

LALS ENGINE BOOSTER



Celebrating 50 Years



September 2008

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Need Traction?

By Christopher Mahony



Above is a photo of David Lazarus with a Case 50 horsepower steam traction tractor that David has been helping to restore. The story of the history of this tractor is very interesting. Built in 1914 at the J. I. Case factory as number 32084, it was shipped to Lincoln, Nebraska, where it was sold in 1916 to the Davis family who lived in the Nebraska town of Pleasanton. The Davis family used the tractor for threshing and road building in northern Buffalo County for many years. The Davis family kept 32084 inside when not in use, and took very good care of her.

In the late 1960's or early '70's, the tractor was sold to Mr. Harold Woods of Wallace, NE. Mr. Woods installed a new canopy, new bunkers, flues, and paint. He then sold it to Warren Bomberger of Sergeant, NE, who kept it for a few years. It was then sold to Richard Hollinger of South Dakota.

Mr. Hollinger put the steam tractor on display at his "1880 Train Museum" for 12 years. The tractor was sold three more times, finally ending up in Simi Valley, CA. the original cost of the tractor new was \$2,000.00, and after 75 years, was purchased for \$16,000.00. The engine has held its value due to the fact that all of the owners have taken very good care of her. In an ultra-sonic sound test of the boiler was completed in 1989, and the boiler was found to be 18 thousandths of an inch thicker than Case's original specifications of 5/16 of an inch.

There is a possibility that this great tractor will visit LALS during the Fall Meet. Let us all hope so.

Member Calendar

- Sept. 08 BOD meeting
- Sept. 13 Children's Hospital Run
- Sept. 21 Small Scale Sunday

Public Service Calendar

- Sept. 07 Sunday Public
- Sept. 14 Sunday Public
- Sept. 21 Sunday Public
- Disney Barn open
- Steam Plant open
- Sept. 28 Public Rides

Webb-Stutson Run Cancelled

By Roger Bacon

Due to a scheduling problem, the Webb-Stutson Run for 2008 planned for September 6 has been cancelled. This was a great disappointment to all involved. It will be scheduled for next year.

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Splinters From The Board

By John Friend

August 4, 2008 BOD Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Vice President Les Kovacs. Board members John Friend, Charles Westphal, Steve Altmayer and Doug Young present. 14 general members signed in.

Secretary's report: July minutes were approved. Party requests were approved for Peter Fuad September 20th, 2008, and Fred Lack (retroactively) for July 14th and August 13th, 2008.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasure's Report through July 2008 was approved.

Membership & Shed Committee: Steve Harris presented resident member Peter Bowen of Simi Valley and his son, Junior Member, Jonathan (14 years old). Also presented were Robert Woolley of Thousand Oaks and George Becker of Lancaster. Current membership stands at 212 resident, 118 non-resident, 19 low income, 5 junior, 4 charter, 13 honorary, 34 special, and 34 probationary.

Facilities: Roger Bacon reported that the Kountry Kitchen broiler has rusted out and needs replacement. A motion was passed to replace the broiler. The New Station meeting with Rec and Parks is tentatively scheduled for August 18th.

Safety: Wolfgang Fengler recommends purchase of the Zoll AED. Charles Westphal will send through the purchase order. Wolf also reports that two new riding cars are nearing completion and that the Caroline crew is looking at a stainless steel boiler for the locomotive.

Old Business. The work on the radiant heater units for the Kountry Kitchen will be worked with the installation

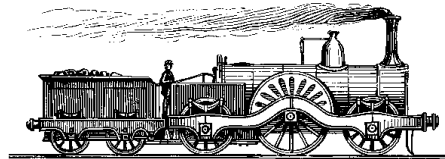
of the new broiler unit. David Lazarus and Roger Bacon are the force behind this work. The BOD thanks Bombardier and EVL for their generous donations to the Museum. The Rec and Parks thank you steak fry still needs organization; Chris Mahony and Roger Bacon could use some assistance. David Moore is preparing structural calculations for the new signal bridge. David Lazarus reports that the signal design is well along.

New Business. The BOD appointed Mike Murphy as Diesel Locomotive Superintendent. See Mike for training and maintenance of the Museum's diesel locos. The BOD approved a motion to sell the Descanso Gardens RR some of our surplus rail at current prices. David Lazarus is helping a friend to display a full size Case traction engine at the Museum for a weekend. Members please note that there is no parking along the retaining wall on Crystal Springs Drive as this is a fire lane. The BOD will be posting signs to this effect. The BOD thanks David Lazarus for the great new members entrance sign.

The BOD is looking for three members to form the Nominating Committee for the upcoming Museum elections. See a Board member if you are interested.

Announcements: Run direction change is scheduled for August 30. Steve Harris notes that a possible donation of a diesel locomotive and train is in the works. Mel Bresee will arrange with Fred Lack for the opening of the Disney Barn during the Children's hospital run.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 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 2008

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Steven Altmayer
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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. Contact David Lazarus at: jackets@lals.org

Garden Railroading at LALS

Below are photographs of the great Garden Railroad layout at the club. What a great way to introduce the young and the old into railroading. For more information, or to run a train, contact Michael Houston.



Upcoming Events That Need Your Help!

September 6 Webb-Stutson Run

This event has been cancelled for this year.

September 13 Children's Hospital Run

On Saturday, September 13th, the Neonatal Infant Critical Care Unit of the Children's Hospital will be at our facility to celebrate their survivors day. Fun, food and games will keep the hospital staff, patients and their families busy. The hospital is projecting about 300 people to attend. LALS members who are part of train crews, station and safety personnel will be given lunch tickets for their efforts. The hospital has a limited budget, so just don't show up and expect to be given lunch. I look forward to a great event and hope our members will enjoy giving rides.

Contact info: Mel Bresee, 310-553-2039

Halloween Set Up & Public Runs

This is the major fund-raiser for Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum! What we will need are teams to help set up, operate, and tear down the special effects. This is a club-sponsored event; anyone who assists with the trains can receive shed credit. Your help will need to be a firm commitment for this.

We will be starting to set for this event on October 5. We need your help and talent to make this year's Halloween Run the best LALS has ever done!

Contact info: Roger Bacon, 323-864-0254 (cell)



For Sale, Wanted or Trade

For Sale:

1.5 in. scale steam driven air pump fully assembled by Power Model Supply - \$750 - Unused.

1.5 in. scale steam-driven water pump fully assembled by Power Model Supply - \$750 - Unused.

Two (2) Mercer flat car kits 1.5 in. scale. One partially assembled with pair of trucks (rigged with brakes), one unassembled without trucks -\$1,000 for BOTH.

1.5 in. scale gondola, Railroad Supply kit built in 1973. 68" long. Custom decals by Robert Dustin, lettered Tonopah and Goldfield. Includes Bettendorf (friction bearing type) trucks with foundation brake rigging - \$800.

Call Andy Romer days 949-476-3546 or eves 714-898-7062.

For Sale:

2001 HD Sportster motorcycle with 883 engine and Sputnik side car (on its own sub-frame). Low mileage, been a 700 lb paper weight. Engine not even broken in. Haven't had time or inclination to ride. Rather do live steam. Looking to raise funds for the G. Becker 'Memorial' (cnc) Milling Machine tool and live steam fund. Asking price is \$7500.00, but will negotiate.

Call George Becker if interested

Day phone at work: 661 275 4089. Home phone: 661 945 7698 or Cell phone 661 466 7400.

For Sale:

(2) 5' Black Gondolas, (1) 5' Red Flat Car, (1) 6' Grey/Red Wooden Gondola, all RTR complete w/Bettendorf Trucks, 17-4 Stainless Steel Couplers, Tracker Seats, Painted on decals " Erie Lackawanna". LALS RM Level 2 approved.

Call (818) 246-3975 for more information and to see items in Phil West barn John De Phillip Sr.

Wanted:

I am looking for a pair of Mercer 6 wheel commonwealth tender trucks. If they had the brakes, that would be great. I am looking for some that are finished but would also welcome rough castings if I cannot find a pair.

Call Doug at 408-266-2319 or email at doug-c@pacbell.net

Remember, if you have something to sell, or wanted, send the information to:

Booster@lals.org

And we will place the ad for you.

Some Helpful Information

By Jay Carsman

I'm building the Alco Power Reverse Gear made by Dave Moore. Included with the castings and drawings are instructions for machining cast iron piston rings.

While the procedure is not too difficult, I've got so many other little parts to make that I wanted to buy some ready-made rings. I went searching and found a good vendor that has a nice selection, a good website, reasonable prices, and fast service. The 1.500" OD rings I needed were only \$4.56 each.

The name is:
Rocket Seals Corporation
1297 South Lipan Street
Denver, CO 80223
303 777-7024

<http://www.rocketseals.com/>

Please let them know you belong to the Los Angeles Live Steamers.

Signal Bridge Update

Below is a photograph the semaphore design for the new two signal bridges that are being built to provide signal coverage in the Sutchville Station track area of the club. David Moore is assisting David Lazarus on the project.



Semaphore signals still are being used in New Mexico on the Raton Pass portion of the BNSF line. But this will soon change, as they are being phased out for modern signals.

The LALS semaphore, on the north side of the property is a working semaphore, and is a delight to look at while at the club.

President's Message

By Ronald Bergmann

Our two capital improvement projects are still pending. I am still waiting for a meeting with Recreation and Parks. That should happen in the next several weeks.

I want to talk about an issue the members need to know about. One of the things I found when I took over as president was a lack of control over our keys/locks. I had the office key changed due to an abundance of people with office keys and the concurrent determination that some documents were missing from our files. I do not know how the documents disappeared, but key control is central to the security of any organization. The office key was given to those who needed access to the office.

Recently I was advised that the honor system for purchase of candy and drinks from our Kountry Kitchen refrigerator was not working. The refrigerator has been stocked to capacity after the public runs on Sundays. Later in the week, the refrigerator has been checked several times and it was found to be half empty with a few dollars in the Honor Can. Again, many members had keys to the refrigerator and the original intent was when the Club was open, members could purchase a drink. It was never intended to be a source of refreshments at any time of the day or night. I directed that the lock be changed to stop the unauthorized taking of beverages and/or candy. I am phrasing that nicely, because it is theft. The Club does not fund the KK so a few members can help themselves to our foodstuffs. Last Wednesday, the refrigerator was found with the doors pried open and a bag of M&M's hanging out. The Club had to pay for a service call and the perishable food was spoiled due to the refrigerator temperature sitting at 72 degrees. I hope someone knows who did this and will let a Board member know who it was. It can be anonymous, if you choose. Leave a note in one of the Board of Directors' mailboxes.

The General Membership Meeting on July 19th at 9:00AM was again a success. I will continue the work day General Membership Meetings at 9AM as long as there is interest. Please continue to 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.

Happy railroading.



Who's Been Working on the RR

M. Bresee (x7) Please try to
T. & G. Berg come out and
(x2) help with the
A. Romer maintenance
A. Davis of the club. It
L. Davis is up to all
L. Siobelman members, to
J. Z. keep it clean.
R. Bermann

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 hand-on class.

Engineers and Conductors

June 2008

<u>Date/Passengers</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Conductor</u>	<u>Owner</u>
July 06/773	P. Fuad L. Mitchell T. Morris R. Tarjany Track Inspectors: R. Bergmann Safety Coordinator: J. Smith Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: P. Miller	B. Quinn C. Westphal C. Solak P. Metts	Fuad Mitchell Morris LALS
July 13/790	P. Fuad B. Crone C. Westphal Track Inspectors: C. Mohr Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: J. De Phillips Jr, P. Miller	B. Quinn C. Westphal P. Metts	Fuad Woodward LALS
July 20/979	P. Fuad B. Harris T. Naimy R. Tarjany Track Inspectors: C. Mohr Safety Coordinator: C. Mohr Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: S. Bass, P. Miller, J. De Phillip Sr.	B. Quinn P. Metts S. Harris R. Secara	Fuad Harris Na LALS
July 27/543	B. Crone P. Fuad S. Calderwood C. Westphal Track Inspectors: L. Kovacs Safety Coordinator: L. Kovacs, R. Bacon Station Master: M. Murphy Station Assistants: C. Westphal, J. De Phillip Sr.	C. Solak B. Quinn W. Fengler C. Westphal	Woodward Fuad Calderwood LALS
3, 085	Total for the month		
20, 629	Total for the year		

