

# WHISTLES IN THE WOODS

---

*Published by Adirondack Live Steamers*

OPERATING 6500 FEET OF TRACK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

7¼" GAUGE 1½" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

---

SAFETY FIRST

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

---

## IT'S ALMOST TIME

As we continue to shovel, plow, and blow the snow from our driveways and sidewalks, it may be hard to see that it won't be long before we will once again be at one of our favorite places: the grounds of ALS. But we are getting close.

As you read this, there is about two to three feet of snow covering the track at the club, but with March coming, we can again begin to think about railroading. The weekend of March 14 and 15 is as good a time as any for you to get back in the swing of our hobby.

On Saturday, March 14 at **12 noon** we will have our first Membership Meeting of the year. This is a great time to find out what is planned for 2009, and to get involved in the planning. Due to the poor parking situation at the club during the winter months, we will be having our March Meeting at the Wilton Firehouse, located off Exit 16 of the Northway. After you exit the Northway

at exit 16, drive west on Ballard Road for three traffic lights. Look for the Wilton Firehouse on the right and park in the rear. Use the rear door. The meeting will begin at 12 noon.

Sunday, March 15 is the date of this year's Winter Banquet. By now, you should have received your invitation from Pete Petrillose. If you got missed, you can still call Pete before February 28 at 518-399-4868 to make your reservation. He will want to know what you choose to eat. Pete is currently in Florida, but will return your call in a few days. This year's Banquet will be held at the Burnt Hills Fire House, located on Route 50 in Burnt Hills, NY. As usual, you are encouraged to bring your entire family, and if you wish, you may bring one or more door prizes (wrapped). The door prize(s) are optional; the most important thing is your presence. We hope to see a great many of you at both upcoming events. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Saturday, March 14, 2009, 12:00 Noon  
Wilton Firehouse**

**Deadline for April *Whistles in the Woods*:  
Saturday, March 21**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page  
Also see the Corrected Calendar for 2009 on page 7**

# President's Corner

Hi everyone. Hope you are keeping warm enough! We have had a really long spell of really cold temperatures. Hope each of you are being extra careful about frostbite and slippery ice everywhere!

Our club is accessible **but** is very icy. Go real slow if you go on the property, as the driveway is mostly ice covered. Because of the snow and about 1 inch of ice under it, I haven't gotten to make my first run of the year **yet**; I am still working at it. Some trees and branches have come down from the ice and wind, but as of yet, nothing has been damaged that I know of.

Between Dick Hosmer working at switches and Mark Landgraf working the track panel crews, Ken Nelson and I have been working on the library to get to a point where Rich Dean can install the lights, and Lance Sherman can spackle or tape the walls. Then we can paint and install the shelving. If you would like to help with any of the above tasks, please call one of us and we will welcome your help. We would like to have the library complete before April if possible.

If you have something in mind that you would like to do, or something that needs attention PLEASE *write it down* and give it to me. Remember that this is OUR back yard, and OUR club, and we want to keep it safe so we can enjoy it.

Please remember the Membership Meeting on March 14 at the Wilton Fire House. We will begin at 12 noon, and the main issue is the budget.

See you at the track.

**Skip Densing**, President

**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](mailto:skip@adironacklivesteamers.org)

**Vice President:** Ray Dwyer

Phone: (518) 692-7001

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

**Recording Secretary:** Karl Pickles

Phone:

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

**Treasurer:** Glenn Freedman

Phone: (518) 877-6274

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

**Membership Secretary:** Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

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

**Director 2008:** Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

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

**Director 2009:** Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 564-4492

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

**Past President:** Don Buesing

Phone: (518) 587-3172

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

**NEWSLETTER**

***Whistles in the Woods***

**Editor:** Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: [pocovalley@msn.com](mailto:pocovalley@msn.com) OR  
[ken@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto: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, digital photos, and other contributions. Please contact any of the staff.

**WEB PAGE**

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

**Webmaster:** Bill Eckert

Phone: (802) 226-7618

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

## ALS CALENDAR CORRECTION

Ken Nelson

It wasn't my first error as editor, and it probably won't be my last, but I made a few major mistakes in printing the ALS Calendar, which appeared in last December's *Whistles in the Woods*.

The last page of this month's edition is another copy of the calendar with corrections. PLEASE DESTROY the one you got at the end of last year, and make any necessary corrections on your family calendar based on this new copy.

I sincerely apologize for any confusion I may have caused. Several people were nice enough to let me know about my errors. I don't know how they happened. I proofread the newsletter several times before sending it out, but somehow they managed to creep in.

But that is water over the damn. The dates in THIS EDITION are correct. \*\*\*

● \* \* \* \*

## WINTER WORK

The club is accessible, and several people have been working over the winter months. The ceiling in the new library should be completed by the time you read this, and perhaps the shelves will be at least started.

The heat is on, and if you are dressed warmly, it is comfortable. Why not join us in building some track panels. The more we get finished before spring, the sooner the new yard can begin to take shape. It would be a good idea to call Skip Densing (518) 663-5507 just to be sure you won't be alone. \*\*\*

# Notes From Rich

As of this writing, I have received 40 plus applications for this new year. I'm hoping that everyone will be kind enough to send their forms early and not wait until they see me in person. I know, it's easier for the money to be passed hand-to-hand, but that means a lot of paperwork for me when I would rather be socializing! Just food for thought.

On your envelope after your name is the abbreviation "Jr.," "Ass." or "Reg." If this is incorrect, please make note with your paperwork and I will change the roster.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** Last year I had a terrible time deciphering the poor handwriting, more specifically the E-mail addresses! There is a box at the top of the form to be checked if one wants a hard copy of the newsletter. If the box is not checked, the only way you will receive the news is via e-mail. If I cannot read your E-Mail address, I cannot contact you with a notice that the newsletter is on line. Please make your address legible.

Thank you and I will see you in March.

**Rich Dean**, Membership Chairman

\* \* \* \* \*

# Minutes

## **A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the Recent Board Meeting**

President Skip Densing called the BOD Meeting to order.

- The most important item, which the Board of Directors took up over the winter months, was the development of our 2009 Budget for ALS. The BOD has made up a Budget and it will be presented to the Membership at the March Membership Meeting.
- After many months, the insurance claim from a few years ago has been settled in our favor. Rich Dean will present the results at the Membership Meeting in March, and bring us up to date as to how we proceed from here.
- Vice President Ray Dwyer has been approached by a third party regarding the possibility of purchasing the steam engine which we acquired last fall. Whether we sell this engine or keep it as a club engine will be discussed at length at the March meeting.

## ALL ENGINEERS, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Between now and your first operating day, please read carefully the following three articles.

Ray Dwyer

Spring is coming and it's time to repair all the little things on your trains that were not working as of last fall. 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. All of this won't take long. This is to insure that all boilers will be safe for operation.

Thanks!

\*\*\*

Ken Nelson

In addition to Ray's article above, all engineers, including steam, diesel, and electric, are reminded of our club rules regarding the following:

- All trains must have a chain or safety rope between cars. A run-away car or cars can cause a major accident.
- There must be a chain or bar between a diesel or electric

engine and its riding car. Depending on the coupler is NOT enough.

- Diesel and electric locomotives must carry a WORKING fire extinguisher with them at all times. If you are not sure yours is still good, get a new one.

Let's have a safe year of operation and fun. \*\*\*

Ted Wilming

This is a reminder that many of our members are due to update their engineer tests, which ALS requires of all members every three years. The list of names of those who are due was printed in last December's issue of *Whistles*. If you last took the test in 2006 or before, you must take it again to qualify for the 2009 season.

The test may be found 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. Print the test, take it, and send it to me at:

Ted Wilming  
PO Box 324  
Corinth, NY12822-0324

OR

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

OR

Call me at 518-650-7108, and we can arrange something.

### PLEASE NOTE

DO NOT E-MAIL THE TEST. We are currently experiencing a problem receiving those tests which are sent through e-mail. \*\*\*

## PUMP DRAWINGS MISSING

Some time ago, Ray Dwyer loaned a set of drawings for a pump to one of our members. They were in a blue loose-leaf notebook.

If you were the borrower, or if you know anything about these drawings, Ray would very much like to have them returned.

Thank you!

\*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## COPIER NEEDED FOR LIBRARY

Skip Densing

Did you get a new computer printer for Christmas? What did you do with the old one?

Some printers can also serve as copiers, and ALS could use a copier for our new library. We don't need, or have a place for a big one. Anything that is

capable of copying 8 1/2" x 11" paper would be fine.

If you have one you would be willing to donate to ALS, please give me a call at 518-663-5507. And please remember that all donations to ALS are tax deductible. Thanks.

\*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

Last year you may recall we covered hand signals and whistle signals. We would like to start off this season's Safety Tip column with a word or two about switches or turnouts. We refer to the place where one track becomes two, and this happens frequently on any railroad.

There are really two different types of turnouts, a facing point turnout where you are directed onto one of two tracks depending on how the switch is thrown, and a trailing point turnout where you are passing from double track to single track and pass through the points of the switch last.

This month's question: Whose responsibility is it to throw these switches?

Answer:

At ALS, it is the responsibility of the **engineer** to:

1. Determine which way the turnout is lined before passing through it. In addition, he/she must determine that the points of the switch are completely against the stock rail, so as not to cause a derailment.

2. Realign any switch after passing through it so that it is lined for the main line.

Your conductor may throw the turnout, but it is the engineer's responsibility to see that it is done.

We will be back next month.

\*\*\*

# ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CORRECTED

### JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				<b>1</b>	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

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

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

### JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
<b>5</b>	6	7	8	9	10	<b>11</b>
12	13	14	15	16	17	<b>18</b>
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

**August 8 -**  
Membership Meeting  
1:00 PM  
**August 9 -**  
Family Day II  
**August 22 -**  
Proto Operation Day II

### AUGUST

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

### MARCH

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

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

**September 10 -**  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
**September 11-13 -**  
Fall Meet

### SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
6	7	8	9	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### APRIL

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

**April 11 -**  
Membership Meeting  
1:00 PM

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

### OCTOBER

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

### MAY

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

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

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

### NOVEMBER

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

### JUNE

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

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

**December 6 -**  
Albany Train Show

### DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
				2	3	4
<b>6</b>	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 14 – Membership Meeting  
12 Noon-Wilton Fire House**  
**March 15 – Winter Banquet  
1 PM-Burnt Hills Fire House**  
**April 11 – Membership Meeting  
1 PM-Clubhouse**  
**Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work Days**

**See you  
soon at  
the Track**