

Build the Pit Yard

Join us this Friday-Sunday, May 3, 4, 5 — see page 2



BOOSTER

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“Pit” Yard Track Grading Advances



Les Kovaks and Bill Walker grade the Pit. *More photos inside.*

By Ross Harper

What is affectionately referred to as “The Pit” began several years ago when Les Kovacs, Doug Young, and Bill Walker replaced the crumbling railroad tie retaining wall on the south side of the maintenance-of-way (MOW) yard. With our tractors they expanded the size of the area and placed large cement blocks as the new retaining wall. Part of the old Crystal Springs Drive ran back in there, but it was filled in and covered up after new drainage pipes were installed.

Now we had a much larger area to develop, but there wasn't yet an approved plan of what to do with it. Some steel track panels were laid back down to be a temporary MOW yard so that the Webb yard would be available for the Fall Meet in 2021. Over the years, different ideas were kicked around, but other projects big and small took priority, including the re-opening of the Club after COVID, and developing extra train storage in the Green Container.

Finally, in April of this year, plans were ap-

(Continued on page 4)

G-Scale Railroad Rebuild Update

By Mark Weiss

As discussed at the last Board meeting, the Board has decided to form a G-Scale Committee with the purpose of getting the garden scale railroad area up and running so that it can be the showcase the Club deserves. We want to enable members to show off their equipment, and give visiting parents a break by providing an interesting and engaging display for children waiting for rides.

Having a committee that includes representation from all levels of the Club - some junior members, some new members, and some that know the history - has provided the added benefit of helping our younger members see that their ideas have



Mark Weiss

merit and instill in them a sense of pride and ownership that will help this renewed area thrive.

The near-term focus is to “begin with the end in mind” and get a proposal back to the Board and general membership by the May meetings. To achieve this, the Committee is meeting Saturdays at 1:00 pm. We’ve met twice and

we have already collected a number of track plans, solidified thoughts on the theme, and confirmed the features (lakes, bridges, tunnels) that would be fun to incorporate.

Stay tuned more developments! For questions, contact Marc at: 818.378.7620 / marcweiss@yahoo.com.

LALSRM Calendar

May

- 1 2024-25 Shed Credit Earning Year Begins
- 3-5 Building Track panels for Pit Yard
- 5 Public Rides
- 6 In Person/Zoom BOD meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 Work Day (KK open)
- 12 **Mother's Day** Public Rides
- 13 General Meeting - Zoom only 7 pm
- 18 Extra Work Day for Spring Meet (KK open)
- 19 Public Rides, Disney Barn open
- 24-27 **SPRING MEET (Memorial Day weekend)** (no public rides)

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Diana Manchester,
Secretary

The April 1, 2024 Board Meeting was called to order by President Roger Williams at 7:04 pm. Seven Club members

joined in person and about 36 members attended via Zoom. All eight Directors were present.

President's Report: Roger welcomed all members to the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Diana Manchester stated Quorum was met, and the March 2024 Minutes were approved. Mel Bresee's request for a private birthday party on Saturday, April 20 was approved.

Two FCR's submitted by Lloyd Davis were approved; one for a Yankee Girl mine building facade to be constructed on the hillside above the older mine structure; a second FCR to finish the Mill Creek buildings on Nelson Summit. Lloyd was encouraged to share the plans with Bill Walker who continues to head the Miniature Buildings Committee.

Garden-Scale Railroad FCR: Roger began a discussion on the G-Scale Railroad FCR, which was originally submitted by John Smith and Michael Finch. They have done a great job cleaning up not only the G-scale, but also the Soibelman Garden, which looks beautiful.

The Board wants to form an official committee for the G-scale renovation, so that the best interests of the Club are repre-

sented. Marc Weiss had shown interest as a coordinator awhile ago, and the Board named him Committee Chair, along with John and Michael. Don Kallgren will be the liaison between the Committee and the Board. It is hoped all the junior members will be involved as well.

For the time being, work should stop until the Committee has had the chance to meet and discuss everyone's ideas.

Pit Yard FCR - Steve Alley of Allen Models submitted a proposal for a yard in the Pit. It includes nine aluminum tracks manufactured by Accu-Tie; three tracks for MOW equipment, and the rest for general train parking by members and visitors. The proposal includes the track plans, materials, switches, and delivery, plus onsite panel-building instruction and management by Steve. The FCR also includes gravel for ballast. It was approved by the Board and will go to membership for a vote April 15.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Cammarata presented the month's finance report; we are in the black. We have four CD's earning interest. The report was unanimously approved. Roger reported on the March film shoot revenue.

Membership Report: Jim Cammarata reported 40 members still unpaid for 2024. The names have been sent to the Board.

Membership Committee Report: Nick Suncin introduced Dennis McCabe from Tehachapi. He collects model trains in all scales, including American Flyer, and has blueprints to build a live steam CP 173. He is skilled in finish carpentry and CNC machining, and currently does mechanical work on airport runway vehicles.

Michael Murphy introduced new

member Paul Boschan. He was engine house foreman for Roaring Camp narrow gauge in Santa Cruz, and owned his own business building ASME code boilers for steam restorations, and did two projects for Disneyland. He has worked on train equipment from three-quarter inch scale up to full size. He plans to build a live steam 50-ton Class B Climax for himself.

Earlier, he had been contacted by Dave Clark to look at our boiler, which he plans to do soon. Our three newest members Gabriel, Randy and Max are almost halfway through their probationary hours already.

Superintendent's Report: Glen Manchester thanked the large number of volunteers who helped clean up the Club and repair the Western Town after the March windstorm.

Public Operations: Michael Murphy said Titan Trains is making good progress on the new Club engine. The body shell, trucks and car are done, and the engine chassis is next.

Spring Meet Update: Bear Mustoe said all is proceeding well. Please contact Tom Lang to sign up for Gate Duty. Big Pop's BBQ will cater the Saturday night dinner again. The cost has gone up a little, but we're getting a lot of food.

We need volunteers for the Kountry Kitchen; contact Bear. Don Kallgren will be collecting your donated items for the President's Auction.

EVL Picnic, May 11: Michael Murphy needs engineers and conductors from 4 to 8 pm. Crews will be fed. Contact Michael to volunteer; it's a Club-sanctioned event and members can earn shed credit.



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

Editor - Peter Fuad

Associate Editor— Diana Manchester

Help Us Build the Pit Yard

We need many hands to assemble and install as much track as possible on Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5. Steve Alley will be onsite those three days to provide complete instruction and work beside us. Eight to 10 volunteers are needed for each of those dates, so please come out to help! No track building experience is necessary. You will be surprised how easy and fast the assembly will go!

Contact Ross for more details: 818.786.7380 / panmanross@aol.com.

See pages 1 and 4 for more on the Pit project.





President's Message

By Roger Williams, President

Our annual Spring Meet taking place on Memorial Day weekend is fast approaching. We will be hosting a higher number of Live Steamers this year. Volunteering, if only for a couple hours, goes a long way to ensure a fun and safe weekend for all. Gate Duty, Kountry Kitchen, Souvenir Table and helping load and unload at lifts are important jobs. Please contact Tom Lang (Gate Duty), Bear or Diana (KK), or Jim Cammarata (Souvenirs).

Not only is it time to dust off that old steam engine in the garage, it is also time to help us really clean up our Club. If you don't know what to do, contact Glen Manchester and he can point you in the right direction. On Saturday the 25th, we'll have the President's Auction, so please look through your garages, machine shops and train rooms for railroad-related items that people might like to bid on. Reach out to Don Kallgren who is coordinating and storing donations.

We have a few new faces at the Club. If you haven't met, please reach out and introduce yourself. We want our new members, especially Junior Members, to be welcomed and integrated. It will be our younger generations who will carry the Club in the years to come.

Ross Harper and his team have been hard at work coordinating the new train yard in the Pit. Please check out his article on pages 1 and 4. Thank you, Ross for your dedication to our Club. You may not see him Sundays, but he is usually here during the week fixing track, air and water lines, and now prepping for our expanded train yard.

I would like to thank Lisa Lipton for her service on the Board of Directors this year. Unfortunately, she has resigned from leadership due to personal reasons. The next candidate in line from our elections is Collin Westphal. He brings 24+ years as an active member holding several important roles with our organization. Please join me in congratulating Collin as he takes the 8th seat on our Board of Directors.

Let's continue to practice SAFETY as our highest priority. Report a trip hazard, track, signal, or any other issue to the appropriate people. Take the time to show a member how to properly handle a tool. Clean up after you've used an area or machine. Don't put yourself or others at risk.

Thanks to each of you for the hard work you've invested in our "Club" to make it an incredible place to fellowship.

See you on the rails,

Roger Williams / 323.252.9767
williams wiring@icloud.com

Our New Titan Trains Locomotive – A Work in Progress



Earlier this year



Recent

Pictured above is the 1.5" scale EMD SD70ACe locomotive in the process of being built for us by Titan Trains. It will have electronic controls and air brakes. The locomotive will be 10 feet long and weigh about 900 lbs. We will also be getting a control car with an engineer's seat and control panel. The photo to the right shows the paint scheme we have chosen.

History: The SD70 is a series of diesel-electric locomotives produced by Electro-Motive Diesel starting in 1992 and was the main competition to GE's Dash 9-44CW. The SD70ACe was developed to be lower in emissions and debuted in 2005. It is rated at 4,500 horsepower and designed for heavy-freight hauling.





“Pit” Yard Construction

(Continued from page 1)

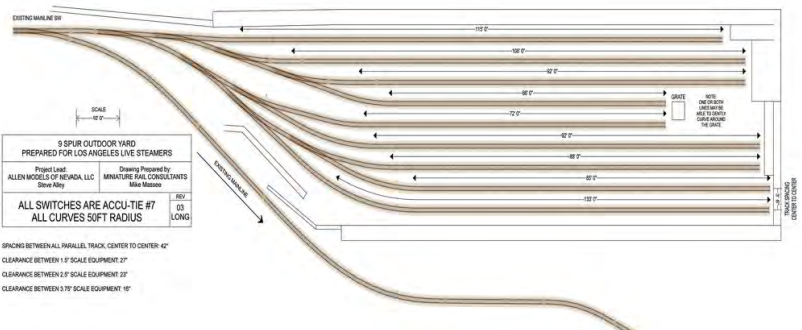
proved by the Board and the membership for a yard of nine tracks in the Pit that will accommodate both regular and narrow gauge trains.

Aluminum Rail and Pre-Built Switches to be Used

The Club's MOW equipment will use three tracks, leaving us six much-needed tracks for train parking during our Meets. Since we don't have enough steel rail and this is a lower-use area, the decision was made to purchase aluminum rail from Steve Alley who represents Accu-Tie. Steve has been very helpful with the track plans, the material list, and organizing what needs to be done. He even pre-built the switches, saving us time and labor.

To get ready for the track installation, the MOW cars and canopies were moved to the Webb Yard and the steel track panels in the Pit were removed. Roderick and Tristan Fritz were very helpful in getting the steel track panels back to the track building area for storage.

The plan is to assemble and install as much track as possible on Friday, May 3 through Sunday, May 5. We need eight to 10 volunteers for each of those dates, so please come out to help!



It's the Pit Project

Many members helped prepping for the new track. Photos of efforts to date. *Clockwise from upper left:* Les Kovacs removing excess dirt from yard area; prior to grading the temporary steel tracks were removed from yard-to-be; Mike Massee and Steve Alley measure the Pit for new track as Glen Manchester helps; track diagram of finished yard; Les uses laser level in Pit before grading.

GROUND SUPPORT



By Glen Manchester, Superintendent



We all have a special opportunity this Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May 3-5) to help build the new Pit Yard. We need 8-10 volunteers each day. You don't need any track building experience; you will be taught what to do by Steve Alley, and you'll be working with a team.

Most of the work will be building panels on a table equipped with jigs.

The Accu-Tie track system is simple to work with and the panel assembly goes fast (See photo below left). For track panel assembly: bring a battery-powered impact screw driver with a 5/16" drive bit. For track installation: bring knee pads and a ratchet driver with 3/8" socket. Everyone, bring a hat, gloves and any extra drivers to share. Lunch will be provided.

For our May 11 Workday we will be cleaning up the grounds in preparation for the Spring Meet. The one-inch track layout is very overgrown and needs the most attention. We will be replacing ties in the mainline track in places, and also leveling track in places.

Most of the switches need a careful clean-out of leaf debris, spider webs and impacted DG. We will show you how to clean the switches. There is also leaf raking and landscape cleanup to do throughout the facility. We need an engineer to drive the work train. Lunch will be provided.

I will be at the Club May 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to help with the Pit Yard and other grounds issues.

Our new trash bins are due to be delivered Wednesday, May 1. The largest one will be stationed on Crystal Springs Drive to collect green waste. We can place all landscape debris in it, including pine needles.

In closing I want to say, that Track Maintenance is every member's job at the Club. Without track, we have no railroad. Our track will need a lot of TLC over the next months. In many places it needs to be raised, leveled and re-ballasted. This will prevent problems while running both private and public trains.

Thanks all.

Glen Manchester / 626.344.3413
glenmanche@gmail.com

Keeping Club green and clean ▲ Sam Calderwood mows Club lawns every Friday. ► Steve Rodstein (pictured) and Ross Harper installing four new irrigation valves; ▼ Anders Iversen hauls Christmas decorations to storage with his switcher.



▼ Building track panels using Accu-Tie track system at the Train Mountain Triennial



Observation Car



Comings and goings on recent public run

Sundays. Above: Clockwise from upper left: Andy Blake on Club loco; Michael Murphy on No. 8; Garibalde Figueroa and Harrison Hitchcock firing steam tractor; and Sara Morris on Dad's MoPac loco. (Glen Manchester photos)



San Jose Academy Students Visit Club on April 27

Above left: Bill Schirmer on No. 8; Tim Silver (Engineer) and Denise Ames (Tinkerbelle) with train of kids; Right: Matt Bassett gives safety speech to amassed children.



Who's been working on the Railroad

March 2024

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Amelia Asamoto | Jeremy Steinert | Richard Ronne |
| Andrew Chaves | Joe Clow | Robert Guzman |
| Andy Blake | John Smith | Roger Williams |
| Anthony Ambriz | Johnny Dorado | Ron Nelson |
| Aram Dergevorkian | Joseph Jackson | Ross Harper |
| Bill Pascarella | Julio Dorado | Ryan Pedersen |
| Charles Rhoades | Kathy Crabb | Sam Calderwood |
| Dan O'Brien | Larry Tighe | Scott Cymbala |
| Darrell Payne | Lisa Lipton | Steve Rodstein |
| David Bassett | Matthew Bassett | Stevo Brock |
| David Lazarus | Mel Bresee | Ted Naimy |
| David Lundquist | Michael Finch | Tim Silver |
| David Mitchell | Bill Schirmer | Warren Lincoln |
| Diana Manchester | Michael Murphy | Wayne Crabb |
| Don Kallgren | Michael Strawn | Wyatt Cymbala |
| Garibalde Figueroa | Mike Stockton | David Holman |
| Glen Manchester | Nicholas Silver | Gabriel Perez |
| Greg McMurry | Nick Guzman | Les Kovacs |
| Jack Streit | Nick Suncin | Max Thalor |
| James Baker | Peter Fuad | Randy Sinnott |
| James Cammarata | Phil Tucker | Ryan Hechinger |
| James Duncan | Ray Burden | Zak Holman |

The above list is compiled by Michael Murphy from submitted timecards. The adjacent Sunday Extra Board includes additional members helping during Sunday public rides.

New Trash Service Rolls Out

You will soon notice new trash bins in the central area. Los Angeles now only accepts waste from city departments, making it necessary for us to contract for our waste disposal. We will have three color-coded bins. The black bin next to the Doughhouse is for general trash (food waste, etc.) destined for a landfill.

The blue bin next to the Pit is for recycling. Recycling includes CLEAN paper, plastic, cardboard, and metal. Please do not place food-contaminated items in the recycle bin. Also, do not place hazardous waste such as oil or batteries in the recycle bin. Most automotive stores will take those items as well as local recycle centers.

The green container next to the Pit is for all landscape waste including leaves, branches and pine needles. There is no more need to separate out pine needles.

The contractor will empty all containers once a week.

The green container is the largest size the Contractor offers, but the size of the smaller containers can be increased should the Club desire.

Should you have any questions, please contact Glen Manchester at 626-344-3413.



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park

PO Box 2156, Toluca Lake CA 91610
LALSRM.org (323) 661-8958

2024 Officers and Directors

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Roger Williams |
| Vice President | Michael Murphy |
| Secretary | Diana Manchester |
| Treasurer | Jim Cammarata |
| Don Kallgren | Ron Nelson |
| Tim Silver | Collin Westphal |

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

MARCH 2024

Engineers and Conductors

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| David Bassett | Steve Rodstein |
| David Lazarus | Chris Solak |
| Fred Lack | Tim Silver |
| Warren Lincoln | David Holman |
| Ron Nelson | Sara Morris |
| Zak Holman | Thaine Morris |
| Darrell Payne | Andy Blake |
| Ryan Pedersen | Michael Strawn |

Station Masters

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Anthony Ambriz | Wayne Crabb |
| Robert Guzman | Glen Manchester |

Safety Coordinators

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| James Cammarata | Wayne Crabb |
| Michael Murphy | |

Public Ridership

March 3	Rain	March 17	1080
March 10	843	March 25	Rain
		March 31	Rain

Locomotive Maintenance

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| Miles Kristman | Ray Burden |
|----------------|------------|

Souvenirs and Tickets

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Kathy Crabb | Tom Crue |
| David Mitchell | Laurie Rodstein |
| Scott Cymbala | |

March 2024	—	1,982
Year to Date	—	4,942
Last Year YTD		4,289



2024 Spring Meet

Memorial Day Weekend | May 24-27

Private Event for Members, Guests & Visiting Railroaders



RSVP – SATURDAY BBQ DINNER

RESERVE NOW; pay at Meet

Silvia Tucker – 323.371.4472 (cell/text)

silmun@att.net (email)

Type "Saturday Dinner" in the subject line

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Gate Duty: 2-hour shift. Contact Tom Lang: tomlang@pacbell.net, or call/txt 818-635-5010.

Kountry Kitchen Crews: Sign up in KK or contact Bear Mustoe/Diana Manchester

Parking Lot Crew: Help unload/load.

President's Auction: Donate RR items. Don Kallgren: 818.235.7058

Souvenir Table: Jim Cammarata 818.618.6002 / jamescammarata@yahoo.com

Steam Locomotives

Must have spark arrestors, ash pan, & up-to-date boiler inspection tags. Visiting steam locomotives can get hydro-tested/certified as personnel are available. Propane fuel will not be supplied; please bring your own.

Night Operations

FREDs & running/parking lights required.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS / MENUS

FRIDAY

6:00 pm **SPAGHETTI DINNER** by Board of Directors - no cost

8:00 pm **MOVIE**

SATURDAY

7:30–9:00 am **BREAKFAST** – All American Breakfast – \$8.00

10:30–5:30 pm **SOUVENIR TABLE** – New items; Saturday Dinner Tickets

10:30–2:30 pm **DISNEY BARN**

11:45–1:30 pm **LUNCH** – Hamburger or Hot Dog, Sides, Drink – \$9.00

1:30 pm **PRESIDENT'S AUCTION** in New Sherwood Station

3:30 pm **BINGO**

6:00 pm **BBQ RIBS & CHICKEN DINNER**

Reserve your tickets now

\$25 Adult plate / \$10 Child plate

7:15 pm **RAFFLE**, followed by Dessert

8:00 pm **MOVIE**

SUNDAY

7:30–9:00 am **BREAKFAST** – All American Breakfast – \$8.00

10:30–2:30 pm **SOUVENIR TABLE**

11:45–1:30 pm **LUNCH** – Hamburger or Hot Dog, Sides, Drink – \$9.00

MONDAY

7:30–9:00 am **BREAKFAST** – Cereal, Danish, Toast, Fruit, Drink – \$5.00



Camping (Starting 12 noon Wednesday, April 22)

Tent camping in East & West Meadows and around Disney Barn. No porta-potty in West Meadow. RV Campers can set up on Crystal Springs Drive (first come, first served) or outside the gate in the Members parking lot. RV's must be self-contained; no hookups for electricity or water.

Parking

Crystal Springs Drive reserved HALF & HALF handicapped parking and RV's. NO PARKING IN SUTCHVILLE LOT: Friday–Monday; loading /unloading only.

MEET QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Bear Mustoe, Host 818.359.0323 / sfxnskye@gmail.com / Diana Manchester 626.222.7499 / dm.ad@verizon.net