THE CLUB CAR

Bulletin 758 Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. October 2026

# Niles Canyon Railway Motorcar Department



Western Pacific M-601.

## INSIDE THIS MONTH

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The Motorcar Department is the newest addition to Niles Canyon Railway's family of departments. Its mission is to restore and operate a range of motorcars and handcars, showcasing the history and diversity of railroad vehicles. In doing so, the department offers new ways to explore railroad history, support maintenance of the Right of Way, and give the public fresh ways to experience our railroad.

The department's work centers on the Motorcar Garage located at the Brightside east end rail crossing. Built in 2024 by Doug Vanderlee using materials already on hand, the garage started as a simple shelter for the M-601, before growing into a full workshop, electrified by Steve Knoeck and largely outfitted with donated tools and equipment.

The core team includes Warren Anderson, George Childs, Whitney

**Motorcar continued on Page 8**

## MEETINGS

**BOARD MEETING**
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS MEETING**
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**
6:00 PM - Social
7:00 PM - Business

**BOARD MEETING**
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6**
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS MEETING**
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**
6:00 PM - Social
7:00 PM - Business

**All Meetings are:**
**In-person and held at:**

**Veterans Memorial Hall**
**37154 2nd St, Fremont, CA**
**(Niles)**

## CLUB CAR SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's issue of The Club Car is the

**20th OF THIS MONTH**

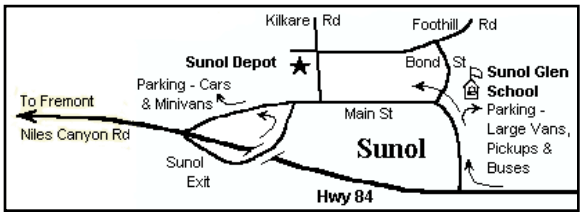
Submit articles in **WORD** format.
Submit photos in **jpg** format.
Each photo should have a description identifying the people in it, and the photographers credit.
Submit to:

**clubcar@ncry.org**

## BOARDING LOCATIONS

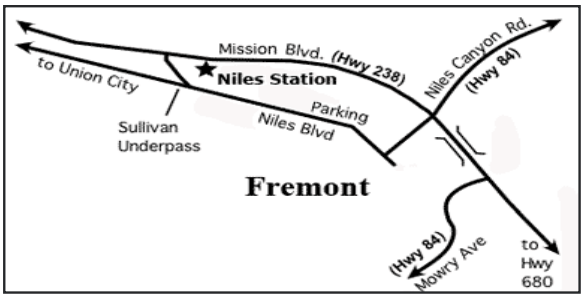
### SUNOL DEPOT

**6 Kilkare Road**
**Sunol, CA 94586**




### NILES STATION

**37029 Mission Blvd.**
**Fremont, CA 94536**
**(Niles)**




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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | Jim Stewart | (510) 299-7480 |
| Vice President | Jim Evans | (650) 697-9033 |
| Recording Secretary | Rich Alexander | (510) 508-0503 |
| Membership Secretary | Sarah Fritz | (510) 754-0355 |
| Treasurer | Steve Miller | (323) 957-5646 |
| Director-At-Large | Garon Michaelis | (925) 321-1254 |
| Director-At-Large | Mark Miller | (510) 502-8521 |
| Director-At-Large | Patrice McDonald | (408) 772-9278 |
| General Manager | Stephen Barkkarie | (510) 368-1733 |

## = = = = = = = DEPARTMENT HEADS = = = = = = =

| | |
|---|---|
| Brush Cutting | Mark Whitman |
| Car Department | Dennis Mann |
| Charter Agent / Docents | Jim Evans |
| Chief Engineer | Mike Strider |
| Club Car Editor | Barry Lependorf |
| Commissary | Doug Debs |
| Crew Caller | Jackie Vlasak |
| East Build | Stephen Knoeck |
| Gift Shop | Patrice McDonald |
| Hazmat Manager | Doug Debs |
| Maintenance of Way | Ron Thomas |
| Marketing Manager | Chris Hauf |
| Motorcar Department | Bob Pratt |
| Museum Curator | Dennis Mann |
| Public Relations | Henry Baum |
| Road Foreman of Engines | Kent Hedberg |
| Security Department | Jim Evans |
| Signal Department | Curt Hoppins |
| Station Agent | Donna Alexander |
| Steam Department Head | Alan Siegwarth |
| Steam Hosteler Training | Jeff Schwab |
| Train Master | Mark Miller |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Bob Pratt |
| Yardmaster | Stephen Barkkarie |

**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 2nd Friday of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November, at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Hall in Niles at 37154 2nd Street, (corner of 2nd St and E St). Members, Sponsors & Guests are welcome.**
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**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 HeritageRail Alliance (HRA).**

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

| DATE | DAY | EVENT | LOCATION | TIME | CONTACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2 | Friday | Board Meeting | Veterans Hall | 7:00 pm | - Jim Stewart |
| October 3 | Saturday | Building East | Brightside | 8:00 am | - Steve Knoeck |
| October 9 | Friday | Members Meeting | Veterans Hall | 7:00 pm | - Jim Stewart |
| October 10 | Saturday | Public Train | Sunol | 10:30 am & 1:00 pm | |
| October 11 | Sunday | Public Train | Sunol | 10:30 am & 1:00 pm | |
| October 17 | Saturday | Public Train | Sunol | 10:30 am & 1:00 pm | |
| October 18 | Sunday | Public Train | Sunol | 10:30 am & 1:00 pm | |
| October 24 | Saturday | Fall Campout | Brightside-West | | - Chuck Kent |
| October 25 | Sunday | Fall Campout | Brightside-West | | - Chuck Kent |

# Volunteer Report

**Charlene Murrell - Volunteer Hours Coordinator**

The people listed below reported 2,630 volunteer hours for the month of August. Volunteer hours should be reported every month to Charlene Murrell at volunteer-hours@ncry.org. Train Crew hours will continue to be collected from Train Crew log sheets in Blake's Palace. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ON THE LOG SHEETS! If I can't read your name, you will not get credit for your hours.

### ADMINISTRATION
Bob Bradley
Bob Pratt
Charlene Murrell
Chris Hauf
Curt Hoppins
Dexter Day
Donna Alexander
Henry Baum
Jackie Vlasak
James Stewart
Kent Hedberg
Mark Miller
Mary Asturias
Matt Petach
Rich Alexander
Robert Giles
Tom Eikerenkotter

### ARCHIVES & LIBRARY
Dennis Mann

### CAR DEPARTMENT
Arthur McKenzie
Bob Moore
Bruce Heron
Dean Valentine
Dennis Mann
Jacques Verdier
Jim Radkey
Joan Weber
John Bourbin
John Link
Julien Nguyen
Linda Randolph
Marshall Williams
Norm Fraga
Phil Stone
Rhonda Dijean
Steve Van Meter
Tim Flippo
Tom Crawford

### COMMISSARY
Bonnie Harrington
Dan Mills
Jack Harrington
Joanie Butler
Joseph Romani
Ron Hook
Sally Mills
Steve Ferrari
Sue Thomas

### DOCENT
James Stewart
Jim Evans
John Siebert
Ron Hook
Tom Stone

### ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS
Curt Hoppins
James Stewart
Jim Decker
Joseph Romani

### FACILITIES
Bob Bailey
Jack Harrington
Mark Whitman
Stephen Barkkarie
Stephen Meyer
Steven Brown

### GIFT SHOP
Charlene Murrell
Patrice McDonald

### MECHANICAL
Armin Haken
Bob Pratt
Charles Franz
Henry Chandler
Jeff Schwab
Karl Swartz
Kent Hedberg
Milan Reimer
Uwe Reimer
Warren Anderson
William Stimmermam

### MOW & TRACK
Adam Weidenbach
Brad Jones
Dee Murphy
Garrett Hall
Gregory Gleeson
James Moon
John Zielinski
Joseph Romani
Mark Whitman
Matt Petach
Mike Strider
Ron Thomas
Steve Hill

### OTHER
Barry Lependorf
Bob Bailey
Curt Hoppins
Dee Murphy
Kent Hedberg
Matt Petach
Patrice Warren
Ron Simmons
Steven Brown

### TRAIN CREW
Aaron Bruger
Alan Siegwarth
Alastair Young
Alyssa Cantz
Armin Haken
Brad Jones
Chad Linke
Charles Franz
Chris Chisom
Colin Snow
Curt Hoppins
Ed Best
Eliana Ward-Lev
Gabriel Gadzikowski
Gabriel Gleeson
Garon Michaelis
Gerald DeWitt

### TRAIN CREW
Henry Chandler
Jackie Vlasak
James Stewart
Jeff Schwab
Jesse Olague
Jorg Linke
Justin Legg
Kent Hedberg
Liam O'Leary
Lily Olsen
Logan Rubasky
Mark Miller
Mason Denton
Michael Stockwell
Peter Savoy
Ron Thomas
Sanjay Bhandarie
Scott Crislip
Stephen Barkkarie
Stephen Fares
Stephen Knoeck
Tim Flippo
Travis Zupo
Warren Haack
Wendy Nunn

# President's Report

Jim Stewart

We thank the Dudley Westler Trust (Dudley and Irene) for a very generous bequeathment to our railroad. Dudley was here before me but the following are a few comments from two of our PLA veterans. Jim Evans (our VP): "He was a PLA member for many years and an active participant in the early days of PLA. He was a great railfan and presented programs at many of our meetings in the 1970s & 80s. " Mike Strider (our Chief Engineer): "He was a great guy and got along with anyone. He knew his railroad history and had been a railfan for most of his life. He was always riding the train excursions in northern California in the early days of PLA, especially the ones that Henry Luna sponsored."

Moving on, we have seen another great month of train rides, restorations, and maintenance. Thank you volunteers! My wife and I enjoyed our ride on The Hot August Nights Train. It was a steam double header. And I enjoyed inspecting the signals, and being engineer on the beer train (no, I didn't drink any of the beer; but the hot dog, potato salad, and bean salad was delicious). I helped man a booth at the first annual Pours Picnics and Paws at Sunol Depot Gardens, which was held on August 22, 2026. Relations with Sunol and the other communities on our right-of-way are so important.

At the Board Meeting on Sept 4, we had reports from Henry Baum, Public Relations, and Mike Strider, Chief Engineer. Henry reported on the positions he holds at Heritage Rail, and he reported on our relationships with our local communities and with the County. Mike received board approval for the $90K for design of bridge repairs (not including the Arroyo de la Laguna Bridge, which needs reinforcement of a scoured pier).

Board approval was also given for $30K for the "Tipple Electrical" project. This was after an electrical contractor analyzed and made recommendations for the Tipple Building, and the buildings and circuits outside the Tipple that the Tipple feeds. They labeled the circuits (where they go and what they do) and recommended that we do a complete rewire, especially before we add anything more to the existing circuits. We plan to ask PG&E for a service of a minimum of 400 amps (we have 200 amps now), and 480v.

Pat Stratton and Bruce Burke have been awarded a "bonus" to the awards presented to them at the Fourth of July Picnic (they were awarded for being great volunteers); they each will get use of a caboose on the Train of Lights Test Train (the cabooses are normally empty for the test train). Others invited to the Test Train include local officials and dignitaries.

Member Victor Wong gave the presentation "Abandoned Rail to Nowhere" at the social part of the General Meeting (6PM-7PM) on September 11. For the Nov.13 General Meeting we wil have a social gathering with Bronco Billy pizza and sodas. As already advertised, the October social is (was?) Warren Haack's video "Skookum and CV-4".

We are on the countdown to our TOL Test Train November 16, 2026. Lots of preparations, including decorating, commissary training, etc. Volunteers needed!

**Jim Stewart**
***President***




*Mason Denton photograph*

**On a recent Sunday Steam operation, Alastair Young was promoted to Brakeman. Pictured alongside Alastair are Engineer Tim Flippo, Fireman Lily Olson, Road Foreman of Engines Kent Hedberg and Trainmaster Mark Miller. Alastair volunteers in the steam department as well as on train crew. A job well done!**

# Treasurer's Report

**Steve Miller**

As we begin the new fiscal year, our organization is prioritizing three major initiative projects that will drive significant progress and innovation. The first is Mike Strider's Bridge Project, a transformative effort aimed at repairing and maintaining all of our Bridges. Concurrently, Jim Stewart is leading the Tipple Building's electrical overhaul, a critical update to modernize our facilities, ensure safety, and improve energy efficiency. Additionally, we are actively exploring viable options for establishing a Fuel Depot, which will streamline our logistical capabilities and support long-term sustainability fuel storage.

All three initiatives represent substantial capital expenditures that are not currently allocated in our annual budget. As such, they will require formal Board Approval to proceed. We are committed to presenting comprehensive proposals that highlight the strategic value, expected outcomes, and financial considerations for each project. Our goal is to secure the necessary approvals efficiently while ensuring alignment with our broader organizational objectives. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with these exciting developments.

I really need everyone to submit their receipts on time. I know it's a small task, but it makes a huge difference in keeping things organized by myself and our bookkeeper. Unfortunately, we still have volunteers who are turning them in late—sometimes weeks behind or not at all. This creates unnecessary stress for me when I have to call you multiple times, especially since I'm balancing a full 50-hour workweek outside of this role. Please also to make sure that you are using the reimbursement form. There are plenty of copies at Blake's. Too many of you are still submitting receipts without this form, and I have to take my time to create them for you.

**Effective Immediately all reimbursement receipts are due no later than last day of the month WITHOUT FAIL. If you do not turn in your reimbursement receipts on time, then your expenses that you purchased will be considered a Donation. I can no longer chase volunteers, to reimburse their money for them, it takes too much of my time.**

**Steve Miller**
*treasurer@ncry.org*

# Gift Shop

**Patrice McDonald**

## Attention Train Crew Members: Need a lantern?

As we get ready for the 2026 season of Train of Lights operations,
crew members who need a lantern should request one
by sending an email to the gift shop (**giftshop@ncry.org**).
Lantern supply is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
The cost is $48.00 (battery not included).

**Patrice McDonald**

## Commissary TOL Training / Refresher Classes
## Saturday morning Nov 14
## at Brightside

**Learn about Parlor car, All Day Lunch kitchen, Snackbar Car, and Dome car opportunities.**

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Car Captains Refresh class 9:00am**
**All others check-in 9:30am, class 10-12**

**Hot lunch 12 noon**

**Help stock train 1-2**

## E-Coupling Information

Website: http://www.ncry.org
Email: To Join Members Email List, send an Email to: info@ncry.org
Twitter: @toots4ncry
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NilesCanyonRailway
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/NilesCanyonRailRoad

# Along the Right of Way

Stephen Barkkarie

Now that summer is giving way to early fall, so too do things change around the NCRy. This is when we wrap up the year's restorations and get the mainline ready for whatever winter brings. We have cracked open the storage vaults for decorations and are already in sign-up mode for the coming year-end festivities.

This year we have a lot of cars getting worked on, more than I have seen in Brightside yard for years. The cars that are needed for the train are in real push to finish. The WP315 South side window opening welding repairs are complete.(one side done, next year the North side has six or eight openings). After that all the new windows can be refitted and will be in working order, then on to interior upgrades but more about that later.

It was all-hands-on-deck for the SP2101 and, after months of preparation work, our resident color expert Chris Hauf "sacrificed" (I bet he'd rather paint than go to work anyway) a whole week of his regular job to put us over the hump to get the car looking as it should. New glass in the exterior doors has replaced the cloudy Plexiglass panels (they have been there for as long as I have been a member), the buffer plates shimmed up and new diaphragms, the car looks better than it did when it was hauling passengers up and down the peninsula. I couldn't be prouder of the effort, and she looks beautiful inside and out.

Some may remember that the SP articulated coach was attacked by rodents last year and it has been a huge effort to repair the damage, clean the cars, and exclude the little vermin. Between upholstery repairs, fumigation, sanitizing, and sealing up the entry points, volunteer Steve Brown has led a small team for months to get everything right. He reported to me that they are finished with blocking every hole they could find and for over two weeks they have finally found no signs of any remaining pests. At the same time, we have been working with Beeline glass contractors to replace a broken window that turns out to be a learning experience for all involved. When they have figured out how the seal gasket system fits together, we plan to go through and replace all the cloudy windows. Stay tuned.



*Stephen Barkkarie photograph*

**Chris Hauf sanding primer while Stephen Barkkarie masks windows.**

Our Yosemite Valley 107 RPO is in line for restoration and to get it started, project leader Uwe Reimer and his team are doing the metal repair on the roof. They have removed the drip edge to reveal the corrosion at the edges, then the roof will be media blasted,

## Along the Right of Way

**Stephen Barkkarie**

welding repairs done before a new waterproof coating is applied. A first step in preserving this unique piece of California history. As they say, the longest journey begins with the first step.

The SP7072 Wrecker/RPO is looking like a brand-new car inside, thanks to the efforts of long-time volunteer Doug Vanderlee and Joe Chavez. They have reworked the water system (the car has sinks, a toilet and can make hot water too) repainted cabinets, floor and roof. It is almost ready to serve as "camp car" for our volunteer camp-out later this month. Nice to see this car being used for something other than storage. Work continues on other cars like the Ranch, Gothic Peak, Sacramento, but the holidays demand people redirect their focus to playing dress-up on the cars.

Members got a final chance to enjoy an evening ride through the canyon on the annual "Harvest Moon" special on the last Saturday of September during the full moon. This year pulled by steam, so an extra special twilight departure from Sunol. As always, it was a memorable event. I for one feel lucky to have that kind of opportunity so close to home.

Our Eastern expansion is on hold for this year as we have reached a culvert that needs repair before the track can be replaced. Our MOW crew is rebuilding the inlet and outlet of this wooden box culvert that we first thought would need to be replaced. Upon inspection, it is in great shape, except at the end. Probably because the water that is meant to go through it has been diverted by the failure of the drainage under I-680. Now that is repaired and the run-off will now go through this structure and, a wet winter predicted, we need to button it up. The rest of the main line needs to be ready also, so October is ditch-cleaning month, and all the culverts must be checked also.



*Stephen Barkkarie photograph*

**Mark Whitman and Doug Vanderlee repair the culvert at the East end.**



*Stephen Barkkarie photograph*

**Dexter Day shows the SP 2101 ready for lettering**

There is still a chance for the public to enjoy the canyon this month with ever-popular Steam on Sundays. Then a short breather before we assemble the Jolly juggernaut for the 2026 season. Operations may take a pause, but everybody else is busy preparing. We always need help and many hands make light work. No experience necessary, we will show you what to do, fun and satisfaction included. So check your calendar, the best spots go fast, sign-up early and often. See you on the train.

**Stephen Barkkarie**
***General Manager***

# Motorcar Department

**Bob Pratt**

**Continued from Page 1**

Haist, Brad Jones, Steve Meyer, Bob Pratt and Ron Simmons, with additional support from experienced Classic Chevrolet and Fairmont Motorcar mechanics. The team works in the garage on Wednesdays, restoring and maintaining the fleet, and is planning to add a Saturday session for anyone interested in learning to maintain and operate our various motorcars.

Progress is being made on restoring the M-601 to operations. The replacement motor and transmission have been rebuilt and mounted on the chassis. We will be doing an article on the history of the M-601 and progress of its restoration in the coming months.

Our current inventory includes 5 operational motorcars, 5 non-operational motorcars, (being restored or awaiting restoration), 1 pump car, 3 velocipedes, and 1 Hy-rail pickup. Additionally, several PLA Member owned motorcars which are available for NCRy operation and marketing purposes.

On Saturday, November 7, 2026, West Coast Railroaders Group, (WCRG), will again be hosting a Public Speeder event and some of our motorcar equipment will be included. Go to the NCRY website, (NCRy.org), for more information and to purchase tickets.

Please contact Bob Pratt if you are interested in joining and/or supporting the NCRy Motorcar program.

**Bob Pratt**
***Motorcar Lead***



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**Our Motorcar garage decked out for the Train of Lights.**



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**Classic Chevy Mechanic visits with his 1928 Chevrolet truck, (a cousin to our M-601).**



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**A collection of NCRy Motorcars.**



*Brad Jones photograph*

**Restored M-601 engine.**



*Brad Jones photograph*

**Fitting the restored engine into the M-601.**

# Motorcar Department

**Bob Pratt**



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**Donated Fairmont MT19-A speeder.**



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**A train of NCRy equipment heading to Public Speeder Event.**



*Bob Pratt photograph*

**Crew car in Public Speeder Event service.**

## Public Speeder Rides

**Ride the rails the way track gangs used to in a railroad speeder car! Get closer to the railroad and ride as many maintenance-of-way and signal employees did. Each car is a different adventure! Some speeders hold several passengers and some take only one and the operator.**



**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7th**

**Ride times are:**

**9:00 AM**
**10:30 AM**
**12:30 PM**

**Rides will depart from our Niles Station. This is a round trip to our Brightside yard through the heart of Niles Canyon where the speeders will be turned for the return trip to Niles.**

**Do not miss this unique chance to ride on our Niles Canyon Railway and see Niles Canyon from a different perspective.**

**Cost is $35 per person.**

**See our website for Rider requirements.**

# Tales of the Past

Dexter D. Day

## This Month's tale:

# WHAT WAS ONCE ON TOL IS BACK

The TOL every year has become a pilgrimage of the gathering of members that decorate the TRAIN OF LIGHTS at the grey baggage car which in reality is the storage car for the Interior decorations. Around the same time, the exterior crew does the same at their exterior storage car so we can get the train ready for the yearly Niles Canyon Railway TRAIN OF LIGHTS. This tradition usually takes place in September when the temperature outside is usually around the high 80's. The blessing for the interior crew is that the interior storage baggage car is somewhat cool from the night before due to the baggage car insulation and will usually stay that way for hours.

This year, both the interior and exterior crews received a bunch of used Christmas decorations from the Joint Powers Board of CALTRAIN who was responsible for the Christmas Train that ran yearly over the CALTRAIN system. Now the train that these decorations went on no longer operates at Christmas on their system. The JPB donated all the lighted Christmas decorations to the PLA for our TRAIN OF LIGHTS. The lighted decorations all are in good condition and will be a great addition to the decorations we already have.

We also have come a complete round trip on the way we decorate part of the train's exterior. Once upon a time not that long ago, we had metal cages with screens attached. They then were decorated with Christmas decorations and then were attached to the side of the car. "Well, what goes around comes around". Yes! The new lightweight cages have returned and have been placed on the side of some of the cars that are going to get them for this year's TOL and for the years to come. This year the cages were placed on the side of some of the cars without any decorations on them. The cages are a new approach for some in decorating this train. It is definitely a different concept to what has been taking place over the past few years. It is not a new concept. We stopped using the cages on the TOL several years ago. The whole concept of using cages is to try to cut down on the time it takes to decorate this train each year and to undecorate it at the end of the TOL season. The new cages are made of a metal/plastic material which should be user friendly on the side of the cars with proper padding. The cages were placed onto the train this year to try them out. We decorated them as they sat on the car. In the future when time allows, the cages will each take on their own identity in decorations.




*Dexter Day photograph*

**The new cages for the TOL that can be decorated and used year after year.**

This concept in the long term will save time decorating and undecorating this train. Making repairs easy will be the

## Tales of the Past

**Dexter D. Day**




*Dexter Day photographs*

**ABOVE: One of the displays for this emonstration of new cages. Used JPB decorations.**

**BELOW: New cages with decoration on them and not finished yet.**




secret to the success of these cages.

The biggest problem we had in the past and needs to be addressed is the storage of these decorated panels. This time around we have a steel box car where they will be stored and the mice will not be able to chew on the wires.

Every year it seems, we have a problem putting decorations on the side of the cars, with some of the cars

**Continued on next page**



*Dexter Day photograph*

**Another set of screens on a heavy weight coach. More decorations will be added to enhance the look of screens.**

# Tales of the Past

**Dexter D. Day**

**Continued from previous page**

carrying fresh paint. You have to watch the motion that the car will create when it is rolling down the tracks when you attach Christmas decorations to the car. Each year we are pressed for time in getting this train ready for the TOL test run. Most of the cars that we use in the TOL run year-round and are not Spring chickens when it comes to age and the condition these cars are in.

Every car will come to the point that it will need new windows or work on the windows they already have as the years creep up on them. This year we have two cars down at this time.

One is for windows and the other is for new exterior paint. Chris Hauf has been trying to get the SP 2101 finished when it comes to the exterior paint. On the other side of the driveway, Bruce Burke has been working on some of the windows in the WP 315 window upgrade program. Each of these cars has been going through extensive work to get them ready for this year's train. The TOL is well into this year's decorating already.




*Dexter Day photograph*

**Cages used in the past on the sides of the cars. Failure was due to bad storage and mice.**




*Dexter Day photograph*

**Another look at the old decorated cages and big figures on side of heavy weight car.**

We still have a lot to do to get this train ready before the deadline and the test run of the TOL this year. There is always a place for extra help in getting this accomplished.

With that said, another Tale comes to an end.

**Dexter D. Day**

# Membership Report

**Sarah Fritz**

**New Members:**

Janet E Barton, Roger Cheng, Dave Clausen, Sean D Decker, Chris Goodman, Stephen Mar, Ron C Simmons, Adam Slusser, Go Sugiura, Andu Young. Welcome new members!

Train of Lights is coming up fast! Ticket request forms for the 2026 TOL Volunteer Trains were mailed out a few weeks ago now. Please keep in mind that the deadline for returning your form is October 16th. This year we had over 240 volunteers earn tickets! Tickets for the Volunteer's Trains will be distributed by mail only, so please let me know if your address has recently changed. You can email me at membership@ncry.org.

We see so many volunteers during our Train of Lights season, some of whom are Volunteer Only. If that describes you, please remember that you still need to renew your membership every year to stay active. If you are a Volunteer Only and you have questions on how to do that please send me an email.

**Sarah Fritz**
***Membership Secretary***

# Brush Cutting

**Mark Whitman**

Steve Barkarie was pretty sure that the hydraulic cylinder for the front high rail gear was bypassing so he took it apart and repacked it. However, this did not fix the problem with the boom and bucket from responding slowly so he also replaced the hydraulic pump.

I put the bucket truck on the rail prior to the Wednesday brush cutting and did some minor trimming of trees along the track at Brightside. The bucket truck seemed to perform fine until later at which point it began operating very slowly once again.

Upon a very close inspection of the bucket truck, we found an unbelievably small hydraulic filter in an obscure place. We removed the filter and it appeared like it had started to come apart, hopefully this is the problem. Steve Knoech did some research on the Baldwin hydraulic filter and discovered that they are no longer available. As of this date, he feels that he has found one from another supplier. Hopefully we will have one soon.

Wednesday August 19, with the bucket truck still down, we decided to keep working east thinning out smaller trees and trimming what could be reached from the ground. We started at the rocky fossil out cropping and worked our way east. Crew today consisted of Brad Jones, Steve Knoech, Ron Thomas and Mark Whitman.

Saturday August 22, due to the bucket truck being unavailable we picked up where we left off on Wednesday thinning out small trees and trimming what we could reach from the ground working our way east. We stopped about 500 feet shy of Pleasonton Sunol Road Crossing.

Crew today consisted of Brad Jones, Steve Knoech, Ron Thomas, John Zielinski, Adam Weidenbach, and Mark Whitman.

**Mark Whitman**
***Brush Cutting lead***

**SCREENING ONE TIME ONLY**
**MEMBER'S MEETING**
**FRIDAY OCTOBER 9**
**6 PM SHARP**
**VETERANS HALL - NILES**




Archival footage of CV-4 in logging service, restoration of the Skookum, and other steam ops including the #2472, and a quadruple header are among the treats awaiting you in this special film presentation. This is truly a film about our own railroad, its history, and a look at many unique events the PLA has hosted. See the inside of a steam locomotive, and learn how it functions. See images of restoration. Join us to relive the past on the Niles Canyon Railroad!





# Train of Lights 2025: Time to get Ready
# Training for all TOL Commissary volunteers is on Saturday, Nov 14, 2026

For ALL our Train of Lights Commissary volunteers (or people thinking about volunteering for Commissary): there will be training sessions on Saturday, November 14. Training will be at the NCRY Brightside yard. This is located at 5550 Niles Canyon Road (Highway 84), about 4 miles east of Mission Boulevard in Fremont and 2 miles west of our Sunol Depot in Sunol. We expect to be done by noon, so you can stay for lunch (nominal donation suggested). Please RSVP to myself or Doug Debs (emails below) if you are coming!

**Meeting No.1 for all Captains only:** meet at 9:15am for refresher and updates. This is for ALL new and returning Commissary Captains, Dome Car Captains, Parlor Car Captains and Cocoa Captains. Meet at the Commissary shed (at the east (Sunol) end of the yard). If you have worked commissary as a crew member on TOL twice or more, and want a "promotion" to captain, please come to this meeting.

**Meeting No. 2: All volunteers who are NEW to TOL Commissary please come at 10:00 am**, meet at "Blakes Palace" at the west end (Niles end) of the yard. There will be someone at the gate to direct you. If you have volunteered before and want a refresher, you are welcome at the 10:00 am session too. After the training, we ask those who can, please stay and stock the train. We expect to end by noon.

The 10:00 am training includes a walkthrough of all the commissary locations on the train, description of each job at each location (from experts who have done it successfully and have maybe learned the hard way). Plus we will look at the location of all commissary supplies in the yard, and we will learn how to provision the train (by doing it!).

You may skip this training this year IF you have (1) previously attended a training session, (2) filled out the Liability Release Form, (3) feel comfortable to follow all safety rules AND (4) have already volunteered in the area you want to sign up for.

All volunteer spots for TOL are now live on the NCRY web page. If you forgot how to sign up to volunteer, instructions are included. We hope you are so jealous of the TOL volunteers that you want to sign up and do it yourself this year! For those who have done this before, we hope you enjoyed working on the TOL so much last time that you are eager to sign up and do it again this year.

If you have any questions at all, please email either Dave or Doug. We are happy to help you.

**Dave Hipple**
David.hipple.live@gmail.com

**Doug Debs**
dougdebs2472@yahoocom

# How to Sign up to Volunteer for Train of Lights (TOL) Opportunities

Go to **www.ncry.org**.

Click on **Members' Website** under **About.** You do not need to log in as a member for commissary helper opportunities, or dome and parlor cars helpers. You only need to be an NCRY member if you want to sign up for any of the captain positions for commissary (cocoa, dome, or parlor captains), or be Santa. Note that for the captain positions, you also need to have been a helper in that area.

Click on **Volunteer Opportunities** under **Volunteer**. You'll see the volunteer spots listed by job locations, such as TOL Parlor Car Crew, Commissary Crew, etc. Scroll down past the "Search for Opportunities" entries. You may need to go to subsequent pages to see the spot you are looking for.

Look for **2026 TOL** opportunities. To sign up, click on the **green Volunteer button** to the right of the opportunity.

Put in your name, email address, and phone number at the top of the page. Then scroll down and choose which date(s) you want to volunteer, and check the box on that date.

Scroll to the bottom and click **Add this Volunteer**.

It will look like you have to put in your information again, but don't.

Scroll to the bottom again and confirm that the system is reporting accurately the dates you signed up for, and click **I'm Done Adding Volunteers**.

It will again show what you signed up for. Then click **Finish and Save**. **If you do not click Finish and Save you will not be signed up**. To make sure you signed up successfully, you can go back to the list to see if your name is listed (click on the ellipsis icon next to the green "volunteer" button).

Record your sign up dates on your personal calendar so you don't forget! You will get an email with all the details to remind you.

Need help? Contact Dave or Donna and they can walk you through to sign up.

Dave Hipple
**david.hipple.live@gmail.com**
925-321-5958

donna alexander
**station-agent@ncry.org**
510-996-8420

# 2026 Train of Lights Schedule

4:30 PM Trains depart from the Niles / Fremont Station and return at 6:00 PM

7:30 PM Trains depart from the Sunol Depot and return at 9:00 PM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nov 16 | Monday | Test Train Niles - 6:00 PM |
| Nov 20 | Friday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Nov 21 | Saturday | Niles Public Train - 4:30PM / Volunteer Train - Sunol -7:30 PM |
| Nov 22 | Sunday | Volunteer Train - Niles - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30PM |
| Nov 23 | Monday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Nov 27 | Friday | Sunolian Train - Sunol - 7:30 PM (Date Not Confirmed) |
| Nov 28 | Saturday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Nov 29 | Sunday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| | | |
| Dec 1 | Tuesday | Charter - Niles - 4:30PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 2 | Wednesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 4 | Friday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 5 | Saturday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 6 | Sunday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 8 | Tuesday | Charter - Niles - 4:30 PM / Charter - Sunol - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 9 | Wednesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 11 | Friday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 12 | Saturday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 13 | Sunday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 15 | Tuesday | Charter - Niles - 4:30PM / Charter - Sunol - 7:30PM |
| Dec 16 | Wednesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 18 | Friday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 19 | Saturday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 20 | Sunday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 21 | Monday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 23 | Wednesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 27 | Sunday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 28 | Monday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 29 | Tuesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |
| Dec 30 | Wednesday | Niles Public Train - 4:30 PM / Sunol Public Train - 7:30 PM |

# NILES CANYON RAILWAY

**PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**
Post Office Box 515
Sunol, CA 94586-0515

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
**PAID**
Hayward, CA
Permit No. 188

Time Sensitive Material



*Chris Hauf photograph*

**Chris Hauf took this past week off from his job and has spent every day working on SP #2101 to get it into its Southern Pacific 'Dark Olive Green". Thanks also to everyone that has helped him this week, and to get the car this year to this state. It took a village! We just have the east vestibule to paint and then we can start to re-assemble the car. Lettering will come at a later date.**