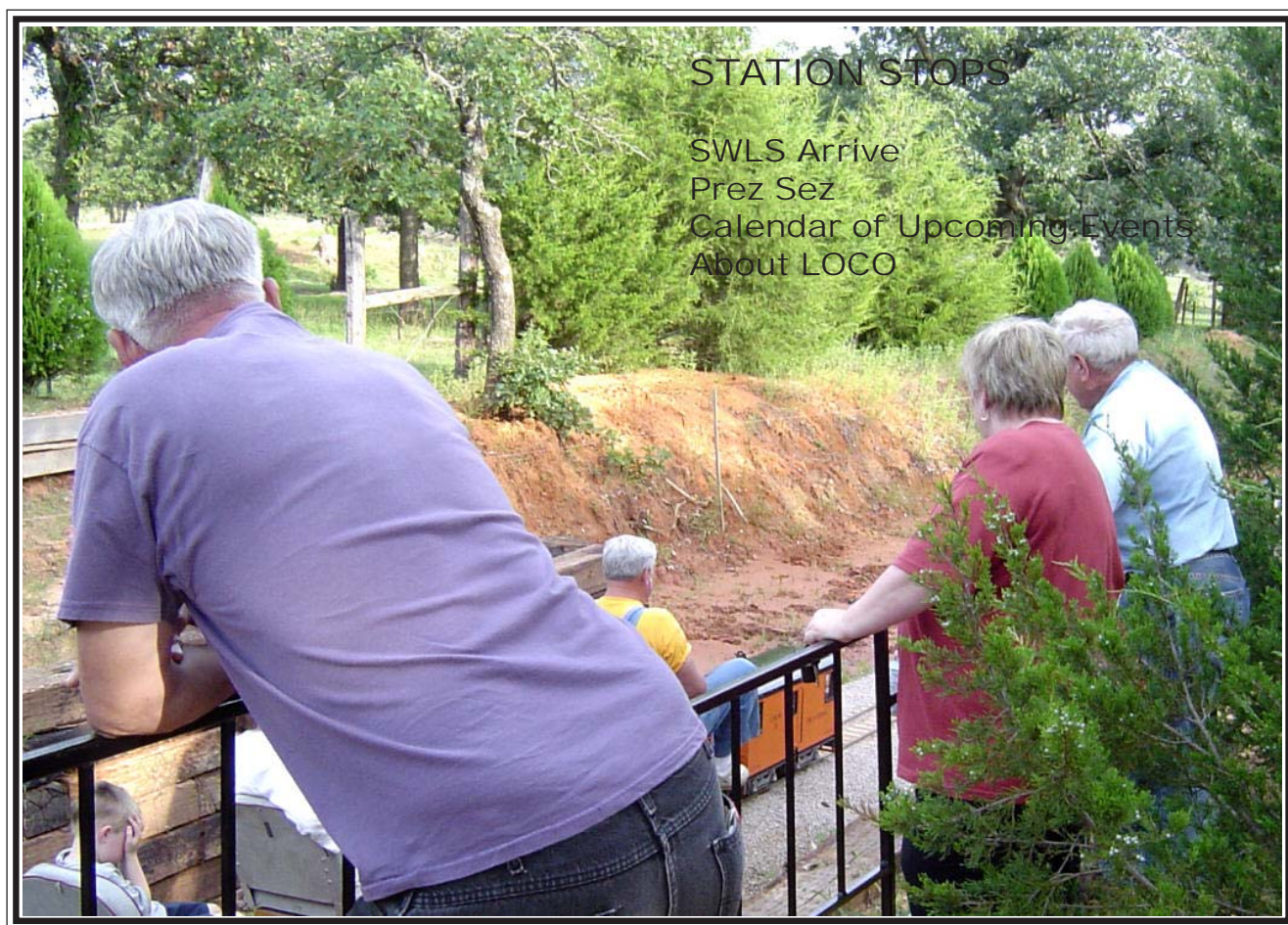


LOCO NEWS

JULY - AUGUST 2004

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Thanks to the efforts of *Roy Kline* who built and installed railings along the south approach to the tunnel, visitors to LOCO now have a nice, safe, comfortable place to watch the passing trains. Their first "official" use was during the June SWLS meet. And it proved to be a popular place, especially for parents taking pictures as their young train enthusiasts rode by.

A Slow Train

For some miles, what was supposed to be an express passenger train had been creeping along slower and slower. It finally squeaked to a complete stop. Seeing the conductor walking by outside, one of the passengers ran to the open vestibule door and asked what was going on. "Just a cow on the tracks," was the reply. After about ten minutes, the train started to roll but again at a painfully slow pace. Within a mile, the train came to another complete stop. Soon, the conductor came walking back along the train; and the passenger, still standing in the doorway, yelled out, "What happened? Did we catch up with the cow again?"

SWLS Arrive



As we are well aware, June weather in Oklahoma can be hotter than blazes or wetter than all get out. But for the 2004 version of the LOCO/SWLS early in the month, the weather was PERFECT! The folks who arrived Thursday and Friday experienced a little “opposite direction” running—that is, traveling around the track in the direction opposite to the normal configuration. By Saturday morning, no fewer than nine campers/RVs were in place, and the meet was well underway with the running direction back to normal.

Since Jack and Polly Craddock had found it necessary to move into town last fall, SWLS attendees were afforded the use of the entire house. Not only were the two “in the air conditioning” restrooms and showers put to good use, but the oven, microwave, and freezer space opened the traditional Friday evening pot luck to new possibilities and dishes. And speaking of food, it was plentiful, to say the least. Bottom line is that no one left hungry unless they wanted to! Three toots of the LOCO whistle for those members who took the time to prepare a covered dish for the Friday evening dinner,

to Ed Beaudette for handling the Saturday breakfast, to Travis York for doing all the necessary footwork to ensure the success of the Saturday BBQ dinner, and to Joe Fawcett and Truman Hefner who took the “lunch” bull by the horns.

In the end, lots of “railroad” had been spoken during the four days of the meet; and the fellowship had been outstanding. Also, many attendees offered favorable comments about how well prepared LOCO had been and how pleasant the area around the gazebo had been made by the placement of the rock ground cover. Special thanks to those LOCO members who pitched in to help get the facilities ready for guests from grounds care to track maintenance and even house cleaning.

Now that the dust has settled, LOCO members are already busy implementing plans to make the facilities and running even better for 2005! One of those changes involves relieving the bottleneck in the yard. Soon, trains parked in the yard will be able to reach the main line without having to back to the crossing. Of course, by next year, the Lacock loop should be in place and the tunnel approaches and portals finished.



Photo by Eric Sasovetz

Those attending with equipment:

Truman Hefner - Box Cab/ABBA F7 units
Chuck & Nan Ellis - SW500
Fred & Lynda Sasovetz and family - (2) SW1500
Earl & Annette Bean and family - Ten-wheeler
Brian & Michelle Lacock & family - GE 70-ton switcher
Curt Werner - GP50
Jack Haskins - Box Cab
Carroll & Becky Enders - Box Cab
Richard & Cathy Osborn - SW1500
John Reiff - SW1500

Jim Anderson - Whitcomb switcher
Ed & Mary Rains - RMI switcher
Bill & Gwen Fondren - Center cab switcher
Wally Trauten - Speeder
Clint Lee and family - Jolly Trolley
Walter Johnson - GP
Susan Carey/Marshall Lee - Super Mack
Randy Rayer/Terry Rider - Ten-wheeler
Galen Wiles - Li'l Gasser
Carl Bogardus - F7



First, thanks to everyone who gave up some of their time (and sweat) getting LOCO ready for the recent SWLS meet. Now I would like to remind everyone that keeping our grounds and facilities in top shape for the running enjoyment of ourselves and our guests requires ongoing time and effort from all LOCO members. Remember, too, that every Saturday is work day. In addition to the usual track work, what with all of our recent rain, the grass, shrubbery, and trees have grown well! So, if you are one of those who have not stopped by lately, now is your chance to come and lend a hand. And if you have (or haven't) and know of someone who has not helped out recently, please give them a call and invite them out. Here is what is usually needed the day before a run day:

- * Mow the grass - There is a lawn tractor at the track, but bringing a home push mower to get where the tractor can't go would be a great help.

- * Weed Eating - There is a lot of trimming to do; and since there is no weed whacker at the track, it would be great if someone would bring and use their own.

- * Blow the leaves and twigs out of the track - We have a leaf blower and rakes at the track. Just need someone to use them!

- * Spray insecticide and herbicide - I'll probably take these jobs since I can connect the electric sprayer directly to my engine.

- * Hedge trim bushes and plants along the north side of the track - Again, no trimmer at the track, so bring your own. And remember that the club has plenty of cords, and outlets are scattered around the track.

- * Clean, mop, and prep the public restrooms - A yucky job but one that has to be done!

And don't forget, LUNCH. Yes, the LOCO Real-Meal Deal is still alive and well! For a mere \$5 a person you can have your selection of two of any of the following: Hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage burgers, and smoked sausage links. In addition, you get a bag of snacks (chips) and the beverage of your choice out of the fridge. AND we may even be able to offer a bowl of ice cream with toppings for dessert!

Help your club. Socialize over lunch. Can it get any better?

Well, maybe, yes. There is the First Sunday Fun Run where we play trains and actually get to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Of course, work before fun. In other words, the following jobs need to be accomplished:

- * Open public restrooms and then secure them at the end of the day. This includes emptying the trash cans and removing the trash from the premises.

- * Check that the water is on and hoses work. During some of our wetter times, we may not have much of a fire hazard, but we still need to be in the habit of checking this.

- * Put plastic liners in the 55 gallon drums. Liners can be found in the center section of the public restroom building. At the end of the day the trash needs to be removed and taken home to be picked up on your trash day.

- * Clean and set up picnic tables. The wood tables need to be cleaned of any critter droppings and, if needed, the new plastic tables brought out of the house.

- * Take down the barricades at the entrance to the LOCO parking lot and then put them back up at the end of the day after the last visitor departs.

- * Someone to make sure that guests sign our liability release forms prior to riding and stamp their hands to show they signed.

Then there is FOOD. If there is enough interest among members and guests, I can whip up a LOCO Full-Meal Deal for the Fun Runs too. Same offerings, same price. But I'm sorry, I don't do coffee. If anyone would like to make coffee for run day, be advised that the coffee maker is in the house. And since we do not keep coffee or coffee "stuff" at the track, anyone wanting/needing coffee will need to bring it. But keep in mind that you probably aren't the only coffee drinker among LOCO members, so your efforts are sure to be appreciated!

Bottom line. If all our members would help with just one of these prep items on both work and run days, it would mean a minimum effort by all. So, pick a job and come ready to help your club on both days.

Joe



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

***August 21**
President's open meeting
LOCO track

***September 18**
President's open meeting
LOCO track

September 5
First Sunday Fun Run
LOCO track

October 3
First Sunday Fun Run
LOCO track

Every Saturday
Work session
LOCO track

NOTE: Everyone is invited to meet at Ashley's in MWC every Saturday at 8 a.m. for breakfast before heading to the track for a productive day.

***The President's open business meeting will be called to order at NOON on specified Saturdays. Please make note of the dates listed above.**

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ABOUT LOCO

LOCO NEWS

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Resident — \$100
Associate — \$15 (optional
for anyone living more than
60 miles from the LOCO
facility)