



## AOL Sends Film Crew to LALSRRM



By Diana Manchester

**A**OL is creating a series of short features (about two to three minutes each) about Hollywood destinations for their online entertainment channel. They reached out to Miles Kristman and asked if they could do an hour or two of filming at LALSRRM. Club members, responding to a call, came in around 10:30 am Monday, March 6. It was a perfect spring day and the Club was green from all the rains.

Ray and Jeremy steamed up the Heisler and Club steam locomotive #8, and Christie pulled out Dingerbelle. Bob Crone came with his Rio Grande C25 Narrow Gauge 2-8-0 and some cars and set up on the One Gauge track. Glen Manchester brought his trolley and Miles staged the MoPac diesel in Sutchville Station. Evolve Media, headed by director/producer Rowan Brooks, arrived just

*(Continued on page 5)*



### A Lovely Day to Shoot

- ▲ Jeremy Steinhart firing up No. 8
- ◀ Members on hand to help shoot.

*(Diana Manchester Photos)*  
More photos inside.

### Public Service

#### March

26 Public Rides

#### April

2 Public Rides

9 Public Rides

23 Public Rides; Disney Barn open/Steam Plant in operation

30 Public Rides

## President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock  
President

**W**e're actually getting somewhere on our "March into Spring" with work on several infra-

structure projects.

The caretaker's caboose is being refurbished, and concrete pads will soon be in place to accommodate a Kountry Kitchen storage container and flooding in front of the steam tractor barn.

Bids are also coming in for electrical load issues in the kitchen and the long-awaited electrical main system.

Water and air leaks have been resolved thanks to member talents and willingness to contribute, and beautiful green grass overgrowing the tracks was weed-whacked. The growth was causing slippage and whacking beats the use of poison.

We are scurrying to get as much done as possible prior to the Spring Meet, which will be upon us in no time.

We now have appointments in place and the Board is awaiting budgets from the committee chairs so we can address our annual nut needs. We're having many discussions on fundraising options. Thanks for your ideas. I hope to be able to present fundraising roads we can travel by next Board meeting.

As the rains slow and the weather warms, turnout for Saturday workdays has improved a great deal. The Club extends appreciation to all who come out to work on the railroad.

Mark your calendars: Martha has booked the Smoke House in Burbank for the Holiday Banquet on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. That was the only available date. She has also lined up a new BBQ caterer for the Spring Meet's Saturday night dinner, and has again booked The Esquires big band.

Adjust your headlights and refresh the batteries in your FRED's. Summer night runs are just around the corner.

## Splinters from the Board



By Alex O'Donnell  
Secretary

**March 6, 2017 Board Meeting**

**Party Requests:** Party requests for Martha Figueroa on August 19th and the Travel

Town Boy Scouts Troop event on April 1st were approved.

**Membership:** Wayne Crabb is the new Membership Chairman.

**General Superintendent:** Ted Merchant reported that the cast iron water pipe loop running underneath the Disney Barn and steam plant area has developed a significant leak underneath one of the concrete sidewalks. Tim LaGaly will cap off the section and it will be re-routed eventually.

Ted proposed extending the curved brick retaining wall that runs from the Webb Yard benches to the wigwag crossing to the northwestern curve bordering New Sherwood Station. Ted also proposed additional citrus trees be planted along Bagley Siding in the West End to cover the open side where the older "tunnel" tree was cut back.

**Facility Planning:** Gary Evans presented a proposal to refurbish the interior of the Santa Fe caretaker's caboose which was approved. Gary also presented plans for the new kitchen storage container which would have its sides disguised as a Pacific Fruit Express refrigerator car. Gary also received approval for installing new pre-fabricated awnings to replace the narrow Halloween awnings that were occupying the Old Sherwood Station platform since 2013.

Gary presented one alternative for east end meadow storage to have two containers installed parallel to each other alongside the western border fence. A pad in between the two containers would be a covered storage area for the tractor and yellow trailer. Please see F.C.R. Chairman Gary Evans if you have any ideas or would like to discuss any future projects.

**Operations:** Doug Young is the new Operations Chairman. 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 part of a train crew during the Sunday run.

**Program:** Program Director Martha Figueroa reported that we really need more volunteers in the ticket booth - any help is much appreciated, even if it's only for one Sunday per month.

For the Friday night of the Spring Meet, member Tom Harwood has offered to volunteer his country rock band to play. The Esquires big band will return for the Saturday night dinner, but we will be looking into a new caterer since the one used last year proved unsatisfactory. Martha also noted that we need volunteers for gate and kitchen duty at the Spring Meet, so any and all shift signups are much appreciated.

**Old business:** The kitchen electrical is still being scoped out, and once that's complete bids will be submitted. In addition, the DWP is offering to do a free service change out as part of a larger power pole streamlining project on their part. Budgets and drawings are still in the works for the double-decking of the Alkire Barn for additional narrow gauge equipment storage.

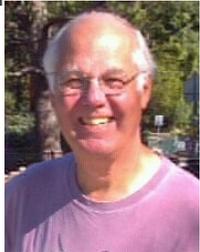
The steam calliope has been to Thaine Morris's shop and back - it has now been tested and tuned on Thaine's steam supply trailer.

**New Business:** Fundraising ideas were submitted by several members. Ross Harper suggested having signage near travel town advertising our location and open hours. He also suggested having some sort of Thomas event, but issues were cited regarding licensing and equipment issues.

Phil Tucker proposed a pumpkin patch ride fundraising event similar to the pumpkin run that the Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railway in Reedley, CA has had success with. His concept involves running evening trains to Smith Valley in the fall where a pumpkin patch would be setup and passengers could choose and purchase pumpkins. The pumpkins could be transported on the return leg of the journey in work gondolas attached to the trains. No

*(Continued on page 4)*

# From the Super



By Ted Merchant  
General  
Superintendent

**H**ello Train-Fans!  
Weather has  
been treating us well  
and members have

addressed several projects on non-work-days.

Les Kovacs, Ray Burden and I completed the cover over the East Meadow drainage ditch. You can land an airliner on that thing!

Les and Tim LaGaly continue to work on drainage west of the Pavilion. Gary Evans and Mel Bresee added some class by hanging signs at Sherwood Station and the lawn mower shed.

Doug Young and John DePhillip straightened the track on the Mountain Route. And Rock's Tree Service addressed about 18 trees on the campus. Several members have addressed raking and other maintenance without prompting and we greatly appreciate their initiative!

At this moment, I am flying over the USA, starting a two-week vacation, so I regret I will miss March's work-day, but several members have assured me they will take charge of significant projects: plumbing repairs at the steaming bays and Disney Barn, weed cutting around tracks and sprinkler repairs. We have a constant need for leaf and needle raking and land slide clearing, so any of you looking for something to do can help there.

A potential new member is the LALSRM Cat! I am hoping he will prove his value by addressing our gopher and squirrel problem.

I plan to address our weed problem with Roundup in April. You can expect to see a lot of blue dye everywhere.

So that's the way it is from 30,000 feet! Have fun, keep up the steam and I'll see you on the rails.

Ted Merchant  
[EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com](mailto:EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com).



**Covering the Trench in the East Meadow.** A potential tripping hazard has been eliminated with the placement of heaving steel plates over the trench running through the East Meadow. Les welded brackets on the underside of each plate so that they will not slip off or move around.

## EQUIPMENT OFFERED



**For Sale:**  
1-1/2" scale Little Engines  
"Old Northern"

This locomotive was owned by charter member David Rose and was one of the first group of these built from Little Engines castings. I acquired the locomotive in 2000 with the intention of restoring and detailing the locomotive but found that due to other projects I didn't have the time. I have started the detail work but have decided to sell the engine. The asking price is \$8,000.00. The detail parts attached to the locomotive are included in the sale price. I also have a number of detail parts which will be made available to the buyer separately. Please call: Richard Farmer (818) 993-3623.

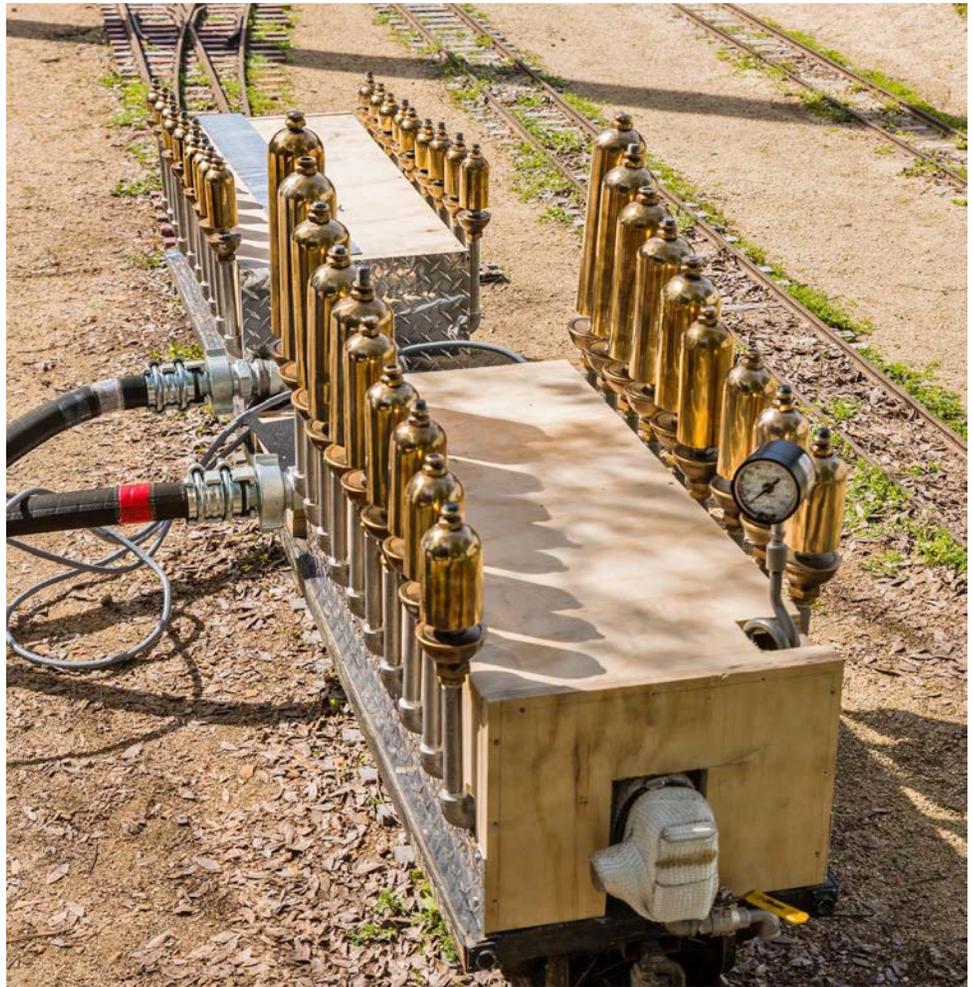
# Update on the 38-Note Steam Calliope

By Diana Manchester  
with Kenneth Griffard

In the interest of enriching our Museum's steam program, in 2016 we purchased a custom-built 38-note steam calliope from "Kenny G's Calliopes" whom we found through an ad in *Discover Live Steam*. The 38 bronze whistles, manifolds and controller arrived in wood crates and were first stored at Gary Evan's shop then moved to the Club. Thaine Morris recently undertook the assembling and tuning of this massive music instrument and brought it to our facility for a demonstration on March 6, just before the Board meeting. All who heard it agreed it was impressive but very loud.

We are disappointed that it will not be a good fit for our Museum for several reasons: the high decibels at which it plays, the challenging task of keep it in tune, and concerns about storage and where and how to display it. We are currently seeking a new home for it with Thaine Morris's assistance. It is a beautifully-made machine and we invite you to take a look at it before it finds a new home.

Here are some interesting facts about its manufacture and how it works. *Kenny G's Calliopes* are made of bronze-casted whistles and run on 20 psi steam (or compressed air) operated by Bestek PNOMIDI remote controllers. When in



Thaine Morris assembled and tuned this massive music instrument and demonstrated it to our facility on March 6. (Ray BurdenPhoto)

operation, steam is released by electronic command and travels through the manifolds to valves individually controlling the various sized whistles. At first, the metal is cold, creating a slightly higher note. As

the whistle warms up, the note drops in pitch. This is what makes the characteristic calliope sound. The whistles are tuned to notes chromatically when manufactured.

## Splinters from the Board

(Continued from page 2)

decisions have been discussed yet, but Ron Hitchcock encouraged any further ideas and input from members regarding fundraisers.

**Announcements:** President Ron Hitchcock wanted to remind Sunday train crews to be polite when dealing with the general public and rules infractions.

If you're running a food tab in the Kountry Kitchen, please keep up with your tab – there are a lot of open balanc-

es, some of which are several years old.

The transfer table lift in front of the Alkire-Richardson Sheds is now fully operating. Please make sure it stays in the sun so the solar panel keeps the batteries charged.

Once again, 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 3:00pm. It's fun, you'll get to interact with our riders, and you will be helping your club greatly!

Attention all members! Don't forget to come on out, participate, and run your equipment and enjoy your railroad more.



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. © LALSRM.

Editor — Peter Fuad  
Associate Editor—Diana Manchester

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

All are welcome!

# AOL Shoot

(Continued from page 1)  
before 12 noon with a film crew of four and their client from AOL.

The film team stayed about two hours, filming the track layout from a front seat ride on the trolley, then filmed the various trains in action throughout the Club. They interviewed Ray Burden, Diana Manchester and Peter Fuad; and a group of us were filmed shouting "Welcome to LALS!!"

It took several takes, but the producer seemed satisfied. Brenda Garcia and Diana set up a lunch buffet and the crew finally got some pizza around 2:00. It was fast and furious, but lots of fun. I

It was great seeing the film crew with the big smiles we often see from other guests to the Club.



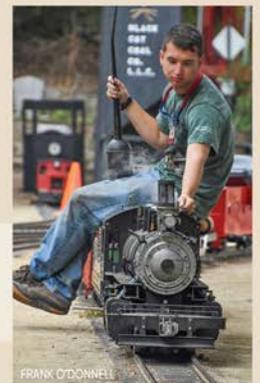
## LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAM RAILROAD MUSEUM 61st Annual Spring Meet

Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-28, 2017



**Modelers, Members of Train Clubs, Hobbyists, Railfans & your families are welcome**

- Tracks in five gauges: from One Gauge and Garden Railroad to 7 1/2", 4 3/4", and 3 1/2".
- Steaming bays available for visiting railroaders bringing their equipment.
- Saturday Night Dinner (R.S.V.P. \$20 ticket) with Raffle and live Big Band music by The Esquires.



Kountry Kitchen meals \$7 – Breakfast & Lunch. Monday morning Continental Breakfast. Vendor tables with trains, parts and railroad-themed accessories. Activities include BINGO; Arts 'n' Crafts for kids; President's Auction Sunday 1:30 pm. Overnight camping is available.



For more info, contact Martha at: (626) 232-7053 or [figthree@msn.com](mailto:figthree@msn.com)

LALSRLM is located in Griffith Park at 5202 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027

We are about one mile west of the LA Zoo; and just east of Travel Town

Visit us online at [www.lals.org](http://www.lals.org) or [www.facebook.com/LALSRLM](http://www.facebook.com/LALSRLM)

# Celebration of Life of Peter Fowler— A Very Unique Person and Friend

By Miles Kristman

In January of this year, we lost a “very unique person” ... Peter Fowler. We will all miss him... maybe not his jokes.

On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a wonderful and heart-felt gathering at the Los Angeles Live Steamers club. Peter’s family and friends, over 70 of them, came from all over to celebrate his life with many funny and delightful stories. Each story helped fill in some of the mystery of the life of Peter Fowler. As we found out, he was not only a rocket scientist and train enthusiast but a lot more. We began with a Memorial Video containing photos of Peter’s life. These pictures were sent to me by Pete Jr. They were then combined with my pictures and assembled into a time line. I spent many hours with Peter staring at me from my computer screen.

The Memorial Video was a task I took on with a heavy heart and responsibility. I needed to get it right for Peter, his family and friends. Many hours, days and nights went into organizing it. I viewed the 103 pictures over and over again, blending it with what I thought was the right music. It was truly a task of love.

Once I felt it was complete, I sent it to Pete Jr., Elizabeth and Thaine Morris for their input and approval. I am happy to say they were happy with the results. With the minor changes made, I finished the 10 ½ minute presentation.

From me personally, I would like to thank everyone who helped me put together this memorial. I could not have done it without you. From Peter’s family and friends that were there... Thanks for sharing his memorial with them.



## Thanks from the Fowler Family

“Wow! I just wanted to thank you all for organizing Dad’s service. It couldn’t have been more perfect. I think had Dad really thought about it, that’s exactly what he would have wanted. It was certainly exactly what we wanted. Everything was perfect and we can’t thank you enough.”

—Pete Fowler, Jr. for the Fowler family



▲ The little engine that started the friendship between the Fowlers and the Morrises, and eventually our Club. Thaine brought Peter’s Lion steam engine to the Club on Saturday to run on the One Gauge track.

◀ Thaine Morris takes family and friends for a ride in the MoPac that he and Peter often operated.

▼ Trish Fowler Andersen holding one of the wood gift boxes made especially for the family by Miles and the Morrises.

*Inset:* The thumb drive inside contains both the prologue and the presentation in Powerpoint and MP4. The lids of the boxes were laser engraved at Roger George.



# Who's been Working on the Railroad

## February

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

## February

Locos	Engineers	Workers
City of LA—Fuad SP PA1—LALSRM LALS #8 Santa Fe Electric— LALSRM SP 2468—LALS Heisler—Merchant	Francis Barnes Christie Edinger Peter Fuad Larry Mitchell Ray Burden Greg Pschaida Tom Harwood Scott Hoagland Ted Naimy Mark Vreeken	<b>Safety Coordinators</b> — Andrew Chaves, Mike Murphy, John DePhillip <b>Station Masters</b> —Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Ted Naimy <b>Souvenirs and Tickets</b> —Martha Figueroa, George Becker, Larry Mitchell, Sy Siedel, Brenda Garcia, Lynn Bebenroth

## Ridership and Max Temps

February 5	463	56°
February 12	665	74°
February 19	719	60°
February 26	380	57°

## Conductors

Paul Liu	Robert Guzman
Bob Quinn	Fred Lack
Ted Naimy	Mark Vreeken
Christine Edinger	Roberto Lopez
John Valencia	Darrel Payne
John Garcia	Bob Crone
Greg Pschaida	



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



## 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](http://www.lals.org)

### 2017

## Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Ron Hitchcock
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter Fuad
<b>Secretary</b>	Alex O'Donnell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Fred Lack

### Directors

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

Riders  
February 2017 — 2,227

Total 2017 — 4,794

Total 2016 — 5,830

## Member Schedule

### March

26 Public Rides

### April

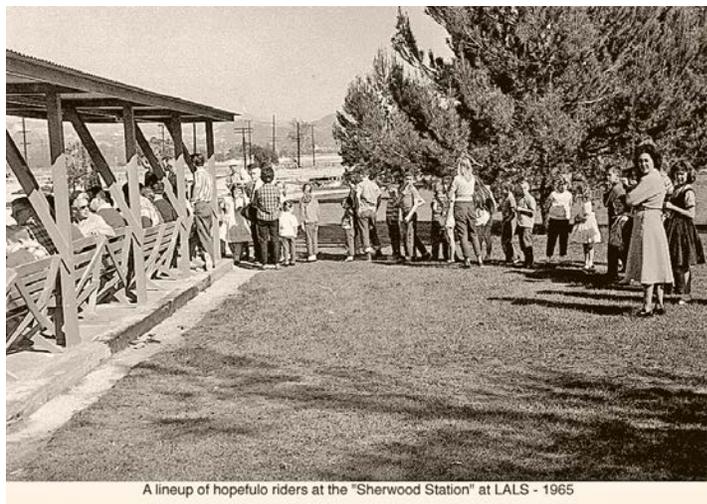
2, 9 Public Rides  
3 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
15 Work Day/Member Meeting  
16 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation  
23 Public Rides  
30 Public Rides; Car Show  
30 **Shed Credit Earning Period Ends**



Miles with AOL camera people.



The new "Wennersten" station on the North side at LALS - 1958 (Later renamed "Sherwood")



A lineup of hopeful riders at the "Sherwood Station" at LALS - 1965

**1958:** Barren LALS facility and what was to become Sherwood Station. **1965:** Greener LALS and public lining up for a ride.

## “Old Sherwood” Station Gets a New Look

The “Old Sherwood Station” is getting its long anticipated upgrade. It is located at the site of the original Sherwood Station, which was first built at LALS in 1958, and was used by members awaiting rides.

The new structure is a 100% cedar and aluminum pre-fabricated gazebo made by Yard Artistry, and is the “Avery Pavilion” model. The overall dimensions of the pavilion are 12’L x 10’ 7”W x 9’ 11”H. The kit contains pre-cut and pre-stained 6” x 6” cedar posts and supports with classic plinths and curved gussets, and an aluminum roof in a matching brown shade.

Pictured is one of three cedar pavilions that are being constructed for the site; two more will be built and positioned on either side of this initial structure. All three will be bolted to the existing concrete slab. The 1” scale and 3/4” scale tracks that run under the structure have more than enough clearance.

The kits were purchased after determining that the special offer price at Sam’s Club was much less than building a similar structure from scratch.



**Now:** Les Kovacs and Aaron Emmer have been assembling the structures. Almost 2,000 individual parts are included for each pavilion. When complete, there will be three pavilions side by side. (Photo by Gary Baker.)



AOL Shoot



AOL Shoot