

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

JULY 2006

2006 ALS SPRING MEET REPORT

Don Buesing

Well, that's another one in the can. This one is still dripping though as the occasional rain kept almost everything damp throughout the weekend. The one thing not dampened at all, it seems was everyone's steaming spirits! My guess is that the forecast kept many would be visitors at home, but those that did spend the weekend with us enjoyed three or more days of light traffic and occasional light rain. Looking on the bright side, we sure didn't have to worry about setting the pine needles on fire! I wasn't keeping a close watch, but I don't think there was ever more than a one train backup into the service tracks. All together I think we had about a dozen steamers and about the same number of "alternate" powered locomotives.

Once again, the "STAR" of the meet was John Bortz's Nickel Plate Berkshire. It had everyone's attention each time it

passed by with 15 or more cars behind. Some had passengers too. As usual, the rail was getting a bit slick by Sunday morning and even the Berk was starting to slip. Then, out of nowhere, came our own Bill Mischler with his 0-4-0 pusher to save the day! Bill closed the distance on the caboose ahead and had just enough 'oomph' to get the train up Cemetery Hill. Bill followed at a good distance until needed again just above Horseshoe Trestle. This went on for most of the morning and into the afternoon. And if you stayed home because it "might rain," well, you can only hope it'll rain again next year!

Safety was on everyone's mind this year, and we can all expect it to continue being our #1 focus at all times, not just meets. There were a few 'questionable' practices exhibited, but nothing to write
(Continued on p. 6) See **Spring Meet**

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, July 8, 2006, 1:00 PM
Club House**

**Deadline for August Whistles in the Woods:
Saturday, July 15**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Richard Dean, President

Well, here it is July already. The year is one half over and much has been accomplished at Adirondack Live Steamers. But even though the year is half over, we still have a good four months of running ahead. So, let's highball into the summer.

The Spring Meet was very enjoyable. Even with the threat of rain, we managed to have good running Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Friday night was a real washout and I'm glad my tent doesn't leak! Dinners were great! We all need to thank the kitchen crews for delicious food. Beth Levine, we thank you for heading up the food department. Pete and Helena Petrillose, thanks again for your great efforts with the Friday dinner. To Don Buesing, the roast beef was mouth watering. And John Camerota has done a great job of tie replacement with any minor defects taken care of with a fast response during the Meet. There were many more hands that helped and we thank you all.

Now that it's July there are more train operations on the calendar. First is Family Day on the 9th. This is a good time to meet the members' families that are not normally involved at ALS. Normally there are many trains running and lots of talk. Second is Prototype Operations Day on the 16th. This is as interesting to watch as it is to be involved. Personally, I never realized the complications of running multiple trains in different directions until I ran as an engineer. The schedule includes locals and passenger trains. Stop by and take part or watch the fun.

Most important are workdays. There are many projects in the works and as always there are maintenance issues. Please come to work and ask how you can help. There are projects for everyone, so jump right in and lend a hand.

Thanks to all for our great ALS track.

See you at the track.

Richard Dean, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
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MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in joining the ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS should contact Jeane Lutz, Membership Secretary.
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**CUB SCOUT GROUP HAS
SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION
DAY**

Ken Nelson

A Cub Scout Troop from the Troy area was the first this year to take part in an ALS Education Day. They, along with their parents, had a ball, and it was great having them as our guests. Although they were a year younger than we usually work with, our faculty of Dick Hosmer, Myron Rapaport, Skip Densing, and Ken Nelson were able to get across the key elements of our curriculum of locomotives, rolling stock, civil engineering, and railroad safety.

We also want to thank Llyn Rice and Larry Green for operating the Gauge #1 layout, and Skip Densing for providing rides. These Education Days not only give us a chance to reach out to the community at large on the subject of railroading, but help to protect the tax free status of our club. ***

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**PROTOTYPE OPERATION
DAY I**

Skip Densing

Hey! You wanta play real trains?

Well I have a whole bunch of cards that go to railroad cars, BUT I need three YARDMASTERS, and a few train crews of an engineer and conductor (four plus would be nice). Big John is willing to dispatch.

The date is Saturday, July 16. I would like to start running at 9:00 AM, so if you can get here at 8:30, we can have a quick meeting and get started. Plan to start returning all cars about 2:00 to 2:30 PM so we can HOPEFULLY be done by 3:30 or 4:00.

Remember, we are here to have fun, so don't let the times bother you. We will work it out to be comfortable.

Also remember to BRING YOUR RADIOS if you have one, and an extra perhaps for those who do not have one. ***

Llyn's Summary

Recording Secretary's Report Llyn Rice

The Board of Directors met on 17 May and they:

- Reviewed the train riding accident which injured Mrs. Peck on 20 May.
- Considered seven actions which could improve safety in the future.
- Heard a report from Don Buesing about his plans for the Spring Meet.
- Decided to recommend to the membership that they accept Myron Rapaport's offer to donate his Great Northern freight motor and mount it in the clubhouse great room.
- Approved Bill Mischler's request that he be allowed to invite a truck collector's club to visit ALS.

Our President, Richard Dean, called the Pre-Spring Meet Preparation Meeting of 8 June 2006 to order. (Please note that the membership voted a couple of years ago to not hold regular monthly Membership Meetings in June and September when we are having meets.)

The Membership:

- Heard a report from Richard Dean about the accident which Mrs. Colleen Peck had suffered on 20 May while riding a train at ALS.
- Learned that an engineer from our insurance company would visit on 17 June to investigate the accident.
- Learned that NOBODY would be allowed on the club premises unless they had signed a proper liability release form – no exceptions.
- Heard Don Buesing's report on the Spring Meet plans and learned the details about task sign-ups and when the meal times would be.
- Heard Dick Hosmer's report that two guests who had already arrived had made generous donations to the club.
- Heard Bud Weinreich's report that he can get lumber of C4 pressure treatment that will yield ties which cost 60 cents each compared to the 55 cents which we used to pay.
- Voted to buy three pallets of C4 pressure-treated 2x4 lumber to make ties needed this summer.
- Heard a report from Lance Sherman that a number of dead trees are leaning over the track and that they should be removed.

Llyn Rice, Secretary

Notes From Jeane

Membership Secretary's Report Jeane Lutz

Just in case many of you did not notice, I have been among the missing from the club since Memorial Day Weekend. I had a right total hip replacement and am on the mend as we speak. I was unable to attend the Spring Meet again this year but Bobbie Nelson did a great job of covering for me in the Emporium. Penny Landgraf and Suzanne Weinreich were both kind enough to help Bobbie.

Nancy and Bill Eckert have moved a short distance to a new home. They have been busy trying to get settled, so they have been sparse also.

I understand from the latest reports that all went well during the Spring Meet but that it was a soggy one. Vinnie and I will be back for the Fall Meet so you can expect a clear cool Meet.

I do not have any new members for this month at this point, although there are many in the waiting. There was no regular monthly Membership Meeting this month, so they will be voted upon at the July meeting. At this writing, there are seven people waiting membership. I am sure also that there will be more by July.

Since I have not been at the club to report any new findings, I shall leave you with the following:

A DREAM OF TRAINS

As long ago they raced,
Last night they raced again;
I heard them inside me,
I felt the roll of the land.

I looked out of a window
And I was moving too;
The moon above Nebraska,
Lonely and cold.

Mourned for all of the autumns
I had forgotten this;
The low hills that tilted,
The barrenness, the vast.

I think I will remember now
Until the end of the world
How lordly were the straightaways,
How lyrical the curves.

Mark Van Doren

Lord willing and the rains should stop, I may see you in a few weeks. Until then, Be Good.

Jeane, Membership Secretary

FIRST FAMILY DAY SET FOR SUNDAY, JULY 9

Coming up soon is the first of two annual ALS Family Days. For those who are new members, and as a reminder for those who have been with us in the past, these Family Days are just that. These are days to invite FAMILY members. Please do not invite friends from church, neighbors, or people with which you work. This is a time for our families to meet each other, and enjoy the trains and good food.

The club provides hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, plates, plastic ware, and napkins. Families should plan to bring their own beverages, or purchase cold soda or ice tea from the club. They should also bring a covered dish (salad, dessert, chips & dip, etc.) for

the sharing table, and whatever else they would like. Alcoholic beverages are discouraged.

Things begin to happen in mid morning. Food is put on the grill around noon and is available throughout the day. The sharing table is added to as people arrive. Families may stay as long as they wish, with trains running, good fellowship, great food, and no concern about entertaining "guests" since it is just US.

Plan now to attend the first Family Day on Sunday, July 9, and/or the second on Sunday, August 13. We all love our hobby so let's get together get to know each other, and enjoy it as a group. ***

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Spring Meet (*Continued from page 1*) home about. Most of the concerns were due to some points of confusion in our existing rules and policies. We've discovered some 'grey' areas that the BOD will work on soon. Most of the grey comes from lack of word definitions. You know, like what the meaning of "is" is. No, thankfully we'll not get that detailed!

My apologies to anyone who witnessed (or heard) the filming of the sequel to "Grumpy Old Men." Like you, I never saw the cameras but I certainly heard the "dialogue" in the steaming bays. I hope we don't have to sit through another episode like that again. Let's all try to remember that ALS is a family place. In fact that point should be remembered at all times, and not only during meets or other organized activities.

No Meet is successful without lots and lots of help. As mentioned last month, we

have hobby-related jobs and non-hobby related jobs that keep a meet moving smoothly. I'll address just the non-hobby related here. First, a loud round of applause and thanks to Beth Levine, Kathy Levine, and Kathy's friend (sorry I forgot her name) for their unwavering dedication to feeding us throughout the weekend! Next, an equally raucous round of applause and thanks to Pete Petrillose and his wife Helena for the Friday dinner, and Pete's unwavering service in the kitchen all weekend. THANK YOU! Next up, to Ted Wilming and his Registration Booth Crew, goes a big thank you. Without the service they provide we're likely to be up the creek someday. They are doing their part to see that we don't head upstream any time soon. And last but not least, thanks to Larry Green and others for Garbage Duty.

THANK YOU TO ALL! ***

Don Buesing, Meet Chairman

CHAIRS AND TABLES

Ken Nelson

Were you at our Spring Meet last month? Did you attend either of our excellent Friday or Saturday dinners? Most important, did you have a chair to sit on?

For a little over a year, Jeane Lutz, our Membership Secretary, has had a "Table and Chair" fund going on in the form of dedication jars throughout the Club House. While we have raised some money, we do not yet have nearly enough. We would like to obtain matching tables and chairs so that when we have large groups of people such as at our Meets, we don't have to share a chair, or stand up in the corner, leaning on the wall in order to eat dinner.

Our membership, our number of visitors,

and our attendance at Meets have all grown rapidly over the past ten years. However, we are still using the original chairs that were acquired when our club first organized. Our clubhouse is now three times bigger than it was in 1985, leaving a large void in the "sitting" department. And while we are certainly not trying to become a high class restaurant, it would be nice to have enough matching chairs and tables to use in welcoming our guests.

If you would like to make a donation of any amount toward our Table and Chair fund, talk to Jeane Lutz, or just send or give a check to Treasurer Glenn Freedman indicating what it is for. ***

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USING ALS PROPERTY

On various occasions, members of ALS have chosen to have a picnic, a birthday party, or other special event on our club grounds. If you are interested in such an activity, there are several things of which you should be aware.

First, such events must be brought before the Board of Directors, which will in turn recommend or not recommend bringing the request to the membership at a Membership Meeting. If the membership OK's the event, they are merely setting that date aside on the calendar, and will not schedule any other conflicting event at the club on that day. All other arrangements for the event are the responsibility of the person making the request. This includes food, entertainment, and rides on trains.

In order to have train rides, one must make sure that there will be one or more qualified engineers and trains available for the event. In addition, there must be one ALS member riding at the rear of each passenger train as a flagman. While we all love running our trains, no one is required to take passengers, and one cannot assume that a train will always be available.

Our club works on the basis of camaraderie. That is, members help on Work Days, get to know each other, and can ask one or more friends if they are available on the chosen day to provide rides. At least one Regular Member must be present since only Regular Members have keys.

All of these things take time, so plan ahead. ***

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NOTE PAD

July 8 – Membership Meeting
July 9 – Family Day I
July 13 – Lionel Operating Train
Society visits ALS
July 16 – Prototype Run Day I
August 12 – Membership Meeting
August 13 – Family Day II
August 20 – Prototype Run Day
Sept. 8, 9, 10 – Fall Meet
October 14 – Membership Meeting
October 14, 15 – Blowdown
November 11 – Annual Meeting

Family Day

Prototype Run Day

Be part of the fun