

Whistles in the Woods

Published by Adirondack Live Steamers

OPERATING 6500 FEET OF TRACK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

7 1/4" GAUGE 1 1/2" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

SAFETY FIRST

APRIL 2007

ANOTHER FINE BANQUET

Thanks to a lot of work by Pete Petrillose and his family, ALS had another fine Winter Banquet on Sunday, March 11. Much of our membership was present, and we all enjoyed the usual fine food provided by caterer Joyce Crawford of Joyce's Country Kitchen.

Pete wants to be sure to thank those who helped to make the Banquet a success. Included in this list were Sue Arcaro, Erin, Bridget, and Megan Petrillose, along with Isabella, her father Mark, and Cindy Petrillose. We also express thanks to Lilly and Randy Jordan, and Liz Dorvee.

In addition to the food, there was the usual awarding of door prizes, thanks to the donations of many of our members. Following the door prize awards, Don

Buesing gave a short talk which highlighted some of our key members who have gone "over and above" in performing duties for the club. Rich Dean, Dick Hosmer, and Llyn Rice were all thanked for recent projects. He ended his talk with a tribute to Glenn Armitage, Frank DeSantis, Frank Chambers, and Fred Campbell, all past members who have died within the last year. Thank you Don for those thoughtful words.

It was good to see so many of our members present, and to bring ourselves up to date on what has been going on in people's lives since last fall. We all look forward to getting back to the track as soon as possible.

If you missed this year's event, plan now to attend next year. Don't miss out on the fun. ***

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, April 14, 1:00 PM
Club House**

Deadline for May *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, April 21

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Richard Dean, President

It's hard to believe that it's March already. With the late start of winter and now all the snow on the ground, it actually feels more like the beginning of February. And, COLD! It was 17 below at my house this morning. With all of these factors in play, it will be awhile before any more track is laid through DeSantis Divide.

Speaking of the DeSantis project, did you know that there have been work parties all winter? Dick Hosmer, Ken Nelson, Bill Mischler, Ted Wilming, and others have been building track for the spring thaw. They have built all of the switches (turnouts) for the new track from Adirondack Branch to the crossing shanty. They also have built all of the track panels necessary to complete the same stretch. Thanks guys!

This spring there is still much to be done to finish this project. Other than installing the new track and turnouts, the projects that come to mind are 1) install the new stone box/dump, 2) realign the lead for the stone dump, 3) clean the I beams and paint them (this means sand blasting or wire brushing the steel for preparation), 4) assemble the structure, and 5) install the decking of hemlock that Charlie Pellock has ordered. So be prepared to come to the club and work. This includes "ALL" chiefs also.

I don't mean to suggest that the only projects at ALS are at DeSantis. There are always small jobs that need attending. We only need to look around to find something to do. In the spring, Mother Nature has left pine needles and branches a-plenty. The covers on the benches need to be removed. The station needs another coat of paint on the exterior. The track needs blowing to run one it. The pot holes in the driveway need filling. As you see, the list is endless. Please come and give a hand because "many hands make light work."

Were you at the banquet? What a great production that Pete Petrillose and his family put on for the benefit of ALS. We all thank you for your efforts Pete and Family!

See you at the Track.

The Prez,

Richard Dean

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
CLUB TELEPHONE
(518) 583-2580

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: rich@adironacklvesteamers.org

Vice President: Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 587-3172

E-Mail: don@adironacklvesteamers.org

Recording Secretary: Llyn Rice

Phone: (802) 462-2719

E-Mail: llyn@adironacklvesteamers.org

Treasurer: Glenn Freedman

Phone: (518) 877-6274

E-Mail: glenn@adironacklvesteamers.org

Membership Secretary: Jeane Lutz

Phone: (732) 541-6614

E-Mail: jean@adironacklvesteamers.org

Director 2007: Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: ted@adironacklvesteamers.org

Director 2008: Skip Densing

Phone: (518) 663-5507

E-Mail: skip@adironacklvesteamers.org

Past President: Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-mail: dick@adironacklvesteamers.org

NEWSLETTER

Whistles in the Woods
STAFF

Editor: Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: pocovalley@msn.com

Publisher: Pete Petrillose

Columnists: Rich Dean, Jeane Lutz, and
Llyn Rice

SUBMISSIONS: *Whistles in the Woods* welcomes articles, news items, classifieds, digital photos, and other contributions. Please contact any of the staff.

WEB PAGE

Webmaster: Bill Eckert

Phone: (802) 226-7618

E-Mail: bill@adironacklvesteamers.org

Website:

Adironacklvesteamers.org

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in joining the ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS should contact Jeane Lutz, Membership Secretary.

Phone: (732) 541-6614

E-mail: JEANEL76@MINDSPRING.COM

INSURANCE UPDATE

As some of you know, our present ALS insurance policy runs out this spring, and Rich Dean and the Board of Directors have been working very hard in a search for another company who would be willing to write us a policy to cover our property, liability, and other such items.

As of this writing, only one company has responded, and only certain items on our list would be covered by them. We thank Rich for all of the after-hours work which he has put in on this project which is still pending. If you have any suggestions to help in solving this problem, please contact Rich or any member of the Board of Directors. Meanwhile if you have plans for a church picnic, birthday party, or other such activity at the club, you will have to be patient until we get this problem solved.

Understand that this is not the fault of anything which ALS has done or failed to do. Live steam clubs all over the country are facing this same problem in varying degrees. Rich brought those who were at the banquet up to date on where we stand currently, and where we go from here. Stay tuned. ***

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SPRING MEET

It is not too soon to be thinking about how you plan to help your club during Spring Meet. Did you enjoy what you did last year? Or were you one of those members who just stopped by to say "Hi" and left?

Don Buesing will be the chairperson for this year's event. Why not surprise him with a call this week, and offer your help in any of the many jobs. Registration, kitchen, clean up, and other such areas need to be filled. Pick something you would enjoy and call today. You make one phone call to Don, at 518-587-3172 or he must make over a hundred to our membership. ***

Llyn's Summary

Recording Secretary's Report Llyn Rice

Editor's note: Due to a previous commitment, Recording Secretary Llyn Rice was unable to be present at the March Membership Meeting. Following is a synopsis of the most important items discussed at the meeting as recorded by your editor.

Ken Nelson

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Dean. The minutes of the November 2006 meeting were read and approved. Membership Secretary Jeane Lutz presented the names of three potential new members, all of whom were approved by the membership. Treasurer Glenn Freedman presented his report. Ken Nelson reported that an Education Day will be held at ALS on June 2, for the Cub Scouts from Greenwich.

Under Old Business:

(1) Dick Hosmer reported that all turnouts and track panels have been constructed for the DeSantis project. There is much work to be done in installing these panels, along with other related projects including installation of the new ballast dump, I-beam painting, bridge timbers, and a few other related items.

(2) Rich Dean gave a short update on the Peck insurance claim. Her attorney has not responded to our attorney regarding their next action.

(3) Ted Wilming reported that several new safety signs have been printed by the same company which has made signs for our club in the past. They will be installed in the spring.

(4) The new Property Access Control Policy was passed by the membership. A complete copy of this policy may be found elsewhere in this issue.

(5) The visit of the NMRA Northeast Region scheduled for the fall of this year, along with a church picnic request have been put on hold pending the outcome of the insurance issue..

Under New Business:

(1) The membership was reminded of the Bylaws changes, which were printed in the February-March issue of *Whistles in the Woods*. A vote will be held during the April Membership Meeting.

(2) The 2007 ALS Budget was approved by the membership.

(3) Rich Dean reported that past Associate Member Darby Fatherly of Newburgh, New York recently passed away. His widow has offered his complete collection of books to the ALS library. This collection includes a rather long list of titles in the categories of "Shop Books" and "Train Books." The membership voted to accept the collection, which will be organized by three of our members.

The meeting was adjourned.

Notes From Jeane

Membership Secretary's Report Jeane Lutz

Spring is just around the corner, and I'm sure we are all looking forward to returning to the track and doing what our club does best.

Three new members were presented to our membership and accepted at the March meeting.

Ron Heller of Westfield, New Jersey was accepted as an Associate Member. A very active member of the New Jersey Live Steamers, many of you will remember Ron who has attended many of our past Spring and Fall Meets. Ron has already offered to serve in the position of Yardmaster for this year's Spring Meet. That's the kind of member we need. Welcome Ron.

Drew Armitage from Clifton Park, NY was accepted as an Associate Member. Drew is the brother of Regular Member Mark Armitage and the son of the late Glenn Armitage. Welcome Drew.

John Armitage, also from Clifton Park is Drew's son, and has been accepted as an Associate Member. We're happy to have you with us John.

We look forward to meeting all of our new members, and we welcome their presence at the club as we begin spring clean up.

Do you have an ALS nametag? They are available through me for \$8, and you must wear one or a paper name tag each time you are on ALS property. Just send a check to me MADE OUT TO ALS.

So far 147 members have responded to me with their dues and release forms. THANK YOU FOR BEING ON TIME. We expect that approximately 241 of our current members will be joining us this year. This leaves a large number of people who have yet to respond. Please respond NOW!!! I cannot make out the new Membership List until I have received everyone's response.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club soon.

Jeane Lutz, Membership Secretary

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THE ALS LIBRARY

With the death of Frank Chambers, ALS was in need of a librarian to handle our growing collection of dedicated books. Suzanne Weinreich, Eunice Hosmer, and Jeane Lutz have offered to organize the

collection of the late Darby Fatherly. Meanwhile, member Jim Ogden has offered to become our new librarian. We thank all of these members. ***

Ed note. The membership accepted the following Property Access Control Policy at the March Membership Meeting. Since it includes many changes from our current policy, all members are encouraged to read it carefully.

PROPERTY ACCESS CONTROL POLICY

1.0 Member Identification

- 1.1 ALL ALS members shall wear a pinned-on ALS name badge or a **green** name tag any time they are at ALS. **ALL** ALS members must complete a release form each year before receiving their membership card.
- 1.2 **All** family members or Regular Members shall wear a **brown** name tag and complete a yearly release form.
- 1.3 **All** annual or day guests invited by a Regular Member shall complete a yearly release form and wear a dated **red** name tag.
- 1.4 A family member is defined as a person living at the same address as the member.

Paper Name Tag colors:

- ALS Member Green (dated, good for one year)
- ALS Family Member Brown (dated, good for one year)
- Annual Guest Red (dated, good for one year)
- Day Guest Red (dated for day of issue)

- 1.5 The use of colored name tags will aid engineers in determining a passenger’s train riding experience and thereby allow the engineer to sense a degree of comfort with each individual passenger.

2.0 Guests

- 2.1 Regular Members may invite anyone, anytime, to ALS as long as the Regular Member is willing to accept responsibility for the guest’s behavior.
- 2.2 Associate Members may **ONLY** invite guests who are members of their immediate family and only if the Associate Member accepts responsibility for the behavior of the immediate family members.
- 2.3 Junior Members may not invite anyone, at anytime, as a guest of ALS. (A Junior Member’s Regular Member sponsor may do so for them as explained above.)

3.0 Visitors in good standing from other clubs

- 3.1 Visiting Members in good standing of other steam clubs are encouraged to visit ALS on the three advertised event weekends (Spring Meet, Fall Meet and Blowdown).
- 3.2 A Visiting Member and his family or friend shall wear his/her home club’s name badge or an ALS supplied **green** name tag during visits to ALS.
- 3.3 Members of other live steam clubs and their family or friend are also encouraged to visit ALS at other times (non-advertised event) as a guest of an ALS Regular Member.
- 3.4 A Visiting Member and his family shall wear his/her home club’s name badge or an ALS supplied **green** name tag during visits to ALS.

4.0 Education Day

- 4.1 Education Day Students of any age who are invited to ALS for an Education Day event shall have a release signed by a parent or guardian before arrival at ALS. Each chaperone shall also sign a release prior to arrival.
- 4.2 The signed releases shall be forwarded to the Education Day Chairman or the appointed Regular Member upon entering ALS property.
- 4.3 Each student and chaperone shall wear a **red** dated name tag.
- 4.4 All ALS members present (teachers and helpers) will share responsibility for each of our visitors (of all ages).

5.0 Special Days

- 5.1 Special Day guests (church, birthday, etc) may only be invited by a sponsoring Regular Member with the approval of the ALS Board of Directors
- 5.2 Special Day guests shall complete a release form and wear a dated **red** name tag.
- 5.3 The Regular Member shall assume responsibility for the behavior of his/her guests.
- 5.4 Adult guests shall support the hosting Regular Member by monitoring and accepting responsibility for the behavior of adolescent guests.
- 5.5 ALL guests shall wear an ALS supplied and dated **red** name tag at all times.

6.0 Membership Day

- 6.1 Membership Day will be staffed with a sufficient number of ALS members that each invited membership candidate will have a “one on one” escort while on ALS grounds.
- 6.2 The escorting ALS member shall introduce the candidate to the ALS rules, other ALS members, the facility, the layout, the riding experience and the membership experience.
- 6.3 The membership day “invitation” shall be for just the named candidate. The candidate may not invite anyone else to membership day – not even family members.

7.0 Name Tags

- 7.1 Before each name tag is handed out, the hosting Regular Member shall take possession of a completed release from each guest. Underage guests shall be named on the release signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- 7.2 A name tag shall be filled out by the inviting member with both that member’s and the guest’s names on it.
- 7.3 ALS will maintain an available stock of appropriate blank name tags and holders.
- 7.4 A Regular Member who may be busy elsewhere on ALS grounds may pre-arrange the releases and tags with a willing Regular Member proxy.
- 7.5 During advertised meets an email invitation may be presented to the registration booth attendant to show proof of prior arrangement. The email shall name each individual expecting to gain entrance to ALS.

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT (or ON THE SAME TRAIN?)

Bruce Rauch

I've been talking with and listening to live steamers from all over the country. We are all plagued by a very nasty problem, liability and insurance. Every club seems to have its own unique way of handling the problem. Some choose to ignore the problem altogether. They may be located in a public park and assume the park's insurance will take care of any problem that comes along. Others ban non-club members from setting foot on the property. Then there are those of us who try to keep operating as close to the way we have been operating for many years, but with some extra precautions thrown in.

Until this year, my Florida club has never used liability releases or waivers. The general feeling was that they weren't worth the paper they were written on. Due to some unfortunate incidences at a couple of our members' private tracks, we decided to seek counsel. An attorney was consulted. He told us that, in the state of Florida, the liability release or waiver carries much more weight in court than it did just a few years ago. I don't know what caused the change of opinion. We decided that we should develop and use waivers for any non member on the property. Our attorney reviewed waivers used by many clubs, including ALS, and came up with a plain language, no nonsense waiver for our use. This is not just for riding the trains; it's for merely being on the property. It's going to be difficult to enforce, we all want to be "nice guys." But, we have to try as hard as possible to get the waivers signed. You just don't know when the next

accident will happen.

I have to give a lot of credit to Don Buesing and all the founding members of ALS for choosing the hidden site we have there. That cuts down on so many "walk in" visitors. At RLS we are on a fairly main road. There is no visual barrier between the tracks and the road. Every time a train is out, we have uninvited visitors drive in. They want to give their kids a ride. Up until recently, many of our members would accommodate these "guests." Now, we tell them we are a private club, not open for rides. If they show a genuine interest in railroads, steam power, machine work, etc., we will talk with them. If they are just the looky-loos, they just leave.

I've suggested that we install a sign similar to the 3' x 5' entrance sign at ALS. There is some interest. I think they need to see what I'm talking about. Although I wrote the text on that sign, I can't remember the exact wording. I've looked through everything and can't find a picture of it. I'd appreciate it if someone would take a digital picture of the entrance sign and send it to me as an e-mail attachment. Send it to railbuf@verizon.net.

Twenty years ago ALS was picking the brains of members of other clubs and reviewing all their documents to get started in the right direction. Through effective leadership and a lot of hard work by many people, ALS is now one of the premier clubs that others look to for guidance and inspiration. Keep up the good work. I'll see you in the summer. ***

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WILLIAM CECKA DIES

We have just learned of the death of Associate Member William Cecka of Saratoga Springs, NY. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. ***

Adirondack Live Steamers
c/o Peter Petrillose
41 Goode Street
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

First Class

Important Dates

We need
your help

NOTE PAD

April 14 - Membership Meeting
Clubhouse 1:00 PM
May 5 – Members and Cub Scouts
Clean Up Day
May 12 – Membership Meeting
Clubhouse 1:00 PM
May 19 – Membership Day
Every Saturday – Work Day