

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS INFORMATION FOR PERSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

About the Los Angeles Live Steamer (LALS) Railroad Club

The LALS railroad club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of public interest and education in the equipment and operation of a railroad. Individual skills of members are cultivated in the railroad hobby through the actual layout and construction of roadbeds, trackage, signal systems, and member constructed and operated rolling stock. Operations skills are developed through train operation, hauling the public, and night runs.

Ideas and techniques in the hobby are developed through the exchange of ideas, equipment construction methods, and concepts, not only among LALS members but also with members of other clubs at “meets” held throughout the nation. (In May, 1995 LALS sponsored and held an INTERNATIONAL MEET at its facility.) You will find that LALS members have a deep and gratifying interest in the hobby.

LALS has operated in Griffith Park since 1956. Among live steamer organizations world wide it is known as a Premier Facility. It has over 7000 feet of track in 7-1/2 inch gauge, plus trackage in 3-1/2 inch and 4-3/4 inch gauges. The club is permitted to haul the public free on Sundays as you have probably noticed.

LALS encourages family participation in club activities. However, it must be remembered that we are an operating railroad in miniature scale where safety for both children and adults is most important. Even though we are located in a park, the facility is not a play ground. Touring the facility must be pre-arranged for safety considerations.

The following questions are asked frequently:

1. **Do I have to own a locomotive to join LALS?** NO. Most applicants do not own any rolling stock. One reason for joining is to learn about such equipment and develop a preference, then build or procure what you desire. Commercially manufactured equipment is available (also in kit form) and used equipment becomes available when members upgrade.
2. **How much does a locomotive cost?** Prices vary greatly depending on kind and complexity, and may range from \$1,000 - \$20,000 or more.
3. **What powers a locomotive?** There are three basic types of locomotives based on power source: Electric (battery powered), steam (oil, coal or propane fired) and Diesel (usually gasoline powered, but sometimes powered by batteries).
4. **How much does it cost to join?** An application form accompanied with a check in the amount of \$150 (\$100 initiation fee and \$50 annual dues) is currently required along with an interview by the Membership Committee. You must appear before the Board of Directors for final approval at a regular monthly meeting of the board.

Minimum age is 18 years. However, junior memberships (ages 14 to 18 years) are available to family members of regular active members (Cost \$20).

5. **Are there any additional requirements for becoming a permanent member?**
YES. First of all you must have an interest and a commitment in the live steam hobby. At LALS a new member is required to serve 24 hours of work at the club facility – a minimum of 4 hours per day – to become acquainted with “just what it takes to run a railroad.” Also, six hours service on trains as a conductor, while hauling the public, is required. To work the trains, a member must be a qualified conductor. These requirements must be accomplished within your first 6 months as a provisional member.
6. **How may I become a conductor?** A “Safety and Operating Rules” booklet is included in your new membership packet. Study this booklet diligently, as a conductor is required to know safety precautions, train whistle signals, hand signals, the operating signal system, etc. A review class with accompanying quiz will be held at least once a month to verify qualifications and confer conductor ratings. NOTE: Engineer classes will then be open to qualified conductors.
7. **Who may I call to obtain further membership information?** Call the membership chairman: Jack Friedman (818) 360-7304, email: jafriedman1@juno.com
8. **Where may I learn more about the live steam hobby?** There are two excellent magazines available at model railroad hobby shops. These are: *Modeltec* and *Live Steam Magazine*.
9. **How do I obtain an application?** Pages 3 and 4 of this document contain the LALS membership application. Membership applications are also available from the station master at the public station on Sunday or from the Membership Chairman (see paragraph 7 above).

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The objective of the Los Angeles Live Steamers is to promote education and public interest in building, maintaining, and operating a railroad. We foster the development of skills, crafts and technology associated with railroading and modeling, provide enjoyment for the public, our members and their families; preserve the hobby and support the exchange of ideas and techniques in the construction of railroad engines, equipment, signals, trackage and operations.

Required Information		
Name _____		
Last	First	Middle Initial
Address _____		

City _____		
State _____ ZIP _____ - _____		
Home Phone __ (____) _____		
Scale _____		
Operating _____		

Under Construction		

Annual dues for the LALS are payable every January and cover one calendar year. The dues schedule for a new member is:

Resident: - a one-time \$100 initiation fee and for the first year only:

- \$50 if joining in Jan., Feb., or Mar.
- \$45 if joining in Apr., May, or Jun.
- \$40 if joining in Jul., Aug., or Sep.
- \$35 if joining in Oct., Nov., or Dec.
- \$50 each calendar year thereafter

Non-Resident: \$30 regardless of when joining
Junior: \$20 regardless of when joining

Date: _____

Select One:

___A Resident Member is one who resides within 60 miles (as the crow flies) of the LALS facility. This member also has voting rights.

___A Non-Resident member resides more than 60 crow miles from the LALS facility and cannot vote.

___A Junior Member must be 14 years old and less than 18 years old. When a Junior Member reaches 18 years of age and wishes to remain as a resident or Non-Resident member, the above initiation fee and dues payment schedule is in effect – except that the current years dues could have already been paid. A Junior Member must be sponsored by a resident who is willing to instruct and be responsible for this Junior Member.

Optional Information
Spouse's name _____
Work Phone __ (____) _____
List your talent, skill or knowledge that could be useful to the LALS: _____

Signature of the sponsoring Resident Member

All members receive an ID badge, an annual ID card, an annual Roster, a book of rules, and monthly newsletters. All members can enjoy the use of the LAL Facility and when qualified, the LALS equipment. If accepted, I agree to abide by, and uphold, all rules, regulations and bylaws of the Los Angeles Live Steamers.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
 First Sponsoring member's signature _____ Date _____
 Second Sponsoring member's signature _____ Date _____
 Approved (Pres. Board of directors) _____ Date _____
 Approved (Membership Committee interviewer) _____ Date _____
 Amount paid \$ _____ Date _____ Cash or Check _____
 Money received by: (Membership or Treasurer) _____

FOR LALS USE ONLY

Applicant's Last Name _____

Membership Category _____

Date Application Accepted _____

Probation Final Date _____

Member Packet Issued _____

Probation Completed _____

Orientation Attended _____

(Refresher Instruction) _____

PROBATION WORK RECORD

Facility Work (Date / Hours)	Trainman (Date / Hours)