

IMPORTANT TO ALL MEMBERS

FROM: GGLS Board of Directors

Last year your Board of Directors amended a ten-year old policy which had previously stated:

Policy on Club Owned Locomotives

The club locomotives and public train rolling stock are reserved for hauling the public, and support of construction and maintenance only.

2.13 Policy on Club Owned Locomotives

The Board of Directors adopted this policy in 2011 to minimize the need for repairs and maintenance since our supply of people with the knowledge and skills needed to perform this work is very limited. The policy is that all locomotives, including steam engines and "diesels" are to be used only for club activities and not for personal use. Authorized activities include use on the public train, staging the public train, club work party support, and training runs under the direct supervision of an authorized adult trainer. Personal use for general riding around the tracks is not permitted.

In November 2021 this new paragraph replaced that:

“2. CLUB OWNED LOCOMOTIVES AND ROLLING STOCK: The RGS20 and RGS22 Steam Locomotives and the Dash-8 Electric Diesel locomotive are reserved for hauling the public and for support of maintenance only. The Hunter and Heinz Atlantic Steam Locomotives are for use by Club members on Sundays only, who have been trained in their use. The 1936 and 1972 Diesels are for use by qualified Club Members at any time, provided they are not in use by maintenance crews who have priority. Riding cars available for member use are kept in the Clerici barn (next to the tool house). After use these cars shall be returned to the barn and chained together.”

This change was made with the best intentions to benefit members, but there was no training program or plan in place for qualifying new members and their children.

We now have a plan to create a written uniform training program so that members can become qualified. Our locomotive chairman Paul will be drafting training segments leading to how members can demonstrate their learned knowledge, and then qualification can be achieved. The draft will then go to our Safety Chairman and Board of Directors for consideration and amendment or approval. There are liability and insurance matters that will need to be reviewed and resolved, and qualified volunteer members sought to help make this new program work. As you can imagine, this is all going to take some patience and time to work through to completion as we are 100% volunteers.

For our newer members who are unwilling to wait and find this unacceptable, we apologize, and we will refund your initiation fee + dues in full, and cancel your membership.

While the railroad equipment that the organization maintains may seem to be like a fun toy, it is not. The railroad equipment can be very dangerous if not used properly. The Golden Gate Live Steamers has always maintained an excellent safety record and will always seek to do so.

**Thank you,
The Golden Gate Live Steamers Board of Directors**