

# Remember When?

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Do you remember when run days were different?

Back in 1999, we didn't have fancy riding cars.

We didn't have a station...

We didn't have as many members....

But we all had one thing in common. Most of us loved giving rides to the

public. Notice what all the riders have in common?

~~~~ A BIG SMILE! ~~~~

Back in the old days, things were different. Back then I smiled a lot. Back then, Cooper and Mauri got to ride in a Gondola and smiled a lot.

Notice who the engineer is on the double heading Rio Grande? She smiled a lot too.

(By the way, what's with all the red shirts?)





In 1999, everyone knew each other by name. Virginia mentioned how she loves this hobby because of the friendships we make. So do I.

Can you name all 9 people in this photo? If you can, I will pay your dues for next year.

I'll give you a hint: This engineer enjoyed run days so much that

he would drive for hours to bring his train to Zube Park for run day.

Does anyone remember where we used to load passengers? We didn't have a station, but we had a couple of aluminum ramps. Some extra ballast worked out real nice when it got muddy.

I know it is difficult to see in this photo, but does anyone know what the 2 blue and white objects in the background are? I'll give you a hint. The boys or the girls could use either one.



Back then, we usually ran 3 or 4 trains depending on who was in town. The line to ride was never long... well except for that one time when we had 20 people in line. We had 1500 feet of track, no radios, no dispatcher, and no worries. We went around and around all day long and never got tired of the smiles or the folks saying "Thanks, that was great!". Large crowd or small crowd, we got just as sweaty back then as we do today.



Long ago, (well not really that long ago), the hobby in Houston had a different home. Does anyone recognize the location of this bridge?

I never got to run on this railroad, but I did get to help tear it down... It was sad, but I got to know a lot of the club members while roasting in the sun... Oh, and don't forget the monster spiders that had taken over the railroad that year.

Here is a close up of the bridge. Anyone recognize these handsome lads?

This hobby is a great family activity and a great way to teach the young about the industrial revolution. How many 5 years do you know that can tell you the difference between a 4-4-0 American and a Mikado?

Run days are a great way to introduce Railroading to the youth. What would the future of this hobby be without the kids? Notice the smiles? Seems to be a recurring theme...



**But wait, there's more!!!! -----à**



Speaking of family fun. We used to go out to Zube after work on a weekday and have a BBQ, ride our bikes, and even run the trains a little bit.

Lisa would cook and I would MOW the lawn or work on the track. The kids and I spent many nights in the dark trying to finish the 4-3/4" track before the SWLS meet. The mosquitos were so big we had to tie a rope to Cooper's ankle to keep him from being carried away. :~)

There are those smiles again!



Time for another quiz:

Where is this passenger train located?

Zoom in real close and I bet you will see a whole bunch of smiling public passengers....



I love this picture. There's nothing like a nice quiet nap after a long day of working on the railroad. Just ask Cody and Greg. If it weren't for a public run day, this young engineer never would have been introduced to the

hobby. At age 11, she was an engineer, a conductor, a gandy dancer, and one of the club's most articulate dispatchers. Great mentors made all the difference for me and my family.

This is amazing. We've come a long way since July 2000. We gained a lot of new friends, and said good-bye to some dear loved ones. The trains are our common bond, but giving service to the community brings great joy. Public run day gives me a chance to say thank you in so many ways.

I like parts of the discussion we are having and I hope we can use it to stimulate some great ideas that will help make our run days even better. I agree with some of the ideas and dislike some of the other ideas. **I love run days** and will continue to support them as much as possible.



Here is what I suggest we do..... But wait, the page is full and I have rambled on for far too long. ----- Keep on Steamin! à Jim Cash