

# LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



Celebrating 50 Years

September 2007

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## EVL Night Run Review July 14, 2007

By Jan Bass

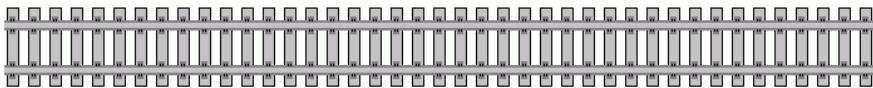


On Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, the EVL run was held from 5 to 9 pm. Many LALS SRM members volunteered and at least five trains and crews operated that night.

Bob Woodward, Charles Westphal, Chris Solak, Dan O'Brien, David Lazarus, Gail Woodward, Gary Baker, Gene Heiman, George Bass, Janice Bass, Jim Baker, Lew Soibelman, Roger Bacon, Steve Soibelman, Tom Harwood, and Wolf Fengler were some of the members who graciously gave

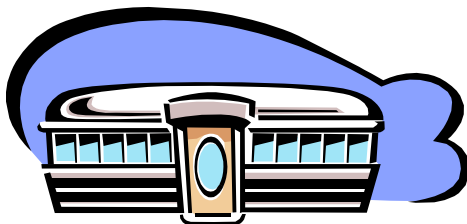
their time to make this night run a successful one. My apologies to any member who helped the Museum that night and are not mentioned here.

A big "Thank You" to all of you who helped!



## Dining Car Again Seating

By Donald Frozina



Our "Dining Car" kitchen is open (and has been open for the last several months) every Sunday from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. All the usual "live steamer fare" is available: delicious hamburgers and scrumptious hot dogs—along will all the fixings; chips, sodas and candy!

And, on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, special fare will be prepared for your gastronomic enjoyment. Menu varies, so be sure to come on down and check it out.

## Member Calendar

Aug. 25	Work Day Member Meeting
Sep. 01	<b>Change Directions</b>
Sep. 10	BOD Meeting
Sep. 15	<b>Webb-Stutson Run</b>
Sep. 22	Work Day Member Meeting
Oct. 01	BOD Meeting
Oct. 05-07	<b>Fall Meet</b>

Board/General Meetings begin at 7 pm.

## Public Service Schedule

Aug. 26	Public Rides
Sep. 02	Public Rides
Sep. 09	Public Rides
Sep. 16	Public Rides Disney Barn Open Small Scale Sunday Steam Plant Open
Sep. 23	Public Rides
Sep. 30	Public Rides
Oct. 14	Public Rides

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## Splinters from the Board

August 6, 2007

By Peter Fuad

Lots of Riders. President Ron Bergmann reported on the large number of public riders on Sunday, August 5, occasioned by recent showings of Huell Howser's program on the Museum. An impressive 1200 public riders rode our trains that day, many of them first-timers. We had sufficient trains running. Although the lines were long, most of the public appreciated our rides. Ron noted that the large number of riders helps offset the recent decline in public ridership since the Griffith Park fire reduced use of the park generally.

General Superintendent Still Needed. Ron said that the Museum still needs a General Superintendent. He stated that the position need not be unduly onerous. The primary responsibility is to organize our monthly Saturday work days. Any member who is interested should contact Ron.

Safety. Ron Bergmann reported that Mark Hanlon, our safety engineer, stated that a letter to the City confirming his recent approval of a number of changes in our safety program was unnecessary in view of the fact that the City was relying upon him to certify our operation. In addition to reducing the weight of the center bench cars, requiring Level II recertification only every two years and reducing the height of required track ballast, Mark Hanlon had also approved eliminating the height requirement of passenger seats so long as a car meets our tipping test.

New Center Bench Car Update. The six new center bench cars, donated to the Museum by Real Trains, are currently being powder-coated and should be assembled shortly. The trucks have been received. To show the Museum's appreciation for his many efforts and in view of his desire to pull the public with his cars, the Board voted to bear the cost of outfitting Gary Baker's two center bench cars for Level 1 public operation. This includes adding weight, side rails, trucks and brake lines. Willie Wilhelm and his crew will oversee the upgrade of these cars as part of their work on the other new cars.

Phil West Barn Lease Extensions. The Board began considering whether to extend the Phil West Barn track leases for existing lessors when those leases expire at the end of next year. The Board must determine whether it is preferable to put those leased tracks into the pool of tracks available to anyone who earns hours by pulling the public and working at the Museum, or to continue reserving those tracks for existing lessors (and transferees of existing lessors) who are willing to pay the full lease rental rate, regardless of hours worked. The full lease rentals are a valuable source of income to the Museum. The Board noted that two years ago the membership voted overwhelmingly to extend existing leases at that time, and that the number of tracks now available to members wishing to lease such tracks by earning hours continues to be adequate. Various options and lease tenors were discussed. The Board will continue discussing the matter at the next meeting. It has until October to make a final determination.

Ollie Johnson Station. Continuing a matter first raised at the last Board meeting, LALSRLM and Carolwood Pacific members Bill Barbee and Steve Waller introduced Carolwood Pacific's desire to place the historic Ollie Johnson station behind the baggage car. The scale structure is being donated to the group by the estate of Walt Disney's friend, Ollie Johnson, who introduced Disney to the hobby. The members had investigated several sites within and outside the current Disney Barn area and determined that the location behind the baggage car was best, given the nature of the structure and that it would be viewable from the Disney Barn area and would be on the 1" track layout, which is appropriate for a station. The proposed site is outside, and would be in addition to, the fenced area of the Disney Barn. The station is too small for interior use and will be sealed. The station needs extensive rebuilding, and would be erected and maintained entirely at Carolwood Pacific's expense. It will remain the property of that group. Members building track panels determined that the location will not interfere with storage of completed panels. The Board approved this location pending submittal of an FCR and confirmation of approval by members in charge of the 1" track.

Honorary Membership for Dick Jensen. The Board appointed a nominating committee composed of Todd Moore,

(Continued on page 3)

### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Engine Booster

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

### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Board of Directors 2007

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Ronald Bergmann  
Les Kovacs  
Peter Fuad  
John DePhillip Jr.

Wolf H. Fengler  
Tim LaGaly  
Todd Moore  
Doug Young

Phone 323/661-8958

## Who's Been Workin' on the RR

Jun. 4 — Aug. 4

Akins, Tom	Guzman, Nathalie	Quinn, Bob x3
Berg, Ginny x2	Guzman, Nicholas	Rose, Doug
Berg, Ted x2	x2	Ruatta, Steve x3
De Phillip Jr., John	Guzman, Robert	Soibelman, Lew x2
Frye, Bruce x2	Heiman, Gene	Westphal, Charles
Frye, Oscar	Hritz, John	Westphal, Collin

### Splinters *(Continued from page 2)*

Les Kovacs and Doug Young to consider a recommendation to place on the next General Membership ballot a proposal to name Dick Jenson as an Honorary Member of the Museum. This is the procedure required by the Museum's Bylaws. The committee agreed to such recommendation, and the Board heartily concurred. Accordingly, such nomination will be on the next ballot.

Free Saturday Workday Lunches. It was brought up that the free lunches offered on Saturday workdays are meant only for those members who work at least four hours that day. It was noted that members who have not so worked have been availing themselves of the free meal. Various options to reduce such misuse of the program were mentioned, such as giving vouchers to only those who had worked the requisite time. For the time being, the Board decided to publicize the four-hour rule for free lunches and to rely on members not so working to voluntarily pay for their meals.

Nominating Committee. The nominating committee for the next Board election was selected and approved. The committee will consist of Lew Soibelman, John De Phillip, Sr. and Miles Kristman.

Rec. and Parks Employees Barbecue. The Board voted to reinstitute the annual midweek steak barbecue for park employees and rangers to show our appreciation for them helping us during the year. New member Robert Bardin volunteered to head the effort. The barbecue will be scheduled at an early date depending on employee availability.

Use of Smith Valley Line for Public Hauling: Station Signal Improvement. John Smith offered to act as a flagman at the crossing of the Smith Valley Line and the High Line to allow use of both tracks during Sunday hauling. Previously, the Museum had used the Smith Valley Line for public hauling once a month and closed the High Line on those days to avoid any safety problems. John volunteered to remain at the crossing throughout the public hauling hours to flag traffic. The Board approved his offer for August 19 on a one-time, experimental basis. The Board will evaluate the results at the next Board meeting. The Smith Valley Line has otherwise been approved for public hauling by our safety engineer.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## President's Message

*By Ron Bergmann*



We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the position of General Superintendent. The job entails keeping track of necessary maintenance of the facility and coordinating the work crew one day per month. It is not required to be a full-time job. Our workday is the last Saturday of the month. The Superintendent does not need to be present every Saturday nor is it required that he/she plan work for every weekend. If you are interested, please contact me.

Since the fire in Griffith Park we have had fairly low numbers of people riding on Sundays. Last Sunday (August 5th), thanks to Huell Howser, we had a public ridership bonanza. Five trains carried over 1,200 people. Most of the public riders were first timers who had seen the Howser program on KCET. I suspect we will see higher numbers for several weeks to come. The donation figures were commensurate with the large number of riders.

We can use more volunteers on Sundays to help with the station and to be part of our train crews. The public riders are a big part of our donation income and clearly help finance our Museum.

We have selected a nominating committee to seek qualified candidates to run for the Board of Directors. The committee is composed of Lew Soibelman, John De Phillip Sr., and Miles Kristman. They will be approaching members to find the perfect candidates. If you are interested, contact one of the committee members to let them know you have the desire to serve the Museum on the Board.

Happy railroading.

## 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 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.

**Splinters** (Continued from page 3)

John Smith has also offered to install additional white light displays on the signal at the West entrance of the Nelson tunnel to indicate whether the station platform blocks nearest the tunnel are occupied. This will help engineers as they enter the station though the tunnel. The Board agreed with the concept.

Other Items. Roger Bacon introduced an FCR to motorize the Phil West Barn transfer table. The entire effort will be done with donated materials and membership labor. The Board approved the FCR.

The Board discussed whether to establish a new category of supporting member to accommodate resident members who wanted to join and work, but would not have the time to fulfill all probation requirements. Rather than create a new category, which might require a vote of the membership, the Board decided that the Museum could be flexible with the requirements for such members on a case-by-case basis.

Tim LaGaly brought up an offer made by the Norwood family to place the 15"-gauge steam locomotive owned by the late Seymour Johnson temporarily on display at the Museum, while the locomotive is being offered for sale. The family will pay for the erection of a shed to house and protect the locomotive. It is fully insured. The impressive 24-foot long locomotive could be placed on static display or, because it is operable, could be periodically run on a short length of snap track. The family is also offering to permanently donate a station structure. The Board voted to accept both offers and will determine where they will be placed. Tim will arrange for hauling the locomotive and the station to the Museum.

The following new members were welcomed or announced: Resident: Robert Bardin and Pam Metts; non-resident: Mike Hayes, Bakersfield.

A number of party requests were approved, including one for another Carolwood Movie Night on August 18, to which all Museum members are invited.

**Engineers and Conductors****July 2007**

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
07-01-2007	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn	Fuad
727 passengers	Michael Murphy	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward
	Gary Baker	Thaine Morris	LALS RM
	Chris Solak	Tom Harwood	Solak
	Ted Naimy	Bruce Frye	Naimy
	Peter Nott	R. Lopez, B. Kaufman/L. Mitchell	Nott

Track Inspectors: Ron Bergmann, Gail Woodward

Safety Coordinator: Ron Bergmann

Station Masters: Bonnie Kaufman, John De Phillip Sr., Roger Bacon

07-08-2007	Michael Murphy	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward
731 passengers	Al Way	Collin Westphal	Way
	Chris Solak	Tom Harwood	Solak
	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn	Fuad
	Eric Fields	Gary Baker	LALS RM

Track Inspector: Ron Bergmann

Safety Coordinators: Ron Bergmann, Charles Westphal

Station Master: John De Phillip Sr.

Station Assistant: Ray Secara

07-15-2007	Chris Solak	Tom Harwood	Solak
763 passengers	Peter Fuad	Gene Heiman	Fuad
	Michael Murphy	Gail Woodward	B. Woodward
	Al Way	Kevin Jung	Way
	Gary Baker	Eric Fields	LALS RM

Track Inspector: Bonnie Kaufman

Safety Coordinator: Bonnie Kaufman

Station Masters: B. Kaufman, J. De Phillip Sr., C. Westphal

Station Assistants: Bruce Frye, Charles Westphal, Larry Mitchell

07-22-2007	Thaine Morris	Pete Fowler	Morris
828 passengers	Bernie Harris	G. Raymond/S. Harris	S. Harris
	Peter Fuad	Mel Bresee	Fuad
	Larry Mitchell	M. Bruce/ L. Goldberg	Mitchell
	Roger Bacon	John Hritz	LALS RM

Track Inspectors: Tim LaGaly, Andrew LaGaly

Safety Coordinator: Thaine Morris

Station Masters: T. LaGaly, J. De Phillip Sr., S. Harris, L. Goldberg

Station Assistant: Michael Bruce

07-29-2007	Chris Solak	Tom Harwood	Solak
869 passengers	Al Way	Jill Miller	Way
	Thaine Morris	Pete Fowler	Morris
	Peter Fuad	Bob Quinn	Fuad
	Tracey Beattie	Sam Calderwood	Beattie

Track Inspector: Al Way

Safety Coordinator: Roger Bacon

Station Master: John De Phillip Sr.

Station Assistant: Michael Bruce

3,918 Total passengers for month

24,101 Total passengers to date

**Correction:** In the August issue of the *Engine Booster*, the photos on page 2 were attributed to Miles Kristman. They were actually taken by David Lazarus.