



13-Year Member Peter Fowler Passes In January

LALSRM Member was Rocket Scientist, Sea Captain, Unlimited Steam Boiler Operator, Inventor and Friend

By Diana Manchester

Peter Fowler, a 13-year member of the LA Live Steamers passed away on January 15, 2017 in Bellflower, CA. He leaves behind a daughter, Trish and two sons, John and Pete, Jr., four grandchildren and other family, as well as a number of friends in live steam, aerospace and the special effects industries.

Peter Fowler was born in Burma, and was raised and educated in England. He met his lifelong sweetheart, Jean when they were 16, and they were married five years later in 1952. He earned his master's degree in electrical engineering in London, England while studying at night and working for GE during the day. During the "Brain Drain" after WWII, many European scientists and technologists emigrated to the U.S. and Canada, and Peter and Jean followed suit. They arrived in the States in 1957, and six weeks later their first child, Trish was born. In the early years the family lived on the east coast and Trish fondly remembers many trips to the B&O Museum. She thought her father would've like to have been a" train engineer, except for the pay grade.

Peter served in the defense communications industry with TRW from 1967 till he retired in 1982/83. He worked on the Gemini Project (pre-manned space flight), the Apollo Missions, and the Viking Mars Lander, for which he was the science experiment reliability manager. He was absolutely convinced that this mission found evidence of past life on Mars. Although the

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A celebration of Peter's life is planned for Saturday, March 18, after 12 noon, at Los Angeles Live Steamers.

Peter, 21, and wife Jean on their wedding day in 1952.



New LALSRM Library – Check Us Out!

Article and photos by Nick Suncin

Since its reopening in early December 2016, the Bruce Ward Memorial Library has been run primarily as a reference library while the enormous job of cataloguing and organizing process was underway. With a full steam ahead effort, that milestone has been reached! Since the end of January the Library has been able to let books out on loan. Each book entry in the database contains the location of the book in the Library, its availability status, and in most cases a description of the book's contents and an image of the cover. In many instances, the entry will be accompanied by a Library of Congress link, its Dewey decimal number, the price the book sold for, and a link to where the book can be purchased (used) on Amazon. The database has many searchable fields and is very simple to use.

The next major goal is to digitize the incredible and very large LALS photo
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Public Service

February

26 Public Rides

March

5 Public Rides
12 Public Rides
19 Public Rides
26 Public Rides

President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock
President

The Board has sorted through the 2017 Appointments, which are published in this month's *Engine Booster*. (See page 5)

In many cases, volunteers have teamed up to share obligations, thus assuring Club's business is taken care of even when personal workflow and life's issues mount. Thank you all for your hard work keeping our Club rolling!

Slowly but surely, we're addressing ongoing business such as the Kountry Kitchen rewiring, additional kitchen storage, and participation with the DWP on our very necessary electrical system upgrade.

We can now enjoy the new Bruce Ward Memorial Library. Past President Sam Calderwood collected, maintained and preserved an amazing collection of early steam history, journals and priceless manuals.

Now they have a home and may be accessed on Sundays, and even by appointment – call Librarian Nick Suncin.

The Halloween night-runs fundraising event was a primary source of club funding. I ask that you share fundraising ideas with the Board at this time as we're reviewing budget commitments and fund-raising options.

Footnotes:

Please note and familiarize yourself with new medical trauma kits located in the members' caboose and in the station ticket booth.

And all engineers — Please fill out a log each time you check out an engine, whether for public runs or grounds maintenance, especially the center cab that has been neglected.

We need this information to track maintenance requirements on this Club owned equipment.

Ron

Splinters from the Board



By Alex O'Donnell
Secretary

February 6, 2017
Board Meeting

Party Requests: Party requests for Flemming Nielson April 30th, Michael Murphy April 1st, and the PADRES Child Cancer Organization on April 8th were approved. A memorial for Peter Fowler on March 18 was also approved.

Membership: Prospective members Larry Tie and David Reed were introduced. Probationary member Mike Stockton was granted an extension. Probationary member Bear Musgrove will perform ticket and kitchen duties for the remainder of his hours.

General Superintendent: Ted Merchant presented a plan and budget for tree trimming. Only one to two already dead trees would actually be removed, the other 8-10 hazardous trees would be subject to trimming/dead limb removal.

Ted also presented a plan to purchase new metal covering plates for the drainage ditch in the East End meadow north of the Narrow Gauge Barn.

Ted reported that there are now five water pipe leaks and one air leak. Ted repaired a severe second air leak in the transfer table steaming bays about a day prior, but he noted that he needs help fixing these water/air leaks around the club as well as additional help on Saturdays.

Facility Planning: FCR Chairman Gary Evans presented an alternative to accessing the SP Caboose involving the installation of a footbridge over the Gauge-1. The existing alternative of installing a lift bridge has also been under consideration for some time. Please see the FCR. Chairman Gary Evans if you have any ideas or would like to discuss any future projects.

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 switches, signals, and speed - 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 are part of a train crew during the

Sunday run.

Old business: The new replacement freezer was installed in the Kountry Kitchen last month, but its operation revealed some electrical issues in the kitchen that will need to be repaired prior to installing the storage container add-on. Ron is currently seeking out contractor bids for an electrician and will present at the next meeting. If the electrician's work proves satisfactory, we will then contract them to complete the electrical for the new propane tank pump. While the addition of a kitchen storage container cannot be undertaken until the kitchen electrical repairs are completed, prices are currently being sought for it and an FCR will need to be filled out.

Les Kovacs will focus his attention on double-decking the Alkire Barn for additional narrow gauge equipment storage. The proposed east end tractor/bobcat storage shed will be postponed while this project is underway. The propane heaters in the Kountry Kitchen will be repaired and ready for the upcoming potluck/night runs this year.

New Business: Our current station credit card reader will not be compliant soon since it needs a chip reader. The board approved purchase of a new chip reader in the near future.

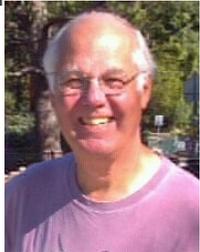
Gary Baker introduced the second phase of G-Scale Layout work being conducted by the Rowsell Family. The family will hire a landscaper who will purchase plants and complete the irrigation system along the outer perimeter.

Gary Evans cited the need for a rain gutter on the deck of New Sherwood Station. He proposed a commercial grade model which would be easy to clean and prevent track ballast erosion. The down spout would be routed underneath the tracks to the recently repaired sump pump.

Trauma kits (first aid plus additional emergency medical supplies) have been purchased per suggestion by Scott Hoagland and will have lighted signs marking their locations. In addition, the pressure has been adjusted and a new sink ordered for the men's restroom in New Sherwood Station. Fred encouraged ideas for fund-raising events, and noted that any input is certainly appreciated.

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From the Super



By Ted Merchant
General
Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!
We must all be ready for the rain to stop now! We had a break for this month's work day and an incredible amount was addressed.

Doug Young and John De Phillip teamed up with the Bobcat and tractor to clean up the landslides along the Mountain High-line. Alex O'Donnell pruned the bushes south of the Meeting Car. Christie Edinger mowed the lawns and lowered the fresh weeds covering the tracks. Peter Fuad and I repaired the Davis Mining Town Crystal Springs Railroad General Office which had blown down over the main line. The Signal Crew continue to work their magic. And, most impressively,

Tim Lagaly and crew removed a 45-foot "root serpent" from the drain extending from the Disney Barn to the Davis Mine over-pass! That was one big ugly root system (see picture) that completely obstructed the drainage pipe causing the water to flood the opening of the Disney Barn. As John De Phillip said: "It's always something."

Additional work around the campus includes our "almost successful" repairing of the leaking air and water pipes between the transfer rails at the steaming bays. Jeremy Steinert has agreed to lead a volunteer crew to repair the multiple artesian wells. The steel covers for the East Meadow drainage ditch have been delivered. And Rock's Tree Service of Burbank will prune approximately 18 trees on March 2nd, weather permitting.

Looking forward, the weeds are back! Some of us like the green; others want them gone. I vote that we trim them with a Weed Whacker for now and do an extensive Round Up spraying in April.

I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

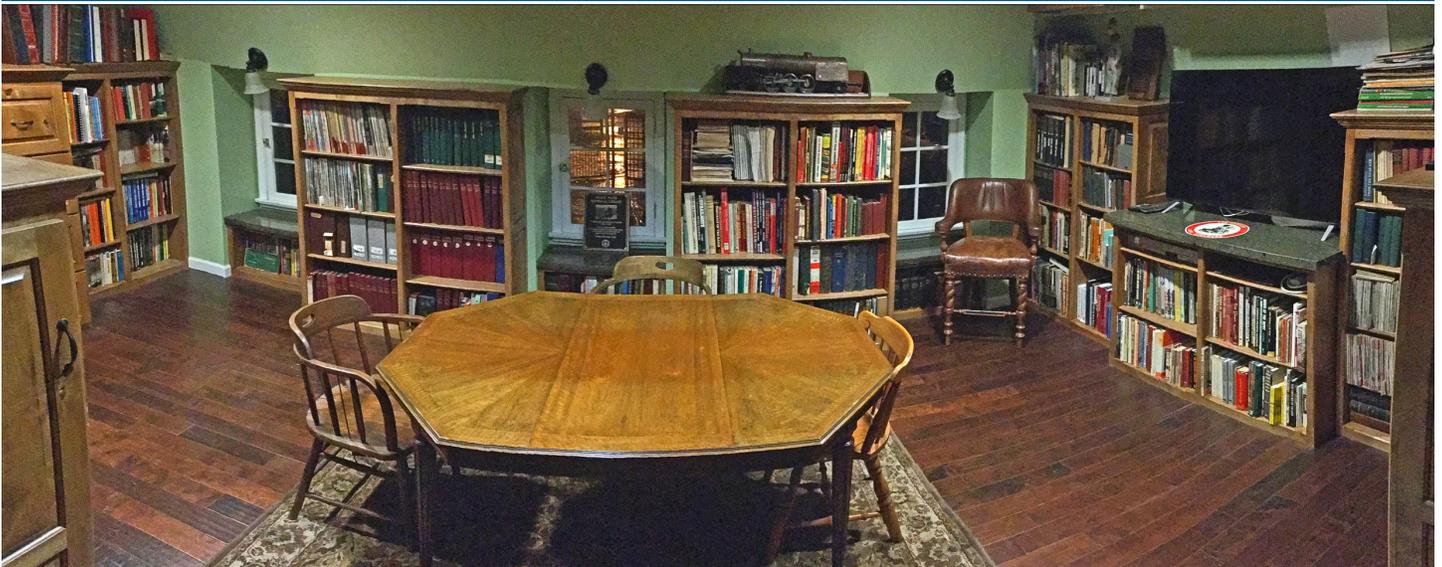


"Root Serpent" Tamed

The drain near the front door of the Disney Barn was clogged. Rather than emptying into the drain, water from recent rains was pooling over the lawn and concrete path. Tim LaGaly decided to clean the drain pipe. He cut into the PVC line at the western edge of the Disney facility and found roots filling the pipe. He was able to hook a line into the end of the roots and, with help from John Goulding, Ted Merchant and Doug Young, pulled a long "serpent" of bundled roots out of the pipe. See John holding the end of the roots above. As Tim explained, only because the roots and pipe were soaked allowed the roots to be pulled out in one bunch. Also found in the pipe was a long 1/4" PVC pipe with a nozzle at the end from an earlier (years ago?) failed attempt to clean the pipe. Tim will rebuild the area where he cut into the pipe as an access point for future cleaning. In the meantime, all flows well. *(Ted Merchant photo)*



Bob Uniak's 1:32 Scale MTH VO-1000 engine and Accucraft caboose on our One Gauge track on a Disney Sunday. All the cars are resin castings that Bob created. *Gary Raymond photo.*



LALS RM Library – Come Check Us Out!

(Continued from page 1)

archive. We are gathering and documenting stories and information from our long-time members to accompany as many of these images as possible. Our aim is to digitize everything so that it can be readily accessible to members. The Bruce Ward memorial library is a treasure trove of

knowledge and history. Our shelves are populated with amazingly-detailed instructional materials both old and new: anything from machining and spinning to servicing small air-cooled engines, and even operating and maintaining full-sized steam equipment.

Another large portion of the library is devoted to history: our Museum's story, the history of our hobby, and of course, the history of railroading. We hope you will visit and check us out. The library is open Sunday and most Saturdays. For appointments during the week, please feel free to contact Nick Suncin or Christie Edinger.

Splinters from the Board

(Continued from page 2)

Announcements: President Ron Hitchcock stated that the board appointments list is now in its final stretch of negotiations and will be published soon.

John Garcia is our new webmaster and will be handling improvements to the website, online accessibility to membership applications, members-only access to the roster, on-site telecommunications, ramping up our social media presence, and other resources. Many thanks go to our outgoing webmaster Collin Westphal for handling both the website and Facebook page for the last few years.

Please seek approval before borrowing tickets from the station.

The new 1" scale tie material has finally arrived and will be used in the coming months to replace the remaining wood tie sections along the north side as well as for several other projects. Huge thanks goes to Les Kovacs, Doug Young, Steve Altamayer, and Alfredo of

Webcor Builders for coordinating and assisting with the delivery of the material.

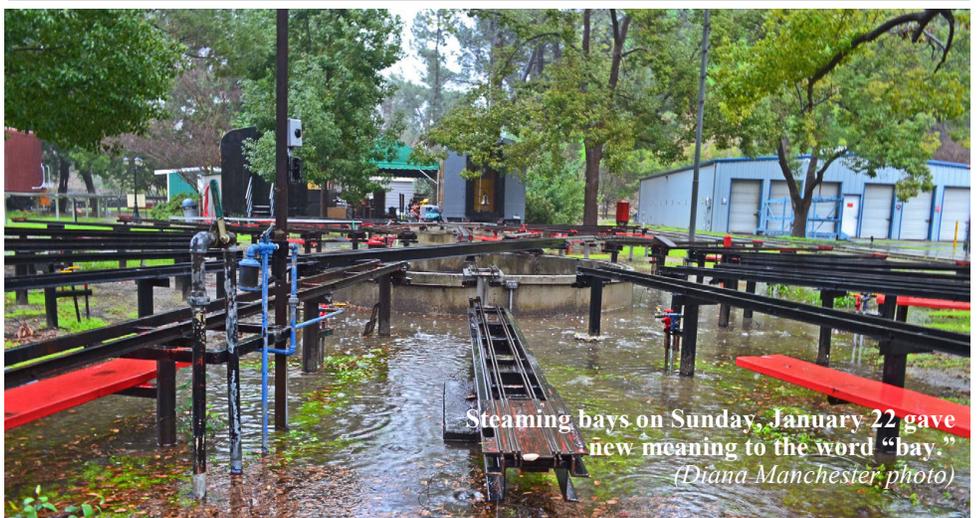
The ticket booth is asking for members to please come and help – complimentary lunch is provided to ticket booth volunteers. There are two shifts that need volunteers - 10:30am to 1:00pm and 1:00pm to 3:30pm. It's fun, you'll get to interact with our riders, and you will be helping your Club greatly!

The Bruce Ward Memorial Library is open every weekend to the membership –

come on up and be mesmerized by our comprehensive collection of live steam and railroading books and films!

Attention all members! Sunday is our official run day!

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!



Steaming bays on Sunday, January 22 gave new meaning to the word "bay."
(Diana Manchester photo)

2017 Appointments and Committees

Board of Directors Appointees

Air Compressor Maintenance	Dave Clark, Larry Sack, Nick Suncin
Art Director	Diana Manchester
Boiler Water System	Dave Clark, Larry Sack, Nick Suncin
Bookkeeper	Tim LaGaly
Caretaker	Jeremy Steinert
Disney Barn	Bill Barbe, Larry Boone
Engine Booster Editor	Peter Fuad
Fleet Fuelman	Tom McCarthy
Insurance Coordinator	Ron Hitchcock
Key Master	Gary Baker
Kountry Kitchen Manager	John Goulding (John Garcia)
Landscaping	Andrew Chaves
Librarians	Nick Suncin (Lisa Lipton, Christie Edinger, Harrison Hitchcock)
Media Coordinator	Miles Kristman
Miniature Buildings	Aaron Emmer
Plumbing Maintenance	Les Kovacs
Probationary Member Advisors	Wayne Crabb, Gary Evans, Andrew Chavez
Recycling	Jim Baker
Riding Cars	Jim Cammarata
Roster Database	Wilbur Dong, John Garcia
Roster Editor	Diana Manchester
Security Cameras	Miles Kristman, Greg McMurray
Shed Managers	Tim LaGaly, Les Kovacs
Souvenirs Manager	Martha Figueroa (Brenda Garcia)
Sprinkler Systems	Steve Ruatta
Stationary Steam Plant Manager	Nick Suncin (Dan O'Brian, Dave Clark, Larry Sack, Jeremy Steinert, Harrison Hitchcock)
Timekeeper	Mike Murphy
Webmaster	John Garcia (Jeremy Steinert)
Meets and Special Runs	
Board Meeting Snacks	Dani Smith
Disney Barn	Bill Barbe
Fall Meet	Martha Figueroa
Holiday Banquet	Martha Figueroa
Spring Meet	Martha Figueroa
Toy Train Operating Society	Don Kallgren

Special Committees

Advisory Board	Ronald Bergmann, Thaine Morris, Les Kovacs, Tim LaGaly, Dan O'Brien, Gary Baker
Boiler Inspectors	Ray Burden, John DePhillip, Jr., Wolfgang Fengler, Doug Young
Safety Committee	Wolfgang Fengler (Jim Cammarata, Bob Crone, Les Kovacs, Miles Kristman, Douglas Young, Ron Hitchcock)
Signals	Charles Rhoades (John Smith, Jeremy Steinert, Steve Sauber, Stevo Brock, Wayne Crabb)
Track Foremen	
Track Crew, 7½" Gauge	Alex O'Donnell
Track Crew, 4 3/4" & 3½" Gauge	John DePhillip, Jr., Doug Young, Mel Bresee, Les Kovacs, Miles Kristman, Wayne Crabb
Track Crew, Gauge-1 Layout	Chris Mahony, John DeRosa
Track Crew, "G" Scale Layout	Rick Gross, Russ Warr, Bob Crone, Tim LaGaly
Track Crew, "G" Scale Layout	Don Kallgren, Gary Baker, Chris Solak, Nick Suncin
Locomotive Maintenance	
Master Mechanic	Ray Burden
Diesel	Bob Crone, Jeremy Steinert, David Holman
Electric:	David Clark, Larry Sack
Steam #8	Ray Burden
Locomotive Training:	
Conductor:	Andrew Chaves, Mike Murphy, Fred Lack
Diesel:	Bob Crone, Charles Rhoades
Steam:	Michael Murphy, Nick Suncin, Harrison Hitchcock

Officers and Directors

President	Ron Hitchcock
Vice President	Peter Fuad
Secretary	Alex O'Donnell
Treasurer	Fred Lack
Directors	John Smith, Chuck Mohr, John Garcia, Christie Edinger

Daughter Donates William Vrooman's Model Pacific 4-6-2

Article and photos by Nick Suncin

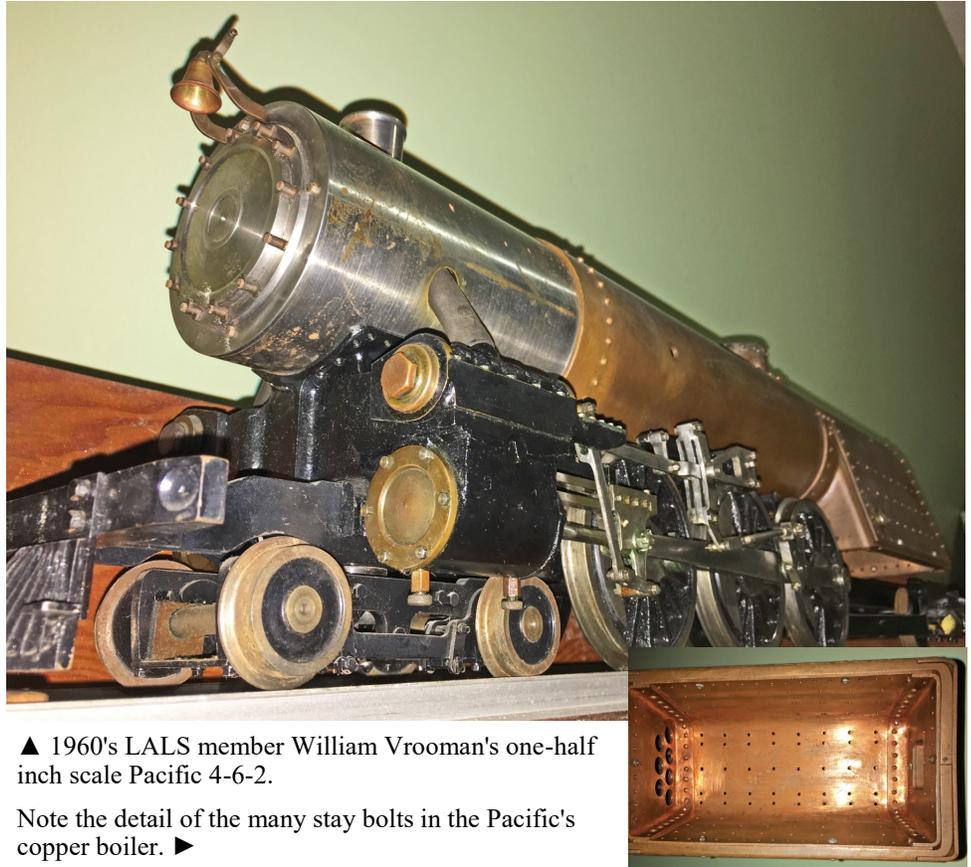
One of the first things you might see when entering our new Library is a one-half inch scale model of a 4-6-2 Pacific showcased on top of book case "C". This beautiful model was donated to us by Dotty Shepherd, whose father William Vrooman, was a member of LALS in the very early 1960s.

He began building this engine in the early 1940s. During Dotty's childhood years when time and money would allow, she and her father would make a day out of going down to Lomita to pick up the next part or casting he needed to work on his engine.

His eye for detail and beautiful craftsmanship is apparent when you see the locomotive in person. One of the many details that really impresses me was the planned use of many tiny stay bolts in the copper boiler. This is impressive when you consider there are many larger boilers that don't even have water legs.

The engine was never completed because her father passed away during the late 1960's. It has tremendous sentimental value to Dotty who is now in her 90's.

She wants the engine to be seen and enjoyed by people who will appreciate her father's work. If you would like to see this beautiful little Pacific in person, the Library is open Sundays and many Saturdays.



▲ 1960's LALS member William Vrooman's one-half inch scale Pacific 4-6-2.

Note the detail of the many stay bolts in the Pacific's copper boiler. ►



Vintage and classic trains, cars, trucks, motorcycles, and collectibles of all kinds will be displayed on the LALS RM grounds. If you or a friend would like to participate, please call event coordinator Flemming Nielsen at (818) 843-2751. All are welcome!



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
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Who's been Working on the Railroad

January

Tom Harwood	Christie Edinger
Doug Young	John DePhillip, Jr.
Ray Burden	Wayne Crabb
Steve Rodstein	Stevo Brock
Jim Baker	Mel Bresee
Ross Harper	Frances Barnes
Charles Rhoades	Alex O'Donnell,
Steve Sauber	Peter Fuad
Robert Guzman	John DePhillip
Mark Vreeken	Martha Figueroa
Jeremy Steinert	Ron Hitchcock
Tim LaGaly	Diana Manchester,
John Goulding	Glen Manchester

... and many more

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

January

Locos	Engineers	Workers
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Safety Coordinators —Wayne Crabb, Mel Bresee, Ron Hitchcock
SP PA1—LALSRM	Mel Bresee	
SP 7660—Bresee	Christie Edinger	Station Masters —Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Larry Mitchell, Tom Crue, Brenda Garcia, George Becker
LALS #8	Peter Fuad	
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Harrison Hitchcock	Souvenirs and Tickets —Martha Figueroa, Lucille Secara, Larry Mitchell, Diana Manchester, Deanna Detchemendy, Brenda Garcia, Lynn Bebenroth
SP 2468—LALS	Greg Pschaida	
SP Center Cab	Jeremy Steinert	
1500—LALSRM	Fred Lack	
CSPP 73—Edinger	Roger Frymire	

Ridership and Max Temps

Date	Riders	Max Temp
January 1	335	56°
January 8	649	74°
January 15	865	61°
January 22	Rain	53°
January 29	718	79°

Conductors

Paul Liu	Carolyn Hoagland
Greg Pschaida	Greg Pschaida
Bob Quinn	Mark Vreeken
Ted Naimy	Roberto Lopez
Tom Crue	John Garcia
Wayne Crabb	Darrell Payne
Karl Strauss	David Ross
Greg Pschaida	Paul Liu

Riders

January 2017 — 2,567
 Total 2017 — 2,567
 Total 2016 — 2,870



Member Schedule

February

26 Public Rides

March

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



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



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

Peter Fowler Passes

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official opinion was that there was a flaw in the experiment, Peter remained unwavering in his belief, and has been vindicated in recent years by data retrieved by the Mars Rovers. While at TRW he worked on highly classified projects and was the author of many inventions, which they got patented.

Peter and Jean raised their children in Palos Verdes. The family loved traveling and went on many camping trips across the western United States. They also owned a vacation home in Canada where Peter's brother's family lived, and spent a month there every summer. Boating and fishing were passions and the family owned a "slew of boats" over the years. When Peter retired from TRW he sold yachts for a time, and earned his Coast Guard captain's license. He and Jean purchased their own 42' Krogan, christened *Whimbrel*, and lived on the water at ports from Marina del Rey and San Pedro, CA to Coos Bay and Newport, OR. They moved to North Bend OR for about 10 years, which was one of their favorite homes, then in 2002 returned to Palos Verdes.

Thaine Meets Peter

Peter became acquainted with LALS RM through Thaine Morris, whom he met on an online train chatroom. Peter had just built a G-scale Lion and inquired if anyone had a garden railroad where he could run it. Thaine invited him over and the Morris and Fowlers soon became great friends.

One day Peter remarked, "wouldn't it be great to be able to ride a miniature train," and Thaine replied, "why don't you join LALS?" Sam Calderwood encouraged Peter to work his probationary hours at the museum's steam plant, and Peter became engrossed. Of the belief "anything worth doing is worth doing to excess," he earned his unlimited steam boiler operator's license (a very difficult endeavor), which qualifies one to work not only on all size steam boilers, but also to run steam power plants, nuclear power stations and cruise ships. With Thaine, Miles and other Club members, Peter had friendships and projects that kept him active and his mind stimulated. To assist Nick Suncin and others interested in pursuing their steam boiler operator's certification, he developed an extensive study sheet. Peter's certification enabled him to work on the steam boilers at Thaine's company, Roger George; he also invented things for them, including a mechanism that flips cars pneumatically (for the motion picture industry).

Together, he and Thaine owned a couple of locomotives, a Pacific steam engine, and the Mopax "diesel", with which they hauled public at LALS RM and Southern California Live Steam in Torrance, alternating the jobs of engineer and conductor. Thaine, Miles and Peter made two trips to Train Mountain with the Mopax. In addition, Peter was devoted to helping every year with the Ghost Train; he was on hand each night of the event and called it "my job."

Peter's health declined in recent years, or he would've been at LALS every day. A celebration of Peter's life is planned for Saturday, March 18, after 12 noon, at Los Angeles Live Steamers, where Peter and Jean spent many enjoyable hours.

Bad Order Tags —

What to Do When Equipment Needs Repair

Help us be more efficient and productive repairing our locomotives and rolling stock. A correctly handled Bad Order Tag is the key when you discover a defect while using Club equipment. Here is what you need to do:

1. Deliver the car or locomotive to the Maintenance Bay if possible.
2. Get a blank Bad Order Tag from the utility closet in the New Sherwood Station. This closet is located across the breezeway from the Ticket Booth. (See photo below)
3. Fill out the tag with the date, a short description of what is wrong and put your name next to "Tagged By" on the lower left.
4. Attach the tag with the wire around the coupler of the car. Do not leave the tag loose on a seat or in a cab. (See photo below)



▲ Bad order tags in utility closet at New Sherwood Station. ▼ Tag car on coupler.



Peter— Then



and in 2014