

LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Celebrating 50 Years ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

June 2007

www.lals.org

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Spring Meet / 50th Anniversary Memorial Day Weekend May 25 through May 28

By Gary Baker

As I am writing this the fire department helicopters are flying over my house collecting mega gallons of water out of the Silverlake Reservoir in a huge effort to stop the fire that is raging in our beloved Griffith Park. As of today the fire has burned over 600 acres in a short 24 hours and is 50% contained. It made me think of how fortunate we are to have a facility, developed over the last 50 years by all of the hard volunteer labor and donations, and how quickly it could all go away. I hope all of you take a good second look at what we really have at LALS RM and come down to celebrate this incredible 50 year labor of love that so many of us sometimes just take for granted. I want to thank the small group of member volunteers that have shown up and spent countless hours to prepare the facility, and offered to help run the many areas it takes to make a Meet a success for all of you to enjoy. I hope the improvements you see and enjoy at this 50th Anniversary will spark a renewed interest in taking some time to volunteer in the future; to be proud and thankful for this great Museum. Your meet chairs Gary Baker, Les Kovacs, Sam and Liz Calderwood, and Chris Solak, along with those dedicated volunteers WELCOME all of you to this very special weekend!!!!

Just to review. If you are planning to camp overnight, on Friday plan to come on down and bring your tents, RV's and other camping equipment if you choose. Check in at the rear service gate with Tom Lang and his great group of volunteers, get a welcome ID Tag, and then plan to park your equipment. Crystal Springs and the East and West end meadows are available along with our service gate parking lot for overflow RV's. This year we are creating a new position: Mel Bresee has graciously agreed to be our "Meet Dispatcher". He and his team will arrange for you to have a private parking space on the tracks for your train equipment. We are asking each visitor train equipment owner to just do a simple self inspection of your equipment, as you would do normally, fill out the simple self inspection form, turn it in, and you are good to go. It's that simple.

(Continued on page 3)

Member Calendar

May 19*	Work Day
	Member Meeting
May 25-28	Spring Meet
Jun. 02	City of Hope Run
Jun. 04	BOD Meeting
Jun. 16	Potluck/Night Run
Jun. 23	Work Day
	Member Meeting
Jul. 02	BOD Meeting
Jul. 07	EVL Run

*Board/General Meetings begins at 7 pm.
* Special date due to Meet*

Public Service Schedule

May 27	Closed to the Public
Jun. 03	Public Rides
Jun. 10	Public Rides
Jun. 17	Public Rides
	Disney Barn Open
	Small Scale Sunday
	Steam Plant Open
Jun. 24	Public Rides
Jul. 01	Public Rides

City of Hope Run

Reminder: Members are still needed to assist with the annual City of Hope Cancer Survivors Day get-together. At least four train crews—engineers and conductors—along with many others are needed. This will be on Saturday, June 2, 2007 from 10 am to 3 pm. Come on out and lend a hand for a great cause! Lunch provided for crews and workers. Shed credit given. Contact Dan O'Brien for more info.

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Splinters from the Board

May 7, 2007

By Todd Moore

President Ron Bergman reported on correspondence received by the Museum. Gene Heiman wrote to report that the Grand Canyon Railway has benches using old railroad axle sets and encouraged the Board to consider them for the new Sutchville station. Union Pacific Railroad declined the Museum's request for money to help preserve our former UP cars.

General Superintendent Tom Downing resigned his position effective immediately. The Board thanked Tom for his excellent service and work. No replacement has been made and anyone interested in the position should advise a Board member.

Safety Committee members Wolf Fengler, Willie Wilhelm, Larry Sack and Dave Clark conducted a car tipping demonstration using two center bench cars to demonstrate that adding weight to the cars makes them more stable and harder to tip over. Willie also demonstrated a potential draw-bar coupling for center bench cars and a below-ground switch mechanism that may reduce tripping hazards.

Operations Committee Chair Jim Baker reported that the West End reversing track is out of service due to a bent rail. The Board then discussed the need to lower ballast near tie plates and rails to prevent corrosion damage. The Board also discussed the need to have the Museum's safety engineer review and approve the recently completed work on the Valley Line.

In old business, the Board reviewed a letter from an attorney regarding caretaker John Smith's request to be deemed a volunteer rather than an employee of the Museum. The Board voted to refer the matter to the Museum's accountant for further analysis.

The Board authorized spending up to \$750 to purchase a pump for the propane storage tank.

Regarding the Sutchville Reconfiguration Project, Doug Young and John De Phillip, Jr. reported that the project

should be completed within three weeks. Member Miles Kristman encouraged members to volunteer their labor to the project. It is greatly needed.

In a 50th Anniversary Meet update, Gary Baker reported that commemorative "FRED's" are available. The Board authorized spending up to \$250 to acquire them. The Board also set the price of the Anniversary Dinner at \$15 per person. The cut-off for ticket sales will be Noon on the Saturday of the Meet. David Lazarus reported that a panoramic picture, in the style of meets long ago, will be taken.

With respect to the souvenir stand, the Board voted to purchase one hundred 2008 Union Pacific calendars. The Board deferred any decision to buy copies of the Huell Howser video about LALSRLM pending receipt of further information.

"Dining Car" Fare for the Meet

By Bonnie Kaufman

Friday: *Lunch* from noon to 1:30 pm – sandwiches, chips & drink, \$3.00, homemade cookies extra. Chefs Jan & Smokey Bass. *Dinner:* "Dinner for a Dollar" at 6 pm – spaghetti, salad, fresh baked rolls & drink. Chef Eric Fields. Bring a dessert to share.

Saturday: *Breakfast* from 8 to 9:30 am – traditional menu. Chefs Les Kovacs & Steve Altmayer. *Lunch* from noon to 1:30 pm – famous B&O RR cornbread pie. Also kosher hot-dogs and dessert. Chefs Jan Bass & Steve Pike. *Dinner* at 6 pm. Reservations required! BBQ ribs and BBQ chicken, with all the fixings. Special homemade cake by Toby Nielsen (Flemming's daughter). Includes drink. \$15.00.

Sunday: *Breakfast* from 8 to 9:30 am – Biscuits, gravy, eggs, sausage, juice and gourmet coffee. Chef Chris Mahony. *Lunch* from noon to 1:30 pm – special gourmet surprise by our sister club, the Rossdorfer Eisenbahn Club from Germany. Chef Jurgen. *Dinner* at 6 pm – Surprise menu.

Monday: *Breakfast* from 8 to 9:30 am. *Lunch* from noon to 1:30.

Between meals there will be an honor bar for soft drinks. All drinks 50¢.

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/tracks 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 2006

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Phone 323/661-8958

Spring Meet (Continued from page 1)

We just want all of you to enjoy a safe weekend!

Here again are some of the highlights along with some additional information:

OK, so we've turned 50! Liz Calderwood, Patty Fogarty, and Eric Fields will bring back the nifty 50's with a Juke Box Friday night President's Welcome "Dinner for a Dollar" featuring a blue plate spaghetti special at 6 pm. All we ask is that you bring a big appetite, a dollar per person donation, and a dessert to share! There will be special surprises including a prize for best 50's outfit. So bring out those white T-shirts & socks, jeans, poodle skirts & skin tight pedal pushers, slick back your hair or style a big bouffant & party!

Saturday morning breakfast will be served from 8 to 9:30 in our newly remodeled kitchen facility. Special thanks to Bonnie Kaufman and her kitchen volunteers for planning the meals for this weekend and serving all of us!

Saturday continues with a host of vendors whom will have lots of railroad related products for you to see, talk about, and purchase. A special LALS RM 50th Anniversary "FRED" has been created and will be for sale, along with a special button, and our 50th Anniversary T-shirts. Be sure to also check out the special order embroidered 50th Anniversary jacket.

After lunch at 2 pm, David Lazarus will be staging our 50th Anniversary panoramic photo—just like our Meets in the late 50's and early 60's—in the new Webb Yard/Sutchville Station area! Our plan is to fill every inch of available space with your railroad equipment along with all your families and friends. This will take some time to stage, so we will start getting the equipment in place during lunch. We want all of you to have a chance to experience this once-in-a-lifetime "Kodak Moment", so bring out your equipment and become a part of history!

Saturday evening we will host our "Evening Under The Stars Dinner Dance" featuring Wolfgang A. Fenger and the fabulous Esquires Big Band of great 40's style music. The catered dinner will be \$15.00 for advance purchase tickets, and will feature barbecued chicken and ribs or tri-tip along with all the sides, dessert and a beverage. A sign-up sheet will be in the kitchen one month in advance and you can also call Gary Baker at 323/666-7279 to reserve your ticket. Cutoff is 2 pm the day of the event, so please make your reservation early! Tickets will be available for pick up at the souvenir stand. There will be a special presentation following dinner, so please plan to attend. As evening falls, LALS RM lights up for a nighttime train run. Enjoy the sights along the rails along with the big band music in the background.

Sunday morning breakfast will be served and then the vendors will be in full swing again networking with all of you as fellow hobbyists. The "Harvey Girls" will have delicious baked goods both days. The Disney Barn will be open featuring special guests and memorabilia and the Steam Plant will be operating; where you can experience the thrill of steam powering authentic machinery, as the factories used to do. Kids of all ages can blow the steam whistle, and munch on free popcorn while listening to the band organ.

President's Message

By Ron Bergmann



Summer is almost here! That means our Spring Meet celebrating 50 years of live steam railroading at the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum is just around the corner. The Club still needs some tender, loving care to get the facility in shape

for what is shaping up to be the biggest live steam shindig in Southern California and maybe the entire state.

I have noticed that the participation of Club members working on Saturdays has dropped off greatly in recent times. Tom Downing, our General Superintendent until recently, did a magnificent job without a lot of help. I want to thank him for all his hard work! We have a core group that shows up regularly, but we need everyone's help to maintain the grounds. By the time you receive this Booster, there will only be one weekend left before the meet for final preparation for our visitors. I would like to see all our members show up on Saturday, May 19th, for the "last coat of polish" to show our friends in the hobby how great the LALS RM is.

We will be hosting a contingent of live steamers from Germany who are traveling here to be part of our celebration. That demonstrates how people value the LALS RM experience.

The Sutchville Station is nearly complete. There are only a few tracks left to lay in the yard. The station framework is looking good. The track crew has done a remarkable job with not a lot of manpower.

Be part of the LALS RM crew. Come out on May 19th. I'll see you there.

Happy railroading.

Trains of all shapes and sizes will be running all weekend including a special snap track display of Matt Swain and Bill Semerau's 9" gauge engine; and a large special display featuring the Antelope Valley N' Scalpers Club modular layout. Mike Houston will have our G gauge layout operating also for all of you who enjoy bringing your G gauge equipment to run. Movies under the stars are planned Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights in our outdoor theatre.

Well, these are just some of the highlights of our 50th Anniversary Bash! Be sure to check Bonnie's article for additional info on the kitchen activities for the weekend.

On a personal note, you may have heard that our General Superintendent, Tom Downing, had to step down due to a personal family matter. I want to thank him and his great team for all of his and their hard work over the last 18 months in helping to get our 11 acres ready. Like most things that happen around our Museum, it is sometimes a thankless job. I hope all of us take the brief moment it takes to thank the people who have worked so hard to make the Museum the great gift we all share. We are going to do our best to have the club spiffed up for all of you to come and enjoy this

Who's Been Workin' on the RR

Apr 3 — May 6

Berg, Ginny x7	Lamont, Rob x2
Berg, Ted x7	Mahony, Chris
DeRosa, John	Nielson, Flemming
Downing, Tom x4	Quinn, Robert
Downing, Wyatt	Ruatta, Steve x2
Frozina, Donald	Soibelman, Lew x2
Frye, Oskar	Solak, Chris
Hawkins, Rory	Westphal, Charles
Heiman, Gene x2	Westphal, Collin

For Sale

Must sell! 0-4-0 type industrial switcher. 1½" scale, electric engine DRGW #57. Great starter locomotive. Excellent condition, powerful little engine. Level II compliant. Built by John Smith 2 years ago, it has 4 electric motors, working headlight, horn, side rods, and control box. I am including one battery charger and a Plum Cove Studios flatcar painted for Southern Pacific. Asking \$2,400. Contact Doug Ward, 818/248-6330.

Hiawatha Hudson steam engine. Museum quality detail, runs on air, \$32,000. Matching streamline cars (2) \$5,000/each. Also new trucks for tender which have been completed, \$TBD. 2901 Pacific steam engine, \$25,000/OBO. Needs some work as generator and sanders were taken, and compressor was loosened. "Lucky 7" steam engine, \$7,500. Rolling stock, \$600/each: 2 gondolas, 1 caboose, and 1 pickle car. Contact Becker Rothhammer, 818/632-6807.

Electric locomotive and riding car. This set is designed to be easily handled by one person with a small car. Powerful, reliable, and batteries included! This item will be made available Sunday at the Spring Meet and interested parties should contact Joe Powell at tymmchn@earthlink.net or 702/434-8710 for pictures/questions/etc. This engine tested very well at Maricopa Live Steamers during their Spring Meet. Asking \$2,000.

Engineers and Conductors

April 2007

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
04-01-2007 1,017 passengers	Thaine Morris Peter Fuad Chris Solak Gary Baker Ted Naimy Peter Nott	Pete Fowler Ray Secara Bob Crone Eric Fields Charles Westphal C. Westphal & F. Nielsen	Morris Fuad Solak LALSRM Naimy Nott
Track Inspector: Wolf H. Fengler Safety Coordinator: Wolf H. Fengler Station Master: Donald Frozina Station Assistants: Pat Miller and Ron Tarjany			
04-08-2007 761 passengers	Thaine Morris Bernie Harris Al Way Peter Nott Steve Harris Eric Fields	Pete Fowler Bruce Frye Bonnie Kaufman L. Mitchell & M. Casey Bruce Frye Gary Baker	Morris S. Harris Way Nott S. Harris LALSRM
Track Inspector: Al Way Safety Coordinators: John De Phillip Jr., Leni Goldberg Station Master: Roger Bacon Station Assistant: Tom Downing			
04-15-2007 937 passengers	Rory Hawkins Peter Fuad Bob Crone Peter Nott Gary Baker	Donna Valencia Bob Quinn Michael Murphy R Bacon & D Ward/L Goldberg Eric Fields	Hawkins Fuad Solak Nott LALSRM
Track Inspector: Wolf H. Fengler Safety Coordinator: Wolf H. Fengler Station Masters: John De Phillip Sr., Peter Fowler			
04-22-2007 720 passengers	Michael Murphy Gary Baker Peter Fuad Al Way	Gail Woodward Gene Heiman Bob Quinn Roberto Lopez	B. Woodward LALSRM Fuad Way
Track Inspector: Ron Bergmann Safety Coordinator: Ron Bergmann Station Master: Roger Bacon			
04-29-2007 897 passengers	Peter Fuad Michael Murphy Pete Fowler Ted Naimy Sam Calderwood Fred Lack	Bob Quinn Bob Crone Doug Ward Ray Secara Tracy Beattie Bob Quinn	Fuad LALSRM Morris Naimy Calderwood Fuad
Track Inspector: Wolf H. Fengler Safety Coordinator: Wolf H. Fengler Station Master: Donald Frozina Station Assistant: Pat Miller			

4,332 Total passengers for month
15,029 Total passengers to date

Membership Rosters Available at the Meet

2007 Rosters will be available for member pickup at the Spring Meet. See Dick Jensen.