



Reopening Softly

LALS RM held its first public run day in over two years last Sunday, April 24. Above, Francis Barnes drives the PA with Darrell Payne acting as conductor. This was Francis' last regular public run. See story at right. *(Diana Manchester photo)*

Christie Edinger, 79, Active 10-Year Member, Passes

By Diana Manchester

Christie Edinger passed away peacefully after a long and courageous fight with pancreatic cancer, Saturday, March 26, 2022.

She was 79 and had been a 10-year member of LALS RM, known for her many hours on our tracks behind the controls of various Club engines, especially her beloved Dinger Belle outline, which was christened for public service on Mother's Day, 2014.

She could be counted on to haul the public every Sunday (pre-COVID); many families would wait for over an hour to ride on her train. Christie engineered for every Club special event and members' private parties. Dinger Belle was whimsically decorated for every holiday, and delivered Santa Claus to the Disney Barn the 3rd Sunday each December.

(Continued on page 4)



Christie at annual city workers luncheon.

Soft Reopening Success

By Peter Fuad

LALS RM held its "soft" reopening last Sunday, April 24. This was the first public run since the early 2020 coronavirus closure. The soft opening was designed to allow new and continuing members to get geared up for weekly public runs. Sunday's operation went smoothly, thanks to many members' efforts. Despite having no promotion or announcements, we had over 322 riders!

Safety Coordinator was Jim Cammarata, and Station Master was Robert Guzman.

Going forward, we are having public runs on May 1 and 15, and then every Sunday beginning June 5.

For one member, however, this first public run was his last regular LALS RM public run. Francis Barnes, a reliable public run and special event engineer driving our SP Daylight PA, is moving to Texas with his family. As has been his custom, his train was the first out on Sunday. We hope to see Francis in the future. His train is shown above last Sunday.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Bill Walker, Secretary

April 4, 2022

The April Board Meeting was called to order by President Ross Harper at 7:03 pm on April 4, 2022. Due to LA County COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom. All Directors except Dave Holman were present, as well as 44 Club members.

President Report: Ross thanked everyone for volunteering to assist getting the Club cleaned up and ready for re-opening.

Secretary Report: Last month's minutes were unanimously approved. Three party requests were discussed: (1) Ted Merchant requested Saturday, October 15 at 2:00 pm for a Club-sanctioned, fundraising event of 100+ guests for the "Bridges" program. The Board unanimously approved the date and time for the party, but notified Ted that further Board discussion . (2) Dan Mustoe (Bear) requested Saturday, October 22. (3) Bill Schirmer requested June 4 for a large party for the A.S.E.P.O. organization. The Board unanimously approved these two requests. Bill Walker reported that the updated by-laws were now complete, with copies for review to be placed in the UP caboose and meeting car, and posted on the website. Bill stated that updates to the Procedures and Policies would start soon.

Treasurer's report: Martha Figueroa thanked the membership for getting their 2022 renewals in. The financials were unanimously approved.

Membership Report: Nick introduced new members Justine and Margaret Iversen, who were interviewed later during the meeting along with their five-year son Anders.

Special Reopening Report: Ross announced that the Board has pushed back the date of our public soft opening of LALSRM to April 24, 2022. The change of date was made based on input from membership about the difficulties opening up on the Easter holiday and a Disney Barn day. It was determined that the safest

thing to do would be to push back our opening one more week. Ross reminded us that LALSRM needs to reopen in order to fulfill our requirements to provide a public benefit. Fred Lack announced a Conductors training class on Sunday, April 10 starting at 9:30 am, and again on Sunday, April 24 at 10:00 am. Mike Murphy stated that Level 1 tests are still being accepted and that recertifying engineers is still ongoing. The next check rides will be held April 16.

Superintendent's Report: Ron Nelson thanked everyone for their continued efforts in maintaining the LALSRM grounds. Our next Club workday will be April 9. Work will focus on completing the station track and continued greenery clearance. He requested help with pulling staples from the station track wood blocks so that the plastic walkway pieces could be properly fitted to the track.

Miles Kristman made some special requests in regards to Club locomotive housing and care. All engines should be stored with full gas tanks, the battery floating cables properly plugged in, gas shutoff valve closed (if applicable), and the log books properly filled out each time locos are taken out and put back. If any Club equipment has a defect, please put an orange tag on it, near the defect. Fill out the tag with the placing member's name, phone number and a short note describing the issue. This will greatly help in diagnosing equipment problems.

Ted stated that all painting has been completed, and that the refurbished water tank was back in place.

Ross gave an update about the air leak issue. Relocating the airline around the concrete pad has been completed, and all air-operated devices should be working properly. The green container project has been delayed until reopening is completed.

Ron Hitchcock updated membership about our liability insurance.

Nick Suncin requested new white lines be painted on the inner lot next to the Kountry Kitchen. Many individuals are using this area to park their cars however, this area is for loading and unloading only.

Ross reported the sad news of Christie Edinger's passing on March 26, 2022.

The next BOD meeting is Monday, May 2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

President's Message

By Ross Harper, President



We Are Re-Opening!

It's taken a big effort to get ready to re-open after two years of being closed due to COVID. A big THANK YOU to all of the members who have helped around the Club with cleaning,

landscaping, signal repairs, track maintenance, engineer and conductor training and safety certification.

We still need to build up our pool of safety certified engineers and conductors. If you haven't had a chance to take the Conductor class or do your Engineer check ride, please contact Mike Murphy to schedule that. Everyone involved with the running of trains during Sunday public hours is required to complete the Level 1 Safety Test on the Members Resources section of the LALSRM website. Please do that ASAP if you haven't already.

See the Members Schedule below for important Upcoming Dates.

(Continued on page 6)

Members Schedule

April

- 30 Steam Run Day
- 30 Shed Credit Earning Period Ends

May

- 1 Official Reopening for Public Rides
- 2 Zoom Open Board Meeting 7 pm
- 14 Work Day (KK open)
- 15 Public Rides; Disney Barn open
- 16 Zoom General Meeting 7 pm
- 21 Extra Work Day (for Meet)
- 27-30 Spring Meet

June

- 5 Public Rides and weekly thereafter



By Ron Nelson, Superintendent

April 2022

The Club has been putting in a phenomenal effort to improve and upgrade our campus so we can reopen and provide public rides. Many members have been coming out on all days of the week to fix or maintain our track, signals, facilities, equipment and landscape. It's very encouraging to see the display of comradery and dedication.

Ballast Bonanza: At the March workday – “Ballast Bonanza” – Miles Kristman led a team that used a locomotive to pull the Club's gravel cars filled with DG and dry cement to ballast Track #1 at the New Sherwood Station. There was almost constant checking the track to make sure that it was level and at the correct elevation. Once that was mostly completed, members nailed the redwood lath spacers on top of the ties. The plastic decking was slated for installation after the workday, and some concrete grinding will take place to level some uneven areas. Workers included Ross Harper, Bill Walker, Roderick and Tristan Fritz, Michael Mahan and Andy Blake. Special recognition goes to John DePhillip Jr. for sharing his track knowledge and providing guidance throughout this project.

Landscape Work: During the workday, Tim Silver piloted the Club's center cab pulling flat cars loaded with branches. Ken Robbins had trimmed from a number of places on the property to the black trailer. Steve Rodstein, Jack Streit, and Jim and Finn Dubensky helped him. Nick Suncin, Elizabeth Bergmann and Collin Westphal ran a second train also picking up trimmings and general cleaning things up. The black trailer was filled three times in one day, a new record. Thank you, Bear for emptying the trailer. New members Justin and Margaret Iversen worked trimming along the north-east fence line to maintain train clearance.

Ground Squirrel Patrol: East of the entrance to the New Sherwood Station, a low area was identified in between the tracks. I used a five-foot pry bar to probe the area. Much to my surprise, I found one area where I had to grab the top of the bar

before it disappeared underground. More probing found many more tunnels in the area. After caving in the tunnels and saturating the area with water, several carloads of DG were dumped in the cavity to build it back up. A second, but smaller area was found on one of the lines leading into the Sutchville Station. Many thanks to Tristan Fritz, Nick Suncin, Elizabeth Bergmann and Collin Westphal for helping in this effort.

Water Tower: The northside water tower is back in place and sitting pretty upon new redwood legs fashioned by Ted Merchant. Bill Schirmer performed some expert maneuvering with the Gradall to lift the freshly-painted tank over the ivy-covered fence and place it on its new base. Thank you, Bill, Ted, and all who helped them.

Pit: In case you have not noticed, the Pit area is looking nice and clean these days, thanks to Justin, Margaret and Anders Iversen. Please do your part to help keep it looking that way.

Future Trimming: First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has pitched in recently to trim the overgrown and unwanted vegetation around the property. It was much needed and is helping towards reopening and making a more enjoyable space. Unfortunately, some desirable plants and low priority plants have been cut down while plants marked for removal have remained in place. Additionally, there are correct ways to trim plants to control their growth that some members are not practicing. Therefore, I would like to request for all members to cease trimming unless I am present and we are working together. The goal is to improve our collective knowledge on how and what to trim. I know this will slow down our progress, but it will be only temporary. Thank you in advance.

Unapproved Planting: The Club works very hard to select plants that will look good, match the theme of the area, will survive in the soil and exposure, not damage nearby track or structures, and be low maintenance. It has been noticed that unapproved plants have been appearing

How to Access Level 1 Test on Our Website

If you've already paid for 2022, and your old login is not working, you must register again on the website. What to do:

Open lalsrm.org in your browser.

Then go to Member Resources. Click on “Registration”. A new window will open named “Member Account”. Select your correct Membership Level and fill out the rest of the page as if you are going to pay for 2022. Because you have already paid, it will say that you owe \$0. Scroll down to “Submit and Confirm” and click on it. Now you are registered as a subscriber on the website.

Go back to Home, click on “Membership Resources”, and look for “Documents”. The test is in there. You can take it online and it will automatically grade you and send your score to the Safety Coordinator.

If you receive an automatic email from LALS RM asking for a dues payment, and you have already paid, just ignore it. If you have not yet paid for 2022, please send your payment to Martha Figueroa right away.

around the property. Although members have the best of intentions to beautify the Club, please refrain from such plantings. If you want to plant something, please see me or Ross first. Would members who made those plantings please remove them, or I will be forced to remove them in the near future. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

See you on the rails, Ron Nelson
818-802-7394 rlnelson@earthlink.net



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

Editor - Peter Fuad.
Associate Editor - Diana Manchester



Christie Edinger Passes

(Continued from page 1)

Joined LALSRRM in 2012

Christie joined LALSRRM in 2012, after her retirement as a satellite technician for Walt Disney Co./ABC Media Networks. Besides engineering, she volunteered during the week, cutting the lawn, trimming branches, and pulling weeds.

She was elected to the Board of Directors in 2017 and served as Secretary in 2018. Every year she was very active at our Ghost Train fundraiser and the City Employees Steak Luncheon.

Avid Bicyclist, Marathon Runner, Birder

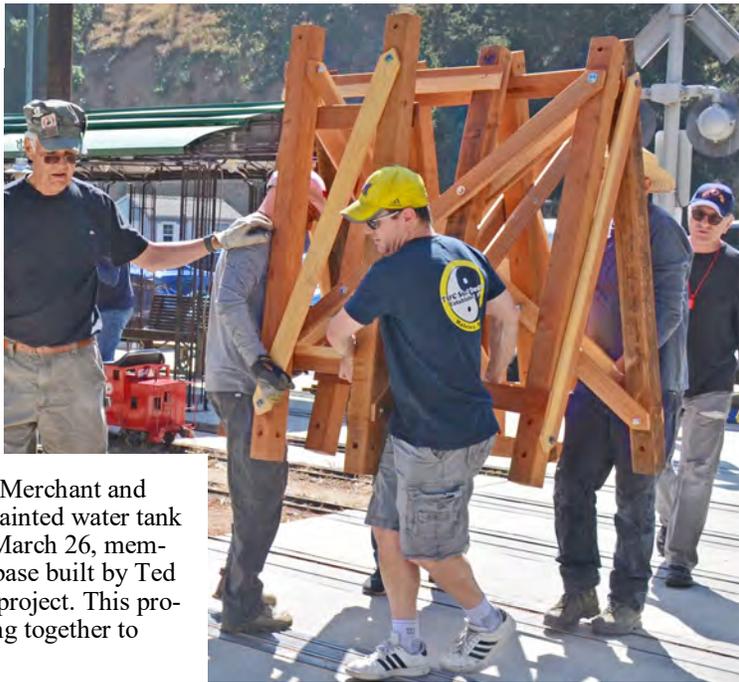
One of her hobbies was collecting and repairing telegraph instruments, and she created a detailed historical display, which she recently donated to Train Mountain in Chiloquin, OR. She was also an amateur radio operator, call sign K0IU. An avid bicyclist, Christie traveled to Iowa every year for the eight-day cross-state RAGBRAI tour, and participated in many long-distance rides with her local cycling group. She was also a marathon runner and tri-athlete. A bird-lover, she cared for three macaws, an amazon parrot and a cockatoo, which she sometimes brought to the Club.

One of her friends shared, “Christie fought her cancer with an attitude that I think few could do. She accepted it with grace and dignity and said ‘you play the cards you are dealt.’ Ray Burden was her rock. She called him her ‘adopted son,’ and he was by her side throughout her battle.” There will be no memorial service, per her wishes.



Christie in Photos Top row above: Mother’s Day 2014; Christie’s beloved Dinger Belle at New Sherwood Station pulling public during Christmas season (inset: Christie’s macaw Harley riding her speeder); middle row: At TV station in younger years; 2017 Holiday Banquet; bottom row: Bamboo bike LA River Ride; Christie and Ray Burden at 2015 Spring Meet; Driving Club’s Daylight PA in August 2013.

A Tankless Task



Top and above: On April 2, Ted Merchant and Bill Schirmer transported the repainted water tank to its permanent site. *Right:* On March 26, members hand-carried carry the new base built by Ted to its site. *Far right:* Completed project. This project exemplifies members working together to improve our railroad.



Left and above: Michael Murphy teaching an engineer class.

Gearing Up for Public Runs

In anticipation of resumed public operations, the Club's Level 1 public run equipment was recertified, and engineer and conductor training courses were held.

Recertifying Level 1 Equipment

By James Cammarata
Safety Coordinator

Thank you, everyone who helped on Saturday, March 26, 2022 in recertifying the Level 1 public run equipment. We recertified a total of 52 Club engine/cars. Special thanks to Dave Clark, Miles Kristman, Joe Clow, Bill Walker and anyone I missed.

The certification process consists of checking the wheel gauge, checking the coupler height, and checking the riding cars braking system for air leaks. Upon completion, a certification sticker date is affixed to each engine or car that has passed inspection. This certification sticker is good for a year. By the end of the day, we had certified seven Club engines and 45 riding cars (bench and caboose). Only three cars needed repairs.



Meet Our New Probationary Members

This is our new probationary family. Justin, Margaret and 5-year old Anders Iversen. Justin is a cosmetic photography retoucher. Full-time mom Margaret enjoys creating n-and z-scale layouts. Anders is passionate about trains. (Diana Manchester photo)

Engineer Training

By Michael Murphy
Engineer Trainer

Answering the call for engineer training, we had 15 members attend our first engineers' course in two plus years on March 26. Then we had three Saturdays of check rides – April 9, 17 and 23.

Michael Murphy led the course, which consisted of verbal instruction, a written test, and hands-on practice on Club equipment. Some engineers are returning after our COVID hiatus, and some are new to public hauling.

All potential engineers must pass the Level 1 Test and have their 2022 dues paid. Returning engineers need to review safety procedures, take the written Engineer's test, and go out for a check ride.

New operators will need hands-on mentoring with a certified engineer while running Club equipment. If you are interested in taking the course, or check rides, please contact Michael Murphy. Nick Suncin can perform check rides as well.

Who's been Working on the Railroad

Andrew Chaves	Ken Robbins
Andy Blake	Martha Figueroa
Bear Mustoe	Michael Mahan
Bill Schirmer	Miles Kristman
Bill Walker	Nick Suncin
Bryan Stephens	Peter Fuad
Charles Rhoades	Roderick Fritz
Collin Westphal	Roger Williams
Diana Manchester	Ron Nelson
Don Kallgren	Ross Harper
Elizabeth Bergman	Sam Calderwood
Finn Dubensky	Steve Harris
Glen Manchester	Steve Rodstein
Greg McMurry	Stevo Brock
Jack Streit	Ted Merchant
James Baker	Thaine Morris
James Dubensky	Tim Silver
Jeremy Steinert	Tristan Fritz
Joe Clow	Wayne Crabb
Joseph Jackson	Zak Holman

Conductor Training

By Fred Lack
LALSRM Conductor Trainer

We had 15 members attend the Conductors Course given by Fred Lack on April 10. Most participants have been re-certified. Several still need to take the Level 1 Test. A second Conductors Course was given on Sunday, April 24.

If you're interested in future Conductor training, please contact Fred at email: atlantis90230@yahoo.com Cell: (310) 213-0722.

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

Please note from the schedule on page 2 that we're only planning to be open two Sundays in May (the 1st and the 3rd). This should allow us to work through any issues and get organized with our volunteer force.

Spring Meet May 27-May 30

Our big event on Memorial Day Weekend is fast approaching. We will need volunteers in all areas -- gate duty, kitchen crew, set up, and clean up.

Please contact Tom Lang for gate duty sign ups or Bill Schirmer to help in the kitchen. Check with Martha Figueroa for other areas of service.

This is an exciting time for the Club, with the re-opening to the public and the upcoming Spring Meet. I hope you will make plans to volunteer and run your trains. We need your participation!

Ross Harper 818-786-7380
panmanross@aol.com

Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
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



Trimming Trees and Shrubs

- ▲ ◀ Club members trim our overgrown trees and shrubs. Members in the photos from left: Jack Streit, Tim Silver, Steve Rodstein, Jim Dubensky and Ken Robbins.
- ◀ Tim Silver drives center cab hauling cuttings.
- ▲ Jim Dubensky and Ken Robbins cut branch on west end.

Recertifying Equipment

- ▶ Michael Mahan and Marc Weiss returning recertified cabooses to the shed on March 26.
- ▼ Jim Cammarata inspecting bench seat riding car.
- ▶▶ Dave Clark inspects riding cars.





Ballast Bonanza



Ballast Bonanza. On April 2 and 9, Club members worked on rehabilitating the tracks at New Sherwood Station and elsewhere. Workers shown are Miles Kristman, Dave Bassett, Ross Harper, Bill Walker, Roderick and Tristan Fritz, Michael Mahan and Andy Blake.





LALSRM SPRING MEET

MAY | 27-30 | 2022

2022 SPRING LALSRM MEET GATE DUTY

FRIDAY, MAY 27th

TIME SLOT	BOOTH (gate only)	BOOTH (gate only)	GATE
5PM - 7PM			

SATURDAY, MAY 28th

TIME SLOT	BOOTH (gate only)	BOOTH (gate only)	GATE
7AM - 9AM			Michael Strawn
9AM - 11AM	Don Dinsmore		Dave Bassett
11AM - 1PM			Andy Blake
1PM - 3PM			
3PM - 5PM			
5PM - 7PM			

SUNDAY, MAY 29th

TIME SLOT	BOOTH (gate only)	BOOTH (gate only)	GATE
7AM - 9AM			Dave Bassett
9AM - 11AM		Justin Larsen	
11AM - 1PM	Carolyn Hoagland	Scott Hoagland	Andy Blake
1PM - 3PM			
3PM - 5PM			

MONDAY, MAY 30th

TIME SLOT	BOOTH (gate only)	BOOTH (gate only)	GATE
7AM - 9AM			Jack Street
9AM - 11AM			Jack Street
11AM - 1PM			
1PM - 3PM			
3PM - 5PM			

TOM LANG (818) 635-5010 or
MARTHA FIGUEROA (626) 232-7053

tomlang@pacbell.net

Can You Help at the Front Gate During the Spring Meet?

We need your help for gate duty during the Spring Meet. There are two positions. The “Booth” assignment is greeting visitors, handing out souvenir name tags, and accepting donations. The “Gate” person operates the gate, issues unloading passes, and maintains rail crossing safety. You sign up for two hour shifts; a replica of the sign-up sheet above shows the shift times. (Some shifts are already taken.) **You can earn work hour credits for gate duty.**

If you can help out, please send an email to Tom Lang at tomlang@pacbell.net (preferred) or call him and leave a message at (818) 635-5010. Please include your full name, mobile phone number, email address, desired time slot(s) and booth/gate preference. You are encouraged to sign up for more than one shift.

Requests will be handled in the order they are received. We will send you an updated schedule and information sheet by email.

It’s easy. No prior experience needed. It’s a great way to meet a lot of interesting people (including, perhaps, some foreign visitors), welcome them to our Club and help them make the most of their Spring Meet experience.

Friday

6:00 BOD SPAGHETTI & LASAGNA DINNER – FREE

Saturday

8:00 BREAKFAST – All American Breakfast
 12:00 LUNCH – Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink
 3:00 BINGO
 5:30 DINNER – Handi-Market BBQ Chicken & Ribs – \$20
(Purchase dinner tickets in advance)
 6:25 President’s Welcome, Bell Tower Ceremony, Raffle

Sunday

8:00 BREAKFAST – All American Breakfast
 12:00 LUNCH – Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink
 1:30 President’s Auction in New Sherwood Station
 5:30 DINNER

Monday

8:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Volunteers Needed

Help make our Spring Meet enjoyable for all!

Gate Duty – 2-hour shifts – contact Tom Lang (see article to left)

Kitchen Crews – Cook, prep, cleanup for these meals (contact Bill Schirmer):

Breakfast – Saturday, Sunday & Monday

Lunch – Saturday and Sunday

Dinner – Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Souvenir Table / Cashier – Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Monitor Popcorn Machine & Coffee

BINGO Caller (Saturday)

Set-up and Take-down:

Friday afternoon – Souvenir tents, etc

Friday & Saturday – Tables & chairs for dinner & BINGO

Sunday – Presidents’ Auction / Track & Collect Payments

Auctioneer for President’s Auction

Monitors for Parking Lot (Fri-Mon); **Trash Detail** (after meals)

Host: Martha Figueroa – 83yosemite13mf@gmail.com or 626.232.7053 (cell)