

WHISTLES IN THE WOODS

Published by Adirondack Live Steamers

OPERATING 6500 FEET OF TRACK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

7 ¼" GAUGE 1 ½" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

SAFETY FIRST

April 2008

WINTER BANQUET A SUCCESS

Thanks to the fine organizational work done by Pete Petrillose, ALS was able to enjoy another great Winter Banquet. We had a good crowd of about 60-80 people, and everyone enjoyed the good food provided by caterer Joyce Crawford of Joyce's Country Kitchen.

At the risk of missing someone, we do want to thank, in no special order, Sue Arcaro, Erin Bridget, and Megan Petrillose, Mark Petrillose, Mike and Doreen, Randy, Cecilia, Abigail, and Lilly. We hope we didn't miss anyone, but rest assured that we did appreciate all of the help provided throughout the day.

Although there was no "organized" entertainment feature this year, everyone seemed to enjoy listening to stories of various winter experiences from each other. We also thank Pete for providing

some steam engine videos which were played in the background while people arrived.

This year's event was held in a new location, the Burnt Hills Fire Department Hall. Everyone seemed to like the facility, and the money saved by not renting the VFW Hall will be donated by Pete to ALS.

Everyone had fun with the usual door prizes, President Skip Densing gave a brief talk as to where we stand currently as a club, and Rich Dean reported that our insurance situation looks good at this point. More information should be available by next month.

As always, it was good to see friends we haven't seen all winter, and everyone looks forward to getting back to the track as soon as possible. ***

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Next Meeting: Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM
Notice change to NEW TIME

Deadline for May *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, April 18

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi everyone! Is it spring, or isn't it? I don't think the weather knows the seasons. The last time I was at the club, it still looked like WINTER.

Well, spring is on its way and **Spring Cleanup** will be April 18 and May 16. Now it would be nice to get as much done in April as we can *because* in May we will have *five* things happening on the same day.

Number one, and **very important**, is the engineer's test. We have a large number of people who are due to take the test this year, and Ted Wilming will be ready to meet with you to accomplish this. Number two is the steam locomotive boiler test. If you haven't had your boiler tested this year, Ray Dwyer will be available to help you test it. Number three will be unfinished clean up, or setting up things that need to be done for the season. Fourth, we will be visited by the fire department that covers us. Their goal is to learn the layout of the club to better handle things when – **IF** – they should have to come. Last, we **might** have *new* members that day who come out to see us for the first time. Gee, isn't that working out well? We will have all of those engines that day and you know somebody will just have to **run**.

I hope you have thought of something you want to work at this season. Call up a friend in the club and ask, "would you like to help me do _____?" There are names listed to call for information (or call me) and try *something*. You might really like it. There is signal work (call me), tie replacement (call John Camerota), track laying as we begin working on the new service area, and ballasting, just to name a few jobs that need doing. For other possible jobs, see the list on the new bathroom door for the member to contact.

As the saying goes, "Come when you can, and leave only when you have to."

See you at the club,

Skip, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
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Whistles in the Woods

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MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in joining the ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS should contact Membership Secretary Rich Dean.

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: deanelect@roadrunner.com

INSURANCE WORK CONTINUES

After many months of work by Rich Dean, we are close to obtaining a new insurance policy. Although there are no details available as of this writing, things are looking good. Check next month's *Whistles in the Woods* for an update.

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TWO MAJOR WORK DAYS COMING

The Board of Directors has added two mass workdays to our calendar in an attempt to get our grounds ready for the season. If you can only make one workday a month, please try to schedule these.

The first is set for Saturday, April 18. We would like to get at least 25-30 people present during the day, and you may pick your job. We have divided the railroad into various areas, and each needs to be raked and cleared of winter debris. In addition, the picnic tables need to be set up, arranged, and perhaps get new covers. The steaming bays will need some work, water barrels need to be filled, and the club house needs to be cleaned up for the summer.

The second day is scheduled for May 16. This will be a big day at ALS. Several people are planning to take their engineer's test that day, along with last minute cleanup. In addition, the Wilton Fire Department will be in attendance to take a look at our property. This is the department which covers us in the event of a fire.

Please make every effort to attend one or both of these days. ***

Safety Tip

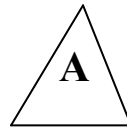
Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

Fire! It's a thing we all fear, respect, and in most cases, try to avoid. While a fire can be safe or fun under certain circumstances, such as a campfire, or cooking in the kitchen, we hope that we will never have one start on its own and get out of control. One item with which we should all be familiar is the fire extinguisher. We see them hanging on walls, and sitting on floors in various buildings, but are you aware that all fire extinguishers are not the same, and could cause a bigger problem if used incorrectly?

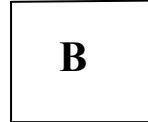
First we should understand that there are different types of fires, caused by different fuels. There is the common fire, which burns paper, wood, dry grass, etc. Then there is the petroleum type of fire, which might be fed by gasoline, oil, petrochemicals, or other petroleum. Third, one might come in contact with an electrical fire. Combustible metals might also cause a fire, but we are unlikely to come across one of those at ALS.

Grabbing the wrong fire extinguisher, and using it to attempt to put out a fire might cause more problems than it solves. Everyone should be aware of the different types of extinguishers.

Every fire extinguisher has on it an indication of what type of fire it will successfully fight. Let's look at the different types.



The water or A part of an ABC extinguisher is for common combustibles such as paper, wood, dry grass, etc. It will be silver in color and have a green triangle with a letter A in it.



The B part of an ABC or BC extinguisher is for a petroleum type of fire such as might be fueled by gasoline, oil, plastic, or petrochemicals. It will be in a red square.

C

The C part of an ABC or BC extinguisher is for energized electrical fires. It will be in a yellow circle. If you are not sure if a wire, switch, or receptacle is "hot," or energized, consider that it is.

The next time you are at the club, take a minute or so to look around and find out where our fire extinguishers are, and what type they are. Remember that they may be type A, type BC, or type ABC. If you have further questions about fire extinguishers, talk to Ted Wilming. See you next month.

(Editor's note: The **C** type of extinguisher above should have a circle around it. Those getting this newsletter on line will not have the circle appear. – *ed.*)

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the March Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by President Skip Densing.

Skip reviewed the things discussed in the recent Board of Directors Meeting.

In the absence of Glenn Freedman, there was no Treasurer's Report. Richard Dean reported that as of March 14, 117 members had sent in their dues.

Old Business:

- Richard gave a brief update on our insurance issue. We think we have a new policy, but it still needs to be signed and sent in to make it official. This will be done this week.
- A question was raised as to whether or not the club should purchase its own porta-potty rather than rent one for each Meet. A vote will be taken at the next meeting.
- A lengthy discussion was held regarding our club steam engine. An offer has been made to the club to purchase it. Some would like to use it to teach others how to operate a steam engine. Those with opinions as to whether to use it for education or to sell it should contact Don Buesing. A vote will be taken at the next meeting.
- Several Safety issues were mentioned as reminders as we begin a new season of operation.
 - Don't overload your cars.
 - Engineers have final say as to who to carry and whether or not to carry passengers at all.
 - Protect the rear of your train when stopped.
 - Read and review the rules before your first operating day.
 - Don Buesing offered to review and update our set of standards for cars.
 - Check your boilers. (See Ray Dwyer)
- Regarding the items of the late Frank DeSantis, a call will be made in April and a committee will review the items available.
- A few tree limbs have fallen on the right-of-way over the winter, but there was no major damage.

New Business:

- April 18 and May 16 were set as Mass Work Days. It is hoped that a large number of members will attend these two days.
- New engine house stall locks have been ordered. Keys for each member who has rental space in a stall will be provided when the locks have been procured.

(Continued on page 6) See **Minutes**

Minutes (Continued from page 5)

- All members with equipment in the engine house and/or the car barn were reminded to get their rental payments in before April 1.
- **The time for Membership Meetings was moved back to 10:00 AM**
- The Budget previously prepared by the BOD was passed as amended.
- Members were reminded to not bring the LP gas grill into the clubhouse with bottles of gas attached. Remove the bottle first, and leave the bottle outside.
- Ted Wilming will service all fire extinguishers in the near future.
- A discussion was held concerning the clubhouse.
 - Mold has formed on exterior walls. Before repainting, we will try a pressure washer.
 - Carpenter ants still seem to be in some parts of the building. They will be treated again.
 - A leak has been discovered in the roof over the shower. This involves ice buildup where the new roof meets the old roof, and will be addressed as soon as nice weather is here.

The Meeting was adjourned.

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THESE WEB SITES MAY INTEREST YOU

Don Buesing

Since I have a gauge 1 steamer, I keep track of the posts at My Large Scale, a website for gauge one people. They are currently running an interesting article on a 7+ gauge steam outline electric Porter 0-4-0 in what looks like 2½" scale. It is very nice. Perhaps this would provide a "way to go" for those wanting a steamer without the steam.

The web site address is a long one:

<http://www.mylargescale.com/Community/Forums/tabid/56/forumid/4/postid/52133/view/topic/Default.aspx>

Also you might want to check out another site. It is from Bill Shields of the *Allen Loco* modelers group on Yahoo. There are some good drawings here for live steamers.

The web site address for this one is:

<http://www.mehrs.com/files> ***

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GETTING READY FOR SUMMER RUNNING

Although many engineers will be taking their test in the next few months, ALL engineers should take a few minutes to prepare for the coming season of running.

Check your lights. Are all operating? Check the rules. Revue your hand signals with the person or persons with whom you

usually operate. Check your fire extinguisher. If you are not sure of its ability to fight a fire, buy a new one.

We all get rusty over the winter. Don't wait for an unfortunate incident to remind you. Have a great season ***

* * * * *

WANTED

"Stills," Home Movies, or Home Videos of early activity at ALS (late 80's, early 90's)

Contact Joyce Sternitzke:

Phone: (845) 527-9969 OR E-mail: MsLocoLady@aol.com

Adirondack Live Steamers
C/o Pete Petrillose
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First Class

Note: If your dues are not up to date, this will be your last copy.

NOTE PAD

**April 11 – Membership Meeting
10 AM - Clubhouse**
April 18 – Mass Work Day
**May 9 – Membership Meeting
10 AM - Clubhouse**
**May 16 – Mass Work Day, Engineer
Test Day, Membership
Day, Fire Dept. Visit**
**Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work
Days**
Every Day – Run Days

**Come Out
and Have
Fun**

