

ENGINE BOOSTER



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Harrison Hitchcock, Dan Humfreville and Porter before trip to Train Mountain.

A number of LALSRM members attended the 2022 Triennial at Train Mountain last month. More photos inside.

LALSRM Calendar

July

- 31 Public Rides

August

- 1 Zoom BOD Meeting 7 pm
- 7 Public Rides
- 13 Workday (KK open)
- 14 Public Rides
- 15 Zoom General Meeting 7 pm
- 21 Public Rides; Disney Barn & Steam Plant open
- 27 Movie Night/Night Run/Potluck
- 28 Public Rides

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



*By Bill Walker
Secretary*

July 11, 2022

The July Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Ross Harper at 7:04 pm on July 11, 2022. The meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom. All Directors except Martha Figueroa were present, as well as 38 Club members.

Secretary Report: The Board unanimously approved last month's minutes.

Two party requests were presented: (1) Andrew Chavez requested September 24 as the new date for the previously-approved Theodore Payne Foundation event (100 guests). Because this proposed date conflicts with Club activities, the party request is on hold pending a new date from Andrew. (2) Don Kallgren requested August 14 from 3:00 pm on for a gathering of about 14 members of the S-gauge modular group. This party request was unanimously approved.

Nick Guzman's recent FCR for the expansion of the 1" line to the West End contained insufficient information. Pending receipt of further details, the Board deferred any discussion on the FCR.

Lloyd Davis's previously-submitted FCR to complete wooden buildings on Nelson Summit was, pursuant to Club procedures, submitted to the general Club membership for approval, and was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: the financial report was approved.

Membership Report: Nick Suncin presented a new probationary member, Rexford Leong Jr. Two probationary members, Marc Weiss and Michael Strawn, have completed their probationary hours and were approved to full membership.

Superintendent's Report: In Ron Nelson's absence, Ross announced that a number of projects have been completed: Miles Kristman and team replaced 60 ties; Steve Rodstein and team removed a large quantity of dirt from the Mountain Division; Richard Ronne and team leveled various sections of track around the lay-

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President's Message

By Ross Harper, President



Serving the Public on Sundays

Los Angeles Live Steamers is situated on 12+ acres of beautiful city park land, surrounded by the mountains and native landscape of Griffith Park, with convenient access to the greater LA area. In our long-standing agreement with the city, we have the opportunity and obligation to serve our community by sharing our hobby with public train rides on Sundays from 11 to 3. When each of us joined as members of the Club, we agreed to participate in our service organization by volunteering to provide these rides and maintain our facilities for our mutual benefit.

Now that we have reopened to the public, attendance is high, with an average of over 500 riders each Sunday. That's more than 6,000 riders so far! But because of personal vacations and some members going to the Train Mountain Triennial, we have had to operate with a skeleton crew a few times. So we need more volunteers to meet the high demand. Calling all engineers, conductors, and station workers to run those trains!

Incentive Program for Sunday Run Crews

As if running trains wasn't incentive enough to serve, the Board has recently instituted a new program where members can earn a free meal voucher for our Kountry Kitchen when they volunteer in our Sunday public operations. Here's how it works:

- Before you serve on Sunday, make sure you're re-certified to be a conductor or have completed your engineer check-ride. Contact Fred Lack for his conductor class schedule. Contact Mike Murphy or Nick Suncin for the engineer check-ride or class.
- Serve as engineer, conductor or station worker for at least three hours on Sunday.
- At the end of your service time each Sunday, get your voucher from the Station Master or Safety Coordinator. Enjoy your lunch!
- Don't forget to fill out a volunteer timecard and have someone sign off on your hours, too.

Let's Keep the Station Clear

In July, we started running Eastbound out of Sherwood Station. We have had a problem with trains coming into the station before they are fully checked out. Before you head for the station, please check your air lines for leaks, your caboose for safety chains, and your gas engine for a full tank. There needs to be at least 80 lbs. of pressure in the caboose to avoid damage to the riding car wheels. After your train meets these running criteria, you are required to do a safety lap before you pull the public.

Any repairs should be made in the maintenance area before doing your safety lap. Please do not do your initial safety checks or repairs at the station; and be sure to follow any instructions from the Safety Coordinator.

Club Events Coming Soon

Join other LALS members and bring your family to the Club for our Summer Movie Nights on the fourth Saturday of each month; that's July 23, August 27, September 24 and October 29. Bring a picnic or something to share for the potluck dinner and dessert. Enjoy fresh, hot popcorn with the movie that usually features a train scene or two. Then turn on your FRED before taking a night run around the Club.

For you steam enthusiasts, keep an eye out for details about the upcoming 5th Saturday Steam Ups on July 30, October 29, and New Year's Eve, December 31.

Mark your calendar for our big Fall Meet the weekend of October 7-9. Give yourself plenty of time that weekend to ride trains, catch up with old friends, and volunteer where needed. Our Club is looking great; let's keep it up and enjoy it!

I look forward to seeing you around LALSRM, whether you're there for serving the public, helping around the property, or sharing your train hobby with other enthusiasts, family and friends. Make LALSRM part of your summer fun plans!

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



From the SUPER

By Ron Nelson, Superintendent

Summer has roared in like a lion. The temperatures at the Club are daily in the high 90's and many members are on vacation. There is definitely a slower pace down at the Club.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature does not slow down during the Summer, and the Club still needs your support and help to keep things running. Please look at the white board for small jobs around the campus to do and plan your work for early morning. My vacationing is over and I will be around the Club more so don't hesitate to reach out to me for suggestions.

Recent accomplishments include the following:

West End: A large Chinese elm branch broke and was blocking the track at Smith Camp. Michael Strawn helped me cut down the hanging limb and cut it into pieces. We also trimmed the neighboring tree near the crossing that had some very low hanging branches.

That Saturday, Justin Iversen and Matt Bassett helped me load all the trimmings onto the work train and we filled the black trailer. We also did a little trimming on some small trees and cut down two volunteer sycamores that were in a poor location.

I have noticed that the two large rainbird sprinklers are not watering all of the lawn and plan to find a solution. I would like to make it a more attractive location.

Mainline Track: It was noticed that there was a 20-30 foot section of the mainline just north of the Disney crossing that still had wood ties and the rails were not being properly supported. Miles Kristman supervised a work crew that replaced every other tie, about 60 ties. The rails remained in place while every other wood tie was carefully removed and replaced with a plastic tie.

The finished job seems to be a success. The work crew included Ross Harper, Matt Bassett, Larry Tighe and myself.

Weed Whackers: Both of the Club's weed whackers were not working. I

received approval to purchase a new one and I took the other two home for repairs. I discovered that the engines of both old whackers worked just fine. The problem was the heads were missing parts. All of our whackers are made by Echo, and Echo has changed their head design and no longer supports the old design with parts. I was able to purchase new parts and modify them to adapt the new design heads to these older whackers.

Are you sitting down, the Club now has three fully functional weed whackers! To help keep them running, please seek my help if you don't know how to use one. They seem to like a lot of priming by pushing the little bulb on the carburetor. Make sure to use the two stroke gasoline. Small bottles of oil are in the tool shed cabinet. One bottle of oil to one gallon of gas. Our gas can is two gallons, so two bottles of oil are required. You can use Club gas from the gas storage cabinet to fill the two stroke gas can (remember to add the oil).

When you need more string to feed out, remember that the head needs to be rotating at a good speed and TAP the head against the ground. It does not take a lot of effort and banging the head only damages it. If line will not feed, look for the problem. The heads hold only so much line and it may be out. If the string needs to be replaced, DO NOT TAKE THE HEAD APART.

Echo has a really nice video that shows how to line up two arrows and simply slide the new string into place. It really is easy if you know how. Watch the video, ask me or simply get another whacker and let me know about the problem one. There is spare line in the lawnmower shed.

Poison Oak: I have noticed poison oak around the property and am aggressively spraying it to kill it. Most of it is on the south hillside in areas that are not usually accessed. However, there is some amongst the ivy on the south side of the narrow gauge shed. If you notice any that looks like I might have missed it, please bring it to my attention.

Meet our Newest Members



Say hello to Michael Strawn and Marc Weiss, our newest LALSRM members. They completed their probationary period and are already working on Club projects.

New Probationary Members Since June

Listed below are new probationary members since last June:

Anthony Ambriz – Junior (JR)

Ashley and Ashton Morgan – Resident (RES) and JR

Matt and Zach Bassett – RES and JR

Ed DeLeonardis – Non-RES

Ryan Pederson

Oliver Tighe – JR

Rexford Leong, Jr (Pineapple) – RES



Valued Member

Order Your LALSRM Name Badge Now

We are putting together a list of names for more name badges. To order your customized badge, please email Diana Manchester (dm.ad@verizon.net) with your first and last name and the quantity. We will order them in early September. Badges are \$10 each, payable when you pick them up at the Souvenir Booth. We'll send out an email when they are in



Our Trip to Train Mountain's Triennial Meet

By Diana Manchester

After a four-year hiatus, Train Mountain held their eighth Triennial from June 20-26, 2022.

"The World's Largest Miniature Railroad" boasts 36 miles of 7.5" gauge track on 2,200 acres, situated in a ponderosa pine forest at a 4,180' elevation. Located in south-central Oregon about 20 miles from Klamath Falls, TM has rebuilt three miles of track and some structures lost in the July 2021 Bootleg Fire.

We had heard about Train Mountain for years by many LALSRM members. When we finally visited for the first time in 2012, we were dumbstruck by the sheer magnitude of trackage (mainline and storage), bustling Central Station, enormous circular steaming bay, and dozens of detailed scale buildings. Attendees this year numbered 683 adults and 151 kids, bringing 319 pieces of powered rail equipment.

Familiar faces popped up all week, including Thaine Morris, Miles Kristman, Dan Humfreville, Harrison Hitchcock, Charles Field, John Goulding, Wolfgang Fengler, Ken Adamson, Louis Mooney, Joe Clow, Mark Van Horne, Dalton Johnson, Mike Massee, Eber West, Roger and Angela Frymire, and the Marsh Creek gang (Matt, Wyatt and Abby).

Glen and I helped out at the Allen Models-AccuTie exhibit, right next to the Adamsons and their "livesteam.club" exhibit. Louis Mooney also exhibited with his and Michael's "Soibleman Signal System". We met railroaders from all over the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Our group consisted of Hawley MacLean, Matt Kravitts (Tunnel, Cut & Trestle RR), and Steve Alley/family. Ken and Judy Schroeder, model builders from NV, also stopped by.

Highlights of the week were rides on various trains as far as Hope Circle, the Frymire wedding at the Blue Caboose, the AccuTie track panel contest, and the Saturday parade of all trains.

Top: Wyatt Thomas and his scratch built Shay. *Middle:* Unloading Thaine Morris's equipment are John Goulding, Miles Kristman, Morris and Fenglers; *Bottom:* Thaine with his Missouri Pacific locomotive.

SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

out; Ron and crew cleaned up tree limbs, leaves, and debris; and the signal crew continued their work on the Club's signals.

Green Container progress: Les Kovacs and team finished the concrete forms; the Club is awaiting his return to relocate the electric lift. Ted Merchant and team finished installing shelves and welding rails in place in the container. Greg McMurry installed motion lights and cameras on the Green Container for security.

Update on Shed Rentals: The Club initiated eight evictions; three members exercised their right to appeal their eviction to the Board. The Board also gave one member an extension to complete the few hours he was short of keeping his track.

Nick stated that the propane storage tank remains red tagged by the City and is empty. There is no timing for it being approved for use. We need a certified plumbing person to help rectify this issue. In the meantime, members who use propane fired locomotives will need to purchase fuel offsite.

Safety Issues: The Board discussed the policy of requiring members who volunteer to be conductors to retake the conductor course and have another check ride. The Board could not decide on how to

handle the issue. Ross brought the issue up to the membership and a vibrant discussion ensued. In the end the Board unanimously approved a policy whereby conductors who have been previously approved and had been volunteering would be required to attend the refresher conductor's training course and pass the conductors' test, but would not be required to take another check ride.

Need for Volunteers: Ross then turned attention to the lack of volunteers during Sunday public running. The land our Club exists on is owned by the City of Los Angeles, not LALSRM. We have an agreement with the City that allows our Club to remain on this property as long as we provide a public service. We provide rides to the public from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm most Sundays as a means to meet this obligation. If we fail to meet this requirement the City could, in an extreme determination, find our Club in default of our requirements and take back their land. With this in mind, it is very important that we continue to serve the public on Sundays and we need volunteers to do so. Please plan to come out and assist with running Sunday public as it is an important aspect of our Club. The Board is considering having a Sunday Coordinator to be responsible for getting trains and crews ready for Sunday run days.

The next General Membership meeting is July 18, and the next BOD meeting is August 1 at 7:00 pm.

For Sale To Build

Mercer Flatcar and Gondola Kits 7.5" Gauge

For sale as lot

Two Steel Gondolas with Metal Floor

Two Flatcars with Plywood Subfloor

Blueprints and instructions
parts Inventory available
\$1,400 or Make Best Offer

For details, contact Wilbur Dong
at
pcdong@prodigy.net
626-799-2232

Rolling Stock for Sale



Custom Wooden Drovers Caboose

Detailed No Line Designation
Removable Roof • Bettendorf Trucks
Cougles Both Ends • Dust Cover
\$550



Original Winton Speeder with Work Car

Orange Color Scheme with Black Stripes
Pull start 2 Cycle Engine • Separate work car attached by coupler
Only two were Built • Dust Cover
\$2,500 or Make Best Offer

Contact Wilbur and Pam Dong 626-799-2232 pcdong@prodigy.net

At Train Mountain!

Clockwise from right: AccuTie track panel contest with Charles Field, Mike Massee, Hawley MacLean and Glen Manchester; Firing up locomotives; Central Station; Scale buildings along the line.





Clockwise from upper left: Recent Saturday engineers class led by Michael Murphy; Dan O'Brien gets his Porter ready to run at the Club; Ron Nelson cleaning up pine needles behind the narrow gauge barn; Finn Dubensky working on the 1" track; and Les Kovacs and Bill Schirmer moving transport bridge to the parking lot. (Photos by Nick Suncin, Ross Harper, Nick Guzman and Diana Manchester)



Who's been Working on the Railroad

Andrew Chaves
 David Bassett
 Bear Mustoe
 Bill Schirmer
 Brenda Lincoln
 Carolyn Hoagland
 Charles Rhoades
 Chris Solak
 Collin Westphal
 Dan O'Brien
 Darrell Payne
 Diana Manchester
 Don Donaldson
 Don Kallgren
 Elizabeth Bergmann
 Garibalde Figueroa
 Glen Manchester
 Greg McMurry
 Jack Streit
 Jake Holman
 James Baker
 Jeremy Steinert
 Joe Clow
 Joseph Jackson
 Justin Iversen

Ken Robbins
 Larry Tighe
 Les Kovacs
 Martha Figueroa
 Matt Bassett
 Mel Bresee
 Michael Murphy
 Miles Kristman
 Nick Guzman
 Nick Suncin
 Peter Fuad
 Richard Ronne
 Rob Nuccio
 Robert Guzman
 Robin Walsh
 Roderick Fritz
 Roger Williams
 Ron Nelson
 Ross Harper
 Scott Hoagland
 Steve Rodstein
 Ted Merchant
 Ted Naimy
 Tim Silver
 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

Other Directors

David Holman	Bear Mustoe
Richard Ronne	Steve Rodstein

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

JUNE 2022

Engineers and Conductors

Darrell Payne
 Paul Liu
 Nick Suncin
 Richard Ronne
 Michael Strawn
 Glen Manchester
 Peter Fuad
 Bill Walker
 Tim Silver
 Tom Harwood
 Marc Weiss
 Sean Hagen
 Sparky Hoagland
 Joseph Clow
 Jim Dubensky
 Jack Streit
 Ryan Hechinger
 Collin Westphal

Station Masters

Wayne Crabb
 Robert Guzman

Souvenirs and Tickets

George Becker
 Carolyn Hoagland
 Martha Figueroa

Ridership

June 5	562	June 19	692
June 12	435	June 26	399

Riders—June 2088

Total Riders YTD — 4520

Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Chuck Mohr



Wedding Bells at Train Mountain

You would expect to hear locomotives bells at Train Mountain. These bells, however, celebrated Roger and Angela Frymire's ceremonial wedding at Train Mountain. That they were legally married in a church ceremony a week earlier did not diminish the joy among their live steamer friends.



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