



# The Fire Door

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

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<http://www.SouthernCaliforniaLiveSteamers.com>

May 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! The May run days are May 3, 2009 and May 16, 2009, 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 May 16, 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

### April 18, 2009 Minutes

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

Guests present were: Bob Bryant, Mark Jordan, Claro Pascual, Carl Cruz, and Marisa Cruz.

### Old Business

#### Club Projects

Kelley Smith, Rudy Guajardo, Heather Ambler, Linda Peters, and Wyatt Downing worked on the Crenshaw Line replacing ties and cleaning the area. Jo Anne Smith, Kelley Smith, Rudy Guajardo, Isaiah Guajardo, Heather Ambler, and Marisa Cruz are helping Linda Peters with the landscaping work. M and B Nursery have donated 10 five

gallon and 2 one gallon containers of cally lilies, a one gallon container of geraniums, a flat of succulent ground cover, and a container of blue Mexican pebbles to the Club. These plants and the pebbles have been placed around the base of the clock tower. Joe Manzo has the vacuum brakes that were order form Cannonball. A new container is now in the Club compound.

#### Water Treatment

Phil Cohen is still making inquiries concerning water treatment systems for the Club.

#### Golden Spike Day

On May 9, 2009, Golden Spike Day will be celebrated at the Southern California Live Steamers compound from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

### New Business

#### Concrete Work

Dave Kofahl motioned that up to \$2,000 be allocated for concrete work in and around the steaming bay and container area. Phil Cohen seconded. All in favor.

#### Birthday Parties

On Saturday May 30, 2009, a birthday party will be held for Isaiah Guajardo. Saturday, June 20, 2009 a birthday party will be held from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and they will ride Kelley Smith's train.

**Long term planning note:** a birthday party for Daniel Genuth is planned for Saturday, September 5, 2009.

#### Print Donations

Harlan Hiney donated two prints to the Southern California Live Steamers.

#### New Members

Bob Bryant, Mark Jordan, and Claro Pascual were accepted as new members of the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM. There were 21 members and 5 guests present at the meeting.

Run Day April 5, 2009

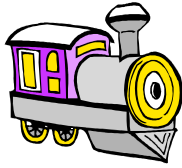
1,913 Riders

Warm weather prompted many train enthusiasts to come for a train ride in with the Southern California Live Steamers.



The weather was pleasant for the Saturday, run day on May 16, 2009.

## Another Founding Member By: Harlan Hiney



How many people are aware that one of the founding members of the Southern California Live Steamers in 1942 had a full size railroad in the back yard? He was also the new Cub's corresponding secretary. When it was decided a Cub logo was needed, he was the natural choice for the job. Why was this? It was due to the fact that he was an artist and cartoonist employed as an animator at Disney Studio. This man was Ward Kimball (1914 - 2002) and his 2 acre estate in San Gabriel was the home of his narrow gauge Grizzly Flats Railroad.

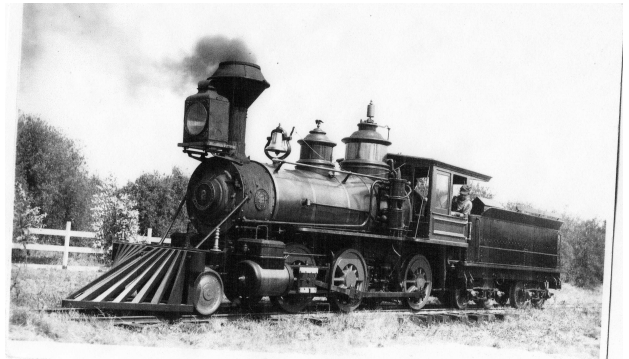
In 1938, this 24 year old rail fan and his wife of 2 years, Betty, had finally found an old narrow gauge passenger car to put in their back yard to display Ward's O gauge model layout and antique toy train collection. They discovered an 1879 Barney and Smith coach that Southern Pacific was going to burn as scrap in the Owens Valley. Ward paid \$50.00 for the car and some 35 pound rail to set it on. This kept Ward occupied for a while, till one day he heard about a narrow gauge line that ran out of Battle Mountain, Nevada, that was shutting down its service. The Nevada Central had several steam locomotives that were going to be sold to Japan for scrap. One of them, a 2-6-0, was still in operating condition. It was a Baldwin Mogul built in 1881. He bought it for \$400.00, and paid another \$450.00 for shipping. It was put on a gondola and brought to the Southern Pacific shops in L.A. and given a successful boiler test. Southern Engine Number.2, originally the "Sidney Dillion" would be restored to it's original splendor over the next several years.

It took 5 years to restore the engine and coach. Also during that time, 500 feet of track was laid which ended at the rear of the Kimball property with a 2 stall engine house. Ward renamed his mogul "Emma Nevada", after a famous early-day opera star, and this colorful gal had her first steam up on May 22, 1943. She showed that still had a lot of life left in her on that day. Even with her pressure cut back to 100 pounds, her single tone whistle and smell of coal smoke let the neighborhood know, the Kimball's new baby had come to life-weighting in at 22 tons.

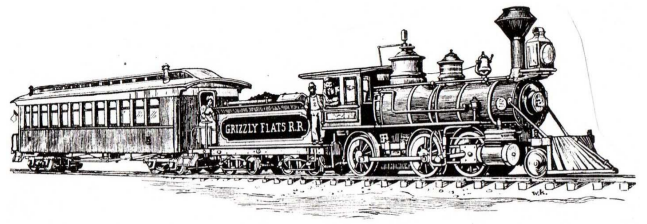
Even before her first steam up, the Southern California Live Steamers had its first annual field day on October 18, 1942, with everyone present posed next to the Emma Nevada. Many of the Club members spent long hard hours laying track, and making new parts for the engine. Bill Cooper constructed the new wooden pilot and Art Fleming's sheet metal company replaced parts that could not be restored. More on the Grizzly Flats in future articles.



Ward Kimball and Betty Kimball pose in Emma's cab in 1945, after all the ornate lettering and gold leaf striping had been completed.



Ward Kimball is seen in the fireman's seat contemplating a successful first steam up, on May 22, 1943. Before long, Ward will add a hand painted scene to the side of Emma's headlight in addition to all the striping and lettering.



This pen and ink drawing by Ward Kimball shows Engine Number .2 and its coach, which he used on his personal stationery.

All photographs were taken by G.M. Best.

**Of Interest:**  
**Landscaping**  
April showers bring May flowers.



Photograph of landscaping provided by Lynn Fielding.

All Electronics is now selling some things that may be of interest to the members of the Southern California Live Steamers. The web site is <http://www.allelectronics.com/>.  
24 VDC 40 A MOTOR SPEED CONTROL, CAT# MSP-150, \$32.95  
<http://www.allelectronics.com/make-a-store/item/MSP-150/24-VDC-40-A-MOTOR-SPEED-CONTROL/1.html> This could be used in an electric engine; with just a few connectors, a box, and a 50K ohm Pot, you have a nice control for a 24 Volt electric. They also have several different 24 volt motors: [http://www.allelectronics.com/make-a-store/static/pdf\\_catalog/1.html](http://www.allelectronics.com/make-a-store/static/pdf_catalog/1.html)  
See pages 78 & 80 under DC Motors.  
Examples:  
DCM-2490, 900 watts, 2600 RPM, 34 amps, 11 tooth sprocket, \$35  
DCM-2465, 650 watts, 2600 RPM, 28 amps, 11 tooth sprocket, \$23  
DCM-1352, 350 watts, 2600 RPM, 22 amps, 11 tooth sprocket, \$20  
1 HP is roughly equal to 746 watts; so a single 900 or 600 watt motor could pull 1 car load of people. If one puts 2 motors in parallel, you could pull 2 cars of people. It looks like, but I can't verify right now, that a single pot could control multiple speed controls. For those who might want to build their own electric, this could be a good starting point. These are items that are all new to their catalog. Their store is located in Van Nuys. Information submitted by Bob Diaz.

## Upcoming Club Events

Run Day	May 3, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	May 16, 2009
Run Day	June 7, 2009
Run Day and Business Meeting	June 20, 2009

## Comments, Ideas or Suggestions

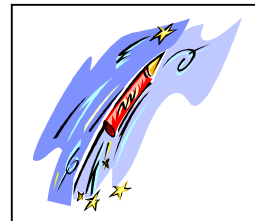
As newsletter editor, I welcome your feedback, comments, corrections, and suggestions for material to include. Please contact me directly, at the address provided, by phone, or by e - mail.



Lynn

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Steamers, keep on chugging along!



**Happy  
Memorial  
DAY !**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

