



THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 635

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

www.ncry.org

July 2016



Photo by Dexter Day

Steve Barkkarie observing H & H placing ties on rebuild of crossing at Brightside.

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Along the Right of Way FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The month of June saw the West end of the yard being lifted and contoured in elevation to the angle as it was designed. Ladder and leads on the west end of the yard were never completed when built because of the cost. The ladder and leads were left and has been operated with a sway in the middle of the yard. The yard was raised one foot from the last tie of the mainline switch to the first tie of the Car Shop switch. That means the sway

was raised six inches. Around 200 tons of ballast was used to accomplish the contouring of the west end tracks. A lot of the ballast had to be bought, but Steve Barkkarie was able to shake out about 50 tons of dirty ballast into clean ballast. The ballast came from one of the two crossing panels at Brightside which are in front of Blake's Palace which were completely rebuilt. This was required since the rail was

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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.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

July 4	1st Monday	4th of July Members Train
July 9	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. (Sunol Depot)
July 15	3rd Friday	General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Sunol Glen School)
July 16	3rd Saturday	Student Brakeman Class (Brightside)
July 16	3rd Saturday	Wine Tasting Train
July 23	4th Saturday	Brush Cutting, 8 a.m. (Brightside)

All General Meetings take place at the Sunol Glen School in Sunol, meetings are held in January, March, May, June, July, and October, but can be subject to cancellation.

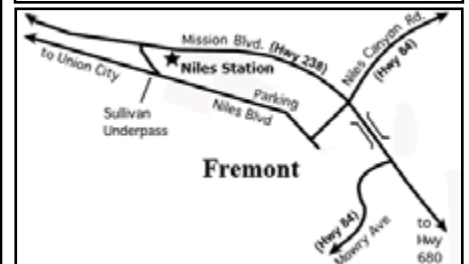
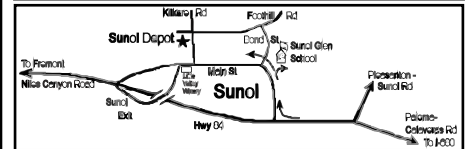
Every Wednesday and Saturday is a WORK DAY at the Brightside Yard

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

President	Henry Baum	(925) 447-7358	president@ncry.org
Vice President	Dennis Mann	(650) 726-0167	vice-president@ncry.org
Recording Secretary	Jim Evans	(650) 697-9033	secretary@ncry.org
Membership Secretary	Peter Midnight	(510) 483-5395	membership@ncry.org
Treasurer	Paul Veltman	(510) 792-7394	treasurer@ncry.org
General Manager	Dexter Day	(408) 234-4956	plancrygm@sbcglobal.net
Director-At-Large	Curt Hoppins	(408) 723-1154	curt@ncrysignal.com
Director-At-Large	Kent Hedberg	(510) 793-7153	hedbergs@sbcglobal.net
Director-At-Large	Dave Lion	(650) 305-9250	dnl1962@gmail.com

===== DEPARTMENTS =====

Brush Cutting	Steve Jones		fcocompost@aol.com
Car Department	Dennis Mann	(650) 726-0167	dmann@coastside.net
Charter Agent/Docents	Jim Evans	(650) 697-9033	charter-agent@ncry.org
Chief Engineer	Mike Strider	(707) 318-2633	michael.strider@hdrinc.com
Club Car Editor	Barry Lependorf	(510) 431-3401	clubcar@ncry.org
Commissary	Bob Bradley	(510) 910-7024	ncry.commissary@gmail.com
Crew Caller	Patrice Warren	(650) 369-0414	traincrews@comcast.net
Gift Shop	David Ernest	(925) 551-7772	giftshop@ncry.org
Hazmat Manager	Doug Debs	(650) 704-1487	dougdebs2472@yahoo.com
Insurance	Roger McCluney	(510) 489-4114	insurance@ncry.org
Legal	Steve Wood, Esq.	(925) 938-6100	wood@wcjuris.com
Marketing Director			
Museum Curator	Dennis Mann	(650) 726-0167	dmann@coastside.net
New Member Orientation	Glenn Fountain	(510) 793-0270	grfoun10@aol.com
Operations Manager	John Starr	(510) 292-3327	john.starr@att.net
Public Relations	Henry Baum	(925) 447-7358	pr@ncry.org
Road Foreman of Engines	Gerry Feeney	(408) 739-9347	SPB-Gerry@comcast.net
Security Department	Jim Evans	(650) 697-9033	fivechime@aol.com
Signal Department	Curt Hoppins	(408) 723-1154	curt@ncrysignal.com
Station Agent - Niles	John Fenstermacher	(510) 522-7949	johnnsheif@aol.com
Station Agent - Sunol	Donna Alexander	(510) 996-8420	station-agent@ncry.org
Steam Department	Alan Siegwarth	(408) 515-4602	siegggy667@hotmail.com
Maintenance of Way (Wed)	Joe Peterson		wedmow@ncry.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Kent Hedberg	(510) 793-7153	volunteers@ncry.org



The Club Car

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 MS Word™ text format.

Send e-mail to:
clubcar@ncry.org

Digital photos may also be submitted on digital media or 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.

To send documents, articles or photos, by snail mail, contact the editor at (510) 431-3401 for mailing instructions.

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.

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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, March, May, June, July, and October, beginning at 7:30 p.m. 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

President's Report

Well, it is official. The ballots were all counted, and the election results were announced at the General Meeting last Friday. The current Board positions up for re-election were all retained by the incumbents. Not really all that surprising, as only the at-large director position was even contested. That means that the voting members are satisfied with the efforts of the BOD and do not see a need for change. At least I hope that is what it means. I would like to share with you some excerpts from my Candidate's Statement that went out with the ballot to all the voting members. Some may regard this as somewhat harsh, and some will also disagree with me discussing this in my Club Car article. I am not trying to force anyone to do anything, and frankly, if they don't want to be active, that is fine. But I am concerned. Once again, most of the Board positions that are coming up this time around only have one candidate, the incumbent, standing for the position. Only the Director-At-Large position will be a contest. While that means it is highly likely that I will be your President again for the next two years without any more effort than writing this statement, it also says that the Voting Members of the organization are satisfied with the status quo.

Many voting members have served on the Board, some multiple times in multiple positions. We all appreciate their past service, and they need not serve again. There are a number of voting members who have never served, and I'm sure they have their reasons. And hundreds of regular members who have no interest in becoming Voting Members.

That's the problem. Going forward, the entire organization will be struggling to meet our needs solely with volunteers. Whether it is serving on the Board, chairing Committees, taking the lead on restoration projects, or even providing support for our operating days, it is getting harder and harder to find volunteers willing to take a leadership role.

The people who are doing these jobs are burning out, and express frustration that nobody is interested in taking over. Our membership, particularly Voting Members, is aging, and soon we will be faced with not enough Volunteers to make the place run.

I think it is time that the Board begins seriously looking at a restructuring that will allow the Corporation to function the way we all want it to function, but without worrying that the place will have to shut down due to a lack of the right volunteers.

I want to form a committee of 8 to 10 interested members to study this situation and make a formal proposal to the BoD before the next election. This will probably include some significant

changes to the By-Laws, as well as some town hall style meetings to discuss proposals with the members.

This is not a new or unique idea, as we have had attempts at trying to accomplish similar sea-changes to the organization in the past. But many of the members I have talked to agree that the organization will have to deal with these issues before too long.

I want to once again thank the Nominating Committee for their efforts. Charles Navarra, Dave Burla and Kent Brezee have performed this duty for the organization for the past several years. I appreciate their efforts.

Respectfully submitted

Henry Baum

Niles Canyon Railway PRESENTS Hot August Night on the Rails A Niles Canyon Railway Fundraiser



**Saturday, August 20, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

**Departure from Niles/Fremont
37029 Mission Boulevard, Fremont
Ride through the canyon on a beautiful summer night**

Snack bar open for hot dogs, cookies, chips, soda, water

Tickets sold online: adults \$13.00, seniors \$10.00, kids \$7.00

2 and under free



ncry.org

Proceeds support Niles Canyon Railway fundraising activities.

Thank You!

Operated by volunteers of the
Pacific Locomotive Association
501(c)(3) not for profit

510.996.8420



NILES CANYON RAILWAY

Along the Right of Way

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Continued from Page 1

sinking when equipment went across it. This is not a good condition to leave hanging around too long. H & H was called in for the emergency repair of the crossing and West end ladder tracks. This repair also included the mainline tie replacement at the Sunol Station. After the bad ties were extracted, you got a good look at what was causing the problem. What were ties now look like toothpicks. I have been able to purchase ballast and ties through H & H at a good price for the jobs they are contracted to do for us.

After using the Burro Crane 40 for the past several years at reduced capacity due to some bent braces on the boom, Frank Fontes was able to contract a welder and the Burro Crane was repaired by ALLCAL equipment services. The damage was pointed out to the welder Robert Stewart and all the damaged cross braces were replaced and other damage points were repaired. This now brings the Burro's Boom up to full strength which will be needed when it is used to lift the Panel rail on the east end build. Of course you cannot leave it unpainted. So we got several cans of orange rust preservative spray paint to cover the new welded pieces and other boom repairs. How does it look? Well let's just say that the new painted repairs don't match the old paint on the rest of the crane. "Maybe we can call it Deco off set safety paint for boom swing protection." We ended up buying a lot more cans to even out the color. Now it looks better.

PG&E has been busy along their gas pipeline this month in fulfilling the new rules that pertain to gas pipe lines when it comes to trees within five feet of their buried pipe. They are now working through our area. They have cut down several trees in Sunol including that big tree at the West end of our parking area. Gone! I am sure there will be several more trees taken as they work west down the pipeline. About a year ago, Kendall Morgan did the same with the old SP pipeline.

There has been a lot of tree and brush cutting taking place along our right of way also. Steve Jones' crew has been able to cut back several problem areas where the extended brush was touching the train. This seems like it never goes away. Mother Nature is sort of like that. Always trying to take back which she believes is hers. However, there are spots that keep growing and in area of question. Somewhere along the line, we might have to start looking at outside help from commercial firm to assist in getting to more difficult areas which are under the bridges. The brush in the creek bed is out of control. But, for now, our right of way can be controlled. Steve and crew do a great job in doing that.



Photo by Dexter Day

H & H lining track at Sunol Platform. 140 ties were replaced.



Photo by Dexter Day

Steve Barkkarie examines what were ties in Sunol on tie replacement of switch and mainline.



Photo by Dexter Day

Frank had a welder fix up the Burro Crane to bring it back to full strength.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

Along the Right of Way

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Photo by Dexter Day

PG&E cuts trees in Sunol that were too close to their pipeline.



Photo by Dexter Day

Our build East track gang at work lifting track to proper height.

Tom Crawford's Wednesday warriors got the big sliding door rebuilt on the Combine. It looks just like it is supposed to when it was built new many years ago. The effort and teamwork that was put into this door was outstanding. The pictures should tell the story. The Combine continues to come together. The roof painting is the next big step to get the car to a point so we can move it out of the shop. The Wednesday crew also is working on the double articulated coach restrooms and toilets in getting them back to useable shape.

It is now June, it is summer and it is warm out there these days. Well, we have our local residents that like to hang out in strange places in shade no matter where it is. We do have rattlesnakes at Brightside. One was discovered under the back bed of a pick-up truck in front of Blake's Palace. Another one was under our oil shed up front. Last year one was in the far corner of the Car barn. So it is their territory that we operate in. Watch where you step, sit or place your hands. We have a lot of mice in the area. They sort of keep this in check. They don't want to see you as much as you don't want to see them. Don't crowd, give them a wide berth as they say.

The East track build is moving again. A few new panels have been put into place on the right of way and ready to get attached to track that has been established. Although we have panels which are like snap track, it still has to be lined for right of way and leveled. That takes time since we are doing it by hand using track jacks. Once again, the ballast is a big issue. It takes a lot of ballast to build a railroad. We are building a railroad from the ground up you might say. You can close your eyes and visualize a team of horses out there dragging the right of way from yesteryear. But we have the graded right of way; we need to recapture as much ballast as we can to build the bed to put the panels on. It is a long drawn out process, and our new ballast shaker has really helped. Mike Strider and Doug Vanderlee head up the push in heading East. If you want to get in on track building, give them a call and show up on a Saturday to get involved.

For our new members who would like to be part of train crew. There will be a Brakemen Class on July 16th and 17th.

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E-COUPLING INFORMATION

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

E-Mail: pla@ncry.info

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

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The class will be held in the white house at 9:00am. Material will be provided for class. Introduction to hands-on training will also be covered. To be part of the class, see the ad in this issue and sign up in advance for the class.

Carlo and Warren continue working on the old gift shop box car. It is now the Diner's storage car for change out

for interior configuration. What was thought to be straight forward repairs has turned out to be a lot more involved. What else is new, the car has sat for a long time in all sorts of weather. The fix is to apply side panels which will be applied shortly. The wood is rotted for the most part. Warren also is working on the Green Baggage in trying to protect and prevent spread of rust. He

is using tape to cover early stage rust until time comes to do it right. At least it will save the roof line for now.

Well, that's it for this month. Until next month, work safely and protect your work place. Study the Hazmat material in Blake's Palace when you sign in. Very important! Take care and hope to see you along the right of way.

Dexter D. Day



Photo by Dexter Day

Carlo and Warren work on what will be the storage car for the seats and tables for the Diner when changed out.



Photo by Tom Crawford

Combine door by Tom Crawford & the Wednesday warriors.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? START HERE!

VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED

BRUSH CUTTING - Clearing the RoW of bushes and trees - Steve Jones - fcocompost@aol.com
CAR DEPARTMENT - Maintenance and repair - Tom Crawford - tom@thecrawfordfamily.net
COMMISSARY - Food Service on the trains - Bob Bradley - ncry.commissary@yahoo.com
GIFT SHOP - Work in the Sunol Gift Shop - David Ernest - giftshop@ncry.org
MOW CREW - (WEDNESDAY) - Work on track repair, etc. - Joe Peterson - wedmow@ncry.org
MOW CREW - (SATURDAY) - Work on track repair, etc. - Michael Strider - michael.strider@hdrinc.com
SIGNALS - Install / Maintain signal systems - Curt Hoppins - curt@ncrysignal.com
STATION - (NILES) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - John Fenstermacher - johnnsheerif@aol.com
STATION - (SUNOL) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - Donna Alexander - station-agent@ncry.org

Membership Report

So there I was, thinking I would ride the beer train, Beer on the Rails. I like beer. I like trains. I like Niles Canyon. What could be better? But then I learned the train was completely sold out. Guess I'm not the only man of good taste around these parts. However, it was then suggested that I ride the train anyway, as a worker for Commissary. I checked with Commissary and, sure enough, they had room for one more helper on that trip. What could be better, indeed!

My job was to stand by the Strike Brewing Company table and collect the green tickets, one for each sample of beer. Does that sound like hard work? It's not. OK, so I didn't get to relax on the train, sipping all the best brews and gazing at the scenery. Instead I got to meet a lot of people. And though only briefly, I met each one of them at their best, when they were having a good time. The best part was that I was a part of the company that was giving

them that good time, and they all knew it. There is nothing better than making people happy, unless it is sharing that experience with the people you work with on the railroad.

This month, 22 new people have a chance at that shared experience. Our newest members are Patricia Gum, Jane Butterfield, Mika Stratton, the family of Xiu You, Peter, and Jeffrey Chan, the family of Kevin Yoo, Hyosun Ahn, and Ryan Yoo, the family of Sherilyn Hollabaugh and Stephen, Tristan, and Jordan Tyler, the family of Richie and Margaret Cordero, the family of Duy and Christine Danh, the family of Adam, Mary Alice, and Jonathan Brinkman, and the family of Debora and Keith Flaretta.

Those new members won't all get in on the fun, but the smart ones will. Or is it the lucky ones, like me? What a stroke of luck it was for me that the beer train was already sold out!

Peter Midnight

Treasurer's Report

Paul Veltman, Treasurer

May 2016

The FY 2017 budget is finished and passed by the Board of Directors. There are some exciting new projects this year as well as completion of current activities.

\$365 in donations were received in May from Andrew Goodson, Charles Jellison, Nyles Johnson, Nancy Peterson, Eric Witt, Harry Wong, Judy Zlatnick and Jean-Pol Zundel.

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.

TRAINING CLASSES TO BE HELD

JULY 16 - 17 TH STUDENT BRAKEMAN TRAINING CLASS

FOR MEMBERS WHO WOULD
LIKE TO BE TRAIN CREW
PHYSICAL CONDITION
(MUST BE ABLE TO STEP UP ON STEPS)
(MUST BE ABLE TO CLIMB LADDERS
AND BEND DOWN)
9:00 AM AT THE WHITE HOUSE

**TO RESERVE SPOT IN CLASS
CONTACT PAT WARREN
traincrews@comcast.net
1-650/ 369-0414**



Steam Department Acquires Machine Tools for the Shop

Steam Department volunteers have kept busy this spring supporting steam operations. Due to issues with tubes in the Robert Dollar #3, the Clover Valley #4 has been the locomotive of choice this year. We all love the #4 but operating her creates extra work for everyone as all the running gear takes a LONG time to lubricate for every operation. Henry Chandler, Gerald DeWitt and Chuck Kent among others have been firing the locomotive up on Saturdays so it will be ready to operate on Sunday in a reasonable amount of time (fireup time on the Mallet when cold is around 6 hours). A special thanks to Bill Ross who has spent most Saturdays the day before operations hard greasing the rods – and with the #4 being a compound Mallet that means 2 engines requiring twice the grease.

We received notice in late May that JKC Machining whom the Steam Department has used for over 15 years to do machine work for us would be closing down. John & Barbara Chan and their crew have been a huge help to PLA over the years keeping our steam locomotives operating and we will miss working with them. I asked John if he had any tooling or machines he might be interested in selling resulting in a trip by Bill Stimmerman (KM volunteer and PLA resident machinist) and me up to the shop. We agreed to purchase a Morris radial arm drill press, Cincinnati milling machine and a set of shelving containing hundreds of drills, taps and reamers for an extremely reasonable price.

While we got a great deal on machine tools we can use in the future, now we had to get them moved and find room for them in the shop. If you've ever been in the shop at Brightside then you will understand what an undertaking this is as the shop is jammed full of locomotives, machine tools, welders, parts and tools all of which had to be moved or relocated to fit the new machines in the shop. Henry Chandler



Photo by Alan Siegwarth

Hire the guys with the right tools to do the job! The Lawson crew arrives at Brightside ready to unload and roll our new machines into place in the shop.



Photo by Alan Siegwarth

"New" Cincinnati Milling Machine and Morris Radial Arm Drill in place at their new home, the Brightside Shop.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY



Photo by Alan Siegwarth

Henry dusts his hands with the flatbed loaded, ready to go to Brightside. Load everything on the flatbed, no problem.

and Alan Siegwarth spent a Saturday afternoon preparing the equipment that needed to be moved. The night before the move, Charles Franz and Alan spent a late night at the shop to clear everything out of the way. Henry Chandler and his son spent a day at the machine shop packing drills, reamers and other tooling so the shelves (and two A-frames with chain hoists that we also acquired) could be loaded on the PLA flatbed for transport to Brightside. The move went smoothly (with the help of Lawson Machinery Movers) and our new machines are in place in the shop.

While it seems like the work is done, now comes the time consuming part – moving all the tools and other equipment back and organizing all our new machine tooling on the shelves. In addition, we need to figure out how to power these new tools in the shop – Brightside needs a new higher capacity PG&E feed to power all the equipment we have onsite. The Steam Department has taken efforts to improve the shop over the years and the newly acquired machine tools are needed to maintain all our equipment. Hopefully, PLA will work towards upgrading the electrical service that was installed to power Brightside 30 years ago, it is time considering all the changes at Brightside that have happened in the meantime...

By Alan Siegwarth



**President
Henry Baum**

**Secretary
Jim Evans**

**Treasurer
Paul Veltman**

**Director At Large
Kent Hedberg**



2016 Livermore Valley Wine Tasting Specials

*Enjoy wine & food pairings from one of California's
oldest wine regions aboard a historic train.*

Saturdays:
July 16
August 6, 20
September 3, 10

\$40/person



Departs Sunol Depot 1:00pm
(returns 3:00pm)
6 Kilkare Road, Sunol

*21+ please. No pets.
No outside food or beverage.
Non-alcoholic beverages are provided*

Tickets only available online
NCRY.ORG
Info: 510.996.8420

NCRy Potluck Dinner & Evening Train Ride

"Steam under the Stars"
Saturday, Sept 17, 2016, 5:00pm

5:00pm - Potluck Dinner, Sunol Depot Gardens

7:30pm - Steam Train Ride

For Members, their Family & Guests

- Train Ride: **FREE**
- Food: **FREE** w/potluck or, \$5 per person w/o potluck

Harvest Moon Special



View the "harvest moon" this year on a vintage steam train!* Dinner will be served in the gardens at 5:15pm. Our Harvest Moon Special Train departs Sunol Depot at 7:30pm on a roundtrip journey through the darkened canyon, lighted by our locomotive's firebox bouncing off the canyon walls, its Golden Glow headlight, and the light of the silvery moon. This is what memories are made of! Return to Sunol Depot around 9pm. Friends and family welcome!

Potluck Dinner Bring enough of your favorite dish to share with five others, or pay \$5 extra and NCRy Commissary Dept. will provide Italian sausage with fresh tomatoes, sweet peppers, and Yukon Gold potatoes. Bring any serving dishes or utensils needed to serve your dish (please label your items). We provide homemade iced tea & lemonade, wine, beer, paper plates, utensils, napkins, glasses, & trash bags.

If your last name starts with, we suggest you bring:

A, B, C, D, E, F & N, O, P, Q, R, S –	MEAT, CHICKEN, or VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH
T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z –	SALAD
G, H, I, J, K, L, M –	DESSERT

Information: Confirmation will be sent by e-mail. Tickets will be held at Will Call. **Please bring a flashlight!**

* A harvest moon is a lunar phenomenon where the moon reaches a point in its orbit where it is closest to the Earth, where it appears bigger and brighter.

For Members, their Family, & Guests: Train Ride: FREE Food: FREE w/potluck, or \$5 w/o potluck.

Tell us you're coming! Send your request to:
harvestmoon@ncrysignal.com

If you do not have email please contact Doug Debs at 650-704-1487

We need to know:

- Your name
- How many people in your party

AND if you will be dining with us in the Gardens

- How many with potluck and how many without



Pay on site with **Cash** (exact change is helpful) or **Check to: NCRy Commissary Dept – HARVEST MOON SPECIAL**
Limited seating available so sign up early!

R
S
V
P

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

PLA Events' Updates

We have had a very busy first half of 2016.

Our February Valentine Wine Tasting Special was again sold out and enjoyed by all who attended. It's always an elegant day with passengers arriving in period clothing and sometimes old cars to bring them to the depot. We even had a married couple who recently moved out of state come back for this event.

Our April American Cancer Society Ride the Rails Relay for Life train day was very successful this year. We had more people ride our trains, and much more money was raised than last year's event. We also received two free promotions on KPIX channel 5 news from Juliette Goodrich. This also included a video from the day, and Juliette mentioned that the Niles Canyon Railway donated the trains and manpower for the event. Good PR coverage.

Besides our usual complimentary champagne and sparkling cider to moms riding with us on Mother's Day, our Commissary Department held a Mother's Day Tea in our dining car on Mother's Day for the 11:20 and 1:20 Niles/Fremont departures. It was so well received that the tickets sold out quickly, and there were people calling and asking to be put on a waiting list in case of cancellations. The day of the event it was exciting to see everyone enjoying the Tea and riding in our dining car while leisurely traveling through the canyon. Bob Bradley talked to everyone on board and asked how they were enjoying the day, and so many said we need to have more of these teas! The volunteers who worked the Tea were exhausted because of the back to back runs and not much time to prep in between, but everyone had a great day. If done again, there will be changes, but it was too popular to not have another Tea.

For the Memorial Day weekend, we ran Sunday and Monday, and we honored our military, those who served and those who are still active by giving

them free rides. We also had a display in the snack bar car, the Missing Man Table, to honor our missing soldiers, who won't be coming home.

Our Education Trains were again a big success in May, and we have added 2 summer runs also this year. Ticket sales are coming in but we still have seats available. The July 1st will have been over by this publication but we still have the August 5th departures from Niles/Fremont available. People can purchase tickets for \$6.00 online. Last year our Commissary Department tried an Oktoberfest and it was so well received, Bob Bradley decided to have two "Beer on the Rails" this year, one on June 4th and one on July 18th. We still had a few tickets available for the 4th on the day of the event, and were able to sell 15 walk-ups that day. Our June 18th event was sold out. Both were great events and people are asking for more to happen this year. This year the food was included in the price of the ticket, so we knew people were eating while enjoying the 3 breweries that were on board.

For Father's Day we offered complimentary beer and root beer for Dads riding with us and it was a fun day for everyone. A lot of Dads were surprised with the beverages, and I got to mention to the moms at the ticket

window that we also offer goodies to moms on Mother's Day so come back. Our 4th of July picnic and train ride will have passed by this printing, but it's always a great day with members attending that we don't often see, so it's nice to see and visit with them on this day. Again the raffle was done this year, and if you forgot to send any items you no longer want around your house to donate to the raffle, please save them for next year, or bring them any time we are operating to the Sunol depot and they can be stored for next year's 4th of July event.

Upcoming events are our Wine Tasting Specials: one in July, two in August, and two in September. And we are trying Hot August Night on the Rails, an evening train ride this year so people can enjoy traveling through the canyon in the evening in nice weather rather than just during our Train of Lights. This will be departing from Niles/Fremont at 7:30 on Saturday August 20th. Tickets can be purchased online.

If you think you might like to be a part of events like these, please come out and volunteer. We are always looking for more people to help, anywhere you would like to help. It's a lot of fun and you make great friendships.

donna alexander



Photo by Dan Sarka

Jason Allin visited NCRy during the annual Niles Charlie Chaplin Days.

Wednesday Maintenance of Way

As you can see by the photos, WEDMOW ventured further into the Bush Whacking world than just setting up the required cars in the MOW train for the Saturday Bushwhacker Troupe. Steve Jones has been enjoying retirement by joining us on Wednesdays and leading the charge on sightline clearing. A project he has wanted to squeeze in for a number of years now. Happy to say WEDMOW has helped him towards his goal and by the end of July the curve at MP-32 will have better sightlines than it has had in years!

Some other sightline clearance work was done at Hearst where weeds as tall as six feet have been whacked with more needing to come down. Like gardening, come out and join the Weed Whacking Crew in finishing this job!

Progress was also made in removing the CASE fuel tank and getting the new one installed. By the time you read this, with a nod from Murphy, the CASE will be back in operating order and on the job.

The WEDMOW team continues to prep for and cleanup after major jobs performed by H. & H. Engineering as they swap out ties between MP-32 & 33, the ties that were hidden under the old Sunol platform and major work in Brightside yard.

Bob Pratt gives us the following "You Are There" play-by-play regarding one Wednesday's workings. "We arrived to H&H demolishing the bad crossing in the yard. What a wonderful performance! Since we had been informed about H&H's plans to replace the crossing, Mongo, the Blue Room and Chipper Set had been placed on one of the Shop Sidings for our convenience. We added a flat to the Mongo train High Railed the Bucket Truck at the Brightside Crossing before heading to Niles to begin our work day. At the Big Curve, Steve J. took advantage of the large team and began working out site line improvement. This job required Steve J. going to the



Photo by Joe Peterson

The two Steves (Lowe and Jones) are caught preparing the equipment that will be used in the day's tree trimming to improve sight lines along the ROW.



Photo by Gloria Coicou

Prior to leaving, Joshua thanks Joe Peterson for escorting him around Brightside and answering the few questions that this little railroader didn't already know.



Photo by Joe Peterson

No, Steve Jones isn't carving his initials into the stump! He is preparing the surface to receive a brine solution so the stump will not come back again next year.



Photo by Joe Peterson

Brush Crew teamwork in action! Steve Jones cuts up the offending branches then Steve Lowe, Greg LaFramboise and Pat Stratton move the slash to the Chipper.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

Wednesday Maintenance of Way



Photo by Joe Peterson

While Pat Stratton drags brush and Greg LaFramboise gets set to drag the next batch, Ron Thomas and Steve Jones get ready to create more slash for the troupes.



Photo by Joe Peterson

Steve Lowe, Pat Stratton, Greg LaFramboise and Ron Thomas look on as Steve Jones readies the pole saw during sight line trimming.



Photo by Joe Peterson

Here on the left, is the winning contender for Maintenance of Way's logo. Thanks to all who voted and made comments.

edge of the drop off to cut some of the offending trees. We roped Mr. Jones to keep from losing him and also roped some of the large tree branches to allow retrieval and chipping. By now it was time to head back to Brightside, so we packed up and left the site line project for another day."

One day, while crossing over to the siding in Sunol, Big Bird made it through the spring frog but a flat carrying the generator went on the ground. Thankfully, we could maneuver the Tie Handler close enough to lift each end of the flat back onto the rails and life continued in what passes for normal. Have now learned the trick of opening the frog and blocking it with a spike while the light MOW cars go through then returning it to normal!

Someone has left a 5 gal. bucket of "cutting oil" on the container porch! It has sprung a leak and been put in another bucket on an absorbent pad. Whoever put it there needs to take care of their problem and store the oil more appropriately. I thank you, Doug and Steve thank you, Alameda Hazmat thanks you and the fish in the stream thank you.

A big WEDMOW Thank You goes out to Bob Pratt, Gregg McNaughton, Pat Stratton, Pat Hafey, Ron Thomas, Greg LaFramboise, Hal Briar, Steve Lowe, John Zielinski, Linda Stanley, Steve Barkkarie, Karen Kadaja (who brought an apple pie like Gregg McNaughton's Grandmother has made and supplied us. It was good and gone in about twenty minutes!) and Steve Jones for a great month of progress along the Right-of-Way!

The final votes are in and "Mongo on the Bridge" has become the logo for the Maintenance of Way crews! Thanks to all who voted and sent in comments during the process.

And that was our month! Feel free to come join us any Wed. Be at Brightside by 8 am, in work clothes, sturdy shoes, water and a lunch. Double dog dare ya! Yours in ballast, saw dust and . . .

Joe Peterson

NILES CANYON RAILWAY



Photo by Frank Fontes
John Zielinski, Paul Smith, Linda Stanley, Charles Navarra and Mike Strider.



Photo by Frank Fontes
Paul Smith, Linda Stanley, Charles Navarra and Mike Strider.



Photo by Jim Evans
Henry and Connie Luna on train.



Photo by Jim Evans
Steam engineer Henry Chandler on #4.



Photo by Dan Sarka
Henry Luna and Kent Hedberg at Sunol during regular operations on Father's Day.



Photo by Gloria Coicou
A new visitor, four year old Joshua, really knows his stuff when it comes to railroading.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

The following is a list of the people who helped run your railroad in **May**. Names in **Bold** are new members, first timers, or the first time in a long time. If you are new to volunteering on the railroad, please print your name clearly on the sign in sheet so it can be read. You can also send hours by e-mail to Paul Veltman at: stumpie1@sbcglobal.net.

Note that if I can't read your writing, you may not get credit for the hours you worked.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Henry Baum
Kent Brezee
Dexter Day
Roger McCluney
Peter Midnight
Joe Scardino
Paul Veltman

MEETINGS

Donna Alexander
Rich Alexander
Henry Baum
Dexter Day
Jim Evans
Gail Hedberg
Kent Hedberg
Curt Hoppins
Dave Lion
Dennis Mann
Peter Midnight
Doug Vanderlee
Paul Veltman
Pat Warren
Tim White
Ryan Wood

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Donna Alexander
Rich Alexander
Henry Baum
Bob Bailey
Kent Brezee
Dave Burla
George Childs
Steve Coon
Dexter Day
Doug Debs
Jim Evans
Tim Flippo
Zona Fowler
Don Gholson
Zonker Harris
Karen Kadaja
Fred Krock
Dave Lion
Paula Lion

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Connie Luna
Henry Luna
Peter Midnight
Mark Miller
Dan Mills
Charles Navarra
Tony Peters
Joe Peterson
Nancy Peterson
Bob Pratt
Jim Stewart
Paul Veltman
Tim White

CAR DEPARTMENT

Paul Anderson
Tom Anderson
Bob Bailey
Warren Benner
Carlo Borlandelli
Tom Crawford
Sid Fernandez
Glenn Fountain
Don Gholson
Rob Giles
Pete Goodier
Jim Green
Jeff Haslam
Ken Lippman
Dennis Mann
Jim McDaniel
Bob Moore
Denis Murchison
Tony Peters
Joe Scardino
John Senf
Linda Stanley
Steve Van Meter

GRM PROJECTS

Bob Bailey

COMMISSARY

Donna Alexander
Steve Coon
Doug Debs

COMMISSARY

Norm Fraga
Armano Giovacchini
Bonnie Harrington
Jack Harrington
Roger McCluney
John Senf
Charles Smith
Leslie Smith
Sue Thomas

DOCENTS

Bob Bailey
Henry Baum
Mike Bozzini
Bob Bradley
Steve Buchner
Jim Evans
Chris Hauf
Fred Krock
Derek Lyon-McKiel
Kylie Montgomery
Phil Montgomery
Joe Peterson
Robert Scontrino

DEPOT CREW/OPERATIONS

Donna Alexander
Bob Bailey
Linda Best
John Fenstermacher
Glenn Fountain
Jim Gilmore
Gail Hedberg
Jerry Higgins
Karen Kadaja
Dave Keene
Dave Lion
Ken Lippman
Henry Luna
Al McCracken
Dan Mills
Charlene Murrell
Joe Peterson
Linda Stanley
Jack Starr
Pat Warren

DEPOT CREW/OPERATIONS

Pete Willis

GIFT SHOP

Gail Hedberg
Roger McCluney
Patrice McDonald
Charlene Murrell

TRAINING

Tom Anderson
Jim Baber
Kent Brezee
Bent Christensen
Frank Fontes
Glenn Fountain
Karen Kadaja
Gregg LaFramboise
Chad Linke
Jorg Linke
Dave Lion
Gregg McNaughton
Mark Miller
Joe Romani
Mike Strider
Ray Strong
John Zielinski

TRAIN CREW

Rich Alexander
Rich Anderson
Jim Baber
Ed Best
Kent Brezee
Henry Chandler
Steve Coon
Scott Crislip
Dexter Day
Gerry Feeney
Charles Franz
Warren Haack
Kent Hedberg
Ron Johnsen
Brad Jones
Chuck Kent
Dave Loyola
Gregg McNaughton

TRAIN CREW

George Mednick
Mark Miller
Andrew Roth
Alan Siegwarth
Jim Stewart
Pat Stratton
Ron Thomas
Jon Williamson
Eric Wright
Travis Zupo

SWITCHING CREW

Rich Anderson
CJ Carlson
Steve Coon
Dexter Day
Gerry Feeney
Kent Hedberg

BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS

Bob Bailey
Karen Kadaja
Linda Stanley

ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS

Curt Hoppins
Fred Krock
Dave Lion
Joe Romani
Jim Stewart
Paul Veltman

MECHANICAL DEPT.

Rich Anderson
Tom Anderson
CJ Carlson
Henry Chandler
Dick Charpentier
Doug Debs
Gerald DeWitt
Gerry Feeney
Rob Fern
Dave Hambleton
Chris Hauf
Kent Hedberg
Steve Jones

MECHANICAL DEPT.

Chuck Kent
Ken Lippman
Dennis Mann
Bill Ross
Derek Schipper
Jeff Schwab
Alan Seigwarth
Linda Stanley
Bill Stimmerman
Howard Wise
Eric Wright
Bob Zenk
John Zielinski

MOW / TRACK

Steve Barkkarie
Hal Briar
Dexter Day
Frank Fontes
Pat Hafey
Steve Jones
Karen Kadaja
Greg LaFramboise
Steve Lowe
Gregg McNaughton
Mike Pechner
John Pelmulder
Tony Peters
Joe Peterson
Bob Pratt
Linda Stanley
Jim Stewart
Pat Stratton
Mike Strider
Ron Thomas
Doug Vanderlee
Ryan Wood
John Zielinski

OTHER

Don Buchholz
Zonker Harris
Barry Lependorf
Ray Strong
Paul Veltman

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Photo by Dan Sarka