

# LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



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

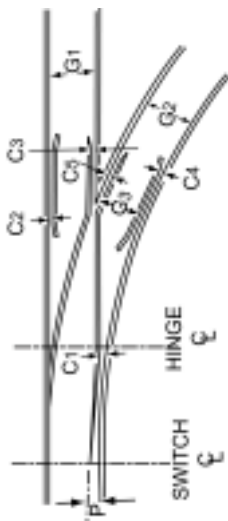
October 2005

www.lals.org

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## Switches from Alkire

By Mel Bresee



Our member of 44 years, Doug Alkire, had his eye sight returned recently and is acting like a new member with much enthusiasm! It is as if he just started the hobby—but we all know how much knowledge he has acquired over the years from his work in the aerospace industry and from model steam engine construction. He has also constructed over 100 switches for us.

Doug had a cataract removed from one eye. It was so successful he could see with 20/20 vision. After he had the second eye done, he just wanted to get back into the model railroading game. At this point, he has made eight frogs for 70-foot radius switches for our Sutchville reconfiguration project. Material has to be acquired for switch points, which will be milled into finished parts. As the steel rail becomes available, he will fabricate the closure and wing rails so that we will have finished kits with all the parts needed to build switches. He needs to know the count of

how many right and left hand switches will be in our reconfiguration project so he can bend the correct closure rails.

Thanks Doug for all your years of help at the Museum plus the most needed switch parts!

## Halloween Schedule

By Donald Frozina and Eric Fields

Gary Baker, our resident wizard of shows, along with Eric Fields, his able apprentice, will again produce our Halloween Spook-tacular events this year. We will be holding public night runs six times, (as this is our lucky number). The runs are:

Sat., Oct. 22, Sun., Oct. 23, and Fri., Oct. 28, Sat., Oct. 29, Sun., Oct. 30 and Mon., Oct. 31.

All night runs will be from 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Helpers will be treated (or is that tricked?) to dinner. Normal Sunday day operations will be unaffected.

Our Halloween Potluck will be held in conjunction with the public night run on Saturday, Oct. 22. The potluck begins at 5:30 pm.

Halloween setup on Oct. 15, teardown on Nov. 5. Shed credit given for both.

## Member Calendar

Oct. 1-2	<b>Fall Meet</b>
Oct. 3	Board Meeting
Oct. 8	<b>Webb-Stutson Run</b>
Oct. 15	Work Day General Meeting
Oct. 22	<b>Halloween Potluck</b>
Oct. 31	<b>End Shed Year</b>
Nov. 1	<b>Begin Shed Year</b>
Nov. 7	Board Meeting

Board/General Meetings begin at 7 pm.

## Public Service Schedule

Oct. 9	Public Rides
Oct. 16	Public Rides Disney Barn Open Steam Plant Open
Oct. 22	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
Oct. 23	Public Day Rides <b>Public Night Rides</b>
Oct. 28	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
Oct. 29	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
Oct. 30	Public Day Rides <b>Public Night Rides</b>
Oct. 31	<b>Public Night Rides</b>
Nov. 6	Public Rides

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## Splinters from the Board

### September 12, 2005

By George Bass

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as presented. Steve Harris introduced new member Bethann Kim. James Dardarian has passed probation. The Secretary presented a party request from Steve Altmayer for October 15.

The Treasurer reported that the rail purchase was \$14,063, which was approximately \$1,500 over estimate because of tax, insurance, and shipping. The rail purchase should arrive in mid to late October.

Dave Johnson presented an in-depth illustrated discussion (with extensive audience participation and support) on the Sutchville area and Webb Yard reconfiguration project. The Sutchville area and Webb Yard reconfiguration project was approved as submitted and will be brought to the General Membership on Saturday, September 17.

The December Banquet will be on Friday, December 9 at Le Petite Chateau in North Hollywood.

There was no update on the Garden Club proposal by Leni Goldberg. The tractor does not need a new clutch, only adjustment. However, one new piston is needed and the project should be finished by the end of the month and below estimated cost.

There has been a miscalculation of the number of the LED's for the signals and an additional amount will be needed to complete the project.

There was an extensive discussion of the Phil West Barn leasing survey letter. There was a motion to distribute a letter to the voting membership (Bacon/Lack). The motion passed. Members will be asked to return the completed form. Like our ballot process, the survey letter will be monitored closely.

(Continued on page 4)

## General Meeting Highlights

### September 17, 2005

By Donald Frozina

President Don Frozina called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Approximately 25 persons attended. Don started the meeting by reviewing the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Don then opened up the meeting to a general discussion of the Phil West Barn leasing issue and the forthcoming survey to be sent to all resident members and those who rent/lease track in the Alkire/Richardson sheds and the Phil West Barn. Don pointed out that this was the sixth meeting on this subject (between board and membership meetings). A lengthy discussion ensued and touched upon many points (as had the previous five meetings): return the barn to the "shed credit" pool, establish new leases for the barn, giving existing leaseholders the first right of refusal, etc.

Dan O'Brien talked about a proposal to give "shed credit" for those who work onsite (or offsite) other than on Sundays. This proposal will be written-up and brought to a future Board meeting for consideration.

After a short refreshments break, the topic of the Sutchville and Webb Yard reconfiguration project was discussed. Dave Johnson presented several fabulous diagrams for inspection. These diagrams were based upon input from many members over many weeks. The first vote was on the removal of the West end ramp leading to the steaming bays by the Alkire Shed. The vote was to remove the ramp to gain additional trackage in Webb Yard. Some concerns were brought up by the small scale railroaders in that approximately 60-80 feet of small scale trackage would need to be relocated between the southeast end of the meeting car and the southwest end of the steam plant. The small scale railroaders were assured that all possible help and assistance would be given by the Museum and its members to facilitate their trackage relocation. A vote on the complete plan was then put to the membership and passed with flying colors.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10 pm.

### 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.

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

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

**Directors**



Donald Frozina  
David Johnson  
George Bass  
Eric Fields

Gary Baker  
Roger Bacon  
Fred Lack  
John Smith

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**FROM THE General Superintendent***By Tom Downing*

It seems like we have a leaky Museum. We have been experiencing a rash of broken pipes. We fixed one annoying leak and then another pipe breaks further down the line. So if you've noticed some wet spots or things leaking, please bare with us. We are slowly, but surely getting it fixed.

My latest tool that I found most useful is a can of bee-killing spray. Be aware that we have many bees out right now. It may not be a bad idea to bring a can of bee spray with you if you're working out in the wilderness of our Museum.

Halloween is soon upon us, please don't hesitate to come out and get involved with setting up and taking down all of the displays. Next workday is on October 15<sup>th</sup>, if you have some free time, please come out and help us.

**FROM THE Signals Superintendent***By Michael Romanucci*

As you may have noticed, I have installed LEDs in the target signals. Talk about ending the confusion as to what color that signal is!!!!

Also something I overlooked... I forgot to mention that on the first Sunday in the direction we are traveling now, (eastbound) and a train either exits the Disney tunnel or comes down off the mountain division, the Smith Valley switch will automatically reset to the highline. This is to prevent a train from inadvertently crossing over to the Smith Valley at an inopportune time. So, to go to the Smith Valley line you must push the button to select it, even though the train in front of you went that way.

**Remember When...***By Doug Alkire*

Looking North by East at the East End trackage at LALS (the "Disney Loop" is at the right.) 1966.

**President's Message***By Donald Frozina*

By the time you read this, all regular members, and those that rent or lease track in the Alkire and Richardson Sheds, and the Phil West Barn, will have had an opportunity to complete a survey on how your Board of Directors should handle the future of the Phil West Barn. The results will be discussed at the October BOD meeting.

On the upcoming November ballot there will be several proposed Bylaws amendments. One is to simplify the date of the BOD meetings—the first Monday of the month, unless a holiday, then it would be the second Monday.

Another proposed amendment is raise the dues by \$50, making yearly dues \$100. Why are we asking for a dues increase? We are still faced with several major maintenance costs in the near future: repainting the full-size railroad cars (about \$25,000), and repainting the West End bridges (about \$15,000). This proposed dues increase would bring in about \$13,000 more dollars per year.

There has not been a general dues increase since 1987—and then only by \$5.00. Inflation since then has been 72.4%. Monthly utility costs continue to rise—both electrical and natural gas. We are also expecting a monthly water bill in the future. We have replaced many of our lamps with energy-saving fluorescent lamps, and we have purchased a new commercial refrigerator, which replaced four inefficient home units. But costs continue to rise...

This dues increase is necessary to help cover our utilities, our insurance, and to perform much needed maintenance.

**Small Scale Sunday***By Christopher Mahony*

With only two locomotives on the one-inch scale track, the September Small Scale Sunday was slim on action.

I encourage anyone with a one-inch scale locomotive to come out on the track every third Sunday of the month. And do not forget the Fall Meet! Bi-directional running on Friday night, plus the chance to show off your locomotives on the steaming bays Saturday and Sunday.

**BOD Candidates***By Lew Soibelman*

The following persons are running for the four open positions on the 2006 Board:

Steve Altmayer, Mike Capolupo, Wolf Fengler, Peter Fuad, Greg Häff, Joe Hayes, Andrew Held, David Holman, Christopher Mahony, Todd Moore, Mike Romanucci and Andy Skowronski.

Candidate statements will be included along with the ballot to arrive at your door in early November.

## Engineers and Conductors August 2005

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>	
08/07/2005 1,216 passengers	Ted Naimy	J. Powell/M. Bruce	LALSRM	
	Chuck Mohr	Ray Secara	Mohr	
	Bob Woodward	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward	
	Bernie Harris	Shira Bush	S. Harris	
	Michael Murphy	Bob Crone	Murphy	
	Sam Calderwood	T. Beattie/B. Kaufman	Calderwood	
	Michael Romanucci	Steve Rodstein	LALSRM	
	Peter Fuad	Tom Downing	Fuad	
	Mel Bresee	Joe Powell	Bresee	
	Station Assistant: Pat Miller			
	08/14/2005 1,140 passengers	Chuck Mohr	Ray Secara	Mohr
		Michael Romanucci	G. Woodward/B. Woodward	LALSRM
		Peter Fuad	Joe Hayes	Fuad
Todd Moore		Denis Finnegan	Moore	
Sam Calderwood		Tracy Beattie	Calderwood	
Michael Murphy		David Held	Murphy	
Bonnie Kaufman		David Smith	Kaufman	
Ron Bergmann		George Bass	Bergmann	
Andy Blake		Bart Sissons	Sissons	
Roger Bacon		D. Finnegan/F. Lack	LALSRM	
Station Assistants: Pat Miller and Larry Mitchell				
08/21/2005 1,254 passengers		Steve Harris	Thaine Morris	Harris
		Bob Woodward	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward
	Chuck Mohr	Ray Secara	Mohr	
	Ted Naimy	<i>unknown</i>	LALSRM	
	Peter Fuad	Donald Frozina	Fuad	
	Bonnie Kaufman	G. Bass/G. Klose	Kaufman	
	Sam Calderwood	Tracy Beattie	Calderwood	
	Michael Romanucci	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward	
	Larry Mitchell	Bart Sissons	Mitchell	
	Station Assistants: Pat Miller and Lucille Secara			
08/28/2005 756 passengers	Chuck Mohr	Ray Secara	Mohr	
	Bob Woodward	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward	
	Chris Solak	Bob Crone	Murphy	
	Sam Calderwood	Tracy Beattie	Calderwood	
	Bonnie Kaufman	Robert Beard	Kaufman	
	Ron Bergmann	Rowland Fogarty	Bergmann	
	Roger Bacon	Fred Lack	LALSRM	
	Michael Murphy	<i>unknown</i>	Murphy	
	Station Assistants: Bob Quinn and Larry Mitchell			

4,366 Total passengers for month  
29,285 Total passengers to date

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

A dues increase of \$50 was submitted as a bylaws amendment and approved. BOD Meeting Date Bylaws Amendment, which will adjust the BOD meeting dates to a more uniform schedule, was approved. There was an addition to P&P A104 (item 7 added; clarifies when equipment can be moved after being in a reportable incident).

The Halloween runs will take place on the last two weekends in October. Up to \$1,000 will be provided to cover consumables used for this important event. Shed credit will also be provided for setup and takedown. Members who participated in the City Employees Luncheon will receive shed credit. Reverse order will be used on the agenda to help with future meeting timing.

## Who's Been Workin' on the RR Aug. 21 — Sep. 17

Baker, Gary	Frozina, Donald
Baker, Jim	Mahony, Chris x2
Berg, Ginny	O'Brien, Dan
Berg, Ted	Quinn, Bob
Bresee, Mel x2	Romanucci, Michael x2
Casey, Michael	
Dong, Pam	Smith, John
Dong, Wilbur	Soibelman, Lew
Downing, Tom x5	x3

## Oktoberfest Coming

By Christopher Mahony



Ah, October... The harvest is in; the men are relaxing with a drink, pretzel and a bratwurst. The sauerkraut is simmering, and the ladies wearing their dirndls bring more refreshments. Sound like fun in Munich? Well the Museum will celebrate Oktoberfest on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Bratwurst, frankfurters, pretzels, sauerkraut and lots of oom-pah-pah music! Due to park regulations, only draft root beer will be available. So, come to the club on the 16<sup>th</sup> and experience Oktoberfest!

## For Sale

**Complete train.** 1½" scale K4 Pacific, propane fired, new injector and headlight assembly, a 6' flat car (used to carry the propane), a tank car (Hooker Chemical), and a wooden caboose. Many extras come with this equipment. Asking price \$17,500/OBO. Call Steve Pike, 818/352-7705.

## Wanted

**4¾" gauge SP steam-era caboose,** to go with my just-bought SP 4-4-2 (thanks, Erwin Steinmeyer). Contact Gerhard Klose, 323/663-0769.