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4th of July Raffle

It is that time of year again. Please solicit items for our 4th of July raffle. They can be dropped off at the Sunol Depot on any Sunday operating day.

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.
NILES CANYON RAILWAY CALENDAR

May 5, 2018 MOW Building East May 13, 2018 Regular Operation/Mother’s Day Tea May 23, 2018 MOW 7:30 - 4pm
May 6, 2018 Regular Operation (S) May 16, 2018 MOW 7:30 - 4:00pm May 26, 2018 Brush Cutting 7 - 5pm
May 9, 2018 MOW 7:30 - 4:00 pm May 17, 2018 Niles School Train 10am May 27, 2018 Memorial Day Operations
May 10, 2018 Sunol School Train 10am May 20, 2018 30 yrs. In the Canyon event 11 - 3:00pm

Most 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

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The Club Car

The deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month’s issue of The Club Car is the 20th of the current calendar month. Simply submit articles by e-mail in MS Word™ text format. Send email to: clubcar@ncry.org. Digital photos may also be submitted on digital media or by email. Electronic images should be saved as PC format. Jpg files with minimal compression. A text file with the photo number, description of the photo, and identifying the people in them is required. To send documents, articles or photos by U.S. Postage, contact the editor at (510) 260-7967 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. The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. is an IRS 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, 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, and Guests are welcome. Items in this publication are Copyright 2018, Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. and may be
I need to put the Sesqui-centennial Celebration on the back burner this month. That is because May is the month when we prepare for the election of new Board Members.

The PLA is unusual in a couple of respects from your conventional charitable non-profits. That is because our by-laws, which govern how the organization is managed, spells out specific items that are not run-of-the-mill.

Currently our board is made up of 8 elected Board members, and one appointed Board Member, the General Manager. The by-laws require that 5 of the Board members are elected for specific jobs, and the remaining 3 are Directors-at-Large, which means they do not have specific tasks and can take on additional responsibilities. All Board members are PLA Voting Members and are therefore also volunteers.

Another unusual aspect of how the PLA is structured is the fact that we classify certain members as Voting Members. This was established because it was felt that the highly-specialized nature of managing a railroad requires that persons voting on items that affect the railroad need to have a fairly well-rounded understanding of the day-to-day issues that impact how the railroad is to be operated. Since very few of our members are actual professional railroaders, the voting members earn the privilege by showing a higher level of involvement in the operations of the railroads.

This is typically earned by volunteering a specific number of hours each year and volunteering for the various departments. In order to accommodate members who are unable to volunteer physically, they can show their involvement by attending meetings and participating on committees. There is a specific number of meetings that must be attended to be granted voting member status. The Membership Secretary is tasked with maintaining the records of hours for the various voting members. Voting members who fail to meet the annual requirements will lose their Voting Member status.

There is a finite number of Voting Member positions allowed by the By-Laws. The good news is that there are a substantial number of Voting Member positions available currently. The bad news is that there are a substantial number of Voting Member positions available currently. If you would like to take on the additional status of being a PLA Voting Member (which is worth its weight in gold) just contact the Membership Secretary.

Voting Members typically are involved in several specific decisions: Voting by mail for Board officers and voting at General meetings for granting Voting Member status to new applicants and voting on the deaccession of items from the permanent collection. So it really doesn’t take up a lot of your time unless you choose to run for a Board position.

Each year, 4 positions on the Board become available for re-election or for new people to stand for the office. This year one Member-at-Large position (Kent Hedberg’s) and the positions of President (me), Recording Secretary (Jim Evans) and Treasurer (Paul Veltman) are up for election.

In order to put together a slate of candidates to present to the Voting Members for the election the By-Laws require the President to appoint a Nominating Committee. This year, Dave Burla has accepted the chair position of the committee. Ed Best and Mark Miller have also agree to be on the committee. The Nominating Committee’s job is to contact every Voting Member and determine if any are interested in, and are suitable for, running for a Board position.
position. So get ready for a call from one of them if you are a Voting Member. They then put together a slate of candidates and present it to the membership at the May General Meeting. Nominations are also accepted from the floor at this meeting for any of the positions up for election. Once the nominations are closed, The Recording Secretary assembles a ballot and the candidate’s statements and mails them to the Voting Members.

I am planning on running one more time for my position as President. This will allow me to oversee the Sesquicentennial Celebration, and since I am also retiring from my 45 year career as a Mechanical Engineer this year, I will be able to devote more of my energies to planning for the Organization’s future. But I will save the comments about that for my Candidate’s Statement.

I do not know if the current holders of the Recording Secretary and at-large position are going to stand for re-election. I do know that our Treasurer is NOT running for re-election. The stepping down of the Treasurer has always caused great panic in the organization, but with the changes that have been made to the position over the time Paul has been our Treasurer has allowed the job to become far less stressful. Adding a bookkeeping service means the job of getting the bills paid is now handled with minimal oversight. The Treasurer does have to put together a budget for the following year, building on the current budget and input from Department heads. He or she must also manage the cash flow of the organization. The treasurer also has to provide the Board members with a monthly report before the Board meetings. These reports are generated out of QuickBooks, so they are virtually automatic. Paul has also graciously offered to work with the newly elected Treasurer to help them get up to speed with the position. Give Paul a call if you might be interested in this position. I’m sure he can put your mind at ease about the responsibilities involved.

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

Respectfully submitted

Henry Baum

M200 Bell “Brucerized”

Long time PLA member, Bruce So- rel, ranks among the premier Diesel engine and Transmission gear mechanics in the Bay Area, and beyond. Bruce was well known for his attention to detail and dogged pursuit of perfection. The finishing touches to his work became known to his colleagues as “Brucerizing”.

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of the PLA’s first revenue run in Niles Canyon, the M200 has just undergone cosmetic and mechanical upgrades. Bruce accepted the challenge to polish the M200’s brass bell. Over time, the weathered surface had become oxidized to a dull gray-brown. Bruce removed the air driven clapper mechanism inside, then made special fixtures to allow the bell to fit in his lathe. After hours of sanding and polishing, the result is a bell that is more brilliant than when it left the factory as new.

As a Mechanical Engineer this year, I will be able to devote more of my energies to planning for the Organization’s future. But I will save the comments about that for my Candidate’s Statement.

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This month on the NCRY was a pretty good month considering that we had late rains. Our Wednesday M of W squad continue to keep up with the track violations that Peter Schultze writes up on his track inspections. They also were helpful for Steve Barkerie in gathering up material that will be needed to repair the culvert head wall which got damaged in the heavy rains last year. We have been allowing M of W equipment to use the track East of Hay field crossing. This will be repaired before the M200 and the 30th NCRY Anniversary event on May 20th. Just like Spring cleaning around your home, well we also do Some Spring cleaning. The grease mats at the Sunol Station were changed out by Ron Thomas (Wednesday M of W) for the M200 and the 30th NCRY Anniversary activities at the Sunol Station. Talking about the Sunol Station. Have you seen it with its new paint job? Wow! It looks brand new for a station that was built around 1875. The station was repaired and then contracted out for painting.

The GGRM continues to push to get everything ready for the UP to take to Shellville. Mean while at Shellville, the storage tracks have been completed and with the weather getting drier. They should be able to move in shortly. Gerry Feeney and our Tue switch crew are providing the switch moves at Brightside for GGRM. On one of the inspections that took place, a bad coil spring was discovered on the business car Oakland. The Oakland had to be moved to the Jack pad and have the bad spring replaced. While this was taking place, Rich Anderson took this opportunity to wipe down the WP713 with its new paint and Gerry Feeney was able to get some work done on the 1195. This also allowed for the placement of the engines to be fueled by the fuel truck. Rich Alexander and Jim Green ran the jacks and the GGRM did their repair. Everything got done and put away by 1230pm and the Articulated spotted for the work on getting the restroom ready to work. Another good day on the NCRY.

The Articulated Coach Restroom is coming along and should be in full operation by the end of May. The lighting has been installed by Rich Alexander along with the new blue floor by a contractor. The walls will be painted by a contractor by the end of April. We plan to put this car into service this summer for several Sunday operations with its air conditioning cars.

For the news on the 9010. Howard Wise has put the cooling unit back on the 9010 with all the new radiators and plumbing. It is beginning to look like a KM again on its long road back to become aa engine again and once again run.

This years Recertification classes are over. How about that. We completed all of our crews in four classes. We held four Sunday classes and one Saturday class. The classes were taught by Kent Hedberg, Gerry Feeney and myself.

This years RWP training will be held on Saturday June 9th at Brightside in the White House at 900 am. This class is for our M of W crews, Signal crew and brush cutting crew. Peter Schultze will teach the class.

I like to announce that Mark Miller has been promoted to Train Master and he will be in charge of Train Crews. Kent Hedberg is Road Foremen of Engines and is in charge of the engineers. Gerry Feeney is in charge of the engines.

That should do it for this month. Work safely and remember that no job is worth rushing and a chance of getting hurt. There is always tomorrow. Have a good month and hope to see you along the right of way.
Signaleros
By Curt Hoppins

If you haven't been out east along Pleasanton-Sunol Rd. in a while, you may be surprised when you come upon our Verona crossing. Over the past month we've installed more hardware including the crossing gate motors and gates. The signals are now pretty much complete. All they need is electricity. We plan on having our signal contractor, Summit Signal, return and install all the signal and track wires in the conduits that run to our signal house. We'll be able to start wiring everything up once that task is completed.

Initially the crossing will operate as a stop and proceed crossing, similar to Kilkare Rd. and Bond St. The County's advance warning flashers will be activated as the train approaches the crossing. Once it arrives it will stop and wait for the gates to go down before proceeding. Eventually we'd like to install a grade crossing predictor, which will allow a train to continue on through without stopping.

Signaleros by Curt Hoppins

To learn more about the Signal Department check out our website at: www.ncrysignal.com.
You Are Cordially Invited to Help Us Celebrate 30th Anniversary of Niles Canyon Railway

California Western M-200 Founders Train Ride

The Pacific Locomotive Association is commemorating the M-200’s first revenue run on the reconstructed right-of-way from Sunol to Brightside. The inaugural day was Sunday, May 21, 1988. It took volunteers two years to build the first 1.6+ miles of track by hand.

The PLA is celebrating this notable event, by recognizing the tireless work efforts from members who obtained the materials, built the track, transported equipment from Castro Point, and supported the “Gypsy Camp”.

When: Sunday, May 20, 2018 (Operating Day)

Where: Sunol Depot

Time: Ceremony to begin: 11:00 AM, Followed by Lunch in the Sunol Gardens, and Rides on the M-200.

30 Minute round trip east of Sunol.

DVD - Limited edition reproduction of historic video film of opening day ceremonies filmed by Steve Slabach. Also included, footage of early Brightside Yard and track work toward Sunol. Cost: Complimentary to returning Brightside Pioneers. Donation of $5.00 to all others while supply lasts.

Photo displays and memorabilia of the early days, circa 1986 & beyond.

To assure your space for the above ride and lunch, please RSVP to Gail Hedberg at marketing2@ncry.org, (510) 207-5524 or Linda at membercom@ncry.org

E-Coupling Information

Website: http://www.ncry.org
E-Mail: pla@ncry.info
Twitter: @toots4ncry
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NilesCanyonRailway
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/NilesCanyonRailRoad
Wednesday Maintenance of Way Update

Was there a special full moon that we didn’t know about? Maybe it’s due to all the legal pot being smoked in California! Whatever it is, more strange things are happening in the canyon than ever before. You might remember the desk and chair that were collected along the ROW? Well add to that a perfectly dysfunctional 48~55" flat screen TV! That’s right sports fans, standing between the rails, just east of Farwell Bridge, was a flat screen TV! Was there a Movie Train test run and they lost the TV but didn’t want to tell anyone? Go figure!

Enjoying the bizarreness and good weather this past month were Jim Stewart, Bob Pratt, Joe Shaw, Ron Thomas, Gregg McNaughton, Steve Jones, Linda Stanley, Pat Stratton, Dee Murphy, Greg LaFramboise, Pat Hafey, Mike Winkler, John Zielinski and yours truly.

Jim, Dee, Bob and Joe found the TV set while heading out to cover graffiti, lower spikes and tighten bolts. These are three jobs that are continuously being done and a good way to delve into working on your railroad!

Ron and Pat continued making/installing wooden spacers for the Sunol boarding area. The project is half done and another good entry point for those couch potatoes who feel a need to get involved.

John was out and about checking/filling the various rubber tires that needed it.

Steve and Linda continued work on the M-200 and installed a new tarp over the Pickering caboose to thwart H2O incursions from one of the rain storms that should bring lots of May flowers.

Pat H., Dee, Jim and I went east to move 9 ties to the culvert west of Hearst for Steve Barkkarie’s headwall re-build work. We then attacked the compromise joint at the Hearst switch and tried to grind the holes so the bolts would fit. Gonna be a long process!

As you can see in the photos, Mark helped Dee get the Sunol depot sign down so it can be re-painted.

Whoever thought that Maintenance of Way could be so entertaining and bizarre?

Until next time. .

Joe Peterson
Dee Murphy removing the Sunol Depot sign so it can be repainted. Photo by Jim Stewart

With the appropriate amount of supervision, Mark Miller takes Dee Murphy up on the scissor lift to remove the depot sign. Photo by Jim Stewart

Jim Stewart is delivering ties to the culvert that Steve Barkkarie will be working on in the near future. Photo by Joe Peterson

Dee Murphy removing the Sunol Depot sign so it can be repainted. Photo by Jim Stewart

Pat Hafey and Dee Murphy are investigating the compromise joint at Hearst Interchange in order to plan what will be done to fix it. Photo by Joe Peterson

Left: Here is the compromise joint with all the hardware removed. Photo by Joe Peterson
Boarding at Sunol for the 9th Annual Relay for Life on 4/21/2018. All proceeds benefitted the American Cancer Society. The train and crews are donated by NCRY for this special team event. Photos by Dan Sarka.
March Volunteers
by Paul Veltman

The following is a list of the people who helped run your railroad in November. 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 stumpie1@sbcglobal.net. **Note that if I can't read your writing, you may not get credit for the hours you worked.**

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<th>Administrative</th>
<th>Don Gholson</th>
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List continues on Page 13
We invite you and yours to our annual 4th of July train ride through beautiful Niles Canyon, and then a fantastic barbecue lunch. Bring your partner, friend or potential new members to experience vintage railroading at its best!

10am: Special Train departs Sunol to tour scenic Niles Canyon, with photo run-by on return trip.

12pm (approx.): Time for a Feast! When the train arrives in Sunol, enjoy a fabulous BBQ with a terrific raffle & silent auction. Enjoy charcoal-grilled mild Sicilian sausage, BBQ chicken, hot dogs, zucchini vinigrette, corn on the cob, 3-bean salad, potato salad, green salad, bread & butter, melons, wine, beer, homemade lemonade, iced tea, & sodas.

___ $10/members, ___ $16/guests, ___ $5/children 3-12 if ordered by June 25. Tickets ordered after June 25, or purchased at the door: Add $6 per ticket.

Order on the members’ website: http://tinyurl.com/2018-pla-Bbq. Log in with your username & password, go to “Calendar” and click on the July 4 event.

Order by mail:
Name__________________________________________
Phone (____) __________________ e-mail:__________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________
City__________________________ State_________ Zip__________________________
☐ Check enclosed, payable to NCRy Commissary Dept.  Mail to: NCRy Commissary Dept., P.O. Box 515, Sunol, CA 94586-0515. Ticket Info: David Ernest: 925-551-7772 davern@pacbell.net  Ticket orders will be confirmed by e-mail.

Diesel locomotives used while steam are under repair. Steam will return later this summer!
NILES CANYON RAILWAY

Frank Fontes
Warren Haack
Kent Hedberg
Justin Legg
Jorg Linke
Adam Martinez
Gregg McNaughton
Mark Miller
Bob Pratt
Jim Stewart
Pat Stratton
Ron Thomas
Ted Unruh
Jon Williamson
Eric Wright
John Zielinski

Docents
Rich Alexander
Bob Bailey
Mike Bozzini
Jim Evans
Fred Krock

Bridges and Buildings
Rich Alexander
Kent Hedberg
Joe Scardino

Electrical & Signals
Rich Alexander
Ed Best
Curt Hoppins
Joe Romani
Jim Stewart

Mechanical Dept
Rich Alexander
Tom Anderson
Henry Chandler
Doug Debs
Gerald DeWitt
Gerry Feeney
Jeff Haslam
Chris Hauf
Steve Jones
Chuck Kent
Justin Legg
Dennis Mann
Dee Murphy
Sierra Murphy
Derek Schipper
Alan Siegwart
Bruce Sorel
Linda Stanley
Bill Stimmerman
Doug Vanderlee
Howard Wise
Eric Wright
Bob Zenk
John Zielinski

MOW / Track
Rich Alexander
Bob Bailey
Chris Campi
Frank Fontes
Steve Jones

Greg LaFramboise
Gregg McNaughton
Brooke Murphy
Dee Murphy
Sierra Murphy
Chris O’Gara
John Pelmulder
Joe Peterson
Bob Pratt
Joe Romani
Jim Stewart
Phil Stone
Pat Stratton
Mike Strider
Ron Thomas
Doug Vanderlee
Mike Winkler

Eric Wright
John Zielinski

Other
Josh Ellington
Zonker Harris
Brian Hitchcock
Paul Veltman
Treasurer’s Report
Paul Veltman, Treasurer

In March, $3,317.69 in donations were received. Donations year to date for our fiscal year are $81,354.69.

$2,000 was received for the Articulated Coach, $$100 for the engine house, $1,117.69 for the General Fund and $100 for facilities.

Donors were:
- Warren Benner
- Goodshop
- Andrew Goodson
- Gail and Kent Hedberg
- Charles Jellison
- Jorge Linke
- PG&E
- Jim Stewart in memory of Kent Brezee
- Jean-Pol Zundel

We thank all of you for your generosity in helping the Niles Canyon Railway and its many projects.

Membership Report

Voting Members please take notice: Joseph Romani has applied to become a Voting Member of the PLA. He has met the requirements spelled out in the bylaws. A vote on making Joe a Voting Member will be taken at the General Meeting on June 15.

Just in time to begin our next 30 years in the canyon, these are our 25 newest members: Michael Ninneman, the family of Galen Ducey, Jennifer Diamond-Ducey, and Jace and Lillian Ducey, the family of Ranganath, Supraja, Sachith, and Samarth Sreenivas, the family of Geoffrey, Heidi, Riley, and Tyler Maits, the family of Rebecca Failor and Hugh Gregg, the family of Flor and Marcelo Alcoba, the family of Franklin and Liam Barreno, the family of Michelle McGowen and Brent Beutter, the family of Liyoong and Luke Lim, and the family of Laura and Jon Engberson.

Before I finished writing this report for the May issue, I took advantage of a chance to see the M-200 in its new paint, before even the light of day had seen it. It just looked like an old school bus, as it did 30 years ago. That’s not the overpowering image you might expect to see representing a world renowned railroad museum. But just like a school bus, 30 years ago the M-200 carried the seeds of a great future for the PLA in Niles Canyon, and now, like an old, working school bus, it still does. Congratulations if you have the good fortune to be a part of that future!

Peter Midnight

Niles Canyon Railway announces:

RWP Training for 2018
June 9, 2018
Brightside White House
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Sign up at:
Traincrews@comcast.net
Jim Stewart uses the tie handler to pick up the tie that Greg LaFramboise has prepared.

Photo by Joe Peterson

Right: Close up of the compromise joint between 90 lb. and 113 lb. out at Hearst Interchange. Notice the lack of holes needed to make a proper joint. Photo by Joe Peterson.

Left: Before and after shots of the Whistle post just east of the Arroyo Bridge. Pat Stratton and Greg LaFramboise are finishing up the touch-up job. Photo by Joe Peterson.
The M-200 circa 1954 during operations with the California Western Railroad in Mendocino County, California. Photo from the collection of Mr. Ray Crist.