

# Whistles in the Woods

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*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

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SAFETY FIRST

JUNE 2008

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## SPRING MEET APPROACHING RAPIDLY

Don Buesing

With the arrival of June comes the first of our two major social events of the year, Spring Meet. The dates this year are Thursday, June 12 to Sunday, June 15. This is our opportunity to host live steamers from the northeast and give them an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful layout which we get to use all year around.

Your help is needed in hosting this major event. Posted in the Club House is a list of all of the activities which need member assistance.

Registration will be chaired by Ted Wilming. If you are willing to give an hour or two in helping with this very

important area, please give Ted a call at 518-654-7108.

Food is a very important part of any gathering at ALS. We will need cooks, helpers, cashiers, and others. Please contact me and offer your help today.

We will need runners to pick up items from various places as well as assistance in cleaning the Club House and the general grounds area.

You've heard it before, but it is still necessary to remind ourselves that the Meet will not run itself. Please sign your name on the list in the Club House or contact me at 518-587-3172 and offer your help today. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 7:30 PM  
Club House  
Organizational Meeting for Spring Meet**

**Deadline for the July *Whistles in the Woods*  
Saturday, June 21**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

We're into the warm weather now, or should be anyway, since the bugs are out in force. Along with the weather and bugs it seems the ALS work crews have arrived in force as well. Most of the spring cleaning outside is done now and the track itself is being readied for business. I'm looking forward to our first organized day of running trains.

The DeSantis Divide improvement project is nearing completion. The last associated project is the installation of the 'new' dump truck body for ballast loading into the ballast car. The old dump body was right on the mainline near the overpass but the new location is about 30 feet to the east with access via the track to the storage container. We hope to have it in operation my mid summer. The new track expansion project south of the station continues this year as well. This new loop will add about 1200 feet to the mainline run.

Inside the station we finally have a good start on converting the back storage room into a library. Ben Maggi is determined to make it functional this year but will need some help when it comes to insulating and sheet rocking the walls. If there is a downside to losing some storage space it is what to do with all the "stuff" that was in there. The decision was easy for most of it. The dumpster didn't even complain. But there are some items that were left for the club's use by anonymous persons that are too good to toss. These items are in the station's large room and will stay there for a short while. If you see something that really needs to be saved please step up and explain.

That's all for now. See you at the track.

**Don**

Whistles in the Woods  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS**  
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MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

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[rich@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:rich@adironacklivesteamers.org)

## SECURITY

Charlie Pellock and Ken Nelson

We have become somewhat sloppy in caring for our property. On several occasions, buildings have been found unlocked, or carelessly closed and left open to the public.

We must take the time to see that EVERY BUILDING, LARGE AND SMALL IS LOCKED BEFORE WE LEAVE. We must take care of our valuable property just as we would our own home. With all that is going on today, we cannot take the chance of leaving anything unlocked. In a few circumstances, doors were found locked, but not pushed closed firmly. Therefore they are open to the public. Locking one door in a building like the Club House, is of no use if another door is left open.

We cannot assume that because someone else is on the property with us that they will take the responsibility of locking up. If you are not sure, lock it. If the others are Regular members, they will have a key to open it again if they need it.

If you unlock a door, LOCK it when you are finished. If you are the last to leave the property, you MUST take a few minutes and check ALL buildings to see that they are locked before you leave. There are nine doors in the Car Barn. Eight of them lock from the inside. There are five doors in the Club House. ALL must be locked, or the Club House is open. If you are the last to leave, close the gate. If you are at the club with others, communicate with each other and understand who is going to lock up what.

Please, folks, let us be more careful. Take care of our property before something is damaged or stolen. \*\*\*

# Notes From Rich

I was sorry to have to miss the May 10 Board of Director's Meeting as well as the Membership Meeting, but work interfered.

We did however have applications for several new members, as well as some more renewals. I understand that all of them were accepted at the meeting by the membership. Here is some information about them.

**Jeff Redecker** joined us as an Associate member. Jeff is the son of Regular member Alan Redecker and his wife Doris. They live in Queensbury, NY. Welcome Jeff.

Ray Dwyer's son **John Dwyer** also joined us as an Associate. He lives in Greenwich, NY, and we are happy to have another Dwyer join our organization.

The members of the **Peterson** Family from Pennsylvania have joined as Associate Family members, and we welcome them.

**Betsy and Simeone Trueblood** from Saratoga Springs, NY have joined as Family Associate members. Betsy is President Don Buesing's niece.

We welcome all of our new members, and hope that they will be able to join us in the near future at the club.

This brings our current membership to just over 200 members. If you know of someone who is interested in joining, please contact me at either of the following e-mail addresses:

[isomlocoworks@adelphia.com](mailto:isomlocoworks@adelphia.com)

[rich@adironacklivesteamers.org](mailto:rich@adironacklivesteamers.org)

Or I can be reached by phone at 518-656-9091.

Please note that there is always a "Current" Membership Roster and the 2008 Membership Cards in the ticket booth at the club entrance. If you haven't picked up your card yet, stop and get it. Also, if your name and/or card are NOT in the box, it is because you need to contact me about paper work not being complete.

See you at the track,

**Rich**, Membership Secretary

# Minutes

## A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the May Membership Meeting

President Don Buesing called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM

Recording Secretary, Llyn Rice read the April minutes which were approved. Since Treasurer Glenn Freedman could not attend the meeting, there was no Treasurer report. In the absence of Rich Dean, Membership Secretary, Don Buesing reported the names of several new applicants for membership. All were approved by the membership. See Rich's column for details.

### Old Business:

- It was reported that the plow truck needs a gas tank. No action was taken.
- Ted Wilming will provide two new fire extinguishers. Their location will be decided by the Board of Directors.
- It was decided that the club will lock in a price for propane which we use for heat as well as cooking.
- Skip Densing indicated that those people who pull with electric or diesel locomotives should take their fire extinguishers, turn them upside down, and pound on the bottom with a rubber mallet to loosen the powder.
- Two new place names at the club became official when the membership approved the following:

*My Camp Car Barn* has been named in honor of Myron Rapaport. Myron provided financial support as well as overseeing the construction of the structure. We are deeply indebted to Myron for all that he did to bring about the construction of this much needed building. THANK YOU MYRON!

The tunnel which will carry the new mainline under "Broadway" will be named the *Busse Tunnel*. George Busse is Sandy Pellock's father and Charlie Pellock's father-in-law. This was approved by the membership to recognize the contributions and dedication to ALS by Charlie and Sandy.

- Ray Dwyer reminded the club that the Bill Ott club car which was given to the club by the family of the late Bill Ott needs a plaque attached to it.
- Charlie Pellock reported that on several occasions, he has found buildings left unlocked at the club. See article elsewhere in this issue regarding this problem.

### New Business:

- Spring Meet is less than a month away. Don Buesing is chairman. Ted Wilming will chair registration. The usual responsibilities will be posted in the club house. Motor homes will not be permitted to park in the infield around the club house without permission from the Board of Directors.

*(Continued on page 6)* See Minutes

Minutes (Continued from page 5)

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Warren and John Hockaday have created art work for T shirts, pins, and possibly mugs which may be purchased in honor of the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Mark and Penny Landgraf will work with Warren and John in ordering. The official celebration of the anniversary will be held at the Fall Meet in September.
- Ken Nelson announced that Rich Piasecki has generously donated three items to the club.
  - An 0-4-0 Camelback steam engine with a steel boiler.
  - An 0-4-0 Tank engine with a copper boiler.
  - A latheWe wish to thank Rich very much for his gift. Dick Hosmer, along with one or more fellow members will transport these items to the club in the near future. A letter is being drafted thanking Richard for his wonderful donation.
- Further discussion regarding the painting of Piasecki Bridge was held. No decision was reached.
- Librarian Ben Maggi reported that the library needs more shelves, along with insulation, wall board, and a drop ceiling. Further discussion regarding the library was held following the meeting.
- A shelter is needed to store our growing fleet of equipment out of the weather. The choice was narrowed to either an expensive pole barn or a less expensive metal car port. The BOD passed the final choice to the membership. The membership approved the purchase and installation of two semi-portable Car Ports which will be paid for from the current Budget. Each of these is 20x20, giving us a space of 20x40 which will be used to protect our back hoe, chipper, dump truck, and other equipment. The site is yet to be determined, but the purchase and installation will be made before winter 2008. Once the mortgage is paid, we will explore the pole barn option further.
- A ¾" scale flat car was offered as a donation to ALS by Mr. R. Paul Carey of Reedville, VA. This car was built by our late friend and ALS member, Frank DeSantis. As there is virtually no other equipment at ALS constructed by Frank, The BOD accepted the donation for display in the station as a tribute to Frank and his many years of contributions to the live steam hobby.
- Mark Landgraf measured the retaining wall area in Cardish Cut to be 400 square feet. This area needs work. Yet to be determined is a solution that will be both cost effective and attractive.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

## Letters to the Editor

I haven't written for awhile and found myself thinking a bit of the Adirondack Live Steamers. I had company in the house for the Easter weekend; he is an engineer (really and [ugh] architect) so for entertainment, I showed him a video that had been resting comfortably in the bedroom bureau called "Steam Train Action." It was wonderful to relive being up in Wilton and being a part of the ALS Meets. I've had a couple of strokes which have bugged up my vision a bit in the left side but I get along pretty well. I've been faking it all these years. Why stop now?

At Easter Sunday services, I sat behind an interesting woman with a special tie to ALS. This was Karen Love who is the wife of the Episcopal Bishop of Albany. She is also a colonel in the Air Force. She flew those big oil tankers that made the runs down to Antarctica. Somewhere in my stack of old videos is a shot of her in anguish. She was in despair. She was on John Frisbee's little American which had jumped the track. It wasn't Karen's fault. Such things happen. Anyway, it was a good excuse to play the aforementioned video and relive the joys of smelling coal smoke and running over hill and dale through the woods at ALS.

I trust that all of the nooks and crannies of all our marvelous bridges have all been cleaned and finished recently.

Be advised that my conductor hat still fits, and aside from those two strokes, I am in fair shape still. Bet I can still charm the multitudes that show up at our Meets.

I had better finish this and get it in the mail. Having been editor of school and college newspapers, I know how tough it is to get copy to fill in the "dummy" of the next issue. I hope that my handwriting can be deciphered and that parts of this letter may be useful.

I think I've beaten the mailman to the drop.

Cam Brown  
Delmar, NY

*Cam has been an ALS member for many years, and served as our "Conductor" or passenger loader at all of our Meets. Two strokes have prevented him from attending our Meets recently, and he is missed. Ed.*

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## VISITING OTHER CLUBS

Tom Rhodes

For those who enjoy visiting other Live Steam Club's Meets and other social events, here are the dates of the closest ones.

### Spring

Long Island – May 16-17  
Pennsylvania – May 24-25  
New Jersey - No information  
Pioneer Valley – No information  
Finger Lakes – June 27-28-29

It is a good idea to check the club's web site for any special requirements regarding your visit.

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### Summer

Montreal – July 4-5-6 International Meet  
Waterford NY Steam Launch Meet – July 5  
Long Island – July 25-26-27  
Waushakum – Aug 22-23-24

### Fall

Pennsylvania – Aug 30-31  
Pioneer Valley – No information  
Finger Lakes – No information  
Long Island – Sept. 26-27  
New Jersey – No information

## JUNE SAFETY TIP

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

In this issue we begin a new monthly column focused on safety, and to get us started, we will put our attention on hand signals. This seems to be an area that continues to confuse many of our members, but giving the proper hand signals is very important to the safe operation of our trains. As safety chairman and Education Coordinator respectively, Ken and I will run one of these tips each month. Try to figure out what it means before looking at the answer at the bottom of the page.

The idea is to study the drawing or read the question, and see if you are familiar with the signal and what it means. EVERY member, whether or not you run a locomotive, should be familiar with these signals. You may have to give one to an engineer, or you may have to read one given you by someone else. For the hand signals, they may be given with just the hand and arm in the daylight, or with a lantern or flashlight after dark.

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

Swung horizontally at right angle to the track.



Answer: STOP

This is the usual way that this signal is given, but if the person giving the signal is some distance away from the engineer, it may be given over the head. Sometimes, the person giving the signal may be holding something such as a piece of paper, or material (shirt or hat) to make the signal easier to see. Holding up your hand is not a stop signal; that means something else which we will cover later.

We'll be back next month.

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## GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER

If you are a new member, you have received this copy of the newsletter via US Mail. Many of our members get their copies on the web page.

If you would like to **continue** to receive a hard copy each month, contact Ken Nelson at 518-377-7176. If I don't hear from you, I will assume that you will be reading the

newsletter on line at

[adirondacklivesteamers.org](http://adirondacklivesteamers.org).

However, if you received *Whistles in the Woods* by mail last year, you will continue to receive it that way.

Also, please check your name and address and let me know if there is any error. \*\*\*

## **ANOTHER LOSS TO ALS**

Ken Nelson

Adirondack Live Steamers has lost another close friend. Art Pickles, who lived in the house next to Charlie Pellock, died on Wednesday morning, May 21, 2008. He was 85 years old.

Art was a member of not only ALS, but also New Jersey Live Steamers. He became a close friend to many ALS members over the past few years. He built the house next to Charlie, and spent

many hours at the club during the summers of 2006 and 2007. He was a big help in painting the exterior of our newly enlarged club house.

Private services are scheduled at a later date at a location on Long Island. There are no local services scheduled. At the June Spring Meet meeting, Charlie may have more information regarding memorial contributions. \*\*\*

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

# First Class

## **NOTE PAD**

**June 12 – Organization Meeting  
For Spring Meet**

**June 12-15 – Spring Meet**

**July 12 – Membership Meeting**

**July 13 – Family Day I**

**July 19 – Proto Operation Day I**

**Wednesdays and Saturdays –  
Work Days**

# Spring Meet Please Help