

August 2004 Online Newsletter

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9th, 6:30 PM

Fall Meet- September 9th, 10th, and 11th

Deadline for September "*Whistles in the Woods*":

Saturday August 21st (Send articles to [Ken Nelson](#))

Other Important Dates: See "[Events Calendar](#)" Page

From the desk of Bruce M. Rauch (just a member)...

Although work at ALS has slowed somewhat due to hot and humid or very wet weather or many of you taking much needed vacations, there has been significant progress on some of the ongoing projects as follows:

Piasecki Bridge: Skip Densing has added more steel to the structure. It shouldn't be too long before it is structurally complete. Then, it will be ready for painting and finishing touches.

Garden Railroad: Among others, Larry Green has been working nonstop on that project. It is fitting that his new live steam Shay was the first locomotive to circumnavigate the first completed loop of track. Both the live steam loops and the first loop for electric powered trains should be operational well before the Fall Meet.

Clubhouse: Richard Dean has been busy running electrical cable all over the place in preparation for the next inspection by the building dept. We hope to have all the outside lighting installed for the Fall Meet. Tom Rhodes has been building the large brackets for the roof overhangs. I believe our goal is to have the exterior of the building completed and painted before winter,

Congratulations to Skip and Donna Densing on the purchase of their new house in Rensselaer County. I don't have the actual address yet.

Perhaps they just want to be alone.

I've just received confirmation that the Great Train Exposition will be held of Sunday, December 5, 2004, from 10:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza convention Center. Mark your calendars now. It's always a good time to meet other railroad aficionados.

By the time you read this, Ken Nelson will have taken delivery of his first locomotive, a Diesel from Rail Systems. I think it would be in poor taste if anyone asked him it came with training wheels.

It's about time to start thinking about the 2005 Board of Directors. For a club like ours to function, we need strong, active, and inspired leadership. If asked to serve on the Board, please consider it seriously before accepting or declining the offer. If you want to be on the Board, but the nominating committee hasn't asked you to serve, get someone to nominate you from the floor.

It's discouraging to hear members muttering about how things don't get done and that it's the same people running the club all the time. But, the complainers don't want to run for office. Let's all commit to making ALS the strongest, best run live steam club around.

We are becoming very well known. For many years my vehicle has had the license plate "RAIL BUF". It has provoked many questions from complete strangers. The one thing I just realized is that more and more people who ask me questions have visited ALS in the past or are at least aware of our existence. It wasn't too many years ago when no one knew of us. I guess we have arrived.

UPDATE FROM THE TRACK COMMITTEE

Clearing and grading has begun to install a new loader/unloader system not unlike that used by PVLS and PLS. This will streamline the bug in/bug out operations at our larger functions. Thanks to John Pasquene for the heavy lifting with his excavator. Also thanks to Warren Hockaday and Mark Landgraf for support work. Also Broadway and Main streets were cleared to make the roads passable.

School Visit To ALS

The Mechanicville, NY 4th grade class visited ALS in Late June. We have received many many Thank-yous from the whole class. They really learned a lot and truly enjoyed the train ride the best. One student even wished Cam Brown were related to Kevin Brown of the NY Yankees, a pitcher. We all know that Cam can really make a great pitch when he wants to. Dick Hosmer, Myron Rappaport and Ken Nelson along with Cam Brown did a super great job. Thanks for all your time that you give to this great educational portion of our club. You guys are the BEST!

ALS SAFETY QUIZ

In order to promote safety ,the ALS has adopted a set of rules governing the operation of engines and trains on our premises. To ensure that **ALL** engineers are qualified, the safety committee will be following this established policy as of January 2005.

A listing of qualified Engineers will be kept in a “loose leaf binder” which will be **good for three years** and will contain the individuals graded “quiz”, the date that she/he was accompanied by a pilot over the ALS mainline, and any safety related information concerning that person. Only those named Engineers on that list will be able to operate alone (without a responsible, qualified engineer onboard), or haul passengers on the ALS trackage.

The “quiz” can be completed on line, automatically e-mailed, graded, and the results e-mailed back to you, by clicking on the line highlighted below:

<http://www.adirondacklivesteamers.org/Test/>

For those of you that do not use your email address on the internet, or would prefer a paper quiz please ask our safety committee for a copy of the quiz. If you would like to be ahead of the crowd please do the quiz ASAP and have it on file. It would be a good idea to have this on file before the Fall Meet as it is a requirement in order to run on our rails.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Another month gone by, where oh where does the time go. I have not been at the track too much this last month, good "ole arthur it is" kicking in again and now my hip needs replacing. By the time you get this newsletter it will be behind me, (the surgery only). Then the fun stuff of recuperating. I have faith that all will turn out well and I can walk again with no pain.

I have had inquiries from NJLS for the members that are planning on attending the September weekend here at ALS. We will do all we can to process the applications of those that are not yet members. Go to the ALS website link below:

http://www.adirondacklivesteamers.org/html/online_application.html

and print out the application and forward on to me. I'll take care of the rest. While you are there go ahead and take your safety quiz. Go to the ALS website link below:

<http://www.adirondacklivesteamers.org/Test/>

It will then be good for 3 years forward. and will allow you to maximize your fun time on the track at meets.

I have received some very nice donations this past month.. One was for the insulation ,20 units to be exact, from Marty Burdick in Saratoga. Thanks so much Marty; that will certainly button us up tight for the winter. Another was a cash donation, with a special thanks to Mr. And Mrs. John Olin of Copiague, NY. They stopped by two days in a row and Nancy Eckert so kindly gave them the cooks tour and made sure they had a ride or two.. Needless to say they were very impressed. I have sent them a brochure with a application....so who knows. We also received a donation in the Name of Bill Ott from Ken and Mary Hubacher in Geneseo,NY. Thanks go to both of those kind donors. We definitely have one of the premier clubs on the East Coast.

Have you been to the track lately to see the gauge 1 tracks? This certainly will help us with membership for those who will not or can not dabble in 7 ¼ steam or electric trains. We will now have an alternate to work with and hopefully add some new members and get more juniors joining us at the track. Our thanks to the Gauge 1 committee for a job well done.

Look in future editions of the “Whistles In The Woods” for upcoming news about renewals for next year. The Board of Directors has approved our putting the renewal in the newsletter to save on time and postage. So look for it please as there will not be a separate mailing. Every month from here on out we will address this issue to remind everyone.

The Engine House and Car Barn applications will also accompany the regular renewal application in the newsletter.

Thanks for all your cooperation

See you at the track.

FOR SALE

Finely crafted Friends Atlantiac, 1” scale, coal fired. Brass tender, free steamer, stainless rod work, copper boiler, Van Brocklin pump, Moseley generator. Comes with riding car, accessories and work/storage stand. \$12,000.

Please call Ken Owens 1.718.631.0937/ Long Island Live Steamers