

Vote! Election Ballots Due 6 PM Monday, Nov. 27



LALSRM Exhibits at Burbank PD Family Day

By Christie Edinger and Sam Anderson

The last Saturday of October, in between nights on the Ghost Train, Christie Edinger broke away to represent LALSRM at Burbank Police Foundations' Family Fun Day. Held at Johnny Carson Park in Burbank, the day included a classic car show, pancake breakfast, demo of the Burbank Police Department K-9 unit, live entertainment and a kids' costume contest.

Lots of local families attended. Christie and Club member Sam Anderson set up an exhibit promoting LALSRM. It contained color posters showing the different trains that run at our facility, and featured a showcase with Christie's garden scale Forney steam locomotive, detailed to look like Club Engine #8.

There was a lot of interest in our booth
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Interview with Event Producer Gary Baker

Reflections on Ghost Train 2017

Judging by the hundreds of comments we got from the many guests who rode the Ghost Train this year (over 11,500+), the Ghost Train was a big success. Here is a sample of some of the feedback we received:

Marla H: "It was wonderful!!! Thank you for all of your hard work!"

Nick M: "LOVE Ghost Train. I go every year and was so HAPPY that you brought it back this year."

Janice H: "Took the family last night and all had a great time, thanks LALS, it was fantastic!"

Katie E: "Thank you for bringing it back. We drove down from the San Francisco Bay Area for just one night to ride the train. My 7 year old son LOVED it."

Haunts of L.A. "Thank you for bringing it back! Its such a beautiful and special event!"

Now that Ghost Train is over, and all

the sets have been taken down and stored, we took the time to reflect on EXACTLY what was good about it ... as well as what we learned and might do differently next time.

1. Ghost Train is a huge community outreach; guests came from all over Los Angeles and the surrounding suburbs, the beach cities, Ventura, Orange County, Riverside, etc. Some came from as far away as San Diego and San Francisco.

2. Feedback from the public has been enormously positive; the family-friendly atmosphere is very much appreciated and eagerly anticipated each year. We were thanked literally hundreds of times for bringing back the Ghost Train.

3. Huge fundraiser for the Club – the gross amount raised this year is more than twice as much as Ghost Train 2015.

4. An extremely dedicated and small crew
(Continued on page 2)

Public Service

November

26 Public Rides

December

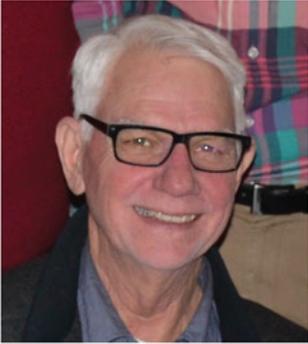
3 Public Rides

10 Public Rides

17 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant operating

24, 31 Public Rides

President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock, President

The Halloween Ghost Train turned out very well. My thanks go out to the Board for supporting this last-minute effort.

Gary Baker's presentation was better than ever. Public sentiment reflects appreciation for the Club bringing this community outreach and fundraiser back.

Thaine Morris's pyrotechnics were spectacular, highlighted by the 350-lb. fire-breathing dragon at the entrance, the flame-belching tractor on the mountain division and the bone-grinding sparks on the west end.

Aaron Emmer's mood-setting lighting effects were awesome.

Of course, the event wouldn't have come together without Les Kovacs, Doug Young, John DePhillip, Jr. and Aaron Emmer working day and night to make it happen. It took nearly 50-people per night to keep the Ghost Train running. Our volunteer members dug in and did it. Thank you!

Ludwick Family Foundation Grant

Many interesting things were presented at the November Board Meeting. Our sincere voices of gratitude go out to the Ludwick Family Foundation for supplying a Grant that will be used for very specific and necessary infrastructure projects: New electrical service which we've tried for seven years to drop in place, acquiring our own fork lift/reach power, we can finally sand blast and electrostatic paint the O'Brian/Moore west end trestle bridge, and we can now refurbish the UP club car caboose. This is truly an amazing unsolicited gift and we're



Reflections on Ghost Train 2017

(Continued from page 1)

who worked four nights/two days a week to set up and power this very elaborate show in less than eight weeks. Plus a number of member volunteers who showed up and helped throughout the build time.

5. A very generous turnout of members to volunteer each night: operating trains; running the Station; managing crowds; handling ticket, souvenir and snack sales; serving in the Kountry Kitchen; security; safety; and trouble solving throughout the facility each night. Also the member volunteers who worked throughout the weeks prior and during on online ticket sales, media outreach and coordination, social media management, GPS tracking, meal prep, stocking supplies, planning security, and much more. It took about 50+ volunteers to run Ghost Train every night.

6. Take down was accomplished in 2-1/2 weeks; we have never accomplished this task in so short of a time.

7. Seven new displays, including the fire-breathing dragon, and zombie containment zone; including Travel Town's gen-

very appreciative to the Ludwick family.

Four new Board members will be identified at the annual installation gathering. Thank you all for making an honorable run.

The Holiday Banquet and Board installation gathering takes place at the Smoke House in Burbank on Saturday December 2nd. It's not just for the Board shuffle, it's for all to mingle, reflect and enjoy. Contact Martha for reservations.

erosity in lending us their flatcar and crane for staging our Dia de los Muertos band.

8. Online ticketing was very popular. We sold out quickly, restocked and sold out again.

9. New point of sale Clover devices at two ticket windows sped up ticket purchases significantly, especially the credit card sales.

10. Bands and marionettes offered free entertainment to our guests waiting in lines in the meadow. In addition we took a mobile souvenir and water concession out to the lines, which proved very popular.

11. Media interest doubled: more news TV crews and newspaper journalists/photographers showed up than ever before.

12. Online social media coverage exploded. The media storm started with the exclusive stories Theme Park Adventures and Parks and Cons published the end of August. Other journalists read these highly respected blogs and reached out to us; Ghost Train 2017 was promoted in at least 25 venues.

13. Online interaction and conversations with our fans increased on our two Facebook pages and email.

Q: What are some of the things you learned or that could improve?

A: There is always room for improvement. Some things we knew going in, others were learned along the way.

1. We know we need to get an earlier start. This year's event was decided on almost too late. We did not have the com-

(Continued on page 3)

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Alex O'Donnell, Secretary

November 6, 2017 Meeting

Program: Program Director Martha Figueroa reported that the Holiday Banquet and Officer Installation Party will be held on December 2nd at the Smokehouse.

Facilities: Gary Evans will be stepping down as FCR Chairman by the end of this year. Members interested in filling the position next year should contact the Board for consideration.

Old Business: The train tracking system that was commissioned roughly two Boards ago finally saw active service during Halloween. The system was custom designed by Thaine Morris and Greg McMurray and allows for real-time GPS tracking of individual consists around the railroad.

The Ghost Train was a fundraising success garnering thousands of nightly riders and public compliments. A "post-mortem" gathering of volunteers will be held prior to planning next year's Halloween Run to establish any suggestions and changes learned from the previous year.

New Business: The Ludwick Family Foundation awarded our Club a grant for funding several of our larger infrastructure projects. It requires that the Club complete the new service electrical drop, acquire a fork lift, refurbish the interior of the UP Caboose, sand blast and electrostatically repaint the O'Brien-Moore Bridge. The Gradall forklift has already purchased per the terms of the grant, while the other items are awaiting bids.

Bids are still 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.

The Club's Santa Fe electric EMD GP60M suffered a broken worm gear and motor assembly during the Halloween Run and is currently out of service. Thaine Morris and Dave Clark are currently looking into repairs for it.

Ron Hitchcock proposed covering private equipment repair costs for damage incurred from heavy use in public service for events like Halloween. The Board determined that the issue would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. New volunteers are needed for the Kitchen register and Ticket booth. These are roles that are very crucial towards sustaining our Sunday operations.

Announcements: New Committee Appointments will be made in January. Project Budgets should be submitted in February and addressed no later than March.

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 LALSRM is enjoyed by all, the better!

Reflections

(Continued from page 2)

mitment of member volunteers for set up and take down that an event of this magnitude requires. Therefore a small group of individuals worked very long, very hard hours, starting the Monday after August's General Membership Meeting.

If we are to put this event on again next year, we will need more commitment

from our membership and also from the Board. And earlier.

2. We need to manage lines better. We can offer time-stamped ticketing options from our online ticket agency. Other venues do this and we can too.

3. We need to prevent track problems and derailments. Hosting the Fall Meet the week prior was one cause. This is not enough time to discover and repair rails. If we hold our Fall Meet a few weeks earlier next year, that should help us a lot.



By Ted Merchant, Superintendent



Hello Train-Fans!
I have noticed something.... Fewer people are coming out on Work-Day! However! The place still looks good. Halloween is cleaned up in record time. And spirits are high.

Is it that the Halloween Crew was extremely efficient this year? (Yes) Is it that the Signal Crew is extremely effective? (Yes) Is it that the Sprinkler Team is doing a bang-up job? (Yes) Is it that the Adopt-A-Track process has been initiated? (Yes). It appears that members are coming out at non-Work-Day times and doing good things! This is all great stuff! Every member should regularly thank those who come out and serve the Club so effectively. As a matter-of-fact, this is the season that we should all be thanking each other. So, thank you all!! You make this Club the incredible success it is.

So back to this Work-Day issue.... The weather is cold. The days are short. And the Holidays occupy our time. We still need to constantly clean and maintain the campus. Please thank those listed in "Who's Been Workin' On the Railroad". Work day is a great way to earn shed credit, fulfill probation hours, but, most important, enjoy comradery and help make the Club as great as it is. We will guarantee hot coffee, lunch, a general meeting, and a sense of accomplishment. We may even fire up the propane heaters on December 16. I look forward to seeing you there.

So that's the way it is. Come out and work or play, because that is what we do! Your feedback is always appreciated. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

Ten-Year Member Bruce Frye Passes



Bruce Frye and his son Oskar prepare a meal together.

By Diana Manchester with Oskar Frye

We are saddened by the unexpected passing of LALSRM member Bruce Frye, father of member Oskar Frye, and a man of many talents.

Bruce had been working on a 7.5" Emmsworth 0-4-4T Billinton steam engine, and a 3.5" shay in his home machine shop. He had planned to spend more time at the Club once they were finished. His remarkable life was shortened by cancer, to which he succumbed on November 9.

Oskar posted on Facebook the morning of the 10th: "Bruce Frye lost his battle with cancer last night at 7 pm; I was there till the last breath; he fought hard as h*ll. I will always love and miss him."

Born in Delaware

Carl Bruce Frye was born on October 2, 1952 in Delaware, and studied art at Delaware University for four years. Bruce was the first of his family of 12 to go to college.

He was into cars and anything mechanical. His interest in trains began early in life. Oskar shares, "He and his friends used to walk on an old trestle where a freight train would cross and there'd only be enough room for the train, so when it came, you had to jump off the trestle (into the water below) or you would get hit!"

Excellent Machinist

An excellent machinist, Bruce had a very mechanical mind. He built and repaired highly precise cameras for ARRI, a

Munich-based corporation that produces professional motion picture equipment. He was self-taught with a specialty in camera shutters. His expertise in cinematography gave Bruce the opportunity to travel all over the world as a camera crew member, and he is credited on IMDb for a number of movies and TV shows.

Joined LALSRM in 2007

In 2007 he joined LALSRM, mostly because he had a middle school son (Oskar) who was obsessed with steam engines.

Oskar bought a 1938 British Maisie steam locomotive (a 4-4-2 Ivatt C-1 Class GNR Atlantic) when he was 12, from a seller in Indiana, who had bought it at a faire in Yorkshire, England. Oskar remembers, "It was a really crude loco – had a lot of work to be done, but my dad and I tore it down. We lathed new eccentric cams, die blocks, links and pins.

The axle boxes were originally made from aircraft aluminum and worn out enough that the axles bound and caused the loco to slip erratically. I did most of it, but my dad did a lot as well. The boiler is original. All the paint and lettering, my dad

did, as well as the running boards, which on this engine are made from milled solid steel." He smiles and adds, "I run the sh*t out of it ... it runs good."

Bruce Was Unique

Friend and live steam contemporary, Charlie Giordano recalls, "His dad was one of my all time favorite people. He was very unique. And he loved Oskar like crazy. Bruce and Oskar definitely bonded over live steam in Oskar's younger years."

Oskar says his dad was an unconventional thinker and "brilliant, yet super modest". Bruce entertained thoughts of building a modernized steam locomotive, with an engine that would monitor the boiler heat and water level, and be self adjusted to external demands. Without side rods coupled to cylinders, but instead, a fluid drive with multiple ratios for differing torque multiplication. A design that would allow for much greater efficiency.

Locos are Son's Legacy

Oskar hopes to finish restoring the two steam locomotives his dad was working on and take them to Europe to run. That was the father's dream ... now the son's legacy.

Oskar running his restored Maisie 4-4-2 Atlantic at LALSRM's 2015 Spring Meet with Jack Bodenmann. (Photo by Diana Manchester)



LALSRM Exhibits at BPD Family Day

(Continued from page 1)

– more than anticipated. (see photo on page 1) Some attendees had been to our facility to ride our trains; others did not even know of our existence right across the freeway. Christie was running out of Club brochures and Ghost Train rack cards when Darrell and Ruth Payne providentially showed up and volunteered to go to the Club and get some more.

1949 Ford Sedan Patrol Car

Sam brought the Burbank Police Department's restored 1949 Ford Sedan patrol car to the event (pictured above). Because he is the traffic detective and is known to tinker on vintage cars he is the caretaker for this vehicle, which is usually stored in the museum at the police/fire headquarters.

He and Club member Jay Hawver, also on the Burbank Police force, drive it to events for exhibiting throughout the year.

Sam gave Christie a tour of the new Burbank mobile command post, and the crew even shared their donuts with her. Serving has its rewards!



▲ Sam Anderson brought the Burbank Police Department's restored 1949 Ford Sedan patrol car to the event

► The Watchman at the Train Crossing – Ghost Train 2017

▼ Club members Christie Edinger and Sam Anderson set up an exhibit promoting LALSRM at the Burbank Police Foundations' Family Fun Day.



2017 Ghost Train Crew

Below is the list of those who helped on the 2017 Ghost Train set up, runs and take-down.

Some worked a bit, some worked more, and some worked *way* more. We could not have done it without that help.

Thanks to you all.

Aaron Emmer	Joshua Garcia
Amy Mahoney	Karl Strauss
Andrew Mulkeen	Larry Tighe
Betsy Merchant	Laura Holman
Bill Krovetz	Les Kovacs
Bill Pascarella	Lisa Golden-Krovetz
Bill Walker	Lloyd Davis
Bob Crone	Lois Westfall
Brenda Garcia	Luke McGinnis
Brian Gilreath	Lynn Bebenroth
Brian Goldfarb	Mark Vreeken
Carolyn Hoagland	Martha Figueroa
Charles Rhodes	Matt McGinnis
Christie Edinger	Meredith Chinn
Chris Mahoney	Mike Reinmartz
Chuck Mohr	Mile Kristman
Cindy Young	Monica Gibson
Courtland Blake	Nancy Cammarata
Darrell Payne	Noah Valencia
Dave Holman	Patty Maureen
David Bassett	Paul Hammond
David Ross	Peter Bowen
Diana Manchester	Peter Fuad
Doug Young	Ray Burns
Emily Young	Roderick Fritz
Francis Barnes	Roger Bacon
Fred Lack	Roger Frymire
Gary Baker	Ron Hitchcock
Gary Evans	Ruth Payne
Gary Raymond	Sam Anderson
Gary Wilson	Scott Hoagland
Glenn Manchester	Steve Rodstein
Greg McMurray	Steve Sauber
Harrison Hitchcock	Ted Merchant
Jack Streit	Thaine Morris
Jay Hawver	Thomas Gibson
Jim Cammarata	Tom Crue
John DePhillip	Tom Gibson
John Derosa	Wayne Crabb
John Garcia	Will Pascarella
John Romero	Zak Holman
John Valencia	

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

October

Locos	Engineers	Conductors	
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Bob Quinn	Rodrick Fritz
SP PA1—LALSRM	Don Kallgren	Roberto Lopez	Bill Walker
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Mark Vreeken	Doug Stephens
No. 8—LALSRM	Peter Fuad	Matt McGinnis	Bonnie Kaufman
ATSF 940—Bresee	Mel Bresee	Luke McGinnis	Robert Guzman,
CSRR #73—Edinger	John Gavin	Paul Liu	Steve Sauber
Union Pacific—LALSRM	Greg Pschaida	Safety Coordinators - Chuck Mohr,	
SP 1500—LALSRM	Steve Sauber	Station Masters - Gary Evans, Robert	
SP 2468—LALSRM		Souvenirs and Tickets - Martha Figueroa, Larry Mitchell, Lynn Bebenroth, Matt McGinnis	

Who's been Working on the Railroad

Alex McDonnell	Jeremy Steinert
Bill Schimmer	John DePhillip
Brian Webster	Karl Strauss
Charles Rhodes	Les Kovacs
Christie Edinger	Luke McGinnis
Dave Holman	Matt McGinnis
Diana Manchester	Miles Kristman
Doug Young	Peter Fuad
Gary Baker	Phillip Tucker
George Becker	Ray Burden
Glen Austin	Ross Harper
Glen Manchester	Steve Rodstein
Jack Streit	Stevy Brock
Jay Hawver	Ted Merchant



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

Ridership and Max Temps

October 1	776	77°
October 15	957	95°
October 22	808	94°

October 2017 — 2,541
Year to Date — 26,769
October 2016 — 26,775

Member Schedule

November

26 Public Rides
 27 Election ballots due 6 pm; ballots counted
 28 Election results emailed to members; deadline for reservations for Holiday Party

December

2 Holiday Party (see back page)
 3 Public Rides
 4 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 10 Public Rides
 16 Work Day/Annual Member Meeting
 17 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant operating
 24, 31 Public Rides

Thank you everyone for a successful run!

Ghost Train 2017



Les takes down dragon with Club's new crane on November 11
(Gary Baker Photo)



Holiday Banquet

& 2018 Officer Installation

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

**PLEASE RSVP
BY TUESDAY,
NOV. 28**

The Smokehouse

4420 West Lakeside Drive, Burbank, CA

6 pm – Happy Hour (No Host Bar)

7 pm – Dinner Served

Prime Rib • Chicken Buena Vista • Pasta Primavera

Raffle Prizes & 50/50 Cash Drawing!

Bring cash to purchase raffle tickets that evening
Gifts for raffle prizes gratefully accepted – contact Martha

Space is limited. Everyone who plans to attend must reply.

Please reserve your seats & meal choices by November 28

Call or text Martha at (626) 232-7053

Dinner Reservations

Member Name _____

Guest Name _____

# of Dinners		Total \$	
_____	Prime Rib.....\$40.00 per person.....	\$_____	Includes main meal, salad, cheese bread, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Alcoholic drinks are extra.
_____	Chicken Buena Vista.....\$40.00 per person.....	\$_____	
_____	Pasta Primavera.....\$30.00 per person.....	\$_____	
_____	Total # of Dinners	\$_____	

EVERYONE: Please complete dinner slip. **Make checks payable to LALS RM** (memo: Holiday Banquet).
Bring to The Smokehouse on Saturday night and give to Martha Figueroa