

# ENGINE



# BOOSTER

July 2017

SINCE

1956

www.lals.org



## Introducing Our New Club Steam Loco: South Pasadena & Western 1

By Alex O'Donnell

This coal-fired LE 4-4-0 was built by late LALS RM member Charles Barner in the 1980's. Not much is known about whether the engine ran at the Club or on just a roller stand, but after his passing in 1988, it sat in his workshop in Monterey Hills for almost 30 years before being donated to LALS RM by his family this month. The engine is a coal-fired Little Engines 4-4-0 and has an axle pump and hand pump in the tender.

Upon passing a hydro inspection, we fired it up

*(Continued on page 4)*

**New Club Steamer.** ▲ Jeremy Steinert operates the Club's newly-acquired LE 4-4-0. *(Alex O'Donnell photo)* ► Alex O'Donnell steams up. *(Ray Burden photo).*



## Sy Seidell, 43, Active Two-Year Member Who Loved Trains, Passes

By Diana Manchester with Wenni Seidell

Sy Seidell, age 43, passed away unexpectedly on July 2 of a sudden heart attack.

He was an active, two-year member of LALS RM, and loved trains, as did his 5-year old twins, Matilda and Wesley,

His wife, Wenni, whom he met ten years ago through a mutual friend, shared how Sy and the family became acquainted with the Club: "While at Travel Town, we saw people riding the LALS trains. We were immediately drawn to the model trains; the kids would literally hang onto the fence to watch members tinker away until we had to leave. After going on a train ride, Sy knew that this was something we had to be a part of. Collin Westphal gave us information about the Club and Wayne Crabb was his second sponsor."

Sy finished his probationary hours in 2015. Both Dee Barnes and Martha Figueroa found him to be an enthusiastic volunteer, who did a great job with the

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Public Service

### July

30 Public Rides

### August

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

13 Public Rides

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

27 Public Rides

## President's Message



By Ron Hitchcock  
President

We're into July, it's HOT and things have slowed a bit. Sunday attendance is off some due to vacations and the heat. Reminders to

stay hydrated and remain vigilant. One can get sleepy out on the rails.

We're still examining fundraising alternatives since our Halloween event vendor had prior commitments. We're considering: summer night runs, summer night movies, and even a Christmas night run presentation. I wonder if we could generate snow on the west end?

Let me offer a special thanks to Wayne Crabb for gathering and supporting a batch of new members.

Please folks; if equipment is broken place a service tag explaining the problem. No tag requires someone else spending additional time learning what's wrong before attempting a fix.

Whereas we encourage members to bring guests during Sunday runs, I must encourage restraint from inviting the entire neighborhood. Contravention of guest privileges impacts our obligation to the public for free rides on Sundays, a requirement in our agreement with the city. Cutting the line can only be done discretely with a couple of personal guests. Any more requires placement in the queue. Members may not walk up and seat their guests on a bench car. Only the conductor can load a train. Any guest placements are a Stationmaster's call. Just ask politely for accommodation.

Ron

**T**he 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 Garcia, KK Manager..

## Splinters from the Board



By Alex O'Donnell  
Secretary

**July 10, 2017 Board Meeting**

**Party Requests:** Peter Bowen for the Boy Scouts on July 28-29. Mark Vreeken for the

Girl Scouts on August 11-12, 25 people.

**Membership:** Wayne Crabb introduced Jack Straith, Sam Anderson, Luke and Matt McGuinness as probationary members. Congratulations Larry Tighe for completing his hours and becoming a full resident member.

**Facility Planning:** A proposal was submitted by Alex O'Donnell, Rob

Nuccio, and Jeff Edwards for the reconstruction of the 1" scale Alkire Car barn. The existing structure does not provide sufficient protection from dust and animals, and lacks scale detailing. Furthermore, all three track lessees have cited a need for more track space, and have agreed to cover all material costs and volunteering. Please see Gary Evans if you have any ideas or would like to discuss any future projects.

**Safety:** Jim Cammarata will assume the role of Safety Chairperson on September 1. He is replacing Wolf Fengler who wishes to step down after serving the position for many years.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## FOR SALE

### 2 INCH SCALE CASE TRACTION ENGINE



**\$8,000 – PICKUP ONLY IN L.A. AREA**

- MUSEUM QUALITY DETAIL, CLUTCH FLYWHEEL, GOVERNATOR
- COAL/WOODFIRED, FUEL, OIL, AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDED
- NO CURRENT HYDRO, BUT OPERATED IN THE LAST 1-2 YEARS

**CONTACT ALEX O'DONNELL (on behalf of seller)**

**info@lals.org**

## Splinters from the Board

(Continued from page 2)

**Old Business:** The shed rental increase passed last month has been rescinded for further debate and review.

The caretaker's caboose renovation that was approved several months ago is scheduled to occur in August. Jeremy Steinert and Tim LaGaly are coordinating with the project.

To solve the recent lapses in Level 1 certifications that Michael Murphy brought up last month, annual Level 1 certification refresher tests will be mailed along with membership renewals effective the next renewal mailing.

**New Business:** After many weeks of consideration, the Halloween Ghost Train fundraiser will not be held this year due to the primary vendor, Show Development West, having conflicting Halloween event obligations. However, all parties involved have expressed a desire to seek its return in 2018 with proper preparations. Other fundraising ideas for this year are being considered, please send proposals to Ron Hitchcock.

Christie Edinger and Ray Burden have facilitated the purchase of new batteries and a watering system for the Club's 1.5" scale electric Santa Fe EMD GP60M #163. The old batteries run out of juice too quickly and the proposed new ones have been already tested on other equipment and found to last much longer.

John Smith proposed that the Club contract Lloyd Davis to build several new structures including the renovation of the covered bridge. Several structure ideas were discussed, including a 9" scale station where grandma's cabin once was, town fronts, and an industry warehouse.

President Ron Hitchcock called on Harrison Hitchcock to look into plans for Steam Day with the recent vacancy in October. Steam Day was proposed by Harrison a few months ago as an event centered around the operation of steam engines and appliances to drum up participation among operators.

**Announcements:** Secretary Alex O'Donnell facilitated the donation by a family of a new Club-owned steam engine – South Pasadena & Western #1, a

(Continued on page 7)

## Dan O'Brien Resting at Home After Heart Attack

**D**an O'Brien, modest but accomplished 37-year member of LALSRM, suffered a heart attack on July 16. He had one stent placed in an artery and is expected to have another placed sometime this week. We are relieved to hear that he is now resting comfortably at home. Our thoughts and prayers for Dan, Fran and family.



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 30<sup>th</sup> to sign up for volunteering, so we can order sufficient food. Call Don at 818-235-7058, or email [donkallgren@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.ttos-sw.org).

## New Club Steam Loco

(Continued from page 1)

and ran it a few laps around the East End. While the timing and a few other things need to be adjusted, the engine ran very well considering it had likely been fired up only a handful of times in the 80's before going into cold storage for 30 years. It will likely be used for training and other Club purposes.



## One Year Passes and We Remember Dee

The flowers on the tables in the Kountry Kitchen (*below*) are in loving memory of our friend and member, Dee Barnes, who passed away in an auto accident in July 2016.

Dee was the wife of Francis Barnes, who continues to volunteer every Sunday, pulling the public on the Southern Pacific diesel locomotive. They had been married seven years. Even though they were relatively new members, they were very involved in the Club, helping out on work days and at special events. Dee worked every Sunday in the Ticket Booth, usually with Lucille Secara. Francis said she had her "own little fan club" of children – her regulars – who would be excited to see her.

Thank you, Brenda Garcia, for helping us remember and honor Dee. We miss her still.



## Sy Seidell, 43, Passes

(Continued from page 1)

public in the Ticket Booth.

### Born and Raised in New Orleans

Born Robert Gerald Seidell and raised in New Orleans, it was child acting that brought him to California where he was given the nickname Sy. He legally changed his name as a teenager. He had aspirations of becoming a veterinarian, then an English teacher, but found he had a knack for computers, which led to a 23-year career in the computer technology field. He worked for Hewlett-Packard, Universal Music Group, and DXC Technology at Cal State University as a lead server analyst.

Wenni shares, "Sy loved music, books, and the arts, particularly cirque performing art. If he could, he would have run away with the circus. He loved to goof around with the kids, creating balloon animals, and doing magic tricks for them."

### A Place to Share and Work on a Hobby

"One of the things that Sy liked about the Club was to have a place to share and work on a hobby," said Wenni. "We don't have the space at home to build models and lay a lot of track. LALS is a place where we can contribute to a collective effort that everyone can enjoy. We were hoping that once we didn't need to pay for childcare/preschool anymore, we might be able to get a basic speedster for the family. They would like to stay involved in the Club, volunteering, getting to know people, and learning more about trains and modeling."

## A Busy Day at the Club on Sunday, July 16.

We had 807 guests riding trains, and 600+ visitors at the stationary steam plant and Walt's Barn. *Below*, Greg Pschaida handled the controls on Southern Pacific #2468 with John Garcia conducting.

*On facing page*, Nick Suncin and Jeremy Steinert fielded questions from guests of all ages at the steam plant. (*Diana Manchester photo*)



# Club Hosts Park Ranger Celebration July 1

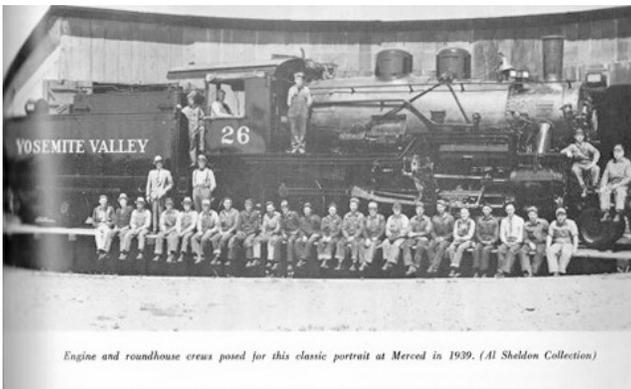


Los Angeles City Park Rangers enjoyed a ride on Dingerbelle during a special event on Saturday, July 1st at LALS RM. The celebration was organized to honor them by Cathy Bluem on the occasion of her husband's graduation from the Sheriff's academy as a Park Ranger.

The evening included a BBQ dinner catered by Stonefire Grill and cake at Walt's Barn, tours of the Barn, and train rides. Paul Liu and Fred Lack operated the Club's SP 2465; Jeremy Steinert was behind the controls on Club steam locomotive #8. Other LALS RM members who helped make the evening a success were Larry Boone, Scott and Carolyn Hoagland, Wayne Crabb, and more.

The Park Rangers are headquartered in Griffith Park and are the first responders for any incidents within the park. They are peace officers and woodland firefighters rolled into one. Many of them did not know the rich history behind LALS RM and Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn. They were happy to learn more so they can better direct the public and answer questions they get about our facility. *Photo by Christie Edinger.*





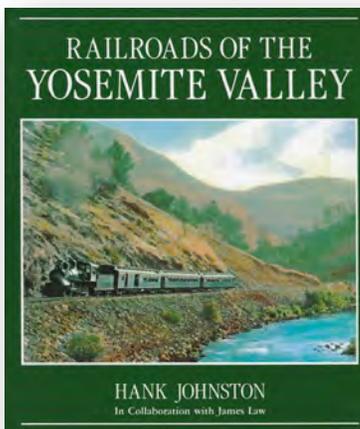
Engine and roundhouse crews posed for this classic portrait at Merced in 1939. (Al Sheldon Collection)

*First of a Series on Unique Resources in the Library*

## “Railroads of the Yosemite Valley”

By Ross Harper

As a newer member of LALS, I am delighted to donate *Railroads of the Yosemite Valley* by Hank Johnston to the Bruce Ward Memorial Library. In addition to a concise history of this fascinating shortline, the book is replete with black-and-white photographs of the railroad and the logging and mineral interests that it served. My favorite photo is on page 73 because my great-grandfather, Jay Swineford, is pictured in the cab of engine #26 with the engine and roundhouse crews. Jay began working for the



Top: photo of locomotive/crews from the book whose cover is shown above.

YV as an engineer on July 25, 1922. His son, Howard (my grandfather), signed on as a fireman and helper in the summers of 1930 and 1931 since he had an “in” with the company. My great-grandfather died in October 1946 at the age of 72, not long after the railroad's final scheduled run on August 24, 1945. I hope my fellow train enthusiasts will appreciate this book's photographic account of the history and beauty of the Yosemite Valley railroads.

“*Railroads of the Yosemite Valley* is a wonderful book that Ross Harper recently donated to the Bruce Ward Memorial Library. Ross Harper's great-grandfather was an engineer on the Y.V. We have a lot of really cool stuff in our Library – this is just the tip of the iceberg! There will be “peeks through the veil of time” information showcasing the unique literature in the library and wonderful recent donations.” – Nick Suncin, head librarian

# Library Rich with Railroad Knowledge and Resources

By Nick Suncin

A treasure trove of books on virtually every topic pertaining to locomotives and railroads awaits you in the Bruce Ward Memorial Library. In addition, we have a sizable collection of videos covering steam, diesel, electric, railroad history, and stationary steam.

### Enjoy Our Resources in the Library or Take Home

You are invited to enjoy them in our comfortable, air-conditioned Library, or check them out and take them home. Any of our Club librarians can perform book searches or show you how to browse the public database on our computer. There are many search fields to provide clues for finding books and videos, including topic, author, title, availability on Amazon, and more – including where they are physically located in the library.

### Vast Film Archives

We also have hours of past Meet footage in our film archives, as well as many interesting historic photos. We are happy to make copies of our documents and or footage for members to keep on DVD or digital file.

The Library is open most Sundays, and by appointment during the week or on Saturdays. Please call Nick Suncin, head librarian for appointments; assistant librarians are Mike Murphy, Christie Edinger, Lisa Lipton, and Harrison Hitchcock.

### Goal: Transfer Items to Archival Grade Digital Format

One of our long-term goals is to transfer our Museum's vast archive of photos, VHS, slides, 16mm and 8mm to an archival grade digital format. We are also collecting stories and information from our long-time members to accompany our images, videos and films. In the near future we hope to have our library database available on the Club website for even easier accessibility.

Below: Nick Suncin, head librarian, makes a new database entry on *Trolley Days in Pasadena*, donated by Wayne Crabb



# Splinters from the Board

(Continued from page 3)

Little Engines 4-4-0 built by the late member Charles Barner in the 1980's. The engine sat for almost 30 years in Monterey Hills before passing hydro inspection administered by Ray Burden on July 8<sup>th</sup> and being fired up and operated the very same day by Alex O'Donnell and Jeremy Steinert. The engine is coal-fired and most likely too small to pull public, so it will be used as a training engine for members seeking to run the larger Club steamer LALS #8.

Policy for returning members – Returning members will be required to do 4 hours of kitchen duty, 4 hours of ticket booth duty, and conducting test to acquaint themselves with how our railroad operations have changed.

Many thanks to Ray Burden for rebuilding the carburetors on the Cub SP ALCO PA-1 #6006 and blower unit. Also thanks to Thaine Morris and Miles Kristman for rebuilding the Club tractor and bobcat.



Young guests anxiously await attention and lunch in the New Sherwood Station. These are likely cowbird nestlings. Photo by Glen Manchester

## Riders

June 2017 — 2,644  
 Total 2017 — 15,008  
 Total 2016 — 13,908

# SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

Locos	Engineers	Conductors	
City of LA—Fuad	Francis Barnes	Bob Quinn	Tom Gibson
SP PA1—LALSRM	Christie Edinger	Jay Hawver	Bear Mustoe
LALS #8	Peter Fuad	Tom Crue	Darrel Payne
Santa Fe Electric—LALSRM	Tom Harwood	Scott Hoagland	Mark Vreeken
SP 2468—LALS	Scott Hoagland	Gage Detchemendy	Greg Pschaida
Heisler—Merchant	Mel Bresee		
ATSF 940—Bresee	Paul Liu		
CSRR #73—Edinger			

Safety Coordinators— Ron

Station Masters—Gary Evans, Robert Guzman, Wayne Crabb, Tom Crue

Souvenirs and Tickets—Martha Figueroa, Larry Mitchell, Larry Tighe, Carolyn Hoagland

## Ridership and Max Temps

June 4	704	82°
June 11	648	69°
June 18	800	90°
June 25	492	111° (record)

# Member Schedule

## July

30 Public Rides

## August

- 5 **TTOS Run**
- 6 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 7 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Public Rides
- 19 Work Day/ Member Meeting
- 20 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 26 **Pot Luck/ Night Run/Live Steamers Movie night**
- 27 Public Rides



## 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

**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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Three views of Nick Guzman and his beautiful 2-6-0  
(Above, Diana Manchester photo)

## Mogul is Safer After a Year of Improvements

Nick Guzman takes his beautiful 2-6-0 mogul out for a spin after converting it from a coal burner to propane. Based on an 1800's-era Baldwin, it was built by Japanese model airplane engine manufacturer, OS Engine. Nick and his dad, Robert acquired it from Bob Crone who was its caretaker for 10 years.

Nick has been making improvements over the past year to make it safer to run. He recently installed a water glass blow-down valve with help from Ray Burden.

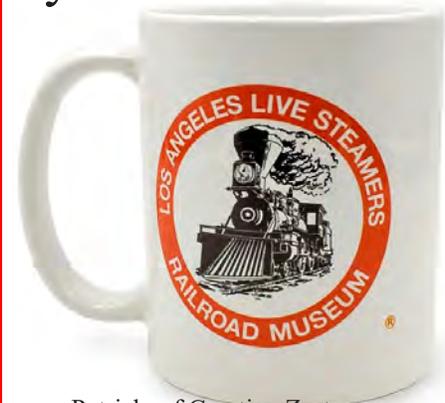
Nick and Robert are open to taking offers, so please contact them if you would like to know more. Nick: (818) 437-3388. Robert: (818) 437-1122.



Above and below Garibalde Figueroa photos



## 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>