

# ENGINE BOOSTER



AUGUST 2021

SINCE

1956

www.lals.org



## Larry Mitchell, 30-Year Member, Passes

We are sad to inform you of the unexpected passing of Larry Mitchell on August 11. Larry had been very active in the Club over his 30 years of membership. He bought his train and joined the Club soon after discovering us with his young grandson. Taking his family and the public for rides on his GP-40 was his joy and he often served on the station crew. When working the Ticket Booth he elicited extra donations with his winning wit and smile. He was a valued member and friend and we will miss him.

## New Fencing Provides Improved Security

On July 26, with the help of Foothill Fencing, we replaced sagging fencing in four areas of our campus. The area just beyond Nelson Summit received a number of new panels, as well as the area along the horse trail over our tunnels, the section north of the green container on the west end and both sides of the gates at our Members' entrance.



*Photos of new fencing. Above article: Nelson Summit; left: Members' Gate; above: on the west end near green container*

## Member Calendar

### August

28 Movie Night/Night Run\*

### September

- 6 Labor Day
- 11 Work Day
- 13 Zoom Open Board Mtg
- 19 Walt's Barn Open
- 20 Zoom Gen'l Membership Mtg  
*Nominations accepted*
- 28 Movie Night/Night Run\*

*\*Please bring your own dinner*

**RUN DIRECTION: EAST FROM SHERWOOD STATION**

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



At 7:04 pm on August 2, 2021 the August BOD meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. The meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom, with participants connected by computer and cell phone. Seven Directors were present (Les Kovacs was absent) as well as 36 members.

**Secretary's Report:** The July minutes were approved, then Ted opened a discussion about upcoming scheduled events on the LALS RM grounds. It was agreed that due to the COVID-19 resurgence the Kountry Kitchen would not reopen as previously planned. Since the KK will remain closed no scheduled parties or events, including movie night, can use the Kitchen. Steve Waller's request was approved for the Train Collectors Association to meet August 22 from noon to 2:00 pm at the Club.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martha Figueroa presented the prior period's financials, which were approved. The check for

Foothill Fence company was pending and would be mailed out shortly.

**Membership Report:** Nick Suncin stated he had nothing new to report.

**Superintendent's Report:** Ross Harper reported on several items. First, he discussed the track crew, the ongoing work on the Minden siding, and other pending track repairs. He reminded us that the perimeter fence repairs had been completed by Foothill Fence Company. Also, he stated that Les had ordered parts to repair the leaky main water pipe behind the Alkire shed. Ross also presented an FCR to add a new siding off the Smith Valley Line that will go to the green sea container. The switch and all track will come from existing supplies. Materials to be purchased include blocks and strap material to make tracks inside the container; the estimate was approved by the Board.

**Communications:** Diana Manchester discussed the website, paying for a full subscription fee for Paid Membership Pro, GoDaddy full subscription, and hiring an IT person on a limited basis to assist in producing planned tasks. The final budget amount was approved by the Board.

**Shed Rental payments:** Ted confirmed that Bear Mustoe is in charge of time cards, and that members need to submit

time cards for LALS RM work if they intend to get shed rental credit. Members who do not turn in time cards or do not do work at LALS RM will not receive shed rental credits. Members who are in arrears one or more years will receive a letter stating a 30-day notice to pay or face the possible removal of their equipment from LALS RM.

**Souvenir Purchases:** Diana presented her request again to purchase LALS RM 65th Anniversary T-shirts, LALS RM member work T-shirts, and children's shirts. After a discussion regarding how past years sales had always turned a profit the Board approved her request to move forward.

Ted then brought up the resurgence of COVID-19, and the posture the Board would like to take towards meetings on LALS RM grounds and similar issues. It was agreed that, for the time being, meetings would continue via Zoom conferences. Members could still visit the Club individually with their families as desired. The Kountry Kitchen would remain closed. The reopening of New Sherwood Station to the public scheduled for August 22 would be cancelled until the COVID-19 numbers decline for 4 weeks.

**Other Items:** Bill Schirmer reported he had put new tires on the Bobcat. The Level 1 Engineer's Test is available in the yellow UP Caboose or by contacting Michael Murphy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm. The September BOD Zoom meeting will be held Sept. 13.



By  
Ross  
Harper

Thanks to the many members who regularly maintain our Club! LALS RM would be running off the rails without your dedication. Here are three big areas we need help with. Please consider coming out for one morning of service, a full day of work and train rides, or join a team on a specific project.

### Track Projects Update:

After a prolonged closure, Minden siding is open again for train business! The track crew repaired the switches on both ends of the siding and fixed the track. Work has begun on the nearby Baker

siding against the mountain at Crystal Springs Junction. Extra hillside debris has been cleared from the track and the switches repair work has begun. This siding should be open soon for flanged vehicles. There is still plenty of track work to be done, so please contact Larry Tighe ([bottleflyblue@gmail.com](mailto:bottleflyblue@gmail.com)) if you would like to join the team.

### News from the Western Front:

An FCR was approved by the Board on August 2 for a new spur off the Smith

*continued on Page 3*



## President's Message

By Ted Merchant,  
President

### Hello Railroad Fans!

*"Today I am as old as I have ever been, and I am as young as I will ever be!"*

Time happens! And it's time to consider our Fall elections. The Board will name a Elections Committee. Our membership needs to consider who they want to nominate. Ballots need to be distributed. And you all need to vote. We have changed the meeting calendar for this Fall to accommodate election deadlines. This is an incredibly important process in the life of LALSRM. I urge each of you to consider your responsibilities in making this election and your future Board of Directors a success.

Your Board will determine in Executive Session who will serve on the Elections Committee. That decision will be announced at our next Open Board Zoom Meeting, **Monday, September 13, 2021** at 7 pm.

### Nominations and Candidates' Statements

Nominations will be accepted from the floor and from the Elections Committee on **Monday, September 20** at the General Membership Zoom Meeting. The first requirement is that each nominee desires to have their name on the ballot. Candidates must be Resident members in good standing (4 years minimum). Each nomination must receive a "second" at this General Meeting.

Candidate head shot photos and questionnaires must be submitted to Diana Manchester or Peter Fuad by Sunday, October 10.

### Town Hall Meeting of Candidates

Our October General Membership (Zoom) Meeting will be held on the **second Monday, October 11** (7 pm), to accommodate the election calendar. The meeting will serve as a "Town Hall Meeting of Candidates".

### November 2021 Election Dates:

**Nov 1** – Ballots will be mailed to paid-up Resident members.

**Nov 20** – Completed main-in ballots must be received by 6 pm.

**Nov 21** – A representative of the Elections Committee will be available at the Club to receive your personally-delivered ballots.

**Nov 22** – Results will be announced at the General Membership Zoom meeting.

### A Privilege to Serve

I cannot describe the fantastic privilege of being President of LALSRM. I cannot describe my thanks for each Board member, their commitment, their competence, and their leadership. I urge each of you to consider the importance of electing Board members that display commitment, competence, and leadership. Your constructive participation is crucial.

And that's the way it is. Your comments are always appreciated. See you at the rails!

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



## From the Super

*continued from Page 2*

Valley line to the green container just west of the Nelson Tunnel. This will require a significant amount of decomposed granite to fill in the low spots and make an even sloped grade down to the container. Since a lot of dirt has come off the hillside at Crystal Springs Junction, we can move it from there to the container site. I am calling this **Operation Sandbag**. Sandbags can be easily filled and loaded onto flat cars, then hauled over to the container for dumping. What a great excuse to use our trains in the process! Please lend a hand by either filling some sandbags or hauling them to the container.

### Groundskeeping Help Needed

The pine needles are so dense on the north property east of Sherwood Station (Bowlus siding) that we can hardly see the rails. When the pine needles get this thick, they can hide twigs and cones that can cause derailments. Please help with **Operation Pine Needles** by hauling them by cart or train to the **blue bin trash dumpster**, and the blue dumpster only.

To keep the lawns green this summer, please don't touch the hoses or spigots attached to sprinklers or timers. If you see any irrigation system problems, please let me know.

Join the track team or help with Operation Sandbag or Operation Pine Needles. Remember to stay safe and hydrated.

**Ross Harper**

[panmanross@aol.com](mailto:panmanross@aol.com)

818-786-7380



### Membership Dues / Shed Rentals

Mail checks to Martha Figueroa at:

LALSRM

P.O. Box 2156, Toluca Lake, CA 91610

**We are revising the website.** For membership status or website questions: please contact Diana Manchester – [dm.ad@verizon.net](mailto:dm.ad@verizon.net); tel 626.298.6626.



## Tunnel, Cut, & Trestle RR Event in Tarzana – July 31 & Aug 1

By Diana Manchester

For the first time in 30 years, the historic Tunnel, Cut & Trestle railroad was open to the public for rides. Originally built in the early 1950's by LALS RM member Gordon MacLean on his private residential property in Tarzana, it has been completely restored by present homeowners Norm and Glenda Kravitz through their friendship with Hawley MacLean. The restoration was managed by Steve Alley of Allen Models and Mike Masee with crews of live steamers from LALS RM and other clubs.

The two-day event was a fundraiser for the Olympic Artistic Swim Team. LALS RM members assisted with train operations both days, and a number of Club members came for rides on Sunday. A total of 250 guests attended both days.

*Below: Ken Schroeder of Nevada, Dan H., Glen M. and Harrison MacLean with three Schroeder-built engines.*



*Photos from upper left: Nancy and Jim Cammarata and Bill Walker assist with train transportation of the Aqua Lilies; Diana Manchester provides guest rides Sunday; LALS RM operations crew Dan Humfreville, the Cammaratas, Diana M. and Roderick Fritz (not pictured – Glen Manchester, Kathy Walker, Fred Lack, Tristan Fritz, Peter Fuad and Joe Clow; Hawley transports Aqua Lilies with the original MacLean steam loco # 4535.*

— SAVE THE DATE! —

# LALS RM Fall Meet

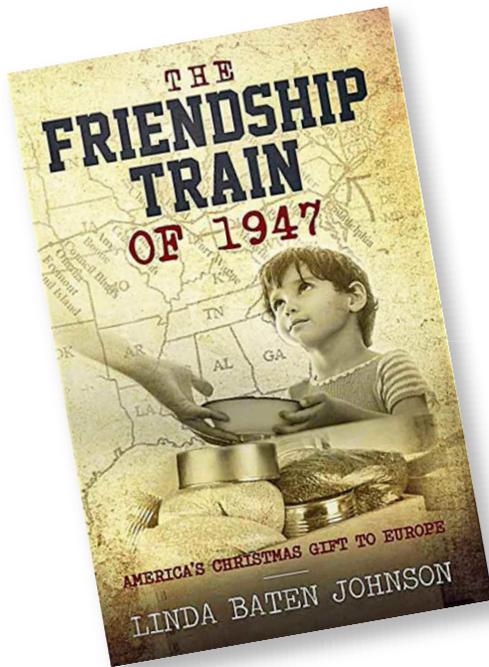
## October 8, 9, 10

## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park  
Mailing Address— PO Box 2156  
Toluca Lake, CA 91610  
Phone (323) 661-8958  
[www.lalsrm.org](http://www.lalsrm.org)

**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



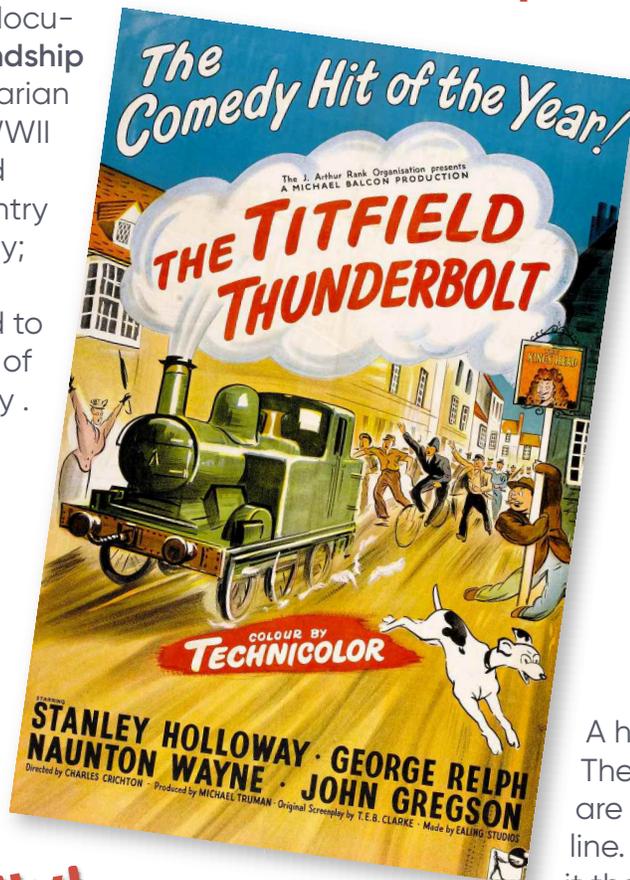
# LALSRM August Movie Night & Night Run

## Saturday, August 28

6:00 pm – Picnic Dinner

7:20 pm – Movies

This short film documents the **Friendship Train's** humanitarian journey after WWII from Hollywood across the country to New York City; and the initial delivery of food to hungry citizens of France and Italy .



**Fun  
for the  
whole  
family!**

- Bring your own picnic or take-out dinner. Our Club's gas grill is available for anyone that would like to grill!
- Dessert provided
- Free Popcorn
- Bring your own chairs
- Fire up your trains!

A hilarious 1953 steam classic! The residents of a small English village are about to lose their ancient branch line. They decide to rescue it by running it themselves, in competition with the local bus company. Starring an 1838 steam engine "The Lion", used on the Liverpool & Manchester railway in England.