

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 2010

RUNNING TRAINS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER ARE YOU READY?

By the middle or end of April, trains will begin to roll over our club's tracks. Are you ready?

First we need to look at our own train and ourselves. Are you due for an Engineer's Test this year? It will be given on Membership Day, May 15. You can practice by looking up the test on line at adirondacklivesteamers.org. (Please remember, don't send it in by computer. We continue to have trouble with our link.) It is good for three years. Have you practiced your hand signals with the person or people with whom you regularly operate? If you run a steam engine, have you had your boiler checked? Membership Day is again a good time to do this, or contact Ray Dwyer to arrange a time with him. If you are operating a diesel or electric, have you checked your fire extinguisher

lately? How old is it? If it's more than two or three years, buy a new one. Don't wait for a fire to discover it doesn't work. They don't last forever. Check your lights. Do they all work?

Second, have you done your share of work at the club to make the track, the grounds, and the buildings ready for the season? Please, don't leave this to a few other members. (See the President's Column on page 2).

Third, have you paid your Membership Dues, along with your user fee (if applicable) for the use of the Engine House and/or Car Barn? Finally, do you have a friend who might be a potential member, who may want to visit on Membership Day? Contact Don Buesing for an invitation.

Let's all work TOGETHER to have a great season. ***

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, April 10, 10:00 AM
Clubhouse**

**Deadline for May *Whistles in the Woods*:
Saturday, April 17**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Well, it is April already. Do you realize it is only ten weeks until our Spring Meet? Who is going to be the chair person for the Spring Meet this year? How about the Fall Meet? We may have to cancel it; if no one wants to work on it, there will be no one there to do it.

HELLO fellow MEMBERS. We need to step up and HELP!

The “Dirty Dozen” is down to about eight. What is going to happen when NO ONE has learned how to do things? The club will die! We all need to do something to help, and it does all add up. So please get involved in something at the club.

These are the things that must be accomplished before Spring Meet:

Picnic tables put back down. / Signs put back out. / Signs uncovered. / Track clearing. / Water turned on. / Steaming bays cleared (A thousand pine cones have come down over the winter.) / Switches checked for operation. / Lifts checked for proper operation. / Water barrels filled. / Make sure the air is working properly. / Clearing fallen trees and branches on tracks and roads. / All train cars should be checked. / All boilers treated. / All engines checked. / All signals working. / The depot cleaned. / All items restocked.

Does it seem like a lot? Well it is! That is why it takes more than me, myself, and I to get everything done in time for everything to happen.

How many of you made your ten trips to the club last year? We as a club need to get more members showing up and bringing fellow members with them, not just to do something, but to share time with each other. Father/son, father/daughter, mom/daughter, mom/son., you/a friend. If you don't come and enjoy time at YOUR club, it is going to die! It might not be there the next time you show up, because if no one comes it will get overgrown. It is already happening in some places because no one is doing any maintaining. The garage needs cleaning, the storage behind the engine house has needed straightening for five years or more, and the stuff behind the garage has been accumulating for over five years. The Clubhouse trim has needed painting for several years, and all of our bridges need painting. When will we ever get to it? I am sure you have a pet peeve. Have you done anything about it?

It is not enough just to show up one day for Spring and Fall Meets, and visit with a few friends.

I am sorry that this month's column is kind of negative but I have to say it. MORE CLUB MEMBERS EACH HAVE TO DO A LITTLE MORE or else.

Call a club friend and go check your club out.

Skip, President

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

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MEMBERSHIP

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

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WORK BEGINS ON THE MACHINE SHOP

Mark Landgraf

Members of the machine shop committee have been busy sorting through the containers full of pieces, parts, stock, and machinery that were donated by the estate of Frank DeSantis. They advise me that there will be stuff that the club does not have a use for, which will be up for sale on the swap table at the Spring Meet.

Our librarian is sorting and cataloging the dozen boxes of books that were included in the DeSantis estate. The library is filling up quite nicely, and with a good diversity of topics.

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WINTER BANQUET

Thanks to the work of Pete Petrillose, we were able to enjoy another ALS Winter Banquet. Again this year, the banquet was held at the Burnt Hills Fire Department. Approximately 45-50 people from the ALS family attended. The caterer was Joyce Crawford of Joyce's Country Kitchen, and much assistance was provided by Pete's family. We really do appreciate all of the help which they offer each year in waiting tables, collecting tickets, making salad, and generally moving about to make sure that everyone has what they need.

Thanks goes out to all who provided door prizes. It was good to see many of our friends whom we haven't seen all winter. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the February Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by President Skip Densing at 10:05 AM

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles read to minutes of the November 2009 Meeting. They were accepted as corrected.

In the absence of Membership Secretary Rich Dean, there was no Membership Report.

Treasurer Ben Maggi gave the Treasurer's Report. After much discussion, it was accepted.

Committee Reports:

- Good and Welfare – Donna Densing is progressing well after knee surgery.
- Communications – the Company constructing the boiler for the club engine *Woodstock* has communicated that the boiler is completed and will be shipped to Karl Pickles.
- Safety – Ted Wilming reminded all about the required boiler inspection of all steam engines. He also reminded that diesel and electric locomotives must have a working fire extinguisher. In addition, he mentioned that this has been a dry winter in the Adirondack area, and fire may become a problem in the spring. Fire barrels have been added to the property and will be located approximately every two mile posts. Five gallon buckets are needed. Anyone who has one should please bring it to the club grounds. John Camerota reminded all to check themselves for ticks after spending any time in the woods. Dick's Sporting Goods has spray that will work on clothes.
- Clubhouse – The goal for this year is to get the kitchen sink cabinets and wainscoting trim installed. There was a discussion about the sink, which will be continued at the March Meeting.
- Track – Track panels are being built, but we need many more. John Camerota reported that any tie that has a yellow dot on it is in need of replacement. More help is needed in this area. Please call or talk to John Camerota.
- Signals – Ken Nelson reported that signals for DeSantis are under construction, and Tom Rhodes is working on the circuitry for these signals. Installation will begin this summer.
- Grounds – The small roof over the entrance to the Car Barn will be replaced. The road around the property is being worked on. The goal is to make this road accessible for an ambulance.
- Gauge #1 – No report
- Enginehouse – Each stall of the Enginehouse will be emptied and swept on Membership Day in May, weather permitting. A "condition" will be attached to each of the Use Forms that will be sent out during the next several weeks. This "condition" will allow the removal of each member's equipment by them or another party to complete this cleaning.
- Car Barn – Each stall of the Car Barn will be emptied and swept on Membership Day, weather permitting. A similar "condition" will be sent out with Car Barn Use Forms.

Old Business:

- Several ideas have been proposed regarding the construction of a Machine Shop. Meanwhile, the equipment that ALS has inherited from the DeSantis Estate is being sorted and reviewed. (Continued on page 5) See **February Minutes**

February Minutes *(Continued from page 4)*

- Librarian Ben Maggi reported that the Library is now ready for use by Members. [See article elsewhere in this issue. *Ed.*]

New Business:

- John Camerota presented several approaches to building the Busse Tunnel. More discussion will follow after expenses of each approach are examined.
- Budget for 2010 – Treasurer Ben Maggi presented a first draft of the 2010 Budget. After several additions and changes, the budget was passed. Anyone with questions regarding the budget should contact Ben.
- The Date for Spring Opening Work Day will be announced in the Newsletter and at the March Membership Meeting.
- Chairmen for the Spring and Fall Meets are needed. See Skip Densing with questions.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the March Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by President Skip Densing at 10:04 AM.

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles read the minutes of the February Meeting. They were accepted as corrected.

In the absence of Membership Secretary Richard Dean, there was no Membership Report.

Treasurer Ben Maggi was not present. His report was submitted and read by Skip Densing. It was accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

- Safety – Ken Nelson reported that a new Rule Book is being prepared for 2010 and will be available for review in the near future.
Gas cans continue to be available for anyone who needs one.
Everyone was reminded to drive slowly on the driveway at the club. It is very icy when frozen and very muddy when thawed.
The lift behind the Enginehouse will be repaired with a new seal.
- Clubhouse – Lance Sherman will install trim at the top wall and finish the wainscoting. A second-hand sink is available and will be purchased for the kitchen. It was decided that this is a much better financial move than purchasing a new one.
- Track – Over twenty track panels have been constructed and piled temporarily outside the Clubhouse. They must be moved as soon as the snow is gone. More are needed.
- Signals – Ken Nelson reported that the lights for the DeSantis signals should arrive this week.
Dave Olsen will begin installing the block signals during the week just before the Spring Meet. He will need help. (Please contact Skip Densing if you are available. *Ed.*)
- Grounds – The Car Barn is now accessible. The roof over the door which had fallen under the weight of snow has been moved. More work is needed on it.
The large yellow tractor (Case) has a slow leak in both front tires. Charlie Pellock will have them repaired or replaced.
The dump truck needs work.

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

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

We have talked about Fire Extinguishers before (April 2009 issue of *Whistles in the Woods*) but unless you have an opportunity to use them every day, they can easily become something we see hanging on hooks on the wall, and never really understand.

It is important to understand that not all fire extinguishers are equal. There are several different kinds, and fighting a fire with the wrong type of extinguisher can cause more harm than good. We will practice how to fight a fire with an extinguisher on Membership Day, May 15. Meanwhile, let us review the different types of extinguishers, how they are identified, and on what type of fire to use them.

All fires need fuel of some type, and it is this fuel that causes different types of fires. Every extinguisher should have on the side of it, a letter located inside of a shape. The letters may be an **A**, located inside of a triangle, a **B**, located in a square, or a **C**, located inside of a circle. In some cases, more than one letter may be on the same extinguisher.

A fire which is burning paper, wood, dry grass, or other such fuel may be brought under control with an **A** extinguisher. They will be silver in color.

A petroleum type of fire such as might be fueled by gasoline, oil, plastic, or petrochemicals should be fought with a **B** extinguisher.

Electrical fires must be approached with a **C** extinguisher.

Some extinguishers may have more than one letter such as **A B C**, or **B C**.

The next time you are at the club, take some time to look around and find out where our fire extinguishers are, and what type they are. If you have questions about fire extinguishers, talk to Ted Wilming.

See you next month. ***

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March Minutes (Continued from page 5)

- Gauge #1 – Robert Maxwell and Lance Sherman are working on the track.
- Engine House – Applications have been sent for the use of the Engine House. If you have not received yours, contact Ray Dwyer.
- Car Barn – No report.

Old Business:

- The boiler for *Woodstock* will be shipped as soon as the roads in Colorado are again open. Snow and landslides have delayed shipping.

New Business:

- Mark Landgraf will “head up” the Spring Meet. He needs help in making phone calls.
- May 15 will be Membership Day. Besides the visit of potential new members, boilers and fire extinguishers will be checked, and the Engine House will be cleaned.
- On May 16, Richard Dean will sponsor a birthday party at the club. Help is needed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.

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ALS LIBRARY NOW OPEN FOR YOUR USE

Ben Maggi

After several years of hard work by a lot of people, I am proud to say that our Club Library is open and ready to be used by members! This project took a lot more time than I estimated, but that is partially because the Club decided to renovate the room from a dirty storage area into a sharp looking book depository, and partially because the generosity of everyone in donating books has allowed our collection to practically double since I started in 2007.

I was not the first to work on this project. Bruce Rauch campaigned hard for a nice library space, and while it never came to fruition until after he left us for the sunny areas of Florida, he has still made his presence known. The comfortable rubber floor, and the dehumidifier were both installed during one of his visits back. Thanks again, Bruce!

Art Pickles, Karl Pickles, and Frank Chambers did a great job of keeping the files together and working on a system of cataloging them up until Art and Frank died, and I was asked to become the librarian. Each of them deserves recognition. Beyond that, I would sometimes show up to the club and see different things being worked on by several members. Charlie Pellock, Rich Dean, Skip Densing, Ken Nelson, and Lance Sherman all worked on installing a new window, building studs, hanging and taping drywall, painting, putting in electrical boxes and installing a very useful shelving system that can hold the weight of all of these books.

There is only one way to keep a room looking this good: KEEPING JUNK OUT! I concede that some things like club documents need to be stored

somewhere, but I will not let the room turn into a general-purpose storage area. If I find stuff that doesn't belong in there, I will put it outside the room on the tables. This isn't **my** library; it is **our** library. I don't mind sorting the books and keeping it clean, but we all need to do our part to keep unnecessary clutter from getting in.

Now let's enjoy the library! There are over 140 books and 2300 magazines, sorted into categories such as:

- General Mechanical Knowledge
- Live Steam Hobby
- North American Railroads
- International Railroads
- Model Railroading

In addition, there are dozens of VHS tapes on different railroad subjects, including several which contain important ALS historical events. If you are looking for something specific, there is a RED binder that contains our entire catalog of items. Check inside to see if we have what you want, or ask me and I can tell you.

How to check out an item:

If you are interested in borrowing anything, please do the following: In the red spiral notebook next to the binder, please write down your NAME, the TITLE of the item, or items you are borrowing, the DATE, and your PHONE NUMBER. We don't have any late fees, but I need to know who has what.

When you return it, place it in the "return" bin and I will take care of the rest.

Donations:

If anyone has anything they would like to donate, please contact me or leave the item with a note on it on one of the top shelves. The club can give you a tax donation form if you would like.

(Continued on page 8) See **Library**

Library (Continued from page 7)

Other Notes:

(1) There are still several items which were donated by the family of Frank DeSantis. They are in the plastic crates. If you see items in the plastic crates, please don't take them yet. I am still cataloging them. Hopefully, by the time you read this, they will be done. If you see something you cannot go a week without, check it out by listing the above information and also make a note that it was from the crate.

(2) There are several stacks of papers

on the right side of the library. I am slowly going through them. Please do not borrow them yet.

(3) VHS tapes: I have no idea if they work and have not tested them as I don't own a VCR. If you try a tape and it doesn't work, or if the picture quality is terrible, let me know. If anyone has the capability of converting VHS tapes to DVD, please let me know too. Our club tapes should be transferred over to DVD before they become unusable. ***

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WATCH OUT FOR TICKS

Ken Nelson

The summer season brings with it a host of opportunities for a good time in the great outdoors. Unfortunately, there are also a great number of potential problems to look out for during the season. Besides the common ones such as sunburn and mosquito bites, we as live steamers must be aware of ticks. They are very small, but can cause big problems. One of those problems is Lyme Disease, and our own John Camerota has suffered through it.

Lyme Disease is caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi* which lives in animals such as mice, squirrels, and birds, but can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick. Symptoms in humans include fever, headache, body ache, fatigue, joint swelling and a skin rash. The risk of your becoming infected is directly related to your exposure to ticks. The good news is that **early** treatment with antibiotics usually enables complete recovery.

After you have been in the woods, check yourself and, better yet, have someone else check you for ticks. They are often very tiny, but will look like a small black dot. Check your children, and check your dog. The ticks are also prone to bite animals.

This is not meant to alarm you, and is certainly not meant to discourage you from coming out to ALS to have fun. But please do be careful, dress appropriately, and wear some kind of repellent which contains Deet. Among other sources, I am told that such repellent is available at Dick's Sporting Goods.

If you have questions about Lyme disease, talk to your doctor, or ask John. A good time to talk to him is while you are helping him do some track work, or offering your assistance in replacing some ties.

Enjoy the railroad, but use good judgment in having fun. ***

Adirondack Live Steamers
C/o Pete Petrillose
41 Goode Street
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

First Class

NOTE PAD

**April 10 – Membership Meeting
10 AM in the Clubhouse
Every Saturday in April – Work
Day to clean up the Club Grounds
May 8 – Membership Meeting
10 AM in the Clubhouse
May 15 – Membership Day
June 10-13 – Spring Meet**

**Your Club
needs
your
help!**