

LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Our 50th Year ~ 1956-2006 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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A Perspective on the TM Triennial Meet

By Pam Dong



Train Mountain is an amazing railroading experience. It's big, about 26 miles of track, and a fun place to operate your train. You leave the top at the station and head down into the lower grounds. You are gone for at least 2 hours, and then you hardly see another train in front of you, even though there were over 300 trains registered, and 1000+ people in attendance from around the world. If you were looking for an unencumbered railroading experience, this was it at their 3rd Triennial Meet in June. Several local LALSRRM members were in attendance: Dan and Fran O'Brien, Dick and Nini Jensen, Bruce Ward, Cary Stewart, Mel Breese, Peter Nott, Leonard Evans, Louis Mooney, and Pam and Wilbur Dong. In addition,

many non-resident members from around the country attended. If we missed you, I apologize. It's a big place. If you would like to see some of the trains in attendance, go to Trevor Heath's website: www.livesteaming.com.

On a more somber note, Quentin Breen held a very engaging seminar on 'Proposed North American Standards for Operations and Equipment'. It was very well presented from the point of view of an attorney. Of course he used LALSRRM as an example and the catalyst for this recommendation. In essence he stated that we are living in a new era, one that is more litigious than ever before. One way of protecting the hobby and individual clubs is to seriously look at having some form of a universal set of standards that all clubs can abide by

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Children's Hospital Run

Don't forget that the Children's Hospital Run is on Saturday, September 16th from 11 am to 3 pm. To participate, you must be Level I certified. We'd like to field 4 trains for them. Contact Mel Breese, 310/553-2039 for more information.

Webb-Stutson Run

The 35th Annual Webb-Stutson Run is on Saturday, September 30th from 11 am to 3 pm. To participate in giving rides, you must be Level I certified. We also need members to help prepare and serve the food. Contact Roger Bacon, 818/887-0898.

Member Calendar

Aug. 26	Work Day General Member Meeting
Sep. 2	\$1 Dinner/Dessert Potluck
Sep. 9	First Aid/CPR Class
Sep. 11	Board Meeting
Sep. 16	Children's Hospital Run
Sep. 23	Work Day General Member Meeting
Sep. 30	Webb-Stutson Run
Oct. 2	Board Meeting

*Board/General Meetings begin at 7 pm.
Potluck begins at 5:30 pm.*

Public Service Schedule

Aug. 27	Public Rides
Sep. 3	Public Rides
Sep. 10	Public Rides
Sep. 17	Public Rides Disney Barn Open Steam Plant Open
Sep. 24	Public Rides
Oct. 1	Public Rides

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Splinters from the Board

August 7, 2006

By Peter Fuad

The follow matters were discussed at the Board meeting.

Donations. A number of donations were noted. The Ferrell/Paulin Family Foundation, a charity of Will Ferrell and Viveca Paulin, donated \$1,000. Six members donated \$500 each for picnic tables (see more below). Diane Becker was thanked for her donation of books and video tapes.

First Aid/CPR Requirement and Training. An additional First Aid/CPR class has been scheduled for September 16th. The Board voted to subsidize attendees at \$15 per attendee.

Equipment Safety. Willie Wilhelm presented the Safety Committee's proposed visitor safety requirements. The Board will vote on them at the next meeting. Each visitor will conduct his or her own inspection and certify that they have met the requirements.

Willie explained the issues that had occurred with the new skid-bar equipped center bench seat cars. The brakes were not properly set and the bar was too low to clear humps in tracks. He will be making adjustments.

Wolf Fengler described a track geometry car he is developing to test trackage for being level and in gauge. He hopes to have it linked into a GPS system so that we may conveniently mark the location of trackage that needs attention. Robert Lamont is assisting.

Written Waivers. As a follow up to the last Board meeting, Peter Fuad stated that, after discussions with Leonard Evans and others, he concluded that getting members of the public to sign a written waiver before riding trains was not going to be feasible. Smokey Bass, after working in the front booth, confirmed the difficulty. After discussion, the Board voted 6-1 not to go further with the requirement, although the statement was made that all visitors during meets, parties and other events should sign such a waiver. Peter Fuad was directed to review the printed warning on the tickets with a view towards increasing the size of the ticket and enhancing the warning.

General Meeting Highlights

July 22, 2006

By Donald Frozina

President Donald Frozina called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Don thanked the 16 persons who took the July 15th First Aid/CPR class and received two-year certification. Don reiterated that our insurance requires a First Aid/CPR certified person whenever we operate trains. There will be another class next month.

The Safety Committee will try out a new skid bar design, and a new drawbar design on one of the center bench cars and will report back to the BOD next month. After a discussion with our Safety Engineer, the BOD decided that to try out equipment for sale, it had to meet at least the standards that we'll require for visiting equipment.

The BOD waived, for the Alkire and Richardson shed lessees, the 30-hour engineer/conductor requirement for track rental rebates. The 30-hours can be earned in any fashion: by hours on the green, yellow or pink timecards.

The BOD decided that restoring the main line and the Phil West ladder tracks were the top priority to complete. After these are completed, other eastside track configurations may be considered.

Garden Scale Railroad Rules. David Lazarus and Todd Moore presented rules to be posted in the Booster regarding Garden Scale Railroad operations. In particular, children under 10 must be supervised by parent or guardian. After discussion, the Board suggested some modifications and approved the rules.

Fall Dinner. Gary Baker spoke more on the member-only dinner on Friday, October 20th to commemorate the Museum's 50th Anniversary. He noted that, according to Gordon Sherwood, the first train on a track at LALSRLM was October 24, 1956.

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Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Engine Booster

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FROM THE **General Superintendent**

By Tom Downing



Vacation time is upon us. This has slowed numerous projects at the Museum, but I think we're slowly moving ahead. The weather, at times, has been unbearably hot and that has not helped. I know a group of our members recently went to Train Mountain. I myself have

gone to other live steam organizations as well. It's always good to see how people deal with different scenarios. If you ever get a chance, make sure you go to another club. It's always good to compare, you may learn that there's more than one way to do things. I recently read that Bruce Ward has run his engine at more than 60 clubs. I think that puts him on the cusp of a living legend, but his knowledge he has gained has always been of great assistance when trying to complete projects at the Museum.

Recently, Rob Lamont and I installed the 1-inch and 3/4-inch driveway crossings. These were built by Ted and Ginny Berg in kit form. It was a challenge to install them, but we got the job done. With Ted's design, we had some adjustability left in the crossings. This should also give the 1-inch track crew the green light to complete the loops.

Gary Baker has been working on several projects to get the Museum looking a little nicer for our 50th Anniversary. These should all be completed in several months. If you have not been out to the Museum for a while you will see and hopefully appreciate how things look when these projects are completed. Since workday has moved to the 4th Saturday of the month, things have been a little disorganized on my part. I will be working in the future to correct this, but on most Saturdays, there's always a group of members that are working. Do not hesitate to come out to the Museum and get involved, or if need be, please contact me and I will find a project for you.

Now it's my turn to go on vacation. Just a hint of where I'm going, ALOHA!

President's Message

By Donald Frozina



Good news! The Sutchville main line trackage replacement is almost complete. Many, many thanks go to John DePhillip Jr. and the rest of the track crew for the outstanding work performed, especially in the hot weather!

We had an additional twenty-two persons certified at the July 15th First Aid/CPR class. We now have 38 persons certified. At the August 7th BOD meeting, the Board approved subsidizing another class in September; so mark your calendars.

Wolf Fengler and Robert Lamont are working on a track geometry car. Its purpose: to easily, via electronic sensors, to map the trackage. The proposed car will map, for lack of better terms, the pitch, roll and gauge of the track. Their hope is to also incorporate GPS information. It will be interesting to see what Wolf and Robert decide upon.

The BOD decided to purchase some additional center bench cars from Real Trains, as we have been very pleased with our existing twelve car fleet. This will allow for increased hauling capacity, and hopefully allow more private locomotives to participate in Sunday and special runs.

The old gazebo area has received a fresh coat of paint, and no, the color seen is not the primer coat! The gazebo is now brick red with cream trim—a tribute to east coast steamer-era stations. In addition, the service entrance gate, along with the public gate area and the queue railings have been repainted (in black). The UP caboose will also get a fresh coat of prototypically correct paint. This will make the area of the gazebo and UP caboose ready for the beginning of our 50th Anniversary celebration.

Event/Party Rules Reminder

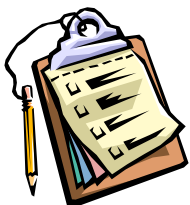
By Donald Frozina

It is important to remember that if you hold an event or party at the Museum, the following rules apply:

- Only qualified engineers and conductors (Level I) are permitted to operate the trains.
- Only equipment meeting Museum standards (Level II or above) are to be used.
- The host member is required to have personnel onsite that is currently First Aid/CPR certified.
- The host member is required to provide personnel to man the gate.
- Guests must read the riding rules, sign the guest log-book and wear a completed guest badge.

Nominating Committee Appointed

By Donald Frozina



The Board of Directors approved, at their August 7th meeting, the appointment of John DePhillip Sr., Lew Soibelman and David Lazarus to be the nominating committee to solicit qualified persons for the next Board of Directors. Please consider participating in Museum governance by running for the Board.

Training Classes

First Aid/CPR: 2nd Saturday of September at 9 am. Learn First Aid and CPR. Only 20 seats available. First come, first served. Level I personnel and Station Masters/Safety Coordinators have priority. 5 hours, with two breaks. Cost \$20. The Museum will partially subsidize the cost of this first class. In the future, this class will cost \$35. Contact Gary Baker 323/666-7279 to register.

Safety: 4th Saturday of September. *Level II* (private use) class at 9 am. This is a forty-five minute class with a multiple choice test. *Level I* (public operations) class at 10:30 am. This is an hour class with a multiple choice test. (Level II is the prerequisite for this class.) *Station Master/Safety Coordinator* class at 1 pm. This is an hour hands-on class. (Level I is the prerequisite for this class.)

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 DVD available to either borrow or own (\$5). The conductor class typically meets on a Saturday. Note: You must have completed both your Level II and Level I safety training to attend this class.

Diesel Engineer: Want to learn to operate the Museum's diesel/electric locomotives? Call Roger Bacon at 818/887-0898 or Gary Burdorf at 310/573-2019 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.

1st Aid/CPR Certified Jul. 15

Altmayer, Georgina	Newbill, Jon
Altmayer, Stephen	Palmer, David
Capolupo, Mike	Smith, Danielle
Crone, Bob	Smith, John
DePhillip Jr., John	Soibelman, Michael
Evans, Leonard	Soibelman, Steven
Fuad, Peter	Valencia Skowronski, Donna
Goldberg, Leni	Ward, Doug
Hawkins, Rory	Wilhelm, Wilbur
Heiman, Eugene	Young, Douglas
Keistman, Miles	
Lack, Fred	

Engineers and Conductors

July 2006

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
07/02/2006 907 passengers	Thaine Morris Ron Tarjany Peter Fuad Larry Mitchell	Peter Fowler Gail Woodward Bob Quinn John Hritz	Morris B. Woodward Fuad Mitchell
	Track Inspectors: Wolf Fengler, Ron Tarjany Safety Coordinator: Wolf Fengler Station Master: Roger Bacon Station Assistant: Pat Miller		
07/08/2006 245 passengers <i>EVL Run</i>	Bob Woodward Gary Baker David Lazarus	Gail Woodward Henry Villafaña Jim Baker	B. Woodward LALSRM L. Soibelman
	Track Inspectors: Don Frozina, David Lazarus Safety Coordinator: Don Frozina Station Master: Don Frozina		
07/09/2006 606 passengers	Ron Tarjany Peter Fuad Thaine Morris Gary Baker	Gail Woodward Henry Villafaña Peter Fowler John Hritz	B. Woodward Fuad Morris LALSRM
	Track Inspectors: Don Frozina, Ron Tarjany Safety Coordinator: Don Frozina Station Master: Roger Bacon Station Assistant: Pat Miller		
07/16/2006 556 passengers	Gary Baker Peter Fuad	Frank O'Donnell Bob Quinn	LALSRM Fuad
	Track Inspector: John Smith Safety Coordinator: John Smith Station Master: Roger Bacon		
07/23/2006 536 passengers	Thaine Morris Peter Fuad G. Baker/D. Ward	Peter Fowler Bob Quinn F. O'Donnell, J. Hritz	Morris Fuad LALSRM
	Track Inspectors: Wolf Fengler, Thaine Morris Safety Coordinator: Wolf Fengler Station Masters: Don Frozina, Gary Baker Station Assistant: Larry Mitchell		
07/30/2006 976 passengers	Thaine Morris Ron Tarjany G. Baker/F. Lack Peter Fuad Dan O'Brien David Lazarus	Peter Fowler Gail Woodward R. Secara/M. Bruce Bob Quinn R. Bacon/R. Lopez Bob Quinn	Morris B. Woodward LALSRM Fuad O'Brien L. Soibelman
	Track Inspectors: Wolf Fengler, Don Frozina, Ron Tarjany Safety Coordinators: Wolf Fengler, Roger Bacon Station Master: Don Frozina Station Assistant: Pat Miller		
3,826	Total passengers for month		
10,423	Total passengers to date		

Perspective (Continued from page 1)

along with specific club requirements. The purpose of the standards is to allow the clubs to develop a 'Business Record' or paper trail that can be demonstrated and documented minimizing loopholes for an attorney to penetrate. A fellow from Australia noted that live steam clubs in Australia have adopted a uniform code such as proposed and this has served everyone very well. One can go from club to club based on one's certification, and everyone is protected. Quentin posed the idea that he would be willing to have the Train Mountain website serve as a clearinghouse for this information and discussion.

LALS RM has taken a good step in this direction in the training and certification programs the Board has implemented. While we were obligated to take this step, it has certainly stimulated discussion around the country for establishing a common set of operating standards. Many live steamers find this step an uneasy and discomforting state of affairs, mainly because it requires changes in how we enjoy the hobby, and maybe changes to our equipment which will require our time and money. The source of some unhappiness is that oftentimes, one looks to a hobby as a relief from the stress and strains of living. We have found miniature railroading as a wonderful hobby to get away from it all. Now we are faced with having to look at our hobby in a more imposing way. (Like work?) That is an unpleasant feeling! And this makes everyone unhappy and angry to have to change. Human nature hates change!

Unfortunately, the reality of today's world has changed. In many ways this change may be perceived by some, as for the worst and that makes people unhappy. We need our unhappiness to be acknowledged, and then we need to move on. If I may take the liberty to stand on my soapbox, we live in an age where some people don't take responsibility for their actions, e.g., passengers who have accidents on our trains that they may have caused, are instead, blaming the train club and hiring attorneys. Insurance companies and park owners become nervous and want to be protected. Such is the new reality. So while this new world is an unpleasant one, each person and club needs to ask itself, do I want to remain in this hobby? If the answer is yes, then what mental and emotional changes do I have to make, i.e., to go with the flow and help to keep the hobby operating or not. Otherwise, our live steam hobby will cease to exist.

If you would like to read the seminar paper 'Proposed North American Standards for Operations and Equipment' ask Don Frozina for a copy.

Quote of the Day

All truth passes through three stages.

First it is ridiculed.

Second it is violently opposed.

And third, it is accepted as self-evident.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Splinters (Continued from page 2)

Labor Day Weekend Dinner. Gary Baker announced that there will be a dollar dinner on Saturday, September 2, which is during Labor Day weekend. Attendees are requested to bring a dessert.

Picnic Tables. Gary Baker announced that six members had donated \$500 each towards the purchase of the picnic tables that was discussed at the last Board meeting. The Board had decided then not to purchase the tables because of limited funds. The Board voted to purchase the tables, to be funded with these donations and an additional \$1,000 in general funds.

Webb Yard. The Board accepted a petition signed by seven Board members stating that it was the Board's consensus to expedite replacement of the inner loop track and the reconstruction of the Phil West Barn ladder tracks. The trees, electrical vaults and the water pipe will not be moved; that we will expedite and assist in reestablishing the one-inch track main line and that Webb Yard trackage layout will be discussed thereafter. Don Frozina and the Board thanked John DePhillip Jr. for his hard work on laying tracks for the new mainline and the Phil West Barn ladder tracks.

In new business, the Board voted to accept a donation from Steve Altmayer to purchase three new center bench cars and, in that connection, voted to purchase an additional set of three cars, together with trucks, couplers and brakes for all six cars. The Board briefly discussed that the cars should be painted railroad-like colors, such as boxcar red, silver or Pullman green.

Gary Baker noted that the repainting of the Sherwood Station and old gazebo areas was being completed. The Board voted to approve repainting the UP caboose for up to \$3,000 to complete that area. The funds will come from the Phil West Improvement Fund. The Board also voted to purchase two 50th Anniversary banners for \$800. The banners will be posted at the public entrance and the service entrance.

Don Frozina stated that Steve Altmayer had arranged for a donation of tree trimming. The Board asked Lew Soibelman to work with the tree trimmers to establish priorities for tree trimming.

The Board approved appointing John DePhillip Sr., Lew Soibelman and David Lazarus to be the nominating committee for directors.

In executive session the Board reviewed the caretaker's performance. In addition, the Board voted to review what duties were appropriate for the caretaker going forward. The Board discussed whether this discussion should be held at an open or executive session. The Board voted 5 to 2 to discuss the duties of the caretaker at a future executive board meeting with the caretaker, followed by an open meeting discussing the new agreement.

In other items, new non-resident member (and former LALS member) Bill Coleman was welcomed.

Labor Day Weekend Dinner for a Dollar/Dessert Potluck

By Gary Baker

Come out and join us as we dedicate the restoration of the inner loop main line on both our 1-1/2 and 1-inch tracks. It has been almost nine months in the making and a lot of very hard work has gone into making this project a success thanks to a great crew of very dedicated members. This Phase I of our 50th Anniversary kickoff will be celebrated with our famous Dinner for a Dollar Spaghetti Dinner at 5:30 pm on Saturday, September 2nd. The Museum will provide a filling spaghetti meal along with sausage, salad, cheese bread stick, and a beverage; all for a mere dollar per person donation to help cover costs. New member Troy Garen's wife has graciously offered to make her incredibly delicious homemade spaghetti sauce for all of you to share. For dessert, we know many of you are very creative in the tasty and sweet department; so we would like each of you to bring a dessert to share. Come out and visit and see all the new painting and refurbishment of the old gray gazebo area; which now also boasts ceiling fans, new string lights, and new tables, donated by our members. In fact many things have been repainted including the front public station, the rear gate, the UP Caboose, and several small bridges. So join us and have a great meal and enjoy a night run! Hope to see you all there!

Halloween Display Fabrication and Public Rides

By Gary Baker

Halloween has been an ongoing success story for us at LALS RM. Once again we will provide a great "TREAT" to our very appreciative public riders. With over 30 professional displays to refurbish and set up, we can use all the help we can get from all of you who are willing to participate. Starting in September we will be working on weekends to refurbish the displays. Many of you in the past have volunteered in all of the different areas that it takes to stage these fun nights. We will be placing sign-up sheets for trains, engineers, conductors, souvenir, station attendants, and security, on tables in the kitchen area in the next few weeks. As before, dinner is included when you help on the public nights and you receive shed credit hours. We will also be purchasing new center bench cars for more capacity. Please sign up to help so we can make this event a continuing success for our club and the public. Thanks in advance for your help. More in next month's issue!

For Sale

Two flat cars with O.S. Trucks, \$400/each. One gondola with O.S. trucks, \$500. One tank car, \$400.00. All 1 1/2" scale. Contact Dick Jensen, 310/326-5850.

Halloween Party 50th Anniversary—Phase II

By Gary Baker



Halloween's just around the corner and LALS RM will once again be haunting the rails with our famous Ghost Train Rides. You and your friends and family are invited to a special "sneak peek" private party potluck at 6:30 pm; where we will honor our founding members, and then host a night run for you to enjoy all the scary sights. The following

Sat. 10/21/06 and Sun. 10/22/06 will be public nights. The following weekend we will run Fri. through Tues.; also for the public. So come out, "look alive", and be the first to see this Spooktacular event as we kickoff Phase II of our 50th Anniversary. More next month.

New "G" Gauge Usage Rules

By David Lazarus and Todd Moore

LALS RM has been fortunate to see several members and their families take a new interest in the Garden Scale Railroad. In an effort to encourage more members and their families to participate and recognize that not all children behave the same, LALS RM has decided to abandon the rule prohibiting all children under age 10 from being in the Garden Scale area. Nevertheless, it is important to note that G-gauge layouts are fragile and the trains that run on them are very expensive and easily broken. In short, despite their similarity to smaller model trains, they are not toys and need to be treated with care and respect.

The following rules apply to the operation of the Garden Scale Railroad:

1. All children under 10 must be carefully and directly supervised by a parent or adult guardian at all times.
2. All persons who are not involved in running trains or performing maintenance shall remain on the deck area.
3. All train operators must run trains in a manner that is safe and respectful of the facility and others' equipment.
4. No speeding. We encourage prototypical operation.
5. Do not touch trains, track and structures unless necessary for operation, maintenance or safety.
6. When in doubt don't. Ask another member for help.
7. Have fun and share the railroad with others.

You may be asked to leave the Garden Scale Railroad if you do not follow these rules.