

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

DECEMBER 2008

HAIL TO THE CHIEF(S)

Ken Nelson

Along with our national election, ALS also had their election of officers during the month of November. While we did not have the TV coverage, presidential debates, or Saturday Night Live presentations, it was an important election from the standpoint of our live steam club. For those who did not make it to the November Membership Meeting, allow me to introduce your new officers for 2009.

President – Skip Densing
Vice President – Ray Dwyer
Treasurer – Glenn Freedman
Recording Secretary – Karl Pickles
Membership Secretary – Rich Dean
Director 2009-2010 – Charlie Pellock

The other members of the Board of Directors will be Director Ted Wilming who will finish his two year term of 2007-2009 and Don Buesing who will fill the office of Past President.

We certainly want to thank Dick Hosmer for also running for President this year. Dick was our President several years ago, and his knowledge and expertise in several areas is always appreciated.

Thanks also are due to our outgoing officers. Besides Don Buesing, and Dick Hosmer, we also want to express our appreciation to Llyn Rice who served for five years as Recording Secretary. ***

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE OF WHISTLES WILL BE FEB/MARCH

The next issue of *Whistles in the Woods* will be the February/March issue. However the ALS season never really ends. Although we put our trains to sleep for a few months, we do hope to see you at the Albany Train

Show in December, the New Year's Day Run, the Banquet on Sunday, March 15, and/or a work party during the winter at the club. We truly hope that each of our members has a happy holiday season. ***

* * * * *

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 14, 2009, 1:00 PM

Location to be announced

Deadline for the February/March *Whistles in the Woods*

Saturday, January 10

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi everyone; hope that your holiday plans are working out.

Yeah, it is that time or year. Elections were held during the November Membership Meeting and the club now has some new officers, some who have stayed on for another term, and some who have returned after a few years. I, Skip Densing, became your President, Ray Dwyer is your Vice President, and Karl Pickles is our new Recording Secretary, while Glenn Freedman and Richard Dean have both returned as Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively. Senior Director Ted Wilming is joined by Charlie Pellock who will be Director until 2010. Past President Don Buesing will also be part of *your* Board of Directors.

My hope this year is that *more* of you will get *more involved*. I would like to see every member try to come to the club at least ten times during the year. You know, like the ten fingers and thumbs you have. By coming ten times to work at something, HOPEFULLY there will be others there too. Or perhaps you could call others to come up with you. You see, going to the club with fellow members (hopefully *friends*) you get to get away from certain things and spend time with friends doing something together. After all, isn't that one of the reasons for being in any club? The list at the club of *who* is heading up certain projects if for YOU to be able to find out information about what you are interested in.

Our big gas tank should be installed by the time you read this. Our man Richard Dean is still pursuing better insurance. But remember that anyone with any information can give it to Richard for him to check out if he hasn't already checked it out. Richard has been working on this for several years and has checked a lot of stuff. Thanks Richard.

I hope that with the help of not only the BOD, but EVERYONE wherever, whenever they can, that we will have another good year at OUR club, Adirondack Live Steamers!

Skip

Whistles in the Woods
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

Vice President: Ray Dwyer

Phone: (518) 692-7001

E-Mail: ray@adironacklivesteamers.org

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Phone:

E-Mail: karl@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: Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: ted@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2009: Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 584-4492

E-Mail: charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org

Past President: Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 587-3172

E-Mail: dick@adironacklivesteamers.org

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: Skip Densing

Rich Dean

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: Isomlocowrks@adelphie.com OR
rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

TOOLS NEEDED

Skip Densing

In order to make work a bit easier at the club, we would like to make up several tool kits. We will begin by assembling one for the signal department and another for the track department. Each of them will contain all of the necessary tools for working in that area.

For instance, club members will be able to obtain the track tool kit from the tool shed at ALS, take it out to work on joining rails, changing ties, or other such track work. When finished, the tool kit can be returned to the shed and be ready for its next use. The same goes for the signal tool kit.

If you have extra screw drivers, nut drivers, or other small tools which you no longer use, you may donate them to ALS for the tool kits. Please give Skip a call (518-663-5507) and let him know how we can obtain them. Thanks. ***

BOILER INSPECTIONS

Ray Dwyer

All ALS engineers with steam engines of any size must have their boilers checked once each year. As I witness the check, the owner of the locomotive will be asked to bring the boiler up to a certain pressure.

If the boiler passes, I will stamp the back side of your membership card, and you will be ready to run for the year 2009. This should also cover you in the event that you visit another live steam club during the season.

A record will be kept of all engines which I have checked. This will help all of us in our safety program. No engine can be run until checked.

Please plan to have your boiler checked in the spring before you operate. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the November Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Don Buesing at 1:00 PM

Membership Secretary Rich Dean reported that five new members joined during Blowdown. See Rich's column for more information. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Recording Secretary Llyn Rice and approved with three corrections. In Treasurer Glenn Freedman's absence, President Don presented the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- New Container – A container has been delivered to the club grounds and placed in position. Thanks to Mark Landgraf, Charlie Pellock, Ted Wilming, and Skip Densing for their work in placing the container.
- Library – The new window has been installed. The remainder of the sheet rock and drop ceiling will be installed within the next few weeks. Librarian Ben Maggi and Ken Nelson will look into shelving.
- Compressor – Rich has acquired a new 7½ HP motor for the compressor. This should improve its capabilities since it has been running on 3 HP for several years. A second back up compressor is needed. It was moved, seconded and passed to purchase a new compressor.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed for Ted Wilming to purchase a second container.
- Signals – Skip Densing and Ken Nelson are working on a new signal system for DeSantis Divide. Wires have been run through the conduit, and air hose to operate several turnouts has also been run.
- Track Expansion – Rich reported that he has a source to obtain J channels for use in building the tunnel. The Membership gave the BOD the authority to purchase the channels.
- Propane – Two proposals have been submitted for the installation and filling of a 500 gallon gas tank. It was passed to take the more expensive installation with the lower priced refill cost from Bove.
- Winterizing the Club Grounds – Several items must be done to get our property ready for winter. The Emporium tent must be taken down, the picnic tables stacked vertically, fire barrels emptied, and the charcoal grill moved inside. The tarp cover over the Gauge One layout has been removed.

New Business:

- Request for Ballast Car – Member Brad Peterson was given permission to use the club's ballast car for a short time on his private railroad.

(Continued on p. 5) See Minutes

Minutes (Continued from page 4)

- DeSantis Estate - Frank DeSantis was a former member of ALS who died last year. His relatives have offered to give to ALS all of Frank's trains, parts, machine tools and everything train related.
- The March Membership Meeting (2009) will be held on Saturday, March 14. Charlie Pellock will check on a location and members will be notified in the February/March issue of *Whistles*.
- A lean-to will be constructed next to the new container to hold the tractor, and anything else which does not fit in the container.
- The Membership passed a motion for the BOD to spend \$1000-2000 to repair the large Case tractor.
- A motion was made and seconded to install a culvert to drain the driveway at the entrance to the club property.

The Meeting was adjourned.

* * * * *

ENGINEER TESTS DUE

Ted Wilming

This will serve as notice that many of our members, listed below, will be due to renew their engineer qualification in order to run a locomotive at ALS.

While some take the test every year just to keep current, the qualification runs for a three year period. If you last took the test in 2006 or before, you must take it again in order to qualify for the 2009 season.

We are currently experiencing a problem with our on-line testing program. The test can be found on line at adirondacklivesteamers.org. However if you send it to Bill Eckert on line, it

ends up in cyber space somewhere, and can not be read. So we have made three choices available to you:

1. Download the test from the web page, take it, and send the completed test to me at

Ted Wilming
PO Box 324
Corinth, NY 12822-0324

OR

2. Plan to attend the joint class with me in May on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

3. If neither of these choices works for you, call me at 518-650-7108, and we can arrange something. ***

NAMES

Harry Abendroth
 Stan Brother
 John Bortz Jr.
 David Bortz
 Chuck Bauer
 Dan Bueas
 Paul Clenn
 Patricia Capieue
 Roy Carruthers
 Dan Canfield

Elliot Courtney
 Ron Cicchini
 Chris Colby
 William Colbert
 Bill Critchlow
 Chuck Curry
 Paige Cushing
 Richard Dean
 Donna Densing
 Jarad Depsillas

Chris Detsikas
 Andrew Dekiras
 John Dwyer
 Ray Dwyer
 Bill Eckert
 Nancy Eckert
 Glenn Freedman
 Andrew Freedman
 Ken Friedel
 Steven Fratault

Dan Foltz
 Nick Furnia
 Melanie Garceau
 Brett Goertemoeller
 Ken Gates
 Janice Gates
 Robert Grimm
 Henry Groth
 Ella Groth
 (Continued on p.6)

NAMES *Continued*

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ron Heller | John Lukasavage Sr. | Tom O'Leary | John Roberts |
| Todd Heller | John Lukasavage Jr. | Daniel Pasquence | Brandon Pena |
| Dennis Hennington | Adam Madlinger | John Pasquence | Art Peterson |
| Jonathan Hockaday | Ben Maggi | Joseph Pasquence | Nichole Singer |
| Warren Hockaday | Robert Mansfield | Charlie Pellock | Lance Sherman |
| Dick Hosmer | Carl Megonigle | Brad Peterson | Brett Sherman |
| Charles Hosmer | William Meyer | Pete Petrillose | Paul Sternitzke |
| Daniel Kane | Robert Miller | Henry Propst | Joyce Sternitzke |
| Joe Kavanaugh | Bill Mischler | Mike Plihcik | Jasmine Stoll |
| Dave Knowles | Keith Muldowney | Paul Pool | James Stoll |
| Paul Kurtz | Michael | Sam Pool | Marshall Smith |
| Mark Landgraf | Muldowney | Frank Pierson | William Szymko |
| Bob Latino | Fred Motton | Bud Reilly | Joseph Tansk |
| Donna Latino | Colin Murphy | Charlie Reilly | Jacques Thuot |
| Steve Leatherman | Darrin Nash | Vincent Ricci | Rory Weinreich |
| Beth Levine | Lloyd Nicholas | Tom Rhodes | Annamae Yuhas |
| Charlie Levine | Jim Ogden | Rita Rochelo | Steven Zucchini |

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ATTENTION DIESEL AND ELECTRIC OPERATORS

Ken Nelson

In addition to Ray Dwyer's reminder to steam engineers on page 3, diesel and electric locomotive owners should remember that each of us is required to carry a WORKING fire extinguisher on our locomotive or riding car.

Of course, the key word is "working." After a few years, there is no good way to test a fire extinguisher, and they do lose their pressure. If you have been riding with an old one, or none at all, plan to get a new one in the spring. ***

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FOR SALE

Locomotive and Riding Car

Roll Models Industries
2.5" scale Steeple Cab and Riding Car.
7 1/4" gauge

Battery powered with four
absorbed glass mat batteries.
Includes Phoenix sound system
Loco is four years old.

Riding Car is home built and is
eight feet long.

Photo of both is available on the bulletin
board in the club house or can be obtained

from Llyn Rice at

llynrice@shoreham.net

\$8,500 for loco and car.

Contact Llyn Rice at

(802) 462-2719

Wood Flat Car

5 ft. long; 13 1/2 inches wide.

7 1/4" gauge

All wood with

Working hand brakes,

Carte Brothers wood

swing motion trucks,

Silicone bronze couplers

Contact Greg Vaughn

(518) 766-6617

NOVEMBER SAFETY TIP

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

This being our last issue for the year, we are offering a triple header of sorts as we continue our whistle signal series. You might call it Whistle Signals 1, 2, 3. Having covered the signals for grade crossings and tunnels in the last two months, we would like this month to call your attention to three whistle/horn signals which we should ALL get into

the habit of using. We'll present all three, then explain them.

Remember “_____” indicates a long whistle/horn, and “o” indicates a short blast.

What do the following mean to you?

1. “_____ _____”
2. “o o o”
3. “_____”

Answers:

1. Two long blasts: Release brakes; Proceed

This signal fits into both the “safety” and “communication” categories. First, it announces to all in the vicinity that you are about to move. Anyone in close proximity to your train should immediately make sure that they are in the clear of any movement by you which might put them in danger. It also lets all that may be aboard your train know that you are about to move. Second, if this signal is given by your conductor, it tells you, the engineer, that all in your train are seated firmly in their seats, and are safely ready to move.

2. Three shorts: Moving in a reverse direction or Backing up

This signal goes hand in hand with #1 above. In this case, it tells all in the area that you are about to change direction, or move in reverse. It also tells your conductor that he/she should keep their eyes open to the rear, watching for any obstruction which you the engineer might not be able to see.

3. One long: Brakes are set. I am not about to move.

The most common use for this signal is when you are pulling passengers, and have just stopped at a station where passengers might get off of your train. This signal tells them, and your conductor, that you have arrived at the place where you intend to have your passengers leave. The conductor should immediately move to help any passengers needing such, and tell riders that it is safe to stand up.

This is a signal which is not used often enough. We have all seen trains come to a stop, and passengers immediately begin to get off. If the engineer intends to move further down the track to make room for trains behind him, someone getting off might be injured. Passengers should be told at the beginning of their ride that they should wait for this signal before getting off. But if we tell them to wait for it, we had better give it.

This signal might also be given by the conductor, alerting the engineer that something is wrong with the train: perhaps a derailment, or someone on the train moving about in an unsafe manner. The engineer should stop immediately.

Well, this year we have introduced to you, or reminded you, of many hand and whistle signals used when running trains.. We hope that you are practicing them with your family, and that you will begin USING them when running your train.

Have a pleasant winter, and we'll see you again in the spring.

Notes From Rich

When I accepted the Membership Secretary position a year ago, I really, really had no idea as to the complexities the job would entail. I would like to thank all the previous men and woman who have taken this task on. They deserve a big hand! Thank You!

The current membership is as follows:

63 Regular Members

161 Associates

2 Life Members

41 Juniors

for a total of 267 Members

We had several new members in October.

Chris Aguire and his wife **Mary Beth Shannon** joined us along with their son **Devin** as Associate Family Members. They are from Schenevus, NY.

Ryan Bednarik lives in Mt. Holly, NJ and joined us as an Associate Member.

Gary and **Nicole Strothenke**, along with their children **Kurt** and **Gillian** come all the way from Saratoga Springs, NY, and have joined us as Associate Family Members.

Wes Trueblood is also from Saratoga Springs and has joined us as an Associate Member.

We welcome all of you, and hope perhaps that you can join us for our Winter Banquet in Burnt Hills, NY on March 15. Otherwise we will see you next year.

Would EVERYONE please take note of the following?:

1. Membership cards are at the club for any members who have not received them.

2. I will e-mail a copy of the current roster if you e-mail me a request. My e-mail address is isomlocowrks@adelphia.net OR deanelect@adelphia.net.

3. MOST IMPORTANT . . . Many e-mail addresses I have on file DO NOT WORK. Please update your addresses to receive a notice about the *Whistles in the Woods* Newsletter on line as well as other things from time to time.

4. Renewals will be sent after the first of the year. Please return them promptly.

Please everyone, have a safe and Joyous Holiday Season.

Rich, Membership Secretary

WINTER BANQUET

Pete Petrillose

Plan now to attend and enjoy our annual Winter Banquet for 2009. This winter's date is Sunday, March 15, 2009. Because of cost, we plan to move to the Burnt Hills Fire Department on Route 50 in Burnt Hills.

While we realize that this will be farther for some to travel, it will be closer for others. The cost of renting the VFW Hall in Saratoga has gone up in price, and we can use the Fire Department at no cost.

As of now, I plan to serve the same menu, with the same caterer, and hope to be able to do it at the same price as last year. Further information will follow in a letter to all members some time in the new year.

Meanwhile, why not put the date on your calendars now, and plan to join your fellow members for good food, good fellowship, and a chance to get together with no pressure on anyone. ***

* * * * *

THESE WEB SITES MAY INTEREST YOU

Ken Nelson

Both Don Buesing and Harry Abendroth recently made me aware of a web sit which may interest you. It concerns the first full size steam engine built in Great Britain in fifty years. It recently took to the tracks and this web page provides information and photos. It's a long one, but you might be interested in giving it a try.

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1059791/First-steam-engine-built-Britain-50-years-takes-tracks.html

Meanwhile, I noticed another web page in an advertisement from Kalmbach Publishing Co. It is a Rail Adventure Camp that allows one to live railroad life in full scale. You spend three days, rain or shine, experiencing the life of an engineer, brakeman, and conductor. You must be 21 years of age or older. The web site is www.railwayadventurecamp.com.

Perhaps you have come across an interesting railroad related web site. Let us know. ***

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Sometime after the first of January, you will receive a Membership Renewal Form from our Membership Secretary, Rich Dean. Please make every effort to take care of it immediately upon

receiving it. Membership is a HUGE task, and you can help Rich greatly by getting in your membership renewal right away. Please don't put it off and make him send you reminders. ***

ALBANY TRAIN SHOW

At the October Membership Meeting, the members present voted not to have our club represented as part of this year's Albany Train Show called the Great Train Extravaganza. For many years, we have had a display in the hall outside the main room, showing some of our model locomotives and cars, explaining what our club is all about, and showing videos and photos of some of the activities that go on during the year at ALS.

With our insurance situation still up in the air, and the inability to really invite guests until that is settled, the membership decided that for at least this year, we will not have a display.

However the show itself will still take place. It will be held again this year at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, just off I-787, on Sunday, December 7 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Admission for adults is \$5.00 plus \$5.00 to park at the center. Children 12

and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

This is a great opportunity to see what is going on in the hobby of model railroading covering all gauges and scales. There will be many dealers selling both new and used merchandise including locomotives, rolling stock, scenery items, books, videos and many other items. In addition, there will be several modelers demonstrating how to model cars, structures, and other items, along with people present to answer any and all of your questions about the hobby. There will be several layouts in operation including a tinsplate layout (Lionel), and both an N gauge and an HO gauge sectional layout, along with an O gauge trolley system.

This is an ideal opportunity to bring your family, and share the great hobby of model railroading with your children. We hope to see you there. ***

* * * * *

YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR

At the November Membership Meeting, the ALS calendar was approved for the year 2009. Each year, we print the calendar in a form which you can hang on your refrigerator or other prominent place in your home to remind you of what is going on at the

club. The dates in **BOLD** represent activities which are explained next to the month in question.

We hope that you find the calendar useful, and that you will hang it where it can remind you to come on out and take part in YOUR club's activities. ***

QUENTIN BREEN DIES

Just as I was preparing to put this issue to print, I learned of the recent death of the founder of Train Mountain, the largest live steam operation in the world.

He passed away at 2:30 AM on Friday, November 21 2008. He had reported that he did not feel well, and was taken to the emergency room on the previous Wednesday. He was admitted, but felt much better on Thursday. With his family present, he died on Friday morning of respiratory distress, and then respiratory failure. His suffering was very brief. A private family burial was held out of town.

He specifically requested a memorial service to be held at Train Mountain at a

later date. Details are still being worked out, but it will be held in the spring.

Vice president of Train Mountain, Greg Petersen, along with Sharon Breen, wish to assure all that they are each committed to the members of Train Mountain, and to the future enjoyment of this great hobby at Quentin's superb creation.

Anyone wishing to make donations may send them to:

Train Mountain
36941 S. Chiloquin Rd.
Chiloquin, OR 97624

We thank Harry Abendroth for bringing this item to our attention. ***

ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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JUNE

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Jan. 1 -
New Year's Day
Run

March 14 -
Membership Meeting
Time TBA
March 15 -
Winter Banquet

April 11 -
Membership Meeting
1:00 PM

May 9 -
Membership Meeting
1:00 PM
May 16 -
Engineer's Test

June 11 -
Meeting 7:30 PM
June 12-14 -
Spring Meet

July 5 -
Family Day I
July 11 -
Membership Meeting
July 18 -
Proto Operation Day I

August 9 -
Membership Meeting
1:00 PM
August 10 -
Family Day II
August 23 -
Proto Operation Day II

September 10 -
Meeting 7:30 PM
September 5-7 -
Fall Meet

October 10 -
Membership Meeting
1:00 PM
October 17-18 -
Blowdown

November 14 -
Membership Meeting
Election of Officers
1:00 PM

December 6 -
Albany Train Show

JULY

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

**December 7 – Albany Train Show
January 1 – New Year’s Run
March 15 – Winter Banquet
Wednesdays and Saturdays –
Work Days**

**Happy
Holidays**