



2018 Ghost Train Smoothest, Most Successful Ever

by Gary Baker and Diana Manchester

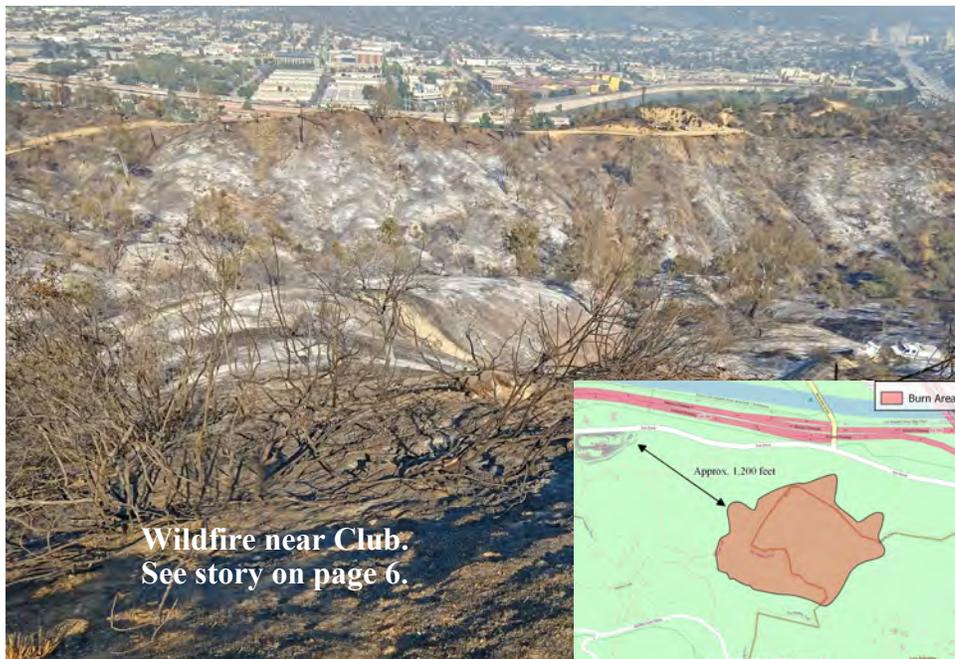
Ghost Train was an overwhelming success this year. We attracted more riders (some new to the Club), increased revenue, doubled our social media interaction, and garnered much enthusiasm from guests and members.

It was the best year we ever had," said Stationmaster Roger Bacon, "and the smoothest operation. More people rode than ever before. Line management was well organized on both sides of the Station. John Garcia and the station crew kept riders coming like clockwork."

"Operations ran fantastic," Miles said. "We never had any trains NOT on the track. If a train went down, we always had another waiting to go on. We averaged seven trains a night, and some nights eight. Thaine and I are able to say with great pride that they ran – and they ran well. This we credit to a generous number of engineers, conductors and maintenance volunteers ready to serve every minute."

Jim Cammarata in Safety agreed. The evening runs went smoothly, both before we loaded trains and once we were on the tracks. There were no injuries or

(Continued on page 8)



Wildfire near Club. See story on page 6.

Photo and map by Jeremy Steinert.



Baker, LaGaly, Merchant, Schirmer Elected to Board

Gary Baker, Tim LaGaly, Ted Merchant and Bill Schirmer have been elected to the LALSRRM Board Directors. Ballot counting took place on November 17. Their two-year term will start in January. They will join continuing directors of the Board Diana Manchester, Wayne Crabb, Andrew LaGaly and Doug Young. New officers will be chosen in December and announced before or by the General Meeting, December 15. The complete vote tally is on page 3.

Public Service

November

25 Public rides

December

2,9 Public rides

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

23,30 Public rides

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Christie Edinger, Secretary

November 2018 Board Meeting

Bookkeeper Sara Morris stated that she needs all Ghost Train expenses turned in ASAP since our fiscal year ends the end of this month. Sara has a new form for expenses which will require the signature of a Board member before submitted to her. Anything less than \$500 requires one Board member signature and over \$500 will require two Board member signatures. You can email Sara for forms or pick them up in the UP caboose.

Tree Clean Up; Adopt a Track; Nelson Summit Bridge Project

General Superintendent Ted Merchant reported on the status of our trees. We had some emergency work done in the Spring, which is not the ideal time to trim back trees. Many of our trees have suffered from the drought and are dying, so they must be removed before they become a hazard. Some will be replaced if needed for shade. The estimate Ted gave us is \$10,000 but we first need to get bids.

Ted would like to extend the Adopt-a-Track program to the west end and wants to get new members involved.

Ted plans to get the Nelson Summit Bridge project started the end of November or beginning of December. Doug requested two weeks lead time to get the track pulled out. The entire project should take about four weeks.

Shed Updates

Jay Hawver reported on shed rental which sparked much discussion. His team did a rough inventory of the Alkire Shed, where they discovered some vacant track. They consolidated some Club equipment that needs to be restored and for now put that equipment at the end of the track where other Club equipment lives. That freed up two tracks which can now be leased out to members.

Jay emphasized that we need to keep our areas clean and not to store anything

flammable. There are many non-railroad items being stored in the Phil West Barn and that will soon be addressed by the Board. They discovered a lot of Club-owned equipment on different tracks. We need to make a decision on equipment that is not being used. According to P&P's, track storage is for rolling stock and associated items only. If you do not use all your space you are encourages to lease out space to other members to store equipment.

The Phil West Barn needs some improvements. The racks need additional support, and daisy chains of extension cords are running everywhere to a variety of battery chargers. Electrical needs to be brought up to code.

Lloyd Davis has circulated a petition and gathered 45 signatures. The petition requests shed fees be rolled back to prior levels. The Board already approved the increase, so the next Board will have to deal with it. Wayne suggested we keep the increase and use that money for improvements on the sheds. The Board approved.

Tim LaGaly mentioned having dues and shed rental payments online, so shed rental could be paid in two payments. Peter says that will have to wait until the new system is set up.

Sunday Derailment

Safety Chair Jim Cammarata didn't have anything to report, but Peter mentioned a derailment Sunday before we opened for public rides. A large locomotive picked the switch coming out of the Nelson Tunnel toward the station. Doug and crew were able to make Track 2 usable, but Track 1 will be out of service until the entire switch is rebuilt.

Ghost Train Wrap-Up

Peter thanked the many Ghost Train crew and volunteers. Gary Baker announced the paying guest count for Ghost Train was 10,904 riders. We had over 700 friends and family. Boney Island turned in their information. They had 13,400 come through their gate over 15 nights. Ghost Train had about 50 volunteers each night it ran, so thanks to all. Take-down is progressing at a rapid pace.

At the last meeting the Board agreed to do a written mail-out survey to learn if the membership wishes to continue with Ghost Train as a fundraiser. We would like

to send out three or four additional questions to see how Club members feel about various points. Please email ideas on questions to the Board.

Diana reported that ballots for our annual Board election were mailed on Tuesday, October 30.

Projects

We received an inquiry from Bob Crone concerning the storage building near the Gauge 1 layout. That building is currently controlled by Russ Warr and Rick Gross. Bob needs a place to store the Gauge 1 buildings, ballast, tools and supplies to protect them from the elements. Peter has sent an email to Rick who said they will try to work something out.

The electrical box slab could be poured the same day as the Nelson Summit footings if we can get the electrical permit from the city. The O'Brien-Moore Bridge renovation project needs to be addressed ASAP.

The 1-inch Car Barn has been approved. Thanks to Dave and Zack Holman for their work on the UP locomotive. We need to make the riding slug more stable now. SP 2468 is out of service due to a broken axle. It's in the shop being repaired now. Wayne thanked Miles and John Garcia for work they did on the Halloween event.

There was a suggestion that we buy 10 new bench cars with profits from Ghost Train and possibly a new locomotive and storage space. We were asked what happened to the re-certification of train crews. There was another question about a training class for new engineers. Mike Murphy can lead that.

Harrison Hitchcock would like to do another Steam Day in late February or so. Doug wants to get needed track work done first.



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

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Editor — Peter Fuad
Associate Editors—Diana Manchester,
Christie Edinger, Alex O'Donnell
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By
Ted
Merchant

Halloween is over! The Run was incredibly successful and the “Ghost Train Crew” has done a great job with initial clean up. Now we can start raking the leaves and needles that have been ignored for a month. The Supersucker, rakes, shovels and HugeHamper cars are waiting for your use. Let’s give them a workout!

You can expect new projects, moving forward: We are creating a new “Adopt-A-Track” map of the West End, defining segments of that area available for adoption. You know you want one! We will present the maps at the next Board of Directors meeting.

We are finally moving forward on replacing the footings under the Nelson Summit Bridge. Isabel De Los Santos, Inc will be starting the bridge work in the next three weeks. In the meantime, the track crew is replacing segments of the Disney Route, so it is suitable for handling the public. The Club has the responsibility of

removing the bridge prior to footing replacement. We will use the opportunity to powder coat the bridge. Expect the Mountain Division to be shut down for about four weeks. Stay tuned to blast emails regarding this project. We will need your help.

We are getting bids from landscapers to prune and remove trees throughout the property. Significant trees must be removed due to drought and/or disease. The two huge pine trees south east of the meeting car need to be removed before they fall over and destroy significant Club structures, and while workers are willing to scale the trees. The two Camphor trees on both sides of the drive between the inner parking lots are dying. We plan to immediately replace them with drought tolerant trees. Two Chinese Elms in the steaming

bays are dying and will be removed. Dozens of trees will be pruned. And several Ash trees will be removed at the West End. All this work will significantly reduce shade, which we hope to address with new plantings and allowing surrounding trees to fill in. We may consider additional shade trees or a shade structure over the steaming bays, depending on the mood of the Club.

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 .

And that’s the way it is! Please accept our best wishes for your Holiday Season. Come by and enjoy your Club. Your feedback is always welcome.
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

Election Results

Directors	Votes
Bill Schirmer*	83
Tim LaGaly*	72
Gary Baker*	66
Ted Merchant*	66
Les Kovacs	58
Brenda Garcia	48
Jeremy Steinert	43
Ross Harper	33
Michael Murphy	32
Steve Rodstein	27
Nick Suncin	15
Flemming Nielsen	14
Tom Harwood	4

Write-in Candidate: Robert Guzman (1)

*Elected — 160 ballots cast



Holiday Banquet

& 2019 Officer Installation

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018

**PLEASE RSVP
BY MONDAY,
NOV. 26**

Smoke House

4420 West Lakeside Drive, Burbank, CA

6 pm – Happy Hour (No Host Bar)
7 pm – Dinner Served

Prime Rib ★ Chicken Buena Vista ★ Pasta Primavera

CASH JAR RAFFLE!
Bring cash to purchase raffle tickets that evening...
And to donate for a cash gift to Jaime

Space is limited. Everyone who plans to attend MUST reply.

★★ Please reserve your meal choices by November 26! ★★
Call or text Martha at (626) 232-7053; or email figthree@msn.com

TO PRE-PAY: Credit card & check payments can be made at the Kountry Kitchen on Sundays.
Or mail your check to: Martha Figueroa, 3442 Charlotte Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770.
Make checks payable to LALSRRM (memo: Holiday Banquet).

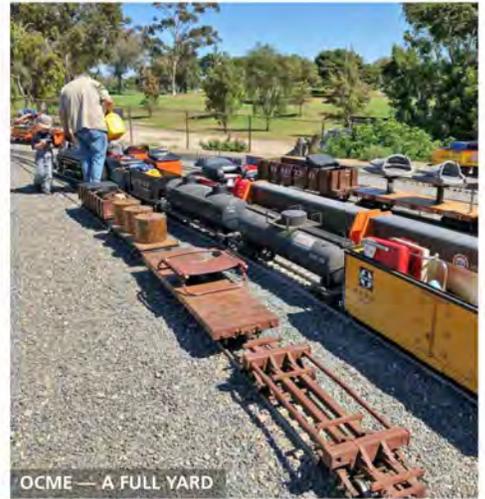
Dinner Reservations

Member Name _____			
Guest Name _____			
# of Dinners / Entree Choice		Total \$	
_____ Prime Rib.....	\$50.00 per person.....	\$ _____	Includes main meal, salad, cheese bread, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages and gratuity. Alcoholic drinks are extra.
_____ Chicken Buena Vista.....	\$40.00 per person.....	\$ _____	
_____ Pasta Primavera.....	\$30.00 per person.....	\$ _____	
_____ Total # of Dinners		\$ _____	
		Total Cost	

Bring check or cash payments to the Smoke House on Saturday night and give to Brenda or John Garcia



SVLSRM — TWO CONSOLIDATIONS



OCME — A FULL YARD

Fall Meets at Other Live Steam Tracks

By Alex O'Donnell

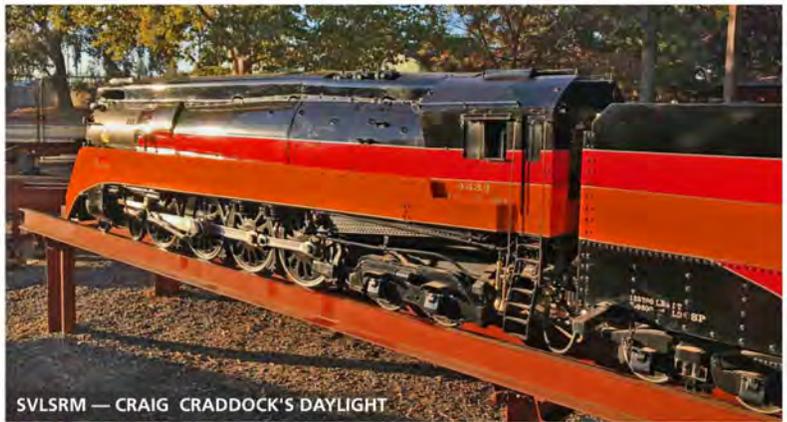
After hosting our Fall Meet in mid-September, I decided to make trips to a few other Fall Meets across California. As many seasoned members know, visiting other clubs during meets can be an exhilarating and memorable experience, especially when bringing equipment. Since I had to bring home my unfinished 1.6" scale ALCO PA-1 to fit the body and final electronics package, I decided first to bring it down to Orange County Model Engineers for their Fall Meet on September 27-29.

The meet had a really great turnout, with more than a dozen steamers from across SoCal – some even said this was the biggest meet down there in several years. At night, the cool misty seaside air made for some excellent steam effects – some of the night runs we made lasted until 3 am!

A few weeks later, I decided very last minute to throw some of my 1" scale equipment in the back of my truck and drive up to Sacramento Valley Live Steamers for their Fall Meet. I had brought one of my 1" scale engines there a few years back and was impressed by their dual-gauge loop that passes by the American River and through the adjacent open park area.

Their 7-1/2" gauge trackage is also very impressive with a myriad of loops, trestles, and yards condensed among trees and shrubbery, much like the private Bitter Creek & Western Railroad, sans the strenuous grades and long tunnels. I happened to be the only SoCal railroader up there, but the bays were packed with all kinds of neat and impressive engines, such as a 1-1/2" scale SP Daylight GS-4, Francis Moseley's 1" scale SP 0-6-0, a massive 1-1/2" scale SP 4-10-2, a backwoods two-truck Shay with a plethora of funky appliances, and many more.

All in all, both meets were absolutely fantastic and very memorable experiences .



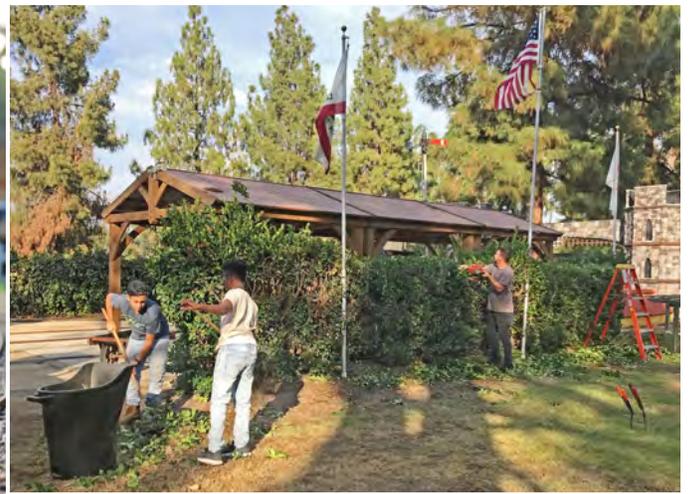
SVLSRM — CRAIG CRADDOCK'S DAYLIGHT



SVLSRM — CHRIS SMITH RUNS MY 1 INCH BOXCAR



OCME — PLENTY OF STEAM AT GOAT HILL



Around the Club Clockwise from upper left: Oliver Tighe watches Union Pacific Gauge 1; Brandon Ruiz trims hedge at Old Sherwood Station on work day, with Josh Garcia and Ashton Morgan on the cleanup crew; on Sunday run day, Francis Barnes engineers and Jay Hawyer conducts; Bob Crone shows Disney guests Gauge 1 layout; Ross Harper, Josh Garcia and Steve Rodstein plant new ironwood trees to replace dying birch trees between Disney Loop and Sutchville parking lot. Doug pulled out the stumps with the Gradall, with Steve, Ross and Patty Mo assisting with the hand removal. The birch trees had been cut down earlier by Les Kovacs. Ironwood trees are a gift from the Theodore Payne Foundation, arranged by Andrew Chaves; Steam Plant in operation (Diana Manchester photos)



Wildfire in Hills between Club and Zoo

By Jeremy Steinert

In addition to the ongoing Woolsey Fire, a small brush fire started near the western edge of the LA Zoo at about 7 am Friday, November 9th. The Los Angeles Fire Department as well as the Park Rangers responded to the call. The location of the fire was burning through heavy brush in “steep and very difficult” terrain; firefighters initially had a difficult time reaching the fire. The L.A. Zoo, Autry Museum, and Zoo Drive were closed to keep the public safe. Thankfully, local winds were mild that day and the Skyline Trail (located at the top of the ridge) formed a natural fire break. Crews were able to reach 60% containment of the fire by 2:00 pm. The fire burned approximately 30 acres of park land, reaching to within about 1200 feet from the eastern perimeter of LALS RM. The Zoo evacuated some birds and small animals near the fire to reduce their exposure to smoke. The only injury was one firefighter who sustained a mild laceration to the leg. No structures were damaged and the Zoo reopened the next day.

Les, Aaron, Tracy, and myself were onsite at LALS that morning and monitored the situation. There was some minor ash fall but no hot embers. The fire was not visible from the Club; only some smoke could be seen rising over the ridge

to the south. Les and others were disgruntled as they could not get on the road to get breakfast, but spirits were lifted after Les pulled out some Snicker bars and coffee. We watched LAFD equipment drive up the horse trail to reach the ridge line and head towards the fire. Eventually, Zoo Drive reopened and cleanup resumed at LALS.

Two days later, I hiked up the Rattle Snake Trail (the horse trail our tunnels go under) and took pictures of the damage. Crews were still working in the area to make sure that all embers were out. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the LA Fire Department as well as the Park Rangers of Griffith Park for a job well done! Also, I send my thoughts to those who are still battling the Woolsey Fire and those affected by it (which includes some of our members). Finally, a big thanks goes to our member volunteers who help remove leaves from the tracks and keep this place tidy. As we continue through autumn and into winter, it is imperative that we keep our grounds free of burnable material. Keep up the good work, everyone!

Jeremy is a GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Analyst. He maps and analyzes map information using digital age tools.

President's Message



By Peter Fuad, President

The 2018 Ghost Train was the smoothest running ever, thanks to detailed planning and experience with the event. This year I convened a number of Ghost Train Committee meetings. The committee was comprised of those members actually working on various aspects of the event. The meetings allowed issues to be identified and addressed without distraction. Members working on the event are detailed in the Ghost Train article in this issue.

I would like to single out John Garcia, who coordinated and developed a flexible online ticketing program and otherwise seemed to be everywhere on the nights the Ghost Train was operating. With John's knowledge and guidance, we avoided catastrophes that we see often in tech implementations, and the online ticketing system worked virtually without a hitch and proved to be a real asset. As we move forward with putting more transactions, such as membership renewals and shed rentals, online, I am confident that this wholly new project will also be successful.

As most of you know, we will be conducting a survey on the Ghost Train to better ascertain members' views and advice on how or whether to continue the event. Board members wanted it to be a mail-in survey, rather than just online. However, I will be attempting to have a parallel online survey for members more comfortable online.

Finally, congratulations to newly elected Board members. Many of you have been on the Board before, so you know what it's like. Good luck to you!



Ballot Counting, Saturday, November 17. (Diana Manchester Photo)

Who's been Working on the Railroad

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

Safety Coordinators

Ted Naimy, Ron Hitchcock, Wayne Crabb, Chuck Mohr, Jim Cammarata

Engineers and Conductors

Francis Barnes	Don Kallgren
Bonnie Kaufman	Wayne Crabb
Don Donaldson	Bill Schirmer
Christie Edinger	Glenn Austin
Peter Fuad	Tom Crue
Andrew Chaves	Larry Mitchell
Bear Mustoe	Larry Tighe
Mark Vreeken	Glen Manchester
Bob Quinn	Michael Mahan
Ron Nelson	Bill Walker
Greg Pschaida	Robert Guzman

Ridership

Oct. 7	796	Oct. 21	846
Oct. 14	599	Oct. 28	930

Total October 2018 — 3,171

Total 2018 — 27,553

Total 2017 — 26,769

Souvenirs and Tickets

George Becker, Brenda Garcia, Kathy Crabb, Michael Mahan

Station Masters

Joseph Clow, Larry Mitchell, Wayne Crabb, Ted Naimy, Don Donaldson, John Garcia, Robert Guzman, Greg Pschaida, Bill Walker, Tom Crue, Andrew Chaves

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



The Burbank Fire Department dropped in Sunday, November 18 for an early morning train ride. Peter Fuad engineered with Joe Clow conducting. The firemen were conducting swift water rescue drills in the Los Angeles River, and one of the leaders saw us and recalled how much he enjoyed us, so he brought his team over.

Member Schedule

November

25 Public rides
26 RSVP Deadline for Holiday Banquet

December

1 Holiday Banquet
2,9 Public rides
3 Board Meeting
15 Work Day and General Meeting
16 Public rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant in operation
23,30 Public rides

Mark Your Calendar

January 26 — Safety Inspections
Winter 2019 — Steam Day

It's a Wrap: Ghost Train Most Successful Ever

(Continued from page 1)

incidents, which is pretty incredible for serving over 1,000 visitors a night over 10 nights.

John Garcia reports we had 10,906 paying riders and 769 Family & Friends. He and Brenda thank the many capable volunteers who signed up to help with souvenirs and tickets, guest management, KK setup and serving, and dinner sponsorship. Les remarked that things played out well in his departments. The K-rails loaned to us by Ortiz Enterprises helped define the two lines in the meadow, and the bands did a great job. Operations in the Ticket/Souvenir Booth fell together quickly, and there were very few guest issues. Everyone had a willingness to serve and pulled their weight.

Guests of all ages were very eager to ride and quite vocal about their enthusiasm for Ghost Train, shared Glen Manchester. Hundreds of people thanked us for being there again this year, and said that the event was a family tradition that they looked forward to each year, some even calling it "an institution." We had riders that came in from all over the state and even further. Glen thanks our many line volunteers for their dedicated and friendly service to the public.

Reviews from news channels and entertainment sites overflowed with praise. "... not only one of the best family-friendly haunted attractions around, but also one of the best overall." (WestCoaster). "... undeniably the best family-friendly experience during the Halloween season – and it is also one of the best attractions, period." (Haunting).

Boney Island had a successful season too, with more than 13,400 visitors and much praise in the media. Hosting them at



our facility was a good pairing of two family-friendly attractions, as fans of each were happy to discover the other. Boney Island was able to pay their expenses, provide LALS with a promised 10 percent, and still have a very generous amount to donate to charity, which has always been their practice. And LALS was privileged to have some of their fold join ours as new members.

Again, Gary, Thaine and the Club wish to thank everyone who helped make this year such a smooth operation and an overall success. More members volunteered than ever before, and the work crew outdid themselves. Special thanks to CalHaunts who created the Frankenstein Castle and monster, and Jason Thompson/The Haunt Store who gave birth to Dino Land. Also to Larry Boone who generously provided the cemetery characters and scenery on the west end.

Cleanup is going quickly. The takedown crew has been working most nights and every weekend since October 31. The first structures and features dismantled were those that most impacted the tracks, such as the Christmas set, the giant cats and spiders, and Radiation Springs. On the

Saturday November 17, the Sutchville parking lot was full of scenery being disassembled for storage in the green trailer temporarily parked there. Frankenstein's Castle will be taken apart in sections and stored in our container on the west end. By the end of November, Ghost Train will be a mid-October's night dream.

P.S. We still have Ghost Train T-shirts and glow hats. They have been marked down and are available at the Souvenir Booth on Sundays.

▲ Ghost Train props staged for storage in Sutchville parking lot.

▼ New Christmas tree and workshop Santa in Garden Railroad.

◀ Pirate's party. (Steven Russo photo)

