



THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 617

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

www.ncry.org

January 2015

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.

If you're reading this, it must be January, and our 2014 Train of Lights is over for another year....but wait, it's not over until the train is stripped of its decorations and lights, and everything is neatly packed away for nine months, when it all comes back out again for TOL 2015. So be sure to watch for undecorating information and come to Brightside to help. What takes three months to put on takes only one month to take off.

What a spectacular TOL run we had!! I really don't know what happened to the months of November and December, but there were a lot of phone calls and emails asking for, and about, tickets, and if we still ran even though it was raining....and rain it did this season! Wow, almost every night we operated. But I don't think anyone complained because we needed the rain and it was a welcome sight, unless you were working in it, like our loyal parking lot groups. I think they have the same motto as the post office!

We sold out before we even began operating this year. It was incredible... and the tickets held in reserve in case a car breaks down were sold as walk-ups each night, so more money came in to help with restoration projects,



Photo by Aaron Leite

The 2014 Train of Lights reflected in a puddle at the Sunol Depot.

bridge repairs, and hopefully a new gift shop/ticketing site for Niles. Gail Hedberg spearheaded a mini gift shop this year, cleaning out the little storage building with hubby Kent, and adding shelves and a table for a cash register, and sold some ornaments, shirts, toys, and Juliette Goodrich's book about our Train of Lights. Our gift shop presence was made known in Niles, and it brought in some extra money for our gift shop department.

I want to thank everyone who helped with all aspects of our big fundraiser. There were days when I wasn't sure about having enough chaperones for our caboose and dome car, but everyone signed up to help. The same thing happened with our parking lot volunteers, although there were some nights in Sunol with only one or two people trying to direct passengers into parking spaces. I really hope everyone will get familiar with our volunteer log-in site before 2015 TOL as that is the

best way to see where help is needed in all of the areas. If you just show up, it works out, but we really need to know

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RECERTIFICATION ENGINEER AND TRAINMEN FEBRUARY 21 & 28, MARCH 8

Brightside in the White House
0900am-1200pm
mandatory attendance
contact:

traincrews@comcast.net
to reserve spot
bring rule book and timetable

NEW BRAKEMAN CLASS MARCH 21 - 22

Brightside in the White House
0900am-400pm both days
class material provided
contact:
traincrews@comcast.net
to reserve spot

Activities Calendar

January 10	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. (Sunol Depot)
January 16	3rd Friday	General Meeting, 7:30pm (Sunol Glen School)
January 24	4th Saturday	Monthly Brush Cutting, 8 a.m. (Brightside Yard)
February 14	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. (Sunol Depot)
February 14	2nd Saturday	Valentine Train 12 Noon and 3 pm (Sunol Depot)
February 28	4th Saturday	Monthly Brush Cutting, 8 a.m. (Brightside Yard)
New Member Orientation by Appointment Only - Glenn - 510-793-0270 or grfoun10@aol.com		

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.

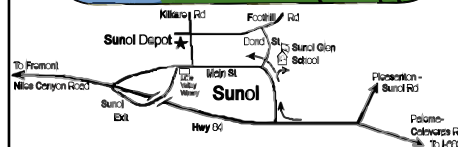
Every Wednesday and Saturday is a WORK DAY at the Brightside Yard

===== 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	Hugh Tebault	(510) 414-3485	treasurer@ncry.org
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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	Douglas Vanderlee	(209) 832-0332	doug.vanderlee@conagrafoods.com

===== DEPARTMENTS =====

Brush Cutting	Steve Jones		fcocompost@aol.com
Car Department	Charles Smith	(408) 997-6724	charless@speakeasy.net
Charter Agent/Docents	Jim Evans	(650) 697-9033	charter-agent@ncry.org
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Collections Committee			
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
Insurance	Roger McCluney	(510) 489-4114	insurance@ncry.org
Legal	Ryan Wood	(650) 366-4858	legal@ncry.org
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
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Road Foreman of Engines			
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



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, contact the editor at (510) 431-3401 for mailing instructions. Submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a SASE.

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

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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)

President's Report

January of 2015. A new year rolls around, and everything gets a chance to start anew. 2014 was a pretty good year for the organization, with a lot of progress on many projects. And another successful TOL season is behind us, and we can start thinking about TOL 2015. But maybe a bit of a break first, so we can bask in the glory of our success for a while. OK, that's long enough. Now the task of undecorating the train begins, so we can be ready for our upcoming season of canyon excursions. My thanks go out to everyone who was able to come out and help with pulling off this amazing event.

2015 will be another year of change for the organization. There will be physical improvements that are planned to make things better for our passengers and volunteers. If you liked the new paved boarding platform in Niles that was rolled out (literally) for this year's TOL, you are going to love the similar platform we have in mind for Sunol. We also want to see work begin on another new building in Brightside, and possibly a structure in Niles. Maybe we can find some company to actually design and install our secure entry gate for Brightside.

We also hope to see the Arizona Eastern Combine come out of the car shop with a whole new roof installed. If all goes well, the car will return to service this year. This may also be the year the Diner goes into some form of service on the railroad. This year will also see a completely restored M-200 returning to service on the railroad. The mechanical problems have been solved, and the interior has never looked better. And I know significant work will be continuing on our darling SP9010, the Krauss-Maffei as it continues its metamorphosis from Ugly Duckling to a full-flight capable Swan. Or some less silly metaphor.

Major work will continue on our Eastward push. The panel tracks will be laid this year, which should bring us to at least the Happy Valley bridge. Also, we hope to have the repairs for the

bridge over Sinbad Creek in downtown Sunol completed this year, if we can get the proper permits.

Another major change that will be happening is on the fiscal side of our business. Hugh Tebault has decided to step down as Treasurer for personal reasons. We want to thank him for all that he has done to improve the Association's financial position over the years, and for laying the groundwork that will allow us to deal with this difficult situation.

For the past many years, the job of Treasurer has been the least sought after job whenever election time rolled around. While two-year terms did mean that we wouldn't have to look for someone to take on this task as often, it did mean that we needed to make sure the job remained manageable. Significant arm-twisting was required to get Hugh to even stand for election this go-round, and the Board is not surprised by his decision to step down. Immediately upon hearing of Hugh's decision, the Board held an Executive Session to discuss how to deal with this. The first order of business was to appoint Vice-President Dennis Mann to assume the role of Acting Treasurer. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dennis for assuming this additional role. Remember, he is also serving as Curator for the Museum collection, as well as his work on the Krauss-Maffei. Hugh and Dennis have been meeting to make the transition as painless as possible, and allow the organization to continue in a business-as-usual manner. Hugh has agreed to work with Dennis through the TOL season to make sure the organization is well cared for in this our most fiscally busy season.

In addition, the Board also looked at what we could do to make this a desirable job once again. The organization has grown tremendously just in the last 10 years, and that growth has been matched by a significant increase in the number of financial transactions the organization must deal with. Simply put, there is a lot of money

coming in and going out each year, and all of it must be properly recorded and managed. The Board needs to know precisely where we stand each month, and the members as well as the public need to know that the financial activities are all be handled properly.

Expecting a volunteer to handle this herculean task is just not appropriate for an organization of this size. Our past several Treasurers have let us all know what a huge job it had become, and we watched in admiration as they bowed to the task. But too much is too much. And the Board recognized that. The Board decided that it was time to transfer the bulk of the Accounting duties to an External Professional Accounting Service. Such a service has been located, based in Pleasanton, and we are working to get the necessary systems and processes in place to allow this work to be off-loaded. The next several months will be most difficult while the service is brought on-line.

In order to help us with this situation, we would like to ask all of our members to do their part in making this as painless as possible. If turning in receipts for reimbursement, please make sure all the necessary information is provided to ensure the expenses can be properly assigned to the appropriate department budgets. Similarly, any other expenses should also be properly identified to ensure they are accounted for properly. I believe 2015 will be another banner year for the organization, and I look forward to seeing all of you helping out wherever you can.

If you would like to discuss these topics in greater detail or you have additional comments or concerns, please contact me. If you are willing to assist with any of our upcoming projects, or serve on any of our extremely important committees, please contact me at 925.447.7358 or at president@ncry.org.

Respectfully Submitted
Henry Baum

Along The Right Of Way

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

It is 4:30 PM and it is departure time for the Eastbound TOL out of Niles. Our parking people have done a great job getting the cars parked in our parking lots. The ticket agents are hard at it getting the last stragglers on board as the crew look on, waiting for the stragglers to reach them at the trap door so they can help them on board. Once all passengers are on board and the platform is clear of any more stragglers, "All aboard" is sounded and the Conductor gives the Hi-Ball by radio for the big SD9 SP5472 to start pulling this heavy train out of Niles to Sunol. The engineer puts the throttle selector in run two and feathers off the independent brake to pull out the slack on the cars and finally the heavy lighted Train of Lights slowly begins its run up the canyon. As the big SD9 approaches the Mission Bridge, the passengers get their first look at this big, long, colorful number one Christmas train in the country, THE TRAIN OF LIGHTS. For most of the passengers using their cell phone cameras, this will be their best chance to get a picture of the whole train. As the sun sets, the bright lights really stand out in the darkness of the canyon. The only thing is, the train is so bright, you need filters to capture all the color on your camera lenses. With all seats sold out, we are like the Airlines. We have no shows and we have people waiting to buy tickets to ride this one-of-a-kind Christmas train. This team effort that so many have put into this years TOL has to be noted as nothing more than wonderful and is upon and beyond the great effort and performance that we do for all to see. To all that participated in this years TOL, a job well done!

This TOL season has seen a lot of rain. Since the canyon has been dry for a long period of time, it was just a matter of time before the rocks would start to fall down onto the rails. Yes, between the two major storms we received a lot of rain in a short period of time, and yes,



Photo by Steve Barkkarie

View of the East end of Farwell Bridge after the slide and rocks came down.

we were not disappointed when it came to falling rocks. The best shot was at West Farwell. The hillside dirt was soft from the rain and several large rocks came bouncing down the hill. At least Mother Nature had good aim. Three years ago we had a major slide in the same area and it took out hand rails on the Farwell Bridge. Just like shooting a rifle with an adjustable sight. Mother Nature did one click down and one left. The rocks came down the hill with force, some went under the bridge, but some made contact with the first two hand railings West on the South side. Wow! That was good shooting lady. You missed our new handrail boards and the uprights, but ripped out the old handrails in the section West next to the new boards we put in two years ago. I think paying off the old man upstairs with a better upgrade in the quality of vintage wine and bread goes a long way when it comes to dealing with Mother Nature. So far we have

been good at getting the train stopped before hitting a rock on track. On only one run a rock was hit by WP713 which broke three small welds on the plow lower section. This section is placed by the railroad to make the distance from rail to plow legal. These storms have brought down a lot of rocks. So far no mud slides and this track is inspected more than any other railroad as I know. Steve Barkkarie did a little patch-up in ditching and so far the water is running as planned. Steve Jones and crew are doing tree trimming to make this TOL train run more safely down the canyon without taking a branch in the chops. As for the TOL! It is the tightest train I have seen when it comes to air brakes. Jim Green and his effort to get all the cars checked and signed off prior to the first run paid off. Getting the PA system ready to do the music was accomplished and the music is great. You can hear it as the train is moving. Yes, we can all be proud in the effort

Along The Right Of Way

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

that you put into this major moving production. Welcome one and all to THE TRAIN OF LIGHTS.

Talking about arrivals, we received the donated material from Modesto traction that they donated to us. With a little tender loving care, we have a nice track lining machine which needs a mechanic to take a look at it and get it running. Jacks and even some scrap stuff. Maybe Mad Max (Steve Barkkarie) might want that flat unit outside the gate for a track launch pad for whatever he wants. Most likely scrap!

What do we have up our sleeve to be introduced with the new year approaching?

Sometime next year and it will be planned. We will need to shut down Sunol and run trains out of Niles for a few weeks. Also we need to pull the center platform back a few boards to make room for tamping. The mainline will be rebuilt with new ties and then track tamped. Drainage must be



Photo by the MOW Team

Gregg McNaughton, Dick Charpentier, Pat Stratton and Robin Ziegler survey the damage done to the guard rail and walkway at the west end of Farwell bridge.

installed and then we will have the platform black-topped and extend the boarding area. This will be the worst project at hand since it is very complex.

The Sinbad Bridge in Sunol needs to be rebuilt. Money has been set aside for this project.

The Wye at Niles will be a joint adventure between H & H track construction and along with our track crews.

Also, our continuing quest to maintain this track structure will be done between our track crew and H & H track construction.

The biggest and most important project is the Eastward track extension to Pleasanton. This is where a lot of new members can get involved. If you want to learn about railroad construction, well! This is the right place to be. We would like to be across Happy Valley

Bridge by 2016 or sooner. Contact Doug Vanderlee if you want to get involved with building track.

For train and engine crews, don't forget February and March are recertification months.

For those trainmen that don't have a switch key, be patient, we have a new batch being made up. They should be here by the end of the month or early next year. For the new members! We will have a Brakemen's class after we finish recertification. Most likely the class will be held in March. Hope all had a good Holiday season, we all can be happy that we are able to provide the service that we do and we do it very well. With that said, Happy New Years and hope to see you along the right of way.

Dexter D. Day
General Manager

MONTHLY BRUSH CUTTING

We are always looking for volunteers to come out on the fourth Saturday of the month to help cut trees, brush and run it all through the chipper.

Contact: Steve Jones
fcocompost@aol.com



E-COUPLING INFORMATION

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

E-Mail: pla@ncry.info

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

Twitter: @toots4ncry

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

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

Gift Shop

The accompanying photograph showing the fledging Gift Shop in Niles is the product of a long and winding road.

Almost from the time the first train left the then new Niles station, members with a special interest in getting the Niles station up and running were asking for a gift shop. There were issues. Lots of them. Rather than trying to solve the problems, it was easier to just say no. First it was no space for one. Then it was – what would we sell in Niles? We have a full service gift shop in Sunol, why duplicate the merchandise in Niles? That reason worked as long as our guests could get off the train in Sunol and shop until the next train left.

When two TOL trains operated out of both Niles and Sunol, it was possible to have enough time for people to get off of the Niles train, shop, and get back on the train before it left for Niles. Everyone got back on the train in time and no one was ever left behind. I think.

However, when operations shifted to a single, albeit longer, train the layover in the Sunol station stopped being feasible so the folks in Niles did not have a chance to get train themed gifts.

In the spring of 2014 when the new gift shop team assembled, Gail Hedberg, who was new to the gift shop scene, came forward to help but she stated from the beginning that she was interested in getting something going in Niles. That was well and good, but first we had to breathe some life into the Sunol station.



Photo by Zonker Harris

Gail Hedberg and Myrna Smith manning the Niles Gift Shop.

She jumped right in and immediately brought new energy and a different outlook as far as what would appeal to our customers.

When the TOL season rolled around, she was still determined to have something in Niles. Al McCracken, the creator, along with the late Dale Stone, of custom buttons that were sold mainly on the train wanted to be part of a Niles gift shop. He found a PLA member, Myrna Smith, that lived near him and she agreed to work there almost every day during the TOL season.

After some back and forth talk, and with time running out to get something ready, a conclave was held on site and

all the details had a solution. John Fenstermacher was on board. Bob Bailey, our resident watchman, took care of getting the former ticket selling building safe and ready to go.

The gift shop made its first appearance on November 30th as it hosted the book signing event we had when authors Juliette Goodrich and Dick Jones signed copies of the book, The Train of Lights.

And, as they say, the rest is history. The real test will be 2015 when regular operations will resume. Will someone step up and volunteer a couple of times a month to help the gift shop grow and prosper? I certainly hope so.

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 - info4joe@sbcglobal.net

MOW CREW - (SATURDAY) - Work on track repair, etc. - Douglas Vanderlee - doug.vanderlee@conagrafoods.com

SIGNALS - Install / Maintain signal systems - Curt Hoppins - curt@ncrysignal.com

STATION - (NILES) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - John Fenstermacher - johnnsheer@aol.com

STATION - (SUNOL) - Work parking, ticket sales, set-up, etc. - Donna Alexander - station-agent@ncry.org

TOL INTERIOR UNDECORATING - Leslie Smith, koolkat@speakeasy.net or call 408 569-4251

TOL EXTERIOR UNDECORATING - Tom Crawford, tom@thecrawfordfamily.net or call 510-299-0757

Treasurer's Report

Hugh Tebault, Treasurer
NOVEMBER 2014

If I have missed your name and you donated in November 2014, please contact treasurer@ncry.org so I can research it. We always want to acknowledge our donors. We also recognize our enthusiastic volunteers who work on the many NCRY projects year round to earn the funds we then use to create and maintain our very professional operating railroad museum – THANK YOU ALL – you make NCRY the success it continues to be.

As I write this, the 2014 Train of Lights is about ½ over, and yesterday brought over 4 inches of rain. MOW is inspecting the track and today is another TOL event. This year's TOL sold out extra early and the Marketing team is actively working on all the 2015 events to increase passengers.

This is my last report as Treasurer. Dennis Mann is stepping in to become the new Treasurer and please help him by turning in all your receipts with complete information and in a timely manner to make his job easier. Remember to turn in all documents within one week.

Funds donated to in November 2014;

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	\$2,998
Steam Dept	\$152
Steam #30	\$228
SP2467	\$250
SP9010	\$833
Passenger Cars	\$104
MOW	\$727
Ballast	\$322
Pleasanton Extension	\$252
Loco Maint Building	\$300
Endowment Fund	\$100

Total Funs Donated \$6,266

DONATE

November PLA Donors

Anonymous	Peter Gertsch	David Maffei	Deslar Patten	Peter Silverman
George Aplington	Charles Givins	David Maris	Steve Patterson	David Simons
John April	Marshall Goodloe	Phil McCall	Douglass Peterson	Ryan Stanley
David Barnhardt	Andrew Goodson	Rebecca McLain	Dawn Reid	David Sylva
Richard Bartel	Herbert Gramsch	Robert McLaughlin	Glenn Riddervold	Stephanie Tadlock
Jason Baskett	Charles Hafner	Michael McQuaid	Mel Rinehart	Richard Welsh
Darrell Basore	Roland Herwig	Arnold Metz	Myron Rude	Barry Wilson
Henry Bender	Laurel Hill	Thomas Mitchell	Walter Schlipp	Gregory Wilson
John Burnside	John Houghton	Gale Naylor	Kathryn Schroeder	Barry Wilson
David Butts	Charles Jellison	Leon Oakley	Douglass Semon	Eugene Wollak
David Butts	Harry Jenkins	Richard Oed		
LLL Home Campaign	Lonie Kinig	Erwin Pamp		
Richard Chase	John Kirchner	Andreas Parks		
Robin Costa	Thomas Kugler	Robet Pata		
Thomas Eikerenkrot	Daryl Lund	Christopher Paton		

If you believe I missed your name as a donor – please contact me so I can track it down. We very much appreciate all the donations and want to recognize you here if you have not asked to remain anonymous.

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.

Santa on the TOL

The Train of Lights is over
Decorations coming down
Even our little Rudolf
Goes around wearing a frown!

It took a lot of people
And a lot of hours too
Sometimes it seemed impossible
But the Train of Lights
came through.

From this hot tub way up north
I want to thank you all
Due to your dedication
The TOL was a ball!

Happy faces, singing to
It was really quite a sight
Happy New Year one and All
And to All, a deserved good night!

Santa



Santa on the TOL



East to Pleasanton



Photo by Doug Vanderlee

Darn Pot-of-Gold was NOT behind the bushes, but probably on the other side of the Alameda Creek. The rains have come and slowed the progress slightly, but other tasks are being worked on for a sunny day. The Burro 40 Load Cell for weighing objects being lifted will soon be installed. We have discussed using the 250 Ton Crane to load 10 panels onto two flat cars, have her go back to the yard and then use the Burro 40 in the lead to pick a panel from the immediate flat car behind and then swing around to the front to place the panel on the ground. Good in theory, now for practice! We are looking into a new or good used Rock Screener for the ballast.

Charlie Blake

Charlie became a member of PLA in the early 1970's. From his earliest involvement he was very active, helping wherever he could.

Charlie was very active at Castro Point serving on a regular basis on train crews and both steam and diesel engineers. He was also always there to help regardless if it involved rerailing a derailed car or locomotive or affixing labeling on PLA material to be mailed out. Charlie was also our lock and key supplier at Niles Canyon. He was also always there to help with track work, equipment restoration, and later helping Carol Sullivan set up our first gift shop and eventual operation of our more permanent Sunol facility. He did all this after making the long trip to Niles Canyon from his home many miles away in Vallejo.

Charlie gave a lot of his life to our organization and was always present at PLA functions. We missed him on our members' TOL train this year and many of the veteran members will never forget him.



2014 Train of Lights is over, but wait, it's not over yet

Continued from Page 1

ahead of the day of operation, and then our members can look at the site and see that there are enough people volunteering and don't have to come out.

Rich would also like to thank everyone, especially Dave Lion, who stepped up and did the electrical for the train, which freed him up to print the manifests, drop off the Niles tickets and

manifests, and help with depot and gift shop duties.

This was also the season for miracles. A lady riding one of our 7:30 trains lost her husband's wedding ring. Her friend mentioned it to Rich and he looked for it with a flashlight in the parking lot.

A few days later after putting out the chains and cones in the parking lot in Sunol, he looked down and there

it was...the wedding ring of 46 years of marriage. He called and got an address and it was mailed to the lady.

So again, thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for a wonderful season and a Happy New Year to all. And watch for an email about a TOL wrap-up meeting in January or February.

Donna Alexander

Membership Report

Beginning with this issue, if you are a PLA member, you will probably see a date on your mailing label. That's your renewal date. For Life Members, that renewal date might come as a surprise. Don't panic. It does not mean you will have to pay dues again, only that you have to keep in touch with us, at least occasionally. For the rest of us, it's a way to keep track of when we each need to renew our memberships, even if we don't carry our membership cards around with us and look at them often.

For most of us, that date will be 12/31, of either this year or last year. For more recent members, it will be some other date. And that includes our newest individual members; Matthew Nunes, John Bush, Norman Spaulding, Andrew Young, and Dan Sarka. Our newly added family members; Cara Schott, Lauren Payne, Robert Weeks, and Bernadette Avery; inherit the

renewal dates of their respective primary members.

Don't forget, every PLA member needs to sign the new release form of September, 2014. If you renewed through the website or if you did not sign and return that form, you still need to put that in the mail back to me. If you did not receive that form in the mail, or if you have misplaced it, please contact me and let me send you another copy.

A big thank you to all of you who have recently joined or renewed your memberships! Most of you will notice

you have not yet received your new membership cards. Sorry about that. I took a few days off to work on the Train of Lights, and I hope you got the chance to do the same. What a treat that was! But not to worry. I hope to have all of the new cards printed and mailed before the trains start running again in February and we start shopping in person again in the Gift Shop.

Let this be the best year yet, both for the PLA and for each of us!

Peter Midnight



Scouting Program Update

We have had dozens upon dozens of scouts pass through our program for the better part of a decade, and it is my sincere hope that at least a few of them might return to the railroad as they get a bit older.

After 8 years, I'm stepping back from the Merit Badge program. I'll be happy to advise any other member(s) who want to take on this part of the scouting program. (If you are interested, please email rrmb@ncry.org to get more information.) In 2015, I'll be working with Ed Best, and we'll be looking to our department heads to try and develop a few suitable projects at the railroad for consideration by Eagle Scout candidates.

Zonker Harris

Pacific Locomotive Assn. & the Golden Gate Railroad Museum

Contact: Bob Bradley: 510-910-7024

Romance on the Rails!

Valentine's Day Wine Tasting Trains

Make your Valentine's Day truly unforgettable!



Sunol, CA -- Niles Canyon Railway is pleased to announce a special event -- **Romance on the Rails** -- two **Valentine's Day Wine Tasting Trains** on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 12:00pm and 3:00pm. 1940s attire is admired, but not required.

Experience the magic of a bygone era as you travel through scenic Niles Canyon on a vintage train from Sunol to Niles and back. Enroute you'll be served six specially-selected wines from the Livermore Valley, paired with hors d'oeuvres.

The train features Southern Pacific parlor-lounge car #2979, newly restored to its elegant 1940 appearance. Winner of an Art Deco Society of California preservation award, the car features plush lounge seating and a semi-circular mahogany bar framed by etched glass and mirrors. The car is climate-controlled for your comfort, and attendants will be on board to assist in any way you require during your trip. An open-air car is also included on the train for your viewing enjoyment.

Tickets are \$75 per person plus small fee.

Trains depart Sunol Depot (6 Kilkare Road, Sunol) at 12:00pm and 3:00pm, sharp. Please arrive 30 minutes before departure. Seating is limited. To purchase tickets, please visit www.ncry.org or www.ggrm.org.

Note: The parlor-lounge car is not wheelchair-accessible due to the narrow passages on our vintage equipment.

-30-

The *Romance on the Rails* Wine Tasting Train is sponsored by the Pacific Locomotive Association (www.ncry.org) and Golden Gate Railroad Museum (www.ggrm.org); proceeds support our railroad historic preservation programs.

"STEVE BARKKARIE BACKHOE BALLET AND GANDY DANCER TROUPE"

The headline would read, "Barkkarie's Backhoe Ballet and Gandy Dancer Troupe hits the Niles Canyon Railway!" because that's what happened last month after the "big storm"! But let's start at the beginning. I've heard it's a very good place to start ;-)

The Wednesday band of Mighty Ballasteritos seemed to lose track of which day of the week it was! They were out on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and even a Wednesday or two. It all started, before the first Train of Lights could run, with Kent Hedberg going out and replacing three bolts that would have put a kabash on said TOL.

Then on Tuesday, John Sutkus, Justino Cruz, Pat Stratton, Nick Durant, Bob Pratt and yours truly ventured forth to chip all the slash left by Steve Jones and his Bushwhackers (thanks for staging the piles for easy insertion into the chipper!) on Saturday. The ROW is now cleared from Niles to Sunol!!! Even graffiti on the bridges and at the Spot was also obliterated!

Dick Charpentier almost came out of MOW retirement to join this band of merry men but ended up going to work on the KM instead.

On an actual Wednesday, Pat Stratton and Peter Schulze joined me on Big Bird to inspect the tracks. On the way to Niles, quite a few rocks were removed and on the way back to Brightside, quite a few more rocks were removed! So it was no surprise that the first TOL, out of Niles, had to stop and remove rocks! Very active landscape we run in ;-)

Now, back to that headline story! The Barkkarie Backhoe Ballet and Gandy Dancer Troupe went out on the Friday after the "Big Storm" and cleared the ROW of one major rock slide at west Farwell bridge (rock was big and broke the guard rail and two of the bridge walkway timbers), two mudslides that made it to the tracks at the Big Curve, but not over, and a 50-foot stretch of drainage ditch at MP-33.25 that needed re-trenching.

Working "a terre", the Gandy Dancers



Photo by the MOW Team

Robin Ziegler, Dick Charpentier and Pat Stratton working on the damage done to the Farwell bridge's guard rail and walkway.



Photo by the MOW Team

Robin Ziegler impersonating a backhoe?

Maintenance of Way Crew



Photo by the MOW Team

Robin Ziegler, Dick Charpentier and Pat Stratton working on the damage done to the Farwell bridge's guard rail and walkway.

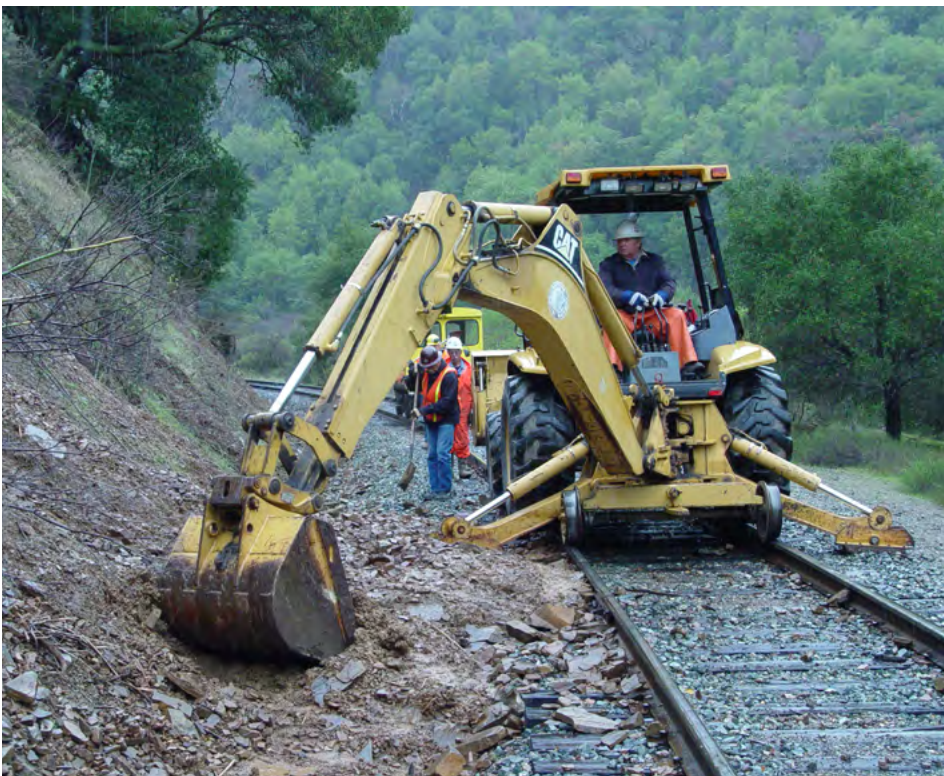


Photo by the MOW Team

Steve Barkkarie uses the "hi-railed" CAT to clean out the drainage ditch after a mud slide on the Big Curve.

performed clearing the tracks of minor rock accumulations and cleaning the grate of the Farmer's culvert so water and mud could flow into it and continue on to the highway's culverts. Ask Dick to show you what happened to his toe boots ;-)

Along with Primo Ballerino Steve, were dance troupe members: Dick Charpentier, Gregg McNaughton, Pat Stratton, Robin Ziegler and yours truly.

As you can see, it is never dull working on MOW in Niles Canyon!

And then, one day, there was some small, simple but important work to get done!

Robin Ziegler answered the call, came in and cleaned out the hole that the Main Gate center post goes into. The Main Gate works as it should now.

I joined Robin and we headed to Niles to look for rocks and mud slides. Found a good-sized rock between the rails at the Big Curve and removed it from same. Everything looked good for the rest of the tour. On the return trip, we removed garbage to the dumpster.

Made a stop at the west end of Farwell Bridge and put up "Caution" tape around the gaps and now Dick Charpentier has put up some boards to close the holes and make the bridge safer. In the near future, we will need to excavate the slide under the bridge so the next one has someplace to go besides onto the bridge!

Now with the TOL being de-decorated and all those New Year's resolutions already being broken, why not make one to come out and work on your railroad! You pay a small amount to be a member of a great health gym (the Nevada Northern charges \$845 per week for their "work on the railroad" program) with beneficial exercise all year long. So, put down this issue of the Club Car and go mark up your calendars for every Wednesday and Saturday and you can join those who are keeping the railroad in shape and/or those who are moving our End-Of-Track ever closer to Pleasanton!

Happy New Year to one and all!
Joe Peterson

Maintenance of Way Crew



Robin Ziegler cleans out a culvert once covered by the mud slide.

Photo by the MOW Team



Photo by the MOW Team
Pat Stratton and Dick Charpentier show the teamwork that it takes to clean up after Mother Nature throws a party!



Pat Stratton and Gregg McNaughton work "a tierre" with hand support of Steve and the CAT.

Photo by the MOW Team



Photo by the MOW Team
Pat Stratton, Gregg McNaughton, Dick Charpentier and Robin Ziegler working on one of the rock slides after the "Big Storm" of December.

November Volunteers

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE Henry Baum Dexter Day Jim Evans Gail Hedberg Karen Kadaja Jackie Vlasak MEETINGS Rich Alexander Henry Baum Dexter Day Jim Evans Kent Hedberg Curt Hoppins Karen Kadaja Dennis Mann Peter Midnight Charles Smith Leslie Smith Hugh Tebault Doug Vanderlee CAR DEPARTMENT Warren Benner Dave Burla Henry Chandler George Childs Tom Crawford Frank Fontes Jim Green Chris Hauf Karen Kadaja Dennis Mann John Senf Charles Smith GRM PROJECTS Steve Coon COMMISSARY Karen Kadaja	SPECIAL EVENTS Al McCracken DEPOT CREW/OPERATIONS Dexter Day Pat Warren MUSEUM Dennis Mann GIFT SHOP Donna Alexander Bob Bailey Gail Hedberg Kent Hedberg Ken Lippman Pat Warren TRAIN OF LIGHTS Donna Alexander Rich Alexander Paul Anderson Rich Anderson John April Bob Bailey Laura Bajuk Warren Benner Ed Best Kenny Bischoff Elizabeth Boone Jeff Boone Carlo Borlandelli Mike Bozzini James Bradas Lou Bradas Tommy Bradas Kent Brezee Dee Bringer Garrett Brisbee Dave Burla George Childs Steve Coon Tom Crawford Phil Davey	TRAIN OF LIGHTS Dexter Day Robin Dean Doug Debs Fred Elenbaas Jim Evans Kaitlin Everhard Gerry Feeney John Fenstermacher Frank Fontes Mike Ford Glenn Fountain Norm Fraga John Frykland Don Gholson Rob Giles Jim Gilmore Armano Giovacchini Pete Goodier Jim Green Chuck Gullo Warren Haack Armin Haken Jack Harrington Van Harris Zonker Harris Cris Hart Jef Haslan Gail Hedberg Kent Hedberg Curt Hoppins Steve Jones Karen Kadaja Dave Keene Chuck Koehler Fred Krock Barry Lependorf Dave Lion Paula Lion Ken Lippman Steve Lowe Dennis Mann Jaymar Martinez Roger McCluney Al McCracken	TRAIN OF LIGHTS Jim McDaniel Arthur McKenzie Gregg McNaughton Bob Moore Sharron Morrison Denis Murchison Lorentz Nilsen Sean O'Donoghue Bev Patterson Mike Pechner Tony Peters Joe Peterson Bob Pratt Bill Ross Joe Scardino Judy Scardino Derek Schipper John Senf Wayne Shull Charles Smith Leslie Smith Myrna Smith Linda Stanley Don Stuff Lorrie Tubbs Steve Van Meter CJ Vargas Paul Veltman Pat Warren Pete Willis Mary Woods Phil Woods Eric Wright Robin Ziegler Kevin Zimmerman BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS Bob Bailey Dave Keene ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS Curt Hoppins Nick Hoppins Dave Lion	ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS Joe Romani Jim Stewart Paul Veltman MECHANICAL DEPT. Rich Anderson Tom Anderson Warren Benner Kenny Bischoff Jeff Boone Carlo Borlandelli Henry Chandler Dick Charpentier Steve Coon Gerald DeWitt Gerry Feeney Jim Green Jim Griffin Cris Hart Chris Hauf Kent Hedberg Chuck Kent Dave Loyola Dennis Mann Joe Mann Bill Ross Jeff Schwab John Senf Alan Siegwarth Linda Stanley Bill Stimmerman CJ Vargas Howard Wise Eric Wright Bob Zenk John Zielinski MOW / TRACK Bob Ackerman Steve Barkkarie Hal Briar Mike Brilliot Chris Campi Dick Charpentier	MOW / TRACK Justino Cruz Nick Durant Frank Fontes Pat Hafey Kent Hedberg Steve Jones Craig Kauffman Steve Lowe Gregg McNaughton Phil Orth John Pelmulder Joe Peterson Mark Piery Bob Pratt Jim Stewart Pat Stratton Mike Strider John Sutkus Wes Swift Ron Thomas Doug Vanderlee Ryan Wood Robin Ziegler OTHER Don Buchholz Zonker Harris Barry Lependorf Ray Strong Paul Veltman By Paul Veltman
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Photo by John Harder

SP3189, Train 171, at California Avenue, 09-19-1977. Look familiar? This geep has been the subject of many photographers over the years. Current number: SP5623, the black widow GP9 now at Niles Canyon Railway.