



President's Message

By Ross Harper, President



After a couple of cold days here in Southern California, I'm looking forward to a bright and vibrant Spring at LALS. Since the COVID case rates are declining and restrictions are being relaxed again throughout the

state, we are looking into to what we need to do to reopen to the public. In addition to sorting out member safety and county health protocols, we have some track and public safety issues that need to be addressed. Many members are interested in running the Club trains on Sunday afternoons, and the public seems eager for train rides, too.

Running Trains: It's good to see many people pulling out their trains, cleaning and repairing their engines, and riding the rails. You are welcome to come out to the Club any day of the week and enjoy the property. We are anticipating a good turnout for the Winter Run Day on Saturday, February 26. This event should get us excited about hosting the LALS RM Spring Meet on Memorial Day weekend, which has always been the Museum's biggest event of the year.

Jobs Well Done: Thanks to so many members who have come out to volunteer on the workdays in January and February! The recent "Rake-O-Rama" workday that was organized by Ron Nelson really made the West End look nice. While some raked and loaded, the trains shuttled the cans to the black trailer for dumping. We filled the black trailer three times that day – a Club record for green waste! Thanks to

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Members Schedule

February

- 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
- 20 Disney Barn open
- 21 Zoom General Meeting 7 pm

A Celebration of Life – William J. Stewart

By Diana Manchester and Cary Stewart

William Stewart's memorial service was held on Friday, February 11 in the Old North Church at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Bill was born on September 21, 1942 and died in his sleep on January 2 at 79 years old. William's older brother Cary, niece Linda, and nephew Scott attended the service, his friend John Eggett, plus 13 live steamer friends. A bagpiper in full regalia played a number of classic Scottish airs at both the service and the burial.

Cary Stewart and John Eggett provided memories about Bill during the memorial service. Bill's Naval career spanned 29-1/2 years, starting in high school with the inactive Reserves. In September 1961, he signed on for four years of active duty. He worked in electronics and atmospheric testing aboard two mine sweepers, the USS Newell and the USS Whippoorwill. Later he served as a beachmaster in Vietnam. He was an IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) certified pilot for both Navy and civilian aircraft. He continued serving in the active Reserves following his return from Vietnam. In 1964-65 he attended

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SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Bill Walker, Secretary

February 7, 2022

The February Board Meeting was called to order by President Ross Harper at 7:01 on February 7, 2022. The meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom with all directors and 48 members joining.

President Report: Ross welcomed members to the meeting. He updated us on the progress the painters were making and the efforts made to match the correct color schemes for all our museum railroad cars. Ross then introduced the 2022 Club budget. After minor discussion, the Board voted to approve the budget.

Secretary Report: There were no party or calendar requests this month. The updated bylaws were unanimously approved. A new FCR was submitted by John DePhillip and Steve Altmayer, who is donating a crossing bell. There was some brief discussion, but a vote was postponed until Board members can look at the proposed site.

Treasurer's report: Martha Figueroa presented the prior periods financials, which the Board approved. She then provided insight into the extra effort taken to correct double payments received from members for annual dues. She stated that all effected members were verbally notified by phone call. Refunds were made by check for those that wanted refunds. Others allowed their overpayment to be applied as a donation. Martha then turned our attention towards approving the LALSRM 2018 tax documents. After minor discussion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the documents.

Superintendent's Report: Ron Nelson started by thanking everyone for the support and efforts in maintaining LALSRM grounds.

He then described a tree trimming project he felt necessary to help ensure Club safety. He recommended we remove one large tree and greatly trim many others, including the large pine trees near the

Country Kitchen. Ron submitted an FCR with a quote from Special Tree Service. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the request.

Ron announced our February 12 workday to clean up leaves and other debris, especially on the West End. He planned a dedicated train to pick up the raked leaves for depositing into the trailers. A number of small trees and shrubs with a pink or yellow spray mark will need to be removed and disposed of as they are not native to our area and are harmful to our facility. Volunteers will be provided lunch in the Kountry Kitchen.

Project Reports: Ted was asked to give us an update on the painting project and the shed door mechanisms. The sheds are completed and all mechanisms have been installed. The painting project is progressing well with the current effort on painting the railroad cars.

Mike Murphy and Flemming are working to make sure the colors for each car accurately match their respective prototypes. We discussed whether to use stencils followed by paint or vinyl decal lettering for the cars. No decision was made but we are leaning towards the stencils and paint.

Ross stated that work on the green container is moving forward. Les and Ross are planning how to move and install the electric lift at the doorway. Ted will be handling the construction of the shelving.

Ross mentioned there is an air leak that prevents the lift from working correctly at times, and that we are trying to locate the source of the leak and make repairs as soon as possible. The Membership Gate issues are also being looked into for fixing.

Website News: Zak then reported that the LALSRM website is 90% completed and should be back up shortly. He stated many segments such as the calendar, email contacts, etc. will be available, but the payment system will not be active in order to correct some issues. All the old membership passwords should be working, and he asked membership to start logging in and taking a look.

The next BOD meeting will be held Monday, March 7, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

President's Message

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Bear Mustoe for regularly dumping the trailer for us.

Ted Merchant and Bill Schirmer have been busy with many improvements at the Club. They completed the installation of the new shed door mechanisms in the Richardson and Alkire sheds. Ted is also working on building a new supporting structure for the water tank that sits east of the Sherwood Station.

We recently hired a company to re-wire the sensors for the Members Gate to resolve the issues with it getting stuck open. They also put in a new antenna that has a greater range to receive your gate transponder signal.

Les Kovacs and I have been doing some work on the Green Container project. With Les operating the Bobcat, a lot of dirt has been moved around in front of the green container, in preparation for relocating the lift that is currently by the Richardson sheds.

Painting Projects: It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint can do! The faded paint on the Meeting and Tool Cars made them look old and worn out, but now they are gleaming in bright Union Pacific colors. The SP office caboose is currently receiving the painters' attention. The UP club caboose and the water tank will be repainted soon.

Please come out to the Club and enjoy our beautiful facilities! Our next official workday is Saturday, March 12. Lunch will be provided at the Kountry Kitchen.

I hope to see you there!

Ross Harper
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Editor — Peter Fuad
Associate Editor—Diana Manchester



By Ron Nelson, Superintendent

Hello Everyone. **FROM THE SUPER**

Rake-O-Rama: The February 12 work day was our Rake-O-Rama event on the West End. We had 21 volunteers show up and worked till lunch to restore the West End to its former self. There were three work trains running trash cans full of leaves to the black trailer and empty ones back to the raking action.

There was a dedicated group of people raking and placing the full trash cans on the waiting trains. It was almost like an operations meet, we were using our equipment to haul freight to it's destination and return empty. By the end of the day, the black trailer had been filled three times!!! As far as I can tell, that is over 30 cubic yards of compacted leaves!

Those that participated included Andrew Chaves, Ken Robbins, Tim Silver, Peter Fuad, Joe Clow, Bill Schirmer, Roger Williams, Bear Mustoe, Liam Cook, Malcolm Cook, Dave Bassett, Miles Kristman, Don Maddy, Ross Harper, Steve Rodstein, Andy Blake, Marc Weiss, Emily Weiss, Jim Dubensky, and Finn Dubensky. It was a wonderful demonstration of teamwork and comradery. Job well done to all.

Signal Crew: The signal crew was also out on February 12. They finished upgrading the signals on the West End with the new LED lights. This almost finishes the upgrades on the West End so that all the signals should be brighter and more reliable. They also repaired some miscellaneous issues including the signal block in front of the New Sherwood Station.

Those working on the signal crew included: Charles Rhodes, Jack Streit, Karl Strauss, Stevo Brock, Wayne Crabb and Michael Strawn.

Shed Status: Ted Merchant has completed the basic installation of the new door supports and some final welding and painting needs to take place. The handles that are now protruding are being analyzed and alternatives evaluated.

Painting: The painting contractor continues to work. The current effort is on the meeting and tool cars. As part of this effort, the tool car door will be rebuilt.

The cars are being repainted in their original colors with appropriate lettering, etc. The water tank near the semaphore signal requires repairs before it is painted. Also on the list to be painted are the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe cabooses and the Kountry Kitchen.

Tree Trimming: The Club has retained a contractor to trim trees. This work is currently scheduled to commence on February 28th. Please exercise good judgement and give the contractor lots of room to work. Tree limbs are heavy and there are always risks involved. Trees to be trimmed are the 3 sycamores on the West End and the 2 pines at the Kountry Kitchen and tool car. The eucalyptus tree on the high line to the West End will be removed.

Next Work Day: Our next scheduled work day is March 12. You may have noticed that west of the tunnels there are many plants with yellow paint at their bases. These plants include unwanted volunteer trees, invasive plants, over crowded plants, etc. These plants have been marked for removal. Ken Robbins and I have begun cutting them down and creating lots of material that needs to be hauled out to the black trailer.

The next work day will be similar to the last except instead of leaves, we will be hauling out branches. I strongly advise volunteers to bringing a pair of good gloves. I would like to arrange for the three trains again and hope to have the yellow trailer in service by then. Please come out and help us clean up our club.

Member's Gate: Steve Rodstein has arranged for a contractor to make repairs to the member's gate which should resolve it's reliability problems and improve the range of our openers. By the time you read this, the work should have been completed. Thank you Steve.

Who's been Working on the Railroad

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Chaves | Liam Cook |
| Andy Blake | Malcolm Cook |
| David Bassett | Martha Figueroa |
| Bear Mustoe | Mel Bresee |
| Bill Schirmer | Michael Finch |
| Charles Rhoades | Michael Strawn |
| Collin Westphal | Miles Kristman |
| Dan O'Brien | Nick Guzman |
| Diana Manchester | Peter Fuad |
| Don Maddy | Roger Williams |
| Elizabeth Bergman | Ron Nelson |
| Finn Dubensky | Ross Harper |
| Glen Manchester | Sam Calderwood |
| James Baker | Steve Rodstein |
| James Dubensky | Stevo Brock |
| Jim DeBiasio | Ted Merchant |
| Jeremy Steinert | Tim Silver |
| Joe Clow | Wayne Crabb |
| Karl Strauss | Zak Holman |



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

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LALSRM.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 |



Repainting the Property

By Ted Merchant

Painting is proceeding on schedule. The painter now has the precise colors for the coaches and cabooses so these projects should proceed without delay.

Robert Guzman has volunteered to build steel doors for the shop coach. We are building a new support deck for the water tower. Unlike the old deck, the new one will be lowered to 6 feet high which is more appropriate for the scale.

The new deck will be an eight sided deck supported by 12 posts in a design more typical of the water tower currently located across the tracks from the town of Minden.

Above left: Repainted meeting car; Above right and below: Office caboose prepped for painting; caboose being painted; and caboose painting completed. (Diana and Glen Manchester photos)



History of Our Meeting Car and Tool Car

Research by Fred Lack, 2004 and Wilbur Dong, 2006

Our Union Pacific Sleeper Car 1209 (National Progress) was built in 1956 as part of a 12-car order in the (National) car series.

The car was built by the Pullman Standard Company. It is 85' long and of the 6-4-6 class type of sleeping car. It had six roomettes, four bedrooms, and an open six-seat section.

The City of San Francisco was its first assignment; later it ran on the City of Portland, possibly at the same time as the 6009 UP Baggage-Dormitory car (our Machine Shop/ Tool Car).

The sleeper car was retired from passenger service in May 1971. Members Lew Soibelman and Dan O'Brien located this car as well as the UP Baggage-Dormitory Car 6009 in a scrap yard in Santa Fe Springs. The aluminum was in bad shape and the cars were destined to be scrapped.

The cars were donated and LALS RM paid to have them trucked here in April 1986. In 1987 General Meetings were moved to the Baggage-Dormitory Car and then to the Sleeper Car in 1993 after the partitions were removed and it was refurbished.



A Celebration of Life— William J. Stewart

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college, then worked as an electronics technician for companies such as Litton Industries and Rocketdyne. He and Cary both worked on the power system for the international space station while at Rocketdyne. Later he worked as an electrical technician for the film industry.

Bill’s dad, Erich, joined LALS RM in 1970, with Bill and Cary joining in 1971. They helped many members with building and maintaining their locomotives, and they rebuilt the Webb Yard puzzle switch.

Along with Hal Hoadley, Bill was involved in developing the Club’s early signals system and vacuum-brake system. In the 1980’s he and Bill McKelvey drew the initial surveys of the East track layout and the proposed West End layout.

Other interests were motorcycles, gun collecting, ammo reloading, and airplanes. Bill and his dad pursued several complex building projects, including a 2-1/2” scale gas-powered Stimco locomotive, a Heath Parasol aircraft, a WWII Jeep with a Willy’s engine, and a Schwinn motorcycle with a 4-cycle Henderson engine.

He also built a steam-powered motorcycle by installing a flash boiler in a British Royal infield motorbike.



▲▲ At Forest Lawn services, Cary with son Scott and daughter Linda; members Kathryn Bassett and Jim DeBiasio; and *inset*: bagpiper

▲ Bill and dad Erich working on Great Northern diesel at LALS.

► Bill in Scottish attire and medals.

Reboot of Club’s Website Nears Completion

By Zak Holman

The LALS RM website (lalsrm.org) is now 100% completed. The Blog with articles and color pictures is back up and easy to navigate. The current Booster now has its own separate page, and can be viewed on the site, or downloaded to your device. The Club Calendar is populated for all 12 months, and the Events page is updated. Member Login has been restored and all the old membership passwords should be working. Zak Holman is now the webmaster and encourages members to try the restored site.

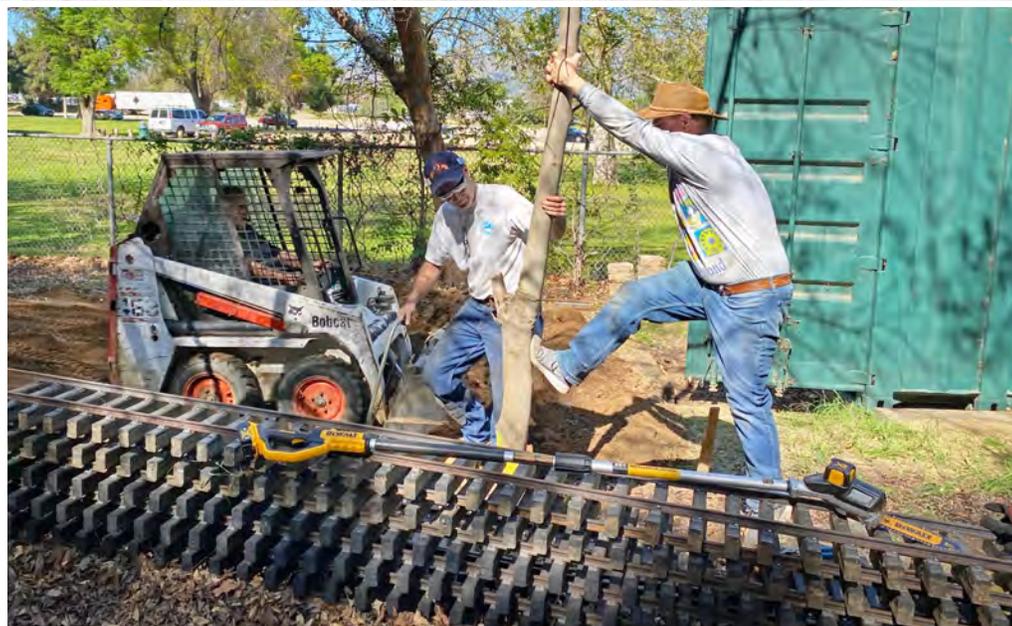
Signals Crew Works to Implement Major Repairs of Signals

By Wayne Crabb

The crew has been busy pulling and replacing wire, as well as converting the old signal lights to LEDS throughout the layout. The West End is now nearly finished, thanks to Stevo and Michael.

The signal malfunctions at Eppich Tunnel, which have frustrated everyone were troubleshooted by Jeremy, and major repairs have been implemented.

Thanks to everyone on the crew: Charles Rhoades, Stevo Brock, Michael Strawn, Jeremy Steinert, Wayne Crabb, and Karl Strauss.



Rakes and Muscles

Top: Members filling tractor scoop operated by Roger Williams with leaves for placing in trailer. • Members collecting leaves.

Above: Ross Harper demonstrating the strength it took to subdue a rogue Ash tree. (Ron Nelson photo) • Ross Harper and Michael Finch wrestling tree down.

Left: Michael Strawn dumps cuttings into trailer. (Ron Nelson photo)

Right: Ken Robbins is up a tree as he prunes a Chinese Elm tree. (Ron Nelson photo)

See President's Message for more on the successful event.

(Diana Manchester photos except as noted)



Observation Car



Top left: Nick Suncin, Liz Bergmann and Collin Westphal work on the one inch at Inchberg. *(Photo by Nick Guzman)* *Top right:* Stainless steel gutter built by Robert Guzman.

Left: On February 18 Les Kovacs grades the approach to the new container for laying track, while Ross Harper and Michael Strawn saw and wrestle to take out a tree.

Right: New ladder caddy at Phil West Barn.

Diana Manchester photos



Now: Bill Schirmer moves the rotting water tank from the north boundary of the campus. *(Ross Harper photo)*



Then: Water tank actively used back in the day near original Sherwood Station. Semaphore in the same position as today.



Winter Run Day

& Catered BBQ Lunch

Saturday, February 26, 2022

**Private Event for LALSRM Members
& Visiting Railroaders**

STEAM and ALL TRAIN TYPES Welcome

SCHEDULE

9 am Gates open; stay as late as you want

12:30 – 2 pm Lunch served

2 pm Raffle & Messages

3 pm BINGO

LALSRM T-shirts & souvenirs for sale

*Bring the
whole family!*

LUNCH MENU

*BBQ Ribs
BBQ Chicken Breast
Baked Beans
Corn on Cob, Salad
Dessert
Beverage*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Gate Duty (4 shifts, 2 persons/shift)
9-11 am, 11 am-1 pm, 1-3 pm, 3-5 pm
- Setup Friday afternoon
- BINGO Caller
- Parking Lot Monitors
- Popcorn Monitors

**EARN
WORK
HOURS**

Lunch: \$20 per person

**Please RSVP by Feb. 19
to Martha**

*Spark arrestors required
Propane fuel available*

EVENT HOST: Martha Figueroa

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