

# LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ "NEWS OF YOUR FRIENDS" ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

January 2005

www.lals.org

Vol. XL, No. 1

## President's Message

By Donald Frozina



It's hard to imagine that 2004 is already in the history books! 2004 was an eventful year for our Museum with DOSH and insurance being negatives. The positives were the Spring and Fall Meets, the two Children's Hospital of LA Runs, the City of Hope Run, the Webb-Stutson Run, the NMRA Run and the TTOS Run. Our electric locomotive made its debut and is an asset for all of us to be proud of. Gary Baker and his

"spooktacular" crew did another *fantastic* job on our Halloween Runs that brought in some much-needed donations.

What's up for 2005? Well, I hope we can adopt a general (facility) safety plan and have it approved. I hope we can concentrate on getting our track work and grounds in optimal shape. I hope we see the construction of the new storage barn. Moreover, I hope we have fun and build lasting friendships while doing these things.

When you read Sam Calderwood's "From the General Superintendent" column, you find out that Sam is retiring after 5 years of service as Superintendent. Each of us owes Sam a big "thank you" for all the hard work and effort he has put in during his tenure. Sam's shoes (and shirt) will be very difficult to fill. The position of Superintendent is one of the most important positions at our Museum. It requires a good knowledge of the grounds, common sense, organization and planning. I don't expect, whoever is appointed, to put in as much "hands-on" work as Sam did, but be able to direct others in the needs of our Museum. If you're interested in the position, please let any Board Member know.

Operating a Museum such as ours is a collaborative effort—it's not just your Board of Directors, but our members who make things happen. We all need to work together for the common good, enjoy our friendships and our hobby.

## Membership Renewals Due Soon

Last month, individualized membership renewal forms were included with your copy of the *Engine Booster*. *Everyone* needs to renew, including probationary members. *Be sure to check that your information is correct, if not, make the necessary changes!* If we haven't received your renewal by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, your name will be dropped from the 2005 Roster.

## Member Calendar

Jan. 3	Board Meeting
Jan. 8	<b>Shed Transfers</b>
	<b>Change Directions</b>
Jan. 15	Work Day
	General Meeting
<hr/>	
Feb. 1	<b>Membership Renewals Due</b>
Feb. 7	Board Meeting

*Board/General Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.*

## Public Service Schedule

Jan. 2	Public Rides
Jan. 9	Public Rides
Jan. 16	Public Rides
	Disney Barn Open
	Steam Plant Open
Jan. 23	Public Rides
Jan. 30	Public Rides
<hr/>	
Feb. 6	Public Rides

## In This Issue

Early Railroad Crew Cuisine	3
Engineers and Conductors	4
For Sale	3
General Superintendent	3
Holiday Banquet and Officer Installation Highlights	2
In Memoriam	4
Remember When	3
Splinters from the Board	2

## Splinters from the Board

### December 6, 2004

By George Bass

The meeting began with a presentation by Dave Johnson regarding the Griffith Park Railroad, which will be built by Peter Nott.

The newly elected board members were seated: Gary Baker, Roger Bacon, Donald Frozina and John Smith. The new officers for 2005 are: President, Donald Frozina; Vice President, Dave Johnson; Secretary, George Bass and Treasurer, Eric Fields.

The "office" trailer will be moved after it is painted and the Halloween decorations will be stored in it.

There is one new member: Jeff Lynco.

Jim Baker reported on the status and need for repair of a broken rail at the Minden Siding.

Willie Wilhelm reported that automatic brakes on the bench cars should be completed by December 18, at a cost of \$150 per car.

Wolf Fengler reported that he could attach skirts and regular axels at about \$10 each on the new Fengler/Stutson bench cars. The attached skirts will cover wheels, which will allow no possibility of feet being caught under the wheels. Extent of authority for cars: three cars. Total cost of finishing cars is \$2,400 for 2 cars per previous Board resolution.

Donald Frozina spoke regarding a data sheet for members, which was accepted. *Engine Booster* subscriptions only, with no membership privileges will be available.



### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum *Engine Booster*

The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Museum/track are located in Griffith Park, 5202 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles, CA. Mailing address: PO Box 2156 Toluca Lake, CA 91610.

The *Engine Booster* is edited and laid out by Donald Frozina and is produced on a PC using Microsoft® Publisher 2000 software. Articles and photos are always welcomed, although the right is reserved to edit all copy. Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Input can be dropped into the "Booster" mailbox in the UP caboose, mailed, e-mailed or faxed as follows:

Donald Frozina 2132 Bend Ave. Lancaster, CA 93535  
E-mail: booster@lals.org Fax: 310/302-4111

## Holiday Banquet and Officer Installation Highlights

### December 11, 2004

By Donald Frozina

Members and their spouses began arriving at the Smoke House in Burbank around 6 pm on December 11, 2005. Approximately 42 persons attended.

Appetizers available were chicken skewers, potato skins, Buffalo wings, breaded fried cheese, and the famous Smoke House garlic bread! The dinner consisted of prime rib of beef or chicken buena vista, along with a house salad, twice baked potatoes or rice pilaf, and green beans. Dessert was carrot cake, cheesecake or raspberry sorbet—all arranged by John Friend.

Around 8:30 pm, outgoing President Lew Soibelman began the meeting with a few remarks. He then announced the four new member of the 2005 Board of Directors: Gary Baker (not present due to his involvement with the Metro-link Holiday Toy Express train), Roger Bacon, Donald Frozina, and John Smith (also not present). Lew announced that the officers of the organization for 2005 were: Donald Frozina as President; David Johnson as Vice President; George "Smokey" Bass remaining Secretary; and Eric Fields as Treasurer.

Lew invited incoming President Donald Frozina to speak. Don also had a few words; thanking the 2004 Board for their tireless efforts with DOSH, the necessity of working together for the common good, and on the need to get the facility ready for our golden anniversary in 2006. Ted Berg, Rowland Fogarty and Ron Bergmann also made a few remarks.

Lew had one other order of business to discuss and have the members vote upon; an FCR. There were no dissents. Lew then distributed much-deserved "Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Service" to many of the members present.

The meeting adjourned around 9:15 pm.

### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Board of Directors 2005

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**



**Board Members**

Donald Frozina  
David Johnson  
George Bass  
Eric Fields

Gary Baker  
Roger Bacon  
Fred Lack  
John Smith

Phone 323/661-8958

FROM THE **General Superintendent**

By Sam Calderwood



Well, I would like to thank all that showed up for the workday. We had a small but mighty crew this weekend. We got a lot of cleaning and trimming work done this weekend.

Lew Soibelman, Mel Bresee, and Tom Crawford were on a weed hunt this weekend and they bagged some nice ones! They

are trying to find someone to mount the big one for their wall. Cynthia and Jonathan Izen were over helping Mike Houston cleaning up the "G" gauge. Mike is putting in a new line in the center and it is looking real good. Should be fun when he gets it done. Check it out.

For those of you who don't know this Saturday was my last day as your General Superintendent. I would like to thank all that have come out in the last five years to help keep this Museum trimmed and clean, especially the ones that are there every workday and then some. Thank you all so much, you made my job easier to do, and it's time for me to get other things done.

If you know someone that would like to be the General Superintendent, please let a Board Member know or if you would like to do it give him your name. It is a hard job, but you have a few *outstanding* people to work with. I won't tell you who they are because they like what they do and are very good at it and they already know who they are.

Thanks for all of your help!

---

## Remember When

By Doug Alkire

Looking Southwest at the new LALS site. The Travel Town Narrow Gauge track is at the right. Nov. 10, 1956.



## Early Railroad Crew Cuisine

By Ted and Ginny Berg



Utah Phillips tells this story... When the first tracks were laid to link East with West the work was done by rough and ready men—followed by cook and dormitory cars. The prairies, forests and mountains were inhabited by a great variety of wild animals. A young city man hired on, thinking to make some good money and enjoy the great outdoors.

At his first meal with the crew he took a few bites, threw down his fork and yelled, "This is terrible! Worst food I've ever had—anyone should be able to do better". The crew went totally silent. The cook took off his apron, slapped it down on the young man's plate and announced, "Well, Sonny, you're the new cook".

"But I didn't sign to be a cook!" protested the young man. The immediate past cook sat down with his own food while replying "We have a rule around here: whoever complains about something must take on the work." So, the complainer took over the cooking. He didn't exert himself too much figuring the only way out of this job was to serve the worst meals possible. But much to his chagrin, at every meal, everyone complimented him and declared, "This is the best meal ever."

One day while waiting for some pies to cool, he looked out the window and saw a moose laying a prairie pancake. The young man brightens and decides he's going to make a moose t\*\*d pie for the crew! Surely, someone will complain about that! So, he makes and serves his moose t\*\*d pie. To his great concern, the first man to take a slice was the biggest, meanest, ugliest man on the crew—he took a bite, jumped up and hollered out "By gawd, that's moose t\*\*d pie—but it's good, though!"

Here's to LALSRM for a solvent, Happy New Year, with self-starters enjoying comradeship and good food in 2005.

---

## 2005 Calendar Enclosed

Enclosed is your LALSRM calendar of events for 2005. There are "events" for over 90 days this year. Try to participate in as many of these events as possible!

---

## Shed Transfers Day

Shed Manager Steve Harris will be at the Museum on Sat., Jan. 8, from 10 am to 2 pm to distribute keys and combos.

---

## For Sale

**Pair of 1½" scale cast boxcar ends** by Cannonball.  
\$130.00/OBO for pair. Contact Al Way, 805/452-1408.

## Engineers and Conductors November 2004

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
11/07/2004 475 passengers	Ron Tarjany DJ Sandler Steve Harris Andrew Held Opening Station Master: Robert Quinn	Pat Miller Gene Heiman C. Jett/B. Harris Robert Quinn	Tarjany LALS Harris Burdorf
11/14/2004 953 passengers	Michael Romanucci Ron Tarjany Chuck Mohr C. Jett/DJ Sandler Jim Lesovsky Peter Fuad David Markowski Bonnie Kaufman Mike Murphy Bart Sissons Opening Station Master: Fred Lack	John DePhillip Pat Miller Ray Secara F. Lack and D. Ward Gail Woodward Don Emmer Jerry Albus Robert Lamont Andy Skowronski Larry Mitchell	Romanucci Tarjany Mohr LALS Lesovsky Fuad LALS Kaufman Murphy Sissons
11/21/2004 563 passengers	Chuck Mohr Peter Fuad Ron Tarjany Andrew Held Gene Heiman Andy Blake	Ray Secara Roberto Lopez Pat Miller Robert Quinn Chris Mahony Bart Sissons	Mohr Fuad Tarjany Burdorf LALS Sissons
11/28/2004 720 passengers	Peter Fuad Chuck Mohr Bonnie Kaufman Michael Romanucci Wolfgang Hell Andrew Held Opening Station Master: Fred Lack Station Assistant: Tom Crawford	J. Hayes/T. Downing Ray Secara Rory Hawkins DJ Sandler/R. Lopez Wolfgang Fengler Robert Quinn	Fuad Mohr Kaufman LALS LALS Burdorf

2,711 Total passengers for month  
43,294 Total passengers for year to date

## Who's Been Workin' on the RR

Nov. 21 — Dec. 18, 2004

Akins, Tom	Heiman, Gene
Bresee, Mel x2	Houston, Michael
Calderwood, Sam	Izen, Cynthia
Crawford, Tom	Izen, Jonathan
Crowner, Eugene	Quinn, Robert
Downing, Tom	Soibelman, Lew x2
Frozina, Don	Ward, Doug

## Railroad Salaries

Computed from Annual Report to ICC on Employees Service and Compensation for Period 1924-1931. All Class I Railroads Combined. Average monthly compensation.

Yardmasters and assts.	\$223.40
Switch tenders	\$127.14
Outside hostlers	\$154.95
Inside hostlers	\$140.95
Outside hostler helpers	\$123.16

## Training Classes

**Conductor:** Want to learn to be a conductor? Call Roger Bacon at 818/887-0898 or Steve Harris at 818/842-2296 to schedule a class. There is an excellent video available to either borrow or own (\$5). The conductor class typically meets on a Sunday.

**Diesel Engineer:** Want to learn to operate the organization's diesel locomotives? Call Roger Bacon at 818/887-0898 or Gary Burdorf at 310/573-2019 or Eric Fields at 818/205-1653 to schedule a class. The diesel class typically meets on a Saturday with the Check Ride on the following Sunday. Note: You must have completed all your conductor requirements to attend this class.

**Steam Engineer:** Want to learn to operate the organization's steam locomotive? Call Wolf Fengler at 310/328-7283 to schedule a class. Note: You must have completed all your diesel engineer requirements to attend this class.

## In Memoriam

*By Donald Frozina*

Jack Sessums, a 30-year member of LALSRM, passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Redlands, California. Jack was the owner of Sessums Engineering in Redlands. Jack was into making live-action miniatures for the film and television industry, including trains. Services were held on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> at Calvary Chapel of Redlands.



# 2005 Calendar of Events

~ *January* ~

01/02	Public Rides
01/03	Board Meeting
01/08	<b>Shed Transfers/Change Directions</b>
01/09	Public Rides
01/15	Work Day/General Meeting
01/16	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
01/23	Public Rides
01/30	Public Rides

~ *February* ~

02/01	<b>Membership Renewals Due</b>
02/06	Public Rides
02/07	Board Meeting
02/13	Public Rides
02/19	Work Day/General Meeting
02/20	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
02/27	Public Rides

~ *March* ~

03/06	Public Rides
03/07	Board Meeting
03/13	Public Rides
03/19	Work Day/General Meeting
03/20	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
03/27	Public Rides

~ *April* ~

04/03	Public Rides
04/04	Board Meeting
04/10	Public Rides
04/16	Work Day/General Meeting
04/17	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
04/24	Public Rides

~ *May* ~

05/01	Public Rides
05/07	<b>Change Directions</b>
05/08	Public Rides
05/09	Board Meeting
05/14	Work Day
05/15	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
05/21	Work Day/General Meeting
05/22	Public Rides
05/27-30	<b>Spring Meet</b>

~ *June* ~

06/04	<b>City of Hope Run</b>
06/05	Public Rides
06/06	Board Meeting
06/11	<b>Children's Hospital Run</b>
06/12	Public Rides
06/18	Work Day/General Meeting
06/19	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
06/25	<b>Potluck/Night Run</b>
06/26	Public Rides

~ *July* ~

07/03	Public Rides
07/10	Public Rides
07/11	Board Meeting
07/16	Work Day/General Meeting
07/17	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
07/23	<b>Potluck/Night Run</b>
07/24	Public Rides
07/31	Public Rides

~ *August* ~

08/07	Public Rides
08/08	Board Meeting
08/13	<b>TiOS Run</b>
08/14	Public Rides
08/20	Work Day/General Meeting
08/21	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
08/27	<b>Potluck/Night Run</b>
08/28	Public Rides

~ *September* ~

09/03	<b>Change Directions</b>
09/04	Public Rides
09/10	<b>Children's Hospital Neo-Natal Run</b> (tentative)
09/11	Public Rides
09/12	Board Meeting
09/17	Work Day/General Meeting/ <b>Nominations</b>
09/18	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
09/24	Work Day
09/25	Public Rides
09/30	<b>Fall Meet</b>

~ *October* ~

10/01-02	<b>Fall Meet</b>
10/03	Board Meeting
10/08	<b>Webb-Stutson Run</b> (tentative)
10/09	Public Rides
10/15	Work Day/General Meeting
10/16	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
10/22	<b>Halloween Potluck/Night Run</b>
10/23	Public Day Rides/ <b>Public Night Rides</b>
10/28	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
10/29	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
10/30	Public Day Rides/ <b>Public Night Rides</b>
10/31	<b>End Shed Year</b>

~ *November* ~

11/01	<b>Begin Shed Year</b>
11/06	Public Rides
11/07	Board Meeting
11/13	Public Rides
11/19	Work Day/General Meeting/ <b>Elections</b>
11/20	Public Rides/Disney Barn/Steam Plant
11/27	Public Rides

~ *December* ~

12/04	Public Rides
12/05	Board Meeting
12/10	<b>Holiday Banquet/Officer Installation</b>
12/11	Public Rides
12/17	Work Day
12/18	Public Rides
12/25	Public Rides