Winter Run Day (catered lunch available for purchase)

March

- 7 Zoom Open Board Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Work Day (KK open)
- 13 Time Change
- 21 Zoom General Meeting 7 pm

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Bill Walker, Secretary



The January Board Meeting was called to order by President Ross Harper at 7:01 pm on January 3, 2022. Due to

LA County Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom. All of the Directors were present along with 42 Club members.

President's Report: Ross Harper opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone. He thanked the retiring Board members for their service: Ted Merchant, Bill Schirmer, Les Kovacs, and Tim LaGaly.

Ross spoke on a number of topics:

Ron Nelson is our new General Superintendent. Nick Suncin will be the lead keyman for the Club, taking key requests for Les Kovacs, who will remain as our keymaster. Ross created a 2022 calendar for the Club, which will be posted on the bulletin boards by the Kountry Kitchen and member bathrooms. It is also on the back page of this *Booster*.

We are still having issues with the Club website, and memberships will not be renewed through the website this year. All renewals will be processed by mail using the membership renewal forms which were mailed to everyone.

Ross stated it was important for every member to fully complete their minimum hours in order to keep their rented storage tracks.

The Board will work on doing feasibility studies to determine how we can safely reopen for Sunday public running while preventing the spread of Covid and protecting our guests and train crews.

Ross stated that there is a black railroad car in the green container that needs to be removed for the container work.

Robert Guzman has created a nice stainless steel gutter for the Pump House. Ross notified membership that the red dumpster/hauler was rented by the Disney Barn group and not for LALS RM Club use. Ross notified the membership that long-time member Bill Stewart had passed.

Secretary Report: Bill Walker stated that there are four open FCR's at the start of the year. The first was submitted by Bill Walker for the Mountain Division planting and Blue Rock mine relocation and is almost complete. Ted Merchant's facility building painting FCR is in progress and moving well. The next FCR is Ted Merchant's Alkire-Richardson barn re-roofing project. It is in its final stage with door locks being installed (see photo below). The most current FCR is the green container project that is in its beginning stages.

Treasurer's Report: Martha Figueroa presented the prior periods financials which the Board approved. Martha reiterated that the membership dues will be done strictly by mail for the 2022 dues. She asked all members to fill out the update information requested on the membership renewal form including train information, and mail back to the Club with a check or credit card info; or to call her to pay over the phone. She reiterated that members are not to renew using our website. Members should check their credit card statements to make sure they are not being double billed for membership dues. If this occurs, please call Martha and she will correct it.

Superintendent's Report: Ron Nelson requested membership volunteers to come help clean up our Club. The desired goals for our first Saturday workday were as follows: (1) Clear the Mountain Division of dirt and debris that had fallen onto the tracks. Bill Walker and Les Kovacs would be using the heavy equipment to move the heavy dirt. (2) clean out the lake area and water pumps. (3) Assist Richard Ronne in re-leveling the track on and around the mountain Division. (4) A transfer train and crew to shuttle dirt and debris to the west end to rebuild the Valley Division mainline south washout zone. (5) Leaves and debris all over the layout need to be cleared.

Roger Williams stated that the Pump House door should be replaced. Wood, steel, and fiberglass doors were discussed. Roger will do more research.

Greg McMurphy announced the electrical outlet project to add electrical outlets in reach of every storage track located inside the Richardson and Alkire sheds will start soon. Roger Williams will assist. They will create a FCR and installation plan for submission to the Board for approval. Greg also said that the saw was working again and that the pit wiring is still TBD.

Steve Rodstein gave an update of the Club Meeting Car cleanup and repairs. All the ducts and diffusers have been replaced. The Club Car still needs all the leaks fixed to prevent future leaking. Ted Merchant stated he had cut into the water damaged drywall to determine where the leaks were coming from. Steve said that the rat access areas need to be identified followed by an in-depth "How To" Club discussion.

The next General Membership meeting will be January 17. The next BOD meeting will be February 7, both via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.



Freshly-painted door-opening struts that will be installed in the Richardson and Alkire Sheds dry in the sun. (Peter Fuad Photo)



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Editor — Peter Fuad
Associate Editor—Diana Manchester



From the SUPER

By Ron Nelson, Superintendent

Hello Everyone. As the new General Superintendent, I have a lot to do to fill the shoes of Ross Harper; he did a terrific job. Yes, winter is upon us and that means the usual erosion, washouts, plugged drains and LOTS of leaves and downed branches.

January Workday: Club members moved tons (literally) of dirt from the Mountain Division and the tracks leading to the West End. Some of the dirt was used to fill in wash-outs and build up low areas, with the rest piled in the outer parking lot. It was a terrific effort by about two dozen members. The Signal Crew was also out finding and repairing problems. They discovered when wet dirt builds up around the rails, it shorts out the track circuits, causing many false red signals. A number of members helped remove dirt from the rails in critical areas. When clearing leaves from around the tracks, it would be good to keep this in mind.

Direction Change: Just a reminder that the Club has changed direction to westbound out of the Sherwood Station. Many members have already reversed their equipment. Since others are still reversing, please be extra attentive when out on the tracks for locomotives traveling in the wrong direction.

Shed Status: Most of the work on the Richardson, Bresee and Alkire Sheds has been completed. Thaine Morris has completed fabricating the door locking mechanisms, and Ted Merchant and Bill Schirmer are gradually installing them. Since each opening is a little different, it will take a while. We are in the planning stages of running power into these sheds.

White Board: If you don't know what to do around the facility, please look at the white board on the blue tool shed. Cleaning up leaves or clearing drains is needed. If you need something less physical, let me know and I will come up with a meaningful way for you to contribute. I am

always open to suggestions

Leaf Blowers: Many of us use leaf blowers to clean leaves off of tracks and paved areas. Please be mindful of where you are blowing those leaves and dirt, and do not leave a mess in some other area or on the lawns. A thick layer of leaves on the lawns will kill the grass. Picking up the leaves is always a good solution.

Tree Trimming: There are a number of trees on the property that need attention, especially west of the tunnels. I am getting quotes and will inform the Board of the scope and costs.

Painting: Painting all the major structures is continuing. The Pump House and Tool Shed are almost done. While prepping the east gate Guard Shack for painting, significant termite damage was discovered, and siding has been replaced by Les Kovacs and Bill Schirmer.

February 12 Workday: The plan for our next workday is to clean up leaves and downed branches west of the tunnels. We need a dedicated engineer on the center cab moving all four flat cars with trash cans to and from the work areas. Multiple work crews could rake and fill cans. We only need to concentrate on the 2-3 feet around the tracks. Downed branches should be cut up and removed. If we can get a good turn out, we can make a big difference in restoring our tracks and grounds.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Club.



Who's been Working on the Railroad

December 2021 — January 2022

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Chaves | Lisa Lipton |
| Andy Blake | Martha Figueroa |
| Bear Mustoe | Mel Bresee |
| Bill Schirmer | Michael Finch |
| Bill Walker | Michael Murphy |
| Brandon Ruiz | Miles Kristman |
| Brian Stephens | Nick Suncin |
| Charles Rhoades | Peter Fuad |
| Dan O'Brien | Richard Ronne |
| David Holman | Rob Nuccio |
| Diana Manchester | Robert Guzman |
| Don Donaldson | Robin Walsh |
| Don Kallgren | Roderick Fritz |
| Elizabeth Bergmann | Roger Williams |
| Greg McMurry | Ron Nelson |
| James Dubensky | Ross Harper |
| John Valencia | Seamus Walsh |
| Joseph Clow | Steven Rodstein |
| Kenneth Robbins | Ted Merchant |
| Larry Tighe | Thaine Morris |
| Lester Bernell | Tim Silver |



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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 Toluca Lake, CA 91610
 LALSRLM.org (323) 661-8958

2022 Officers and Directors

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Ross Harper |
| Vice President | Nick Suncin |
| Secretary | Bill Walker |
| Treasurer | Martha Figueroa |
| David Holman | Bear Mustoe |
| Richard Ronne | Steve Rodstein |

Paint Prepping

◀ The Meeting Car landscape has been cleared out/cleaned up and there is some patching around the exterior of the windows. (Diana Manchester Photo)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

dar of events to encourage member participation.

Club Calendar-

We sent out the Club calendar by email and it is also posted on the bulletin boards by the restrooms and the kitchen and on the back page of this *Booster*. Some highlights:

Work Days - We will have regular work days on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Lunch will be served for all workers. Please come out to lend a hand and get to know other Club members.

Fun Times - It can't be all work and no play, though, so we've scheduled many fun events over the year. Our big Spring Meet will be on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, and the Fall Meet is scheduled for October 7-9. This summer, bring your family out for a night run at our Potluck & Movie nights (7/23, 8/27, 9/24, 10/29). The popular Thanksgiving dinner at the Club will be held on Saturday, November 19.

New Events - To encourage running steam together and to give other members opportunity to learn more about it, we will have "Steam Run Days" on every 5th Saturday, including the first one on January 29. Planning is also underway for a "Fathers & Family" event on the Saturday before Father's Day (6/18). The other new event coming up soon is the "Winter Run Day" on Saturday, February 26. Contact Martha Figueroa to RSVP for the catered lunch.

Whether you come out for a Club work day or a seasonal meet or potluck, or just to run your train and rake a few leaves, we hope you come out and contribute to making this a great Club for everyone to enjoy!

Ross Harper,
panmanross@aol.com
Cell: 818-786-7380



Club Meeting Car Clean Up

Steve Rodstein arranged to have the Club meeting car professionally cleaned, and all of its supply and return air diffusers, including all flex ducting and sheet metal pieces and transitions ducts replaced for the HVAC. Ted Merchant is having the roof checked for leaks, and will have it repaired as needed. He is also having the damaged interior drywall repaired. See more information in this month's *Splinters*. (Peter Fuad photo)



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 or phone at 818.399.2936



Infrastructure! Improvements!

Left: Les Kovacs and Bill Schirmer replace termite-damaged wood with new siding. (Ross Harper Photo) Above left: Guard shack prepped by painters for new paint job. (Above right) Control Tower in parking lot with fresh coat of paint. (Diana Manchester photos except as noted)



Center Right: Sample color on Meeting Car. Club wants to match UP Amour Yellow (Dulux 88-174 enamel) as closely as it can. (Peter Fuad photo) Far right: Patch above window on Meeting Car.

**Steamin' Up!
Happy New Owners!**

Below: Tristan Fritz with his 4-4-0 American locomotive.
Right: Chris Solak with 2-8-0 C-19 Consolidated.





LALSRM 2022 Calendar

January

- 1 Change Direction
- 3 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 8 Work Day (KK open)
- 17 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 29 Steam Run Day

February

- 7 Open BOD meeting 7:00 pm*
- 12 Work day (KK open)
- 15 Membership dues payment deadline
- 21 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 26 Winter Run Day (catered lunch available for purchase)

March

- 7 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 12 Work Day (KK open)
- 13 Time Change
- 21 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm*

April

- 4 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 9 Work Day (KK open)
- 17 Easter
- 18 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 30 Steam Run Day
- 30 Shed Credit Earning Period Ends

May

- 1 2022-23 Shed Credit Earning Year Begins
- 2 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 14 Work Day (KK open)

- 16 General Members Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 21 Extra Pre-Meet Work Day (KK open)
- 27-30 SPRING MEET (Memorial Day weekend)

June

- 4 Safety Recertification of Club equipment
- 6 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 11 Work Day (KK open)
- 18 Fathers and Family Event (Train run, family photos, potluck, raffle)
- 19 Father's Day
- 20 General Members Meeting* (Train Mountain Triennial Meet through June 26)
- 30 2021-22 Shed Lease Year Ends

July

- 1 2022-23 Full Shed Lease Year Begins
- 1 Change Direction
- 4 Independence Day
- 9 Work Day (KK open)
- 11 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 18 General Members Meeting*
- 23 Pot Luck/Night run/Movie night
- 30 Steam Run Day

August

- 1 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 13 Work Day (KK open)
- 15 General Members Meeting*
- 27 Pot Luck/Night run/Movie night

September

- 5 Labor Day
- 5 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 10 Work Day (KK open)
- 19 General Members Meeting* (Board nominations accepted)
- 24 Extra Pre-Meet Work Day (KK open)
- 24 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Movie night

October

- 1 Pre-Meet Work Day (KK open)
- 3 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 7-9 FALL MEET
- 10 General Members Meeting* (Meet the Candidates Town Hall)
- 28 Election ballots mailed
- 29 Steam Run Day & Halloween Movie Night/Pot Luck/Night Run

November

- 6 Time Change
- 7 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 12 Work Day (KK open)
- 19 Ballots due by 12 Noon; ballots counted
- 19 Thanksgiving Dinner
- 21 General Members Meeting*

December

- 5 Open BOD Meeting 7:00 pm*
- 10 Work Day (KK open)
- 19 General Members Meeting*
- 31 Steam Run Day

* Meeting via Zoom until further notice.

Recurring Events Every Month

Public Rides 11 am-3 pm (suspended until further notice)	Sundays
Open Board Meeting 7 pm* (except July Board meeting on July 11)	1st Monday of each month
Work Day; Kountry Kitchen open for lunch	2nd Saturday of each month
General Members Meeting* (except October meeting on October 10)	3rd Monday of each month
Disney Barn and steam plant open	3rd Sunday of each month
Pot Luck/Night Run/Movie night	4th Saturday of each month July through September

Shed Lease Dates

2022-23 Shed Lease Year:

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Shed Credit Earning Period for 2022-2023 Shed Lease Year:

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

Color Code

- Membership activities
- Meets
- Shed rental and membership renewal dates, operational matters
- Election dates