

ENGINE BOOSTER



June 2017

SINCE

1956

www.lals.org



Spring Meet 2017

A pair of Fitchburg Northerns built by Glenn and Erin Swain and John Hoffman. Young Shawn Swain capably handles the locomotive on the left. *Mike Massee Photo*

2017 Spring Meet a Success

By Diana Manchester
with Alex O'Donnell

The same observations have been echoing around the tracks since May 29: "Lots of steam!" "People we haven't seen for awhile." "Enjoyable." "Relaxed." The 2017 Spring Meet was one of the most successful meets we've had in a long time. We had a large turnout of railroaders from many clubs, as well as our own members.

Alex O'Donnell shared, "The Meet was very well attended, probably the busiest spring meet we've had in several years. Not only were the 7.5" gauge bays full, but the 4.75"/3.5" gauge bays were full too – an occurrence which hasn't happened for several years. All in all, I heard very positive comments from all who attended, despite the frequent traffic jams on the mainlines."

One of the most enjoyable sights was the number of young people on the tracks, some even running live steam. It is encouraging to see the younger generations learning to operate steam, refurbishing locomotives, building track and taking part in all aspects of the hobby.

More stories and photos inside.

Library Newly Furnished for Comfortable Reading and Viewing

By Gary Baker

Our LALS Library décor is now finished, as of the Spring Meet, and provides a comfortable area for members to relax and enjoy our many research books and video/DVD collections.

The rich hues of Tim's hand-built cabinets and the soft apple green walls were the inspiration for the carpet and furnishings. The large colorful area rug helps protect the sensitive hard wood floors, and still allows the computer cabinet to be moved forward for access when needed. The four armchairs, with

their dark brown and dark blue upholstery, provide ample support and can be

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Change in Direction of Travel Postponed

The change in the direction of train travel that was scheduled to take effect on July 1 has been postponed until Saturday, July 15. The delay is a result of the signal crew needing time to repair a number of track signals that face the new direction of travel.

Public Service

June

25 Public Rides

July

2, 9 Public Rides

16 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation

23, 30 Public Rides

President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock
President

It's summer. We got through a wonderful Spring Meet, and again our thanks to all who welcomed guests

from around the state and indeed around the country. We had no accidents, injuries, damage or fights (apparently in the old days they had fights?). Ok, we had a couple of minor cuts.

There were many favorable comments on the vendors who showed and shared. We enjoyed Steam Cream. There was affirmative reaction to the Friday night band, Ton Hardwood's Ugly Nelson, as well as the Esquires on Saturday night. And we had more steam engines running the rails than we've seen in many years. Beautiful, gentlemen, thank you for attending.

While roaming the property and meeting as many guests as possible, I did have to ask several members several times to vacate the inner parking lot to accommodate loading and unloading of trucks and trailers since we only have the one lift. To my dismay some members refused to abide by this basic courtesy. Even certain handicapped guests were observed with multiple vehicles taking up multiple spaces provided at the East gate entrance. I had inner lot handicapped parking demands, then observed these same people walking around all day. I certainly do appreciate and support the challenges of all people, but abusing special privileges is no less than a selfish gesture.

So, let's start planning a Fall Meet. October 6-7-8 dates were set. And look for the Steam Day Run date(s) to be determined shortly.

We've also had discussions with show principals regarding reinstalling the Halloween Ghost Train, our annual fundraising event. It's so unique to this Club and the only child friendly Halloween event in greater Los Angeles. Set-up and removal requires a lot of work. Train crews and operational support require volunteer commitments, 50 a night for 10

(Continued on page 3)

Splinters from the Board



By Alex O'Donnell
Secretary

June 5, 2017 Board Meeting

Party Requests:
John Newbill on July 4th, 50 people.

Membership: Wayne Crabb introduced Patty Lerma as a probationary member, but it was noted that since she had volunteered in the past as a non-member with railroad maintenance and Halloween, her probationary hours were waived. Michael Wood was also introduced as a probationary member. Congratulations Mike Stockton for completing his hours and becoming a full resident member.

General Superintendent: Ted Merchant reported that due to the size of our sprinkler network and extensive need for its perpetual maintenance, the sole position of Sprinkler Maintenance will be expanded into the Landscaping and Irrigation Maintenance Committee comprised of Steve Ruatta, Ted Merchant, Andrew Chaves, Steve Retzen, Ross Harper, and Larry Tighe.

Facility Planning: FCR Chairperson Gary Evans presented a preliminary FCR to design an extension for the Narrow-Gauge Barn making it 20 feet deeper. Track lessees Russ Warr, Rick Gross, Ted Merchant, and Christie Edinger will fund the project design and materials, but they are seeking volunteers to assist with the construction. Please see the F.C.R. Chairman Gary Evans if you have any ideas or would like to discuss any future projects.

Safety: Wolf Fengler has stepped down from being Safety Chairperson, and he recommended Jim Cammarata as his replacement.

Old Business: The propane tank is now in full operation and was used during the Meet. To fill propane tanks for steam or Club appliances, please seek Les

Kovacs or another qualified operator.

The kitchen wiring and storage container projects were both completed before the Meet – thanks to Dave Artinian for donating locks. Les Kovacs proposed an insulation installation budget consisting of interior work which would be conducted first, then outside paint. Tim LaGaly reported that the LADWP has delayed the electrical service drop and power pole work, but they will likely get the project done in the next few months.

The Collectors Expo at Battleship Iowa and the Fullerton Railroad Days events were great successes for Club publicity and showcasing. We had the chance to meet NMRA representatives, countless vendors, interested public, and showcase several of our engines. Based on the success of these events, Diana Manchester suggested the Club host a booth and several display engines at the Great Train Show in Pomona on July 7th and 8th. We will need equipment to display and volunteers to host the booth.

Mike Murphy reported that some members have not passed their Level 1 safety recertification. There was also further discussion regarding the specifics of Level 1 recertification.

New Business: Don Maddy submitted a request to purchase our extra worn-out 1.5" scale aluminum rail. Alex O'Donnell will coordinate the details (pricing, analysis, organization) and provide a final summary for approval at the July meeting.

Gary Evans proposed Adopt-a-Rail program for probationary members – each probationary member would have the option to take on keeping sections of the railroad tidy and get acquainted with railroad maintenance.

Miles Kristman reported that the Club tractor and Bobcat have been repaired. Miles noted that the very old tractor has received quite a bit of abuse from untrained operators on workdays, so please do not operate it if you are not trained in its proper usage to avoid further costly repairs.

Announcements: A Board officer must approve any proposed expenditure under \$500, and all Board must vote on expenditures greater than \$500.

(Continued on page 3)

Don Emmer Passes

Long-time member Don Emmer passed away April 17, 2017. Our sincere condolences to Aaron Emmer, Miriam Emmer and the family.

From the Super



By Ted Merchant
General Superintendent

Was the Spring Meet fun or what!?! Martha Figueroa deserves a huge shoutout for the

job she did! All of you deserve a huge shoutout as well! The campus looks better than ever! Thank you all for your help on last month's two work days!

Our Signal Crew is doing such a great job that we formed a Sprinkler and Landscaping Crew as well. Steve Ruatta is leading that bunch, but Steve Rodstein, Ross Harper, Larry Tighe and Andrew Chavez are contributing equal work. Mark Vreeken put on his bee suit to relocate the hive occupying the sprinkler valve box west of the Nelson Tunnel. Expect to see some new plantings at the West End this fall. And please thank these guys for their dedication to our Club.

Every time I come to the Club, I see that people have come out and cleaned up during their "time off". I don't know who those people are but we all thank you for your work. Please thank those listed on Who's Been Workin' on the Railroad and anyone else you know who helps.

The email listing all the jobs needing to be done worked well, so I thought I would repeat that monthly, not just in anticipation of the work-day but to inform those who do odd jobs on non-work-days. I will post the same list in the "Maintenance Manual" located in the Gazebo in case you miss the email. Expect the first email soon.

Going forward, you can expect another stone wall replacing the RR tie retaining wall west of the driveway opposite the lawn mower shed. We welcome ideas for using the concrete footings currently stored in that same area.

Remember it is summer and we are here to play trains. The season gives us a little break regarding maintenance, and hopefully we can use the extra time to run our models on Saturdays. All of us



Cashiers Needed

The Kountry Kitchen needs volunteer cashiers on Sundays. A shift is 3 hours, from 11 am to 2 pm, and includes set-up, cashiering and take down. A free lunch is provided plus work credit. It's a great way to catch up with Members, fun to work with Jaime, and a huge service to the Club. If 4-6 members and/or their spouses will sign up, each volunteer would only need to serve once every 4-6 weeks. Please contact John Goulding, KK Manager at (818) 242-3500 or jgoulding1776@gmail.com.



Rick Gross approaching O'Brien-Moore Bridge. (Herbert Alfred Mayer Photo)

President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

nights to be exact. But it does provide much needed revenue that covers liability insurance and infrastructure repair costs. Let your Board Members hear from you regarding interest, involvement and commitment as we weigh the pros and cons for next year.

The Signal Crew made their run and identified a few minor issues. They've requested inbound Change of Direction be postponed to July 15th.

Remember the old days when one had to build a steam engine in order to become an LALS member? My how life has evolved!

who work are happy to stop and let a train go by, particularly if we are offered a ride! So come on out and work or play, because that is what we do! I'll see you at the rails. Your feedback is always appreciated.

Splinters from the Board

(Continued from page 2)

Due to the holiday weekend, the next Board meeting will be July 10.

The Club's liability policy has been renewed through underwriter Lloyds of London at 20% savings with the same coverage. They specialize in insuring live steam clubs.

Timecards were reported missing, so please bring any timecard issues to the attention of Mike Murphy.

The Spring Meet was a huge success with more trains and fun than ever! A big thank you goes to Martha Figueroa for her extensive efforts on organizing and coordinating the event. The Club also thanks Diana and Glen Manchester for the artwork, Terry Spahr for making steam cream on all three days, Tim LaGaly for providing kitchen hardware, John Goulding for stocking the kitchen, Aaron Emmer for lighting setup, and all other members who volunteered in the kitchen and gate duty.

The summer months are upon us. Keep an eye out for rattlesnakes - baby rattlesnakes are silent but deadly.

2017 Spring Meet Brings Out the Best

By Diana Manchester with
Brandon Ruiz and Martha
Figuroa

Other than the attendance the most spectacular aspect of this year's event was the number of beautiful steam locomotives brought and run.

"I heard it was 'lit' which is quite a compliment from a millennial," said Brandon Ruiz. "I loved the selection of spectacular steam locomotives; truly some of the very best participated at this Meet; and the owners who were more than willing to share their knowledge and expertise."

According to Tom Lang, who coordinated the Gate, about 725 tickets were sold, with Saturday being the busiest day by far. We had good representation from vendors, too, including Rail Threads by Creative Zest, Sharilin's Custom Accessories, Fisher Detail Foundry, Live Steam Warehouse, the National Model Railroad Association, and Dan O'Brien's Rail Rider.

Friday night was the informal kick-off to the weekend, with a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared and served by our Board of Directors.

Saturday night's BBQ dinner was catered by new vendor Handy Market of Burbank. By all accounts their smoked tri-tip and grilled chicken meal was a winner. Terry Spahr outdid himself this year with our all-time favorite flavors of Steam



The Spring Meet brought railroaders of all ages and a variety of trains. (Frank O'Donnell Photo)

Cream, served twice on Friday and three times each Saturday and Sunday. Plus he served a memorable Sunday night supper of pulled pork shoulder, smoked all day in his custom-made 55-gallon smoker.

Our President's Auction, hosted by Les Kovacs and Pineapple, was well attended and brought in over \$1,100 in donations for the Club. Thank you to everyone who donated and bought items, and especially to Jim Logan for his generosity.

Martha did a beautiful job organizing and running the Meet. She would like to thank everyone who helped, including all the kitchen crews, Kountry Kitchen manager John Goulding, Tim LaGaly who managed the Saturday night dinner, Carolyn Hayes who ran the Children's Crafts,

the members and vendors who donated Raffle gifts, and the volunteers who served at the Souvenir table, helped set up tables, cleaned up and emptied trash. Thanks Aaron Emmer and Lloyd Davis for the new lighting in Davis Mine and the O'Brien-Moore Bridge. Ted Merchant and many dedicated members worked for weeks prior to the Meet to clean up, repair and beautify our facility, and our talented Signal Crew put in many long hours to ensure our signals were in working order. Martha also wishes to thank everyone who attended and participated.

Lastly, Martha shared this story: \$At 1:30 Monday, May 29 – just when we thought the Spring Meet was over – seven visitors came and asked if they could go for a train ride. The Carmelite Sisters of Alhambra, Sacred Heart Retreat House had heard we had a Meet and stopped by.\$



Hopping with the Ugly Nelson Band

◀ The most fun part of Friday evening was the entertainment by our own Tom Harwood and the Ugly Nelson Band, who performed a complimentary, all-evening concert of country music and 60's rock. (Diana Manchester photo)



Bob Crone at the Gauge One track
(Herbert Alfred Mayer Photo)



▲ Russ Warr's 2-8-0 Consolidated
(Diana Manchester photos) ▼ Russ Warr
(Herbert Alfred Mayer Photo)



► Get thee behind me. Nuns ride
Ej ktutic's train on Monday of the Spring Meet.

▼ Cutting the roast pork are, r-l, Terry
Spahr, Gary Johnson, Jeremy Steinert
and Pineapple.





G-scale action. (Herbert Alfred Mayer Photo)

Toy Train Operators Annual Run August 5

Volunteers Needed

The annual run for the toy train operators needs trains and volunteer crews at LALSRM on Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 11am to 3pm.

This is an official LALSRM-sponsored event. Volunteers will be eligible for shed credit and will receive a free lunch (a \$7.00 value) for their efforts.

In addition to the volunteer crews and equipment, we will also be needing a station master and a safety coordinator. Toy trains will be running and we hope to have the Disney Barn open for tours.

Food service ends at 1:30 pm that day. Volunteers needn't wait in line for lunch, but should instead see one of the food service workers at the west end of the Kountry Kitchen counter for fastest service.

You must contact Don Kallgren of LALSRM by July 30th to sign up for volunteering, so we can order sufficient food.

Call Don at 818-235-7058, or email donkallgren@yahoo.com or just see him at the club. Thanks for volunteering!

To learn more about the Southwest Division of T.T.O.S., visit www.ttos-sw.org.



The Annual Run for the Toy Train Operators needs running trains and volunteer crews on **Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 11am to 3pm.**

This is an LALSRM-sponsored event. Volunteers will be eligible for shed credit and will receive a free lunch (a \$7.00 value) for their efforts.

You must contact Don Kallgren of LALS by July 30th to sign up for volunteering, so we can order sufficient food. Call Don at 818-235-7058, or email donkallgren@yahoo.com or see him at the club.

Thanks for volunteering!

To learn more about the Southwest Division of T.T.O.S., visit www.ttos-sw.org.



Gold Spike reenactment with MARK PIPER(ch) and DICK NAUMANN May-63 (Ward photo)



The East infield rose garden May-64 (Ward photo)

Pristine Photos from Early Years Discovered

By Alex O'Donnell

During my June 4th cleanup and organization of the UP Cache, I uncovered an extensive cache of archival photographs that had been hidden among the decades of detritus. These photographs were likely assembled for some sort of Club history booth in the 90's, but were put away and forgotten until now. They were found in optimal conditions that helped preserve the integrity of their color. They date from 1957 up until about

1980, and many include captions. In addition, I also uncovered a super rare clear color photograph of Walt Disney at one of our meets, circa 1965. We laid the photos out in the Library and Cary Stewart shared details about many of the members and locomotives pictured, as well as memories about our facility layout in those days. We plan to digitize each photo on a high-resolution scanner, and add them to our Museum photo archives. We also hope to share them on our Facebook page.

Limited Time Offer!

20-Year Anniversary Cloisonné Pin from Popular German Indoor Steam Meet

2016 was the 20-year anniversary of the well-loved Echtdampf-Hallentreffen (Indoor Steam Meet) in Germany. Equipped with the longest 5-inch indoor track layout in the world, measuring almost six kilometres in length, this has been THE iconic meeting event for steam engine enthusiasts. Our German friends/LALSRM members Rosi Kienast and Wolfgang Hell brought us a number of gold and black cloisonné collector pins to

offer to our members.

This beautifully-designed jewelry piece measures 1-1/2" across by 1-3/8" high, has raised graphics and lettering, and a tie tack fastener. This hefty and unique pin will look great on your polo shirt, jacket or hat.

We have a limited supply, and are offering these at \$20 each. Please contact Martha or visit our Ticket Booth on Sunday to get yours!



Library Newly Furnished

(Continued from page 1)

safely repositioned thanks to nylon foot glides.

The silver can ceiling lights were required by today's building codes. They are energy efficient but are very bright. After research, we found Tiffany lamp copies at an outlet store where the manager gave us 30% off the already greatly-reduced prices. We installed three matching sconces above the windows and matching lamps on the bookcases, which creates soft even lighting around the entire room for reading.

Christie found a beautiful Tiffany-style chandelier, at the same outlet store, that was perfect for the central ceiling tower. The dark green drape inside the tower wall hides the clock workings and antennas. Two remote hand controls switch the lamps on and off, with a few simple clicks to adjust the room for video viewing.

Even with all the space Tim's bookcases accommodated, we still had no place left for the photo albums and video overflow. As a temporary solution, we purchased a round glass table with inexpensive cube compartments underneath to hold videos, and a matching vertical cube compartment for the photo albums.

Special thanks to Christie Edinger, John DePhillip, and Les Kovacs for helping with this final phase of our Library.

We can now sit in comfort thanks to Steve Altmayer's generous air conditioning unit, and can find all the viewing materials thanks to the Library committee's time and effort in cataloguing.

We are also grateful to Miles Kristman and Greg McMurry for wiring the TV and wi-fi, and Steve Ruatta for moving the collection upstairs.

Lastly, thank you Sam Calderwood for collecting and taking care of this incredible collection for so many years. I encourage you all to visit this very unique research collection where you can now relax in comfort.

Middle: Russ Warr talking with guest. (John McKnight photo)

Bottom: Steaming Bays (Herbert Alfred Mayer Photo)



▲ New Furnishings in Library *(Diana Manchester photo)*



Who's been Working on the Railroad

May

Larry Tighe	Collin Westphal
Oliver Tighe	Wayne Crabb
Steve Rodstein	John Garcia
Steve Ruatta	Mark Vreeken
Ross Harper	Andrew Chavez
Jay Hawver	Christie Edinger
Steve Altmayer	Tim LaGaly
Doug Young	Andrew LaGaly
Les Kovacs	Gary Baker
John DePhillip	Ray Burden
Charles Rhodes	John Smith
Steve Sauber	... and many more
Alex O'Donnell	

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

Locos	Engineers	Conductors													
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Bob Quinn	Tom Gibson												
SP PA1—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Rosie Klienast	Bonnie Kaufman												
LALS #8	Peter Fuad	Jay Hawver	Darrel Payne												
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Tom Harwood	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Ridership and Max Temps</div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>May 7</td> <td>452</td> <td>62°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 14</td> <td>520</td> <td>70°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 21</td> <td>664</td> <td>92°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 28</td> <td>Meet</td> <td>80°</td> </tr> </table>		May 7	452	62°	May 14	520	70°	May 21	664	92°	May 28	Meet	80°
May 7	452			62°											
May 14	520			70°											
May 21	664			92°											
May 28	Meet			80°											
SP 2468—LALS	Scott Hoagland														
Heisler—Merchant	Mel Bresee														
ATSF 940—Bresee	Wolfgang Hell														
CSRR #73—Edinger															

Safety Coordinators— Wayne Crabb, Michael Murphy, Ron Hitchcock, Bob

Station Masters—Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Larry Mitchell, Rodrick Fritz, Mike Stockton

Souvenirs and Tickets—Martha Figueroa, Larry Mitchell, George Becker

Riders
May 2017 — 1,636
Total 2017 — 12,364
Total 2016 — 13,908

Member Schedule

June

- 24 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night
- 25 Public Rides
- 30 2016-17 Shed Lease Year Ends

July

- 1 2017-18 Full Shed Lease Year Begins
- 2, 9 Public Rides
- 10 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Change Direction
- 15 Work Day/Member Meeting
- 16 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 22 Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night
- 23, 30 Public Rides



Lloyd Davis calling Bingo. (Diana Manchester photo)



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



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 Associate Editor—Diana Manchester
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Chuck Mohr honoring those who have passed. (John McKnight photo)



MOVIE NIGHT NIGHT RUN

JUNE 24, 2017 SATURDAY

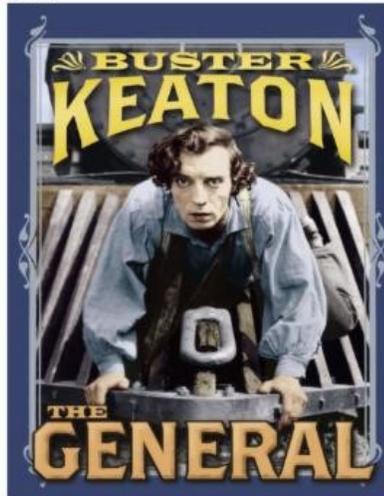
POT-LUCK

DINNER & DESSERT

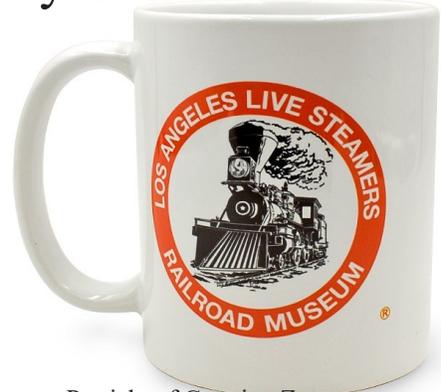
6p.m.

MOVIE STARTS
at DUSK...

QUESTIONS CALL
MARTHA (626) 232-7053



LALSRM Logo Mugs by Creative Zest



Patrick, of Creative Zest was a vendor at our LALSRM Spring Meet this year, and has created a mug with our logo. It comes in two sizes (11 oz and 15 oz) with generously-sized handles. You can even have your name imprinted on the mug. Best of all, a portion of each sale is donated to the Museum. Makes a great gift.

Mug Style Options: Club logo on both sides or Club logo on one side and your name on the other.

Price: \$11.95 for 11 oz; \$13.95 for 15 oz.

No extra cost to customize with a name. Made to order. Usually ships in 24 to 48 hours.

Visit: <http://www.creativezest.com/Los-Angeles-Live-Steamers-Mug-p/mg-lals.htm>

▼ Don Yungling from Sacramento with his SP #4403 GS-1 steam locomotive. (Diana Manchester photo)

