

# 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

December 2009

## ELECTION RESULTS

Despite a very rainy day, with a slight chill in the air, a good turnout of members attended the November Membership Meeting in our heated Clubhouse to discuss several important items, and to elect our Officers and Board of Directors for 2010.

Elected for next year were the following:

President – Skip Densing

Vice President – Ray Dwyer

Recording Secretary – Karl Pickles

Membership Secretary – Richard Dean

Treasurer – Ben Maggi

Director 2011 – Dick Hosmer

Incumbent Director Charlie Pellock will serve the second year of his term. The Board of Directors will have one less member for 2011 since Dick Hosmer was already on the BOD as Past President.

Other items discussed at the Membership Meeting are covered in the

“Minutes” column on page 5.

Immediately following the meeting, there was an open committee meeting to discuss signals for the DeSantis area. It is the intention of the signal committee to make the signals as easy to read as possible, but to still give the necessary information concerning the occupancy of the track ahead, and the position of any turnouts a train must pass through. We think that we have come up with a workable solution to the problem. Tom Rhodes will design the circuits necessary and Ken Nelson will construct the signals. We hope that we can begin installing the signals in the spring.

Immediately following the signal meeting, Mark Landgraf taught a class on how to build track panels. Approximately eight to twelve people attended the class, and it is hoped that a good number of track panels can be constructed this winter. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Saturday, February 13, 10:00 AM**

**Location to be announced**

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

**Saturday, January 16**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Hi Everyone!

Well, believe it or not, another whole year has gone by. I remember having a good Spring and Fall Meet, getting some digging done, and Gasoline Alley moved. I hope you each got to enjoy our club!

The only change to your BOD is Ben who is willing to make a go at Glenn's job as treasurer after five years. Thanks, Glenn! Dick was voted back in again as Director.

I want to thank all those members who have attended meetings, showed up "ten" times, and did something no matter how much or how little, enjoying themselves while here. Just a phone call to a fellow member saying you are going, and you would like them to come too, would make it a more enjoyable visit for both of you.

Changes? Yes, next year we'll start one meeting earlier in February. The depot is set up now for drilling tie plates, drilling ties and putting track panels together. You can do an hour or two any evening, just turn up the heat and when you leave make sure you TURN IT DOWN.

If you have any questions, call someone (Skip, Dick, Ken, or Mark) and they can fill you in. Also, Gasoline Alley containers need names on them; there are still ten plus containers without names. Gas cans are \$5 a piece. Trays under Engine House bays will be completely installed by the spring at which time on Membership Day, we can EMPTY the Engine House for a complete sweep out. I am very appreciative of how well the Tool Shed has been kept neat.

The signal crew is shooting for lights this coming spring. My goal for next season is cleaning up around and in the Garage. Possibly the storage area behind the Engine House too. If you know of anything that should be done, bring it up. Maybe you and someone else can help.

I want to thank all of you that did make it ten times or more this past year and hope you can bring someone else with you this coming year. A good example was at our last Meeting. It took less than half an hour to put up all our tables outside for the winter. The more hands, the lighter the work.

Hope you enjoy the 2009 Train Show at the Egg. Have a safe and happy holiday.

See you at the club,  
**Skip**, President

Whistles in the Woods  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS**  
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*Whistles in the Woods*  
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**MEMBERSHIP**

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

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## WINTER BANQUET

Pete Petrillose

While this may seem a bit premature, it is never too early to begin thinking about food. Our annual ALS Winter Banquet will be held on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at the Burnt Hills Fire Department on Route 50 in Burnt Hills, NY. Why not put this on your calendar now and plan to join us this winter.

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.

If you have railroad items that you would like to donate for door prizes, please wrap them (newspaper is fine) so one cannot tell what they are. The more donations we get, the more door prizes we can give. Please do not bring junk.

Entertainment, whether musical, railroad oriented videos, slides, power point, or other appropriate material is always welcome. Please let me know ahead of time so that we can allow time for it.

Last minute details regarding time, menu selection, and price will be sent you in a letter during the winter. Please be looking for it and return your response as soon as possible. \*\*\*

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## GAS CANS AVAILABLE

There are still a few gas cans of various sizes available at \$5 each. If you have need for one at the club, or at home, please contact Skip Densing at 518-663-5507. \*\*\*

## Letters to the Editor

### Normal?

It was a normal Saturday, October 31, 2009. As usual I was working at the track, Ridge Live Steamers in Dundee, Florida. We were preparing roadbed for our major expansion, which will result in a mainline of about 1½ miles. Due to the powdery sand, sometimes referred to as ball bearing or sugar sand, a three to four inch layer of compactable clay is laid down for the roadbed. Fifteen or twenty foot track panels are laid directly on the clay. I know that sounds like unwieldy panels, but we use 2x2 inch ties so they are easily handled. The track is ballasted with “pea” stone, aligned and leveled. The finished track is not as robust as what you have at ALS, but it works very well in the frost-free heat of Florida. When we took a break for lunch, we decided that it was much too hot (90 degrees) to continue on in the afternoon.

After putting away my MOW train and connecting the batteries to the chargers, I headed home. It was a welcome relief to enter my cool, dark home away from the heat of the day. I decided to check my e-mail before continuing with other activities. A note from Bill Eckert informed me that the November issue of *Whistles in the Woods* was now available at the ALS website. I always enjoy keeping up with my favorite club so I opened it right away. The article about your cold Blowdown weekend caused me to chuckle and realize just how much I’ve adapted to Florida and the new “normal.”

The biggest meet of the year for RLS is in February. Thursday, February 25 through Sunday, February 28, 2010 will see the Dundee track packed with equipment from all over the southeast. Live steamers from all over are welcome to attend. If you want to get away from the cold and snow, come to Florida for a winter break. RV sites with limited electric and water are available at RLS by reservation. A new Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn are available in nearby Lake Wales. If you want to bring a locomotive or a whole train, remember we use 7½” gauge track. Feel free to contact me if you need additional information or have any questions. I hope to see some of you here in February.

Bruce Rauch

(Bruce was a member and officer of ALS for many years when he lived in this area. He retains his membership with us, and is now a member of the Ridge Live Steamers in Florida. *Ed.*)

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

We plan to continue our Safety Tips column next year. Meanwhile, how are you doing with your use of hand signals and whistle signals?

We’ll see you in the spring.

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# Minutes

## A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the November Meeting

President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles read the minutes of the October Meeting. They were accepted with corrections.

Membership Secretary Richard Dean reported that there were no new members.

There was no treasurer's report.

### Committee Reports:

- Good and Welfare: President Densing read a letter from Nancy Peters regarding the visit of Cam Brown during Blowdown.
- Equipment: There was no report from Ray Dwyer regarding the new boiler for *Woodstock*. He has heard nothing.  
Several gas containers are available for \$5 each.  
The two club flat cars and ballast car will be numbered by Don Buesing.
- Gauge One: The tarp which covers part of the Gauge One area was removed for the winter.
- Safety: The water barrels along the right of way need to be emptied.
- Track: A class on building track panels will be held at the conclusion of this Meeting.
- Clubhouse: Members were reminded that they should raise the heat (thermostat) when arriving and turn it back down to its lowest point when leaving.  
Members were reminded that the coffee maker must be turned off when leaving.
- Signals: Ken Nelson presented the signal system for DeSantis, which he, Dick Hosmer, and Tom Rhodes have designed. Much discussion ensued. A meeting of all those interested will be held following the Meeting.
- Grounds: After discussing our plans for the use of roof trusses over the containers, Charlie Pellock reported that a better idea would be the construction of a pole barn.  
A friend of Charlie Pellock has brought in his stump grinder and removed several stumps near the driveway.  
On Membership Day in May, all of the Engine House stalls will be emptied and cleaned.  
Several turnouts near the Car Barn must be moved 24" off center in order to eliminate their being kicked by engineer's feet.

### Old Business:

- Don Buesing is still working on the DeSantis Estate. A motion was made to rent a truck to move this material when and if it becomes available. The motion was defeated and this will be handled through the President's fund.

### New Business:

- Discussion was held regarding what equipment should be taken to the Albany Train Show. Anyone interested in helping should contact Dick Hosmer.
- Anyone planning to attend the New Year's Day Run is asked to contact Don Buesing.
- The Calendar for 2010 was passed with a few changes. (See separate article below.)

### Elections:

- Dick Hosmer was elected as Director 2011.
- The Recording Secretary cast one ballot for the remainder of the officers.

The Meeting was adjourned.

## ALS CALENDAR FOR 2010

At the November Membership Meeting, the Calendar for next year was discussed and passed. You will notice a few changes from this year.

An additional Membership Meeting will be held on the second Saturday of February. Due to the weather, this Meeting may or may not be able to be held in the Clubhouse. Since there is no Newsletter in January, members are asked to refer to the web page during the

month of January to find out where this Meeting will be held.

The first Family Day would have fallen on July 4. Due to the holiday, we have moved this date to July 11.

It was suggested that we move the second Prototype Operation Day from August to September in hopes of avoiding the heat of August.

The dates for next year are listed below. A Calendar will appear in the February/March issue.

Friday, January 1 – New Year’s Day Run

Saturday, February 13 – Membership Meeting (Location to be announced – See Web Page during January or early February.)

Saturday, March 13 – Membership Meeting (Location to be announced)

Sunday, March 28 – Winter Banquet at Burnt Hills Fire Department. (Letter with more information will follow during the winter.)

Saturday, April 10 – Membership Meeting (Clubhouse)

Saturday, May 8 – Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 15 – Membership Day and Engineer’s Test

Thursday-Sunday, June 10-13 – Spring Meet with Meeting on Thursday evening at 7:30

Saturday, July 10 – Membership Meeting

Sunday July 11 – Family Day I

Saturday, July 17 – Prototype Operation Day I

Saturday, August 7 – Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 8 – Family Day II

Thursday-Sunday, September 9-12 – Fall Meet with Meeting on Thursday night at 7:30

Saturday, September 25 – Prototype Operation Day II

Saturday, October 9 – Membership Meeting (Nominations)

Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17 – Blowdown

Saturday, November 13 – Membership Meeting (Election of Officers)

Sunday, December 5 – Great Train Extravaganza at the Egg (Albany Train Show)

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## ALS WILL ATTEND ALBANY TRAIN SHOW

As mentioned in the article in last month's *Whistles in the Woods*, ALS will again take part in this year's Great Train Extravaganza on Sunday, December 6 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Dick Hosmer has offered to again be in charge of setting up our part of the show. He needs everyone's help. This is an ideal opportunity to show the public what our club is, and perhaps encourage new members to join us.

We generally display one or more locomotives, a car or two, and show

videos of what we do at various events during the year. The presence of several ALS members talking with potential members and answering questions is a great help.

If you would be willing to help Dick with loading/unloading equipment, please call him at 518-235-0771. If you would be willing to show up and help on Sunday to talk with visitors about our club, please call Skip Densing at 518-663-5507.

We again need your help! \*\*\*

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## LIBRARY IS ALMOST READY

In case you have been wondering what happened to our Library, rest assured that Librarian Ben Maggi has been working very hard on his own time to get all of the available volumes ready to be checked out by ALS members as needed. There is currently an abundance of books on all areas of railroading, together with quite a few videotapes and

DVDs. The live steam hobby is well covered and there are quite a few books and magazines on model and prototype trains.

Ben will have everything ready in the spring, and will write an article at that time explaining the correct process to use in checking items out. Thanks Ben for all of your work. \*\*\*

## GOLDEN SPIKE: 1987

Yes, that was the year our club drove its first golden spike. And now, a DVD is available showing all how our grounds looked at that time. See many of our original members in action, some of whom have passed on. See Frank DeSantis running his Southern 4-4-0, and our own Don Buesing running the

ceremony. We have come a long way, and this DVD shows it. Also included on the same DVD is our Fall Meet of 1988 and 1989.

If you would like a copy for \$10, contact Charlie Pellock. They will also be available at the Emporium in the spring. \*\*\*

## NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY/MARCH

The next issue of *Whistles in the Woods* will be the February/March issue. We hope to see some of you at the Albany Train Show in December, the New Year's Day Run in January, the

Winter Banquet in March, and/or at the club during the winter months helping to build track panels. We do hope that each of our members and their families has a happy holiday season. \*\*\*

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

**December 6 – Albany Train Show  
Egg in Albany**

**January 1 – New Year's Day Run**

**March 28 – Winter Banquet**

**Burnt Hills Fire Department  
Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work  
Days**

Happy  
Holidays