

July 2004 Online Newsletter

Next Meeting: Saturday, July 10th, 10:30 AM (Regular Monthly Meeting)
Sunday, July 11th (First Family Day)
Deadline for August "Whistles in the Woods": Sunday July 11th
(Send articles to [Jeane Lutz](#))
Other Important Dates: See "[Events Calendar](#)" Page

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

PLEASE, if you do not want a hard copy mailed to you please inform Jeane as she will then take you off that mailing list. If you send an email to Jeane with your preference or comments, that would be great.

Thank you for your time with this, the newsletter at this time costs \$90.00 monthly to send. We would like to have as many as possible use the website for their newsletter. This will also make you privy to immediate receipt of the newsletter. You may then print a copy for yourself or others if you choose to have a hard copy. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation in this.

From the desk of Bruce M. Rauch (just a member)...

As promised, the new handicap accessible restroom was completed in time for the Spring Meet. Unfortunately, the plumbing in the restroom was not finished. By the time you read this, everything should be finished and usable. I want to publicly thank everyone who helped with that project (in no particular order):

Llyn Rice for the use of his tile cutting wet saw. I don't know how I would have done the job without that tool. Believe it or not, I did have all the tiles laid out dry, in straight lines. I think the floor must have settled or shifted just before I started spreading the thin-set.

Larry and Loretta Green for donating the baby changing table.

Richard Dean for all the electrical work.

Ray Dwyer for all the plumbing work and for the donation of the toilet and tank.

Don Buesing for all the salvaged sheet rock.

Tom Rhodes for installing and finishing the door and hardware.

Mark Landgraf for machining and aluminum spacer ring for the floor drain.

Stan & Linda Brother for their generous donation.

Now we can start rebuilding the original Ladies room.

Mother Nature strikes again- Some wild storms came through the club property during May. A large evergreen was knocked down across our driveway. A huge pine tree, just past Phantom Tunnel, was exploded by a bolt of lightning. Part of another tree wound up near the

storage container. Power was knocked out just before I stated to lay down the ceramic tile. Aside from the trees themselves, I didn't observe any damage to our facilities.

MEET- Although I wasn't able to spend much time at the meet in the few hours I was there on Sunday after most of the guests had left, I was surprised and pleased to hear of so many of our members talking about getting their first locomotive, adding to their existing roster of rolling stock, or trading up to bigger, more powerful locomotives. Now if we can only get all these people to help maintain the track, buildings, and grounds our club will be the envy of the hobby

FAMILY DAYS- Don't forget family days, Sundays- July 11 and August 8. These are days just for members and their families to come and enjoy our ever-expanding facilities. ALS provides hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls and condiments. Families bring a salad, appetizer, or desert for sharing, ala potluck. Families are encouraged to bring their own beverages or beverages may be purchased from the refrigerator for .75 each. Family day has always been my favorite day of the year at ALS. As it is just us and our families, there's no pressure, just a lot of good food, good fellowship, and good railroading.

Meetings – Have you been to one of our monthly meetings lately? If not, you're missing quite a show. Everything is discussed into the ground. The votes on many motions are far from being unanimous.

But, that's the way it's supposed to be. Everyone should have his or her say before the vote on a motion is called. For too many years, many projects have been done by executive fiat without the input of the membership. This procedure has turned off many once active members. If you really care about your club, you should attend every meeting possible. If something gets passed in your absence that you don't like, too bad. You should have been at the meeting. If you have something important to present at a meeting that you are not able to attend, give another member a written presentation to read at the meeting. I have done this several times and have been satisfied with the results. I've also observed several side meeting going on during the regular meeting. Can some one tell me how those involved can understand what's going on in two meetings at the same time? That's how misunderstandings and hurt egos develop. If you are at the meeting and are an active participant in the discussion, you should be big enough to accept the results of the will of the membership, even if they don't see it your way.

Ear on the Rail – Several people have asked, "What happened to that column?" It appears most of the references were too vague or "inside" to make the column interesting to most of the readers. I'll still use it when appropriate.

Efficiently Run Meetings

We would like to take this opportunity to ask your full cooperation at meetings, **both** at Regular and Board meetings. During Regular meeting please pay attention to what is going on and please please no side conversations. We would like to make these meeting as short as possible and this is not the case lately.

During a Board of Directors meeting any of the membership is allowed to attend. **BUT** you **MUST** remain quiet unless the President has given you the floor. This is a meeting to resolve any issues to minimal amounts to be brought back to the general membership for voting. You then have a chance to bring up any issues you may have during the discussion period.

We wish to thank all that come and participate at the regular meeting and encourage all that have not yet to come.

Notes From Jeane

Membership Secretary's Report

[Jeane Lutz](#)

As I sit here at the computer I cannot believe how fast the month has gone. I had this article written 2 weeks earlier this month. BUT much to my granddaughter's delight she played with my computer and yes I was subjected to her fun in the loss of my article. So I shall start again.

We had a great Spring Meet. Even though it conflicted with NJLS meet, we had a good turnout and there was good track time for all. Mother Nature even cooperated with us even though she threatened to rain on our parade. But we here at ALS don't take threats seriously. We all had enough time to kibbutz with the guests and even enjoy some train rides from our guests.

We had a great Saturday night dinner, with a 50/50 won by a guest of a member who graciously returned some of the money back to the club for a donation. There was also a train quilt raffled off made by yours truly. This raffle was done as a special fund for the start of the purchase of tables and chairs for the new station house. We were able to start the fund with \$129.00. The quilt was won by Donna Latino from Brookfield MA. I received a call from her later that week on how happy her granddaughter was that she finally had her own train. It was especially rewarding that we were able to contribute to the addition of trains on another youngster. Of course not that Donna and Bob would have any influence on her either. Thanks to all who bought tickets. It was a nice start toward some new tables and chairs.

Our June meeting was held outside as it was a beautiful day. There were 22 members present. This was an exceptionally long meeting but a lot was accomplished this month.

We voted the following new members into our club.

JOHN B ROBERTS, from Barre, Ma, as a regular member. He is a software support engineer. His interest in trains is actually in diesel locomotives, but he plans on building a 2-8-0 in the future. He presently owns a SW-7 locomotive and assorted riding cars. Welcome aboard John.

RICHARD ERIKSEN, from Latham, NY as an associate member. He is presently collecting HO models, and is anxious in helping out in all kinds of activities. We welcome you aboard also Richard, and welcome any help you may be able to provide.

AMY DEAN, our own vice-presidents wife from Katskill Bay, NY. She joins us as her friends and husband made her do it. If you were at our Spring Meet you met Amy with Richard in the kitchen cooking breakfast both Saturday and Sunday mornings. But next year Amy, we shall keep the doors closed a little longer while you two are prepping... Thank you so much for all your help.

Speaking of help, I would like to thank **BETH LAVINE** for her generous time and efforts to a great job well done in the Kitchen this year. We tried very successfully to

have one person the “commander in chief” of the kitchen. It went very well with little or no problems. Beth has graciously agreed to stay on as the commander, so anyone who wishes to help in that area please contact her. Beth will be in charge of getting the food orders together and assigning or accepting help for the future meets. It went so much smoother this year having one person in charge. Charlie and Kathy LeVine also gave much time to help their Mom during this meet also. A special thank you to both of them.

An added Note here , that **KATHERINE LAVINE**, Elizabeth’s’ daughter, and an active junior member, was on the Honor Roll this whole year at Schuylerville Central School. Congratulations Kathy on a job well done.

JOHN PASQUENCE has been actively clearing the dirt from under the Piesecki Bridge for the past two weekends. When finished he will be sandblasting and painting the same. Thank you in advance John. We really appreciate your help.

The gauge one committee has been very busy getting the land surveyed and graded for the addition on the new gauge one railroad that is being added to the club. Track has started to be laid and progress is great. This is a great way to see a strong committee at work, and is a shining example of what a club can do, through the installation of committees and chairpersons. This will be a great place for any future young members to get their start in railroading and it will be more affordable for them also. Then maybe we can get some Junior Member Activities going.

The track committee, headed by John Camerota, is progressing rapidly in replacing worn and damaged ties throughout the track with special emphasis on the portion from the car barn through DeSantis Divide. Thanks John for the strong effort in the repairs. Anyone willing to learn the way to replace ties, please see the “Orange Shirt Man” as he is willing to teach you and would also welcome the additional help. This is great place to get started if anyone is interested in helping.

We would like to organize a contingent to CALS at CASS for next May. That is CHESAPEAKE & ALLEGHENY LIVE STEAMERS in West Virginia. New Jersey Live Steamers go as a group every year and so far we have heard that there are some of our members that would like also to go. Keep it in mind and we will fill you in later with details. This takes place the first full weekend of May. We would have a 4 day pre-planned train weekend, with plenty of “train time” as we take many excursions through West Virginia.

There are a few of us also that are already planning ahead to January 2005 for the Cabin Fever Expo at York, PA. This is a great time to break up the monotony of the winter and also meet some of the vendors for live steam. Whether for boats, locomotives, tractors or whatever else runs on steam. There is a great auction on Friday night at the Expo with much to mull over and then one or two days of the fever itself. A great time is had by all who attend and a lot of ideas or projects come home with us. If you are interested keep the weekend of January 14, 15 and 16 open. The auction is Friday , and the Expo starts on Saturday.

If anyone is interested in ordering name tags, the yellow ones with your name and type of membership on them, please see me, as I will be ordering one more time for this year. They are now \$8.00 prepaid. It is coming to the point where for a meet, club members will be required to wear them for the betterment of all. So get yours now if you do not have one and save the hassle later.

See you at the track!

MECHANICVILLE FOURTH GRADERS VISIT ALS

On two consecutive Tuesdays, June 8 and 15, fourth grade classes from the Mechanicville Schools, along with their teachers and chaperones visited ALS for an Education Day. Included was the standard curriculum of classes on history, locomotives, rolling stock, and right-of-way, as well as a ride over the railroad. In addition, this year we were fortunate to have a railroad policeman from the Delaware & Hudson visiting ALS for the two days. He spoke

to the students on safety around the railroad.

We want to thank ALS members Cam Brown, Dick Hosmer, Ken Nelson, Myron Rapaport, Ted Wilming, and Marcel Zucchini for their time and efforts in making the two days successful. In addition we wish to express our appreciation to the Canadian Pacific RR for making available officer Mike Tracy. ***

* * * * *

FOR SALE

A.C. Gilbert "S" Gauge Model Train Collection
Classic American Flyer 3/16" Scale Collection from 1950 era

Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Track, Accessories
Good to excellent condition – Many in original cartons

Three locomotives:
4-4-2 Atlantic, 4-8-4 Northern with Sound, 1 Diesel

Rolling Stock:
18 freight and work cars
3 streamlined passenger cars

Track:
Approximately 100 feet of straight and curved track
Switches, crossovers, grade crossings, etc.

Accessories:
Station, Floodlight Tower, Water Tank, Diesel Horn Billboard, Tunnel,
Air chime Whistle Generator, Girder Bridge, Semaphore Signal, Rerailer,
Two Electric Uncouplers, Many Signs, Grade Crossing Signals, Control Tower kit,
Crossing Shanty, Trestle kit,
18 volt dual Control Transformer, Instruction Booklet, 1957 American Flyer Catalog

Sold only as a complete collection – no individual pieces
Seller will make a donation to ALS if sold through ALS

Contact Don Harms, Associate Member, at (518) 355-2857
No E-mail or Web address