



# THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 675

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

[www.ncry.org](http://www.ncry.org)

November 2019

## Bushwhackers October Brush Cutting Blitz



*Photo by Dan Sarka*

Chuck Kent and Steve Jones feeding the rail-mounted Bandit chipper.

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The long-anticipated October Brush Cutting Blitz is now in the history books. From Monday 10/14 through Friday 10/18, a group of 17 volunteers assisted Chris Boza and me in a 5-day-long concentrated brush cutting blitz of the canyon. Those volunteers were (in alphabetical order) Bob Bailey, Ed Best, Tom Crawford, Gerald DeWitt, Chuck Kent, Dan Mills, John Pelmulder, Matt Petach, Bob Pratt, Ken Southwick, Mike Strider, Dave Tadlock, Stephanie Tadlock, Ron Thomas, Steve Van Me-

ter, Jackie Vlasak, and John Zielinski. Chris and I worked every day, and our gang members rotated in and out to prevent burn out. Crews had a different composition each day and ranged in number from 7 to 9 per day. It was an outstanding show of support, and I am very grateful for the assistance.

The Steam Department was well represented in our gang in the persons of Gerald Dewitt, Chuck Kent, Dave and Stephanie Tadlock. Of course, I expect

**Continued on Page 12**

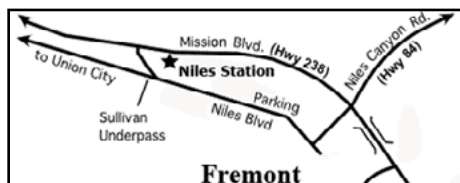
**OUR MISSION:** To be an operating railroad museum for standard gauge railroading, past, present and future, with emphasis on the Western United States and special emphasis on Northern California



## BOARDING LOCATIONS

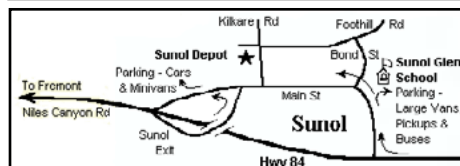
### NILES STATION

37029 Mission Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94536



### SUNOL STATION

6 Kilcare Road  
Sunol, CA 94586



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Steam Hosteler Training	Jeff Schwab	(510) 734-6890	jeffs@levinterminal.com
Train master	Mark Miller	(510) 502-8521	mmiller510@aol.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Ed Best	(925) 998-8743	volunteers@ncry.org
Yardmaster	Gerry Feeney	(408) 739-9347	spb-gerry@comcast.net

## MEETINGS

Most General Meetings take place at Sunol Glen School in Sunol.

Meetings are held in January, March, May, June, July, and October, but can be subject to cancellation.

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 9**  
**at 3:00 pm**  
White House  
Brightside

Every Wednesday  
and Saturday are  
**WORK DAYS**  
at the Brightside Yard

## CLUB CAR DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's issue of The Club Car is the **20th of this month**. Submitting articles is easy by e-mail in Word text format.

Send e-mail to:

**clubcar@ncry.org**

Digital photos may also be submitted by e-mail. Electronic images should be saved as PC format .jpg files with minimal compression (i.e., average to excellent quality). A text file with the photo number, description of photo and identifying the people in them is required.

The editor reserves the right to hold or edit material as necessary.

The Club Car is an official publication of the Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc., P.O. Box 515, Sunol, CA 94586-0515.

The Club Car is distributed monthly to members, sponsors and friends of the Pacific Locomotive Association.

The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. is an IRS Code 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The PLA's Federal Tax ID is 94-6130878, the State of California Tax ID is 0501445.

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of January, May & July at 7:30 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday of March, June & October at 3:30 pm at the Sunol Glen School, two blocks east of the Depot on Main Street in Sunol, CA. Members, Sponsors & Guests are welcome.

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The Pacific Locomotive Association is a member of the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums. (ATRRM)

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## November Activities

November 2	1st Saturday	East Track Building, 8 am (Brightside Yard)	Mike Strider
November 9	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 pm (Brightside)	
November 9	2nd Saturday	Speeder Runs, 9:00am to 5:00pm (Niles)	Jim Evans
November 19	3rd Tuesday	Train of Lights Test Train (Bah Humbug)	
November 22	4th Friday	Train of Lights (Niles & Sunol)	The Alexanders
November 23	4th Saturday	Train of Lights (Niles & Sunol)	The Alexanders
November 24	4th Sunday	Train of Lights (Niles & Sunol)	The Alexanders
November 29	5th Friday	Train of Lights (Niles & Sunol)	The Alexanders
November 30	5th Saturday	Train of Lights (Niles & Sunol)	The Alexanders

## Membership Report

### November 2019

The PLA/NCRY welcomed nine new members at press time. These new members can now begin logging the hours to earn tickets toward 2020's TOL Volunteer Appreciation Train by jumping onboard NOW and coming out in 2019 to assist with this year's Train of Lights (TOL). Those new members are: Jack Corrick, Brian C. Rhea, the Kin Lam family with members Clayton and Cooper, along with Yen-Ling Chen, Owens DeLong, Penny Musante as well as Ken and Lisa Knox. Welcome to you all and hope to meet you soon.

All PLA members have their own path on how they came to volunteer for the organization. A contributing member since the early 90's, I personally did not get actively involved until the early 2000's. I read about an opportunity in the Club Car that I felt I could contribute toward (grant writing) and thus be-

gan my volunteering for the PLA. Due to my involvement with helping to develop NCY's Niles train and passenger platform, I decided to volunteer at Niles during the TOL. What better way to demonstrate the appreciation I felt toward hard-working volunteers than for me to step up during our largest fund-raising period, the Train of Lights?

This thought culminated in two results: The satisfaction knowing I was contributing in a meaningful way and because I jumped in during the holiday season, it may have allowed someone who had already decorated the train or mechanically prepared the vintage equipment for the TOL to step away for a time and enjoy a bit of well-earned rest.

Showing appreciation for what our volunteers do – or have done – is a gesture that shows the PLA recognizes its greatest attribute, hence, the introduction of its Lifetime Achievement Award. The honoree criteria are in the

development stage now with program roll out targeted for 2020. The physical award is now mounted at the head of the stairway at the Sunol Depot. Stop by and see it – and imagine your name on it someday!

To clarify – one does not need to be a member to volunteer and earn tickets toward TOL Volunteer Appreciation Trains. In fact, journeyman volunteer Steve Jones is currently in outreach efforts to local high schools to notify them that the NCY during TOL season (and beyond) is a great place to volunteer for those students that need to fulfill community service requirements.

If help is needed to sign up Online to volunteer please contact:

membercom@ncry.org  
for more information

**Work Smart – Work Safe !**

**Linda Stanley**  
**Membership Secretary**

### E-COUPLING INFORMATION

Website: <http://www.ncry.org>

Email: To Join Members Email List, send an Email to: [info@ncry.org](mailto:info@ncry.org)

Twitter: [@toots4ncry](https://twitter.com/toots4ncry)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NilesCanyonRailway>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NilesCanyonRailRoad>



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- President's Report -----

Well the Sesquicentennial Celebrations are over, and I am happy with how well they all turned out. They were good for the NCRy and good for the PLA. They were also good for me personally, and in ways I never expected.

November is our recovery month. Yes we are still getting everything together for the TOL, and some things are still very time critical and causing high stress levels, but now is when we can begin planning next year's projects and figuring out what we as an organization should be doing. We will be looking at the things we are doing that are working, and rethink the things that we could do better. The Board needs to concentrate on continuing to maximize our financial position by managing our budget and making the tough decisions about what we need to acquire to meet our objectives.

Earlier this year we brought the Ranch Car to Brightside. We hoped to have it ready for the TOL this year and recover the expenses we incurred. Priorities and other demands for funds made it difficult to get this project going. The car has bad wheels and they need to be sent out to be fixed, an expense we just couldn't manage. We also discovered that the floor, which had some soft spots, would need to be partially redone. The electrical and AC systems also have problems we were unaware of that need to be addressed and we knew the windows needed to be repaired. So it had to be back-burnered until next year.

As it is the end of the year, it is a perfect time for you to look at the donations you want to make to the PLA. You can go to [www.hotchilipepperchallenge.com](http://www.hotchilipepperchallenge.com) and make a donation that will go to the Mission San Jose Rotary Club, who will turn around and re-donate it to PLA, as well as match a significant portion of the donations with an additional 2 for 1 matching grant. You can even earmark that donation for a particular project (like the Ranch Car) or any other project or department. You need to

ensure your donation is made before November 1st, as that is when the chili pepper challenge ends for 2019.

If you miss the November 1st cutoff, don't despair. You can still make your donation to the PLA directly. Online donations can be made in a number of ways, at our website, our Facebook page, and even some project webpages have direct donation links. You can even mail us a check if you prefer to do it old-school.

This November downtime has allowed me to reflect on my experiences while leading the Sesquicentennial Celebrations. I spent a lot of time researching the connections between Niles Canyon and the Transcontinental Railroad, and piecing together the connections that led to the last leg coming through here. I learned a lot of things I didn't know, and also learned that some of what I knew was wrong. Learning the correct timelines and causes allowed me to see that there was a beautiful chaos to the whole endeavor. I enjoyed learning these things and was pleased when I was given the opportunity to share what I learned at my lecture at the Es-

sanay Silent Film Museum in August. I received great feedback on my presentation, and it has led to some unexpected and unusual opportunities.

I've been getting used to being considered an interesting person with insight and expertise. Who, me? A person whose opinions are sought out and whose guidance is considered foundational. I have even been invited to cocktail parties, something I never considered would be a by-product of my PLA involvement. As an introverted engineer, it is certainly a stretch to be put in a position where I am outside my comfort zone. But I am doing my best to represent.

TOL decorating is progressing smoothly, and we will be ready. I want to remind everyone reading this that we need YOU to come out and volunteer. I really don't know any other way to say it, we NEED you.

As always, if you would like to discuss any topic in further detail, please contact me by phone at 925.447.7358 or by email at [president@ncry.org](mailto:president@ncry.org).

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Henry Baum**



New E-1 Diesel locomotive engineers, Jim Stewart and Mark Miller.



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Treasurer's Report

### October 2019

During September we earned \$38,600 from our gift shop, commissary, and a variety of train operations including steam and diesel trains, a speeder tour, a Beer Train, and our 150th Year Celebration. On a monthly basis this is more than double what we budgeted for a typical September. October should be above average too, because the steam department has set us up for extra steam operations. They are very popular and therefore a money maker for us.

Our very popular Train of Lights tickets went on sale October 12 and were as good as sold out in 3 hours – yes, 3 hours! This is cause for celebration for our railroad. It is also a call to arms for volunteers - now we need every member possible to come out and take part in providing our ticket holders with the

Holiday experience they are counting on.

The cash from pre-sales of TOL tickets comes at a good time. The PLA has expenses in operating its fleet of historic and other equipment, including the TOL. An initial expense this fiscal year is replacement of the main generator for the WP 713, estimated to cost \$80,000. That project is underway, and the timing is such that these TOL pre-sales will fund it, making the planned short-term loan unnecessary.

For next year, our Charter Agent and Tariff Committee have been developing an expanded relationship with Casa Bella in Sunol. They are in the catering business and have found our train operations to be popular with some people as a wedding activity, or even the location for the wedding ceremony itself. We have put limits on the number of these charters we will do; and have put in place a separate fee schedule so that our efforts are well rewarded. This should turn out to be a larger source of income for our organization than in the past.

From our members and supporters, we received \$3,344 in donations to the General Fund. This includes \$190 at the Chinese Construction Workers Exhibit in Sunol Depot. This award-winning exhibit sponsored by the Stanford Historical Society is really great, featuring many of the places along the original Transcontinental Railroad in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between

Sacramento and Sparks. You will see two photographs side by side, one taken in the 1860's (150 years ago!) and the other taken very recently, each taken from almost the exact same spot. The similarities and differences are dramatic. There is text to explain the significance of the view, and the human activities that occurred there. We have arranged to keep the exhibit at the Sunol Depot for an extended period of time, so if you haven't visited there is still time.

Donors were Linda Stanley; Robert Burnett Family Fund; Jorg Linke; Andrew Goodson; Jeffrey Haslam; Alan Teruya; Thomas Miller; Patrice Warren; Charles Gullo; John Afanasiev; and Jack Lapidis.

**Pat Stratton**  
Treasurer



**TAX DEDUCTIBLE:** The Pacific Locomotive Association is qualified under Internal Revenue Service code section 501 (c)(3) as a tax exempt organization. Thus, donations to the PLA are tax deductible as CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS to the extent allowed by law. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 515, Sunol, CA 94586-0515. The PLA's Federal ID is: 94-6130878, CA ID is: 0501445.

## Want to Volunteer? Department Contacts are listed below:

**BRUSH CUTTING** - Clearing the RoW of bushes and trees - Steve Jones - fcocompost@aol.com  
**CAR MAINTENANCE** - Maintenance and repair - Tom Crawford - tom@thecrawfordfamily.net  
**COMMISSARY** - Food service on the trains - Bob Bradley - ncry.commissary@gmail.com  
**GIFT SHOP** - Work in the Sunol Gift Shop - Gail Hedberg - giftshop@ncry.org  
**MOW CREW - (WEDNESDAY)** - Work on track repair, etc. - Ron Thomas - rsthomas@sbcglobal.net  
**MOW CREW - (SATURDAY)** - Work on building track East. Michael Strider - mstrider67@gmail.com  
**SIGNALS** - Install/Maintain signal systems - Curt Hoppins - curt@ncrysignal.com  
**STATION - (NILES)** - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - John Fenstermacher - johnnsherif@aol.com  
**STATION - (SUNOL)** - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - Donna Alexander - station-agent@ncry.org  
**STEAM DEPARTMENT** - Work in all aspects of steam engines - Alan Siegwarth - sieggy667@hotmail.com  
**STEAM HOSTLER TRAINING** - Prepare a steam locomotive for service - Jeff Schwab - jeffs@levinterminal.com

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Along the Right of Way

Wow! It is almost Thanksgiving, but you would never know it on the NCRy. We are in full court press getting the Train of Lights, TOL, ready for the big test run.

The wild turkeys of Brightside still feel relaxed since they hang out around the MOW shed. They feel relaxed because they think they have a year pass on life before next Thanksgiving. Meanwhile we are decorating the TOL for Christmas and our first trains will operate one weekend before Thanksgiving. That is a full weekend of TOL with Santa. Our turkeys like this year's schedule as it takes attention away from them this time of year!

I hope Santa has notified NORAD that he will be entering California airspace a few weeks early. If you see a heavy-set individual in a red suit looking out of place with a herd of reindeer looking over their next flight plan over NCRy, give Santa a turkey leg and the reindeer some stuffing. This should make them fly faster with Santa's tight schedule, in order to make up time to their next scheduled appearance after their early arrival on the NCRy. "Have a great Thanksgiving Santa, knowing that you have hundreds of our passengers fired up for Christmas." With Santa and herd being on the NCRy, it will be like a Hawaiian vacation.

The WP 713 will be going through an operation for the first time in many years. This is the hardest repair task we have ever taken on, regarding a major engine in our fleet. When you lose a generator, the engine is hurting and this engine is one that we truly need for our TOL operation. We had just put \$35,000 into a new paint job and \$32,000 into a rebuilt generator. My guess would be that this engine will see a lot of TLC during its overhaul during the last week of October.

Gerry Feeney, Stephen Barkkarie and Rich Anderson have had their hands full while they try to cut costs before contractor Matt Munson comes in



*Photo by Dexter Day*

**Steve Barkkarie behind part, Gerry Feeney under part, Rich Anderson stabilizing the part removal WP713.**

to do the major work. Our guys have been getting the engine ready for his arrival. Oh yes, the big show is lifting the hood off of the GP7 engine, then the blower, and then the generator. The new generator will be put in place, then the blower re-installed. The next big step will be placing the hood back onto

the engine so that everything lines up. We are not an engine facility and do not have an overhead crane. This job will not be all that easy, but when you see what takes place, you will know it was done here at Brightside with our guys helping a contractor to get the work done. I really believe that we are the



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Along the Right of Way

only non-mainline railroad that takes on these types of major projects. Our Treasury Department loves donations toward any projects and this would be one project that you might want to consider. I think you will get a good feeling for what NCRy can do when a job needs to be done!

We sent Stephen Barkkarie back to Iowa for track inspection certification for which he received his certificate. Stephen will play a major role in keeping this railroad legally on the books. Stephen's educational background and past experience working on a railroad as an operator at Western Grad-All have allowed him to be accepted by FRA/PUC for track inspection. Next up, we are looking for an Airbrake class for him. It looks like the class might be Ohio. You talk about speak-easys in the 30's . . . trying to find an airbrake class is a challenge!

The KM engine rebuild is still a serious issue. Damage, you got it! Yes, the engine has new parts coming to NCRy. This must be the first Maybach engine being rebuilt in the 21st century in the US and we might end up with the only running Maybach engine running in the country! Hats off to Howard and his team for getting this major project done. The engine is using the SD9 for M.U. operation and power.

Our Wednesday MOW crew has been doing great stuff. Have you seen those dirty Track Mats in front of the Sunol station? They are not there anymore. Wednesday MOW took care of the problem. Yes, Wednesday MOW crew are the 911 responders regarding what needs to be done at NCRy. This crew will attack any problem that is brought to their attention. This effort was what Joe Peterson wanted when he started this team many years ago. Now that Joe has moved to Colorado, Ron Thomas is heading up the team.

Steve Jones and crew have been doing one heck of a job in keeping the right of way clear for the TOL season,



*Photo by Dexter Day*

**Items to be determined if scrap or to be saved.**



*Photo by Dexter Day*

**New track mats for Sunol thanks to Wednesday M of W.**

performing brush and tree trimming for the past week. This is a year around battle with Mother Nature.

Rich Alexander and Bob Bradley have been cleaning out all the unwanted scrap from the Brightside back forty and around the yard. I didn't realize that we had so much unwanted stuff. The downside of this story is that Rich and Bob have to put the stuff somewhere until it can be put into scrap bins, and that somewhere is along the sides

of the roads throughout Brightside. Hopefully this condition does not last long as it cuts down on the area to park vehicles.

That's it for this month. Hope all is well and I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving! Remember to work safely, and hope to see you along the right of way!

**Dexter D. Day**  
**General Manager**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## A Steamy Year on the Niles Canyon Railway

October 6th ended this year's steam operations on the Niles Canyon Railway after pulling the regular Sunday trains with the fire dropped in the Robert Dollar #3 and annual work already in progress on the Clover Valley #4. As the locomotives stop running, our department becomes even more busy with each locomotive requiring an extensive checklist of Annual Inspections required by the Federal Railroad Administration. However, rather than focusing on the future, I thought I would focus on the volunteers that help make it happen – as we all know, steam requires time and labor – lots of it!

This year we had 40 steam operating days which is more than we have had for many years on the Niles Canyon Railway. Operating steam this many days is a major effort as in addition to hostlers and crew staffing for each operating day, volunteers are necessary to take the tank car to Sunol, fill it, fill the locomotives and fire them up the day before, grease, oil and drain/service the locomotives after the operation. This typically means at least 2 additional days of work for each day in service. Our crew has put a huge amount of effort this year to support operations and I just wanted to put out a big thank you to the volunteers (I hope I don't forget someone!) who helped with this year's steam operations:

- Gerry Feeney, Kent Hedberg, Rich Anderson – Their time switching at Brightside and getting water in Sunol is always a huge help. They have plenty of other work to do but when we need help, they always find a way. Kent also typically helps switch in the morning and evenings too, making our day on steam crew a little bit shorter – which is always a good thing.
- Henry Chandler – operating and repairing whatever is needed. Henry can be typically found fabricating something we need – sometimes even when we didn't know we needed it.
- Gerald DeWitt – operating and repairing whatever is needed. Special thanks



Chuck Kent, Stephanie Tadlock, Dave Tadlock and Dee Murphy take a break during hosting the #4 and #7.



Chuck Kent firing the #4.



Alan Siegwarth and Chuck Kent taking a break on the tender of the Skookum.



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

goes to him for spearheading the project to get our big fuel pump back in operation.

- Charles Franz – a big part of why the operation of the Skookum has improved so much this year, he's beating that old horse into submission one piece at a time.

- Whitney Haist – helped repair several of our small gasoline engines on our water pumps. Without water, no steam! Thanks Whitney for the behind the scenes help.

- Chris Hauf – our resident photographer and painter. He helps in the shop too when we aren't keeping him painting.

- Chuck Kent – operating and repairing whatever is needed. Chuck has moved on from hostling to be a fireman this year.

- Justin Legg – Justin has been a huge help in the shop since he migrated North from the Orange Empire Railroad Museum. He also has qualified as a fireman this year.

- Dee Murphy – She has helped basically with anything needed around the shop including greasing, lubricating, cleaning the locomotives.

- Bill Ross – His time dedicated to greasing/lubricating (it takes a good 4-6 hours to grease the #4 for every day's operation!) the locomotives helps immensely. Bill also helps with a lot of the "dirty" work around the shop – seldom does he go home clean from Brightside.

- Derek Schipper – Whether hostling, firing, or working with contractors during the week he has a knack of being available or just showing up when he is most needed.

- Jeff Schwab – instigator of the paperwork, agreements and other requirements that led to Skookum coming to Niles Canyon. Can be spotted at Brightside working on steam, and somedays with the help from his son Conner.

- Linda Stanley & Steve Jones – Spent a bunch of time working on our tired diesel air compressor which has seen better days. We use it for firing up the locomotives until there is enough steam



Jeff Schwab and Brian Wise in the cab of the #4.



Gerald poses in the gangway of the Skookum.



Chuck Kent and Gerald DeWitt lubricating the #7.



*Photo by Charles Franz*

Justin Legg firing the Skookum with Alan Siegwarth in the cab of the #4.

pressure to fire themselves which is typically 40-50 psi of steam. With their help, the old compressor made it through the season – Thank goodness. \*\*\*A little NCRy History Note, the compressor has been with PLA almost 30 years and spent many a day bouncing down the ROW behind Jim Gunther's jeep in the early 1990's to provide air to clean spike holes in the ties before plugging during the construction of the railroad to Niles.\*\*\*

- Dave & Stephanie Tadlock – have made themselves available whenever we need help repairing locomotives, hostling and on engine crew. We are glad to have their help after many years

of working mostly at Railtown.

- Brian Wise – made several trips down from Washington this year to help with our operations, thanks for the help!

- Doug Vanderlee – always willing to lend a hand when needed whether to help unload a locomotive or help hostle in the morning – no job is too big.

We have had plenty of help from outside the organization as well over the past year, including Chris Baldo, Troy James, Eli Mosher, George Sapp, Al DiPaolo, Steve Butler, Joe Siemons, Jason Hill and Dennis Dougherty among others.

**Alan Siegwarth**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Volunteers Needed

As I write this, we are in desperate need of volunteers to staff the Train of Lights, especially for caboose hosts, dome car hosts, snack bar people, and Niles/Fremont parking lot helpers. Please go online and sign up, even if it's just for one night. Go to [ncry.org](http://ncry.org) and then click on Members' Website under About. Then click on Volunteer Opportunities under Volunteer. Then scroll to where you see the 2019 TOL spots. We have a lot to choose from, but we definitely need people for the various spots mentioned above. Click on Volunteer Yourself on the right side of the opportunity by the green hand. On the next page, put in your name, phone number, and email address and then click in the boxes for the dates you want to volunteer. Then scroll to the bottom of the page and click Next. Then on the next page review what you signed up for and click Finish. If you don't click to finish what you sign up for, you won't be signed up.

It takes the full commitment of all of us to put the Train of Lights on for everyone to enjoy. Please sign up and be a part of the fun. You can help make this a fantastic and memorable season for the public.

Thank you,  
**donna alexander**



## Niles Canyon Railway's 2019 Train of Lights



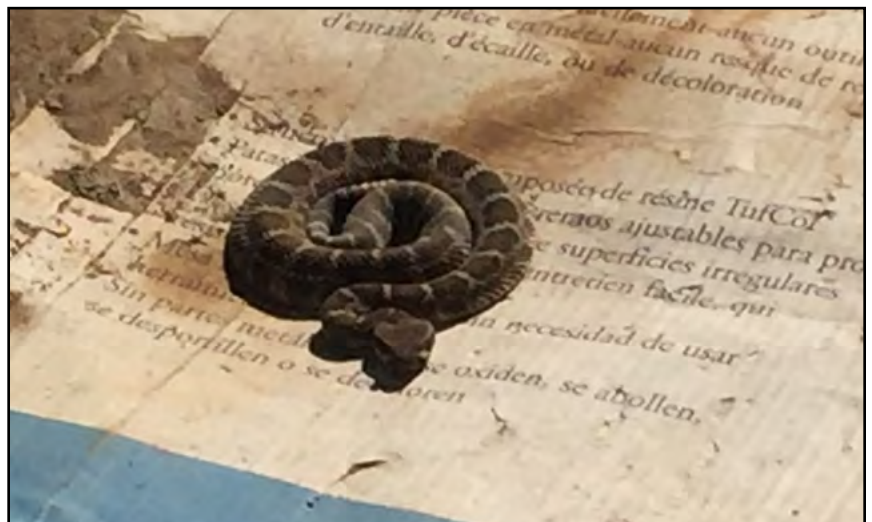
**Online Ticket Sales October 12**

<b>Nov. 22 - Dec. 30</b>	<b>\$30.00 Gen. seating</b>
<b>Every Fri., Sat.</b>	<b>\$60.00 First Class</b>
<b>Sun. Wed.</b>	<b>Dome Car &amp; Parlor Car</b>
<b>Round trips from</b>	<b>\$650.00 Caboose rental</b>
<b>4:30 Niles/ Fremont</b>	<b>(Flat Fee)</b>
<b>7:30 Sunol</b>	<b>An operating railroad museum</b>
<b>NCry.org</b>	<b>510-996-8410</b>



**WARNING:** Just a reminder to all volunteers out at Brightside or anywhere along the Right-of-Way. I was working on my Heavy Hauler a few days ago (Oct.1). I needed a piece of 4X4 plywood laying in a stack on the ground. I picked up the piece and a friend was below. The Rattle Snake stayed on the cardboard for 2 hours warming up in the Sun on a 73 degree day and then slithered off. I have seen Rattle Snakes next to the Rail curled up, under the Black Oil Mats, going into the Car Barn, while Brakeman down near MP 30.5 culvert and up in the East Back Forty. Stay alert at all times when walking and lifting anything up. NO I didn't kill the snake.

**Doug Vanderlee**





# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Train of Lights Decorating

We are decorating for the Train of Lights. This is a significant effort by a dedicated crew. There are two groups. The interior decorations are done by a crew led by Dexter Day, and the exterior decorations are done by the Wednesday Warriors, led by Tom Crawford.

The Wednesday Warriors work every Wednesday, and sometimes do extra work on Thursday if they get behind. They started the second to last week in August, and plan to be finished the Wednesday before the test train.

The team mounts rope lights on each car, to provide an outline of multicolored light and then adds decorations to add character. Each car is done differently, usually with some theme. The first picture shows the full team working on the Park Car, which has an American Flag, which is animated by computers set up by Curt Hoppins and his signal crew. All of the starbursts are set up to flash, with different logic for each starburst.

Sometimes we are light on volunteers, and need to work extra hard. This team, along with Tom Crawford, was



*Photo by Tom Crawford*

**The Wednesday Warriors mounting the rope lights.**



**Joan Weber, our newest team member, who jumped right in and works as hard as the guys who have been on the team for a while. Welcome aboard, Joan.**



**Joan Weber, Marshall Williams and Denis Murchison decorating the south side of the Articulated Coach.**

able to decorate this entire car in one day, starting at about 9:30, and ending by 3:30, taking an hour and a half off for lunch at Jims in Pleasanton. (Lunch at Jims is one of our biggest team "things" and makes the team all that much more connected.)

We are always looking for people to join us, as Joan has. If you wish to join us, simply show up at Brightside on any Wednesday, and we will set you up. If you need more information, contact Tom Crawford at [tom@thecrawford-family.net](mailto:tom@thecrawford-family.net)



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Bushwhackers October Brush Cutting Blitz

Continued from Page 1

to get a call sometime to show up at 4:00 in the morning to help grease a steam locomotive on an operating day. We understand the nature of reciprocity.

Six of our team members had never participated in brush cutting before, and one volunteer, Matt Petach, is a brand-new PLA member. This was his first volunteer experience with the PLA. I am always trying to encourage new blood to volunteer. This week, those dreams were finally realized. I am particularly thankful to Dave and Stephanie Tadlock who drove all the way from their home in far-away Merced and stayed overnight in local lodging to enable them to work with us for two days in a row. Thanks, too, to John Pelmulder who burned two days of vacation to contribute his considerable skill and energy.

This marathon brush cutting campaign was made possible by Chris Boza. Old timers will remember Chris, along with John Pelmulder, as the pioneer brush cutters who cleared overgrowth as the fledgling PLA built track West from Brightside. Chris recently retired from his real job and visited the canyon a couple of months ago after an absence of many years. After seeing the extent to which trees have closed in on the ROW, Chris proposed to drive down from his home near Spokane, Washington, and spend a whole week with us on a concentrated effort to push the trees and bushes back from our track and sightlines.

The Blitz was guided by input from the operations Dept, and concentrated on clearing sightlines from Mission Bridge to the spring a few hundred feet East of MP-30, the East approach to Dresser Bridge, and a couple of targets East of Farwell Bridge. We did not cover a lot of miles, but we did clear some of the most problematic areas much farther away from the rails. As a result of this work, we will not have to spend much effort on these areas for several years,



*Photo by Steve Jones*

**Chris Boza at MP-30 looking West toward more work to do.**



*Photo by Steve Jones*

**Looking West from MP-30 after grooming. Chris Boza and Stephanie Tadlock in the background.**

enabling us to concentrate on other problem areas.

Again, my thanks to all who participated. I am hopeful that future brush

cutting days will be met with the same enthusiasm and depth of participation. Your Brother in Sawdust,  
**Steve Jones**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY



## The Great Rotary Hot Chili Pepper Challenge

**September 3- November 1**

Created by the Rotary Clubs of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, the Chili Pepper Challenge is a fundraising campaign created to benefit local and international Rotary service projects. You can support this initiative with a **Direct Donation** or by taking up the challenge and helping to raise funds for a great cause. The virtual challenge takes place at an internet connection near you!

**Niles Canyon Railway is a participating charity nominated by the Mission San Jose Rotary Club.**

**The Chili Pepper Challenge will match your donation  
two-to-one  
when you designate NILES CANYON RAILWAY**

### Make a Donation to NCRy

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support Rotary Club local and many international projects. Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs in Fremont, Newark, and Union City, CA. Thank you for your generous gift!

### Get Ready to Challenge

Select one chili pepper - as hot as you can stand it! Dr. Pepper, even a peppermint or pepperoni. Take a bite. Repeat until gone. Capture the entire process on video, using your own words to describe the experience. Name at least two friends and challenge them to do the same.

### Challenge Your Friends on Facebook

Post the video on all of your social media accounts. Tag the friends you've challenged. In the text of the post, add the hashtag **chilipeppers4charity** and a link to the website so your friends can make their donation.

Visit <https://hotchilipepperchallenge.com>

- Click Donate
- Select Niles Canyon Railway
- Enter Amount



## Piecemakers Quilt Guild of S. Alameda County

The quilt raffle is a combined major fundraiser for the PLA and the non-profit Piecemakers Quilt Guild of S. Alameda County. Please visit the SP 3176-Combine as the quilt is on display during TOL. Admire and appreciate the enormous amount of time, talent and unique details not easily captured in photographs. Most of all please consider purchasing some raffle tickets for a worthy cause! The winning ticket will be drawn on December 30th. The lucky winner to be notified by email/phone.

Visit the on-board and Sunol Depot gift shop during TOL and check out the latest fundraising opportunities to support ongoing railcar and locomotive restoration projects. New holiday ornaments and a wonderful engineer teddy bear and toys are just a few of the unique items this year. All proceeds from sales from items in our stores directly support the Niles Canyon Railway museum.

Stop by and see the quilt to appreciate the hours of work from these talented quilters. Contact [giftshop@ncry.org](mailto:giftshop@ncry.org) to purchase tickets if unable to ride the train this year. Please visit the car and see all its charm and classic history including the beloved pot belly stove. Your support is important and our volunteers appreciate knowing you acknowledge their hard work.

**Raffle Tickets are  
available for purchase  
from the Sunol Gift Shop  
or on the Train of Lights.**

**\$5.00 each  
or  
5 tickets for \$20.00**

**Contact Gail Hedberg:  
[giftshop@ncry.org](mailto:giftshop@ncry.org)**



**Sneak preview of the 2019 custom quilt design (before quilting).**



**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD- Darlene Cano, Amy Gunnarson and Diane Crawford.**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- Volunteer Report -----

by Brian Hitchcock

The following is a list of the people who helped run your railroad in September. Please print your name clearly on the sign in sheet so it can be read. If you find that your name is misspelled, please inform me of the correct spelling. You can also send hours by e-mail to [ncryvolunteerhours@gmail.com](mailto:ncryvolunteerhours@gmail.com).

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Henry Baum  
Jim Evans  
Linda Stanley  
Pat Stratton  
Dexter Day  
Jim Stewart  
Kent Hedberg  
Gail Hedberg  
Brian Hitchcock  
Donna Alexander  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Jones

### ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

Brian Hitchcock

### CAR DEPARTMENT

Carlo Borlandelli  
Dennis Mann  
Dexter Day  
Doug Vanderlee  
Jeff Brazelton  
Jim McDaniel  
Steve Barkkarie

### COMMISSARY

Armano Giovacchini  
Bonnie Harrington  
Chuck Koehler  
Doug Debs  
Gail Hedberg  
Jack Harrington  
Jacqui Szymanski  
Jon Engberson  
Roger McCluney  
Sally Mills  
Sue Thomas

### DEPOT CREW & OPERATIONS

Bob Bailey  
Dan Mills  
Donna Alexander

### DEPOT CREW & OPERATIONS

Glenn Fountain  
Jim Gilmore  
Jim McDaniel  
Linda Stanley  
Rhonda Dijean  
Rich Alexander  
Sally Mills  
Steve Jones  
Wayne Stoddard

### DOCENTS

Annie Giannini  
Bob Bailey  
Dee Murphy  
Fred Krock  
Gail Hedberg  
Jim Evans  
Mike Pechner  
Pat Stratton

### ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS

Bill Kenney  
Bent Christensen  
Curt Hoppins  
James Stewart  
Jim Flippo  
Logan Rubasky  
Paul Veltman

### FACILITIES

Bob Bradley  
Doug Debs  
Jack Harrington  
James Stewart  
John Zielinski  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Coon

### GIFT SHOP

Charlene Murrell  
Gail Hedberg  
Patrice McDonald

### MECHANICAL

Alan Siegarth  
Bill Ross  
Charles Franz  
Chris Hauf  
Chuck Kent  
Dee Murphy  
Dennis Mann  
Derek Schipper  
Doug Vanderlee  
Gerald Dewitt  
Gerry Feeney  
Henry Chandler  
Howard Wise  
Jeff Haslam  
Jeff Schwab  
John Zielinski  
Justin Legg  
Kent Hedberg  
Linda Stanley  
Rich Anderson  
Steve Jones  
Bill Stimmerman

### MEETINGS

Bob Bradley  
Dexter Day  
Donna Alexander  
Doug Vanderlee  
Gail Hedberg  
Glenn Fountain  
Henry Baum  
James Stewart  
Jim Evans  
Kent Hedberg  
Linda Stanley  
Pat Stratton  
Peter Midnight  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Jones  
Steve Slabach

### MOW & TRACK

Bob Bailey  
Bob Pratt  
Chris O'Gara  
Dee Murphy  
Doug Vanderlee  
Frank Fontes  
Gerry Feeney  
Gregg McNaughton  
Hal Briar  
James Stewart  
John Pelmulder  
John Zielinski  
Mike Strider  
Pat Hafey  
Pat Stratton  
Rhonda Dijean  
Ron Thomas  
Steve Barkkarie  
Steve Jones  
Wesley Van Osdol

### OTHER

Dan Sarka  
Patrice Warren  
Steve Jones  
Barry Lependorf  
Wayne Stoddard  
'Zonker' Harris

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Dan Mills  
Donna Alexander  
Doug Debs  
Laura Bajuk  
Sally Mills  
Steve Barkkarie  
Dan Sarka

### SWITCHING CREW

Chuck Kent  
Ed Best  
Gerald Dewitt

### SWITCHING CREW

Gerry Feeney  
Kent Hedberg  
Rich Anderson  
Ron Thomas

### TRAIN CREW

Alan Siegarth  
Bob Pratt  
Charles Franz  
Chris Chisom  
Chris Hamilton  
Chuck Kent  
Dave Tadlock  
Donald Kirker  
Ed Best  
Gerald Dewitt  
Gerry Feeney  
Henry Chandler  
Jackie Vlasak  
Jim Stewart  
John Sutkus  
Jordan Hamilton  
Jorg Linke  
Justin Legg  
Kent Hedberg  
Kurt Olsen  
Mark Miller  
Mike Carter  
Pat Stratton  
Rich Alexander  
Ron Thomas

### TRAIN CREW

Stephanie Tadlock  
Ted Unruh  
Wesley Van Osdol  
Zonker Harris

### TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Bob Moore  
Brooke Murphy  
Dave Hipple  
Denis Murchison  
Dexter Day  
Don Gholson  
Don Stuff  
Donna Alexander  
Jim McDaniel  
Joan Weber  
Joe Scardino  
John Burnside  
Marshall Williams  
Norm Fraga  
Pete Goodier  
Phil Stone  
Rob Giles  
Ron Thomas  
Sierra Murphy  
Steve Barkkarie  
Steve Van Meter  
Sue Thomas  
Terry Stokes  
Tom Crawford



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Time Sensitive Material



*Photo by Robert J. Zenk*

Our restored Southern Pacific Depot and parking lot in Sunol hosted crowds of walkers, strollers, and cyclists for the 2019 Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll, a biennial opportunity for people to walk and bike safely through the Canyon with their friends and family and our one-of-a-kind Krauss-Maffei Diesel-Hydraulic SP 9010.