



The Fire Door

The Official Publication of the Southern California Live Steamers, Inc.

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<http://www.SouthernCaliforniaLiveSteamers.com>

April 2009

The Southern California Live Steamers, Inc. has been in existence since 1948. The mission of the Southern California Live Steamers is to educate and promote interest in railroad history by building and operating a miniature railroad facility.

New members are always welcome to join the Club; just show up at Wilson Park, 2100 Washington Street, on run days (the first Sunday and the third Saturday of the month) or at a regular meeting (the third Saturday of the month). Member support is especially needed on run day! April run days are April 5th and April 18th, so please come and support the Club.

Regular meetings of the club are held on the third regular Saturday of each month in the club house at Wilson Park, Torrance, California beginning at 10:30 AM. The next Club meeting will be April 18, 2009.

2009 SCLS Officers:

President:	Tim Brothers (310) 618 - 0674 TTBrothe@lasd.org
Vice President:	Rudy Guajardo (310) 984 – 9550 xcitedgoats@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Kelley Smith (562) 598 – 4090 choochookelley@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Lynn Fielding (310) 533 – 8627 lfielding@elcamino.edu

March 21, 2009 Minutes

Meeting opened at 10:30 AM by President Tim Brothers. The February minutes were published in the March newsletter and accepted with no corrections.

Guests present were: Robert Bryant, Mark Jordan, and Clara Pascual.

Old Business

Club Projects

Joe Vanderhoof reported that two systems are available for riding car brakes, one is a pressure system and the other works by utilizing a vacuum. Tom Downey organized a sale for the Southern California Live Steamers of 1,600 feet of one inch track and 4 switches

to the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum for the sum of \$750.

Water Treatment

Water tests continue to be conducted to determine what type of water treatment system may be necessary.

New Business

Story Time

Theresa Hiney motioned that story time become a regular event on run days. Rudy Guajardo seconded. All in favor.

Caboose Repair

Joe Vanderhoof motioned that repairs be made to the caboose. Linda Peters seconded. All in favor.

Golden Spike Day

On May 9, 2009, Golden Spike Day will be celebrated at the Southern California Live Steamers compound.

New Member

Matthew Abbe was accepted as a new member of the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. There were 22 members and 3 guests present at the meeting.

Run Day March 1, 2009

2,121 Riders



The warm and sunny March run day and attracted a large crowd. A northwesterly breeze developed by the afternoon to keep things cool.

On the first official third Saturday of the month Run Day on March 21, 2009, the Southern California Live Steamers hosted 1,064 riders including three employees of the Port of Los Angeles Trolley Cars.

Special Run Day

A special run day was held on March 2, 2009 for the kindergarten classes of Torrance Elementary School.



Photographs of the special run day taken by Lynn Fielding.

Jean Mary Fowler was born July 13, 1931 in her granny's house on Princes Street in Derby, England, on Monday, wash day, she was told. She weighed a whopping 13 lbs.; the doctor and midwife worked hard to save her life. She was often sung to sleep with old music hall songs by granny Hook when she spent the night; she learned to love the feel of black serge and the smell of snuff. Granddad was her first hero; he spent hours answering her every question; the ones he couldn't answer, they would research at the library. They owned so few books that Pears Encyclopedia was her light reading. She was allowed one book a week at the library and usually finished reading it on her way home. So began a love of books that led to her become a librarian.

Jean encountered WWII at the age of 8. One day Army lorries pulled into Derby, and survivors from Dunkirk were led into homes, including theirs, and billeted with them until the army was reorganized. Her Dad was in the Home Guard. Jean joined the women in knitting scarves for the troops. They grew cabbage, potatoes and fruit. Offal was off ration, and liver was one of Jean's favorite foods.

After the war, she and her one true love, the Derby minister's son Peter, were married and emigrated to Massachusetts after he attained his degrees. As Peter was born in Burma, he was the last of only 9 Burmese allowed into the States that year. Jean was almost declined entry due to a misdiagnosis of childhood tuberculosis. They had a daughter, Patricia; son John came three years later, and Pete Jr. three years after that. The family moved to Palos Verdes where Jean became PTA president of Silver Spur School, setting up the school's first library in the auditorium. She became a docent at South Coast Botanic Garden and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. She and husband Peter opened a number of gift stores in Torrance. She later became Marymount College's first general services manager, a position from which she eventually retired.

In retirement, they lived on their yacht, the Whimbrel. A few years later, they sailed to Oregon to be near Trish, husband Mike and grandchildren Becky and Steven. They eventually became landlubbers in North Bend for nearly 10 years. Jean joined the Audubon Society and the local rose society, where she won blue ribbons in competition. She also won sheep leading and knitting ribbons at local and county events, and was an important part of Trish's specialty yarn business. She revisited England to see son John and his family in Northern Ireland. Pete Sr.'s heart condition eventually resulted in their coming to back to Palos Verdes to live with Pete Jr. and his wife Valerie. Here Jean taught her daughter-in-law all she knew about knitting and gardening. She was a loyal presence at virtually all of Pete Jr.'s auto races.

Jean was a supportive, bright and affirming influence in

the lives of all she touched, and she will live on, safely enscenced in our hearts.



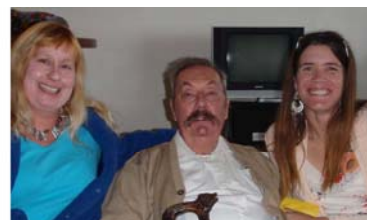
In Memory of Jean

A memorial bench dedicated to Jean is going to be placed in South Coast Botanic Gardens. Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the bench may send it to:

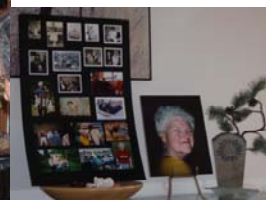
Foundation Office
 Jean Fowler's Memorial Bench
 South Coast Botanic Garden
 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 - 2525
 (310) 544-6815



Jean



Fowler



Southern California Live Steamers, Jo Anne Smith, Kelley Smith, Heather Ambler, Lynn Fielding, and Thaine Morris joined Pete Fowler and his family at the memorial service for Jean Fowler on March 8, 2009.. After the service, Lynn Fielding and Heather Amber visited with Pete Fowler and his family at the home of Pete Fowler and Valerie Fowler in Rancho Palos Verdes. Former Club member John Coughran also came by to visit. Photographs were taken

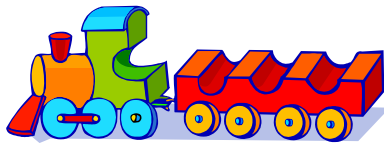
by Lynn Fielding. Thanks are extended to Valerie Fowler

**Of Interest:
Story Time**

Story Time hosted by Carrie Fisher-Pascual and Jonathan Pascual has been very popular on run days and will become a regular run day event. Carrie reads train related stories and leads sing a longs for the young people attending run days while Jonathan provides the musical accompaniment. As a member of a local book club, Carrie has been able to get a supply of *Thomas the Tank Engine* books to distribute to the children.



Photographs of story time were provided by Carrie Fisher Pascual.



Upcoming Club Events

Run Day	April 5, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	April 18, 2009
Run Day	May 5, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	May 16, 2009

Comments, Ideas, or Suggestions

As newsletter editor, I welcome your feedback, comments, corrections, and suggestions for material to include. Please contact me directly, at the address provided, by phone, or by e - mail.



Lynn

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Steamers, keep on chugging along!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

