

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

August 2009

GREAT WEATHER FOR FAMILY DAY I

Ken Nelson

Family Day I, held on Sunday, July 5, was a success, thanks to some fine weather and a great group of our members. The sun was out, a fine breeze was blowing, and those in attendance had a fine time. Bud Bentley and Ray Dwyer both were seen running their steamers, and a number of people pulled passengers behind their diesels.

As usual, everyone brought along a covered dish that made the meal of the day another great event. Jim Ogden took over the responsibility of cooking the hot dogs, hamburgers, and cheeseburgers, and did his usual fine job. There were some interesting dishes from which to choose, including some fine desserts. A big thank you goes out to Jim, along

with all of our members who contributed some great food.

If you were among the missing for the big day, we hope you will join us for the second Family Day of the year to be held on Sunday, August 9. Again the club will provide the usual hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken, condiments, plastic ware, plates, and napkins. Each family should plan to bring a covered dish, and may either bring their own beverages or purchase them from the club. No alcohol please.

And again, please remember that this day is for members only. We look forward to seeing you on August 9. Why not make this one of your ten days to attend the club this summer? ***

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, August 8, 10:00 AM
In the Club House**

**Deadline for September *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, August 15
Send ALL information to Ben Maggi (See above)**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi Everybody!

Well, Prototypical Day was upsetting for me. There were two people at ten after eleven. What kind of train fanatics do we have in this club? A little threat of rain and nobody comes out. Well, guess what. We had a great time and some of us played till AFTER 5:00 PM

So, do you have your name on your fuel container(s)? In September, unnamed containers get A L S put on them. If you can't get to the club, call somebody or call the club number, preferably on a Saturday, and have your name put on it.

Are you interested in the Machine Shop? Check with Dick Hosmer, Karl Pickles, or Mike Petrillose. They would love to have your help in setting things up.

Do you like running? Well if we don't get some Track Crews working, you might be having some Track Outages. If we can't keep the track in good condition, then we can't run on it either. Call and get involved before it gets that bad.

August 9 is Family Day II and it was good last month, so plan to come with *just* your family. Enjoy a **relaxing** day. Then don't forget Prototypical Day II on August 22. Ask around. It has been a lot of fun because we don't sit around much anymore. We have gotten better at what we are doing. Come and try it out. This is what this railroad was originally built for.

And don't forget our Membership Meeting on August 8. We hope to see you there.

Thanks,
Skip, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
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MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

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SLOW START FOR PROTOTYPE OPERATION DAY

It might have been the weather, or any number of other things, but our first Prototype Operation Day for this year got off to a very slow start. The farther one drove north, the darker and more ominous the clouds appeared. But the weatherman had said that there would be no rain after 8:00 AM. He was right.

As members began to appear, we lacked one main person: a dispatcher. By noon, we still weren't operating, but the desire was there. After lunch, we decided to come "down a notch" and run our trains westbound only. Three different crews ran freight trains, while Rich Dean operated the passenger train. Unfortunately, Rich ran into some difficulty with his injector, and the three diesels finished the day running freight only.

While those who ran had fun, it would have been more fun with more bodies, a dispatcher, and people who were ready to begin the day at 9:00 AM rather than 1:00 PM.

We have another chance on Saturday, August 22. If you have never taken part in Proto Op Day, don't be afraid of it. It is fun, and while having fun, everyone learns something new about how a real railroad operates. Please join us. If you have questions, please ask Skip Densing, Ken Nelson, Dick Hosmer, Ben Maggi, Rich Dean, Lance Sherman, or any number of others who have already taken the plunge and tried running our railroad similar to a real one. Remember that you don't need any experience. Just a willingness to come out and have fun.

We look forward to seeing you on August 22. ***

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

It has been several months since we discussed the proper (safe) use of hand signals to indicate to the engineer what you want him to do with his train. How are you doing with them? Have you had a chance to try using the signals? We do know that many of you are doing well with them, but we still see people giving sloppy, or unreadable signals to go ahead, back up, or stop. The most common error we see is the use of what we call the “half wave” with the palm of the hand toward your body, and a circular motion to “come toward me.” This is very similar to a back up signal, and can be misread by many engineers. Your husband, wife, father, or friend who is running the engine may understand you, but other engineers around may get the wrong message, thus producing an unsafe situation.

So let’s review again the three most used signals in railroading: go ahead, back up, and stop.

Swung horizontally at right angle to the track.



Perhaps the most important signal of all is STOP. Engineers must be looking for it, and conductors and brakemen, along with anyone else in the vicinity, must be comfortable in giving it. Please don’t make up your own. Use this one.

Raised and lowered vertically.



GO AHEAD or move in a FORWARD direction.

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



BACK UP or move in a reverse direction.

How are you doing with your signals? Would anyone on any locomotive understand what you want him or her to do?

See you next month.

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the July Meeting

President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

The Recording Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

There was no report from the Membership Secretary.

Committee Reports:

- Communication: A court case concerning the DeSantis Estate has been settled in favor of ALS. This means that we will have a say in the disposition of the machinery. Other items are yet to be decided.

Concerning machinery, a three-member committee has been formed to oversee the construction and use of a machine shop on the ALS grounds. Members will be Dick Hosmer, Karl Pickles, and Mike Petrillose. The machine shop will perhaps will be located in one of the containers. However heat and control of humidity must be addressed. Anyone interested in helping along this line should contact one of the three chairpersons.

- Clubhouse: The Library is in need of a dehumidifier. Bruce Rauch, who was in attendance at the meeting, offered to obtain one. The humidifier has been installed.

- Track: More people are needed to change out rotted ties and dump ballast. John Camerota has been working at this, but he needs help. Anyone interested should contact John.

Two switches have been moved to the area of the new ballast dump. They will be installed. Meanwhile, a chute has been installed on the dump.

The trestle just west of South Park needs to be raised about one inch.

- Signals: Marshall's Crossover needs signal protection.
- Grounds: Gasoline Alley has been cleaned out. It will be moved as soon as a new concrete slab can be poured. If you had a gas can in Gasoline Alley and your name is on it, it was put on a metal shelf. If you did not have your name on it, you have until September to put your name on it. At that time, all unidentified gas cans will become club property.
- Tool shed: It is again becoming junky. It will be cleaned and thinned out.
- Piasecki Bridge: Following the plans for Piasecki Bridge, a sister bridge will be constructed in Florida on the Ridge Live Steamers track. This is the club of Bruce Rauch.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

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WATCH FOR TICKS

A recent article in the *Schenectady Gazette* reminds us that it is tick season, and that this year is an especially bad year for them.

This past year, one of our members, John Camerota, suffered an attack of Lime Disease. It is possible that he picked up the ticks at ALS.

We highly recommend that you check your body, and that of your children after a day outdoors. Furthermore, this would not be a good year to bring your dog to ALS. They seem to love animals more than people.

This is NOT a warning to avoid coming to the club. Ticks are everywhere. Just be careful. ***

DO YOU NEED COAL?

Don Buesing

For the past few months, *Whistles in the Woods* has offered a source for coal for those of us who operate steam engines. Here is another source that you may wish to consider.

Garnsey's Trucking, two miles south of Schuylerville on Routs 4, sells both hard and soft coal. Many of us have been buying from them for years. They are open six days a week, including Saturdays. Stop at the office on the left

as you pull in the driveway. Just go up the iron stairs, and place your order.

Soft coal is sometimes hard to find, as there are no common uses for this coal like there is for heating with hard coal. However Garnsey's maintains a good supply for the many farriers in the area.

In case you are wondering, a farrier is the guy who puts shoes on horses. I bet you didn't expect to learn that by reading *Whistles in the Woods*. ***

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DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME

Skip Densing

Last month we suggested that all gas cans must have your name on them. By September, any unmarked cans will become ALS property. Now I would like to further suggest that you identify ANY item at the club that belongs to you. This includes items in the engine house, car barn, clubhouse, etc. which you may have left for use at a future time. I would like to see the stalls of the engine house be cleaned out at least once per year. This would best be done with all of the occupants of a stall present at

the same time. Empty the stall, brush the floor, perhaps hose it out, and when it dries, put the needed items back in a neat fashion.

Along this line, I would like to thank Ray Dwyer and Charlie Pellock for their help in installing drip pans under the upper stalls of the engine house. This should help in preventing drips onto the locomotives on the bottom stalls. Caution: these drip pans WILL become messy, and will have to be cleaned on a regular basis. ***

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BEN MAGGI WILL EDIT SEPTEMBER *WHISTLES*

Ken Nelson

AS editor of our newsletter, I want to thank Ben Maggi who substituted for me to get out the July issue. He will be doing the same thing again for the September issue. If you have anything you wish to appear in the September

issue of *Whistles in the Woods*, please get it to Ben no later than August 15. Getting columns, articles, classifieds, and other items to him early is always better. ***

Adirondack Live Steamers
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First Class

<p>NOTE PAD August 8 – Membership Meeting 10:00 AM – Clubhouse August 9 – Family Day II August 22 – Proto Operation Day II September 10 – Membership Meeting 7:30 PM – Clubhouse September 11-13 – Fall Meet Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work Days Every Day – Run Day</p>
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Join us
for
Family
Day
And
Proto Op
Day