

Whistles in the Woods

Published by Adirondack Live Steamers

OPERATING 6500 FEET OF TRACK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

7 1/4" GAUGE 1 1/2" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

SAFETY FIRST

JULY 2008

SPRING MEET A QUIET SUCCESS

Don Buesing

The crowd was a bit small, but from all accounts our Spring Meet was a comfortable success. Not once did I observe a tie up on the mainline or on the steam service track. We even suspended the congestion reducing policy of *No Members Running During Meets*, allowing our local members to run as well if they wished. This was very welcome to many of our visiting members as they were offered the throttles of some steamers that are only admired in their engine house stalls during Meets. Despite the forecast, the weather did manage to behave itself for the most part. Just after dinner on Saturday night some showers passed through which dampened some thoughts of running into the night. But the Thursday afternoon running and all day Friday and Sunday running was very pleasant. I heard no complaints, only praise for our refreshing laid back Meet.

Friday night's dinner was impromptu spaghetti; Saturday night's was the usual roast beef. Rather than heat up the kitchen for daytime cooking, we used the gas grill exclusively for lunches. Since we had no way to estimate the number of people to be served, we counted heads a couple hours before the dinners and then went shopping. It all seemed to work out rather well.

Like any Meet, many hands made light work. All the usual people were busy at their usual tasks and I thank all of you. At the risk of leaving everyone else out, I would like to single out one member who I came to rely on with his offers to help in many ways and also to help organize meals and dinners throughout the entire weekend. Thanks to Mark Landgraf, my duty as Meet Coordinator was made much easier. Thank you Mark; you covered a lot of bases for me! ***

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 12, 1:00 PM
Club House**

**Deadline for the August *Whistles in the Woods*
Saturday, July 19**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

At the Thursday night meeting, a very important item was discussed at great length. As mentioned in last month's issue of *Whistles...*, ALS member Dick Piasecki of Castleton, NY is moving to the west coast and decided his 7/4" equipment must stay behind. In an extremely generous offer, Dick donated two steamers, two flat cars, and a lathe to the club with no strings attached. On behalf of the club Dick, thank you VERY MUCH! The two locos are a Mercer A-5 0-4-0 camelback and a British styled 0-6-0 tank engine. After much discussion the membership voted to have the Board of Directors come up with a plan to keep, sell, or settle on something in between. A BOD recommendation will be presented to the membership at the July 12th meeting for a vote. In the end I would like to see one steamer dedicated to an engineer training program. Such a program will go a long way to satisfying the "education" requirement within our 501c3 tax exemption. Since we were required to become a Members Only club, our education program has been on hold and making many members nervous. Again, and I can't say it too many times, we graciously thank you Dick!

At long last, we have a memorial plaque in the station. With the passing of his dad, and our friend, neighbor, and fellow live steamer, Carl Pickles asked for permission to install a tribute plaque to Art Pickles. This has been done and was placed during the meeting. In addition to the tribute to Art, the plaque includes space for sixty additional future names of ALS members who will have left their mark on ALS. Twelve names of previously deceased members have been added in an effort to catch up. May this plaque forever salute and remember our past members and yet remain unfilled for many, many years to come. Thank you Carl!

In recent weeks, the front gate's padlock has actually locked the chain. It is not intended to do so. The intent is to be a visual discouragement for non members who may find reason to approach the gates. Past experience tells us this works well as the padlock simply hangs on the chain which is actually held with just a spring clasp. Please do not lock the gate.

This brings us to the discussion of keys. With a few exceptions allowed by the BOD, only regular Members may possess ALS facility keys. We have some ex-Regular Members who decided to downgrade to Associate Membership but still retain and use their keys. **If you are no longer a Regular Member, but still have a key, please surrender your key to Ray Dwyer as soon as possible before you are asked.** Also, according to the bylaws, Associate Members are not permitted to run on the railroad except when a Regular Member is present and gives consent.

Well, I guess that's it for now. The BOD did not meet this month, so there is nothing to report. We're heading into the dog days of summer now and days spent at the track are likely to be warm ones. So whether you are working hard on maintenance, making improvements, digging for the new extension, or out on the rails "boiling water-exploding, vapor-exchanging electrons," remember to drink plenty of water, **and have fun!**

Don

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
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FAMILY DAY I

Ken Nelson

Two of the days to which our membership really looks forward are our Family Days. We sponsor two such days each year, and our first one for this season is fast approaching.

Sunday, July 13 will be Family Day I. For those who are new members, this is a great way to meet more of our "family" here at ALS, enjoy the trains, and partake of some great food.

The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, plates, plastic ware, and napkins. Each family should plan to bring a covered dish such as salad, dessert, chips and dip, or other such dish for the sharing table, plus anything else they would like. Members may bring their own beverages or plan to purchase cold soda or ice tea from the club. Alcoholic beverages are discouraged.

Things begin happening 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. Please do not invite neighbors, friends, or people with which you work. This day is for FAMILIES. Please do remember to bring your name tag if you have one. Otherwise, the club will provide paper name tags. Rides will be available throughout the day.

Please remember that due to our current insurance policy, only members may be on club grounds when trains are running.

Plan now to attend the first Family Day on Sunday, July 13, and/or the second one on Sunday, August 10. Let's get to know each other and enjoy this great hobby as a group. ***

Notes From Rich

The membership is growing all of the time. At the June meeting or at the 2008 Spring Meet the following people were accepted as new members. All are Associate members except one.

Rob Blanchard from Ballston Spa, NY lists one of his hobbies as Train Buff.

Kenneth Friedel Jr. of Potsdam, NY says that Gas/Hydraulic trains are his thing. **Betsey Friedel** is his wife.

John Geib Of Hamburg, Pennsylvania is all steam.

John Henchard Jr. is from Millford, Connecticut, and loves running, riding, and building trains.

Don Maleta, of Royersford, Pennsylvania is another steam enthusiast.

Julie Nichols is from Saratoga Springs, NY and just loves trains.

Gerald Peterson Sr. lives in Mechanicville, NY and likes trains in general.

Karl Pickles has his home right here in Wilton, NY and is interested in building and running steam engines.

We also welcome the **Ure** family from Gansevoort, NY including **Joseph**, his wife **Joyce**, and son **Joshua**, who was accepted as a Junior member.

We welcome all of these new members. Thanks for becoming a part of the ALS world!

Please again take note: **All Membership Cards** are in the ticket booth. If yours is NOT there, you need to contact me by phone, e-mail, or in person, as there is a **Problem** with your membership.

For those of you who read the newsletter **on line**, if you are not receiving a notice of the newsletter via E-mail, then for some reason the information I have for your e-mail is incorrect and you need to contact me. As always, **hard copies** can still be mailed, but you need to contact Ken Nelson to be added to the mailing list.

Last, but not least, if you wish to have a copy of the latest roster, please e-mail me and I will send an electronic copy to you. Thank you.

I'll see you at the track,

Rich, Membership Secretary

PROTOTYPE OPERATION DAY I

Ken Nelson

Have you ever wondered just what an engineer or brakeman does on a real train? Where is the train going? What is it pulling? Will it stop anywhere along the way, or will it go directly to its destination? What does a conductor do on a freight train?

On Saturday, July 19, we will have our first Prototype Operation Day for this year. For the first time, we have scheduled this day on a Saturday. We have had some requests for this in the past. Some people didn't want to come out for a work day on Saturday, and then have to return the very next day for an operation day. This is your chance; we hope it works, and that we can get a good turnout.

Those who have participated in the past are familiar with what we do. For those who may be new members, or who have never taken part, here is a great opportunity to try something new, and have a lot of fun.

In basic terms, our track layout becomes an actual railroad for the day. We operate in both directions simultaneously, pulling both passenger and freight trains. Each freight is given the job of delivering several cars to various "industries" located around the

layout, and to pick up other cars and return them to the yard. All trains run from Pierson Yard westbound to DeSantis or eastbound to Wilton and return. You don't need any experience. We try to arrange it so that every train will have at least one person on it who has operated before, and all locations are on paper.

This is a great opportunity to learn just what a railroad worker does. If you have a locomotive, you can be an engineer. Otherwise, we need brakemen, conductors, yardmaster(s), and a dispatcher. Any members who are on the property are welcome to ride in the passenger train.

We try to start between 9:00 and 10:00 AM and clean up between 3:00 and 4:00 PM. All ages are welcome, so feel free to bring a junior member.

If you have a walkie-talkie, bring it along. If you don't, we will have a few extras which we can loan out for the day.

If you have never tried this, come on out and do something new. Why not call a fellow member, and arrange to come out together? Or just show up and we will assign you to a crew. We hope to see you on the 19th. ***

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ANOTHER REMINDER

We try to send a hard copy of *Whistles in the Woods* to all new members. If you wish this to continue, let Ken Nelson know (pocovalley@msn.com). Otherwise, we will assume that you are reading the newsletter on line at adirondacklivesteamers.org. ***

Letters to the Editor

I've decided that it's too expensive to come up to New York this year. This is partially due to the fact that I've spent too much money on trains in the past six months. Attached are pictures of my new electric locomotive and the car barn I built with two other guys. The barn is 40 feet long by about 11½ feet wide. I paid for 25% so I own one of the four tracks.

As much as I like Ridge Live Steamers, I sure miss the shady forest you have.

I keep looking for new pictures on the ALS website. Doesn't anyone take pictures anymore?

I hope all is well with all of you and with ALS. I'm hoping you will be able to solve the insurance problem this year. There are a couple guys down here I'd like to bring to ALS but I know I can't consider it under the current restrictions.

As I used to end my *Whistles* articles,

See you at the track,
Bruce Rauch

Bruce is one of our long time members at ALS who moved to Florida a few years ago. He served as our Membership Secretary for many years, and was a major contributor in both time and money to our organization. He is still a member, and comes up to see us from time to time. He is also a member of Ridge Live Steamers in Florida.

The photos that Bruce sent are available on our web page, and can be viewed by going to the following link. Put an underline (_) between "members" and "projects." Ed.

http://www.adirondacklivesteamers.org/html/members_projects.html

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CONTRIBUTING TO OUR WEB PAGE

As Bruce indicated in the above letter, we haven't seen a lot of new material on the 'Members' Projects' page of our web site lately. Why not send along some photos of your latest project? Perhaps some of you, who have appeared on this page, might want to update us on what has transpired since your last photos.

Have you visited another live steam club? What did you see? Let us know.

Many people link to our web site. With a little bit of effort, you can let the world of live steam know what is going on with the members of ALS. ***

CONTRIBUTING TO OUR NEWSLETTER

What have you planned for your vacation this summer? I'm sure that some part of it may include something to do with railroading. Why not let our membership know about your good times?

It doesn't have to be a full page article. A few sentences about the museum you visited, the unusual train you saw, or the Amtrak trip you had would be great. If you don't want to write an article, write a letter to the editor.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter. Let us know what you are doing in your railroad life. ***

JULY SAFETY TIP

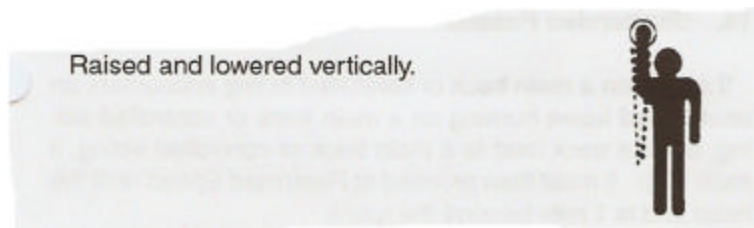
Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

We continue our monthly safety tip column with another hand signal.

This time, the person giving the signal raises and lowers his hand and arm vertically with the palm of the hand

toward the ground. As was the case last month, the signal may be given with just the hand, with a lantern or flash light, or with a piece of paper in the hand to make it easier to see.

Here is this month's signal. What would you do if you saw somebody on or near the track giving this signal?



Answer: PROCEED (or GO AHEAD, or MOVE IN A **FORWARD** DIRECTION)

The signal is generally easier to see if the person giving it is facing the engineer. However, he or she might be at a 90 degree angle to the train.

Both of us have seen people giving this signal, and the engineer, thinking they are just waving "Hi," will wave back. When giving this signal, we must be careful not to let our hand drop down into an arc at the bottom. This can be confused with a stop signal (last month). Try to keep the hand and arm in a straight line.

Whatever you do, **do not** face your palm toward your body and move it back and forth as you would if you were asking someone to come toward you. This can look very much like a "back up" signal, and really confuse the engineer.

This "proceed" signal incidentally, may be given in any direction from the train: from the front, from the rear, or from half way back alongside the train. There may, in some cases, be cars coupled to the front and/or the rear of the engine. As long as you want the locomotive to move in a FORWARD direction, this is the signal to give.

We'll be back next month.

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DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Please remember that there is a chalk board in the clubhouse which lists some of the jobs that need doing at the club. If you don't know what to do when you arrive for a work day, please refer to the

board, and choose something that may interest you. If all else fails, grab a broom and sweep the clubhouse floor. It needs it on a regular basis. ***

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

July 12 – Membership Meeting
July 13 – Family Day I
July 19 – Proto Operation Day I
August 9 – Membership Meeting
August 10 – Family Day II
August 23 –Proto Operation Day II
Wednesdays and Saturdays –
Work Days

The Heart of the Summer!

Join the crowd