



# THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 678

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

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

February 2020

## Dexter D. Day retires as General Manager



*Photo by Alan Siegarth*

Dexter Day checking operations.

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

The inaugural meeting of the Operations Planning Committee (with 25 attendees) was held on Saturday, January 11th at the White House in Brightside. The meeting broke up for lunch, and then resumed and we talked for another couple of hours. We discussed the number of steam operating dates, including a number of steam powered charters. The increased operations for charters associated with Casa Bella

and its impacts were discussed. The main output from the meeting was that we will pretty much operate following last year's schedule regarding departure times and numbers of runs, but several changes will need to be reviewed for future years.

To this end, the Operations Planning Committee was formalized, and the fol-

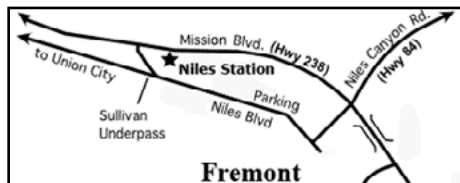
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**OUR MISSION:** To be an operating railroad museum for standard gauge railroading, past, present and future, with emphasis on the Western United States and special emphasis on Northern California

## BOARDING LOCATIONS

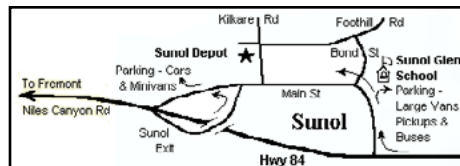
### NILES STATION

37029 Mission Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94536



### SUNOL STATION

6 Kilkare Road  
Sunol, CA 94586



#### ===== BOARD OF DIRECTORS =====

President	Henry Baum	(925) 447-7358	president@ncry.org
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Brush Cutting	Steve Jones	(510) 289-3559	fcocompost@aol.com
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Member Communications	Linda Stanley	(510) 579-6300	membercom@ncry.org
Museum Curator	Dennis Mann	(650) 726-0167	dmann@coastside.net
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Road Foreman of Engines	Kent Hedberg	(415) 608-3811	hedbergs@sbcglobal.net
Security Department	Jim Evans	(650) 697-9033	fivechime@aol.com
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Station Agent - Niles	John Fenstermacher	(510) 522-7949	johnnsherif@aol.com
Station Agent - Sunol	Donna Alexander	(510) 996-8420	station-agent@ncry.org
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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, February 8

3:00 pm

White House

=====

**TIME CHANGE  
DUE TO CHARTER**

### Membership Meeting

**NO MEETING  
THIS MONTH**

## 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.

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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

## ===== February Activities =====

February 1	1st Saturday	East Track Building, 8 am, (Brightside Yard)
February 8	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 pm (Brightside)
February 22	4th Saturday	Brush Cutting, 8 am (Brightside Yard)

## ----- Membership Report -----

Overheard between two NCRY members the first of the year: "Any New Year's Resolutions?" Response: "Signed up for a gym membership" Reply: Gym membership!?! Why you can get the best work-out in the Bay Area -right here- at the Niles Canyon Railway's 'Health Club'. There is spike driving as we build track East, tree and brush clearing along ten miles of Right of Way, all manner of work on locomotives and passenger cars, coupler releasing, air hose connecting and hand-brake set and releasing....Hey! those last three sound like Brakeman duties! How can I learn how to do that? Glad you asked! There will be a Brakeman's Class this month on February 22-23, contact: [traincrews@gmail.com](mailto:traincrews@gmail.com) to reserve your spot in this popular class.

Hope you had the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship at the first membership meeting of 2020. Warren Haack premiered his new DVD "Two Mallets in Niles Canyon", showcasing NCRY's Steam Dept. volunteers, the Clover Valley #4 and Skookum #7. Members: You can get your copy at a 10% discount at the Sunol Depot Gift Store beginning February. No membership meeting is scheduled for February, but hope to have Warren back in March to share more of his entertaining RR-themed films from Catenary Video Productions. Joining the PLA for this period are new

members: Jay Foreman, Bill Rupp, Nicholas Alexander, Garrett Farwell, the father and son team of Abraham and Matthew Espinoza, Nancy Mastoras, and Norman Kyte. I have personally met - and volunteered alongside - some of these new members who already enjoy this unique access to beautiful Niles Canyon. If you haven't already -please arrange for your personalized facilities tour and train ride with volunteer Glenn Fountain (Info pg. 2 of Club Car).

Are you a Voting Member? If so, you may soon have the opportunity to vote for multiple, long-time outstanding volunteers for inclusion on the PLA's Lifetime Achievement Award (LTAA or 'Golden Spike' Award, introduced in May 2019 Club Car). The proposed selection process will run concurrently with the Board of Director's elections that take place every June. The criteria for award consideration are quite simple - the honorees will have been members of the PLA for a minimum of 30 years and considered by Voting Members to have volunteered at a consistently high level over the years.

For example, a full list of the names of the 'Pioneers' - those who were invitees of 2018's- 30th Anniversary of the first NCRY revenue run of the M200 in 1988 would be included for consideration, along with those revered volun-

teers who have 'Left the Station'. Each year, current members would be included for consideration as they reach 30 years of PLA membership. Voting members will vote for those volunteers who they feel have in the past and for those who continue to contribute significantly to the PLA's stated mission to "be an operating railroad museum....". Plurality of votes by Voting Members for an individual will determine the Golden Spike's Class of 2020!

Preserving the Past by Honoring our Roots -

**Linda Stanley**  
Membership Secretary

### February BOD Meeting

**Saturday, February 8**  
**3 pm**  
**at the White House**

=====

**No Membership Meeting**  
**in February**

=====

**March BOD Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 14**  
**3 pm**  
**at the White House**



### 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

## ----- Along the Right of Way -----

Ever since Steve Slabach made me his General Manager, it has been an adventure that I was lucky enough to participate in as the organization and railroad were going through growing pains.

It was a struggle, but we seemed to find our way out of the position we were in as a railroad. I came on board when we were ripping up the old Ford plant for its track material. The easy break-in period was over. Got a call from Steve that a contractor was stealing some of our material for scrap. Steve picked me up and off we went to the Ford plant. If Steve had had a red rotating light in his trunk, it would have been a red light run

all the way to the plant. Within minutes, Steve was on a call to Ford headquarters and was talking to their president. Adventures like this at the Ford plant were not a one-time thing. I will be starting a new article called 'Tales of the Past' in which a lot of adventures will be brought back to life.

At this time, we are in very good shape as far as a tourist railroad goes. Oh, I forgot, "A rolling railroad museum". I have this flash back on what it was and what I am now looking at. Peter Schulze and I walked this railroad before the Southern Pacific ripped it up. I saw it after they leveled it. A heart dropper! Now, as I look at it today, it is in better shape than memory can recall. The NCRy is the number one class II railroad on the west coast. It should be! We have dropped a lot of money into OUR track structure. NCRy is on solid ground. The track is smooth and the railroad is growing faster that we can keep up with sometimes. New General Manager, Stephen Barkkarie, will be our new full-time GM who will have several new challenges to attack and overcome. I had our challenges at the beginning stages of this railroad. Stephen will have his challenges which are to protect what we have created, and to expand on new devices such as a pit to make our job easier on equipment inspections.

When the NCRy started, we were not under the FRA/PUC rules. We had nothing to offer for them to inspect, but Stephen will be working under nothing but regulations. I had my share of it and you learn to deal with agencies that inspect you. In addition, Stephen has some improvement plans which I am excited about.

This has been a change coming down to our last Board of Directors meeting when the vote was taken to accept Stephen as our new GM. I gave him my vote and a handshake and also wished him good luck. With his background,

Stephen is perfect for this position. I will let him tell you about it if you want to hear it. I have depended on him for years to get stuff done along the right of way. You will appreciate him in this position!

Thus, Stephen Barkkarie will continue in the role of GM and the GMs in the past. I am allowing Stephen the opportunity to use the title of this monthly article (ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY), under his name.

With that said, I am glad I have had the opportunity to serve as the GM of NCRy for the past (?) years as the longest-serving GM. I have to say, a lot of good people were in the right position at the right time. Some are no longer with us. Without them, we would have been a lot weaker as an organization.

So, as current GM, I will say, 'So long, work as a team and Stephen will be with you'. For the last time, I hope to see you all ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY.

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

## Commissary Training

Commissary will be holding a training class on:

**February 29th at 10 AM**

in the All Day Lunch at Brightside yard.

Volunteers who are interested in getting trained for Commissary Snack Bar and ADL service please send an e-mail to (ncry.commissary@gmail.com) or call 510-910-7024 to let us know you plan on attending.

**Commissary Manager**  
**Bob Bradley**

## BRAKEMEN TRAINING CLASS

This is for members who would like to be part of the train crew and learn railroading. This is the starting Point to Railroading and train operation.

Class dates will be:

**Feb 22 / 23**

At Brightside

White House

0900 to 1600

Material will be provided.

Must be in good physical condition, able to bend over, and have strength in arms.

Hope to see you in class

Send E mail to:  
plancrygm@sbcglobal.net

Dexter D. Day  
OPS MGR

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Treasurer's Report

**Happy Holidays were All Around Us** but now our flagship holiday train, the Train of Lights, has come to a very festive and safe conclusion. The proceeds from this activity funds itself and over half of our other regular operations. If you have been a volunteer worker on any aspect of this TOL program you know how hard everyone works, and how good a time we all have setting the stage for our passengers' holiday family experience. Thank you for your participation.

Financially we are in very good shape. We have cash from our TOL operations, which we must be stingy with so that it will provide funding for some of the bigger repair and restoration projects we

have planned over the next 9 months. Our Board and department heads are currently planning minor revisions to the budget as a guide toward this end. On December 20 a donation of 100 shares of Starbucks stock (SBUX) was made to the PLA by Jeffrey CE Vans. We are very grateful to Mr. Vans for this financial donation; we are hoping to discover who he is so that he can be properly thanked.

In support of the PLA through formal donations, individuals made contributions totaling over \$22,000 during December. If you would like to support the Niles Canyon Railway with more than your membership and your volunteer time, you can donate to the General Fund or to any specific project we have under way, such as restoration of the new GN1242 Ranch Car which we would like to have in service this summer; or a new paint job for a deserving locomotive, passenger or freight car.

For more information look in our Club Car newsletter, ask any uniformed vol-

unteer, or send me an email.

**Pat Stratton, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@ncry.org](mailto:treasurer@ncry.org)  
650-888-8619

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Dexter D. Day  
OPS MGR

**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.

### DID YOU KNOW!

**Café Bistro at Casa Bella in Sunol now offers a 10% discount on your whole order.**

**NCRy branded apparel (or a Membership Card) will get you the discount if they don't recognize you!**

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

**BRUSH CUTTING** - Clearing the RoW of bushes and trees - Steve Jones - [fcocompost@aol.com](mailto:fcocompost@aol.com)  
**CAR MAINTENANCE** - Maintenance and repair - Tom Crawford - [tom@thecrawfordfamily.net](mailto:tom@thecrawfordfamily.net)  
**COMMISSARY** - Food service on the trains - Bob Bradley - [ncry.commissary@gmail.com](mailto:ncry.commissary@gmail.com)  
**GIFT SHOP** - Work in the Sunol Gift Shop - Gail Hedberg - [giftshop@ncry.org](mailto:giftshop@ncry.org)  
**MOW CREW - (WEDNESDAY)** - Work on track repair, etc. - Ron Thomas - [rsthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsthomas@sbcglobal.net)  
**MOW CREW - (SATURDAY)** - Work on building track East. Michael Strider - [mstrider67@gmail.com](mailto:mstrider67@gmail.com)  
**SIGNALS** - Install/Maintain signal systems - Curt Hoppins - [curt@ncrysignal.com](mailto:curt@ncrysignal.com)  
**STATION - (NILES)** - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - John Fenstermacher - [johnnsherif@aol.com](mailto:johnnsherif@aol.com)  
**STATION - (SUNOL)** - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - Donna Alexander - [station-agent@ncry.org](mailto:station-agent@ncry.org)  
**STEAM DEPARTMENT** - Work in all aspects of steam engines - Alan Siegwarth - [siegggy667@hotmail.com](mailto:siegggy667@hotmail.com)  
**STEAM HOSTLER TRAINING** - Prepare a steam locomotive for service - Jeff Schwab - [jeffs@levinterminal.com](mailto:jeffs@levinterminal.com)



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## President's Report

Continued from Page 1

lowing volunteers are committee members: Gail Hedberg, Kent Hedberg, Donna Alexander, Warren Haack, Ed Best, Mark Miller, Bob Bradley, Jim Stewart, Doug Debs, Laura Bajuk, Derek Schipper, Chris Hauf, and myself. The next meeting will be scheduled for February 15th, 10AM at the White House. This is a good mix of talented people, and great things are expected.

As I brought up last month, the PLA has grown to the point where we need to turn over the management of the Niles Canyon Railway to a Professional Management Service. It is the dawn of a new era for PLA, and I still need everyone to support us in this sea change.

At the same time, this also marks the end of an era for the PLA. Over the years, a number of folks have dedicated their volunteer efforts to serve as the General Manager of the operation. Without a doubt though, the success of the PLA can be directly linked to the years when Dexter Day was the General Manager. For over 30 years, Dexter has been the person willing to take on the additional responsibility of dealing with the day to day pressures of running a railroad. There are a number of reasons why Dexter was so good at the job.

If you go through the member list of the PLA, you will find that a number of members have worked for railroads in the past, and some currently are working for commercial railroads. Dexter has taken his love for trains and turned it into a career that has kept him happily employed for as long as I can remember. Dexter is a Senior Conductor for Caltrain and has held that position for many years. He has so much seniority and is so well respected by Caltrain Management that they make it difficult for him to retire. I am sure that everyone who has worked alongside Dex at Caltrain has benefitted greatly from his experience.

His professional experience has translated into making the Niles Canyon Railway the finest 'excursion' railroad in the country (my opinion anyway). Dexter has been instrumental in developing the Operating Rules that guide the operations of the railroad. Our rulebook is derived from the standard rule books of other operating railroads but has all the necessary tweaks that make it work for us.

Some of my favorite stories about Dexter revolve around his dealings with the CPUC and FRA inspectors who come around and evaluate our Operations. One time the FRA inspector was having a ride-along and asked to see the 'Blue Card' (the inspection and registration card for the locomotive). The inspector was shown the locomotive's Blue Card, and commended us on the fact that we were up to date. The inspector made a point of telling Dexter that they would be checking those whenever they came out to do an inspection. Dexter informed the inspector that, although we do follow the Blue Card regulations, we actually are not required to meet Federal Blue Card regulations and explained the reasons why we were exempt. The Inspector didn't know what to say, but we know that the fact that we follow regulations because we value their control, and not because we have to, moves us way up on the inspector's list of favorite railroads.

That knowledge is so important to us and is the reason that we have such an exemplary safety rating. For that reason I am glad that although Dexter will not be the General Manager, he will continue to serve as Operations Manager until such time as we either find a volunteer willing to take on that responsibility or hire a professional service to perform this function. Our Operations Management have already learned a large amount from Dexter, but I am sure there is a lot more we can learn from him.

When I first became President, Dexter



*Photo by Curt Hoppins*

**Dexter D. Day, General Manager, Retired.**

agreed to stay on as General Manager, because we had such a great working relationship. When I ran for reelection, Dexter told me he would stay on as General Manager as long as I was President. That was a major weight off my mind to know I would have that experience in place and it allowed us to take the PLA into the state where it is.

When Dexter told me that, neither of us would have thought we would still be here so many years later. We both agreed that we should be working to come up with a new methodology for handling the General Manager position and the current situation is what we came up with.

Dexter will now just concentrate on Operations, and that will give him more free time. If he ever does retire from Caltrain, he will know that his experience will always be desired here.

I want to express my sincerest thanks to Dexter for sticking it out for as long as he has. I know he is looking forward to seeing this transition go smoothly. I know he has been instrumental in

**Continued on next page**

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

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

Continued from previous page

working out how best to handle this transition.

I don't want this to sound like an obituary, as Dexter is in excellent health and I am counting on him to be around



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plancrygm@sbcglobal.net

Dexter D. Day  
OPS MGR

long after I have turned over the reins to a new President (although so far nobody has expressed any interest in taking over for me either). There are so many things that have 'Dexter' written all over them here at the NCRy that it would take many pages to enumerate. I do know that Dexter's designation as 'Dr. Christmas' is because his efforts for Train of Lights is one of his proudest accomplishments, and I hope he will continue to work with Steve Barkkarie in ensuring our TOL is the finest holiday train in the world.

As always, if you would like to discuss any topic in further detail, please con-

tact me by phone at 925.447.7358 or by email at [president@ncry.org](mailto:president@ncry.org).

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

### Proof Reader Correction

Last month's Club Car misidentified the company that donated crane services to rig the old and new generators out of and into Locomotive 713. The correct donor was Ed Sherman of Engineered Crane Service. The PLA is grateful for his generosity.

**Steve Jones**

### CATENARY VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Presents

## "SKOOKUM" AND "CV-4"

THE COMPLETE STORIES OF

### Two Mallets In Niles Canyon



*This fascinating program covers the complete story of two rare operating Mallet locomotives: the 1909 "Skookum", and the 1924 "Clover Valley 4", and will interest those who wish to further their knowledge of how Mallet locomotives work, watch a locomotive rise from a debris field of parts, or take a cab ride filmed from unique perspectives. Included are interviews, archival films and photos.*

60 Minutes, 16x9 Wide Screen Format, Color  
Full Stereo Sound Track

**DVD - \$29.95 ea.**

*Available now in the gift shop in Sunol*

**Club members get a 10% discount**

**Catenary Video Productions**

**See Video Promos at: [www.catenaryvideo.com](http://www.catenaryvideo.com)**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- *Throwing the Switch* -----

Well it's a brand new year. A brand new decade, the year 2020, a fine time to look back over all the great things we all have accomplished and the right time to look ahead toward what can be done.

We pulled off a record breaking Train of Lights, celebrated 150 years of railroad heritage, brought in a second working compound steam engine, made great progress in our Eastward build, inspired dozens of new members, made needed improvements to our facilities and our collection, and continued to improve our awesome

right of way. All these things were done with the drive of our volunteers under the guidance of our long time General Manager Dexter Day.

For thirty years Dex has been wrangling our volunteers from the newest student brakeman to the most seasoned engineer and many a Board of Directors. We all owe him a great big round of praise, but time moves on and Dex has decided to throw the switch and take the siding from the mainline General Manager position so he can go back to the Operations Manager job he enjoys so much.

For some months now, the Board of Directors has been looking for someone to take over responsibility for the required Federal and State inspections of our track, rolling stock and facilities, plus the associated record keeping. To provide continuity of this service into the future, contracting this necessary function out makes sense for a group our size and a collection so diverse. To that end, I am forming a management and consulting corporation to legally provide those services while the association can still maintain its all-volunteer non-profit status. With my many years of mechanical experience, both with the NCRY and my own excavating company, I look forward to keeping our incredible rolling stock up to par and I can't tell you how exciting it is to have a chance to do things like repower a mainline locomotive or restore a classic piece of railroad history. Although brake testing a railcar may not be a glamorous job, I can't think of a better place to do it or a better group to do it for.

Having an engineering educational background and a long time construction business, I am naturally drawn to the MOW side of railroading and I love building track. After several trips with the FRA and PUC doing their annual inspections, I was able to qualify to their satisfaction as track inspector for NCRY. This allowed me to relieve Peter Schulze on different occasions

so he could take well-earned time off. The PLA also sent me to attend a week long training seminar in Council Bluffs, Iowa where a career FRA inspector/trainer named Brad Hess taught me the ins and outs of track inspections. I now am confident that I have the tools to keep the Niles Canyon railway rolling smoothly.

Enough about me, how about the railroad? Well, the MOW Dept. hit the ground running on January 2nd by removing the "Tree " from the side of the Engine House and taking advantage of the passing siding being empty to do some long needed profiling, ballasting, tamping and regulating. That is just the Wednesday crew. The Saturday bunch hardened track panels out East. You can now stand on railroad track and see the Happy Valley bridge. The second week was spent tree trimming (Niles for the Wed. Warriors and East end oaks for the Sat. bunch). Third Wednesday found MOW split between hosting the "Rail Explorers" Pedal car group and doing some much needed Spring Cleaning in Brightside. MOW area looks much better. John Zielinski has been doing his usual magic in several departments. He mends tires, changes lights and sockets, checks batteries, chips brush and builds track. A hard guy to keep up with. The cast of characters for these activities included Ron Thomas, Pat Stratton, Steve Jones, Bob Pratt, Wes Van Osdol, Doug Vanderlee and yours truly.

Don't think we were the only game in town. The TOL elves were hard at work undoing all their hard work of decorating. Both interior and exterior crews made great headway putting to bed the 2019 TOL (forgive me for not attempting to name names, you know who you are and that you are appreciated). Several cars had to be left decorated for a charter. It was a wedding out of Sunol for a couple that had their first date on our train and were overjoyed to have their reception aboard the train. With that and two other charters in Febru-



*Photo by F.R Fontes*

On Saturday January 4, 2020, Frank Fontes and Steve Barkkarie installed new CPUC required YIELD signs on the at-grade crossing at Hearst.



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- Throwing the Switch -----

ary, operations are back in business as well.

The Car Department is looking ahead as well. The Great Northern car has been pulled up in front of the car shop to begin cleaning and restoration. A plan is being formed for wheel repair and body fixes. The Diner is in line to replace a long missing bolster pin. Another bold PLA plan is in the works. Stay tuned for more info. Dennis Mann has plans to replace thin shoes on several cars in the near future and I am on my way to completing Jim Green's amazing work on bi-annual testing of our passenger cars.

Mechanical Department (meaning Gerry Feeney) of course has its hands full with the 713 generator replacement, car repairs, switching, and engine maintenance. (Gerry's wife has had a necessary procedure so he will get some needed time off caring for her during recovery. We should all keep them in our prayers). Howard and Bill keep steadily rebuilding the massive Krauss-Maffei power plant. Who knew what that project would become? Amazing.

Steam Department has a charter in February that has the whole shop buzzing with activity. It is a photo Freight special and Chris H. is busy prepping several cars for touch up. Henry Chandler has been seen many days this month doing who knows what, the Skookum is getting lots of attention and Alan Siegwarth himself has been directing tree cutting for optimal photo angles. Should be quite an event.

Crews dept. under Trainmaster Mark Miller and Road Foreman of Engines Kent Hedberg has welcomed new E-1s Jim Stewart and Mark himself this year. Good job, fellows. A new Brakeman class is scheduled for February 22 & 23 and Re-certifications for all crews will take place in March. If you ever thought about being on train crew, I highly recommend it. It is always a fun experience.

**Stephen Barkkarie**

## NCRy 2020 SCHEDULE

**Come out and ride or volunteer with us.  
Signups for volunteering are now online.  
Signups for Train of Lights opportunities  
will come later this year.**

**Feb. 2 (d), 16 (s)**

**Mar. 1 (s), 15 (s)**

**Mar. 13 - Niles School Train 10:00 a.m.\***

**Mar. 21 - Beer on the Rails\* 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Mar. 27 - Sunol School Train 10:00 a.m.**

**April 3 - Niles School Train 10:00 a.m.\***

**April 5 (s), 12 (s), 19 (s), 26 (d)**

**April 18 - Ride the Rails Relay for Life\***

**April 24 - Sunol School Train 10:00 a.m.\***

**May 3 (s), 10 (s), 17(s), 24 (d), 31 (d)**

**May 8, 22 - Niles School Train 10:00 a.m.\***

**May 15 - Sunol School Train 10:00 a.m.\***

**May 24 - Memorial Day Honoring Military\***

**June 6 - Evening Steam Train ride 7:30 p.m.\***

**June 7 (s), 14 (s), 21 (d), 28 (d)**

**June 20 - Beer on the Rails\* 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**June 26 - Niles Summer Train 10:00 a.m.**

**July 5 (d), 12 (s), 19 (s), 26 (d)**

**July 11 - Evening Steam Train ride 7:30 p.m.\***

**July 17 - Sunol Summer Train 10:00am\***

**August 2 (d), 9 (s), 16 (s), 23 (d), 30 (d)**

**Sept. 6 (d), 20 (d)**

**Sept.12 - Beer on the Rails\* 1:00-3:00 p.m.\***

**Oct. 3 - Evening Steam Train ride 7:30 p.m.\***

**Oct. 4 (s), 18 (d)**

**Oct. 10 - TOL TICKETS Sold ONLINE 10:00 a.m.\***

**Nov. Train of Lights\* Nov. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29**

**Dec. Train of Lights\* 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18,  
19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30**

(s) steam, (d) diesel

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- Wednesday MoW Report -----

WEDMWOW 2020 began on Thursday, January 2nd as we took advantage of the Yard Passing Track being clear to take down the 'Tree of Lights' as well as improving the Passing Track by raising sections up, adding ballast and tamping. The following week, we headed down to Niles and reduced the risk of tree branches crashing down on the Security Trailer. During the week of January 13th, part of the WED-MOW team supported the visit of the Rail Explorer team while the remainder performed some much needed spring cleaning around the MOW Shed. The volunteers included (in no particular order) Ron Thomas, Pat Stratton, Wes Van Osdol, Stephen Barkkarie, Steve Jones, Doug Vanderlee and myself.

We would love to have you join us at Brightside (5550 Niles Canyon Road) on Wednesdays, at 8:00 a.m. if you have any interest in helping to maintain the Niles Canyon Railway Right of Way.

**Bob Pratt**



The MoW shed.

*Photo by Pat Stratton*



*Photo by Jim Evans*

An all WEDMOW Train Crew (Wedding Charter - January 19, 2020) Conductor - John Sutkus, Engineer - Ron Thomas, Fireman - Jim Stewart, Brakemen - Steve Barkkarie AND Bob Pratt, Electrician - Rich Alexander.



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY



Photos by Dee Murphy

**ABOVE:** Gerry guiding Rich Anderson on the coupling of the Skookum tender.

**LEFT:** Gerry taking the SP 9010 out on her first run to get a bath at Sunol Depot.

**RIGHT:** Gerry BBQing at the 4TH of July Picnic.





# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## ----- Brush Cutting Report -----

Imagine you are one of the many new members of the PLA who joined after riding the world-famous Niles Canyon Railway Train of Lights in December, and you are reading your first Club Car. You see an article titled "Brush Cutting Report". You may be wondering what brush has to do with railroading. Well, Grasshoppers, railroads do not exist in a vacuum. Our canyon railroad traverses a corridor surrounded by trees and brush on both sides. The PLA depends upon a group of volunteers to go out along the right-of-way twice every month (except December) to trim and thin the vegetation to keep it from overwhelming the track. We were fortunate to get through TOL Season this year without any rock slides or trees falling onto the right of way.

In January, the second Wednesday brush cutting day concentrated on lightening and reducing the sail area of a damaged pine tree at the West end of the Niles parking lot. We added a 3rd Saturday special brush cutting day in January, in addition to the regularly scheduled 4th Saturday event. These days concentrated on 4 specific locations in the canyon which had become overgrown and needed to be cleaned up in advance of a special steam photo charter in early February. We chipped up a lot of Bay, Sage and Anise. Smelled great. Afterward, I wanted to go home and make turkey stuffing and Italian Biscotti cookies.

Participation in the Brush Cutting gang affords one the opportunity to see the railroad from the ground and to walk in the footsteps of the workers who originally graded the land and built the railroad. One can get up close and personal with original construction cut stone and wooden culverts under the track and original Transcontinental Telegraph poles. You can see and touch historic artifacts that you simply cannot appreciate when rolling along on the train at 20 miles per hour. If this sounds like a fun way to spend one Saturday or one Wednesday a month,

contact Steve Jones at [fcocompost@aol.com](mailto:fcocompost@aol.com).

News Flash: Early planning is underway for a week long brush cutting blitz in late March. Stay tuned for updates.

Railroading – it's not all about rusty rails and oily locomotives.

**Your Brother in Sawdust,  
Steve Jones**



*Photo by Jim Evans*

**Dexter Day enjoying Steam Fest.**



*Photo by Curt Hoppins*

**Dexter Day meets Santa on the TOL.**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

----- Dexter D. Day, GM Retired -----



*Photo by Dan Sarka*

**Dexter D. Day. General Manager, Retired.**



*Photos by Alan Siegwarth*

**Right and Below: General Manager Dexter Day out surveying operations.**





# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

## Hayes Bumping Post added to Verona Spur



*Photo by Doug Vanderlee*

On January 4, 2020, some of the Saturday Maintenance of Way team added a Hayes Bumping Post to the Verona Spur. The Bumping Post panel was constructed at Brightside Yard using two roughly 19 foot sections of 113 lb. rails that both needed to be cut (thanks to John Zielinski for Safety Watch) so there could be a 17 inch stagger and holes drilled. Transported on top of two push carts, the Bumping Post panel bolted easily in place with the Burro 40 crane and will help protect against any Engine or Car running off the end of track and into the future Verona Station. This 19 foot addition makes the spur 170 feet long from switch fouling point to bumping post head. Steve Barkkarie, Chris Campi, Frank Fontes and I had fun installing the Bumping Post and then joined the rest of the MOW gang hardening up the End of Track. Now just to add ballast rock and final level & alignment!

**Doug Vanderlee**



# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

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

By Ed Best

The following is a list of the people who helped run your railroad in December – and the November TOL train crew that were not included in last month's Club Car. Please print your name clearly on all sign in sheets 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  
Mike Strider  
Jim Evans  
Linda Stanley  
Pat Stratton  
Dexter Day  
Jim Stewart  
Kent Hedberg  
Gail Hedberg  
Donna Alexander  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Barkkarie  
Ed Best  
Steve Jones  
Steve Slabach

### CAR DEPARTMENT

Dennis Mann  
Rich Alexander

### ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS

Bill Kenney  
Curt Hoppins  
Jim Stewart  
John Zielinski  
Logan Rubasky

### FACILITIES

John Zielinski  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Coon

### GIFT SHOP

Charlene Murrell  
Gail Hedberg  
Patrice McDonald  
Sue Thomas

### MECHANICAL

Alan Siegwarth  
Bill Stimmerman  
Dee Murphy  
Dennis Mann

### MECHANICAL

Gerald DeWitt  
Gerry Feeney  
Henry Chandler  
Howard Wise  
Jeff Haslam  
Jeff Schwab  
John Zielinski  
Kent Hedberg  
Linda Stanley  
Lou Bradas  
Peter Bradas  
Rich Anderson  
Steve Barkkarie

### MEETINGS

Bob Bradley  
Bob Pratt  
Dave Burla  
Donna Alexander  
Doug Vanderlee  
Gail Hedberg  
Henry Baum  
Jim Evans  
Jim Stewart  
Kent Hedberg  
Linda Stanley  
Mike Strider  
Pat Stratton  
Randy Johnston  
Rich Alexander  
Steve Barkkarie  
Steve Jones  
Steve Slabach

### MOW & TRACK

Doug Vanderlee  
Frank Fontes  
Mike Strider

### OTHER

Barry Lependorf  
Bob Bailey  
Curt Hoppins  
Dexter Day

### OTHER

Ed Best  
Patrice Warren  
Steve Jones  
Wayne Stoddard  
Zonker Harris

### TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Abrahan Espinoza  
Adam Palmer  
Al McCracken  
Al Minto  
Alan Siegwarth  
Ann Dowling  
Annie Giannini  
Bent Christensen  
Bev Patterson  
Bob Bailey  
Bob Pratt  
Bonnie Harrington  
Brian Hitchcock  
Brian Schott  
Brooke Murphy  
Bruce Compton  
Cathy Harrington  
Charlene Murrell  
Charles Franz  
Chris Hamilton  
Chuck Koehler  
Clark Fuller  
Connie DeGrange  
Curt Hoppins  
Dan Mills  
Dan Sarka  
Dan Thomas  
Dave Burla  
Dave Hipple  
Debora Deadwyler  
Dee Murphy  
Derek Lyon-McKeil  
Derek Schipper  
Dexter Day  
Donald Kirker  
Donna Alexander  
Doug Debs

### TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Ed Best  
Eric Golangco  
Eric Wright  
Frank Fontes  
Gail Hedberg  
Garrett Krosse  
George Mednick  
Gerald DeWitt  
Gerry Dewees  
Glenn Fountain  
Hal Briar  
Jack Harrington  
Jackie Vlasak  
Jacques Verdier  
Jacqui Szymanski  
Jan Crowley  
Janet Smith  
Jeanne Digel  
Jim Evans  
Jim Gilmore  
Jim McDaniel  
Jim Stewart  
Joe Digel  
Joe Peterson  
Joe Romani  
Joe Scardino  
John Burnside  
John Sutkus  
John Zielinski  
Jon Williamson  
Jordan Hamilton  
Jorg Linke  
Justin Legg  
Ken Southwick  
Kent Hedberg  
Kurt Olsen  
Laura Bajuk  
Laura England-Witt  
Lauren Fuller  
Lee Finlayson  
Linda Best  
Linda Stanley  
Lindsay Witt  
Lisa Lorenz

### TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Lou Bradas  
M.W. Stephens  
Madeline Briar  
Mark Miller  
Mark Whitman  
Marsha Golangco  
Mary Asturias  
Matthew Espinoza  
Matthew Petach  
Melody Minto  
Michael Laccabue  
Mike Bozzini  
Mike Pechner  
Mimi Hamilton  
Nancy Dewees  
Nancy Harden  
Pam Stewart  
Pat Buder  
Pat Hafey  
Pat Stratton  
Patrice McDonald  
Pete Willis  
Peter Bradas  
Peter Midnight  
Rakesh Yadan  
Randy Johnston  
Ray Crist  
Rhonda Dijeau  
Rich Alexander  
Rich Anderson  
Richard Smith  
Rick Craig  
Rob Giles  
Ron Thomas  
Rosanne Strahle  
Sally Mills  
Scott Crislip  
Shirley Ernest  
Sierra Murphy  
Steve Barkkarie  
Steve Coon  
Steve Harrington  
Steve Jones  
Steve Miller

### TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Sue Thomas  
Ted Unruh  
Thomas Miller  
Tim Flippo  
Tom Crawford  
Travis Zupo  
Warren Haack  
Wayne Stoddard  
Wesley Van Osdol  
Zonker Harris

### NOVEMBER TOL CREW

(Not included last month)  
Bent Christensen  
Bob Pratt  
Chris Hamilton  
Curt Hoppins  
Dave Burla  
Dennis Mann  
Derek Lyon-McKeil  
Ed Best  
Eric Wright  
George Mednick  
Gerry Feeney  
Jon Williamson  
Jackie Vlasak  
John Sutkus  
John Zielinski  
Jordan Hamilton  
Jorg Linke  
Kent Hedberg  
Kurt Olsen  
Mark Miller  
Pat Stratton  
Rich Anderson  
Richard Smith  
Ron Thomas  
Scott Crislip  
Steve Barkkarie  
Ted Unruh  
Travis Zupo  
Warren Haack  
Zonker Harris

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*Photo by Christopher Hauf*

**Skookum #7 runs along Highway 84 with a small freight during some joint NCRy/Roots of Motive Power training sessions.**