



Fall Meet a Huge Success

By Alex O'Donnell

This year boasted the largest Fall Meet attendance in over 10 years with plenty of steam and visitors from other clubs.

This is the third consecutive Fall Meet we've hosted since its return in 2015 after a 6-year absence, and as predicted, it has grown exponentially in popularity and attendance. Many visitors had already started camping prior to the meet, and a good crowd of runners stuck around for night runs and breakfasts.

Friday was spent unloading and getting things going for the tremendous spaghetti dinner we cooked that evening. Saturday was quite a crowd with well over 150 people in attendance. Towards mid-

afternoon, the President's Auction was a fantastic get-together and generated a good sum for the Club. Night runs were quite fun and spooky too with all the decorations.

Small Scales Equally Impressive

The small scales presence was equally impressive as well, with several Pacifics, Atlantics, and switchers in 1" and 3/4" scales, as well as several steam double-headers.

Anthony Duarte unveiled his new small scales injector as part of his new
(Continued on page 3)

▼ Fall Meet: Nick & Josh Steam Up with Alex and Garibalde
(Diana Manchester Photo)

Ghost Train: Let's All Make It a Spooktacular Finish

By Gary Baker

The 2017 Ghost Train launched on Friday the Thirteenth and has been anything but unlucky. We have gotten an overwhelmingly positive response from the community. Attendance is up slightly, with an average of 1,000 riders per night, which is surprising with the increase in ticket price. We have been running seven trains nightly and have experimented with eight, which really moves the lines faster. Interest from the media has been higher this year, with major

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| Public Service | |
|----------------|---|
| October | |
| 29 | No Public Rides |
| November | |
| 5 | Public Rides Time Change |
| 12 | Public Rides |
| 19 | Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation |
| 26 | Public Rides |

Ghost Train Final Five Nights
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, October Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Alex O'Donnell, Secretary

October 2, 2017 Meeting

Membership: Wayne Crabb introduced Sam Anderson as a prospective member who has completed all requirements.

Program: Program Director Martha Figueroa reported that preparations for the Fall Meet have been made and are ready to go.

Safety: Jim Cammarata thanked everyone for assistance with his Sept. 30 wedding party. The local watch commander will be sending patrols each night of the Halloween runs to ensure smooth operations with the public. Additionally, Park Rangers will be monitoring the area as well on the nights of the run. Temporary lighting will also be setup outside the gate to ensure a safe public queue as the lines typically get very long and stretch far out into the park at night.

Old business: David Holman informed the Board that, while very good work has been progressing on the Club-owned Union Pacific S-12, it will not be ready for the Ghost Train. There is a lot of extensive mechanical work that still has to be conducted to ensure the hydraulic system works safely and reliably.

The caretaker's caboose interior remodel will be contracted out to member Andrew LaGaly. Originally, the work was to be conducted by a volunteer work crew, but no project leaders offered to commandeer the renovation. Contractor work will begin after the Halloween Runs have concluded.

New Business: The election committee will be comprised of Les Kovacs, David Holman, and Frances Barnes. Those interested in running for Board in the 2018-2019 term should contact any of the three election committee members to ensure proper eligibility to run and submit a candidate statement.

Bylaw Amendments: Two bylaw amendments are proposed for the ballot this November that would change how conflicts of interest of Directors will be treated and would impose a fee for late payment of annual dues.

The first proposal, on conflicts, would provide that a director must recuse him or herself on any matter coming before the Board which will have a financial impact on such director's personal finances or other financial interests in excess of \$100. The proposal would repeal the current bylaw which states a Board member cannot run for three years following the receipt of more than \$1000 from the Club.

The second proposal would impose a \$50 late fee for annual due payments that are paid more than 60 days after the February 1 due date. A special email blast will be sent to members explaining the amendments in more detail.

Honorary Member: A proposal of making Les Kovacs an Honorary Member was also unanimously approved to be put on the ballot this November as well.

Bids for Bridge: Bids are being sought for much-needed work on the O'Brien Moore Bridge to repaint it and prevent any further rust damage. The structure will need to be media blasted and prepped before a thorough repaint in industrial grade outdoor black paint can be added.

Announcements: Comments posted on the Club's Facebook pages and other public communications are to be kept civil and appropriate.

The Halloween fireplace display has temporarily blocked a portion of the New Sherwood Station bypass. All consists seeking to operate thru the station must detour through ST2 before crossing back over onto the bypass.

Attention all members! Don't forget to come on out, participate, 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, so come on out and run your trains, steam or otherwise, and enjoy your railroad. The public loves seeing our equipment and the more LALS RM is enjoyed by all, the better!

Rules for "Family & Friends" Ghost Train Rides

The Club is pleased to allow friends and family of Club members enjoy our Ghost Trains. However, some members abuse this privilege. Please comply with these rules when having your friends or family ride with us so that we may continue to offer this benefit:

1. No more than 10 family/friends
2. Be there to greet your guests
3. Guests are to arrive at the Member Gate at 5:45 – 6:15, and go directly to the Station
4. Guests are to line up BEHIND the gate, not IN the Station
5. Dinner is for volunteers only; no guests in the Kountry Kitchen
6. Donations would be a thoughtful and appreciated gesture

Candidates for 2018-2019 LALS RM Board of Directors

Here are the candidates for the 2018-2019 of Board of Directors:

Wane Crabb Martha Figueroa
 Zak Holman
 Don Kallgren
 Andrew LaGaly
 Diana Manchester
 Flemming Nielson
 Doug Young

Candidates statements and photos and ballots will be sent out shortly. Ballots are due November 18.

There are also two bylaw amendments being proposed as discussed in the adjacent Splinters column.



LALSRM Exhibits at Travel Town's Depot Days

LALSRM was invited to participate in Travel Town's annual open house, known as "Depot Days" on Sunday, October 15 from 10 am to 3 pm. We jumped at the chance to bring an exhibit to one of the best-loved train parks/museums in Los Angeles, which happens to also be our next-door neighbor. Alex O'Donnell brought his 1" 0-4-0 steam engine, which was a big hit with every family that passed by. Diana and Glen Manchester set up an exhibit table with posters full of photos of the many locomotives and trains that run at LALSRM.

These were a fascinating draw to many children who excitedly pointed out their favorite engines, and were wide eyed that people could ride on trains behind them. Flemming Nielson helped us meet and greet people. We gave out many LALSRM brochures and Ghost Train rack cards, and invited families to stop by for a ride after enjoying Travel Town. Many attendees did not realize we were right next door or what we offered. A good number were interested in coming to our Ghost Train event. It was a productive day of introducing people to our Club.

Ghost Trains—a Spooktacular Finish

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news stations sending crews, and social media sites jumping on board with enthusiastic recommendations.

This year's show has featured some of our most dramatic sets, including the Zombie Containment Zone, the 350-pound metal, fire-breathing dragon, and the Dia de los Muertos party on the flat car/crane lent us by Travel Town. Larry Boone has extended his cemetery on the west end and added some spooky effects. Bear Mustoe brought his antique tractor, and Flemming Nielson decorated it. Thaine Morris added the flames belching from its carburetor and designed the Tesla Coil set in the west end. The Christmas and Circus sets have been extended with eery midway projections, and the western town has some fun surprises.

This year we added online ticket sales (besides our standard Gate sales) and a new POS system, thanks to John Garcia. Both have been very successful. Miles, Thaine and Greg developed and installed a GPS tracking system for our many trains while they are out on the rails. Trackers in each train and a monitor in the Station allow us to see where all trains are in real time. The Burbank School of Rock and

▼ Alex O'Donnell represents LALSRM with Diana and Glen Manchester and Flemming Nielsen

The Rhythm Coffin bands have entertained guests waiting in line on several nights. They did not charge us a penny and were very popular.

Building and running an event of this magnitude requires the help of a lot of people. We are very grateful to the industry professionals in our Club, the dedicated work crews and helpers who put up the exhibits, and the volunteers who show up each night to run the trains, assist the public, and keep the show running smoothly and safely. The dinners that are prepared and served by members are very much appreciated, as well as the many behind-the-scenes jobs.

Your participation will contribute to the success of this important Club fundraiser. The proceeds raised will allow us to repair and strengthen our facility infrastructure. Everyone who has worked on the Ghost Train this year has found it to be a rewarding experience.

We need as much member support as possible during our Final Five Nights. Please contact one of our event coordinators to donate some of your much-appreciated time and skills.

Gary Baker, General Management; **Roger Bacon**, Station Management; **Martha Figueroa**, Meals; and **Les Kovacs**, Tickets & Souvenirs / Crowd Management.

2017 Fall Meet Huge Success

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injector product lineup. The Gauge-1 crowd was also well-attended with Nick Guzman's freshly completed 0-4-0 Katie running under steam, a beautiful visiting Garratt locomotive, and a Fn3-scale replica of the original Knott's Berry Farm consist.

All in all, it was a truly spectacular event and tremendous celebration of the live steam hobby and our heritage as a live steam club.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to Martha Figueroa for her assistance with chairing the Meet as well as John Garcia, Joe Hayes, Bill Schirmer, Diana Manchester, Larry Tighe, Roger Williams, and everybody else who helped make this Meet a fantastic success.



LALSRM Transformed for Star Wars Wedding

By Diana Manchester

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, LALSRM was the venue for the wedding of Tiffany Cammarata and Robert Daniel Eubanks. Tiffany, the daughter of Jim and Nancy Cammarata, began coming to the Club when she was 11 to help Jim maintain the riding cars. Both father and daughter would go home covered in grease at the end of a hard day's work. When she was old enough, Tiffany became a member as well, even though she was living in Northern California to attend college and to pursue a career. She couldn't imagine a better place to have her Star Wars themed wedding than at the Live Steamers.

Approximately 100 of Tiffany and Robert Daniel's friends and family, most in costume, attended the exchanging of vows in the West Meadow, which was named Naboo for the day. The guests were transported to the ceremony site on "shuttles" driven by Christie Edinger, Mike Murphy, Wolfgang Fengler, Mel Bresee, and John Goulding. After the ceremony, the guests were taken to the area around the Disney Barn (named Kashyyyk for the day). The Carolwood Society opened the Barn and shed so that the guests could explore the Disney memorabilia while the bride and groom took pictures in the West Meadow. Once the bride and groom arrived at the Barn, the guests greeted them with crossed light sabers.



The couple then led the guests to the reception in the kitchen area (also known as Endor for the day) where everyone enjoyed dinner and dancing.

Many thanks from the Cammarata and Eubanks families to those others that helped make this celebration a success: Jeremy Steinert, Martha Figueroa, Gary Baker, Les Kovacs, Miles Kristman, Ron Hitchcock, Bill Barbe, John Fennell, and Carolyn and Scott Hoagland.



President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock, President

Not much going on... Wrong, much has been happening. The Fall Meet went well. Thank you, Alex for chairing this year's mellow, yet well-attended event. And thank you Martha and all who supported. So much for keeping it in October, it was 96+ degrees; still it was enjoyable. Maybe Labor Day makes more sense with early notice. For Pete's sake, it's 103 today!

The Halloween fund raiser is going well. We're experimenting with social media for promotion and internet ticket sales. Both are working well, tho' requiring fine tuning. There is much experimenting going on, but paying off. The media and several publications have given this year's show benevolent reviews. And feedback from the public is nothing short of praise. One long weekend to go, then tear down and a return to our mellow park hobby.

We very intentionally kept Family Night available every night for our members to enjoy this child friendly event. Unfortunately there has been abuse of the 10-limit. Bringing in groups of 25-35 is abusive to the all volunteer crews. It also offends our paying customers waiting longer to begin rotation, and keeps the crews running much later after closing. We do keep running as long as someone is in line. And shutdown can't begin until last train returns to the Station.

So next year will require issuing 10 tickets to requesting members, then charge for additional friends. Members must also meet and escort guests to the front. Unescorted friends of friends is simply unacceptable.



This month's topic: **SEEIN' RED!**

Welcome to another edition of *Block Talk!*, presenting the latest news and adventures of the LALSRL Signals Division. Today we'd like to fill you in on a special feature of our signal system, one that not all LALS members are aware of. Have you ever been at the club (not during a meet) and you were riding the rails or just observing the action, and noticed that every signal you could see was suddenly showing a red indication, without another train in sight? Did you chalk it up to a malfunction or a fluke? There's actually a good explanation for what's going on here.

Built into our signal system is an ALL RED function, which allows the station master or safety coordinator to quickly set all signals to red when conditions require it. For example if there's a train breakdown or derailment, an injury to a rider, a skunk or rattlesnake on the tracks, a broken rail or some other emergency, he/she may decide to set all signals to red. They will usually follow this with a radio call telling all trains to stop and hold in place. After the emergency's been cleared up, the All Red will be turned off and you'll hear a "proceed normally" on your radio. And that's what the All Red is all about.

The Signals Division is headed up by Jeremy Steinert, Stevo Brock, Charles Rhoades, Wayne Crabb, Steve Sauber and John Smith, with awesome assistance from Mark Vreeken, Scott Hoagland, Lisa Lipton, and Karl Strauss. Our three-fold mission is to ensure the safe operation of trains at our club, to educate members about the signal system, and to maintain and upgrade the system so it continues to operate reliably for years to come. You'll find us at the club during Saturday work days or Sunday Public Run days. We'd be happy to discuss any topic regarding the signals system with you.

Look for another installment of *Block Talk!* in an upcoming issue of the Booster. See you trackside!

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

| Locos | Engineers | Conductors | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| City of LA—Fuad | Francis Barnes | Bob Quinn | Darrell Payne |
| SP PA1—LALSRL | Bob Crone | Roberto Lopez | Rodrick Fritz |
| Santa Fe Electric—LALSRL | Christie Edinger | Fred Lack | Bill Walker |
| No. 8—LALSRL | Peter Fuad | Sam Anderson | Doug Stephens |
| ATSF 940—Bresee | Mel Bresee | Luke McGinnis | Jay Hawver |
| CSRR #73—Edinger | Tom Harwood | Dave Stevens | Ryan Hechinger |
| Union Pacific—LALSRL | Greg Pschaida | | |
| SP 1500—LALSRL | Fred Lack | | |
| SP 2468—LALSRL | Mark Vreeken | | |
| | John Garcia | | |
| | Jay Hawver | | |

Safety Coordinators—Chuck Mohr, Ron Hitchcock

Station Masters—Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Bob Crone,

Souvenirs and Tickets—Martha Figueroa, Larry Mitchell, Larry Tighe, Tim LaGaly, Lucille Secara, Sam Anderson, William Walker,

Ridership and Max Temps

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|
| September 3 | 239 | 99° |
| September 10 | 751 | 96° |
| September 17 | 879 | 76° |
| September 24 | 853 | 76° |

Member Schedule

October

29 No Public Rides

November

- 5 Public Rides **Time Change**
- 6 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Public Rides
- 18 Work Day/Annual Member Meeting/**Election**
- 19 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 26 Public Rides

Riders
September 2017 — 2,722
Total 2017 To Date — 24,228
September 2016 — 24,700



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

Ghost Train Final Five Nights

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, October Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

Your skills and time are needed to help our fundraiser finish well. Please contact one of our coordinators: **Gary Baker**, General Management; **Roger Bacon**, Station Management; **Martha Figueroa**, Meals; and **Les Kovacs**, Tickets & Souvenirs / Crowd Management



2017 Ghost Train

▲ The Ghost Train did not happen by itself. It took much hard work over multiple days and nights. Above, the Set-up crew supper on October 13.
 ▼ Martha with family & friends at gate. Diana Manchester Photos.



▲ Ghost Train Riders enter the gates at 7 pm on our opening weekend. Average ridership has been 1,000 a night. .

