

# LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



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

June 2005

www.lals.org

Vol. XL, No. VI

## Souvenir Stand on the Move

By Donald Frozina



For the next couple of months, our portable souvenir stand has been rolled from its position behind the tree at New Sherwood Station,

to a new position next to the display sidings. This move will give our souvenir stand volunteers an opportunity to watch the "G" gauge layout in operation, while interfacing with the public and offering Museum t-shirts and logo patches, along with other logo-related items.

Volunteers are still needed to staff the souvenir stand; shed credit is given. The stand is a great place to work, meet, interact with people and help out the Museum. Please contact any Board member to sign up.

### City of Hope Cancer Survivors Run

June 4, 2005 starting at 10 am. Volunteers are needed for train crews, crowd control, etc. Contact Dan O'Brien, 714/531-2253, for more information.

### Children's Hospital Cancer Survivors Run

June 11, 2005 starting at 10 am. Volunteers are needed for train crews, crowd control, etc. Contact Mel Bresee, 310/553-2039, for more information.

## Member Calendar

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Jun. 4  | <b>City of Hope Run</b>        |
| Jun. 6  | Board Meeting                  |
| Jun. 11 | <b>Children's Hospital Run</b> |
| Jun. 18 | Work Day                       |
|         | General Meeting                |
| Jun. 25 | <b>Potluck/Night Run</b>       |
| -----   |                                |
| Jul. 9  | <b>EVL Run</b>                 |
| Jul. 11 | Board Meeting                  |

*Board/General Meetings begin at 7 pm.  
Potlucks/Night Runs begin at 6 pm*

## Public Service Schedule

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| Jun. 5  | Public Rides     |
| Jun. 12 | Public Rides     |
| Jun. 19 | Public Rides     |
|         | Disney Barn Open |
|         | Steam Plant Open |
| Jun. 26 | Public Rides     |
| -----   |                  |
| Jul. 3  | Public Rides     |

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## Splinters from the Board

May 9, 2005

By George Bass

Party Requests were approved for Jon Newbill on July 4 and for Tom Downing on July 23. A Model A club would like to visit the facility and have a picnic. If they decide to come on a third Sunday, the number should be ascertained for possible participation with lunch. Wilbur Dong will be the contact person. There was an e-mail regarding railroad signals. If donated, the Museum will supply a donation letter.

The track ties will be manufactured on May 12 and they will be transported to Doug Young's shop between May 19-23. There was an in depth analysis of the Souvenir Stand regarding cost vs. profit.

Steve Harris reported that there was one non-resident member application (E. Fosberg) and that Wayne Thomas has become a new member. There were three probationary members who have become full members.

During the month of April, the track near the Steam Plant was repaired, tracks at Sherwood were repaired; drywall in the meeting car was repaired; and the crossing bell was fixed. However, the tractor needs a new clutch, there are problematic trees that need professional maintenance, and there are bees near the UP caboose.

There was a meeting regarding the planned Sutchville track re-configuration. There was an in depth discussion regarding increasing insurance liability. The Board moved to double the coverage at an additional cost of approximately \$3,500. The dates of implementation of the Safety Program will be moved forward by one month, except for the radio requirement (which is still July 17).

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## General Meeting Highlights

May 21, 2005

By Donald Frozina

President Don Frozina called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Don outlined the agenda for the meeting: review of the May 9<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting, what transpired at the Museum on the last two workdays, an update on the Spring Meet by Lew Soibelman, an update on the June 4<sup>th</sup> City of Hope Run by Dan O'Brien, and a question and answer period.

Don reviewed the happenings of the last BOD meeting. Don noted that our General Superintendent, Tom Crawford has submitted his resignation effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom is moving to Colorado to become a superintendent of eight housing tracts. We all wish Tom well in his new job! To fill Tom's shoes, (and to make it easier for the members to remember our Superintendent's name), Don has appointed Tom Downing to take over the responsibilities as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Don expressed his confidence that Tom will be an excellent replacement for Tom!

Over the last two workdays, many items have been accomplished. Much leaf raking, the repair of the dry wall in the Registration Booth by Skeet Simpson and the interior painting by Rory Hawkins and Bob Beard. Mike Romanucci fixed the driveway's crossing signal lights and bell, and the walkways were edged.

Lew Soibelman talked about the plans for the Spring Meet. Most everything is ready, but volunteers are still needed and welcomed to help with the kitchen, registration booth and souvenir stand.

Dan O'Brien talked about the Spring Meet dinner. Chris' and Pitt's will again cater it. Dan also talked about the June 4<sup>th</sup> City of Hope Run. This year's theme is "Hollywood". Many members are needed for the train crews. Come on out and help give back to the community. Dan also noted

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### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Engine Booster

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

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FROM THE **General Superintendent**

By Tom Crawford

This last month has been very active with all kinds of projects getting finished. I want to thank all of the members that helped out throughout the whole month of May so we didn't have an 11<sup>th</sup> hour crunch (last minute) before the Spring Meet.

We now have a fixed steaming bay #3, thanks to Tom Downing, and the repair of the registration booth at the east gate. Thanks Skeet Simpson for the dry wall repair job and to everyone else that helped (too many to mention). The Museum is looking good for the Spring Meet—even the meeting car got a bath and the bushes around it got trimmed. If you haven't noticed, the wrought iron fence next to the display sidings was fixed where it rotted out at the ground, thanks to master fabricator Tom Fidger.

This month's workday is June 18<sup>th</sup>, so check out the *Things to do Around this Place* punch list for a special project. An updated copy of this can be found inside the "Who's Been Working on The Railroad" binder next to the telephone that's in the gazebo. Of course there is always general landscape maintenance to be done...

Many members may have heard already, but I'll use this forum to announce to everyone that I'm moving to Colorado Springs, Colorado come the end of this month. I've accepted a position there with the company that I'm presently working for, so it's a straight transfer. I guess this

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## Remember When...

By Doug Alkire

A 1" scale train heads East on the outer loop past a stopped 1½" scale train on the "Venolia Loop". 1960.



## President's Message

By Donald Frozina



This issue of the *Engine Booster* should reach you right after the Spring Meet. I am confident that the Spring Meet went well and that all had a good time. We were able to visit with old friends, maybe make some new friends, run trains and eat some good

food. Thanks to all the members who helped in the kitchen, registration booth, souvenir stand, the parking lot, and doing the many others jobs needing attention.

Our General Superintendent, Tom Crawford will be leaving us after the Spring Meet. Tom is going on to bigger and (hopefully) better things in Colorado, where he will be supervising eight housing projects. Thank you Tom for the organization and work you did as our General Superintendent. Good luck in your new position!

I've appointed Tom Downing as General Superintendent starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom is a very capable person, and easy to get along with. Tom plans to continue with the *Things to do Around this Place* punch list that Tom C. initiated. I feel it has been helpful for those members who come to the facility on the weekdays by giving them some direction on the project that are vital to the facility.

If you've read the "Splinters from the Board" column, you'll notice that your Board has extended the timeline to implement the Safety Program. We just ran out of time—time to complete the training materials, etc. One part of the safety plan we did not extend the timeline on is the requirement that each train crew member have operating 2-way radios starting July 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## In Memoriam

By Donald Frozina

We are saddened to report that Charter Member Maurice Priver passed away in the middle of May at the age of 99. Maurice originally trained as an engineer, but later switched gears and became a medical doctor. Maurice had a fine home shop, and was always thinking of creative solutions to problems. Maurice lived high up in the Hollywood Hills, and devised a sprinkler system that utilized the water in a neighbor's pool to protect his and his neighbors' homes from brush fires. Last year, Maurice donated his home shop equipment for the Museum's President's Auction. We extend our deepest condolences to Maurice's family.

## Engineers and Conductors April 2005

| <u>Date/Passengers</u>         | <u>Engineer</u>   | <u>Conductor</u>  | <u>Owner</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 04/03/2005<br>988 passengers   | Bob Woodward<br>Chuck Mohr<br>Peter Fuad<br>Doug Ward<br>Mike Murphy<br>Wolf Fengler<br>Bonnie Kaufman<br>Peter Nott<br>Andy Blake<br>Ted Naimy<br>Station Assistant: Pat Miller<br>Site Manager: Lucille Secara  | Gail Woodward<br>Ray Secara<br>Thaine Morris<br>Roberto Lopez<br>Andy Skowronski<br>Tracy Beattie<br>James Grzesiak<br>James Dederian<br>Bart Sissons<br><i>unknown</i> | B. Woodward<br>Mohr<br>Fuad<br>LALSRM<br>Murphy<br>Calderwood<br>Kaufman<br>Nott<br>Sissons<br>Naimy |
| 04/10/2005<br>1,102 passengers | Bob Woodward<br>Peter Fuad<br>Chuck Mohr<br>Mel Bresee<br>Doug Ward<br>Bonnie Kaufman<br>David Markowski<br>Peter Nott<br>Michael Murphy<br>Larry Mitchell<br>Station Master: John DePhillip Sr.<br>Station Assistants: Pat Miller, Gail Woodward<br>Site Manager: Lucille Secara | Gail Woodward<br>Bob Quinn<br>Ray Secara<br>Dick Brennan<br>DJ Sandler<br>Paolo Maria<br>Jerry Albus<br>J. Dederian & R. Lopez<br>Andy Skowronski<br>Bart Sissons       | B. Woodward<br>Fuad<br>Mohr<br>Bresee<br>LALSRM<br>Kaufman<br>LALSRM<br>Nott<br>Murphy<br>Mitchell   |
| 04/17/2005<br>905 passengers   | Peter Fuad<br>Sam Calderwood<br>Andrew Held<br>Bonnie Kaufman<br>Bart Sissons<br>Peter Nott<br>Fred Lack<br>Station Master: Eric Fields, Donald Frozina<br>Station Assistants: Pat Miller, Gail Woodward  | Bob Quinn<br>Tracy Beattie<br>Marc Lundquist<br>Paolo Maria<br>Larry Mitchell<br>D. Finnegan & R. Hawkins<br>Jon Newbill  | Fuad<br>Calderwood<br>Burdorf<br>Kaufman<br>Sissons<br>Nott<br>Newbill                               |
| 04/24/2005<br>715 passengers   | Chuck Mohr<br>Peter Fuad<br>Tracy Beattie<br>Bart Sissons<br>Bonnie Kaufman<br>Peter Nott<br>Station Master: Larry Mitchell<br>Station Assistant: Gail Woodward   | Ray Secara<br>Bob Quinn<br><i>unknown</i><br>Andy Blake<br>Leni Goldberg<br>James Dederian  | Mohr<br>Fuad<br>Beattie<br>Sissons<br>Kaufman<br>Nott  |
| 3,710                          | Total passengers for month  |   |  |
| 12,181                         | Total passengers to date  |   |  |

## Who's Been Workin' on the RR Apr. 17 — May 21

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Akins, Tom          | Downing, Tom x3    |
| Bacon, Roger        | Evans, Leonard     |
| Baker, Gary x2      | Fidger, Tom x2     |
| Baker, Jim x2       | Fields, Eric x2    |
| Beard, Bob          | Finnegan, Denis    |
| Benedict, Matthew   | Frozina, Donald x2 |
| Benedict, Sean      | Hawkins, Rory x2   |
| Benedict, Steve x2  | Houston, Michael   |
| Berg, Ginny x5      | Lamont, Robert x3  |
| Berg, Ted x5        | Moore, Lisa        |
| Bresee, Mel         | Moore, Todd        |
| Carlburg, Steve     | Quinn, Bob x3      |
| Clark, Dave x2      | Romanucci, Mike    |
| Crawford, Tom x2    | Sack, Larry x2     |
| Crone, Bob x4       | Simpson, Skeet x2  |
| Crowner, Eugene     | Soibelman, Lew x2  |
| Davis, Andrew       | Villafana, Henry   |
| Davis, Lloyd        | Ward, Doug         |
| DePhillip Jr., John | West, Eber         |
| Derderian, James    | Young, Doug        |
| DeRosa, John x2     |                    |

## Training Classes

**Conductor:** Want to learn to be a conductor? Call Roger Bacon at 818/887-0898 or Eric Fields at 818/205-1653 or Steve Harris at 818/842-2296 to schedule a class. There is an excellent DVD available to either borrow or own (\$5). The conductor class typically meets on a Saturday.

**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, and have logged at least 40 hours as a diesel engineer, to attend this class.

## Member Orientation & Inclusion Program

By Leonard Evans

Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005, open to all members, there will be another orientation and inclusion session in the Museum's meeting car. First a video history of live steam 1890 to the present, then a walk through the facility to meet briefly with different volunteers. We'll have lunch at noon, then spend the remaining time working around the facility. Starts 9 am. Questions or suggestions contact Leonard Evans, 310/871-9255.

**Splinters from the Board** (Continued from page 2)

The meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session at 8:30 and resumed at 11:30.

The leaning tree by the kitchen will be addressed before the Spring Meet. The new refrigerator should be installed and running prior to the Spring Meet. The *Society for the Preservation of Railway Dining* has raised the funds for this. The work on the registration booth will be completed before the Spring Meet. There is an infestation of termites at the Steam Plant that needs to be spot treated. Estimates will be obtained.

There was a discussion regarding the conversion of the 3100 to propane. Wolf Fengler will donate the tank and the burner, and there should be no cost to the Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 am.

**General Meeting Highlights** (Continued from page 2)

that train crews are needed for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Children's Hospital Run.

Don reported that one of our four remaining charter members, Maurice Priver, had passed away this week. Maurice was 99. The members present observed a moment of silence in Maurice's honor.

Don then opened the meeting up for questions and answers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

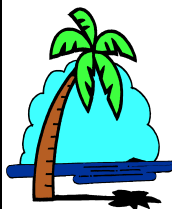
**General Superintendent** (Continued from page 3)

means that I can't be an active member from a thousand miles away... I'll miss this place. Anyway, an excellent replacement has already stepped up and will be taking over in my place. (Tom Downing. —*Editor*)

As always, for those of you that come out and work 4 hours on the next workday, you will get a free lunch courtesy of the kitchen. New probation members: don't forget to fill out and turn in your time cards for your time worked.

**June Potluck/Night Run**

By Donald Frozina



The potluck/night run will be on the fourth Saturday of June—June 25<sup>th</sup>. The potluck will start at 6 pm. The theme of the potluck will be Hawaiian. So, dust off those grass skirts and Aloha shirts. Prizes for the best adult and child costumes will be awarded.

**FROM THE Safety Chairman**

By Doug Young



Last time I covered two-headed signals. This month I want to cover the four-headed signal that's just off the east end bridge. This is our most complicated signal, so careful attention to it is very important; once learned though, it's not too difficult. In general, multiple-headed signals indicate the route ahead and block occupancy.

If only the top head is lit RED, YELLOW, or GREEN, the switch is thrown for the through route.

If the top head is lit RED, and the second head is lit YELLOW, the first and second switches ahead are set, i.e., the nearest crossover is thrown.

When the top and second heads are lit RED, and the third head is lit YELLOW, the second, third and fourth switches are set, i.e., both crossovers are thrown and you will go into the Station 1 (outer) track.

When the top, second and third heads are lit RED, and the bottom head is lit YELLOW, the second, third and fourth switches are set, i.e., both crossovers are thrown and you will go into the Station 2 (inner) track.

As always, if the signal is lit RED for the route you want to take, do not proceed until it changes to YELLOW (or GREEN for the top most signal).

There are three "slap paddles" that control these switches: two on the bridge and one on the berm leading to the first crossover. The eastern most paddle (on the bridge) controls the first crossover, the western most paddle (on the bridge) controls the second crossover, and the paddle on the berm controls which station track you'll enter. These last two paddles are only active if the eastern most paddle is set for the crossover.

Please look at all signals and pay attention to which way the switches are set—so the trains pulling public do not end up in yards or other tracks where they do not belong!

Stay alert and stay safe!

**For Sale**

**"Antique" (circa 1954) refrigerator.** Sears Coldspot. Semi-automatic defrost. Runs as good as ever. *FREE*. Contact Jerry Brown, 310/837-3442.

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

## New Tie Stock Has Arrived

By Donald Frozina



Doug Young announced that 743 twelve foot lengths (or 8,916 feet) of 2"x3" black recycled plastic lumber was delivered to his shop on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 am. The recycled plastic lumber's shipping weight was 14,317 lbs. Over the next few weeks, Doug will break down the shipment and deliver the material to the Museum. Once on site, the plastic lumber will be cut into tie lengths, yielding 7,430 ties. The material is guaranteed for 50 years.

We have found that recycled plastic is the most durable material available for ties. It is resistant to rot and UV radiation. Its molded-in color never requires painting or staining and is virtually maintenance free.

### President's Message (Continued from page 3)

Several years ago, the Museum offered some nice 2-way radios for sale to the members. These radios worked on the 14-channel FRS (Family Radio Service) band. In order to be compatible with the older radios, new radios must also have the 14-channel FRS band, along with the 38 sub-codes. If you don't see the 38 sub-codes mentioned on the package, don't buy that particular radio.

In doing some personal research on these radios, I've found that getting FRS-only radios is quite difficult, if not impossible. Most modern radios have two bands: FRS and GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service). These FRS/GMRS radios have 22 channels. Again, you must get the ones with the 38 sub-codes.

At the Museum, we will only use the FRS 14-channel band, to be compatible with the older radios (plus to transmit on the GMRS band, you'd need an FCC license, which is currently \$80, yikes!).

## Society for the Preservation of Railway Dining

By Donald Frozina

The *Society for the Preservation of Railway Dining's* potluck donation lunch brought in \$364 in May, bringing the total donated to \$1,782. The BOD decided at their May meeting to go ahead and use the funds to purchase a commercial refrigerator to replace three refrigerator-freezers in the kitchen. Roger Bacon and Donald Frozina scoured the internet for a suitable, yet cost effective replacement. They decided upon a ColdTech<sup>®</sup> 49-cubic foot two-door refrigerator.

The standard features of this unit include: computerized temperature display, 2.5" thick polyurethane insulation, stainless steel interior and exterior, automatic door closure with 90° hold open feature, epoxy coated sliding shelves, interior light and door locks. The unit arrived on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. After reading the instructions (imagine that!), installing the shelf brackets and shelves, the unit was plugged in. The starting temperature was 80°, and in less than 40 minutes the temperature was down to 38°—even with food inside!



The *Society for the Preservation of Railway Dining* plans on continuing their potluck donation fundraisers up to their goal amount of \$3,000. There are still some kitchen improvements planned, and they'd like to get a Snapple<sup>®</sup> bottle dispenser.

For each run session, we will designate a common radio channel to use. We aren't going to chisel the channel number in stone, since there could be other groups in the park using a given channel on a given day. So, on a case-by-case basis, we'll designate a channel and sub-code for use. That channel and sub-code will be written on the "Train Order Board" in New Sherwood Station.

Please note that the designated common channel is not for engineer to conductor, or conductor to engineer communication, but to alert the Station Master or Incident Coordinator of situations needing attention. So please respect the use of the designated common channel.