

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 2009

WOW! WHAT A WEEKEND

Ken Nelson

After looking forward to it for several weeks, another Spring Meet is history. But what a weekend it was!

It all started very slowly on Thursday, with just a few registrants. By Friday, several members were beginning to wonder if everyone had stayed home due to the economy. Then on Friday afternoon and evening, the "dam" broke and Bill Eckert and several of his helpers were kept busy at the lift getting visiting equipment on our track. We again ran "eastbound" or the opposite direction on Friday, and engineers all seemed to like the feeling of a "whole different railroad" running in that direction.

We also enjoyed one of our best Friday night dinners, thanks to Pete Petrillose and his catered Chicken Parmesan, and it appeared that everyone was happy with the food. After dinner, four or five steamers and some diesels ran around the track, some as late as midnight or after, and everyone had a ball.

Saturday saw several guests arrive, along with some additional equipment, and a beautiful day of operation. Many people got

their first ride on ALS tracks, and there were many favorable comments. Dinner on Saturday was Don Buesing's Roast Beef, and Don and his many helpers all deserve a big thank you for a great meal.

Sunday was a bit quieter, but it picked up during the afternoon with many more guests, rides, some different equipment, and a good time had by all.

While we had a fair share of rain, it all seemed to come down during the night, leaving our afternoons sunny for the most part.

While trying to express "thank you" by name would take several pages, I would like to express my appreciation to all who helped make the Meet a success. A special "thank you" goes out to my chairpersons, Ted Wilming, Don Buesing, Penny Landgraf, Bill Eckert, Lance Sherman, Nancy Eckert, John Camerota, Dick Hosmer, and all of the members who helped with clean up over the weekend. I heard many compliments made in the direction of ALS for a fantastic Meet. Thanks to all. ***

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Next Meeting: Saturday, July 11, 10:00 AM

Deadline for August *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, July 18

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi Everybody!

Did you miss the Spring Meet? Other than a little rain Saturday night, the weather was good. Not a real big crowd, but enough to have trains running constantly. The food, as far as I heard, was as great as always! And as usual, I want to THANK all those usual members who did their share to make our Spring Meet what it was! Ken Nelson did a great job as Spring Meet Chairperson. Now, who is going to volunteer to chair the Fall Meet? Ken is not available. You know if we don't get a volunteer, I get to assign it to someone; I might pick you if you are not at the Membership Meeting.

Did you know that Hank Buesing was at our Spring Meet? He gave us our first six acres to start this club.

If you haven't made your ten trips to the club as yet this year, maybe you haven't seen the library. Many of those who walked in during the Meet said "WOW!" Ray Dwyer got our gas line to the kitchen in. Several days of work has been done on our driveway, clearing brush, and I think it feels more open now. Rich Dean, with the help of various other members, has gotten our new dump bed in place, and we have moved another step closer to being able to dump ballast.

Have you seen any of this? Well why not make a trip and check all this out on Family Day this July 5, the first Sunday of July? And don't forget, we also have our Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 11. In addition to the Meeting, why not try to stay awhile, join us for lunch, and help out with the many jobs facing us. We have (1) ties to be replaced, (2) ballasting to be done, (3) cleaning up around the garage, (4) tool shed reorganization and cleaning, (5) gasoline alley to be moved, and (6) wainscoting and trim in the Clubhouse, just to name a few items that you could choose to work on with someone. Remember that this is a place to spend time with fellow members/friends and share time together so whatever you work at is enjoyable.

I hope your summer plans include our Family Days and Prototypical Operation Days. I hope to spend time with all of you during this summer at the club.

Thanks,

Skip, 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

Vice President: Ray Dwyer

Phone: (518) 692-7001

E-Mail: ray@adironacklivesteamers.org

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Phone:

E-Mail: karl@adironacklivesteamers.org

Treasurer: Glenn Freedman

Phone: (518) 877-6274

E-Mail: glenn@adironacklivesteamers.org

Membership Secretary: Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2008: Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: ted@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2009: Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 584-4492

E-Mail: charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org

Past President: Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-Mail: dick@adironacklivesteamers.org

NEWSLETTER

Whistles in the Woods

STAFF

Editor: Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: 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

Website: 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

FIRST FAMILY DAY FOR THIS YEAR

As 2009 continues, we look forward to the first of our two Family Days for this year. On Sunday, July 5 we will again have the opportunity to get better acquainted with each other, to enjoy our trains, and of course to partake of some great food.

The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken burgers, rolls, 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 sharing, plus anything else they would like. Members may bring their own beverage or plan to purchase cold soda or ice tea from the club. Please remember that alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the property.

Things begin happening in mid morning. Food will be 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 nametags for you. Rides will be available throughout the day.

Plan now to attend the first Family Day on Sunday, July 5, and/or the second one of the year, which will be held on Sunday, August 9. Let's hope for good weather, and a great crowd with lots of interesting food. This is a great opportunity to get to know our new members, to touch base with people we haven't seen for awhile, and to enjoy our great hobby as a group. ***

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

With our first Family Day of this year just around the corner, it might be a good idea to address two safety concerns dealing directly with the operation of our trains. The first deals with WHOM we operate our equipment, and the second concerns WHAT we should have with us. First we'll ask the questions, and then give the answers.

1. What is the ALS rule regarding the need for a conductor? What trains need one, and what trains don't?
2. Who needs a radio (walkie-talkie)?

ANSWERS:

1. ALL trains that carry passengers must have a conductor for safety reasons. The conductor must ride at the rear of the train, in such a position that he or she can see all of the passengers on the train. He or she must have a red flag and a whistle. The main duty of the conductor is to first remind each passenger of the rules for riding safely on the train. This must be done before the train leaves the station. The conductor and engineer should have a good working relationship, and the engineer must not move the train until the conductor gives the OK. This can best be done by blowing the whistle two times. This should be answered by the engineer blowing his whistle or horn two times. If anything happens during the ride that may present a safety issue, the conductor should blow his whistle loudly to stop the train. This would include a derailment, someone leaning to one side or the other, someone reaching for branches or attempting to pick up something on the ground, or anything the conductor might see which could cause a safety concern.

In the event that the train must stop for any reason, the conductor should go back

several feet with his/her red flag to stop any other train which may be following.

There is an exception to the above rule. A train with only one riding car behind the locomotive is not required to have a conductor. However the engineer should be mindful to protect the rear of his train as necessary in such a circumstance.

While freight trains are not required to have a conductor, a long train might benefit from having someone on the rear to watch for derailments and other safety concerns.

2. The use of a radio or walkie-talkie is highly recommended when operating a train on ALS property. ALS radio traffic should be on channel 7.

If someone has an emergency such as a fire, injury, or any such situation that requires help, he should call out "EMERGENCY" and give the type of problem and the location (mile post, Ott Tunnel, etc.).

Everyone should then immediately relinquish Channel 7 until the emergency has been addressed.

See you next month.

PROTOTYPE OPERATION DAY COMING SOON

Ken Nelson

On Saturday, July 18, we will have our first Prototype Operation Day for this year. If you have participated in one of these in the past, you know how much fun it can be. If this is your first opportunity, why not give it a try? The more people who participate, the more fun it is.

We will need engineers (either steam or diesel), conductors, and brakemen or trainmen (either men or women).

The idea is that our track layout becomes an actual railroad for the day. We operate in both directions simultaneously, pulling both passenger and freight trains. Each freight train 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 DO NOT 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 explained on paper.

Besides having a lot of fun, this is also an opportunity to run our trains with a real purpose, and to learn just what a railroad worker does. Any members who are on the property are welcome to ride in the passenger train.

We try to begin 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 have one, 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 and different. You might want to call a friend and come out together. Or just show up and we will assign you to a crew. If you have any further questions, you might give Skip Densing a call. He is the chairman for Proto Op Day and will probably be able to answer your inquiries. We'll see you on the 18th. ***

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IS YOUR NAME ON IT?

Skip Densing

Have you thought lately about how much stuff you may have left at ALS? And more important, is your name on all of it? No I don't mean engines and cars. We can identify most of those. I'm talking about gas cans, tools, battery chargers, and a lot of other little stuff floating around the property. When we find this stuff, we would like to return it

to its proper owner, or to its proper place if the owner intends to leave it here.

Please put your name on anything that belongs to you. If, after a certain time, we continue to find things lying around, we will ask at the Membership Meeting who they belong to. If no one claims them, they will become ALS property. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the June Meeting

President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

There were no minutes read and no treasurer's report given.

Skip reported several points that had been discussed at the Board of Director's meeting held just before the Membership Meeting.

- There are to be no alcoholic beverages consumed on the property.
- ALL guests must be invited by a member. Since only Regular members have keys, and therefore access to the Clubhouse, rest rooms, Engine House, and Car Barn, any Associate members must make sure that a Regular member will be present when inviting guests. Guests may not, in turn, invite other guests. Refer to the first sentence in this section.

There was a request by three different groups to be present on the ALS grounds.

- A motion was made and seconded to officially invite the Hudson Berkshire Division of the National Model Railroad Association to our Spring and Fall Meets as guests of the club (ALS) on the grounds of having a common interest in trains. The motion was passed.
- A motion was made and seconded to invite the Antique Car Club on Saturday, June 20 as guests of Ted Wilming. The motion was passed as long as at least one ALS member is present for each 10 visitors. Ted has arranged for that.
- A motion was made and seconded to invite the First Reformed Church of Scotia on Sunday, August 2 as guests of Ken Nelson. The motion was passed on the same basis as above.

Ken Nelson gave a report on the coming Spring Meet.

- While most of the positions have been filled by members, there are still several vacancies. Those present were asked to help as needed.
- Ken thanked all who have signed up so far.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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Notes from Rich

At the Spring Meet, we accepted two new members.

Daniel and Donna King were accepted as Associate Members. They are from Saratoga Springs, NY, and were sponsored by Ted Wilming. Dan's father is a member of Florida Live Steamers. We welcome them.

If you are not getting the newsletter as you desire to get it (either on line or in the mail) let Ken Nelson know.

See you at the track,

Rich, Membership Secretary

A SPECIAL THANKS

I have received many compliments on how our library is progressing. However, I must thank everyone who has helped pitch in to make the room look as great as it does. The room looked pretty dirty at the beginning but now it is clean and organized. We will be putting in a dehumidifier soon to help prevent moisture, and I will continue to sort and catalog all of our great items.

At the same time, I know many people have come up to me with more books and magazines to donate for the benefit of the club. Great! All I would ask is that you let me know that you are dropping stuff off and please do not put it directly on the shelves. There is a small table in the room that donations can be put on (PLEASE clearly mark that they are donations. I won't assume anything is unless I either talk with you or receive a note that they are. Please do not remove stuff from the library yet because I am still cataloging it all and it will be much more difficult if things come and go without my knowledge. Don't worry... we can all use it soon!

Also, a fellow club member suggested that we keep a log of all of the articles that have been written by our members which have been published in the live steam magazines (*MODELTEC*, *Live Steam*, etc.) This is a great idea. I cannot read every single issue of every magazine in the library to compile this information, so if you are aware of any articles you have had published please drop me an email (BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com) and I will put them into a master list. It might take Tom Rhodes a really long time!

Ben, Club Librarian

DO YOU NEED COAL?

Last month, we indicated that you could purchase coal at the Furniture House on Route 9P in Saratoga Lake. There is another source of coal that you may have seen advertised in our Clubhouse. This coal is available at Skylands Energy Service in New Jersey. They offer Rice, Pea, and Nut-sized coal suitable for Live Steamers. This coal is anthracite and can be shipped to your door in 25 or 50 pound poly-lined boxes. Interested parties may call them at: (888) 782-3001 or email them at: alv@skylandsenergy.com. Meanwhile, members who know of other sources may wish to let us know of other sources of coal may wish to let us know through the newsletter.

WANTED: 3/4" SCALE RAIL

Fellow club member Bill Critchlow is searching for about twenty feet of five-eighths inch high rail (5/8") for a freight car project he is working on. They will be used for scale brake beams, just like the prototype. He can use either aluminum or steel rail, so if you have any lying around that you are interested in selling please call him at (914) 388-1938 and leave him a message. He would appreciate it.

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

July 5 – Family Day I
July 11 – Membership Meeting
10:00 AM – Clubhouse
July 18 – Prototype Operation Day I
August 8 – Membership Meeting
10:00 AM – Clubhouse
August 9 – Family Day II
August 22 – Proto Operation Day II
Wednesdays & Saturdays – Work
Days
Every Day – Run Day!