THE CLUB CAR

Bulletin 759 Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. November 2026

The Hot August Nights train was a doubleheader



Alan Siegwarth photograph

Sunset on a doubleheader in Niles. The sun reflects off the locomotives as the #3 runs around the train.

INSIDE THIS MONTH

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STACKTALK - The 2026 Hot August Nights train was added as a steam run this year after the steam department volunteered to operate steam for the event. As we discussed the operation, the idea to run a doubleheader cropped up as the #4 had time before its required annual and the #3 was starting its year of service – a surprise doubleheader was in the works! The department rallied a large crew of volunteers over several weeks to take care of twice as many things that needed to be done to get our two steam engines ready to run. This work included several weekdays of switching the shop tracks to get the engines on one track for the operation.

On the day of the event, the large amount of work to get both engines ready was made easier by not having a time crunch to get to Sunol in the morning – we even were able to come up with alternative plans for electrical

Stacktalk continued on Page 8

MEETINGS

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

BOARD MEETING
NO DECEMBER MEETING
7:00 PM
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
MEMBERS MEETING
NO DECEMBER MEETING
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

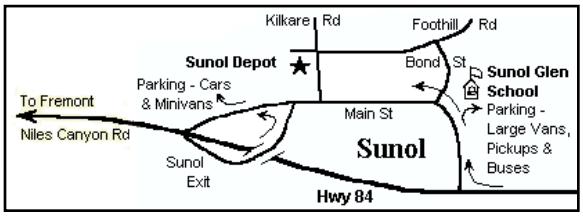
Submit articles in **WORD** format.
Submit photos in **jpg** format.
Each photo should have a description identifying the people in it, and the photographers credit.
Submit to:

clubcar@ncry.org

BOARDING LOCATIONS

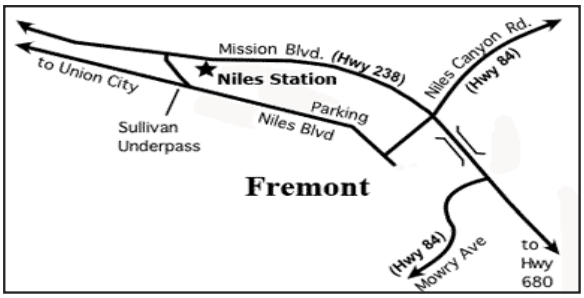
SUNOL DEPOT

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	Henry Baum
Charter Agent / Docents	Jim Evans
Chief Engineer	Mike Strider
Club Car Editor	Barry Lependorf
Commissary	Doug Debs
Crew Caller	Jackie Vlasak
Diesel Departmnt	Mason Denton
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
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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
Technology	Matt Petach
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 .
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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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The Pacific Locomotive Association is a member of the HeritageRail Alliance (HRA).

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

DATE	DAY	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT
November 6	Friday	Board Meeting	Veterans Hall	7:00 pm	- Jim Stewart
November 7	Saturday	Building East	Brightside	8:00 am	- Steve Knoeck
November 7	Saturday	Public Speeder Rides	Niles	9:00 am	- Bob Pratt
November 8	Sunday	Private Speeder Runs	Niles	6:00 am	- Bob Prtatt
November 11	Wednesday	MOW	Brightside	7:30 am	- Ron Thomas
November 13	Friday	Members Meeting	Veterans Hall	7:00 pm	- Jim Stewart
November 14	Saturday	TOL Commissary Training	Brightside	9:40 am	- Doug Debs
November 16	Monday	TOL Test Train	Niles	6:00 pm	
November 18	Wednesday	MOW	Brightside	7:30 am	- Ron Thomas

Volunteer Report

Charlene Murrell - Volunteer Hours Coordinator

The people listed below reported 2,665.5 volunteer hours for the month of September. 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
Mary Asturias
Matt Petach
Pat Stratton
Rich Alexander
Steve Mar
Steve Miller
Tom Ekerenkotter
James Stewart
Mark Miller

ARCHIVES & LIBRARY
Dennis Mann

CAR DEPARTMENT
Bob Moore
Bruce Burke
Bruce Wonnacott
Charles Wonnacott
Dave Hipple
Dean Valentine
Dexter Day
Donna Alexander
Joan Weber
John Bourbin
John Link
Julien Nguyen
Linda Randolph
Marshall Williams
Norm Fraga
Peter Barnett
Phil Stone
Raphael Moll
Steve Mar
Steve Van Meter
Sue Thomas
Tom Crawford
Tracy Ireland

COMMISSARY
Dan Mills
Dan Thomas
Faith Faberman
Jack Harrington
Bonnie Harrngton
Sue Thomas

DOCENT
Tom Stone

ELECTRICAL & SIGNALS
Brian Ireland
Curt Hoppins
James Stewart
Steve Knoeck

FACILITIES
John Zielinski
Stephen Barkkarie

GIFT SHOP
Charlene Murrell
Patrice McDonald

MECHANICAL
Alastair Young
Ben Kolligs
Bob Pratt
Brian Ireland
Charles Franz
Chuck Kent
Henry Chandler
Jeff Haslam
Karl Swartz
Matthew James
Stephen Meyer
Warren Anderson
William Stimmerman

MOW & TRACK
Ben Kolligs
Garrett Hall
Gregory Gleeson
John Zielinski
Mark Whitman
Matt Petach
Mike Strider
Ron Thomas
Steve Hill

MOW & TRACK
Steve Knoeck

CLUB CAR
Barry Lependorf

OTHER
Brian Ireland
Dee Murphy
Matt Petach
Patrice Warren
Stephen Mar
Steve Knoeck

TRAIN CREW
Alan Siegwarth
Alastair Young
Alyssa Cantz
Brad Jones
Chuck Kent

TRAIN CREW
Colin Snow
Emanual Petrisor
Gabriel Gadzikowski
Garon Michaelis
Henry Chandler
James Stewart
Jeff Schwab
Jesse Olague
John Link
Jorg Linke
Mark Miller
Mason Denton
Michael Stiber
Michael Stockwell
Sanjay Bhandari
Steve Knoeck
Warren Haack
Gabriel Gleeson

Train Crew Need a lantern?
Train of Lights crew members who need a lantern should request one by sending an email to the gift shop.
giftshop@ncry.org
The cost is $48.00
(battery not included)

President's Report

Jim Stewart

We apologize for another year where lots of people had trouble getting Train of Lights tickets. The volume of ticket-buyers has overrun the FairHarbor ticketing system for the past couple of TOL seasons. The TOL sells out for the season very quickly. We are victims of our own success! It is a difficult problem to solve. Maybe I will call Taylor Swift about it. Even if she has no solution, we can at least commiserate.

Or maybe we should just blame our "Father Christmas", long-time member Dexter Day, for all this success. He started it all, and is still out there helping and directing. He certainly has an eye for holiday light decorations! Thank you, Dexter! You have made a huge contribution to our organization. And thank you Dexter for your "Tales of the Past" in our Club Cars.

Thanks to all that decorate the Train of Lights! And thanks to all our volunteers, for car and engine restoration, track maintenance, laying track toward Pleasanton, brush cutting, diesel ops, steam ops, signals, ticketing, marketing, Club Car, commissary, gift shop, special events, volunteer coordination, parking, and so much more, and thanks to my fellow Board members for keeping the railroad going, and growing. A good place to keep up with some of this progress is our Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/NilesCanyonRailway.

At the last Board Meeting, Mason Denton was appointed head of the Diesel Department. Thank you, Mason. This was done after consulting with the main stakeholders for the Diesels, who have been de facto heads of the diesel operations as of late. Thanks to them for their many years of maintaining our diesel engines, and they continue to do so: Gerry Feeney, Tim Flippo, Howard Wise, and Kent Hedberg (Road Foreman of Engines). And thanks to you others that keep our diesel engines going!

Garon Michaelis (Director at Large) has been appointed Chairman of the Collections Committee. Also, Henry Baum is now the head of the Car Department; thank you Dennis Mann for your many years as head of this department! And Brian Hitchcock is now our archivist; he will coordinate with Dennis Mann, Museum Curator, who will continue as Curator for acquisitions and disposal of materials. Thanks Brian!

The latest version of the Bylaws is now posted on the Members Website, for the February 13, 2026 revision that was passed back then. The latest revision basically says that a Bylaws change now requires only a 2/3 vote of the Voting Members that cast a ballot. No quorum requirement.

My wife Pam and I enjoyed our ride on the Harvest Moon Train, sometimes called The President's Train. This is a train for members. There was a beautiful full moon - a harvest moon! Thank you Head-of-Docents Jim Evans (our Vice President), for mentioning "The Presidents Train" in your narration. It inspired a certain lady to present me a delicious Vietnamese cooky! Lots of nuts. I like nuts.

The Harvest Moon Train was pulled by steam, on the uphill part of the run. Diesel took us on the downhill part of the run. We first went east to end of track and then West to Niles. I grew up with steam, so steam always brings back great memories. It dawned on me that most of the people on the train did not grow up with steam, but they love it too. This remined me that we are not just a bunch of volunteers that love working on trains; we provide something to the public that they see as history to be persevered and enjoyed, like we do.

Thank you, Warren Haack, for presenting your DVD "Skookim and "CV-4" at the last Members Meeting Social Hour. It got rave reviews.

There are no meetings in December, because virtually everyone is working on the Train of Lights. Also, the first Friday 2027 is New Year's Day, so in January we will have just a Board Meeting, on January 8 2027; no Members Meeting in January.

Enjoy the Holiday Season! Don't work too hard. There will be rest after December 30.

Jim Stewart
President

TOL Traincrew Orientation Refresher Class

Sunday 11/15
Meet at White House

9:00am to 10:00am: Conductors
10:30am to 12:00 Noon: Brakemen

Review of TOL train operations
with current updates for this year's operations.

Great way for everyone to have the same information
at the start of the season!

"Refresher classes will be held Rain or Shine!"

Treasurer's Report

Steve Miller

The Pacific Locomotive Association has successfully concluded another regular Summer Season of excursion runs prior to the Train of Lights holiday season, and the results speak for themselves. Not only are we ahead of budget for this early fiscal year, but we are also in a strong financial position to meet any challenges that may arise between now and the end of the year. This stability provides a solid foundation as we look toward the future.

In the spirit of gratitude, we would like to recognize a generous donation from the Dudley Westler Trust to the PLA. Longtime members of our community may remember Dudley, a cherished figure who passed away many years ago. Before his death, he established a trust to be distributed upon the passing of his wife, who also passed away in recent months. Her passing has now triggered the distribution of the trust, which includes a remarkable bequest to the Pacific Locomotive Association.

The trust has donated more than $770,000 to the PLA, a generous and unexpected gift that has brought joy to many. The timing of this donation could not have been better, as it arrives just as we face several significant capital expenditures. Projects such as the Bridge Repair, the Tipple Building Electrical upgrade, and the Fuel Depot initiatives will benefit greatly from this financial boost. Thanks to the Dudley Westler Trust, the PLA is well-prepared to tackle these important projects in the coming months.

Please get in your receipts and reimbursement requests on time. Please send them to Treasurer@ncry.org, or put them in the Treasures cubby at Blake's Palace. Thanks to all the Volunteers that work so hard to make the Pacific Locomotive Association, and Niles Canyon Railway a Success!!!

Steve Miller
treasurer@ncry.org

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!**

Returning & new Car Captains. New info will be discussed. Meet 9:00am in Parlor Car.

New commissary volunteers; also **refresher class** for returning commissary folks who'd like to attend (it always helps!). Check-in 9:40 at Blake's Palace, meet at Dome Car entrance.

11-12 noon Stock the train

12 noon Hot Lunch next to Blake's Palace

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

There is no better way to end the operating season than with a train full of people enjoying a steamy Sunday afternoon during an Indian Summer in Sunol. Standing on the platform, I could smell the coffee from across the street when the whistle echoed up the canyon and the train sauntered up to the platform for the run-around. The platform is full of people grabbing a photo in front of the engine, or picking up tickets, or grabbing a memento, as they cut-away the #3, and I snuck down to the snack bar car for a grilled hot dog (they sold it to me right out of the cargo door). A perfect Sunday brunch. El Nino may threaten a wet winter, but it sure brought a warm sunny day for the Robert Dollar 3 to pull the last two fully loaded trains of the regular season and set us to full steam ahead on preparations for the annual Train of Lights.

For several months, crews work each Wednesday, one team inside and one team outside, car by car, transforming a run-of-the-mill railcar into a bit of holiday magic. This year we are bringing back some ideas used in the past to hang lights as well as our custom techniques developed over the years. We were gifted a bunch of decorations from the Caltrain Christmas train that will add some new bling and through the miracle of LED lighting we can hang all the lights we want without overtaxing the generators. (Yes, we use multiple power plants to spread the load and create redundancy because we employ lower voltage than a common trainline which increases the amperage at the connectors and that, as we have learned through experience, can weld your connectors together.)

As the start date inches closer, it always comes right down to the wire. Everybody knows by now about the SP2101 paint job, which looks great, but getting color on it is not the end of the story. As soon as the masking came off, we got to work hanging the vestibule doors(with fresh paint and new window glass), attaching the latches and trap catches and installing a new old stock diaphragm on the buffer arch. Then, we can carefully hang decorations on the freshly painted car body without them touching anywhere. No problem. Another last-minute repair is for the cracked window in the Articulated coach, which our friends at Beeline glass have agreed to have a go at replacing as I mentioned last month. After a couple tries, I think they got it. Fingers crossed.



Stephen Barkkarie photograph

A rare glimpse of Chris Hauf in his natural environment.

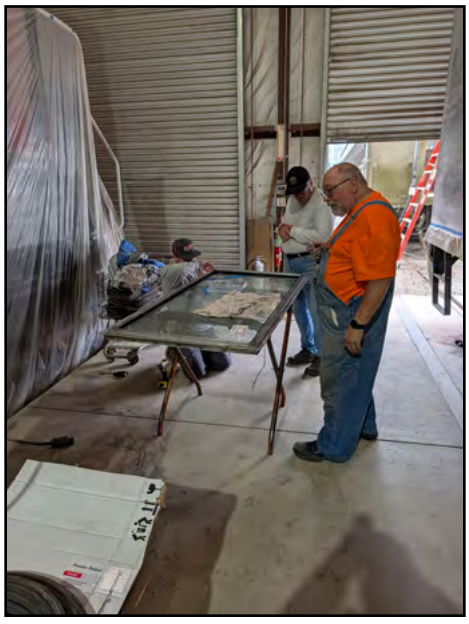
October is traditionally when MOW forces clear culverts and ditches for the winter rains. With this year's prediction of a wetter than normal year, we cannot be too ready. The Hi -rail backhoe sure comes in handy for that work, I don't know how we got along before we had it.(Maybe that is why we own so many shovels). Another important task that has been going on is bolt tightening, where a wrench is put on every joint bar bolt to check the torque. In doing this work, several bolts have been found

Along the Right of Way

Stephen Barkkarie

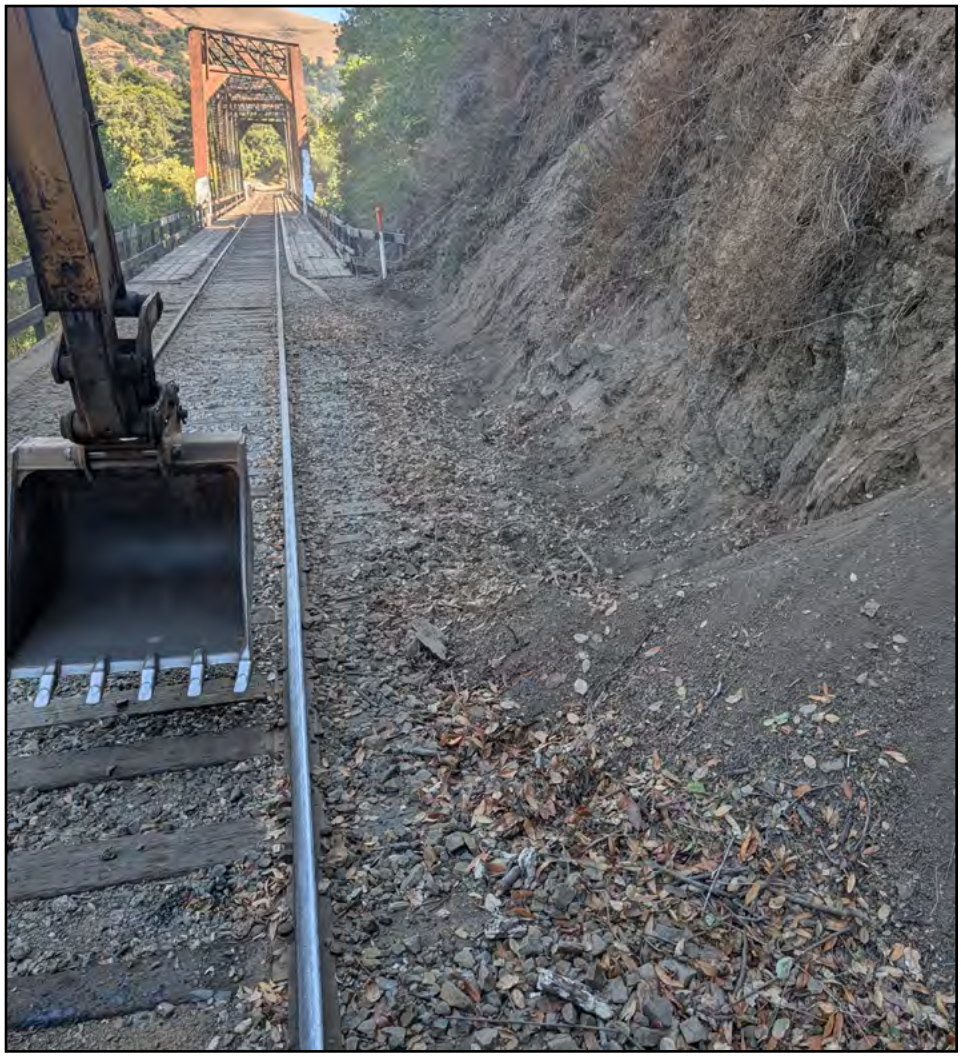
to spin in their holes and that means there is no way they hold tension on the rail. You must change them. Now while bolt tightening is tedious work it requires crews to walk the length of the tracks and give them a close look at the condition of each joint and tie. That lets you find any issues before they become a problem.

October also brought the third annual "Members camp-out" weekend, where a small special consist carries members over the whole right-of -way for a tour from end to end on Saturday, then the train parks at Mayborg Station in the middle of the big curve MP32.5, across the creek from "the Spot"(an historic camping site in the canyon off Hwy. 84). This year a dinner was catered for the group, and they played games and watched a railroad themed movie under the stars. It's the NCRy twist on a drive-in movie. Attendees can bivouac in either the PFC boxcar, under the stars(my preference personally), or in the refurbished SP7072 "Wrecker" car (it is clean and freshly painted inside with its own generator, toilet, sink and coal stove that heats water). Though it's brisk in the morning it's a great way to enjoy our wonderful mainline a different way and reward our dedicated volunteers with a unique experience with their RR friends.



Stephen Barkkarie photograph

Henry Baum and Steve Brown supervise the refit of the Articulated window repair.



Stephen Barkkarie photograph

Ditch cleaning near Farwell bridge with the HI-rail CAT backhoe.

This month the holiday season begins for us and hosts the final speeder run of the year on the first weekend. By the time this comes out the speeder tickets have already been on sale to the public. TOL tickets sold out in no time again, not without issues, though we did improve our website's ability to withstand the onslaught without crashing. As the saying goes, "you can't make all the people happy all the time" but we do try to make those who get tickets have a memorable experience. Part of that experience depends on all of us signing up to work on the train. Sign-ups are live on the members site, please mark up for as many nights as you can. I know I look forward to being there for every run. (I say that every year, maybe this year I can do it!) Hope to see you onboard.

Stephen Barkkarie
General Manager

Stacktalk

Alan Siegwarth

Continued from Page 1

power as needed since there was a PG&E outage at Brightside.

The sold-out train was well received by our patrons who stayed in Sunol well after the train returned to the station to enjoy the sights, sounds and smell of steam railroading at night. As the crew serviced the locomotives our passengers asked a lot of questions and wherever we looked there were a lot of happy faces. The Hot August Nights Doubleheaded Steam Train was a lot of effort by many volunteers but a fun night was had by all.

Alan Siegwarth
Steam Department



Alan Siegwarth photograph
Fireman Gabe has a big smile on the Robert Dollar 3.



Alan Siegwarth photograph
Chuck Kent and Henry Chandler are all smiles in the cab of the Clover Valley #4.



The Robert Dollar #3 and Clover Valley #4 water in Sunol after the Hot August Nights.



Alan Siegwarth photograph
Jeff Schwab lubricating the Clover Valley #4.

Gift Shop News

A Holiday Tradition Continues…..

We are pleased to announce that we will be continuing the wonderful tradition of raffling a beautiful, handmade quilt generously created and donated by the talented members of Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Southern Alameda County.

We look forward to the quilt raffle as it has become a special part of our holiday season, adding excitement to the festivities while helping support Pacific Locomotive Association and Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Southern Alameda County. We are grateful to the quilt guild for sharing their time, talent, and creativity to make this tradition possible.

Please join us in thanking them for their continued generosity and for making our Train of Lights even more special.

We look forward to another successful season and to seeing who will take home this year's beautiful quilt.

Stacktalk

Alan Siegwarth



Alan Siegwarth photograph

The Robert Dollar #3 and Clover Valley #4 sit on the same shop track.



Alan Siegwarth Photograph

All coupled up to the train and ready to leave Brightside!



Alan Siegwarth Photograph

The two locomotives watering in Sunol.



Alan Siegwarth photograph

The Robert Dollar #3 and Clover Valley #4 water in Sunol after the Hot August Nights Doubleheader.



Alan Siegwarth photograph

Chris Hauf, Jeff Schwab and Gerald DeWitt take a moment to rest while the #3 is slowly building steam.

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:

IS PICTURES OF THE PAST

This month, I will be doing a different approach to the Tales of the Past because of timing on my part.

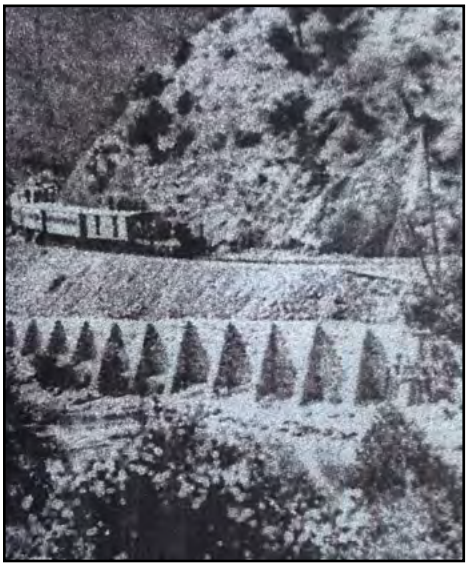
We have new members and some of our older members will get enjoyment seeing some old pictures of our past at both Castro Point, the equipment in transition and early Niles Canyon railway. In this month's tale, you will get to see some old pictures of Castro Point and the move out of Castro Point to the Oakland Terminal Railway. Then the move to the Niles Canyon Railway and its early days.

Enjoy the pictures and the comments that go with them. This will be the completion of this month's tale. Hope everyone has a good month and will have a chance to enjoy seeing and riding on this year's TRAIN OF LIGHTS which will be doing its test run this month to kick off a new season for this train.

Dexter D. Day



The train is at Ushers place as it sits today. Dresser bridge in background. Foundation of bridge to San Jose at bottom.



The China wall at MP 32.9 which still stands. Now it is home to Poison Oak.



This was home. The Sunol operation of NCRY in the beginning.



First rails East out of Bond Street. Mike Strider is directing a rail to place it.

Tales of the Past

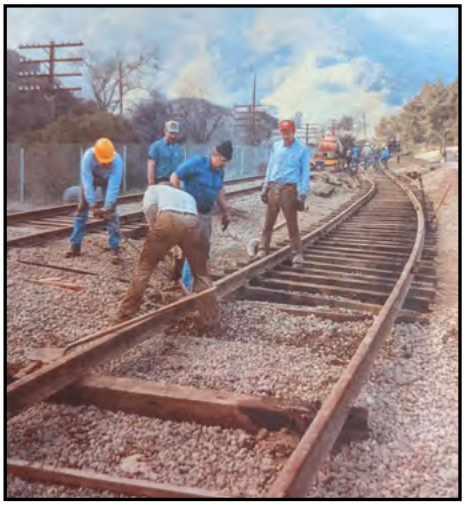
Dexter D. Day



The big hole at Brightside being filled in by Firma.



This was the last run on the CPRY. It was time to pack up and leave the railway.



Track crew getting track laid and secured on passing siding Brightside.



Track crew approaching Farwell Bridge which would change how we were regulated.



Working on the right of way in getting the track laid for the first phase.



Last train from Castro Point. Heading for storage at Oakland Terminal Railway rented track. Louie Bradas engineer in 713.

Tales of the Past

Dexter D. Day

Continued from previous page



From our first walk of the right of way before we got the contract from County. East Switch to Tipple.



Switch for the tipple as we found it. The mud has done its course.



No. 3 wide open racing the UP challenger. Really! Like an ant racing an ant eater. But it was fun.



First train to carry residence of Niles out of Niles on a Train ride on NCRY.



Construction Photo of Western Pacific Railroad Building Embankment Toward Verona.



Mark Whitman and Rich Gill taking down the tanks on the Tipple. "Boom truck! Hit it"!



The entrance to "Joy Land Park" at the Farwell Bridge. When the bridge washed out the park was done.



In the beginning, this was the first consist of the train that was run for the public at Castro Point.



Return of the first train stopping at Joy Land Park on return to Niles Junction from trip to MP 33 & China Wall.

Membership Report

Sarah Fritz

New Members:

René Aguirre, Luke Allen, Amelia Coplan, Wilma Coplan, Richard T Davis, Prachi Goankar, Rivan Goankar, Ganesh Kaushik Gurumoorhty, Terry K Hoppins, Tamara Hull, Brian Januzzi, Arathi Jayaraman, Aadithya Kaushik, Akshara Kaushik, Krysten A Laine, Mike Partsaf, Sergei Pushnof, and April Vincent. Welcome to the Niles Canyn Railway!

Hello November! You know what that means…the Train of Lights Volunteer's trains are just weeks away! By the time this Club Car comes out, the October 16th deadline for returning your TOL ticket request form will have passed. But don't panic! I understand that life gets busy and plans change so if you haven't sent your TOL ticket request form back and you want to get your tickets, I will still take them. But please, send in your form as soon as you finish reading my article so I can accommodate your request as quickly as possible.

For those who have already returned their forms, you should have received a confirmation email from Niles Canyon Railway for the date/time you chose. Please let me know if you sent in your request but have NOT received this email confirmation. You can reach me at membership@ncry.org.

Reminder—tickets for the volunteer trains will be mailed out. You do not need to check in with the ticket window before your board.

Sarah Fritz
Membership Secretary

Brush Cutting

Mark Whitman

Brush cutting for September 23. We headed to an area between Farwell and Dresser Bridge to take care of a small tree that had fallen on the uphill slope. This is in the vicinity of all the wheel sets on the storage siding. Once we completed this task Ron Thomas had reported some branches getting close to the train about 100 feet west of the Farmers Crossing. They were overhanging oak limbs and several branches from the oleander bushes along side of the track. After completing this task, we headed to the area between Thompson's Crossing and Pleasanton Road. We have been working in this area the last several times without the bucket truck. Now that the bucket truck is repaired, we will need to go back over the areas and do all the aerial trimming that we could not reach from the ground. Crew today consisted of Steve Knoech, Brad Jones, James Moon, Mark Whitman, and Ron Thomas.

On Saturday, September 26 we picked up where we left off doing arial trimming and continued our way east. Crew today consisted of Brad Jones, Ron Thomas, Miles Wade Sr., Miles Wade Jr., and Mark Whitman.

On Sunday, October 4 we tackled another project that I wanted to complete for a long time. It was to add some concrete crossing panels to the edge of the track at the west end of the siding at Niles. This was to make it much easier for people arriving with their speeders to unload them from their trailers. We had to add some asphalt grindings to the edge of the track to make it wide enough for the concrete panels to sit on. We added some water to the asphalt grindings and used an air powered tamper for compaction. See attached before and after photos. Crew today consisted of Bob Bailey, Matt Petach, Doug Vanderlee, and Mark Whitman.

Mark Whitman
Brush Cutting lead





Car Department News

Steve Brown and Julien Nyuyen successfully sealed S.P. 2473-2474 Articulated Chair Car against mice! This took months of detective work to find the entry points, maintain traps to detect "unauthorized entry", and seal every entry point – many of which were not obvious. The traps have stayed empty now for months!

Doug Debs



Doug Debs photograph

Julien Nguyen and Steve Brown installing new anti-skid tape on SP 2473-2474 Articulated Chair Car.



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

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

Help Get Us Started Battery Fundraiser – Update

It has been ~2 months since we wrapped up our successful "Help Get Us Started" locomotive battery fundraiser. Our goal was to raise $30,000 for three sets of batteries to go in Southern Pacific #1218, U.S. Army #1856 and Western Pacific #918-D. Well, we were more than successful raising over TWICE our goal with nearly $62,000.00 raised.

We had two $30,000 donations. One anonymous and another by member, Don Pomplun. Don was kind enough to donate the money in honor of his two fellow volunteers, Carlo Borlandelli and Warren Benner, both of which are no longer with us. Carlo and Warren were a constant team working on a variety of projects for many years across the museum. From the interior of the M200 to the new Ipe wood flooring (They are pictured here installing that floor.), their impacts were felt and are still felt across the museum. Thank you Mr. Pomplun for honoring your friends and our fellow volunteers!

As for progress, our Diesel Locomotive Department now led by Mason Denton has the first set of batteries on order for the WP #918-D. Other sets will follow in the coming months as time and resources allow. We do not want to have batteries just sitting. We want to get them and have them installed ASAP. The added funds will let us consider the purchase of batteries for other locomotives along with other diesel engine improvements the team wants to make.

We cannot thank everyone for their generosity in helping us reach over TWICE our goal! Thank you so very much, and we look forward to sharing our engines getting started soon!

Chris Hauf
Marketing Manager



Chris Hauf photograph

Warren Benner (left) and Carlo Borlandelli (right) work on installing the new Ipe wood deck on the K.C. Bones open car in the spring of 2015.



Chris Hauf photograph

Always a team…Along with Jim Green in the foreground, we found Carlo Borlandelli (middle left) and Warren Benner (on the ladder far) helping Jim after his repaint of the roof of one of our Santa Fe cabooses. Member, Don Pomplun, donated $30,000 to our 'Help Get Us Started' locomotive battery fundraiser to honor his friends and our fellow volunteers that are no longer with us, but made such a huge impact on our Niles Canyon Railway.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY

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Patrice McDonald photograph

Steam operations takes a Team. The crew picture before the evening festivities began, left to right: Justin Legg, Chris Hauf, Chuck Kent, Alastair Young, Henry Chandler, Jeff Schwab, Alan Siegwarth, Gabriel Gleeson, Gerald DeWitt, Dylan Oleson, Armin Hakin, and Alexader Hakin.