

New LALS Board Directors Installed at January 14 Holiday Banquet

By Diana Manchester

The Smoke House in Burbank, long a gathering place for Los Angeles luminaries, was a fitting setting for LALS's annual Holiday Banquet and Officer Installation. About 45 members and guests traded stories and laughs over drinks, Prime Rib, Chicken Buena Vista, and carrot cake.

Raffle gifts were generously provided by Christie Edinger, Glenn Austin, Les Kovacs and Martha Figueroa, which included Disney tickets and memorabilia, spirits, a quilt, a crystal bowl and more.

Fannie Wollman was the lucky winner of the cash jar. Martha Figueroa did a great job coordinating the dinner and the Raffle, and encouraged us "that the Club is for everybody".

Outgoing President Les Kovacs thanked the previous Board for their service. Ron Hitchcock, the new president said he is excited to get to know the new members better, and is looking forward to serving the Club this year. He stated that we should mentor and encourage young people in our Club.

More photos on page 5.



2017 Board of Directors

Back row: John Garcia, Fred Lack, Alex O'Donnell, Christie Edinger, Chuck Mohr.
 Front row: Ron Hitchcock, Peter Fuad. Inset: John Smith.



Peter Fowler Passes

Peter Fowler, 13-year LALS member and live steam enthusiast, traveler, and friend passed away Sunday, January 15.

A Ph.D. physicist, he worked in the aerospace industry, and was project manager for the first Mars lander.

His knowledge of steam and steam engines was encyclopedic. He was also an avid and experienced yachtsman.

A memorial service will be held in March at LALS. A full obituary will appear in next month's *Booster*.

Public Service

January	
22, 29	Public Rides
February	
5	Public Rides
12	Public Rides
19	Public Rides/Disney Barn Open
26	Public Rides

From the Super



By Ted Merchant
General
Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!
How about all
this rain! We aren't
yet beyond a drought
but we are headed

there. The membership has been quite active cleaning up the landslides. Look at Ray Burden's Facebook page and you will see him moving dirt ON CHRISTMAS DAY! I seem to be winning my battle with the Pavilion Gopher. The lack of new burrows suggests he has been dispatched to the Heavenly Realms. I have not seen ground squirrels or new burrows lately, but I understand they are hibernating this time of year. Some anonymous person has been raking leaves around the steaming bays. We thank him or her for their work.

Looking forward, we need to address the rain water flowing off the Sherwood Station Balcony. It pours onto the tracks, erodes the DG ballast, and covers the foot of the rails which subsequently rust. We are considering a gutter and downspout with drainage into the sump pump well (that needs to be rebuilt) in the adjacent meadow. Wouldn't it be attractive to extend the Eagle Scout retaining wall past Sherwood Station and the sump pump well? We are considering all this. Hopefully it will allow us to have a nice, flat, newly planted lawn for the Spring Meet.

We have received quotes for pruning the several trees with dead-wood that threaten the safety of our train rides. We hope that problem will be history by the next Booster edition.

LALS RM thanks all of you who commit personal time to keep the campus neat and clean. You make the Club pleasant for us all.

And, that's the way it is! Keep steaming and I'll see you at the rails. Your comments and questions are all ways welcome.

Ted Merchant
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

Splinters from the Board



By Nick Suncin
Acting Secretary
**January 9, 2017
Meeting**

Party Requests: Following party requests were approved: Martha Figueroa February 18th, Steve Harris August 26th, Kathryn Basset July 1st, Rick Gross EVL) May 13th, James Cammarata September 29-30th, Don Kallgren (TTOS) August 5th, Bill Schirmer June 3rd, Kent Inasy August 12, Fleming Nielsen (4th annual car show) April 23rd, and Mark Vreeken January 28.

The Fall Meet will be held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of October. The Spring Meet will be held Memorial Day weekend. The night run/ pot luck/ movie nights will be held on June 24th, July 22nd, August 26th, and September 23rd (the fourth Saturday of the summer months).

Membership: Probationary member Karl Strauss is now officially a full resident member, Congratulations!

Safety: The annual safety inspection of all the club riding cars will start at 9:00 am on January 28.

Operations: Sunday train crews, please have your train crew and brake checks sorted out before you get to the loading platform during Sunday operations. Please keep a close eye on your speed and never exceed 6 mph when running public trains. Please stay off of the station and platform area unless you are helping to run the station or part of a train crew during the Sunday run.

Old Business: The propane tank and the Kountry Kitchen will need bids for Electrical work. The kitchen storage container is being considered. John Goulding ordered a replacement freezer. The east end fence by the automatic gate has prior

approval to be replaced. Les is officially the head of the Richardson/Alkire shed refit. Brandon Ruiz has been working on a very nice promotional video for LALS RM.

New Business: Plans to cover the east end drainage channel are underway. Fred Lack motioned that all privately owned locomotives pulling the public during our public run days be given club gasoline for their locomotives. Christie Edinger 2nd motion approved.

Announcements: President Ron Hitchcock thanked John Goulding for handling the replacement of the new freezer and his ongoing smooth handling of the kitchen over all.

The ticket booth is asking for members to please come and help. It's fun, and complimentary lunch is provided. There are two shifts that really need volunteers, 10:30 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 3:30. You will be helping your club greatly!

The Bruce Ward Memorial library is open every weekend to the membership. Christie Edinger will now be available to have the library open on Saturdays and by appointment during the week. Nick Suncin, Lisa Lipton, and Harrison Hitchcock will have the library open on Sundays. Please feel free to contact Nick Suncin with any inquiries regarding the library, We all look forward to seeing you up there.

Attention LALS members: come out and run your equipment. Sunday is our official run day! Just be sure you have a working radio with you set to the proper channel. Steam engines are especially welcome. Come on out and run your trains, steam or otherwise and enjoy your railroad. The public loves seeing our equipment. The more LALS RM is enjoyed by all, the better!

EQUIPMENT OFFERED

Trains for Sale!!

1" Scale Train collection of 30+ trains ... many built by Jack Sessums and used in motion pictures; one-offs, steam locomotives, electric lines, and oil burners. Southern Pacific, Crescent Line, VOP and more. Crescent Locomotive once housed at Disney Home railroad. If interested, please contact Ken at (818) 983-6207 or locarblisa@aol.com

President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock
President

Wow... Here we go into yet another year and a new beginning for LALS. The first Board meeting was slow-paced, but steady, and as we get rolling we'll pick up steam.

Turnout was terrific and the Board thanks you for gathering. There were many projects started last year and I'm happy to say this new Board shares an objective to finish all we can. New projects are most welcome.

The Holiday Dinner and Officer Installation was again held at the Smoke House Steak House in Burbank. Thank

you Martha for another warm and memorable event. And thank you Les, for offering to remain active and helpful even though two years of serving as President could weigh on one's enthusiasm. Your contributions to LALS are extraordinary and very much appreciated!

Committee Appointments

As we formalize committee appointments, let me reach out to a wider range of participants other than the usual suspects. We need a Club Electrician for example. We're deciding on chairs and appointees, not because we like certain people, but because they are qualified for the task and willing to undertake a volunteer duty with an understanding they must serve the best interest of the Club. Please call me at 323-

251-5306 if you wish to volunteer or recommend someone for a position. We need a number of skillsets.

Let me keep asking that you come out and play trains this year! Ron

"Classic" LALSRM T-Shirt Sale

We have limited quantities of these "Classic" Club T-Shirts in red, blue and light grey.

Fronts say "LALSRM" in white block letters. No pocket. \$10 each. Available at Souvenir Booth.



Opportunity to Order Club Jackets

Last year we began taking orders for the "forever" club jackets that have the red and gold Club logo with "EST 1956", plus a left chest logo with your name below. A minimum order of 25 is required in order to get the embroidery cost down to \$50 each. So far this minimum has not been met. This cold winter should be an incentive to get one or more of these beautiful jackets.

Here's how it's done: You must provide a plain jacket of your choice. The Dickies Eisenhower jacket is recommended, but any plain jacket will do. The Dick-

ies jacket is available with a light quilted lining or unlined, and is available in a wide range of sizes for both men and women. They are available at Amazon, eBay and other online retailers.

With each jacket include a note with your contact information and the name you wish to have embroidered on the front. Get this to Christie Edinger ASAP so we may begin the production process. Many members have been waiting a long time for their jackets. Bring your jacket to the Club any Sunday along with a \$50 check to LALS; or contact Christie Edinger: email k0iu@att.net, call 818-653-4481 or send a text and I will make arrangements to meet you.

Example shown to the left is the front of a women's Dickies lined jacket. Below is the logo on the back of a denim jacket.



Conduct With Us!

Enjoy the camaraderie of a train crew and the fun of providing a special experience for our guests. We can always use engineers and conductors; serve for a couple of hours one Sunday every few weeks. Free lunch by Jaime and you earn shed credit.

If your certification has lapsed, or if you have not been certified yet, contact Andrew Chaves by email or text. He will set up a class on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. It's not difficult and you will be helping the team!



Volunteers are needed for the following Sunday opportunities at the Club. Great hours, friendly co-workers, and the pay can't be beat!

- Ticket/Souvenir Booth
Sign-up sheet in Kountry Kitchen
- Cashiers for Kountry Kitchen
Contact John Goulding
- Engineers and Conductors for public run days

John Smith Passes Residential Caretaker Role to Jeremy Steinert

By Diana Manchester

On January 26 we will officially change residential caretakers from John Smith to Jeremy Steinert. Thank you, John and Dani for your years of faithful service, which include two long stints – from May 1995 to July 2010, and September 2013 to January 2017. The Smiths will be moving to the Smith family home in Banning – in delightful proximity to their California grandchildren – but plan to visit the Museum weekly. John is a member of the 2017 Board of Directors, and will continue serving in that capacity, as well as with the signal crew, the sprinkler system, and various Museum projects. You may even catch a glimpse of them running their Sumpter Valley electric that they built with Mike Capolupo 15 years ago. John and Dani promise to bring donuts and fire up the coffee machine on monthly BOD Meeting nights, while Christie Edinger and Jeremy will take over those vital duties the rest of the month.

Jeremy has become a familiar face at the Museum since his arrival on the scene four years ago, and can often be found working at the Steam Plant, where he has been interning under Nick Suncin, Dave Clark and Willie Wilhelm. He will be getting his boiler operator's license from the City in the coming weeks.

The Signal Division is also a very solid interest, where Jeremy is part of the crew, and he also helps Ray Burden and Bob Crone at times with Club locomotive maintenance. A long-time resident of Sylmar and a rail fan since childhood, he will make his move to the Big Red SF Caboose on January 26.

Jeremy's aspirations as Resident Caretaker are to provide a friendly face and helping hand when Members come to the Club. He works from home, so will be on the property when not traveling for his geological research business. Besides



Jeremy Steinert

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Jeremy Steinert

You may have met Jeremy Steinert at the Club or seen him around, perhaps checking the boiler pressure at the Steam Plant or replacing wires on track signals. Jeremy will be taking over the caretaker's duties this month, and will be a lot more visible in the coming year. We interviewed him so we all can get to know him better.

Q: Where were you raised?

A: I'm a Los Angeles native, raised in the neighborhood of Sylmar where I spent a lot of my summers building forts, hiking over the mountains to Santa Clarita, and walking down to the railroad tracks to watch the trains roll by.

Q: What is your profession?

A: As someone who is self-employed, I like to say that I wear many hats. I have a bachelors in geology, but try to combine this with my knowledge in other fields, such as programming, electronics, and chemistry. My current major project is a massive online database for the Central Valley of California involving water quality and agricultural resources.

Q: How and when did you get interested in trains?

A: I blame my dad. He is an active member of the "Railroad and Locomotive Historical Society" as well as a number of other local railroad organizations, and a big fan of full-sized locomotives. As a child, we'd take a drive out to train-watch, especially at the Tehachapi Loop and the Barstow rail yards. I was excited by the mechanics of anything that moves, so I always looked forward to these excursions. There is also the fact that I was born on the anniversary of the golden spike ceremony at Promontory Point, so maybe it's fate!

A: How did you find out about the Club?

Q: This too is my dad's fault, combined with my stubbornness. As a member of the Fullerton Railroad group, my dad would take me to Travel Town back when they still had their cabooses there. We'd pass by LALS and I (a very small child) always wanted to stop and ride "the trains that worked and weren't rotting away." He would grumble "they are only models", to which I replied that when I was older, one day I'd show up and volunteer just to spite him. Almost 20 years later, I walked in one October day and signed up, having never stepped foot on the property before! I figured I'd give it a good year and see how I liked the hobby, and I've fallen in love with the place ever since then. I love the diverse community of people and the opportunity to work with my hands on so many different projects. I go home covered in steam oil and dirt with a big smile on my face.

keeping an eye open for any issues at the facility, he will make sure the Museum is locked up and secure at night. An avid gardener, he hopes to add a few of his own touches to the Lew Soibleman Memorial Garden that surrounds his new home. His goal, he says, is (as always) to leave things better than when he found them. He extends an open invitation to knock on his door if you don't see him on the grounds, or contact him by voice or text on his cell phone, or by email. His contact info can be found in the Roster.

John and Dani Smith ►



2017 LALSRM
Holiday BANQUET
 & Officer Installation



[1] Garibalde and Martha Figueroa, our host and hostess. Garibalde made sure everyone got their raffle tickets and gifts. Thank you for all you both did to make it a special and fun evening!

[2] Peter Fuad, our new Vice President; John Garcia, new Board member; and Glen Manchester listen to one of Ray Burden's entertaining train stories.

[3] Rick Gross, Ray Burden and Fannie Wollman. Fannie was the very happy winner of the Cash Jar.



[4] Les Kovacs, outgoing LALSRM President, introduces Ron Hitchcock, incoming 2017 President.

[5] Ron Hitchcock accepts the presidential keys and welcomes the new Board and shares his aspirations for the coming year.

[6] Brenda and John Garcia. John is one of our new Board members. Brenda helped sell raffle tickets.

[7] Nick Suncin chats with Cary Stewart. Cary has served in many capacities over his 45-year membership.



[8] Marilyn and Paul Liu, left, share a table with Fred and Helen Lack. Fred is our new Club Secretary. Both the Lius and the Lacks are members of the Disney Barn Crew.

[9] Fannie Wollman with the Russ Warr family. Clockwise from lower left: Landon, Erin, Jonathan, Teresa Stephens, and Carly. Jonathan was the lucky winner of the Disney Park Hopper tickets. Other children in attendance that night were Gage Detchemendy and Josh Garcia.

Rainy Days and Sundays



DIANA MANCHESTER

ABOVE: Les Kovacs tests the sump pump after Doug Young dug it out on January 8. A new concrete box will be poured to house the pump, and the pump will be set a foot from the bottom, so mud can flow under it without interfering with its productivity.

Engineering stimulates the mind. Kids get bored easily. They have got to get out and get their hands dirty: make things, dismantle things, fix things. When the schools can offer that, you'll have an engineer for life. — Bruce Dickinson



RAY BURDEN

BELOW LEFT: Ray Burden coupled all the Club riding cars (39?) to the Heisler, and turned them around before Sunday, January 1, when we changed run direction. OVAL PHOTO CENTER ABOVE: Ted's Heisler steamed up for mud hauling. "What a fun way to play trains and get some needed work done at the same time," Ray said.



RAY BURDEN



BELOW: Mudslide cleanup Saturday, January 7. BELOW LEFT: Chris Solak and Don Kallgren clean out leaves from the waterwheel reservoir. Chris also planted a Monterey Pine he bought at Christmas; BELOW RIGHT: Doug Young, Ted Merchant, Glen Manchester, Alex O'Donnell, Ray Burden and Tom Harwood at Minden. Tom and Alex dug out the West End and hauled the mud to Minden in a work train for dumping.



DIANA MANCHESTER



LALSRM Archives



CHRISTIE EDINGER

BELOW CENTER: Ross Harper and Steve Rodstein dump leaves from the West End into the landscape debris pile for pickup by Parks Maintenance. There are always leaves and needles to clean up, plus other jobs. Show up and lend a hand! Your help is always much appreciated.

Who's been Working on the Railroad

December

Tom Harwood	Jeremy Steinert
Doug Young	Nick Suncin
Ray Burden	Diana Manchester
Sam Calderwood	Glen Manchester
Miles Kristman	Don Kallgren
Steve Rodstein	Les Kovacs
Jim Baker	Tim LaGaly
Ross Harper	John Goulding
Charles Rhoades	Martha Figueroa,
Steve Sauber	Christie Edinger
Fred Lack	John DePhillip, Jr.
John Garcia	Wayne Crabb
Brenda Garcia	Stevy Brock
Robert Guzman	Mel Bresee
Wolf Fengler	Frances Barnes
Mark Vreeken	



Have You Mailed Your Renewal?

Please fill out your renewal form and send it back with your payment before you forget. Don't wait! Even if you do not owe money or have no changes, please send the Form back anyway because we know then that you will want to remain a member, otherwise, we might drop you.

If you have not received your Renewal Form, contact me (email and phone are in previous Rosters).—*Wilbur Dong, Database Manager*

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

December

Locos	Engineers	Workers
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Safety Coordinators —Bob Crone, Wayne Crabb
SP PA1—LALSRM	Mel Bresee	
SP 7660—Bresee	Christie Edinger	Station Masters —Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Paul Liu, Larry Mitchell, Tom Crue
LALS #8	Peter Fuad	
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Harrison Hitchcock	Souvenirs and Tickets —Martha Figueroa, Lucille Secara, others
SP 2468—LALS	Greg Pschaida	
SP Center Cab 1500—LALSRM	Ray Secara	
CSPP 73—Edinger	Mark Vreeken	

Ridership and Max Temps

December 4	574	72°
December 11	511	64°
December 18	461	64°
December 25	Closed—Christmas	

Conductors

Lynn Bebenroth	Carolyn Hoagland
Bob Crone	Scott Hoagland
John Garcia	Mark Vreeken
Paul Liu	Roberto Lopez
Greg Pschaida	Larry Mitchell
Bob Quinn	Darrell Payne
Christie Edinger	David Ross



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park 5202 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles, California

Mailing Address—PO Box 2156, Toluca Lake, CA 91610
Phone (323) 661-8958

Website - www.lals.org

2017

Officers and Directors

President	Ron Hitchcock
Vice President	Peter Fuad
Secretary	Alex O'Donnell
Treasurer	Fred Lack

Directors

Christie Edinger	Peter Fuad
John Garcia	Ron Hitchcock
Fred Lack	Chuck Mohr
Alex O'Donnell	John Smith

Riders
December 2016 — 1,546

Total 2016 — 29,740

Total 2015 — 39,846

Member Schedule

January

1	Change Direction
9	BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
21	Work Day/Member Meeting
22, 29	Public Rides

February

1	Membership Renewals Due
6	BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
18	Work Day/Member Meeting
5,12,19, 26	Public Rides

1956 **60** 2016

Years of Railroading

LALS RM 2017 Calendar

January

- 1 Change Direction
- 9 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 28 Safety inspection

February

- 1 Membership Renewals Due
- 6 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Work Day/Member Meeting

March

- 6 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Public Rides/*Time Change*
- 18 Work Day/Member Meeting

April

- 3 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 16 Public Rides/*Easter*
- 23 Car Show
- 30 Shed Credit Earning Period Ends

May

- 1 2017-18 Shed Credit Earning Year Begins
- 1 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 26-29 SPRING MEET

June

- 5 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Work Day/ Member Meeting
- 24 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night
- 30 2015-16 Shed Lease Year Ends

July

- 1 2017-18 Full Shed Lease Year Begins
- 1 Change Direction
- 3 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 22 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night

August

- 7 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 5 TTOS Run
- 19 Work Day/ Member Meeting
- 26 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night

September

- 4 Labor Day
- 11 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 23 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night

October

- 2 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 6,7,8 FALL MEET
- 21 Work Day/Member Meeting
- Ghost Train (Tentative):

November

- 5 Time Change
- 6 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Work Day/Annual Member Meeting/Election

December

- 4 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Holiday Party and Officer Installation (date to be announced)
- 16 Work Day/Member Meeting

Recurring Events Every Month

Sundays Public Rides 11am-3 pm

1st Monday Board Meetings 7 pm (except September 4)

3rd Saturday Work Day; Member Meeting

3rd Sunday Disney Barn/Steam Plant

4th Saturday June through September
Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night

Shed Dates

2016-17 Shed Lease Year:

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Shed Credit Earning Period for
2017-18 Shed Lease Year:

May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

■ Membership events (some dates tentative)

■ Meets

■ Shed rental and membership renewal dates

