



Ghost Train Arrives to Happy Riders

By Gary Baker and Diana Manchester

Our 2018 Ghost Train fundraiser launched on Saturday the Thirteenth after many weeks of preparation and anticipation. The community has responded in large numbers to our family-friendly event; some are repeat guests, but many are new to us. Some came to attend Boney Island and walked over to see what all our lights and hoopla are about. Attendance is up. We have been running seven trains nightly with a volunteer staff of 50+. Interest from the media is high with enthusiastic recommendations.

This year's show features some new
(Continued on page 7)



▲ Ghost Train guests ready to roll (*Ray Burden Photo*)
▼ Ghost Train station guests in line (*Diana Manchester Photo*)



Public Service

October

- 21 Public rides
- 28 Public rides

November

- 4 Time Change; Public rides
- 11 Public rides
- 18 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
- 25 Public rides

Ghost Train

- Sat., Sun. – Oct. 20, 21
- Fri., Sat., Sun. – Oct. 26, 27, 28
- Tues., Wed. – Oct. 30, 31

Inside: Candidate Photos and Statements

See pages 4 and 5

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Christie Edinger, Secretary

October 2018 Splinters

The monthly Board meeting was called to order Monday, October 1st by President Peter Fuad with all eight Board members and 31 members present.

Secretary. There were no new party requests and last month's minutes were approved.

Treasurer. Fred Lack reported expenses for September which included administration, plant maintenance, Club engine repairs Halloween and Kountry Kitchen expenses. The fall meet nearly broke even but we still had a net income loss for the month.

Membership. Wayne congratulated Don Donaldson on becoming a permanent member, then introduced five new probationary resident members.

• James Dubensky is a producer for reality TV with a background in marketing and advertising. He plans to spend time

with his 8-year-old son Finneas who will help him on work projects.

• Sean Donaldson grew up in Central Oklahoma where he was associated with a live steam Club. He moved here two years ago and works for Roadrunner, hauling containers out of Long Beach. He has a mechanical and construction background plus experience running construction equipment. He hopes to learn machining skills and build his own steam engine.

• John Heltsley, a lifelong resident of Pasadena works for Pasadena Power. He's married with two girls ages 4 and 8. John works with steam in his job at the power plant and knows long-time member Bill Pascarella.

• Richard Mallery is retired from Walt Disney Imagineering where he was a special effects designer. He has skills in mechanical, electrical and machining from working in show production.

• Bryan (B-Rod) Rodriguez just graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in advertising. He is also focused on film production, can do creative design and is interested in Halloween. Bryan's mother brought him to LALS when he was a kid.

General Superintendent. Ted Merchant reported that the concrete contractor has us on his calendar to get started on

footings for the mountain division bridge. We did well cleaning up the grounds for the Fall Meet. We scheduled an extra work day for Saturday, October 6 to get ready for Halloween. Ted wants to extend the adopt-a-track program to the west end.

Safety. Jim Cammarata explained the issue with moving the signal block to the station for inbound trains. We discussed the problem of some engineers running too fast. Ted Naimy sent out a proposed station operation list. Jim will test it Sunday by following the list of instructions. Peter suggested it be shortened to a checklist with bullet items. Jim gets a lot of flack when he reminds members of unsafe practices like speeding, blowing signals, no safety chains, no radio and having uncertified cars. The rules are written in our By-laws.

Upcoming Board of Directors Election. Four seats will be filled. There are 13 candidates whose statements and photos are published in this issue of the Booster.

Halloween: To be or not to be. Drew Lagaly asked if we could conduct a poll on whether or not members want to continue doing the Halloween Ghost Train fundraiser. A spirited discussion followed. Some say we need the income, others say we don't. The Board voted to do a paper poll in December and to include stamped return envelopes.

Ongoing Projects. Les Kovacs is trying to find us a portable light pole within our budget and will report further. We

(Continued on page 3)

Meet our Newest Probationary Members



Sean Donaldson



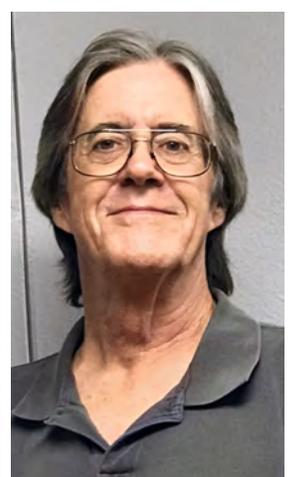
John Heltsley



Jim Dubensky



Bryan Rodriguez



Richard Mallery

SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

approved the purchase for up to \$5000. The Board will rent one for Halloween if Les has not already made the purchase.

Peter gave a report on the Ghost Train Committee. We are planning a "soft opening" on Friday, Oct. 12 and will run for an hour or two with two or three trains. Miles purchased 15 gas cans and will refill them once a week during the Halloween run. He also complained that people are stealing gas from the Club supply. Security cameras are now pointed at the fueling area. On Halloween run nights only crew members are allowed west of the tunnels. There cannot be any 1" train loading or unloading in Old Sherwood Station during Ghost Train since the track is blocked. Peter also gave a status report of Club engines to be used for Ghost Train. Santa Fe Electric is working but has compressor issues which need to be repaired. SP2468 failed due to lack of lubrication. All Club engines need to be serviced and tuned up every 6 months. Volunteers for tune-up day would be appreciated. Jim asked that maintenance records be attached to the riding car so he can keep tabs on them.

Tim Lagaly updated us on the status of the electrical drop. They're shooting for the end of the year. Tim met with Jay Hawver and inventoried all the barns. Shed rental bills are out. He's working on getting Jay and Sara up to speed so they

can take over duties.

Alex reported on his gate project near the Ollie Johnson Station. They are building a gate to prevent people from walking on the right of way and track panel area, especially on Disney Barn days. Engineers need to dismount and open the gates. They can be folded back when not in use so they don't block the path. They are modeled after 1900 style gates used on the British Railways.

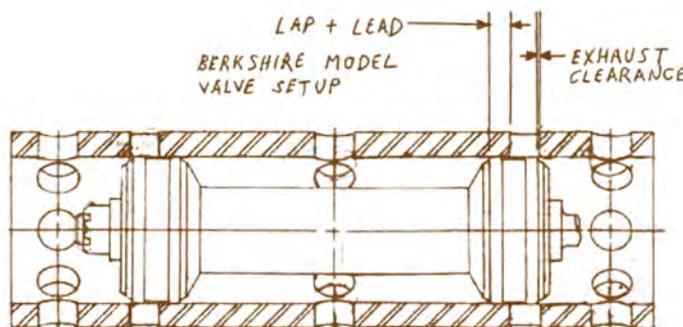
On September 30 Gary Baker held a thank-you party for volunteers of the Mid-summer Scream convention in Long Beach held in late July. There were about 100 people present. Gary presented the Club with a \$1,500 donation as they did last year. The meeting adjourned and continued in the Kountry Kitchen with coffee and cookies.

Entertainment for Lines

Below is the schedule of various acts entertain our Ghost Train guests while they wait in line:

Sat 10/20	Puppetry by Robin Walsh
Sun 10/21	Tony Millot D.J.
Sat 10/27	Totally Mental Band
Sun 10/28	The Rhythm Coffin
Tues 10/30	School of Rock
Wed 10/31	The Rhythm Coffin

Valve Lap and Lead



Part 2

By Jim Kreider

The exhaust edges and rings are generally setup in two of three possible ways:

Line & line; with the valve on center, if the exhaust edges of the rings coincide with the exhaust edges of the ports, the valves are said to be "line & line. This arrangement is prevalent on slower speed freight engines. Exhaust lead; with the valve on center, if the cylinder is open to the exhaust, the valve has exhaust lead. This serves to decrease the expansion of the steam but also contributes to the exhaust event occurring longer.

Exhaust lead if applied is larger on passenger engines, less in freight service.

Exhaust lap; with the valve on centerline, if the exhaust edges of the rings

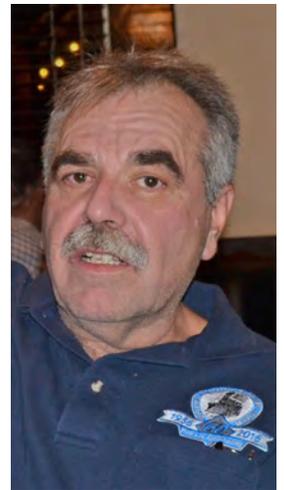
overlap the exhaust edges of the parts, the valve has exhaust lap. With exhaust lap, the duration of exhaust is shortened and the duration of steam expansion is lengthened. Exhaust lap was rarely applied.

As stated above, modern prototype steam locomotives were equipped with inside admission piston valves as shown in the sketch. Many late steam-era live steam locomotive models however, are equipped with outside admission slide valves. They work fine but are 180 degrees out of phase from what the prototype had and require that the eccentric crank "lead" the main crank in forward motion rather than "follow", with valve or radius rod set below the valve stem rather than above. Lap and lead still apply as for outside admission except that steam lap and lead are now applied to the outside or steam edges of the valve while exhaust clearance, lap, or "line & line" are applied to the inside



Congratulations to new resident member **Don Donaldson** who has finished his probationary hours

Board of Directors Candidate Statements



Board Candidates

Clockwise from left top:

Gary Baker	Tom Harwood
Brenda Garcia	Les Kovacs
Ross Harper	Ted Merchant
	Tim LaGaly

Gary Baker

Hello everyone, as a 19-year Club member I have served on the Board four terms as treasurer, secretary, and vice president; understanding the delicate balance between our hobby and the business of our great organization. We should honor our past by continuing to educate, promote, and strengthen our steam heritage and our core values the Club was founded on. Each of you volunteer many talents and I thank you. I will make every effort to represent your voice on the Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Brenda Garcia

I've been involved at LALS RM since 2016. I've been a volunteer half of my life. I've served on a board at my sons' school and run many fundraisers as well. I currently manage the Ticket Booth and coordinated the Spring Meet 2018. I have also taken an active role in other areas like conducting, kitchen, and other events. I hope to increase the value in volunteering and support to our members and the Club.

Ross Harper

I have been involved with repairing and maintaining the sprinkler system at LALS and a member since 2015. I enjoy the club and would be happy to serve on the board if so elected. I would work to see that some of the long-standing infrastructure projects and improvements get completed. From my experience running a small business, I would promote improvements to the way the club's finances and budgets are presented to the membership so that there is better context and accountability. Thank you.

Tom Harwood

I am 58 yrs old and I was born into the railroad. My first train came from my Dad, and from then on there was no looking back. My interest took me from modeling to working on the BNSF Railroad chasing train robbers. As a Member of LALS since 2007 I feel very strongly that each and every one of our Members needs to have their voice heard. As a Board Member this is just one of my many goals. I will serve the Club and every member to the best of my abilities. Please vote for Tom Harwood.

Les Kovacs

I have been a member for over 25 years. I have been on the Board five times and have served as president, vice president, secretary and general superintendent. Alongside this I have also have been granted the distinct privilege of becoming an honorary member. If I am elected I'll be a voice for all members. My goal is to make Live Steamers a fun and safe place for all.

Tim LaGaly

For those of you who know me, you know my involvement around the club. I have been a member for over 28 years. I have served on the board four times, I have worked on countless projects around the club, helped regain our 501C3 status and since have done the book keeping for the past 5 years. I ask that you vote for me to make LALS RM a better place for everyone.



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization



Board of Directors Candidate Statements



Ted Merchant

LALS RM leadership requires listening, making responsible decisions, being accountable for your actions and motivating members to participate. We have the talent. We have the money. We need the leadership. I am a 33-year Club member. I have been your superintendent for five years. I have previously served on the Board. I have contributed to the development of three successful companies. I will be honored to have your vote.



Flemming Nielsen

I am an 11-year LALS RM member. It has been my privilege to serve as the Manager of Souvenir and Tickets, volunteer with the Childrens Hospital Run and the Ghost Train, and invite Model A clubs and other community groups to our unique facility. Outreach to the community helps our Club thrive, and provides support for our maintenance and growth. Participation is vital. If elected, I will assist members match their skills and interests with Club projects, making our facility "The Best Backyard in LA."

Michael Murphy

Hello, my name is Michael Murphy. I have been a member of LALS RM for 18 years. I have served on the board twice as a director and as club secretary. I am currently on the Steam/Diesel training committee. It would be a privilege to serve for you on the board again. If elected I will work hard to promote camaraderie among our club members and have a fun and safe railroad for us to run trains.



Board

Candidates

Clockwise from left top:

Ted Merchant
Flemming Nielsen
Michael Murphy
Steve Rodstein
Bill Schirmer
Jeremy Steinert
Nick Suncin



Steve Rodstein

Have you ever asked yourself why do I belong to LALS? The reason I belong is because I enjoy all aspects of railroading, including riding the trains, repairing the trains, and helping to keep our club in good repair. I have been a member of LALS for 30+ years and being a board member would allow me to make sure all members new and old feel welcome to enjoy live steaming at its best.

Bill Schirmer

I retired in 2016 from the entertainment industry as a Special Effects Supervisor and Pyro-technician, and now have time to enjoy our wonderful hobby. I first arrived in 1960 to see LALS in its early stages of continued upgrades, and was invited to join in 1963 by our founders. We are still a volunteer club: what can I do for our Club, not what can the Club do for me? Member input to the BOD will keep this Mega Steam Machine running for many years to come.

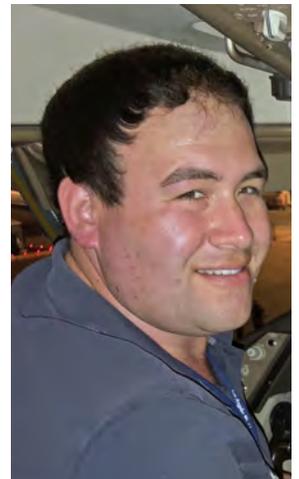


Jeremy Steinert

I've been a member of LALS for 6 years and look forward to bringing this club into the future. I want to encourage the growth of this hobby to a new generation of tinkerers and enthusiasts as well as continue to learn from those that have blazed the trail. I look forward to serving our club!

Nick Suncin

I've had the honor of serving as a past LALS board member (secretary for two years). I currently have the privilege of running the steam plant, teaching steam, organizing and making the library more accessible, and preserving / digitizing the photo archive with the most incredible teams. My knowledge of the facility and its operation is extensive. I especially hold the trust placed on a director to make fully informed, level headed and impartial decisions as sacred. I will wholeheartedly serve the interests and wishes of all LALS members faithfully and with integrity.





From the SUPER



By
Ted
Merchant

Hello Train-Fans!
October is here! We have Halloween, Boney Island, Santa Ana winds, dead branches, leaves and high fire warnings. And the show goes on.

We had an extra work-day, October 6th. The place looked really clean. Then the Santa Anas brought the leaves needles and branches back.

Our scheduled work-day is October 20th. Hopefully, the mess will be gone by the time you read this.

Halloween is proceeding as planned. The last run will be October 31st. We will be working every Saturday in November to clean up. All help will be appreciated.

Replacement of the footings for the Mountain Division Bridge will start late November. The Club will remove the bridge and associated conduits. Isabel De Los Santos, Inc will remove the old timbers and pour the new concrete footings. And the Club will re-coat and reinstall the bridge.

The whole project will shut down the Mountain Division for about three weeks. Bridge removal and installation will require significant muscle power, so your assistance will be requested.

Once again, we thank the many members who come out and help on projects every day. We do our best to name them in "Who's Been Working on the Railroad", but we, regretfully, miss many of you. Please be sure to thank these people when you can.

And that's the way it is. Live well. Play well and clean up your mess. Your feedback is always welcome.

EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.



President's Message



By Peter Fuad, President

We are in high gear for the Ghost Train! Last Saturday was challenging, but we made it through. We are refining how the lines for Family & Friends and media are handled. We still need a few volunteers for souvenirs, line management and Kountry Kitchen duty each night.

Election and Ballots

Elections for the Board of Directors are next month. There is a sizable field of candidates this year—13 candidates in all, representing a mixture of long-time members and newer blood. Please see their statements on pages 4 and 5.

This year the mailing of ballots will have an extra "blind" envelope for more confidentiality and professionalism. It will be marked "BALLOT" on the outside, and members should put their completed ballot in this envelope, with no signature, name or marks on it.

This envelope containing the Ballot

can be mailed in the #9 return envelope which will contain a postage stamp. This is the envelope which the member seals and signs, with the unmarked ballot envelope inside. These instructions will also be included in the Ballot mailer, which should arrive in members' mailboxes the first week of November.

Election Schedule

Here is the election schedule:

October 30 and 31 — Ballots Mailed

November 17 — General Meeting; deadline for ballots, votes counted and announced.

Survey Regarding Ghost Train

At the last Board meeting, the Board voted to undertake a mail-in survey in December regarding the Ghost Train. The survey is to determine how and whether the Ghost should continue, given their impact on the Club.

Rather than a simple "yes/no" type vote, I want to develop a series of questions that can be a useful guide for next year's Board on whether to make any changes. I welcome suggestions on what those questions should be.

In addition to the Ghost Train's impact on the Club in terms of people working on the event and use of our resources, I think it is important to understand the financial impact of the Ghost Train on our budget. How important are the Ghost Train to the Club financially? I want pie charts and figures to show this.

We are thinking of having a general meeting at which the financial impact will be explained. Details to come.

In the meantime, thanks for your hard work on the Ghost Train, and be sure to visit Boney Island!



LALSRLM exhibit at Travel Town's Depot Days on Sunday, October 14, coordinated by Alex O'Donnell. He displayed his recently renovated Santa Fe to the delight of many train-happy youngsters.

Who's been Working on the Railroad

Aaron Emmer	John Garcia
Alex O'Donnell	Joseph Clow
Andrew Chaves	Stevo Brock
Bill Schirmer	Larry Tighe
Bill Walker	Mark Vreeken
Brenda Garcia	Matt Yoder-Hall
Charles Rhoades	Les Kovacs
Christie Edinger	Mel Bresee
Diana Manchester	Miles Kristman
Don Donaldson	Ray Burden
Don Kallgren	Roderick Fritz
Doug Young	Ron Nelson
Frances Barnes	Ross Harper
Glen Manchester	Steve Rodstein
Jack Streit	Ted Merchant
Jay Hawver	Mike Stockton
Jeremy Steinert	John Hoffman
Jim Baker	Harrison Hitchcock

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

September

Engineers and Conductors

Francis Barnes	Fred Lack
Jim Cammarata	Sara Morris
Bonnie Kaufman	Thaine Morris
Mel Bresee	Bear Mustoe
Don Donaldson	Ted Naimy
Christie Edinger	Mary Lou Obbink
Peter Fuad	Darrell Payne
John Garcia	Greg Pschaida
Tom Harwood	Bob Quinn
Scott Hoagland	Ron Nelson

Souvenirs and Tickets

George Becker, Brenda Garcia, Larry Tighe

Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata

Station Masters

Joseph Clow, Larry Mitchell, Wayne Crabb, Ted Naimy, Don Donaldson, John Garcia, Robert Guzman, Greg Pschaida

September Ridership

Sept. 2	843	Sept. 23	846
Sept. 9	599	Sept. 30	930
Sept. 16	Meet		

Ghost Train 2018 Run Dates

Sat., Sun. – Oct. 20, 21

Fri., Sat., Sun. – Oct. 26, 27, 28

Tues., Wed. – Oct. 30, 31

Ghost Train Arrives

(Continued from page 1)

sets, including the Castle Frankenstein and monster, built by Cal Haunts, and juiced up with a Tesla coil and special effects from Thaine; plus “Dinoland Lab and Park” created by Jaycen Tee of The Haunt Store. Giant cats and tiny gnomes have taken over a section of the west end near Grandpa’s Cabin. And of course we have the spectacular Boney Island in the west meadow bowl, which can be seen from Larry Boone’s graveyard and the Moore-O’Brien Bridge.

This year, in response to popular demand, we added two online ticket purchase options – Express and Advance Purchase. As always, General Admission tickets are available at the Gate each night of the event, this year with colorful “souvenir tickets”.

Line entertainment by The Rhythm Coffin and School of Rock bands were very popular our opening weekend. We are thankful to Bear Mustoe for the loan of his trailer as a stage for the performers, all of whom are volunteering their time and talent. Our own Robin Walsh and her puppetry will perform on Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20, and on Sunday the 21st, DJ Tony Millot will bring his party vibe.

Running a fun and successful fundraising event of this magnitude requires many people. Seeing the smiles and hearing the

happy thank you’s of our debarking guests is very rewarding. And the proceeds raised will allow us to repair, build and strengthen our facility. Your participation will make a big difference to those on both sides of the station. Please contact John Garcia or Roger Bacon to find out how you can help. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Member Schedule

October

21 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
28 Public rides

November

4 Time Change; Public rides
5 Board Meeting
11 Public rides
17 Work Day/Membership Meeting/**Election**
18 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
25 Public rides



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,
Toluca Lake, CA 91610
Phone (323) 661-8958

2018 Officers and Directors

President	Peter Fuad
Vice President	Doug Young
Secretary	Christie Edinger
Treasurer	Fred Lack
Directors	
Wayne Crabb	Christie Edinger
John Garcia	Peter Fuad
Andrew LaGaly	Fred Lack
Diana Manchester	Doug Young

LALS RM FALL MEET



Photos by Garibalde Figueroa

