

ENGINE



BOOSTER

April 2017

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2016

www.lals.org



Padres party (more photos inside) (Diana Manchester and Brenda Garcia Photos)

Travel Town and LALSRM Collaborate to Help Scouts Earn RR Merit Badge

By Nancy Gneier and Jeremy Steinert

Travel Town's Foundation has been hosting the Boy Scout Railroad Merit badge event for about seven years, and has been told that their class is one of the best available. LALSRM participates with part of the teaching and by providing train rides. This year 40 scouts from three local troops and 10 adult leaders participated. Christie Edinger coordinated our Club's effort with Nancy Gneier, Executive Director, Travel Town Foundation and the event facilitator.

The Scouts camped out overnight Saturday on the Travel Town grounds. There were instructional classes where they interviewed Amtrak employees and learned how to read a timetable inside historic dining cars.

Jeremy Steinert Taught about Signals

In the evening, after a chili and cornbread supper, the Scouts were taught

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Padres Celebrate Spring with Party at LALS

By Miles Kristman

On Saturday, April 8th, Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum hosted Padres Contra El Cancèr. At this Spring event, Padres invited over 250 children and family members for a unique afternoon in the sun with a party and train rides. LALS members came out in numbers to show their support for a wonderful cause.

Padres was last here in 2011 and returned to LALS to throw a party for a lot of deserving children and their families. There were arts & crafts, food & drink, a photo booth, celebrities from radio and television, boxing contenders, a DJ for music and yes, there were the very blue and wonderful Smurfs. Teamsters Local

630, brought out "Sweet Rolls" for everyone. At the end of the party, the Teamsters handed out Easter Baskets to all the families.

I want to thank everyone that came out to make this event special. To the train crews, thank you, for the smiles you brought to the faces of the children riding the trains. And a special thanks to the support crew that made sure that the children and their families were safe. We could not have done this without all of you.

Los Angeles Live Steamers, you showed your heart by making a child's day.

Roll on LALS.

Public Service

April

23, 30 Public Rides

May

7, 14 Public Rides

21 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant operating

28 No Public Rides (Spring Meet)

President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock
President

Property improvements are well underway and should be quite noticeable by Spring Meet. Concrete

slabs are curing at the Kountry Kitchen, steam tractor patio and at the fueling service areas. Next, a kitchen storage container will be dropped into place. The usual suspects are to be thanked for their outstanding dedication. It would be nice if more members would come out and work on the railroad. We're gathering new members; perhaps we'll have increased career skills offered to the workload of this all-volunteer Club.

The Padre Event came together smoothly thanks to Miles Kristman who stepped up and hosted their return to LALS. The rains stopped and the kids had a great time enjoying the park, the train rides and the Smurfs. Many thanks to the crews and helpers for a remarkable turnout and for making this special day come together for the children. A highlight of the day for us was relocating a honeybee hive perched in a heart shape on the fence. Apparently they all really had a good time as they wish to return for a Father's Day gathering in June. The children are welcome back. The Padre Foundation is first rate, professional and they perform a marvelous service here in the community.

The new/old Sherwood Station has been assembled, thanks to Les Kovacs and Aaron Emmer. Also, thanks to Gary Baker for the idea, and to Bear Mustoe for transporting the units to the Club.

Martha Figueroa and Dan Humfrville have joined forces in securing catering from Burbank's Handy Market for the Spring Meet's Saturday Night BBQ dinner. Please book your reservations with Martha by May 19 so she has a proper head count. It's only \$20 for dinner and The Esquires big band. Let's just say this BBQ dinner should be great.

A big reminder – volunteers are needed for the Spring Meet. Please sign

(Continued on page 5)

Splinters from the Board



By Alex O'Donnell
Secretary

March 6, 2017 Board Meeting

Party Requests: Party requests for Brenda Garcia on May 20th, Larry Boone on July 1st, and

Ted Merchant on September 23rd.

Membership: Wayne Crabb presented new prospective members Roderick Fritz and Jay Hawver. Bear Mustoe has completed his probationary hours and is now a full resident member. Larry Fisher was reintroduced as a resident member after a longtime absence.

General Superintendent: Ted Merchant proposed and the board approved a small budget for retaining wall bricks and citrus trees to be used in the facility improvement projects proposed last month. Ted also proposed two new ideas: making use of the dead space behind the narrow gauge barn by extending the back section 10-15 feet and spiffing up the members' gate entrance to be more presentable.

Facility Planning: Gary Evans presented bids for three upcoming concrete pours including for the kitchen storage container, propane storage adjacent to the new tank, and tractor barn patio. Gary also noted that members should try to conduct their own project legwork instead of completely relying on Gary for this step.

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.

Old business: Fred Lack presented a budget for new propane heaters in the Kountry Kitchen as proposed by John Garcia last month which was approved.

Tim Lagaly discussed rough budgets and other details for the Kountry Kitchen electrical upgrades, new storage container, and city electrical service change out. Both the kitchen electrical repairs and new storage container are projected to be finished by the Spring Meet if no issues arise.

New Business: Diana Manchester presented flyers and a call for volunteers to host the 1st Annual Collectors Expo outside the Battleship USS Iowa in San

Pedro on Sunday, May 7th. Scott and Carolyn Hoagland as well as Alex O'Donnell will be hosting the Fullerton Railroad Days event on the same weekend of May 6th and 7th, but additional volunteers are needed for that event as well. Please contact Diana Manchester to volunteer for either of these events.

A new run of guest stickers will need to be printed soon since we are running out of the existing ones. Ideas were discussed about using a logo sticker format similar to the Carolwood Society's guest stickers for easy identification of guests.

A proposal was made to purchase a copy of Adobe Photoshop for continued production of the Club newsletter by Peter Faud. Diana Manchester presented the current draft for the new Cub brochures which will have a print run of 5000 copies.

Preliminary yearly operating budget rough estimates were submitted by the signals division, Club library, steamplant crew, and general superintendent. President Ron Hitchcock asked that budgets continue to be submitted by any other committees by the May meeting so that we can better predict our yearly operating/capital improvement expenditures.

Announcements: Caretaker Jeremy Steinert will be absent from April 27 to May 5. Please make sure the UP Baggage Car gets closed and locked at the end of the day. Jeremy will take over maintenance of the Lew Soibelman Memorial Garden outside the caretaker's caboose.

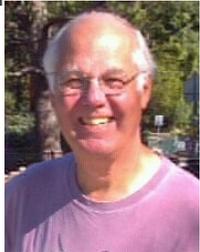
Timecards should be turned in by the end of each month to avoid unwarranted catch-up on the part of the timekeeper.

Many thanks to John DePhillips, Jr. and Alex O'Donnell for doing a major cleanup of the track panel assembly area between the two UP coaches. The track foremen want to remind everybody to keep this area clean to avoid long-term accumulation of junk and other items.

The new structure for the Old Sherwood Station is almost complete. Many thanks goes to Les Kovacs, Gary Baker, Aaron Emmer, and others for making this project happen.

Once again, the ticket booth is asking for 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.

From the Super



By Ted Merchant
General Superintendent

Hello Train-Fans!
I discovered how the Superintendent can recruit more volun-

teers! He just needs to leave town! The membership rallied this last month, and I wasn't even in the country!

Thanks so much for all your help! Multiple members grabbed rakes, and the place looks great. Ray Burden and Jeremy Steinert finalized the repairs of the artesian well located in the steaming bays. Several people have been working on a similar leak west of the driveway into the inner parking lot.

We are repairing these water-line leaks at the rate of two a month and we have only two more to go! Ray Burden grabbed the Roundup and has leveled the weeds in most of the campus. Christie Edinger has been weed-wacking with vigor.

Tim LaGaly, Andrew LaGaly, Gary Evans, Les Kovacs, Steve Altmayer, John de Phillip, Doug Young and Ross Martin all deserve a huge shoutout for pouring the four new concrete pads we desperately need around the campus.

Moving forward, we are getting organized to build the low-level retaining wall by Sherwood Station.

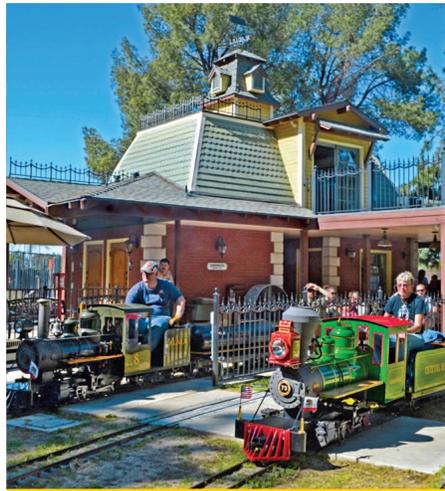
Tim LaGaly has been working hard at improving the storm drain systems. John Goulding and team are proceeding forward with expanding the Kountry Kitchen.

And the lawn east of the Kitchen is being replanted. The campus will look spectacular for the Spring Meet.

Please remember to thank the members you see maintaining our railroad. They make a difference!

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

Ted Merchant
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.



New LALSRLM Brochure Hot Off the Press!

Our new color brochures were delivered to the Museum on Friday and will be available at the Ticket Booth at the New Sherwood Station.

Thank you to the many members who were involved writing and helping us make it as accurate and interesting as possible.

The brochure features a map of our track layout with the main railroad features and buildings labeled; as well as answers to the most frequently asked questions, such as the kind of locomotives seen running and how they are powered; track gauge and train scale; bridges, tunnels and the steam plant; how we got here and how to become a member.

Our operating hours and other visitor information is contained in the panel entitled "Big Time Railroading Fun on a Small Scale!"

We hope members will take a few and hand them out to friends, colleagues, and at their school, church, synagogue, gym, hobby stores, etc.

EQUIPMENT OFFERED



For Sale

1/2" scale Gas-Hydraulic Engine and two cars \$9,500

- Two 6-wheel trucks with motors
- Comfortable, folding seat and controls
- Gondola riding car and caboose, both built by Roberto

Call Roberto Lopez for more details: (818) 808-8917.

Padres Celebrate Spring with Party at LALS



Your Help is Needed for Spring Meet Success

A Letter from Martha Figueroa to our Members

We are very excited with how the 2017 Spring Meet is shaping up. YOUR participation and help will make it more fun for everyone. The Kountry Kitchen Bulletin Board has several sign-up sheets where your special talents are needed:

- **Gate Duty** (2-hour shifts): Contact Tom Lang at: (818) 635-5010
- **Kountry Kitchen**
 1. **Breakfast Saturday & Sunday:** Cooks needed
 2. **Lunch Saturday:** Cooks Peter Fuad & Doug Young need 4 volunteers for food prep, serving, cashing and cleanup
 3. **Lunch Sunday:** Chef Jaime needs 3 volunteers for serving and cashing
 4. **Sunday Dinner:** Servers and cleanup volunteers needed



We always need help washing and drying pots & pans after every meal. So please, stop by and ask how you can help; it makes cleanup go faster & easier for everyone.

- **Saturday Night Catered BBQ Dinner** — \$20 per person – **RSVP by Friday, May 19** to Martha
Our caterer this year is **HANDY MARKET**, Burbank. Our **FINAL RSVP COUNT** needs to be in **ONE WEEK PRIOR** to the event. Please email Martha by May 19 at: figthree@msn.com (subject line: Spring Meet Dinner); or please call/text: **(626) 232-7053**

- **President's Auction** – Sunday 1:30 pm
Spring clean your closets & garages & make your spouse **HAPPY** ...
Donation proceeds from Auction benefit LALSRM.



- **Raffle Money & Gift Donations** are always welcome; contact Martha
Thank you for your Support and Dedication during our Meets and all year – making our **RAILROAD** a place we can all enjoy, share and be proud of!!

Love, Friendship & Prayers,
Martha

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)
up in the Kountry Kitchen, or email Martha with your availability. Just a couple of hours here or there will keep the event running smoothly and allow everyone to enjoy the weekend.

We're now enjoying reduced (non-profit) credit cards rates. Thanks to Bank of America for considering this rate reduction, and to John Garcia for suggesting we ask.

Mosquitoes are hatching in abundance. Please empty all standing water. Night runs will be far more enjoyable without these carnivorous creatures.

2017 Annual Dues and Roster

The 2017 Roster will be going to the printer shortly and will be distributed at the LALSRM Spring Meet.

If you have not yet paid your annual dues and updated your directory information, please contact Tim Lagaly (payments) and Wilbur Dong (database) immediately.



LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAM RAILROAD MUSEUM 61st Annual Spring Meet

Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-28, 2017



Highlights planned this year:

- 6 pm Friday Night – **Spaghetti Dinner & Potluck Dessert – \$5.00.** Live music by the "Ugly Nelson Band" (Tom Harwood)
- **10 am Saturday: Opening Ceremony** and Special Presentations; ringing of the Memorial Bell
- Saturday Night BBQ Dinner – **\$20 ticket (R.S.V.P. by Fri. May 19)** with Raffle & live music by The Esquires
- **President's Auction Sunday** at 1:30 pm



Kountry Kitchen meals \$7 – Breakfast & Lunch. Monday Continental Breakfast – \$3. Vendor tables with trains, parts and accessories. Arts 'n' Crafts for kids both days. Saturday family fun starting at 1:30: Musical Chairs, Piñata, BINGO with prizes; Overnight camping available.

- Gauge One track open Saturday & Sunday – bring your trains!
- Steaming bays available for visiting railroaders bringing their equipment – 7 1/2", 4 3/4", and 3 1/2" gauges

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

Museum Easter Basket Winners

The Museum had an Easter Basket Raffle this year. Winners were Jesse Mackie, Alma Adover and Louise Logan, and J.J. and Dee Asher.

Each beautifully wrapped Easter basket contained a child's large T-shirt, a red flasher, bottle of bubbles, Easter candy, LALS RM toy train, and two child/two adult train ride tickets. A total of \$59 was raised, plus some big smiles and a lot of good will.



Slab for Gas

As of April 14 we have our long-awaited new concrete slabs in place. The Museum decided to coordinate the pour ourselves, with Tim LaGaly overseeing a large crew of volunteers.



At right is the new slab for our fueling station, and there are now new slabs for the Steam Tractor patio, the electrical panel, and the new container for the Kountry Kitchen.

Passings

Elizabeth Sanner

At the end of March, 2017, former LALS RM member Elizabeth ("Liz") Sanner passed away of natural causes at her home. She had been a six year Special Member for her weekly service in the Ticket/Souvenir Booth, as well as her service at the Spring Meets, nightly at the annual Ghost Train events and at the luncheons for the Recreation and Parks employees. She was raised in San Fernando Valley and is a graduate of Canoga Park High School. She lived in Hawaii for 25 years and had hoped to return. A memorial service is being planned for June or July; when the date and more details are known, an announcement will be posted.



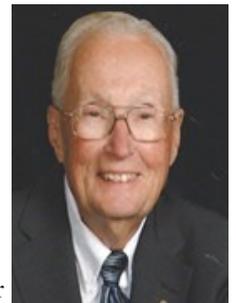
Bees in Our Bonnet

Two bee hives were discovered at the Club in early April: a large, heart-shaped hive on the fence along Zoo Drive and more activity at the top of the Oahu semaphore a few yards away. Ron Hitchcock found "ABC Bee Control" online and they came a short time later. First they removed the hive on the fence, packing it and most of the bees in a cardboard box, then climbed a ladder and took care of the infestation at the top of the semaphore. No one was hurt, and remaining bees soon left.



Ken Casford

Kenneth "Ken" R. Casford, Jr., 89, passed away peacefully in La Mirada, CA on April 10, 2017. Ken was born on May 28, 1927 in Oklahoma City, OK. He was a member of the Riverside Live Steamers for 47 years and a past president. He had also been a member of LALS RM.



Ken is survived by his wife of 68 years, Norma, a daughter and son, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Who's been Working on the Railroad

March

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,
Steve Altmayer	Glen Manchester
John Goulding	... and many more

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

March

Locos	Engineers	Workers
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Safety Coordinators — Andrew
SP PA1—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Station Masters —Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Ted Naimy, Tom Crue, Brenda Garcia, Larry
LALS #8	Peter Fuad	
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Larry Mitchell	
SP 2468—LALS	Ray Burden	
Heisler—Merchant	Greg Pschaida	
ATSF 940—Bresee	Tom Harwood	
CSRR #73—Edinger	Mel Bresee	
	Ted Naimy	
	Mark Vreeken	

Ridership and Max Temps

March 5	129 (Rain)	59°
March 12	623	90°
March 19	945	79°
March 26	871	69°

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	Larry Mitchell
Ken Sraus	Glen Manchester
	Bear Mustoe



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

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
March 2017 — 2,569
Total 2017 — 7,362
Total 2016 — 8,523

Member Schedule

April

23	Public Rides
30	Public Rides; Car Show
30	Shed Credit Earning Period Ends

May

1	2017-2018 Shed Credit Earning Period Begins
1	BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
7, 14	Public Rides
20	Work Day/Member Meeting
21	Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
26-29	Spring Meet



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Editor — Peter Fuad
 Associate Editor—Diana Manchester
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Cashiers Needed

The Kountry Kitchen needs volunteer cashiers Sundays. A shift is 3 hours, from 11 am to 2 pm. Please contact John Goulding, KK Manager at (818) 242-3500 or jgoulding1776@gmail.com.



Scouts Earn Merit Badge

(Continued from page 1)

about signals -- this year by LALS RM member Jeremy Steinert. He first introduced the boys to the electrical/electronic aspects of our signal system, showing a detector board, a switch machine board, and a signal amp board. He passed them around so that they could examine them up close. One of the boys asked what the silver things were, so he was able to share about solder, and the effort of constructing the boards by hand.

Next he taught about signals, which began with an explanation about blocks. One of the Scouts helped him light up a couple of actual LALS signals, and he described the five major aspects (red; yellow; green; red over yellow; and red over red).

Jeremy's class was followed by a train ride at LALS RM to see how signals work in action during a night run. Christie Edinger ran the Santa Fe diesel, with Jeremy Steinert conducting, and Ray Burden was behind the controls on the Heisler steam engine with Nick Suncin as conductor. Don Kallgren helped with the loading and riding instructions.

Sunday Morning Hands-on Learning and Exam

On Sunday morning there was hands-on learning: each boy got to be a brakeman and signal TT's 40-ton diesel-electric switch engine using a lantern; and rode in the engine and signaled responses using the horn.

They also learned about different types of railroad cars and what their purposes are. Finally, the boys got an Operation Lifesaver Presentation and learned about track safety.

All the boys passed the final test! It is exciting to see a new generation interested in railroading and willing to invest the effort to learn how they operate.

The Travel Town Museum Foundation sincerely appreciates the support, cooperation and partnership we get from the Live Steamers in making this event such a success every year. Thank you! -- Nancy Gneier, Executive Director, Travel Town Foundation

▲ Jeremy had a Boy Scout volunteer assist him in showing the five major signal aspects. ▼ Jeremy described three kinds of signal boards and then passed the boards around to the boys for a closer look. *(Glen Manchester photos)*



Classic trains, cars, trucks, and collectibles of all kinds, including mechanical music, art, local history, tabletop models and more! Gauge One will be running; Disney Barn will be open. The Kountry Kitchen has a streamlined lunch planned. Volunteers needed – gate, parking, kitchen, tours, etc. Participants: please arrive between 8:30 & 9:30 so we can get you placed. For more info, please contact Flemming Nielsen at (818) 843-2751.