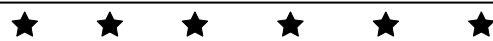


Celebrating 50 Years



May 2008

www.lals.org

Vol. XLIII, No. V

A Tribute to a Fellow Railroader and a Good Friend.

By The Carolwood Foundation

On April 14, the world lost perhaps one of its greatest animators. Ollie Johnston, age 95, passed away of natural causes at a long-term care facility in Sequim, Washington, the last of Walt Disney's "Nine Old Men".

To the world, Ollie was famous for his exceptional work on such classic Disney films as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Fantasia and Bambi. But to many of us, he will be remembered for his love of trains.

In the 1949 Ollie built a 1 inch scale railroad around his home in La Cañada-Flintridge, CA. His motive power consisted of a Pacific-class live steam model built by Lawrence Hiney, a two-truck Shay that Ollie build mostly himself over an eight-year period, and much later, an electric that was a GP-9.

His layout consisted of a large circle of track around his home with a smaller inner circle in the backyard. The railroad had several switches and turnouts and even a low trestle.

To store the rolling stock, Ollie built a miniature car barn next to his workshop. His locomotives were stored inside the shop by rolling them through a door in the shop wall and onto a shelf under his workbench. His shop consisted of a lathe, mill and drill press and shared space with an animation table and many artists' supplies.

Ollie didn't stop with just a small railroad around his house. In 1965, Ollie purchased a three foot gauge Porter 0-4-0 and spent the next two years restoring it in his driveway. After completion, he took it to his vacation home near Julian, CA, where he ran it on 3/4 of a mile of track. This engine and a flat car and caboose build by Ollie are now owned by Disney-Pixar Chief Creative Officer, John Lasseter, who is a member of the board of governors of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, as was Ollie.

Ollie was one of the nicest guys you could ever know. LALS member Bill Barbe remembered the first time he met Ollie. "I was working in the Flintridge area at the time and heard about the railroad. I didn't even know how famous Ollie was or what he had done. I knew he worked at Disney, but that was about it. I contacted him and he invited me up to see his trains. He pulled everything out so I could photograph them and we walked his layout and talked about railroading.

(Continued on page 5)

Member Calendar

May 03 Work Day
 May 05 BOD Meeting
 May 10 Work Day
 May 17 Work Day
 May 18 Small Scale Sunday
 Gourmet Lunch
 May 24-26 Spring Meet

Public Service Calendar

May 04 Sunday Public
 May 11 Sunday Public
 May 18 Sunday Public
 Disney Barn open
 Steam Plant open
 May 25 No Public Rides

Love to Eat?

Thanks to the people who have volunteered to help change the menu at the Dining Car in the past. Great food and drink by all. What we still need are families or couples to show off their cooking prowess. Does not have to be fancy, just good home cooked meals. All expenses will be reimbursed.

Call Bonnie to sign up.
 (626-833-9315)
 Thank You.

In This Issue

Ollie Johnston Passes Away	1
Splinters from the Board	2
President's Message	5
Spring Meet Information	3 & 4
Training Class Information	6
Engineers & Conductors	6
For Sale / Wanted	4

Splinters From The Board

By John Friend

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ron Bergmann. All of the Board and 16 general members were present (Les Kovacs left because of illness).

Secretary's report: March minutes were approved. Party requests were approved for Mel Bresee, June 28th, Michael Murphy, June 12th and Michael Broggie (to dedicate the Ollie Johnson station building), May 17th.

The Treasures' Report through March 2008 was approved. Museum checking and savings are at \$155,745.64. The BOD approved moving \$10,000 from general funds to the New Station Fund and to place funds in excess required for operation into interest bearing accounts.

Membership: Steve Harris presented applications for resident junior member Vincent Servin II and non-resident John Palewicz (Las Vegas). Liz Calderwood was approved as a special member. The Museum will be organizing a First Aid Class so that the membership can stay certified.

General Superintendent's Report: The Museum is still looking for a tree trimming contractor to take care of several trees badly in need of trimming/removal.

Facilities: Roger Bacon reported that the station office architect is adding a cover over the tracks in the station area. This will provide an observation deck outside the office space. A proposal by Gary Baker and Lloyd Davis to build a narrow gauge barn in the east end meadow was introduced.

Safety Committee: Wolf Fengler reported that the mainline track has been surveyed for flatness. There are some areas of elevation of 2 to 3 degrees, and a few spots up to 14 degrees. Thaine Morris has an idea to locate the

exact spots that will need work.

The general membership meetings will be canceled until further notice due to lack of member interest. The Museum may try the approach of other clubs to generate interest in the monthly workday and general membership meeting. Until then the membership can attend the BOD meetings to see what is happening around the Museum.

\$500 has been approved to buy steel for the Semaphore Signal Bridge project.

Caroline Locomotive Sale: The offer to sell the Caroline has been withdrawn by the Board. Wolf Fengler will be preparing an estimate to return it as a twin to the 3100.

Ron and Dave Holman with the assistance of others will prepare invoices to repeat the advertising copy that appeared in the 2007 Roster. Those responding will appear in the 2008 Roster.

Museum Calendar: The East Valley Lines run will be July 12th. Webb-Stutson has been moved to September 7th and Children's Hospital will move to September 13th.

Coke Machine: President Ron Bergmann thanked Tim LaGaly for picking up the new Coke machine.

The Board has recommended that Jim Baker's name be placed on the ballot as an Honorary Member in appreciation for his years of service to the Museum.

Announcements: Deceased member Jim Lawrence's residence will be open to members interested in purchasing any of his railroad related items on April 12th. Bill Stewart asked members for information leading to the recovery of the Kubicek weigh bridge.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 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/tracks are located in Griffith Park, 5202 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles, CA. Mailing address: PO Box 2156 Toluca Lake, CA 91610.

The *Engine Booster* is edited and composed by Christopher Mahony and is produced on a Mac using Microsoft® Publisher 2000 software. Articles and photos are always welcomed, although the right is reserved to edit all copy. Deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Input can be dropped into the "Booster" mailbox in the UP caboose, mailed, e-mailed or faxed as follows:

Christopher Mahony, 17842 Hiawatha St. Granada Hills, CA 91344
E-mail: booster@lals.org Fax: 818-677-5602

Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum Board of Directors 2008

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Directors



Ronald Bergmann
Les Kovacs
John Friend
Charles Westphal

Steven Altmayer
David Holman
Tim Lagaly
Doug Young

Phone 323/661-8958

Spring Meet Memorial Day Weekend May 23 thru May 26

By Gary Baker

“Time Be A’wastin’ ” The Spring Meet 2008 is just around the corner! It is the most challenging and the most work to prepare for it; because it is the first time since the Winter Season that we have to do a major clean up and prep of the entire facility! And boy can we use the help! We need YOU! Every Saturday, until the meet, will be a work Saturday and the club will serve a free lunch to the volunteers.

I want to thank you in advance for being a part of the group of member volunteers that will show up and spend the remaining time in April and May to prepare the facility, and offer 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 Memorial Day meet will spark a renewed interest in taking some time to participate in the future, to be proud and thankful for this premiere railroad facility.

Your meet chairs Gary Baker, Les Kovacs, Sam and Liz Calderwood, and Roger Bacon along with these dedicated volunteers WELCOME all of you to this very special weekend!!!!

“Less is more” and this year we are keeping it simple!

Just to review, if you are planning to camp overnight, you can start to bring RV’s after 3PM on Wednesday. Otherwise, plan to come down on Friday 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 or the Dining Car, 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. We have loads of track sidings to park your railroad equipment. We are asking each train equipment owner to just do a simple self inspection of their equipment, as you would do normally, fill out the simple self inspection form, turn it in at the souvenir stand, and you are good to go. It’s that simple. We just want all of you to enjoy a safe weekend!

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

We will open with our famous Friday night President’s Welcome “Dinner for a Dollar” featuring a blue plate spaghetti special at 6PM. All we ask is that you bring a big appetite, a dollar per person donation, and a desert to share! There will be a special night run following dinner.

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 vendors who will have lots of railroad related products for you to see, talk about, and purchase. Be sure to check out the souvenir stand and our special order embroidered 50th Anniversary jackets

Saturday evening we will host our “Evening Under the Stars” Dinner Dance featuring the very refined 40’s style music of Wolfgang Fenger and “The Esquires”. The catered dinner will be \$15.00 advance purchase with tickets available at the souvenir stand; and will feature Newport / Naples Rib Company. Your dinner will include: succulent barbecued chicken and mouth watering ribs, garlic mashed potatoes, barbecued baked beans, Cole slaw, honey muffin, a special dessert, and beverage. The cut off time for reservations is 12 noon Saturday. A sign up sheet will be available in the kitchen several weeks prior to the meet for reservations or call Gary Baker at 323-666-7279 to sign up. This event always sells out, so order your tickets early! There will be dancing following dinner so please plan to attend; and also a night time train run as LALS RM lights up under the evening sky.

Sunday morning breakfast will be served from 8 to 9:30 AM. As the day continues, the Disney Barn will be open featuring special guests and memorabilia. 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 whistles, munch on popcorn, experience Carolyn Hayes’s craft corner, and listen to band organ music. Lunch will feature a special dish, and hot dogs and hamburgers.

(Continued on page 4)

(Spring Meet Information continued from page 3)

Trains of all shapes and sizes will be running all weekend. The 1 inch and ¾ inch tracks will be up and running thanks to Ted and Ginny Berg, Chris Mahony and John De Rosa. Thanks to them we have the only public track for these scales in Southern California.

Mike Houston will have our G Scale layout operating for all of you who enjoy bringing your G scale 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 Memorial Day Spring Meet!

And once again we really could use your help to get the facility ready in the next coming weeks! Like most things that happen around our club, it is many times 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 club 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. Wishing you all a GREAT Memorial Day Weekend!!!!

Spring Meet at the Dining Car

Friday: The World Famous \$1 Spaghetti Dinner. Please bring a dessert to share.

Saturday: Breakfast: scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits & sausage gravy, jumbo pancakes & fruit, juice, gourmet coffee. Your volunteer chef: Christopher Mahony and the "A" team.
Lunch: burgers & hot dogs, salad, fruit and some dining car recipes from the past.
Dinner: This is a catered event, reservations required. Enjoy live big band music while dining.

Sunday: Breakfast: (same as Saturday)
Lunch: (same as Saturday)
Dinner: Pizza, salad and dessert

Monday: Breakfast: quiche, sausage, biscuits & gravy, fruit & juice.
Your volunteer chefs: Diana & Glen Manchester

We are looking for volunteer chefs for Friday night, Saturday & Sunday lunch and Sunday breakfast Please call Bonnie 626-833-9315. Do you have any old railroad dining car recipes for lunches or dinners? Let us know

For Sale or Wanted

For Sale:

1) Complete 1 1/2 " scale train, K4 Pacific (propane fired), riding / propane car, tank car, riding caboose conductors car, all in great condition .

2) 1 1/2 " scale electric power car (can be made into any style of motive power)

Contact Steve Pike at (818) 352- 7705

Wanted:

Flat car or cattle car in good condition. Prefer 5' or less in length.

Please contact Jay Carsman, 818 727-1111 or

jcarsman@socal.rr.com

Last Call !!!!!



If you want to purchase a 50th Anniversary jacket, now is the time!!! David Lazarus is putting in the final order for jackets on June 1. Remember, the cost of the embroidery is \$35.00. You supply the jacket. For more information contact David Lazarus in person or at: jackets@lals.org

(Ollie Johnston continued)

While I am sure most people would have asked him about working at Disney, I was interested in his railroad and he seemed to enjoy showing it off far more than discussing animation. This led to many more visits and talks through the years. These are times I will never forget”.

One of the features of Ollie’s La Cañada Valley Railroad was the little yellow depot built as a playhouse for his two sons, Ken and Ted. After Ollie moved to Washington, his family donated the building to the Carolwood Foundation who moved it to LALS where it was restored by LALS Member Lloyd Davis. The station was placed next to the 1 inch track, a fitting location since Ollie modeled in 1 inch scale. The depot looks upon Walt Disney’s Carolwood Barn and the two structures serve as a tribute to these creative legends who happened to love trains.

The world has lost a great artist and a Disney Legend, but the Railroad Hobby has also lost a great engineer.

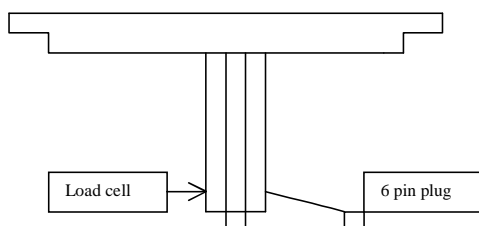


Marie and Ollie Johnston share a moment in 1993 aboard their one-twelfth scale model steam engine at their home in La Cañada-Flintridge, California. The backyard layout inspired Walt Disney to build an elaborate one-eighth scale railroad at his Carolwood home.

Photo by Michael Broggie

Gone Missing!!!!

The Glass-Kubicek Locomotive Weigh Bridge (the piece of U jumper track with the weighing load cell attached). This has been missing since the Spring Meet of 2007, and we need it for the upcoming one. It looks like this:



If you have it or know who might have it, please return it to the club, and no questions will be asked.

President’s Message

By Ronald Bergmann

I got one e-mail from a member about the General Meeting cancellations. He wanted to keep an opportunity for members to “blow off steam” (pun intended). Dan O’Brien suggested a format like Orange County Model Engineers. They have a breakfast meeting the morning of the work day. After the meeting the attendees break up into work crews. I am not opposed to that format. Let me know what you think.

The Spring Meet is just around the corner. Gary Baker is the chair and he is looking for volunteers. It will be the same format as the last meet. “Run what you bring”, with self-inspection forms to be turned in to the Chair or his designee.

Most of you know the Caroline has been on a live-steam website for sale. The bids were much lower than the Board expected, so it was decided at the last BOD to keep her and refurbish the loco with a new boiler. I just hope she doesn’t sit around for another twenty years in boxes. Wolf Fengler has taken on the task of refurbishing her along with getting the 3100 back in shape. Thank you, Wolf.

Most of the security cameras have now been installed by John Smith, Steve Altmayer, Les Kovacs, and others. Thanks to all of you.

Please come out to help on Sundays or on our work Saturdays (third Saturday of every month). We can use all the help we can get. Don’t think you are not needed. Keeping a facility as big as ours is a lot of work.

Happy railroading.

Ron Bergmann

Help Wanted !!!!

The Museum desperately needs someone to help out in the Souvenir Stand on Sundays during operating hours. Liz Calderwood does a great job in it most weekends, but she can’t do it every weekend. Lucille Secara, Gail Woodward, and Patty Fogarty have all helped out when Liz is gone.

The present operation is very important to our donation income with the distribution of tickets being a very big part of the good feeling our guests get. The present staff will train you in how and what to do, including operation of the credit card machine.

Please call Liz Calderwood or Ron Bergmann.

Who's Been Working on the RR

P. & T. Metts (x3)
T. & G. Berg
J. Baker
D. & J. Holman
B. Crone

Please try to come out and help with the maintenance of the club. It is up to all members, to keep it clean.

To get credit: Sign the book!

Training Classes

Conductor: Want to learn to be a conductor? Call Peter Fowler at 310-265-9720 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.

Safety: 3rd Saturday of the month. Level II (private use) class at 10AM. This is a half-hour class with a multiple-choice test.

Level I (public operations) class at 11AM. This is an hour class with a multiple-choice test. (Level II is the prerequisite for this class.) Station Master/Safety Coordinator class at 1PM. This is an hour hands-on class.

Engineers and Conductors

March 200

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
March 02/946	P. Fuad P. Fowler G. Heiman M. Murphy B. Kaufman M. Bresee	B. Quinn C. Westphal C. Westphal B. Crone W. Fengler R. Lopez	Fuad Morris LALS Woodward Kaufman Bresee
	Track Inspectors: C. Mohr Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: J. De Phillip Sr. & R. Bacon Station Assistant: C. Westphal		
March 09/760	M. Murphy C. Westphal P. Fuad T. Morris M. Bresse	B. Crone C. Westphal B. Quinn P. Fowler B. Frye	Woodward Westphal Fuad Morris Bresee
	Track Inspectors: C. Mohr Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: J. De Phillip Sr. Station Assistants: L. Mitchell, P. Miller		
March 16/800	P. Fuad B. Kaufman C. Westphal L. Mitchell T. Morris	B. Quinn J. Bass C. Westphal P. Miller P. Fowler	Fuad Kaufman LALS LALS Morris
	Track Inspectors: C. Mohr Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: J. De Phillip Jr., S. Bass, L. Mitchell		
March 23/608	P. Faud P. Fowler G. Baker B. Harris	B. Quinn W. Fengler E. Fields L. Mitchell	Fuad Morris LALS Harris
	Track Inspectors: R. Fogarty Safety Coordinator: R. Fogarty Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: B. Harris, P. Miller		
March 30/742	P. Faud G. Heiman P. Fowler S. Calderwood	B. Quinn C. Westphal P. Metts W. Fengler	Fuad LALS Morris Calderwood
	Track Inspectors: P. Fowler Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: John De Phillip Jr., C. Westphal		
3856	Total for the month		
7671	Total for the year		



The Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum 50th Anniversary photographs are now available for purchase through a pre-order sale for \$30.00, including tax for a 16 x 24 print. To keep the price at \$30.00, LALSRLM must have a minimum of 25 or more orders. The pre-order date ends on June 1, 2008. After that date individual orders for the photograph will be \$50.00, so do not delay.

Contact David Lazarus at:
jackets@lals.org