

# WHISTLES IN THE WOODS

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*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

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SAFETY FIRST

APRIL 2011

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## ANOTHER GREAT BANQUET

Ken Nelson

If you missed out on this year's ALS Banquet, you missed another great one. Pete Petrillose did it again, with a serving of fine food and good fellowship. Caterer Joyce Crawford from Crawford's Country Kitchen did her usual fine job of serving up some delicious food. The beef and chicken were both well received, and the vanilla/chocolate cake served for dessert along with ice cream was quite good.

A great deal of credit goes out to Pete for the many hours he spent in making arrangements for the dinner. Pete's family and friends helped with the table service; although some were very young, they all did a fine job.

Thanks to several of our members, there was an abundance of door prizes. In fact, due to the fact that several

people brought more than one prize, there were more prizes than we had people. Those prizes not distributed at the banquet will be saved and given out next year. Pete expressed thanks to all who contributed prizes.

Following the dinner, President Skip Densing gave a brief talk on the current status of the club. Several members were thanked for their continuous work throughout the winter months.

As always, it was a great opportunity to visit again with our many live steam friends whom we haven't seen all winter. Approximately fifty to sixty people took advantage of the day's activities.

If you missed this year's event, we missed you, and we hope that you plan now to attend next year's festivities. \*\*\*

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, April 9, 10:00 AM  
Clubhouse**

**Deadline for May *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, April 16**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Hi everyone.

It is getting that time of year again when we start getting things out for the spring. Although the club's driveway is still quite MUDDY, the white stuff is starting to disappear. Although so far I have not seen any major problems at the club, I have not been to the back of it yet.

So what will you plan on doing first at the club? There is always cleaning of anything: floors, tables, garage, garbage cans, leaves, track, and whatever I didn't think of. The tools in the tool shed have been taken care of quite well this past season. Thank you! It takes everyone doing whatever part they do to keep our club in shape.

Depending on the area you like to work in, you should start asking what that group plans on doing. As far as track stuff, we have panels in the depot that need to be moved outside when we can; right now there is no place to set them with all of the snow and mud. The switch at Marshall Hill Crossover needs to have its ties changed. That should only take a day once all of the replacement ties are pre-cut and ready. As far as signals in the DeSantis interlocking go, they are still being worked on. Current plans call for some of the signals around the layout to be worked on preceding Spring Meet. Inside the Clubhouse, we still need the trim finished up, hopefully by Spring Meet. Possibly the diamond crossing will be installed this spring and we will then be able to lay some track there. The new tunnel might be seeing some process too. Boiler work continues on Woodstock. We need to check out all of the club's cars including wheels, couplers, numbers on cars, and their condition. They must be clean, not loaded with stuff. Do you know how many cars the club owns? We own three locomotives.

So I hope you have some ideas of what you want to work on this year so you can enjoy our club. I plan on seeing you there!

*Skip,*  
President

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS**  
**CLUB TELEPHONE**  
**(518) 583-2580**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Skip Densing

Phone: (518) 663-5507

E-Mail: [skip@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:skip@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Vice President:** Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 584-4492

E-Mail: [charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Recording Secretary:** Karl Pickles

Phone: (518) 587-5702

E-Mail: [karl@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:karl@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Treasurer:** Ben Maggi

Phone: (585) 506-2680

E-Mail: [ben#@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:ben#@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Membership Secretary:** Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: [rich@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:rich@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Director 2011:** Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-Mail: [dick@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:dick@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Director 2012:** Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: [ted@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:ted@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Past President:** Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 567-3172

E-Mail: [don@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:don@adironacklivesteamers.org)

NEWSLETTER  
*Whistles in the Woods*  
 STAFF

**Editor:** Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: [pocovalley@msn.com](mailto:pocovalley@msn.com)

**Publisher:** Pete Petrillose

**Columnists:** Skip Densing and Rich Dean

**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@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:bill@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Website:** [adironacklivesteamers.org](http://adironacklivesteamers.org)

MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: [deanelect@roadrunner.com](mailto:deanelect@roadrunner.com)

## SYMPATHY EXPRESSED

We are sorry to report the death of Associate member Peter Christo of Rensselaer, NY. Although he reportedly died May 28, 2010, it was just brought to our attention.

He is survived by his wife Ruth who indicates that Peter very much enjoyed our club, along with the trains that he built.

We express our sympathy to Ruth and the remainder of Peter's family. \*\*\*

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## TIME TO BEGIN

Are you ready for a new year? Here are some thinking points to check before we begin our new season.

1. Engineer's Test. Everyone who operates anything on our tracks must take this test once every three years. If you forget when you took it last, check with Ted Wilming, Safety Chairman.
2. If you run a steam engine, your boiler must be checked once a year. Contact Ray Dwyer if you have questions.
3. Diesel operators, check your fire extinguishers and lights. Does everything work?
4. Have you done your share of work at the club? Track, grounds, and buildings all need preparation. Don't leave this to just a few.
5. Have you paid your Membership Dues, along with any applicable user fees for the Engine House (Ray Dwyer) and/or Car Barn (Myron Rapaport)?
6. Do you have a friend who might be interested in membership? Membership Day on May 21 is a good day to invite them. (Membership Secretary is Richard Dean.)

Now we're ready for a great season. \*\*\*

## THESE WEB SITES MAY INTEREST YOU

Ken Nelson

This month I offer a “two-fer.”

There is a relatively new web page dedicated to the railroad hobbyist. In fact, its name is *Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine*. While many of the features deal primarily with indoor model railroading, there is at least one part of the web page that might be of interest to both Gauge One and 1½” members of the hobby.

They publish a monthly “magazine” on line, which is totally free, paid for by their advertisers. Its web page is:

[Model-railroad-hobbyist.com/ezine](http://Model-railroad-hobbyist.com/ezine)

Another link may be reached at:

[Model-railroad-hobbyist.com/videos](http://Model-railroad-hobbyist.com/videos)

This video link includes two videos about Tom Miller’s live steam railroad

on his property, together with two others about Mr. Miller’s F Gauge layout in a special building that he constructed.

The second web site this month deals with the Alco Historical and Technical Society. Many Schenectady area residents fell in love with Alco locomotives years ago. The Historical Society, in the words of their “Mission,” plan “to open a museum to promote the rich history of the American Locomotive Company...educating the public through artifacts and historical documents.”

The web page is [www.ahts.org](http://www.ahts.org). It offers several Alco items for sale and tells a bit about the location and plans for their new museum on Maxon Road in Schenectady. \*\*\*

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## IT’S TICK SEASON

As we enter the woods during the next few months, we are reminded of the potential threat of ticks. While they are very small, they can cause very big problems such as Lyme Disease.

Symptoms of the disease may include fever, headache, body ache, fatigue, joint swelling and/or a skin rash. Early treatment with antibiotics usually enables complete recovery.

Before entering the woods, it is a good idea to dress appropriately, and to apply repellent to your clothing that

contains Deet. When you arrive home, check your body for ticks. They are often very tiny, but will look like a small black dot. Dick’s Sporting Goods sells Sawyer Premium Clothing Repellent. Do not apply this to your skin. Clothing must be treated before wearing it. Follow the directions carefully. It will remain effective through as many as six washings.

More information about Lyme disease may be available through your doctor or on the web. \*\*\*

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## JOHN CAMEROTA HAS SURGERY

During the month of February, John Camerota underwent surgery at Albany Medical Center. In early March, he was transferred to Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady. After a remarkable recovery, he was discharged for further care at his mother’s home in

Ballston Spa. Cards would certainly be appropriate and may be sent to:

60 Pepperbush Place,  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to John for a quick recovery. \*\*\*

**CLASSIFIED**

**Rail Systems Baldwin S-12**

Dimensions:

Length: 72 inches; Width: 16 inches; Height 23½ inches; Weight: 480 lbs.

Features:

16 HP Vanguard v-twin engine; Smooth operating hydraulic control system;  
16 gauge steel body with laminated door detail; Steel wheels with lifetime bearings;  
Heavy fabricated steel truck sideframes; Laser cut brake hangers;  
Fully sprung and equalized type A switcher trucks; Halogen lighting w/high/low switch;  
Low tone horn for safety; 7¼" Gauge

Price:

Asking \$5,000; Cost new was \$6,400; Current replacement cost is \$6,962.55

**Flat Cars for riders**

Two 6 ft. flat cars with trucks, couplers, and swivel seats; 7¼" Gauge

Price:

\$600 each; Replacement cost from Rail Systems for equivalent is \$985 each

**Diesel/Flat Car Package**

S-12 Diesel and two flat cars for \$6,000

The above is from the estate of ALS member Mark Armitage. If you are interested in test running or "kicking the tires" please contact Don Buesing at 518-587-3172. The engine is gassed up and ready to go.

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**Steam Engine**

4-6-4 Hudson; Lettered *New Haven*; Six-wheel trucks on tender; 7¼" Gauge  
\$15,000

**Diesel Engine**

Rail Systems SW 1500; Black Primer; No road name; 7¼" Gauge  
Snow plow; Ditch lights; Hour meter  
\$5,000

**Freight Cars**

Two Flat cars; One Gondola; One Caboose lettered *Pennsylvania*; 7¼" Gauge  
Asking \$800 each

**Track**

400 feet or more; Make offer

**Package**

Steam engine, diesel engine, freight cars, and track for \$25,000

Contact Tim Barcone

PO Box 5, Westkill, NY 12492

Phone: H 518-989-6462; C 845-901-1134

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

**Classified** (Continued from page 5)

### Steam Engine

Allen "Camelback" Mogul; 7¼" Gauge

Only known example of converting classic Allen Mogul to a Camelback

Wootten firebox/boiler added to Allen's running gear; 35% increase in grate area  
Equipped with many Superscale fittings including injector, check valves and blow downs

Built 1978, recently rebuilt; very good steamer and puller

Pulled 37 freight cars at Pioneer Valley; 18 adults at Montreal Live Steamers

Price:

Asking \$13,500

### Trucks

Two pair Allen Arch bar trucks, one with roller bearings

Asking \$350 for the two pairs **OR** will sell as package with the Mogul

Contact Mark Smith

Huntington, Vermont

802-434-4455

[Mark@windekindfarms.com](mailto:Mark@windekindfarms.com)



Mark's loco when new



Loco recently rebuilt

# Minutes

## A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the March Membership Meeting

Following the Pledge to the Flag, President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles was present but had mislaid the February minutes, so they were not read.

Membership Secretary Rich Dean was not present.

Treasurer Ben Maggi gave the Treasurer's Report.

### Committee Reports:

- Good and Welfare – John Camerota is currently in Sunnyview Hospital following surgery. See article elsewhere in this issue.
- Safety – Although the club grounds are currently accessible, they are very icy and muddy. Anyone planning to come to the club might call Charlie Pellock first to determine conditions of the driveway, etc.  
Ted Wilming reported that the fire extinguishers will be serviced.
- Clubhouse – The propane tank has been filled.  
A reminder to all: please turn the thermostat down to below 50 when leaving, but let the fans run.
- Track – Skip Densing and Ken Nelson have constructed twenty new track panels. One of the four turnouts in Marshall Hill Crossover must be replaced in April or May.  
More screws, nuts, bolts, and rail joiners have been ordered.
- Signals – Ken Nelson reported that Insulating Rail Joiners are being constructed. Warren Hockaday reported that in about a month, several air actuators to operate turnouts will be available at no cost to the club. They will be tried.
- Grounds – No Report.
- Gauge #1 – Lance Sherman reported that the ground track needs stabilization and will be worked on.
- Engine House – Ray Dwyer reminded all that their engine house payment is due. Stalls will be emptied on Membership Day for cleaning.  
The remainder of the drip trays will be installed.
- Car Barn – No Report.
- Machine Shop – Mark Landgraf reported that progress is being made in sorting and cleaning tools and equipment from the DeSantis Estate.

### Old Business:

No Report.

### New Business:

- Treasurer Ben Maggi presented the 2011 Budget. One item was changed from “DeSantis Crossing” to “Signals.” One new item was added: “Track and Track Maintenance.” The money for the new item was taken from “Physical Plant.” The Budget for 2011 was accepted.
- Better planning is needed for our participation in the Albany Train Show in December. Sarah Maggi consented to be the Chairperson.

The Meeting was adjourned.

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

As we begin another season, it might be a good time to review our hand signals. These signals may be given with the hand or arm in daylight, or with a lantern or flashlight after dark.

Swung horizontally at right angle to the track.



Raised and lowered vertically.



STOP. This signal may also be given over the head, especially when the engineer is some distance away.

PROCEED or move in a forward direction.

Held horizontally at arm's length



Swung vertically in a circle at half arm's length, at right angle to the track.



REDUCE SPEED. This signal tells the engineer to reduce the speed at which he is moving and is generally followed by a STOP signal.

REVERSE or Back up. This is generally given 90 degrees to the track. Otherwise it is hard to read.

Practice with a partner. Let's have a safe summer. \*\*\*

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# Notes From Rich

It was good to see so many of you at the Winter Banquet.

Thank you very much for your quick response to my mailings regarding Membership Dues for 2011. Our current membership as of this writing is in the 70's. We usually pick up quite a few more as the year begins, and another large group at the Spring and Fall Meets. In other words, we are about even with last year. Please remember if you are still in the process of sending yours in, that I must have a waiver signed by **each** member of the family. Please contact me if you know of someone interested in membership.

*Rich*  
Membership

Secretary

## **JOHN W. BROWN LIVE STEAM ADVENTURE**

Henry Propst

For those of you not already aware, the World War II Liberty Ship *SS John W. Brown* is “alive and well” in Baltimore Harbor. Now part of a museum, the ship is available to “steam” and will do so again during this summer. Cruises for 2011, in Baltimore Harbor and Chesapeake Bay, are available Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. The cruise is 6 hours long and, in addition to the cruise itself, includes historical reenactors, live big band music of the 40’s, the comedy of “Abbot and Costello,” continental breakfast, luncheon buffet, and afternoon snacks and beverages. If weather is permitting, vintage WWII aircraft will fly around the ship, with the ship’s gunners manning the guns to defend the ship.

During my experience on a cruise this last year in Providence, Rhode Island, the engine room was open to the public. The 140-ton triple expansion steam engine runs 60 RPM at full speed and is

well maintained. Other single expansion steam engines were used in the engine room to drive the fuel oil pumps, the feed water supply pumps, and the air circulating fans. Vintage aircraft flying over the ship (and at the ship) included a Zero, based on a Russian copy, a P-51D, and a B-25 bomber.

During WWII, the US constructed a total of 2751 Liberty Ships. After the war, the remaining 2500 ships were used by a number of countries to rebuild their merchant marines. Many of the ships lasted until about the time of the Vietnam War.

Many of the WWII Liberty Ships were named after famous labor leaders. The ship name *John W. Brown* was not named after John Brown of Civil war fame, but was named after a Maine labor leader.

The *SS John W. Brown* is the only Liberty ship on the east coast. The one on the west coast is the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*. \*\*\*

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## **SOUTH CAROLINA TRAIN DERAILS SAD NEWS FOR OUR HOBBY**

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

A miniature train ride in Cleveland Park in Spartanburg, South Carolina derailed on Saturday, March 19. As it approached a bridge, it overturned and dumped most of its passengers into a creek. Benjamin Easler, a 6-year-old boy was killed, and 28 others were injured, including Benjamin’s father and pregnant mother. Most of the remaining injured were children. The extent of the injuries along with the cause of the crash are not yet known.

The train had been running since 1953, and had not had an accident. A test run was made in the morning without incident, and this run with passengers was the first of the season. It was run by the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation. Department.

This unfortunate incident should serve as a reminder to all live steamers of the importance of safety, the use of proper hand signals, speed limits, and track maintenance. \*\*\*

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

April 9 – Membership Meeting  
10 AM – Clubhouse  
May 14 – Membership Meeting  
10 AM – Clubhouse  
May 21 – Membership Day  
June 10-12 – Spring Meet

**THE CLUB  
GROUNDS NEED  
OUR HELP**