

IBLS



State of the Union 2018

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Early Live Steam Activity

- 1890-1893: Stephen Pagenhardt (age 16-19) builds 1.5 inch scale, 7.25 inch gauge American live steamer
- 1915: Santa Fe's James Savage and apprentices of the San Bernardino shop builds 1.5 inch scale Atlantic live steamer in 26 months
- 1929-1930: L.B.S.C. visits New York Exhibition of Engineering Models, visits Calvert Holt's $\frac{3}{4}$ inch scale railroad in Greenwich, Conn

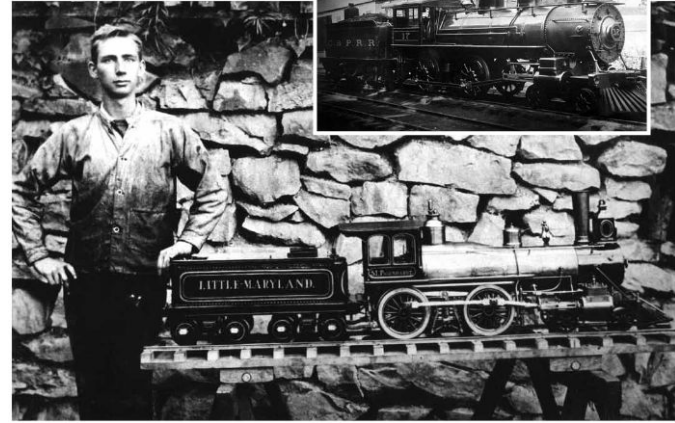


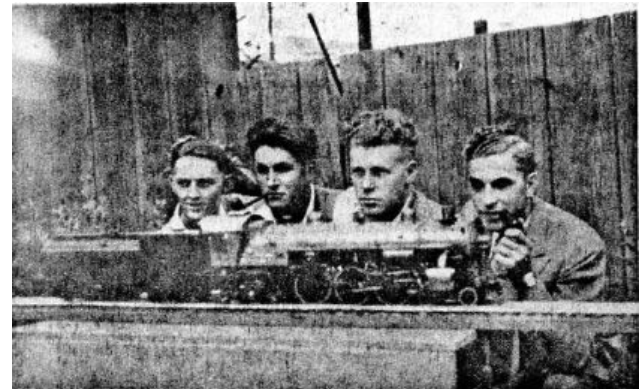
Photo by]

The Resurrection of the "Norbury Light."

[George Bender.

Early Live Steam Activity

- 1930: Golden Gate Model Engineers Guild formed, parent to GGLS
- 1931 The Shattock Family and their 1/2 inch scale live steam railroad featured in *The Western Electric News*



Carl Purinton forms BLS

- Prior to 1932: Lillian Lawrence (L.B.S.C.) suggested the formation of a Brotherhood of Live Steamers
- 1932: Charles A. "Carl" Purinton took up L.B.S.C.'s challenge, became self-appointed Secretary on "this side of the pond"
- Basic concepts
 - Put one live steam hobbyist in touch with another
 - Help the so-called "lone wolf"
 - Hold live steam meets each year



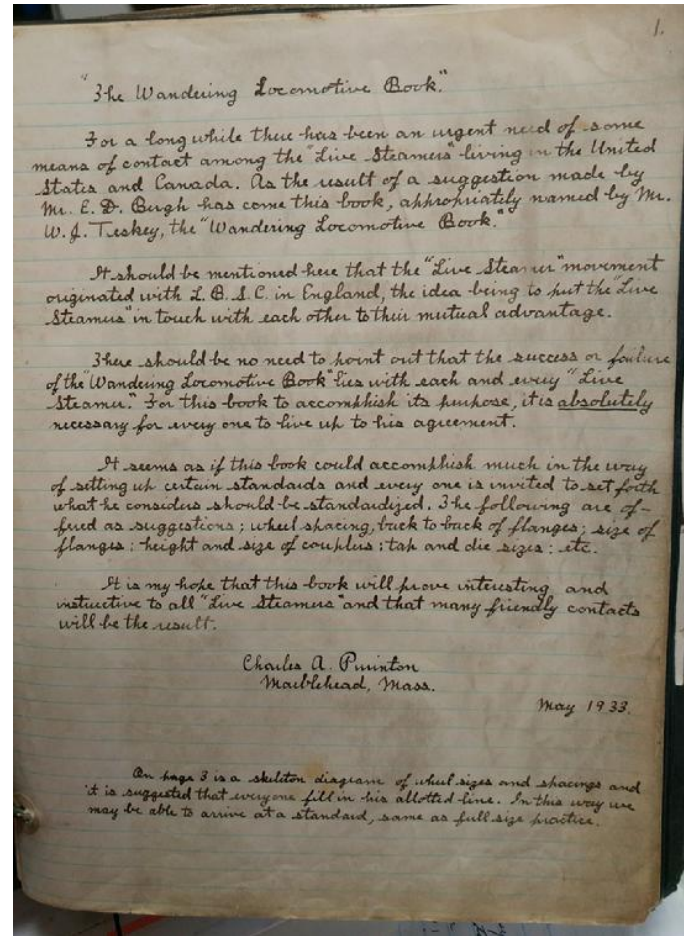
Wandering Locomotive Books

May 1933: Carl Purinton penned the introduction to the Wandering Locomotive Book and sent it on its way to the first contributor, Mr. Gunnick, of Wichita Falls, Texas

A total of four books were created

Currently in the collection of John Kurdziencek of Friends Models

Bill Yoder's $\frac{3}{4}$ Inch Scale Registry continues this tradition



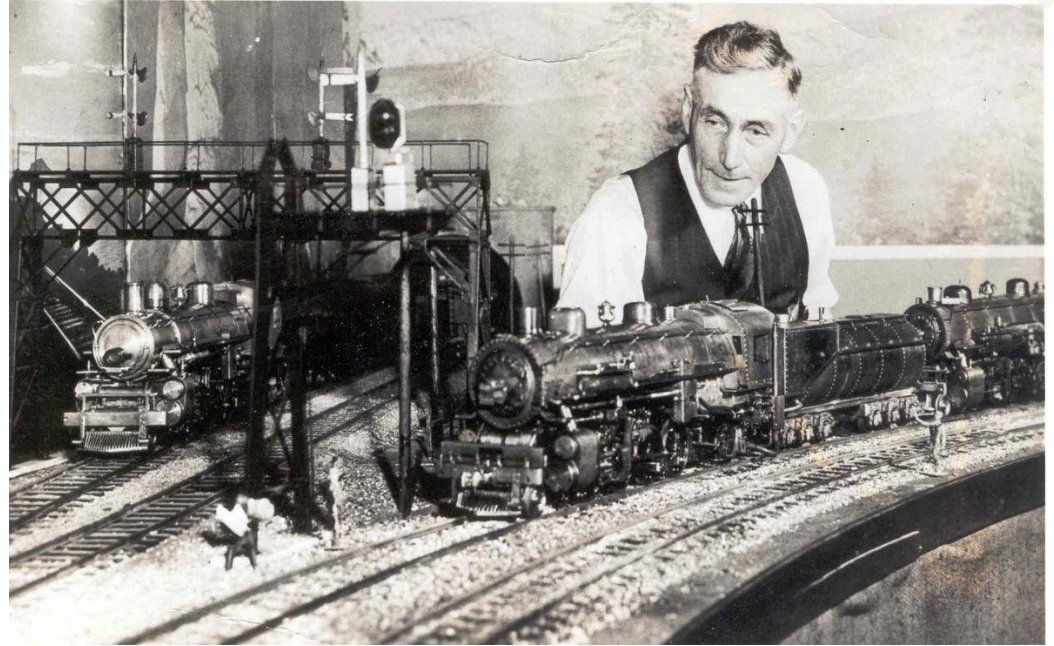
Early Meets at Purinton's

- 15 Oct 1933: first meeting of the Brotherhood was held at Mr. Purinton's in Marblehead, Massachusetts on October 15, 1933
- 2-½ inch gauge locomotives on 140' long "back and forth track" in Purinton's driveway
- 1935: Carl adds third rail for 3-½ gauge
- Meets were held at the Purinton home annually thru 1937



West Coast Activity

1936: Victor T. Shattock and two friends form the **Golden Gate Live Steamers** in his basement



1938 Meet at Lester Friend's track

- September 18, 1938: First BLS meet held at the brand new **New England Live Steamers** track at Danvers, Massachusetts
- Track was 620-feet and accommodated both 2 ½ and 3 ½ gauge
- First engine to run was "Carl" Purinton's 4-4-4 tank engine followed by ¾" scale Timken "Four Aces" 4-8-4 built by Fred Jerome of Toronto



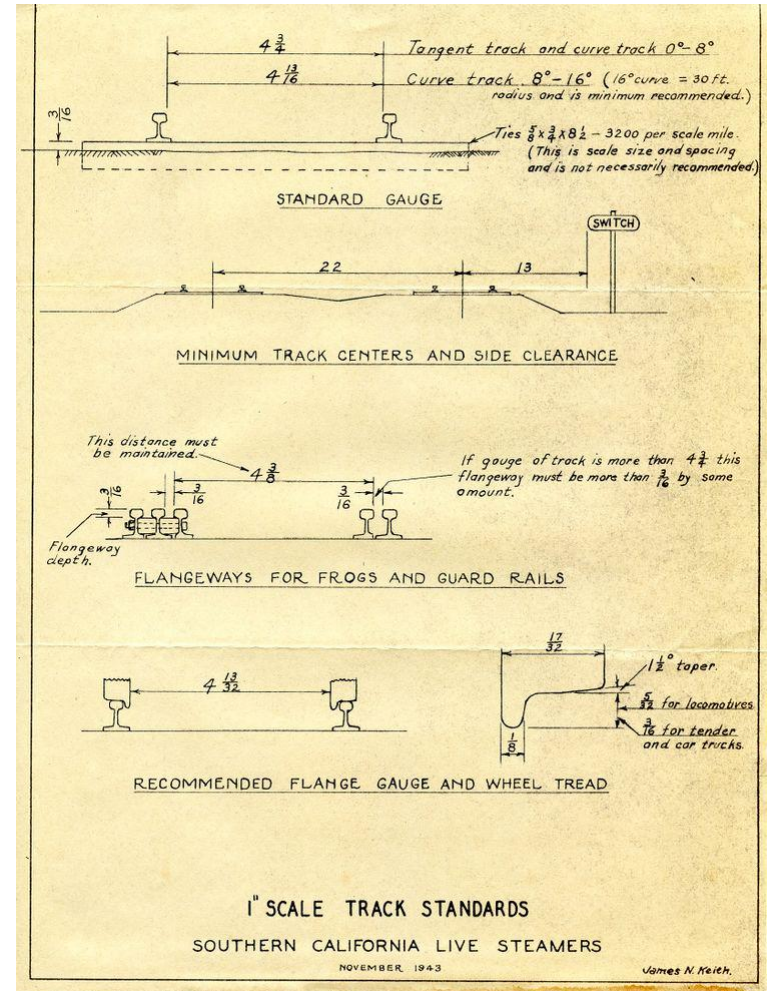
Pre-WWII meets at Danvers



Lester Friend and SCLS

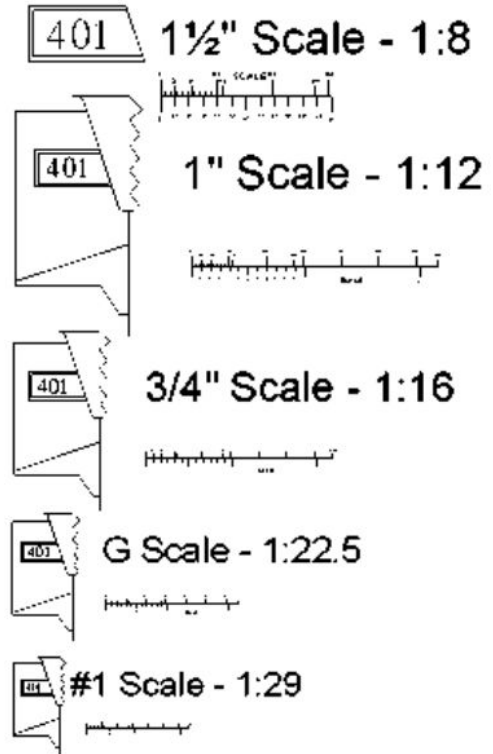
July 1941: Lester Friend, President of the **New England Live Steamers**, paid a visit to Southern California, with the intent of getting the local live steamers to form a club

January 1942: The **Southern California Live Steamers** was formed with 35 charter members



Popular Scales in September 1943

"In my travels about the country," says Lester Friend, "I find that Montreal, New England, New York and New Jersey are all 3/4 inch railroaders, who have graduated from 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch. I find that the Chicago and Ohio area is also 3/4 inch. Passing over the Mississippi -- Dallas, Texas is 1 inch, Los Angeles is about half and half, 3/4 inch and 1 inch scale. The San Diego district is all 3/4 inch scale. Denver, Colorado, is all 3/4 inch scale. San Francisco and Oakland are 1/2 inch, but gradually shifting to 3/4 inch. Portland, Oregon, is definitely made up of 1 inch scale fans, and Seattle, Washington, is 3/4 inch scale.



First BLS International Meet

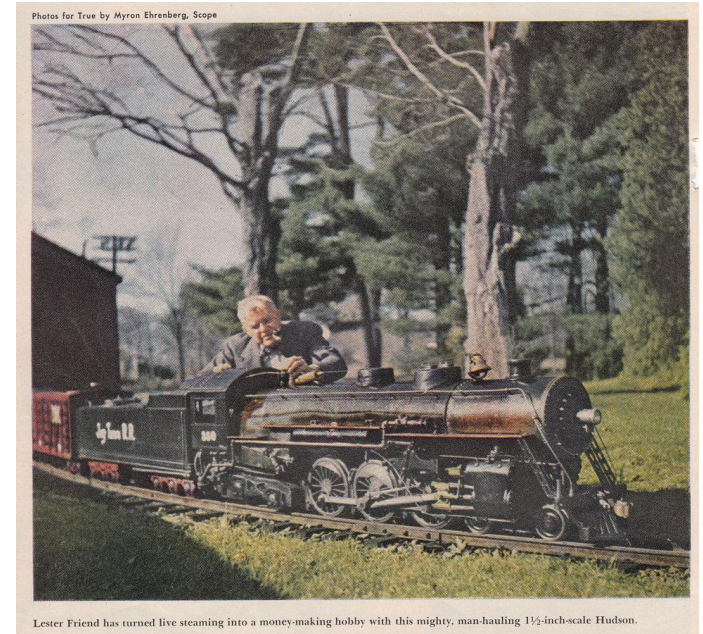
1947: BLS meet at Lachine, Quebec. Jim Turnbull is standing on the right.



Growth of 1-½ inch scale

May 1950: George Murray reports in *The Live Steamer*:

There seems to be a growing popularity for the 1-1/2 inch scale railroads around the country... The West Coast seems to have a large number of them. Of new interest around Danvers vicinity is the commercial 1-1/2 inch scale, 7-1/4 inch gauge railroad being set up by Lester D. Friend at Topsfield, Mass.



GGLS moves to Redwood Regional Park

2 Sep 1950: Gold Spike was driven at the new **Golden Gate Live Steamers** track at Redwood Regional Park. The track was approximately 1330 feet in length and had four rails for 2 ½, 3 ½ and 4 ¾ inch gauge.

In 1950, the club officers for the GGLS were Vic Shattock, President; Tim Reardon, Vice-President and Harry L. Dixon, Secretary.



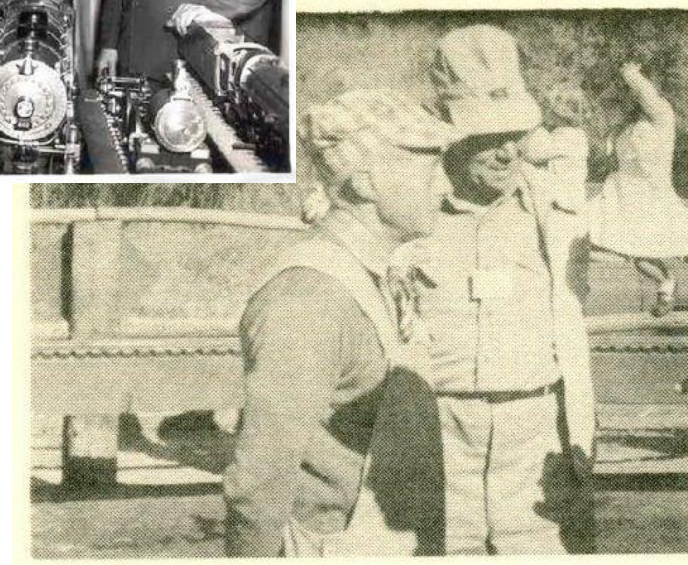
Help! Dixon appointed as Western Region Secretary

1950-1951: Harry Dixon started a correspondence with "Carl" Purinton in Massachusetts on a regular basis and they became very good friends that lasted for many years. Carl told Harry about the BLS concept and the "mandate" that LBSC had inflicted upon him. He told Harry that the amount of correspondence was really increasing and asked if Harry would take over his duties for the Western part of the country. Harry readily agreed and became the new BLS secretary for the "Pacific Coast Region", and later the larger "Western Region", a post he held until 1973.



West Coast BLS Meet

- September 1951: 19th Annual BLS meet held in Oakland hosted by the Golden Gate Live Steamers.
- Carl Purinton and Lester Friend attended from Mass., along with Ed Leaver from R.I.
- Meet held both at new Redwood Park and Vic Shattock's basement



First use of “International”

The term "International Brotherhood of Live Steamers" appeared in print for the first time in *The Miniature Locomotive*, September-October 1953 edition, as follows:

John Matthews announced that he would represent the **Southern California Live Steamers** at the Toronto, Canada, meeting of the **International Brotherhood of Live Steamers** which will be held August 22-23, 1953.

End of annual BLS Meets

1955: two BLS meets; **Southern California Live Steamers** and **Red River Valley Railway** at Winnipeg

1956: Carl urged members to attend meets in their area, no more need for BLS hosted meets



More Secretaries

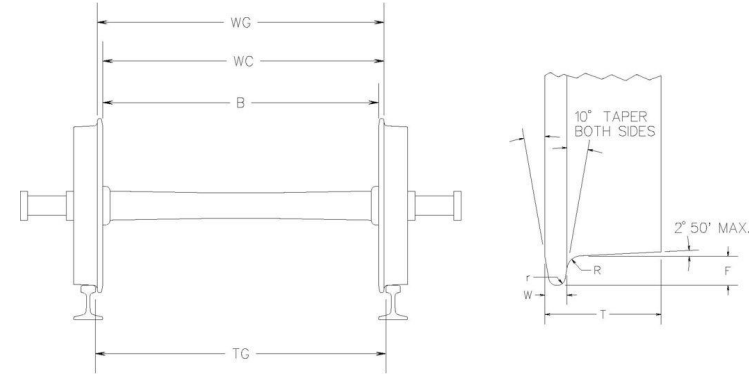
Secretaries listed in September 1972 issue of "Live Steam" magazine.

- Charles A. Purinton
- Harry Dixon - Western Region
- Austin Barr, Jr - Midwest Region
- Edgar Kruckeberg - Eastern Region
- Brenton "Barny" Barnfather - Eastern Region (after Kruckeberg)
- Jack Prest - Canadian Division
- Jack Kerr - Canadian Division after Jack Prest's death
- Kenneth Shattock - Harry Dixon's replacement 1973-1976

Scale	G⁽¹⁾	B⁽²⁾	T	W	F	R	C
3/4"	3.47	3.28	.34	.094	.094	.04	2.19
1"	4.69	4.44	.38	.125	.156	.06	2.89
1½"	7.19	6.88	.59	.156	.188	.08	4.38
(1) +.00 —.02				(2) +.02 —.00			

IBLS Wheel Standard

- 1974: “Blue Ribbon” committee
 - Austin Barr, IBLS Midwest Region and MSLS
 - Brenton Barnfather, IBLS Eastern Region and PVLS
 - Ken Shattock, Western Region and GGLS
 - Jack Kerr, IBLS Canada Division
 - Doug Alkire, LALS
 - Robert Brinkman, NMRA
- Results published in *Live Steam Magazine*, October 1974
- Fourteen clubs had officially adopted the standard by 1976



IBLS Turns 50!

June 23, 1982: The California State Assembly passed Resolution # 2124 honoring and commending the International Brotherhood of Live Steamers upon the celebration of its 50th Anniversary



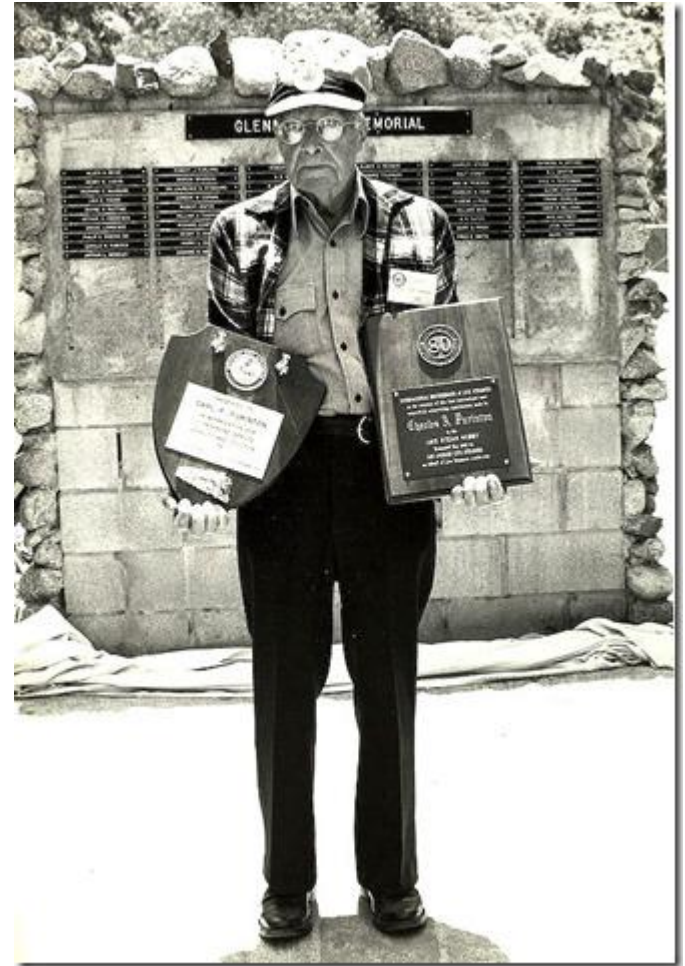
End of an Era

1999: Charles A. "Carl" Purinton, founder of the IBLS, passed away

Carl Purinton shown here with commemorative plaques presented at 1980 IBLS Meet, **Los Angeles Live Steamers**

2000: Last IBLS Meet, held at **British Columbia Live Steamers**

East Coast IBLS Meet at **Waushakum** in *Modeltec*, Nov 2000



IBLS Quietly Disbanded in North America

2004: Talk of disbanding IBLS circulating on news lists

2007: 75th Anniversary of IBLS - does it count?

2008: Dick Thomas, last active North American IBLS secretary, passed away

2008: Ken Shattock writes *Live Steam Magazine* for address of IBLS Secretary, only to find there are none

Ken Shattock to the Rescue

2008: Ken determines to resurrect the IBLS in North America. Consulting with Clover McKinley of *Live Steam Magazine*, they determine only one North American Secretary is required

Creation of North American Region

25 Sep 2008: Ken Shattock sends letter announcing the re-birth of the IBLS

Ken re-institutes Carl Purinton's original policies, namely registration



IBLS Website

2012: Ken Shattock, Ron Light and Daris Nevil make plans for first-ever IBLS website. Daris & Marianne Nevil create new logo.

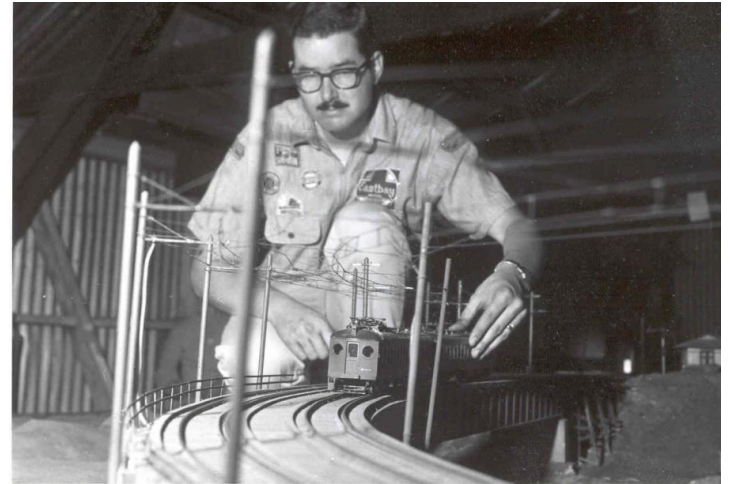
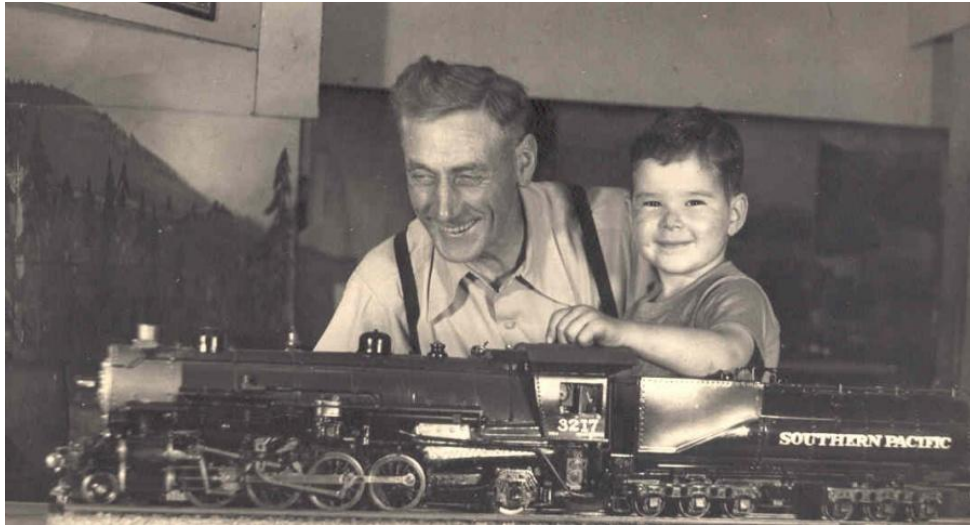
March 2013: New website is unveiled to the public

2013-2017: Articles are added under the direction of Ken Shattock



Passing of “Keyroute Ken”

6 May 2017: Kenneth Shattock passed away without naming a successor



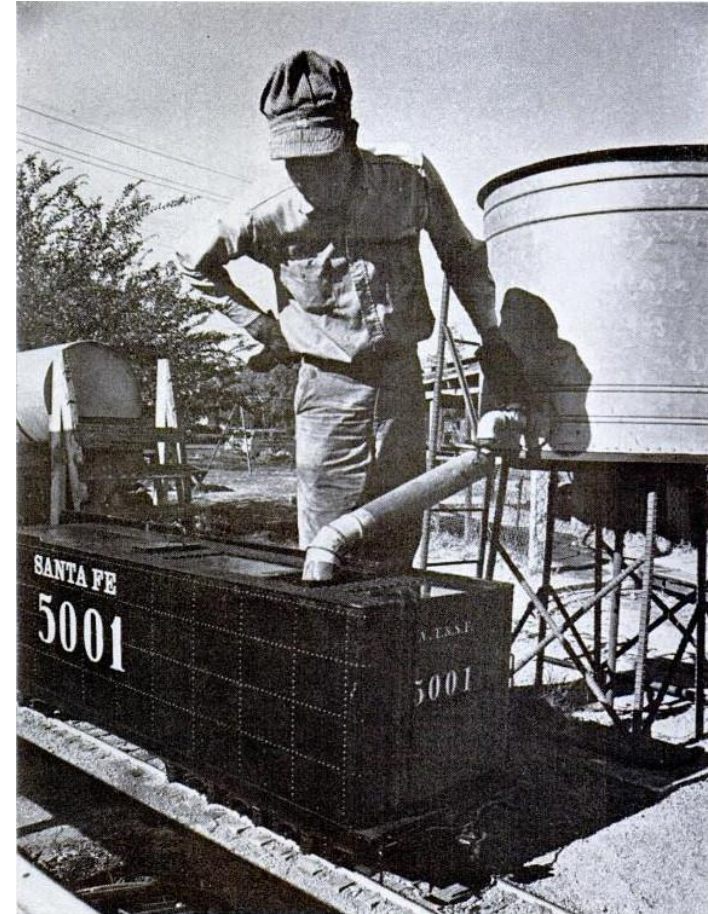
New Secretary - Daris A Nevil

- 14 July 2017: Daris A Nevil steps up as Secretary for North American Region
- Discussed this action with Bob Hornsby and Keith Taylor, both former IBLS Secretaries. Both endorsed Daris in the new position.
- IBLS, AVWRR, HALS, SWLS



IBLS Purposes

- Put one Live Steam hobbyist in touch with another
- Provide information for newcomers to Live Steam
- Coordinate and record Standards
- Record the history of the hobby
- Provide helpful information for the builder
- Promote Live Steam Vendors



Navigating IBLS Website

- Mediawiki, same program used by Wikipedia
- The Search bar is your friend!
- Standards
- Categories
- Wandering Locomotive Books
- IBLS Journal
- IBLS Library
- Beginner's Link
- Create a PDF from any article
- Over 700 articles!



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Main Page

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About the IBLS



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Beginners start here

This wiki contains 715 articles.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 Meets
- 2 Features
- 3 IBLS Patches
- 4 Regional IBLS Secretaries
- 5 Standards and Recommended Practice
- 6 Wandering Locomotive Books
- 7 Articles by Category

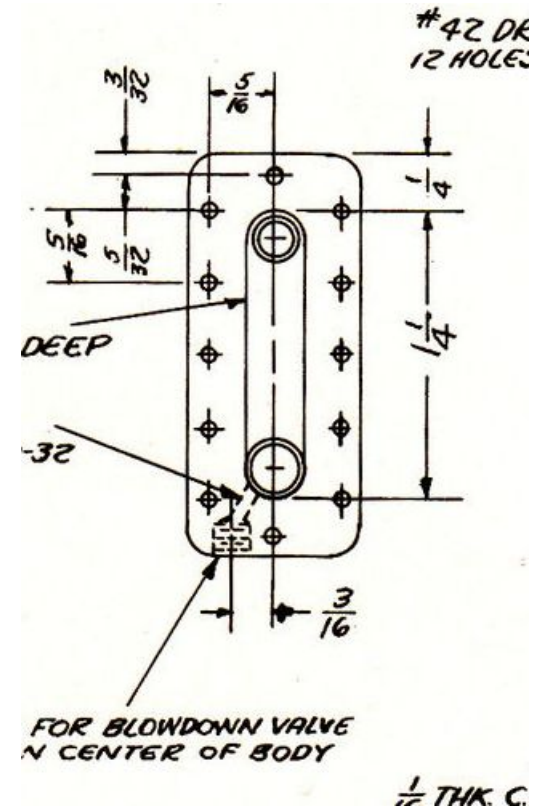
Website Contributors

- Bill Donovan - Wheel standards documents
- Bill Koster - History
- Bill Yoder - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch scale Registry
- David Hannah III - **Browning Plantation**, Jim Jackson, **HALS**
- Don Althouse - LBSC's $\frac{3}{4}$ inch scale "Virginia"
- John D. Atkinson - History of **Atkinson RR**
- Jan-Eric Nystrom - Baldwin 3003
- JJ Gould - The new **Huron Valley Live Steamers** track
- Pat Fahey - wonderfully detailed list of Bill Van Brocklin's 41 locos
- Doug Blodgett - PSC 40 Foot Boxcar construction
- Ken Scheer - **Rocky Mountain Live Steamers** and Art Wegner



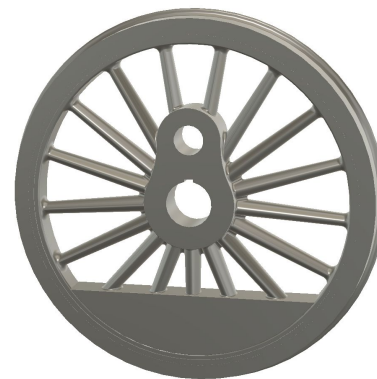
Saving Lost Content

- Jim Murray's *MDM Locomotive* website
- Lee Wright's construction log website
- Bill Oberpriller's "Minnie" website
- Jim Jackson's "Railway Hardware Company"
- Many websites have been "harvested"
- Archive.org to the rescue!
- *The Live Steamer*
- *The Miniature Locomotive*
- *The North American Live Steamer*



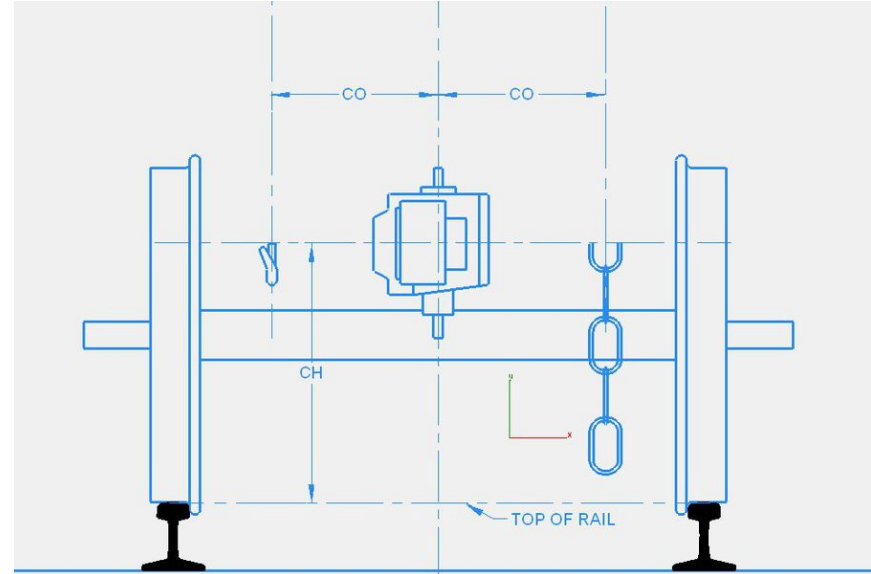
Future Direction

- Continue to Register new members
- Continue to Discover and record Live Steam History
- Work with clubs to host IBLIS Rambles
- Build library of “open-source” designs
- Add more useful pages to IBLIS Website
- Have Fun - Happy Steaming!



You Can Help!

- Join the IBLS
- Write articles
- Keep build journals
- Write histories of clubs or individuals
- Submit Meet Reports
- Promote IBLS in your club
- Assist with Standards Documentation



IBLS Secretary, North American Region

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