



# THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin 626

Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc.

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

October 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.



*Photo by Jamie West*

SP 5623 and SP 5472 run light through Farwell, chasing the train to Niles.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### 3 President's Report

*Henry Baum*

### 4 Along the Right of Way

*GM Dexter Day*

### 8 Black Widow Day

*Chris Hauf*

### 9 Clover Valley Test Run

*Don Buchholz*

The NCRy held a couple of specialty days on the Sunday runs. This last one was Black Widow Day.

Running the Southern Pacific engine 1423 to help out, the two Black Widow engines, SP 5623 and SP 5472 were a sight to see pulling the train through Niles Canyon.

Did you ride the train or did you miss the event? Most event news can be found on our website.

More Black Widow photos on Page 8 and the back cover.

Did you take a photo of any of our

trains in Niles, Sunol or along the Niles Canyon? We are always looking for that special shot to adorn our front cover or somewhere in the Club Car.

To submit your photos or story or both, see the instructions on Page 2 of the Club Car.

Did you or your friends enjoy the train ride? Take a photo and write a short story. The Club Car is about the volunteers, what they do to keep the trains running and of course our trains. Give it a try, who knows, maybe you will be the next Pulitzer Prize winner.

# ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

October 3	1st Saturday	Octoberfest Beer Train (Niles/Fremont)
October 10	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. (Sunol Depot)
October 16	3rd Friday	Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. (Sunol Glen School)
October 24	4th Saturday	Brush Cutting, 8 a.m. (Brightside Yard)
October 24	4th Saturday	Brakeman Class 9 a.m. (Whitehouse)
November 14	2nd Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting, 3 p.m. (Sunol Depot)
November 27	4th Friday	Train of Lights begins operations

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.

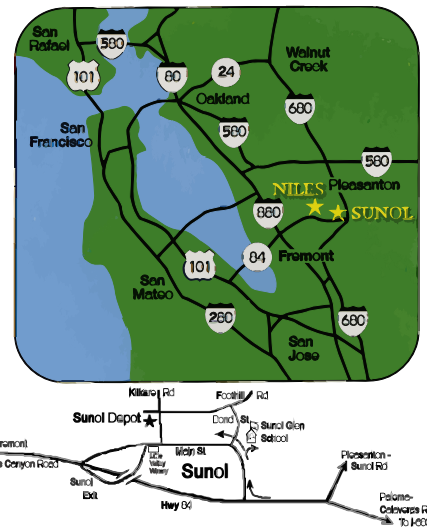
Every Wednesday and Saturday is a WORK DAY at the Brightside Yard

## ===== 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		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		

## ===== 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
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
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
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
Volunteer Coordinator			



## 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.

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

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

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

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

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of January, 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.

Items in this publication are Copyright © 2015, Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. and may be reproduced only by permission with credit to the source. Views expressed herein are those of the author unless specifically noted by the editor as official policy.

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Train of Lights decorating is well under way under the leadership of Tom Crawford for the exterior decorating team, and Dexter Day leading the Interior team. I have worked with the interior team a few Wednesdays and Saturdays and have been impressed with how well it is all coming along. We already have 4 cars decorated and wired, and that is impressive. Leslie and Charles Smith's system for storing and cataloging the decorations, and their systems for hanging the decorations without compromising the integrity of our classic rolling stock work flawlessly. The trick is magnets, BTW. You have to come out on a Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday to see it for yourself, and to become a part of the team.

Some of these decorating days have been extremely hot and staying hydrated is extremely important. And to stay hydrated, you need water. Lots and lots of water. Even in the midst of a drought, it is amazing how important water is becoming to the organization. Niles Canyon is part of the Alameda Creek Watershed. Alameda Creek, the Arroyo de la Laguna and even tiny Sinbad Creek are all part of the Watershed. The watershed is part of the Hetch Hetchy system that provides water to San Francisco so the watershed is controlled by the SF Public Utility Commission. We have been dealing with the SFPUC ever since we came into the canyon, and our relationship is great.

We have 4 bridges that cross SFPUC waterways, and the trees that grow under our bridges are becoming a problem (at 3 of them, anyway). The Federal Railway Administration rules state that trees cannot be allowed to contact the bridges. But whose trees are they? A single email to my contact with the SFPUC got a big ball rolling. I am now meeting with the Watershed Resources Manager to try to solve this question. Property lines in the canyon are difficult to decipher, and we hope to come up with a final decision as to who is responsible for what. And how to get the troublesome trees removed in a



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

**With the siding properly flagged, the exterior crew starts putting rope lights and supports on Lou's Dome Car.**

manner that works for everyone.

Water, or rather the lack of it, is also becoming a new problem for us. We had big plans for a wonderful gift shop container project down in Niles, but that has hit a snag. The Alameda County Building Department has to give us a permit to erect this structure. Yes it is a temporary structure replacing existing temporary structures. Yes it is much better than what we have now. Yes it is completely ADA compliant. What the design lacks is a bathroom. And we now are being required to provide a real restroom for our patrons. Just one if it is ADA accessible is significant. The design can easily accommodate this. So we will design it in.

The problem is water. There is no longer any water service available on the property in Niles. So I am working with the Alameda County Public Works Agency (our landlord) to get water service re-established. Sewer service will also be required, but since a sewer line runs across the property, that

should be a little easier.

For the 30+ years we have been in the canyon we have been allowed to do things with minimal red tape. Those days are over, since we are now a big deal and what we do is more visible, and therefore open to scrutiny. The whole ROW is also protected by the National Register of Historic Places designation so whatever we do must meet that extra criteria. Extra scrutiny of us means extra scrutiny for our landlords. Their decisions regarding us are also now under extra scrutiny, so we will just have to figure out how to deal with this.

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](mailto:president@ncry.org).

Respectfully Submitted

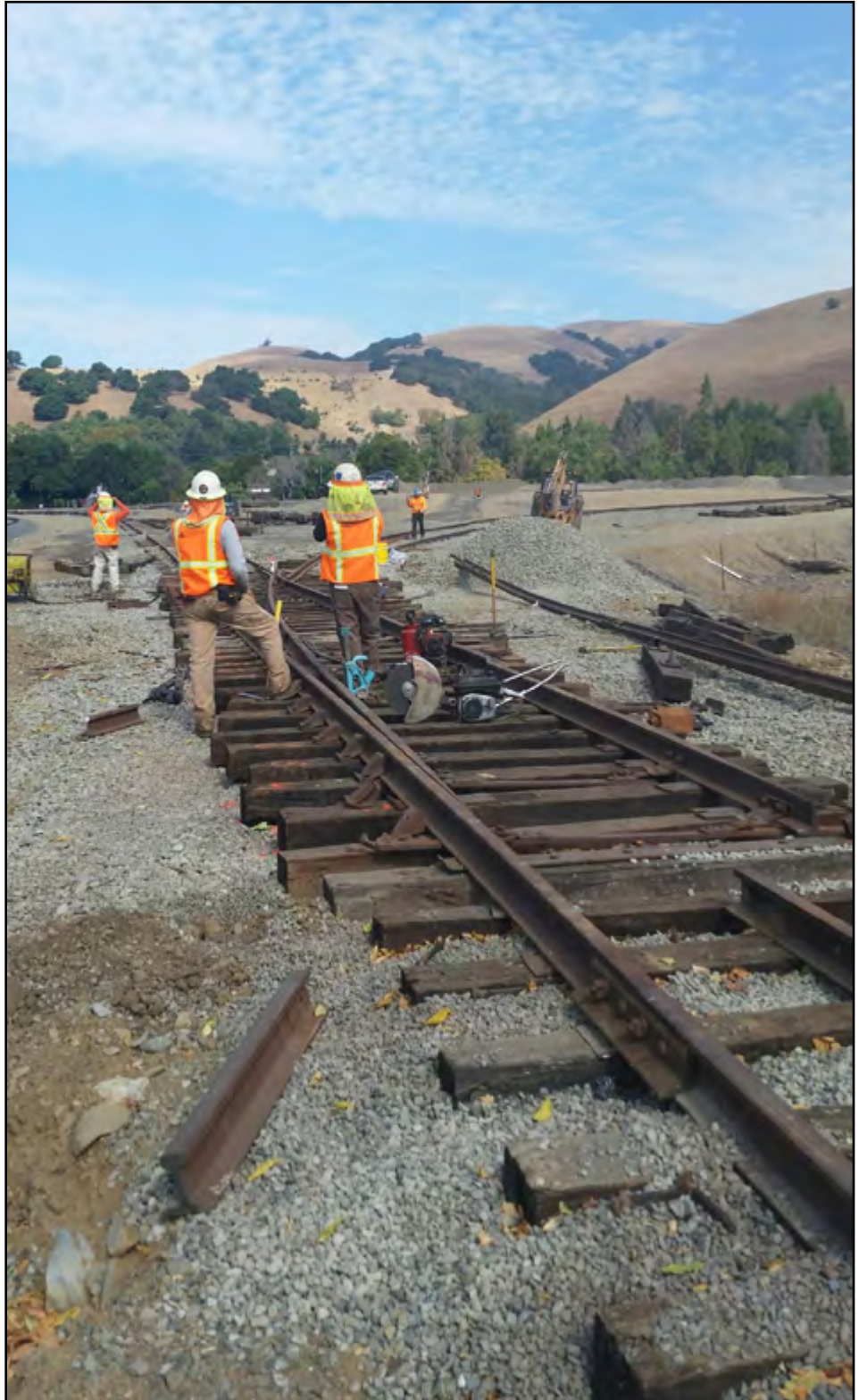
**Henry Baum**

# ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

This month is making the NCRY look good in activity. Between Members along with Contractors, we have done a lot. The Sunol Platform building project is coming right along at a good clip. A lot has taken place. You can't see anything, so don't plan a field trip. I sneak in on my way home to see what they are doing and covering up as they go. Remember, this is not a cover up, but we still have to run trains. We care! The new night lights are plainly seen, they are signal mast. Light is on top. Why not, we have more than we will ever get hooked up and we have more than this railroad can handle. Great! Perfect platform light stands. Oh yes, each one has its own electrical box for electrical hook up, locked and secured provided. Perfect! What a concept. TOL will board off mainline, with new platform lighting thanks to Rich Alexander and Steve Barkkarie.

I know you see me sitting in the car a lot, that is what you do as a GM, talk on the phone. But not so much lately since I am really into interior decorating of TOL. It is sort of like knitting to cool down problems. Interior decorating is fun. You are having a bad day, come to NCRY and do interior decorating. You will feel better when you leave. God, no tie raps. What a great concept. In some cases, just put it there, it stays. Wow, where was this theory when I was doing exterior decoration. Dr. Christmas you know. I am Dr. Nothing on interior decoration. It is Leslie Smith's Command Center that is the ruling factor with a computer. It is sort of like an umpire challenge in a baseball game. Leslie got every train we have done since we removed the slap-on method of decoration to Leslie's way of planning the way it will be done. Ma'am, yes, Ma'am! THANK YOU! What Leslie has done to that storage car is great. Anybody could get this year's interior decorated with some help from electrical. I have background in hanging wires. Leslie and Charles



The No. 7 switch being installed and track alignment by H&H.

*Photo by Dexter D. Day*



# ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

came out to make sure us newbies knew her car. You have to be in that car to know what I am reporting. We actually have backup decorations that work. If not, it will soon be working. Yes, the work goes on for the interior bunch. It is box to testing to stringing up out over seats to back to computer for brain picture of what we have ready and where it goes. Of course, if we didn't like 2014 set up, well try 2013. But it is best to go with the last year shown on computer. Yes, President Baum is heavy into it also. We have several into it. Since we started on the 9th, we have completed three cars and ready to use. The 4th one is 20 percent at this time of writing but will be completed Wednesday. That is how it goes. But this TOL is still up in the air on cars. No Lounge Car this year, trying for a substitute. Maybe, maybe not. Louie should have his dome ready to go late in October or early November. We need two days for interior. Go with what you see and not rumors. The sky is not falling. Also, come out and Help. The interior group works the lights on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The exterior is headed up by Tom Crawford and he is doing exterior lighting on Wednesday and Thursday. Hope you can lend a hand.

The No. 4 went for a little run on 9/18/15. Why? To see if it could handle the TOL. Remember what I said. Test run. We will leave it at that. It did handle the train of 13 cars ok. Engine had adjustments done to it and they wanted to test it under load. They did, and all adjustments were ok.

The Bridges will get a looking at in September. Our annual bridge

inspection will take place on the 29th and 30th. Also I have the FRA Bridge Inspector on property on September 24th. He wants to go over our paper work and Bridge management plan. Have at it. We will provide an escorted tour with the Rich Alexander motor car.

Jim Green will be inspecting the complete Train of Lights before its season operation. This is for the FRA waiver on our open cars and cabooses. That is brake inspection and lube. This puts pressure on Gerry Feeney, Kent Hedburg, and Rich Anderson who do most of the switching on our railroad. Oh yes, Jim is still trying to add more color to the 061 caboose. Now that the catwalks are done, more of the caboose is turning red.

Warren Benner decided that the UP Baggage car was looking bad. He will be doing some work on the rust holes and new paint being applied. It is not perfect, but it looks better than what it was.

H & H replaced the No.5 switch with a No. 7 switch and removed the guard rail on the South Leg of wye at Niles. You really don't realize how Caltrans screwed up this area with the change of the bridge angle across Mission. Another session will be needed to complete this puzzle. All they were concerned with was the underpass. The math for this railroad is being played out. The switch is great. The South leg will still need attention.

If you have not signed up for the Brakeman class, do so if you want to be on train crew. See ad.

The Combine roof is about ready to get put on. Hopefully when you read this, it is under way. The metal was



*Photo by Dexter D. Day*

**The new No. 7 switch installed in the Niles Wye.**

delivered. The fireproof installation is coming. It was tested with a cutting torch, no burn. I think it will be just fine. Can't wait to see that car out of the barn, but after the roof, Chris will be painting the car.

Well, that is it for this month. Hope you all can jump in and help with the TOL on days mentioned. Also work safely, watch what you do and how you do it. Until next month, hope to see you on decorating TOL or along the right of way.

**Dexter D. Day**



### E-COUPLING INFORMATION

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

**E-Mail:** [pla@ncry.info](mailto:pla@ncry.info)

**Twitter:** @toots4ncry

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

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



## **BRAKEMAN CLASS OCTOBER 24 & 25th**

**WHITE HOUSE  
0900-1600**

**MATERIAL PROVIDED.  
MUST BE IN GOOD SHAPE TO  
CLIMB LADDERS AND CRAWL  
UNDER CARS.**

**RESERVE A SPOT IN CLASS**

CALL: PAT WARREN  
CREW CALLER  
1-650/369-0414  
or email:  
traincrews@comcast.net

## **TRAIN CREW KEYS**

**Need keys for Train Crew?  
Get essential keys for  
Brakemen &  
Train operations**

**Switch Lock Key  
(for Switches)  
Old "S" key  
Gate key  
Car key, etc.**

**Key Contact:  
Derek Schipper  
818-309-3833  
or  
dereksschipper57@gmail.com  
(preferable)**

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Many of our newest members are eager to make the most of their new association with the PLA. Our 21 new members this month are Paul Cowell, Grover Sams, Rodney Melin, Scott Crislip, Travis Zupo, Lorna Jaynes, the family of Chris, Emily, Carter and Miles Berwick, the family of Douglas Dutra and Lorrenda Nunes, the family of Kimberly and Athan Coggins, the family of Gerald H. and Gerald Barton, the family of James and Corina Baber, and the family of Nichole, Eric, and Nicholas Cutler.

All they need to get them started is someone to reach out and make the introductions between each of them and whoever in the PLA can best help that new member to find his or her place in our operation. But there's a problem. Our Volunteer Coordinator has resigned. As of this writing, we are still in need of a new one. Could that be you? We just need someone with some people skills, someone who likes to get to know a lot of people and their individual interests and abilities, someone who would enjoy helping people find the activities that will be the most rewarding to them personally, while also contributing to our common mission. That guidance for new volunteers is a service that is vitally important to the PLA, as well as to the individuals who are aided in becoming actively involved. If that is a service you might like to be giving to your fellow members, please email me and find out if the opportunity is still open.

If you have already been active,

yourself, for long enough, you probably received an offer of tickets for the Volunteers Appreciation Train of Lights. Please return your request forms to me by October 10, to ensure that you will get the tickets you want. However, do not worry if you don't get your tickets right away. They usually don't get printed until shortly before the train is ready to roll, and I never start distributing the tickets until after they are printed.

The only thing better than riding the Train of Lights is having a hand in making that train possible. There is still more work to be done, both on decorating the train, itself, and on preparing the equipment and the right of way for the busy Christmas season. If you are lucky enough to live in or near the Bay Area, you can come out and be a part of this wonderful tradition. You'll find the experience is worth even more than any handful of tickets!

**Peter Midnight**



## **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. - 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

# TRAIN OF LIGHTS - 2015

What you should know

By now, the ticketing has probably gone "live" (starting Monday, 21 SEP at 10 a.m.), and the first week of sales are ALWAYS brisk! If you have friends or family who ride the trains, you should be able to tell them these things;

- The GGRM Lounge will NOT be on the train
- The Dome Car WILL be on the train
- We will have 20 operating nights for the public
- There is also a private chartered ToL this year.
- Prices DID go up bit this year (General \$30, Dome \$45)

Please encourage friends and family to ticket early, for their best chance to get seats on the train section and the evening they desire. The short link



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

Sometimes it takes at least two people to get a job done. If you like climbing ladders and always wanted to see what the tops of our cars look like, come out to Brightside and join the exterior crew on any Wednesday and/or Thursday!

to the ToL page is <http://tinyurl.com/ncrytol2015>.

Our PLA Marketing team is already gearing up, and has sent out an email to our past ToL fans to remind them of the date, so that they will be ready. Mike Roque has been working the reminder into Tweets and Facebook updates. And Chris Hauf will be working on getting our YouTube channel current and more relevant to ToL. So, there will be many folks buying tickets that first week (which is why you should get your friends to the ticketing pages sooner, rather than later).

Decorating is already underway, and we're looking for more hands to help. If you've put lights and decorations on your tree or around your house, then you're qualified to help decorate the inside of our cars! Have you been up on ladders, putting up lights around your house? If so, come learn a few new tricks to strap decorations to the outside of our cars. Decorating a quarter-mile long train takes many tens of hundreds of volunteer hours, and we only have 8 weeks to get it all done. Since we're hoping to get some

rain someday, please make some time in the next few weeks to come help us get most of the decorations ready and in place, so that we can work inside the cars if the rains come! (The decorating crews are out on Wednesdays as well as Saturdays!) Ask for Dexter Day for the "inside jobs", or look for Tom Crawford for the outside work.

Donna and Rich are preparing for the printed ticketing, and our station agents are making their plans. MoW has been reading the track, and the Mighty Arborreros have been cutting the trees back along the line, so the trees won't undo our outside decorations.

The canyon is a beautiful place to be on a fall morning. Come see, hear, and smell the magic of those fall mornings at Brightside, and help us prepare our biggest event of the year! Everyone gets to play some part in getting ready for the ToL. (Since ToL Season is "all hands on deck", this is a great time to come meet other members that you might not have met yet!)

Thank you, in advance, for the help that you'll give us this season.

**Zonker Harris**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Paul Veltman, Treasurer**  
**October 2015**

### August 2015 Report

**\$145 in donations was received for the General Fund.**  
**\$125 in donations was received for the SP 9010.**

### AUGUST PLA DONORS

**Grahame Arnold**  
**I.M. Buzzerio**  
**Robert Gladstone**

**Andrew Goodson**  
**Charles Jellison**  
**Nancy Peterson**

**Dawn Reid**  
**Jean-Pol Zundel**  
**And we thank you.**

**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.



# BLACK WIDOW DAY



*Photo by Chris Hauf*

We are going to need a bigger crossing! The SP Black Widows more than span the Kilcare Road crossing in Sunol.



*Photo by Jamie West*

The Black Widow duo, SP 5472 and SP 5623 lead the train through Farmers Crossing just west of the Sunol Depot.



*Photo by Jamie West*

Southern Pacific SD9 No. 5472 leads the train through the crossing at the west end of Brightside Yard.



*Photo by Chris Hauf*

Headed East toward Brightside... With SD-9 #5472 in the lead, the two Black Widows climb the grade along Highway 84 just west of Brightside yard.



*Photo by Chris Hauf*

Black Widows across Farwell!



*Photo by Chris Hauf*

The train departs Brightside yard to start the day.



# CLOVER VALLEY TEST RUN



*Photo by Don Buchholz*

Clover Valley Lumber No. 4 pulled a long train to Niles and back to Brightside Sept. 18 as a road test to prepare for recertification so it can return to regular use pulling fun-seekers up and down the canyon.



*Photo by Don Buchholz*

The much-beloved saddletank Mallet and the long test train it's pulling around the sweeping curve just west of Brightside.



*Photo by Don Buchholz*

A rattlesnake in the engine house is an unwelcome intruder after the September road test for Clover Valley Lumber No. 4.



*Photo by Chris Hauf*

The Niles Canyon Steam Department Crew for the #4 test run at Niles: Henry, Jeff, Alan, Kent, Chuck, Bill, Matt, Garrett, Derek and Chris (photographer).



# WORKING ON THE RAILROAD



*Photo by Donna Alexander*

Pausing for a photo op, Left to right Steve Barkkarie, Rich Alexander, Tim Barkkarie.



*Photo by Donna Alexander*

Pounding in spikes for the tie base for the curb for the new platform. Left to right Steve Barkkarie, Rich Alexander, Tim Barkkarie.



*Photo by Curt Hoppins*

Dave Lion painting the signals destined for Verona Rd.



*Photo by Donna Alexander*

Platform installing one of the new light bases for the new lighting for the new platform. Left to right Bob Pratt, Tim Barkkarie, Rich Alexander, Steve Barkkarie.



*Photo by Curt Hoppins*

Vishaal Singh restoring a gate arm bracket.



*Photo by Curt Hoppins*

Dave Lion, Vishaal Singh, and Joe Romani reconnecting gate arm lights at Bond St.



# HAZMAT NEWS

We had a hazmat inspection on Sept 3, 2015, by the Alameda County Dept. of Environmental Health (ACDEH)

We were congratulated on eliminating the "hot button" problems found during the April 2015 hazmat inspection:

1. Hazmat paperwork (HMBP, site map, emergency plans) entered into CERS online database on 3-25-2015 at ACDEH.

2. 4000-gallon underground gasoline storage tanks (USTs) legally disposed of 9-3-2015. (See attached photo)

3. 40 Waukesha etc. propane tanks legally disposed of at Kamp Propane 8-31-2015. (I kept plenty for all the NCRy cars that can use them.)

4. 36 scrap tires legally disposed of 6-23-2015, another ~10 to go soon.

5. 2 pallets of Edison passenger car lighting batteries removed from "back 40", now stored protected from weather 9-02-2015

6. Scrap forklift battery legally disposed of 8-31-2015.

7. NCRy hazwaste collection drums legally emptied 9-01-2015 by our contractor Safety-Kleen. All drums on-site properly labeled and in date.

8. Some of the old generators and other potential oil leak sources removed from "back 40" to hazmat area for draining and disposal.

9. TrackMat (long black oil-sorbent, water-repelling pads) applied to more track that needed it.

ACDEH inspector Robert Weston praised our team of people (John Zielinski handling scrap tires, Rich Alexander and the new Case forklift to move everything, MOW Crew and Gerry Feeney (and others) who put TrackMat on track areas that need drip protection, and Steve Coon, who is becoming a co-manager for hazmat) that has accomplished so much in the hazmat dept. since April.

In one week, we saved over \$1000 in rough-terrain forklift rental because the new Case forklift was great in the "back 40" on loose gravel and with heavy loads on steep grades.

#### **Final items on the cleanup list:**

Abandoned vehicles (old pickup



*Photo by Doug Debs*

**4,000 gallons of USTs leaving Brightside for legal disposal.**

trucks & SUV in the "back 40", etc.): Solutions include moving them to where any oil leaks would be detected and contained (i.e. out of the weeds, ideally on pavement), find a better home for them, or scrap.

I sent an e-mail to the PLA e-discussion list, asking for help identifying who belongs to what.

Need pink slip on vehicles to be scrapped.

Old generators and other potential oil leak sources in the "back 40"

Continue removing these from "back 40" to hazmat area for draining the oil, then disposal or store labeled "oil drained".

Fiberglass ~1000-gallon vertical cylindrical tanks

Moved in April from Shinn Street. Empty for years. Labels say that they contained chromium compounds for industrial cooling water treatment. Ugh.

We cannot legally have these tanks on the property until they have been professionally tested and certified clean. If contaminated, must be cleaned professionally - even if we want to scrap them.

I am working with an environmental firm to get these legal to scrap.

Oil-stained spots

Small patches noted near Signal

Dept. shed, behind MOW where the backhoe parks, near Mallet Shed, GGRM Kalamazoo area, etc.

Get this completely scraped up. Put in 55-gallon steel drums for disposal as "solid oily waste".

Small quantities of miscellaneous hazmat:

Being collected in the new hazmat shed by the front gate.

Inventory what we have. We'll send list to CESQG in Hayward, which is the small business version of Household Hazardous Waste drop-off. After they approve the list, then take there for disposal at a relatively low cost.

**Doug Debs**

**NCRy Hazmat Manager**

## **MONTHLY BRUSH CUTTING**

**We are always looking for  
volunteers to come out on the  
fourth Saturday of the month to  
help cut trees and brush.  
Meet at Brightside 8 a.m.**

**Contact: Steve Jones  
fcocompost@aol.com**

## WEDNESDAY → MAINTENANCE OF WAY

In the past month, a diverse amount of work was accomplished!

Dick Charpentier came in and took final measurements at Farwell (you know, measure twice, cut once) for the guardrail and deck repairs. Now lets see if that old saw really works ;-)

Up in Sunol, Steve Barkkarie has been using the CASE and CAT to dig trenches for the drainage system and the rail edge for the new loading platform! At times he has been aided by Rich Alexander, Ron Thomas, Pat Stratton, Craig Kauffman, Gregg McNaughton, Garrett Tom, Joseph Romani, Bob Pratt and even yours truly!

Karen Kadaja and Pat Hafey (with occasional help from Steve B., Gregg M., Bob P. and yours truly) did a great job of cleaning out Blake's Palace, organizing what is left by Department for easy removal and they even swept the floor! A wonder to behold ;-)

Even Dexter got into the act by transporting an old chair from the White House to the dumpster. And it's not even Spring!

While Nancy and I were vacationing in Monterey, Bob Pratt filed this report on what was accomplished while I was gone.

"Upon arrival Wednesday morning I noted that H&H was at Brightside getting ready to head to MP-30 and MP-31. Since we didn't want to get in their way, we thought we could tighten bolts going east. As Pat Stratton, Pat Hafey, Gregg McNaughton and I were getting ready to head out; Rich Alexander stopped in and asked if we could help Steve and Tim Barkkarie and him by driving spikes for the new loading platform at Sunol. We then headed off to Sunol where two of us helped with the platform project with the other two tightening bolts from Bond Street to the West Sunol switch. Kent Hedburg stopped by and asked if we had heard of a broken bolt between Brightside and Niles, which we hadn't, so this should leave a little work for next week plus tighten bolts, plus clean up after H&H."

Bob

I guess vacation was too much for me because the next Wed. I was out sick. Not to be left in the dark, Ron Thomas penned the following report for the Wed. work that was accomplished!

"We had a very productive day in the canyon today. Pat H., Pat S. Gregg M, Craig K, and I headed west to tackle the dead tie debris left behind by H&H when they replaced numerous ties west of MP 31. I estimate we picked up 90% of the ties and 70% of the small

debris. We also hand-regulated the locations from which we picked up the small debris. All the junk we picked up was then delivered to and unloaded on the growing mountain of dead ties at the Shoe-fly."

Ron

Remember that really hot spell! Well, in spite of the heat, John Zielinski worked on some tires, Ron Thomas and Pat Stratton helped Steve Barkkarie and Rich Alexander move signal



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

**It may not look like much now but this area in Sunol will be transformed into a beautiful and safe loading platform. The signal bases will be re-purposed to provide lighting in the new loading area and parking lot!**



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

**With Steve Barkkarie on the CAT and Craig Kauffman observing, Bob Pratt and Ron Thomas change the CAT from a front end loader to a pseudo-forklift by chaining a load of ties to the CATs bucket. Sometimes you just have to make do with what you have on hand.**



## WEDNESDAY – MAINTENANCE OF WAY



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

Ron Thomas guides Rich Alexander as he uses the all-terrain forklift to place a load of ties onto a flat car for transport to Sunol to become part of the new loading platform.



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

Ron Thomas and Bob Pratt “band” a bunch of PVC pipe for the trip to Sunol where they will become part of the drainage system under the new loading platform.

bases to Sunol, Bob Pratt and yours truly removed some more tie detritus from around MP-30 and Karen Kadaja continued with the inventory of things bound for the dumpster, the museum or a filing cabinet. Actually a fascinating job as she gets to recap a lot of early history of the operations in Niles Canyon and even a little of Castro Point.

Cold water was consumed at a great rate by one and all!

And then to finish off the month, even

though only five people were in attendance, we got a lot done on the final Wednesday (remember we count the days from the 20th of the month until the next 20th due to Club Car deadlines)!

Bob Pratt and Craig ferried the flat load of tie junk to the Tower of Babble at the Shoo-fly. With all the fires going on, we need to get serious about removing all that kindling!

Ron Thomas and yours truly did the

usual switching and ended up with two trains. One was to go west and the other was to be loaded with ties and signal bases (thanks to Rich Alexander and the all-terrain forklift) and taken to Sunol where Steve Barkkarie removed them. Bob and Craig had joined us by now and we all returned to Brightside to bring a load of PVC pipe and lay it out where Steve wanted it. Sunol is coming along quite nicely!

We all then took Mongo and flats to Niles and retrieved all the spikes and bolts from the removal of the guard rail. They are now nicely stacked on a couple of pallets by the MOW shed, waiting for their next call to duty.

All good things must come to an end and so did the month of September! And just before the “rain” ;-). That’s right, I did get sprinkled on as I came out of Niles Canyon but it was nothing like what fell up on Middleton. Now back to the heat for the transition to October (and Halloween!).

Until next month, play safe and have fun!

**Joe Peterson**



*Photo by Joe Peterson*

We have lift-off! A new barrel of hydraulic fluid is on its way into the Hazmat Oil Shed!

# TOL VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

It's October and all thoughts go towards our Train of Lights. Cars are being decorated, schedules are being planned, the Sunol parking lot is getting paved, and with new light poles (woo-hoo), and it's time for everyone to think about donating time to our holiday operations. As every year, we need many volunteers to operate the Train of Lights. There are so many places to help out, and if everyone reading this article could volunteer just 2 or 3 nights during the season it would make it so much easier for everyone else. And it really is a lot of fun!

Train crewing can only be done by those who have gone through the classes, but there are so many more opportunities to help. Station agents are needed at both Niles/Fremont and at Sunol in the ticket windows, in the parking lots, and helping with crowd control, telling people where to get their boarding tickets and where to line up to board the train. On the train, help is needed in the snack bar cars, making hot chocolate and hot cider, and selling the snacks. Chaperones are needed in the cars helping our passengers find seats, showing them where the bathrooms are, and where the snack bar cars are, and making sure "lapsitters" (two and under) do not take up a seat, so we have enough room for all of our ticketed passengers. We also need chaperones in our two cabooses each night and in our dome car, for our 4:30 departures

and our 7:30 departures. We need a minimum of two in the dome car: one to monitor the door to make sure only dome ticket holders go into the dome and another to rotate the passengers into the dome seats on top during the ride. A volunteer from the snack bar will also be on the dome car to give the complimentary hot cider and cookies in the car. And finally, if our workers don't want to "brown bag" their meals every operation night, we will need people to make dinner for the staff and train crew. But not only does it mean make the dinner, and deliver it to the depot, it means cleaning up at the end of the night and making sure the crocks are washed and ready to go for the next night of operation for the next dinner preparer. Rich and I are usually there every night, but it gets tiring to always be the one to take home the crocks every night, wash them, and then take them back to the depot. We usually

don't finish at home until midnight.

Just remember, for every 30 hours of volunteering you do between July 1st and June 30th, you get 1 free TOL ticket for our 2016 volunteer train. This is a good time to get all of those hours completed for next season's ride.

Also, if you haven't gotten a log in for the volunteer page on our web site, the instructions for doing that are listed in another part of the Club Car. We would like everyone to sign up online to volunteer so each department will know at a glance how many people are coming out each night. Some nights in past years we would have too many or not enough and we would never know who was coming to help. If everyone signs up online, all of the departments could see if they need to put an emergency shout out by email when volunteers are needed for a night.

Thank you,

**donna alexander**

## Instructions for Logging In on the Members' Page

1. Go to <http://ncry.org>
2. Click Member Login at the top right.
3. Click Forgot My Username/Password.
4. Enter your email address (and, optionally, your first name) and click OK.
5. The system will email you a temporary password and a link to log in.

If you need help, contact Peter Midnight, Membership Secretary, at [membership@ncry.org](mailto:membership@ncry.org).



*Photo by Mike Strider*

Teichert Construction Company will be donating approximately 1300 feet of double track mainline from the new Fairfield-Vacaville train station project. The new track is being built on the left and the old (existing) track is on the right. PLA will get the track on the right. Materials include rail, ties, and plates.



# AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative  
Henry Baum  
Dexter Day  
Don Gholson  
Jim Evans  
Gail Hedberg  
Karen Kadaja  
Dennis Mann  
Peter Midnight  
Jackie Vlasak

## MEETINGS

Donna Alexander  
Rich Alexander  
Laura Bajuk  
Henry Baum  
Bob Bradley  
Dexter Day  
Jim Evans  
John Fenstermacher  
Gail Hedberg  
Kent Hedberg  
Randy Hees  
Karen Kadaja  
Fred Krock  
Dennis Mann  
Al McCracken  
Randy Ruiz  
Derek Schipper  
Mike Strider  
Ron Vane

## CAR DEPARTMENT

Rich Alexander  
Paul Anderson  
Warren Benner  
Carlo Borlandelli  
Henry Chandler  
Tom Crawford  
Mike Duffy  
Frank Fontes  
Norm Fraga  
Don Gholson  
Rob Giles

## CAR DEPARTMENT

Pete Goodier  
Jim Green  
Jeff Haslan  
Chris Hauf  
Karen Kadaja  
Ken Lippman  
Jim McDaniel  
Bob Moore  
Denis Murchison  
Tony Peters  
Joe Scardino  
John Senf  
Charles Smith  
Leslie Smith  
Steve Van Meter

## CCRM PROJECTS

Jeff Boone  
John Zielinski

## COMMISSARY

Armano Giovacchini  
Bonnie Harrington  
Jack Harrington  
Sharron Morrison

## DOCENTS

Mike Bozzini  
Jim Evans  
Glenn Fountain  
Fred Krock  
Matt Maksel

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Donna Alexander  
Bob Bailey  
Laura Bajuk  
Doug Debs  
John Fenstermacher  
Charlotte Ferree  
Steve Ferree  
Glenn Fountain  
Norm Fraga

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Gilmore  
Bonnie Harrington  
Jack Harrington  
Fred Krock  
Ken Lippman  
Al McCracken  
Joe Peterson  
Pat Warren

## DEPOT CREW/OPERATIONS

Donna Alexander  
Rich Alexander  
Bob Bailey  
Dexter Day  
John Fenstermacher  
Glenn Fountain  
Jim Gilmore  
Dave Keene  
Ken Lippman  
Charlene Murrell  
Jack Starr  
Pat Warren  
Pete Willis

## GIFT SHOP

Rich Alexander  
Gail Hedberg  
Charlene Murrell  
Myrna Smith

## TRAINING

Rex Bothell  
Steve Jones  
Gregg McNaughton  
John Pelmulder  
Joe Peterson  
Mark Piercy  
Linda Stanley  
Jim Stewart  
Paul Veltman

## TRAIN CREW

Rich Anderson  
Ed Best

## TRAIN CREW

Kent Brezee  
Henry Chandler  
Steve Coon  
Ray Crist  
Gerald Dewitt  
Frank Fontez  
Warren Haack  
Danylo Hawks  
Kent Hedberg  
Brad Jones  
Chuck Kent  
Gregg McNaughton  
George Mednick  
Mark Miller  
Tony Peters  
Bob Pratt  
Mike Roque  
Jeff Schwab  
Alan Siegwarth  
Linda Stanley  
Pat Stratton  
Ray Strong  
John Sutkus  
Ron Thomas  
Ted Unruh  
Jeff Weeks  
Jon Williamson  
Eric Wright

## SWITCHING CREW

Rich Anderson

## BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS

Bob Bailey  
Glenn Fountain  
Ken Lippman

## ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS

Rich Alexander  
Curt Hoppins  
Dave Lion  
Joe Romani  
Paul Veltman

## MECHANICAL DEPT.

Rich Anderson  
Kenny Bischoff  
Jeff Boone  
Dave Burla  
Henry Chandler  
Dick Charpentier  
George Childs  
Doug Debs  
Gerald DeWitt  
Gerry Feeney  
Chris Hauf  
Kent Hedberg  
Chuck Kent  
Dennis Mann  
Scott Martel  
Bill Ross  
Derek Schipper  
Jeff Schwab  
Alan Siegwarth  
Linda Stanley  
Bill Stimmerman  
Howard Wise  
Eric Wright  
Bob Zenk

## MOW / TRACK

Bob Ackerman  
Rich Alexander  
Tom Anderson  
Bob Bailey  
Steve Barkkarie  
Hal Briar  
Dick Charpentier  
Rory Christy  
Dave Fontes  
Frank Fontes  
Glenn Fountain  
Pat Hafey  
Steve Jones  
Karen Kadaja  
Craig Kauffman  
Gregg McNaughton  
Phil Orth  
John Pelmulder

## MOW / TRACK

Tony Peters  
Joe Peterson  
Bob Pratt  
Pat Stratton  
Mike Strider  
John Sutkus  
Ron Thomas  
Doug Vanderlee  
Ryan Wood  
John Zielinski

## OTHER

Zonker Harris  
Barry Lependorf  
Ray Strong  
Paul Veltman

By Paul Veltman

**PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC**

Post Office Box 515  
Sunol, CA 94586-0515

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Hayward, CA  
Permit No. 188



Time Sensitive Material



*Photo by Jamie West*

Southern Pacific No. 1423, an EMD NW2, also took part in SP Day. Here, the unit runs solo through the crossing at Brightside Yard chasing the Black Widows to Sunol.