

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 2008

WEATHER HOLDS OUT FOR FIRST FAMILY DAY

Ken Nelson

Our first Family Day of 2008 was held on Sunday, July 13. Although the weather was a bit of a question, we were lucky to get in just about the whole day under some sun and some clouds. We did get rain, but it came well after most people had left for the day. For the most part, the "eating" part of the day was held in the Club House. It wasn't raining, but the tables were quite damp, and many were more comfortable inside. We had many trains running, including some new ones which we hadn't seen before, and everyone who wanted a ride got one with somebody.

We owe a big thank you to Jim Ogden who patiently ran the grill for over an hour to cook the hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken. Just when he thought he was done, someone else would come up with an order. And of course, we

owe appreciation to all of our ALS cooks, who made and brought the other food for our afternoon delights. There was plenty to eat, including some super desserts, and everyone seemed to have a great time.

If you missed out on our first Family Day, you still have another chance to join us. Our second Family Day for this year is scheduled for Sunday, August 10. We will do it all over again, with the club providing the usual hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, condiments, plastic ware, plates, and napkins. Each family brings a covered dish, and may bring their own beverages or purchase them from the club. No alcohol please. Please remember that this day is for members only. We'll see you on August 10. Perhaps, we will have more steam this time. ***

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, August 9, 1:00 PM
Club House**

**Deadline for the September *Whistles in the Woods*
Saturday, August 16**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

The July meeting saw a good attendance. Being in the middle of vacation season it is sometimes light. The Piasecki Locos were at the top of the discussion list. As you recall at the Thursday night (Spring Meet) June Meeting, it was decided to defer to the Board of Directors to hammer out the details of how/why/when they should be handled. The only decision to date is my decision to take our time on this. I thought it not in the best interest of the club to make a snap decision within a week of their arrival at ALS. The main reason for this is to let as many ALS members as possible know about the engines so that they might consider the engines for themselves. The last thing I want is for anyone to consider any pending sale an "inside job." I intend to see this settled shortly with final determination before the Fall Meet. Right now the popular leaning is to see the 0-4-0 Camelback sold with the British tank engine retained for steam engineer training etc.

Progress continues on the expansion, notably the earth moving in the area of the tunnel. Richard Dean is doing his thing as time permits. Take a walk back there sometime and see what's going on. It is not yet obvious from anyplace on the property that we typically haunt; you have to go looking for it.

Now that the DeSantis Divide project is nearly done it is time to get the signaling back in place. Because it is so much different, and complex, from the old plan, there is discussion about what will serve best. Tom Rhodes will head up the project but will require LOTS of help from others for the installation. This is not a one man job this time around.

The library also got some attention. Before our store room can become the new library, it needs to be improved with insulation, walls, a ceiling, and one new window. Ben Maggi is heading up the project but would like some help in the renovation phase. The room is a little sparse in the electrical outlet department so adding a couple to each wall is on the list. The extra water heater in the room will be removed also. A hatch in the ceiling will allow access to the area over the old rest rooms as well as the attic area of the library.

For you history buffs, the window is an antique that was removed from the west wall of the station where it served from 1985 when installed by Frank DeSantis and Ray Dwyer. When Myron Rapaport built the storeroom about ten years later, the window opening was expanded to become the doorway. The window itself was then placed in the south wall of the store room. These are just two of the many locations where it has served well for over one hundred years. Before it came to ALS, it was the window of a motel cabin on Route 9 when built in the 1950's. Before that, it was part of the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs. The Grand Union was one of the many wonderful old hotels that lasted for nearly a century on Broadway in Saratoga. One, the Adelphi Hotel, survives today. During the heyday of these hotels which is generally agreed to be before the automobile, ALL of the patrons arrived via rail. The first rails into the city were placed in 1832. The last of the rails within the city were removed in 1959.

My apologies for a little side tracking here, but local history is a favorite of mine and it is nice to draw links, no matter how small, from the past to our present. I hope at least some of you agree.

See you at the track!

Don

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 587-3172

E-Mail: don@adironacklivesteamers.org

Vice President: Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-Mail: dick@adironacklivesteamers.org

Recording Secretary: Llyn Rice

Phone: (802) 462-2719

E-Mail: llyn@adironacklivesteamers.org

Treasurer: Glenn Freedman

Phone: (518) 877-6274

E-Mail: glenn@adironacklivesteamers.org

Membership Secretary: Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2008: Skip Denning

Phone: (518) 663-5507

E-Mail: skip@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2009: Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: ted@adironacklivesteamers.org

Past President: Vacant

NEWSLETTER
Whistles in the Woods

Editor: Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: pocovalley@msn.com OR

ken@adironacklivesteamers.org

Publisher: Pete Petrillose

Phone: (518) 399-4868

Columnists: Don Buesing

Rich Dean

Llyn Rice

SUBMISSIONS: *Whistles in the Woods* welcomes articles, news items, classifieds, and other contributions. Please contact any of the staff.

WEB PAGE

Webmaster: Bill Eckert

Phone: (802) 226-7618

E-Mail: bill@adironacklivesteamers.org

Website: adironacklivesteamers.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: isomlocoworks@adelphie.com OR

rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

VERY SUCCESSFUL PROTO OP DAY

Ken Nelson

Saturday, July 19th found many of our members at the club for our first Prototype Operation Day of this year. For the first time, we scheduled it on a Saturday, and this seemed to help in getting out more operators. At last count, there were five or six trains running at the same time, including three steam engines, and we certainly kept our Dispatcher, John Camerota busier than he wanted to be.

The day was a combination of fun and education as many members learned how to take a Form D, and what a prototype train does on the road.

Rich Dean ran the passenger train, with the help of Skip Denning as his conductor. While he made his runs around the railroad, engineer Ken Nelson, brakeman Graham Nelson, and conductor Ben Maggi ran one of the freights, dropping cars and picking up others at various "industries" along the line. Another freight was run by Nick Furnia with his conductor, Mark Walsh. A third freight was run by the Hockaday family of Warren and John, while a fourth freight was handled by Lance, Brad, and Brett Sherman. One freight was run by Dick Hosmer with the help of Mike Petrillose who did double duty.

The very important job of Yardmaster was handled by Henry Propst, with the help of Mike Petrillose. He had cars for our train every time we arrived at Pearson Yard, and that is not an easy job.

There were times during the day when crews had nothing to do, and other times when we were very busy. Lunch was provided by Pete Petrillose, and many crews ate on the fly as they ran their trains.

We hope everyone enjoyed the day, and that you will join us again on Saturday, August 16 for our second Proto Op Day of the year. If you have questions or suggestions, talk to Skip Denning. John Camerota would love to have a backup to work with him as Dispatcher. Anyone interested? See John or Skip. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the July Membership Meeting

President Don Buesing called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Recording Secretary Llyn Rice read the minutes of the May Membership Meeting which were approved. Don Buesing read the minutes of the June (Spring Meet) Meeting which were also approved. Membership Secretary Rich Dean was absent, but there were no new members for this month. Treasurer Glenn Freedman gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- Shelter – The shelter for our large equipment which was passed at a previous meeting has not yet been ordered pending site preparation. Lance Sherman and John Camerota will co-chair this project.
- Library – Librarian Ben Maggi reported that the current storage room needs preparation before shelves can be installed. The extra water heater will be removed, a window must be replaced, and several new electrical outlets need to be installed. Walls and ceiling will then be built. Ken Nelson offered to help Ben, but other member's help will also be needed. Ben can be reached at 585-506-2680.
- Piasecki Locomotives – The Board of Directors has not yet made a decision regarding these locomotives. Offers have been made, but nothing has been decided as to their future. Information will appear in *Whistles in the Woods*. (See *President's Corner* on page 2. Ed.)

New Business:

- Mortgage – The last payment has been made on the land which we purchased some years ago. We plan to burn the mortgage at the Fall Meet.
- Rapaport Rolling Stock – Myron Rapaport will entertain discussion concerning the sale of various pieces of his rolling stock. He can be reached at 518-656-9509. Myron is not leaving the hobby.
- Right-of-Way Work – Discussion was made concerning the choice of material to use in the work to be done under West Bridge and Bossert Bridge. This area must be rebuilt and widened. The blocks used in DeSantis Divide cannot be used under West and Bossert Bridges due to installation difficulties. Discussion was held debating the use of concrete blocks vs. landscape blocks. Those with questions or suggestions should contact Don Buesing (518-587-5172) or Mark Landgraf (518-456-7614).

(Continued on page 5) See Minutes

Minutes (Continued from page 4)

- Alone at ALS – As we continue our concentration on Safety, it was pointed out that it is not safe to attend ALS by oneself. This is especially true when operating a tractor, chain saw, or other powered equipment. If an accident happens, one could lay there a long time before being discovered. Charlie Pellock, who lives next door to the club, would very much appreciate it if anyone arriving at ALS alone would tell him of their presence. While Charlie is NOT the ALS babysitter, he does make occasional trips around the property, and would like to know who is in attendance.
- Signaling for DeSantis Divide – Tom Rhodes is the chairman of the signal committee and is currently working on designing the signals for the newly completed DeSantis Divide. He needs help. Please volunteer with ideas and willingness to help with installation. It would be great to have this completed by Fall Meet. Tom can be reached at 518-583-8945.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06.

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FLAT CAR MISSING

For some time, one of two Club-owned flat cars has been missing.

These are very unique cars which are ten feet long, with wood decks and steel under frames. They are painted a tuscan or brownish-red color. The club uses them for work projects, and one end may have a rope attached to the coupler.

One of them is still in the Container where it is stored, but the second has been missing for almost a year.

Anyone with information as to who might have “borrowed” the missing car, or where we might retrieve it is asked to contact President Don Buesing at 518-587-3172. ***

* * * * *

Notes From Rich

There were no new members during the month of July. Anyone who knows of someone interested in joining ALS should contact me. Hopefully, my column will be back next month.

See you at the track,

Rich, Membership Secretary

FALL MEET APPROACHING QUICKLY

Ken Nelson

It may only be August, but plans are already in the works for our 2008 Fall Meet to be held at ALS from Thursday to Sunday, September 4-7. This is one of the largest, and most attended of all of our yearly activities, and this year's event will be even more auspicious as we celebrate our club's 25th Anniversary.

It is hoped that many, if not all of our members, will be able to attend some portion of the Meet. But it is also important that you also are here to **HELP!**

Those who work during the day can only attend/help on Saturday and Sunday. We also need lots of help from those of you who are available on Thursday and Friday.

The Reservation Shack will again be headed up by Ted Wilming. Please call and volunteer for one or two hours or more of help with this very important job. Ted can be reached at 518-654-7108. Call NOW and offer! Don't wait and forget. Don't wait for him to call you. Don't just show up. Let him know when you are available. We don't need eight people at a time. This is something that anyone in the club can do.

Food is another area in which much help will be needed. We need cooks for lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We need cashiers for each of those lunches, as well as Breakfast each day. In addition we will need someone willing to pass out the food to those who order. We furnish dinner on Friday and Saturday and will need many helpers to make salad, fold napkins, slice potatoes, and do any number of other small jobs.

Please call Beth LeVine at 518-695-4614 to offer your help.

All visiting operators will need to unload their equipment from trucks and trailers, and will need help with the lift. If you are comfortable operating our lift, please volunteer for an hour or two. We will especially need help with this on Friday night, and Saturday and Sunday mornings. Bill Eckert will be in charge. Please call him and offer your assistance. He will be glad to help you or train you in the use of the lift. Bill's number is 802-226-7618.

Any Meet of this size creates a lot of trash. Would you be willing to make one or more "trash can" rounds through the property to put trash bags in the dumpster and put a new bag in the can? Would you be willing to sweep the Club House one or two times during the Meet? These are easy jobs and each takes about 20 minutes. Nancy Eckert would love to hear from you. Please offer. Nancy can be reached at 802-226-7618.

A special celebration will be held on Saturday afternoon commemorating our anniversary. While this is still in the planning stages, we may need help with it as time progresses. Hopefully all of our living charter members will be in attendance. Contact Ken Nelson to offer your assistance. 518-377-7176

NOW is the time to begin making your plans. Let's have a GREAT Fall Meet as we celebrate our anniversary. Whether or not we do, will depend on the help we get from our membership.

Please CALL TODAY! ***

AUGUST SAFETY TIP

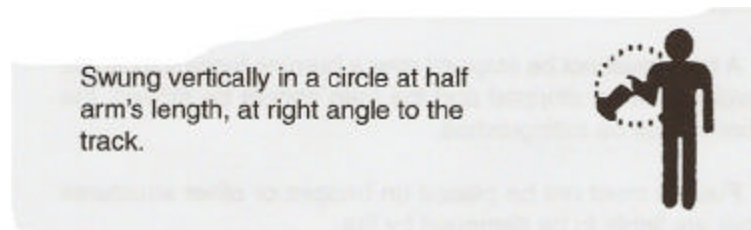
Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

We continue our monthly safety tip column with another hand signal.

This time, the person giving the signal swings his/her arm in a circular motion at a right angle to the track. As

was the case last month, the signal may be given with just the hand, with a lantern or flash light, or with a piece of paper in the hand to make it easier to see.

Here is this month's signal. What would you do if you saw somebody on or near the track giving this signal?



Answer: BACK UP (or REVERSE)

Although the drawing above indicates that the signal should be given at “half arm’s length,” the size of the circle is generally based on how far the person giving the signal is from the engineer. One might wish to use a full arm’s length swing if you are some distance away. The circle generally moves in a counterclockwise direction if given with the right hand. As was the case with last month’s PROCEED signal, **do not** face your palm toward your body and move it back and forth as you would if you were asking someone to come toward you. Using the proper signal leaves no doubt in the mind of the engineer what you want him/her to do. Remember we are striving for SAFETY!

This “BACK UP” signal incidentally, may be given in any direction from the train: from the front, from the rear, or from half way back alongside the train. There may, in some cases, be cars coupled to the front and/or the rear of the engine. As long as you want the locomotive to move in a REVERSE direction, this is the signal to give. It is important that one knows in which direction the engine is facing before giving any signal.

Incidentally, once the engineer sees your signal and begins to move, it is not necessary to continue to give the signal. When the locomotive or train reaches the point where you wish it to stop, give a STOP signal. There will be more on this next month.

It is also important to make sure that any passenger on the train which you are signaling is not in the process of getting up, or sitting down before you give the signal. Several people have been injured in this way.

We’ll be back next month.

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

August 9 – Membership Meeting
August 10 – Family Day II
August 16 –Proto Operation Day II
September 4-10 – Fall Meet
Wednesdays and Saturdays –
Work Days

Family Day
Proto Op Day
Join Us