

# 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

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

---

## IT WON'T BE LONG

Ken Nelson

Yes, it's still snowing in many of our neighborhoods, but it really won't be long before we are back at the club and doing what we all love. The month of March contains two events for all of us.

We begin the year with our first Membership Meeting of the season. It will be held on Saturday, March 12 at the Wilton Fire Department. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM. There are several items needing your discussion and input, including the adoption of the 2011 ALS Budget. This is your opportunity to ask questions, to find out what is planned for the 2011 season, and to get involved in the planning. Due to the poor parking at the club during the winter, we will hold this meeting at the Wilton Firehouse which is located off Exit 16 of the Northway. After you exit the Northway, drive west on Ballard Road for three traffic lights. Look for the firehouse on the right and park in the rear. Use the rear door.

Our second event for the month of March is our annual Winter Banquet. This year's Banquet will be held on Sunday, March 20 at the Burnt Hills Fire Department. This is our chance to get back together again and exchange stories about our winter adventures. If you are a new member, this is a great chance to get to know everyone. The food is good, it is reasonably priced, and the fellowship is unbeatable. In the near future you will be receiving a letter from Pete Petrillose with all of the details. If you don't hear from Pete by March, you may call him at 518-399-4868 to make your reservation. As usual, you are encouraged to bring your entire family, and if you wish, you may also bring one or more wrapped door prizes. Please do not bring junk. The door prizes are optional; your present will be your presence. We hope to see a great many of our membership at both of the upcoming events. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Saturday, March 12, 2011, 10:00 AM  
Wilton Firehouse**

**Deadline for April *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, March 19**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page and Calendar on page 7**

# President's Corner

Well Hello!

Another year is here and what will be your goal for our club this year? Number one should be attendance; make sure that you get to the club and enjoy it! Yes, it is nice if you can do something, but at least come and check it out.

During Membership Day in May we will clean out our engine house and car barn. Our depot might need emptying of track panels and cleaning. And did you plan on checking out your own equipment? Plan on cleaning, changing oil, oiling parts, checking couplers, wheels, lights and horn. Meantime, don't forget that it is again time for paying your dues, arranging for storage of your equipment, and making payments.

I would like to get our water lines and other utilities underground in order to winterize this season. I would also like to start work on our tunnel! We could possibly lay some track at the top of Cemetery Hill, but then we need the tunnel in. We don't want to put track in the way of working on the tunnel, or the track could possibly get wrecked. We still haven't gotten around to straightening up our garage. Hopefully the road that passes the Car Barn will be cleared so that it is straight and has clearance for an ambulance. We need to have a chipper day where we get all kinds of brush pulled out on the road so we can go through with the chipper and get rid of it. Are you willing to help on one or more of these projects?

So what ideas are on your mind for this year? WRITE THEM DOWN and give them to a Board Member or bring something up at our March Meeting at the Wilton Fire House on March 12.

We plan to have the Board Budget Meeting in February so that you can vote on it at the March Membership Meeting. Please plan to be there.

I hope that you were able to get to the Railroad Show at the Big E in West Springfield this year. Unfortunately, I missed it.

See you at the March Meeting.

*Skip,*  
President

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](mailto:skip@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Vice President:** Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 584-4492

E-Mail: [charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Recording Secretary:** Karl Pickles

Phone: (518) 587-5702

E-Mail: [karl@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:karl@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Treasurer:** Ben Maggi

Phone: (585) 506-2680

E-Mail: [ben#@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:ben#@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Membership Secretary:** Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: [rich@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:rich@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Director 2011:** Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-Mail: [dick@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:dick@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Director 2012:** Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: [ted@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:ted@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Past President:** Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 567-3172

E-Mail: [don@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:don@adironacklivesteamers.org)

NEWSLETTER  
*Whistles in the Woods*  
 STAFF

**Editor:** Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: [pocovalley@msn.com](mailto:pocovalley@msn.com)

**Publisher:** Pete Petrillose

**Columnists:** Skip Densing and Rich Dean

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

WEB PAGE

**Webmaster:** Bill Eckert

Phone: (802) 226-7618

E-Mail: [bill@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:bill@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Website:** [adironacklivesteamers.org](http://adironacklivesteamers.org)

MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: [deanelect@roadrunner.com](mailto:deanelect@roadrunner.com)

## SYMPATHY EXPRESSED

By now you have probably heard of the passing of long-time ALS member Cam Brown. Cam for many years was a hard working and loyal member of the club. His most memorable role was that of “conductor” at each of our busy gatherings, making sure that each visitor and member alike got a fair chance to have a ride around the property. He would check safety issues, keep the trains running in an orderly fashion, and was a big help in crowd control. In addition, he was knowledgeable in the railroad history of New York State, and on several occasions helped with our Education Days.

Cam died about a week after the December issue of *Whistles...* went to press, and so we wish to pay tribute to him now. He will be missed. Our entire club expresses sympathy to his family. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## FOR SALE

### Steam Engine

4-6-4

Lettered *New Haven*

6-wheel trucks on tender

\$15,000

### Diesel Engine

Rail Systems SW 1500

Black primer / No road name

Snow plow / Ditch lights / Hour meter

\$5,000

### Freight Cars

2 Flat cars

1 Gondola

1 Caboose lettered *Pennsylvania*

Asking \$800 each

### Track

400 feet or more

Make offer

\$25,000 takes everything

Tim Barcone

PO Box 5, Westkill, NY 12492

H 518-989-6462 / C 845-901-1134

## **ARE YOU READY? IS YOUR EQUIPMENT READY?**

As we approach the month of March, and begin to think about operation on the track, it is not too early to check your equipment to make sure it is ready for the season.

“I’m going to take care of that before next summer.” We’ve all said it at one time or another, and now is the time to get to it. If something wasn’t working last fall, it probably needs your attention now.

Steam engineers please remember that your boiler will have to be hydro checked at the track when you bring it in. The process is easy. You remove the blow off valve and make sure you have a plug for one side and a reducing bushing for the other side that reduces to 3/8 of an inch. This insures that all boilers will be safe for operation, both at ALS as well as other clubs you may visit during the year. If you have questions, contact Ray Dwyer at 518-692-7001.

Diesel and electric locomotives need to be checked for several things. First, there must be a chain or bar between the

engine and its riding car. Depending on the coupler is not enough. Second, diesel and electric locos must carry a WORKING fire extinguisher with them at all times. If you are not sure that yours is still good, get a new one. They only last two or three years.

All trains, including steam, diesel, and electric must have a chain or safety rope between cars. A run-away car or cars can cause a major accident on our hills.

Finally, please remember that all engineers must take an engineer’s test every three years. If you are uncertain when you are due, call Ted Wilming at 518-654-7108, or check the white loose-leaf book in the clubhouse. Some members take the test every year just to keep current. You may see the test at [adirondacklivesteamers.org](http://adirondacklivesteamers.org). Click on “operational rules” in the left hand column, and follow the directions until you get the quiz on screen.

Let’s all work together to have another safe season of operation. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **THIS WEB SITE MAY INTEREST YOU**

Ken Nelson

If you are a railfan of CSX, you may have wondered just what train you are seeing, or what all those letters mean at the beginning of a train number.

There is a “developing” web site which will help you in distinguishing one train from another. Is it a coal train, grain train, manifest, or something else?

[georgiarailfan.net/csxtrains/freights.html](http://georgiarailfan.net/csxtrains/freights.html)

You will find the various letters which

are used to prefix each type of train. By clicking on a particular type, you will find a “schedule” of sorts which will tell you when you might find a particular train at a particular location. Of course, freight “schedules” are almost always variable, but you will find at least a suggestion of when a train will run.

If you know of a web site which caters to railroad enthusiasts, please let me know and I may be able to include it in this column. \*\*\*

# Notes From Rich

Welcome back to the track. I hope you all had a good winter and are now ready to begin running trains again.

Within the next week or so, you should be receiving from me the information you need in order to pay your dues and rejoin for the coming year. Please watch for it in your mailbox and try to return it to me as soon as you can.

I will send one copy of each form. Where necessary, please make another copy or copies of the forms which you need for your family. Directions will be found on the information which I send.

**Please remember that I must have one waiver form signed for each member of your family.** This is a very busy time of year for me; you can be a big help by carefully filling out your forms and returning them to me as soon as possible.

Thanks,

*Rich*

Membership Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011

You will find on page 7, this year's ALS Calendar. We hope that you will hang this in a prominent place in your home and refer to it frequently. The Board of Directors has planned a summer of fun for you and your family. As always, we hope that you can make it

to the club at least ten times during the summer. Come to run trains, to enjoy fellowship with other members, and to work on making our railroad one of the best live steam railroads in this part of the country. The BOD cannot do it all. Let's have a great summer! \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## WINTER WORK

We have had a very snow filled winter. It seems that every time we make plans to come to the club to build track panels, or to work on the trim, it snows. Nobody wants to come to the club and not be able to get in.

However, with spring coming, there is still time to get some work done and

get a head start on the nice weather that we know is ahead.

Please give Skip Densing, Ken Nelson, or Lance Sherman a call to see when they plan to come to the club and work. We would love to have your company. \*\*\*

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

As railfans, we all display a great interest in the overall operation of trains and locomotives. Many of us enjoy taking pictures, making videos, or just watching railroad operations. However since such activities often occur near railroad infrastructure, our first responsibility must be safety and security.

This month, we would like to focus on prototype railroading as we look at some information from Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit, national public education program for rail safety. They ask you to “walk the talk” when it comes to safe behavior around tracks and trains. Your friends and your children can learn a lot from what you do around railroads.

Each year, nearly 1000 people die because they do not understand railroads. They underestimate the power of trains and the dangers around the rails. Other people, especially children, learn more from what you DO than from what you SAY, especially when they know you are a railfan. The Transportation Security Administration (created to protect the nation’s transportation system and its infrastructure), the U.S Department of Transportation, the Association of American Railroads, and Operation Lifesaver urge all railfans to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not trespass on railroad property or rights-of-way, which **may** extend 200 feet on either side of the tracks.
- Do not enter private property without permission. This includes railroad yards.
- Never walk out on a railroad bridge or trestle.
- Stay out of railroad tunnels. If your photographs suggest that they were taken from a bridge, trestle, or tunnel, you send a bad message.
- Do not climb on railroad property such as signal bridges, cabinets or other structures.
- Never climb on or crawl under railroad cars or equipment.
- Take photographs and view trains only from public locations.
- When taking photographs or just viewing trains, always stay at least 15 feet away from the nearest rail.
- Obey all highway/rail grade crossing signs and signals.
- If you see suspicious activities, report them to railroad or local police. **DO NOT TAKE ACTION YOURSELF.**
- Resist the temptation to walk down the middle of railroad tracks. Children seeing you do this may copy your actions at a later date.
- Resist the temptation to pose children on railroad tracks or equipment for family photos. They may decide to climb on railroad cars parked on a siding near home.
- Look both ways. Trains can run at any time, on any track, from either direction.

Always keep safety in mind when viewing railroads. See you next month.

\*\*\*

# ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS

## 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**FEBRUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

**MARCH**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**APRIL**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**MAY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**JUNE**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**Jan. 1 -**  
New Year's Day  
Run

**Mar. 12 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
**Mar. 20 -**  
Winter Banquet

**Apr. 9 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM.

**May 14 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
**May 21 -**  
Membership Day

**June 9 -**  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
**June 10-12**  
SPRING MEET

**July 9 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
**July 10 -**  
Family Day I  
**July 16 -**  
Proto Op. Day I

**Aug. 7 -**  
Family Day II  
**Aug. 13 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
**Aug 20 -**  
Proto Op Day II

**Sept. 8 -**  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
**Sept. 9-11 -**  
FALL MEET

**Oct. 8 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
Nominations  
**Oct. 15-16 -**  
Blowdown

**Nov. 12 -**  
Membership Mtg.  
10 AM  
Elections

**Dec. 4 -**  
Albany Train  
Show

**JULY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**AUGUST**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**SEPTEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**OCTOBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**NOVEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**DECEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

**March 12 – Membership Meeting**  
10 AM – Wilton  
Fire House

**March 20 – Winter Banquet**  
1 PM – Burnt Hills  
Fire House

**April 9 – Membership Meeting**  
1 PM - Clubhouse

**See you  
at the  
Meeting  
and the  
Banquet**