

# 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

AUGUST 2007

## SUCCESSFUL FAMILY DAY

July 8, 2007 turned out to be a very successful Family Day at ALS. Although the weather was somewhat questionable in the morning, by the time people began arriving around noon, the sun was out and the food just kept coming. Except for your president, who left part of his injector at home, there were many engines running, and families seemed to be having a great time. One very special family member was present, and everyone was very glad to see Bruce Rausch. Although we did not give a prize for the person coming the farthest, Bruce would certainly have won it if we had. For those of you who are new to the club, Bruce was our Membership Secretary for many years, and moved to Florida several years ago. He was also responsible for starting the idea of Family Day. He is still a member of ALS, and we are always glad to see him.

Although many people assisted in

setting up the food table, and pitched in where help was needed, we especially want to thank Jim Ogden who offered to be our chef. He did a great job with the hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken burgers, and hot dogs; kept the rolls warmed on the grill; and made sure everyone had their meat cooked to their liking.

By the time the weather began to turn sour in the late afternoon, most people had already begun to leave, and most of us got our equipment away and under cover before the rains came.

If you missed our first Family Day, fear not. We will do it all again on Sunday, August 12. Bring a dish for sharing, and the club will provide the meat. Beverages may be purchased or you can bring along whatever you like. This is a great time to enjoy the company of our fellow members. Don't miss it. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Saturday, August 11, 2007, 1:00 PM  
Club House**

**Deadline for September *Whistles in the Woods*:  
Saturday, August 18**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Richard Dean, President

Here it is August already. Somehow there never is enough time to do everything I would like to do. There was a year that I ran my Ten Wheeler at least once a month and probably twice a month a couple of times. So far this year, I steamed up twice at the Spring Meet and attempted to run on Family Day. As I was saying there just doesn't seem to be enough time!

The reason for not steaming was that I had neglected to repair the injector steam supply pipe/fitting that had become unsoldered at the Spring Meet. Now I had good intentions. I took it home and set it on the counter so that I wouldn't forget it, but low and behold, it was forgotten. Along comes Family Day. I'm all excited about building a fire and having a great afternoon of "getting black." Wait, what is that water leaking from the injector? Oh, a missing pipe! Now it's a time to quietly hide my frustration with myself and drain the boiler. This is a disappointment at its greatest moment! Without fail, I did repair the pipe when I arrived at home and then put it in my truck "so there would be no reason, not to run the next time."

Time. We all understand that the older we get the faster time appears to "fly"! So, remember to do now, what you want to accomplish, may it be at work, with your family or just running trains. Do it now!

How many members have driven over the new DeSantis Bridge? It is now officially open. The railroad crossing is once again closed to normal vehicular traffic, but, it will still be used for emergency traffic and large trucks. If you haven't seen the progress at DeSantis lately, stop by some day and look; there are new turnouts and rail being laid every week.

As you will read on another page of *Whistles...* there will be a vote on Bylaw changes at the August meeting. It is the goal of the Board of Directors to keep up with legal, insurance and necessary rules to maintain a current set of guidelines for ALS. I'm not one for long meetings, but it seems that the Board has spent many hours this year dealing with all of the issues that the club has had to deal with. I would like to thank everyone on the BOD for their time and input. When you see these people, please thank them for their efforts; it is well deserved! As a foot note: If anyone has an idea, or ideas for the better operation of ALS, please contact any member of the Board and tell them your ideas.

In closing, I wish to pass on my sympathy to Ray Dwyer. He has lost his beloved wife Olga. The passing of Olga Dwyer was a shock to me and I'm sure to many other ALS members. She was a wonderful wife and mother. She will be missed by all.

See you at the track,

**Richard Dean**, the Prez

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

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*Whistles in the Woods*  
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MEMBERSHIP

- Anyone interested in joining the ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS should contact Jeane Lutz, Membership Secretary.  
Phone: (732) 541-6614  
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## SYMPATHY EXPRESSED

The entire club wishes to express its deepest sympathy to Ray Dwyer on the death of his wife Olga, who died unexpectedly on Sunday, July 15. Services were held on Thursday morning, July 19 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Greenwich, New York, and several ALS members attended. Olga was an English and Social Studies teacher in the Greenwich Central Schools, and retired after teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades for many years.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad, PO Box 84, Greenwich, NY 12834.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BRIDGE OPEN

The new vehicle bridge over DeSantis Divide is now officially open. Thanks to a lot of work by Rich Dean, Charlie Pellock, Dick Hosmer, and several others, the bridge was open for Family Day on July 8.

With the exception of large heavy trucks and emergency vehicles, the crossing is now open only for pedestrians. Please use the bridge. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## FOR SALE

SW7 Diesel Switch Engine  
Gas/Hydraulic  
Blue  
Lettered for Conrail  
May be seen at ALS  
Asking \$4000  
Warren Hockaday  
518-877-8341  
[WFHockaday@Gmail.com](mailto:WFHockaday@Gmail.com)

# July Minutes

*Following is a summary of the July Membership Meeting.*

President Richard Dean called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

Secretary Llyn Rice read the minutes of the May Membership Meeting which were approved. This was the last previous Membership Meeting due to the Spring Meet.

Membership Secretary Jeane Lutz presented the names of eight new members, four Associate and four Junior. All were approved by the membership. This brings our current membership to 94 Regular, 149 Associate, and 35 Juniors.

Treasurer Glenn Freedman was unable to attend the meeting. President Rich Dean presented his report which was approved.

Education Chairman Ken Nelson reported that Education Days were impossible to run under our current insurance policy. A discussion followed on ways to have our Education program continue while we are trying to improve our insurance status.

## Under Old Business:

It was reported that ALS has been the victim of vandalism which included part of the Gauge #1 trackage, the moose statues in Big Moose, a sign at Horseshoe Trestle, and the hasp of the lock on the signal shanty in Pierson Yard. It was further reported that Gauge #1 was back in operation.

Bruce Rausch, visiting from Florida, presented a gift of an Aristo Craft snow plow, which he said he had no use for in Florida. Thank you Bruce.

The crossing shanty roof is half finished.

New members may now be accepted with at least seven signatures of Regular Members at Meets, Family Days and other such activities.

## Under New Business:

The vandalism (see old business) was discussed, including methods possible to prevent or discourage it.

The Board of Directors has suggested a change in our Bylaws to make possible a Family Associate Membership. See the article by Llyn Rice elsewhere in this issue for further details.

The meeting was adjourned.

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# Notes From Jeane

## Membership Secretary's Report Jeane Lutz

Because of my personal schedule which is currently very busy, I won't be able to spend much time with you this month. I would like to take just a few minutes to welcome the newest members of our club which were all approved by the membership at our July Meeting.

**Sandra Pellock**, Charlie's wife, has joined as an Associate member. She lives, of course, right next door, and we are very happy to have her with us.

**Elihu Jerabek**, from Glenmont, NY has joined as an Associate member. We hope to see a lot of you.

**Angela Banta**, wife of Bill Banta, has joined as an Associate member. Angela and Bill are from Dummerston, Vermont. Welcome.

**Suzanne Sherman**, wife of Lance Sherman, and mother of Chad and Brett has joined as an Associate member. The family lives in Broadalbin, NY. We are happy to have all of you.

**Buddy Trueblood**, nephew of Don Buesing, has joined us as a Junior member. Welcome.

**Rachel Nelson** was accepted as a Junior member.

**Joseph Nelson** was accepted as a Junior member. Rachel and Joseph are the grandchildren of Ken and Bobbie Nelson. Welcome to both of our newest Junior members.

I know I promised to have a list of the many people who joined us during Spring Meet, and were accepted by the membership in June. Again my personal schedule has postponed that for another day. We really do welcome you all, and hope to be able to get an accurate list together for the newsletter in the future.

Have a wonderful summer, as you enjoy our railroad.

See you at the track,

**Jeane**, Membership Secretary

## WARNING OF VOTE TO CHANGE BYLAWS

Llyn Rice

The Board of Directors has scheduled a vote to be taken at the regular Membership Meeting on 11 August 2007 to change the bylaws as defined at the end of this warning.

This Bylaws change proposal is in response to a strong input from the membership. On 14 July, we voted to grant Regular Members' immediate families Associate or Junior membership automatically upon request. The consensus at the meeting was that a similar benefit should be afforded to Associate members at a reduced annual dues rate. Also, it turns out that Article 1, Section 2, Sub-paragraph A & C in the current Bylaws conflict. Sub-paragraph A directs the Board of Directors to set the initiation fees and annual dues and seek a vote of approval from the membership. Sub-paragraph C

sets initiation fees and annual dues which cannot be changed without modifying the Bylaws. This change will take the specified fees and dues out of Sub-paragraph C and allow the Board of Directors and membership to make decisions in accordance with Sub-paragraph A.

If the membership approves the Bylaws change, the Board of Directors will propose that the membership approve the following initiation fees and annual dues:

<u>Member Classification</u>	<u>Initiation Fee</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
Regular	\$50	\$125
Joint Regular (each)	50	200
Associate	None	40
Associate w/Family	None	60
Junior	None	20

\*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

### ***Bylaws as they currently exist...***

#### **ARTICLE I ... Members**

##### ***Section 1 ... Membership***

Membership in ALS, Inc. shall consist of the following classes:

A. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP is open, but not restricted, to persons who own, construct or seriously intend to construct live steam boilers and/or engines of any type and/or large scale non-steam railroad locomotives or equipment. All such persons living within the area served should apply as Regular members. All such persons who intend to operate such boilers, locomotives, or other equipment at ALS MUST apply as Regular members the first year they intend to operate. Regular members must be at least 18 years old. A Regular member's spouse or domestic partner and any dependent children under 21 years old living with said member shall automatically be accorded Associate or Junior membership as appropriate upon request.

### ***Proposed new language for Bylaws...***

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B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is open to persons 18 and over, who have an interest in the live steam hobby, except as otherwise covered in this article. Any person otherwise meeting the qualifications for Regular membership, but residing outside the area served, may elect to apply for Associate membership. A person 16 years of age may apply for Associate membership if that person has been a Junior member for at least two years.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is open to persons 18 and over, who have an interest in the live steam hobby, except as otherwise covered in this article. Any person otherwise meeting the qualifications for Regular membership, but residing outside the area served, may elect to apply for Associate membership. A person 16 years of age may apply for Associate membership if that person has been a Junior member for at least two years. ***An Associate member's spouse or domestic partner and any dependent children under 21 years old living with said member shall automatically be accorded Associate or Junior membership as appropriate upon request and shall pay annual dues at a reduced family rate.***

C. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP - **No Change**

C. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP – **No Change**

D. HONORARY MEMBERS – **No Change**

D. HONORARY MEMBERS – **No Change**

E. Dues ... – **No Change**

E. Dues ... - **No Change**

Applications for membership ... - **No Change**

Applications for membership ... - **No Change**

*Section 2...Initiation Fee and Dues*

*Section 2...Initiation Fee and Dues*

A. Initiation fee ... **No Change**

A. Initiation fee ... **No Change**

B. Members ... **No Change**

B. Members ... **No Change**

C. Dues and initiation fees shall be as follows:

C. ***Initiation fees (where applicable) and annual dues shall be established for the following categories of membership:***

<u>Membership Class</u>	<u>Initiation Fee</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
Regular	\$50.00	\$125.00
Associate	None	\$40.00
Junior	None	\$15.00
Joint*	\$50.00 each	\$200.00

- Regular***
- Joint Regular\****
- Associate***
- Associate With Family\*\****
- Junior***

\*Joint membership is a special fee rate available to two Regular Members living in the same household and otherwise conforms to the regular Membership definition in Article I, Section 1, Sub-paragraph A.

***\*Joint Regular membership represents a reduced annual dues rate available to two Regular Members living in the same household and otherwise conforms to the regular Membership definition in Article I, Section 1, Sub-paragraph A.***

***\*\*Associate With Family membership represents a reduced annual dues rate for an Associate member's immediate family members who wish to be Associate or Junior members in accordance with Article I, Section 1, Sub-paragraph B.***

D. All persons applying ... **No Change**

D. All persons applying ... **No Change**

***(Bold italics indicates a change)***

## **FIRST PROTOTYPICAL RUN DAY IS SUCCESSFUL**

Ken Nelson

On Sunday, July 15, ALS ran its first Prototypical Run Day for 2007. With the help of a lot of work by Skip Densing, nine of our members spent the day running our railroad in a realistic manner: switching cars to various industries, picking up loads and empties and interchanging them with other railroads.

While this may sound complicated to some, it really is easy and most important, fun. The Dispatcher for the day was Brad Peterson, and he did the job of keeping all of the trains moving and everyone busy.

This is our third year of running Prototypical Operating Days on our large railroad, and in so doing we have learned a lot of what is involved in making such operation successful, entertaining, and educational. However the one item which would make each of these days even more fun would be having more people participate.

Perhaps some of you have participated in the past and did not enjoy it. We hope that many of you will try again. We feel that we have solved many of the problems which we encountered years ago, and with the help of some decent weather, we can have a great day of fun. In addition this is a great addition to our Educational Program. One can learn the responsibilities of an Engineer, a Conductor, a Brakeman, or a Yardmaster; learn how to take a Form D, or how cars are arranged in a yard for future trains. This was Brad's first time as our Dispatcher, and he did a great job. Of the nine who took part this year, two or three were doing it for the first time.

Why not consider joining us on our second Proto Op Day on August 19. If you have questions, talk to Skip Densing, Ken Nelson, Dick Hosmer, or any of our other operators. Or just show up and discover for yourself the fun of Prototype Operation. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **A NEW EXPERIENCE**

Ben Maggi

Recently, I was invited by a local railroad, to train as their brakeman for the day. I had always wanted to work on a real railroad, and this seemed to me to be a great opportunity to experience life as a professional railroader. Switching on my N scale layout at home was great on a rainy day to kill some time, but this was something else. This was railroading. I packed my lunch that morning and showed up early, because I had a lot of training to absorb. I had never worked on a railroad before, and soon I was learning all about Form D's,

proper switching and safety procedures, and hand signals to allow me to coordinate with my engineer. Thrown in there were safety handbooks, diagrams of the railroad indicating where cars were to be set out and picked up, and track work restrictions governing speed and direction. My head was swimming, but at no time was it overwhelming. They understood that I was volunteering, and they quickly took me under their wings to help me learn the proper procedures.

*(Continued on page 9) See Operation*

### Operation (*Continued from p. 8*)

And then we were off. My train had assigned to it an SW-1500 switcher, which though small in stature was powerful enough for our train of about a dozen cars. As we traveled east, we frequently had to stop and cut off cars for the local industries that our line serviced. I put my newly acquired knowledge to use by lining switches and directing train movements to properly spot cars. Of course, safety was the most important aspect, and cars could not just be left or picked up without setting the brakes or connecting the brake lines. Then, our train was again coupled, and we were off. Each stop caused us to gain and lose cars, and our train quickly changed composition as we gathered cuts of empty coal hoppers from the factories that burned it, and dropped off boxcars and gondolas at warehouses and a scrap yard. They depended on us to make sure the cars were there, as their loading schedules and shipments had to be met.

By the end of the day, my hands were greasy, my legs were sore from walking the length of the train over and over, and my stomach was grumbling after skipping lunch in order to get in "just another industry." However, I had experienced something that regular model railroaders could not ever imagine. I had worked a railroad. Would I do it again? You bet!

Does this sound like fun? If so, you might be shocked to hear that my day was spent at our very own club! The Adirondack Live Steamers regularly hosts two annual operation days, and this past July 15<sup>th</sup> was the first one of the 2007 year. We had lots of people turn out, and that was important because running a railroad takes a lot of manpower. During the day, I served as a conductor/rear brakeman for several of our freight trains. With Ken Nelson at the throttle, and Chad Sherman as our front end brakeman, we spotted at least 20 different cars at industries all over the line. While this was occurring, we had to look out for freight trains heading west bound. Actually, under the watchful control of our dispatcher,

Brad Peterson, we never had an unexpected meet, but there were times when we took the siding just as the other train was pulling into town. Proper observance of the rules, as well as careful listening to and recording down of track permits (Form D's) made for an afternoon of zero injuries. Sure, there were a few hitches here and there, such as coupler problems and track work failure, but that occurs on the real railroads as well. However, unlike the prototype, ours were fixed in a matter of minutes by our "mobile track gang." (Dick Hosmer and John Camerota) We started in the morning, took a break around lunchtime to discuss our progress, and continued on until the weather threatened to pour down on us.

Overall, it was a great day. But, you know what would make it even better? YOU! Feel like just running around in circles all day on your train? Great, we need passenger trains to run and force the freight trains to get clear into the sidings. Want to sit around and sip coffee and help control the movement of trains without working up a sweat? Great, we would love to train you to help become a dispatcher...one of the most important jobs of the railroad. Have a prized engine, or maybe some cars, that you only get to use once or twice a year at the Meets because you hate to come up and run alone? Great, there are lots of us here running our trains, and if you want to run your own locomotive and help pull freight for the line, we can use you. Want to help run the yards, or work the switches, or cut cars? Great, because it doesn't take a certain age or amount of experience to do it. Some of our youngest members excelled in these areas. Essentially, we have built an amazing railroad that was designed for more than just running at our train meets, or on an occasional Sunday. Plus, we have been blessed by lots of people who have personal experience with working for real railroads and love to pass their knowledge on. This past Sunday was one of the best times I have ever had at the club. The operation days are jam packed with action and excitement. Why don't you sign on to work the next train out of Pierson yard? \*\*\*

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

## First Class

### NOTE PAD

August 11 – Membership Meeting  
August 12 – Family Day II  
August 19 – Prototype Run Day II  
Sept. 7, 8, 9 – Fall Meet  
October 13, 14 – Blowdown  
October 20 – Membership Meeting  
Nomination of Officers  
for 2008  
November 10 – Annual Meeting  
Election of Officers  
for 2008

**Summer on  
the Rails!**

**More fun  
with you!**

**Join Us!**