

# 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

June 2009

## TIME FOR SPRING MEET

Ken Nelson

Yes, it's time again for our annual Spring Meet, which this year is set for Thursday to Sunday, June 11-14. If you have been in the club for a while, you know what this implies. If you are a new member, this is one of several times during the year when we invite members of other live steam clubs to join us for a weekend of running trains on our club grounds.

Either way, be advised that we are hosts for the weekend, with all of the responsibilities that go with having guests on your property. In short, WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP.

Ken Nelson is the General Chairman. He would love to get a phone call from you offering your help in any of the following areas.

Registration: Ted Wilming will chair the Registration Booth, and will be asking for members to check in our visitors, make sure that they sign a waiver form, give them a name tag if they don't have one already, and generally make them welcome. We will need help in one or two hour segments from many of our members. This is a good job

for those who are not up to physical labor. You may sit down most of the time and just use your personality to welcome our guests.

Food: Don Buesing will chair the kitchen. Don will need a lot of help preparing and serving food from Friday at lunch to Sunday at lunch. That is seven meals, which will need cooks, servers, cashiers, and others.

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

Emporium: In the white tent across from the Clubhouse, we sell various railroad items. Penny Landgraf is in charge, and would love your help.

Lift: Everyone who comes with equipment will need help getting it from his or her vehicle to our track. Bill Eckert will chair this area and would like your help.

Gauge One: If this is where you like to operate, please offer your assistance. Lance Sherman is the Chairman.

The Meet will not run itself. Please call any of the above people today. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 7:30 PM  
Organizational Meeting for Spring Meet**

**Deadline for July *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, June 20  
Submit ALL information to Ben Maggi (See article on p.3)**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Well, Hello Everybody!

Time is flying by and our SPRING MEET is here. We need all of our members to give an hour or two (or more) the weekend of June 11-14. If you can only come one day over the weekend, it will help; besides you can enjoy yourself for an hour or more before you have to go.

There are several pieces of good news. We got a second container. Do you know where it is? We got our tractor back too. Do you know where they are parking it?

Our second clean-up day had good attendance and I believe we got our list finished. We also had a lot of engineers take their re-qualifying test. We even had two of the eight steam engine owners that got their boilers checked. **Remember: no check out=no running. See Ray Dwyer.** The same goes for all of our other engines (diesel and electric); they **need** to be checked for Fire Extinguisher, Horn, Safety connectors (between locomotive and riding car), and Lights for night running.

All of the library materials, which are currently being stored in the main meeting room of the Clubhouse, must be returned to the library before Spring Meet. Maybe we will have operating switches at DeSantis by the Meet, and maybe a signal light.

On May 16, the firemen from the Wilton Fire Department were in attendance to check out our property. They were impressed according to Charlie Pellock, who handled the tour in my absence.

The *New Trackage Team* is working; even though you may not see anything, there is a lot of work being done at homes. So when you do see things happen, they were not just done overnight.

Getting back to Spring Meet, I want to thank everyone in advance who go and get this and that, and run here and there before and during the Meet to get stuff. That is not all of us, so again I expect all members to give an hour or two at **OUR** Spring Meet. If you want a certain job or a certain time over the weekend, call Ken Nelson NOW!

Thanks,

**Skip**, President

Whistles in the Woods  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS  
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NEWSLETTER

*Whistles in the Woods*

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Phone: (518) 656-9091

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## JULY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Ken Nelson

Since I will be out of town for much of June, Ben Maggi will edit the July issue of *Whistles in the Woods*. Please remember that the deadline for submitting information for the July issue is Saturday, June 20, the Saturday after the Spring Meet.

Please e-mail, give, or send ALL information for the July issue to Ben by that date, or sooner. This includes columns, articles, classifieds, letters to the editor, and anything else you intend to have published in the July issue.

Ben's address:

165A Eastwood Drive,  
Clifton Park, NY 12065.

His phone:

585-506-2680.

His e-mail:

[BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com](mailto:BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com).

This will be Ben's first time doing this, so please make this as easy on him as you can. We all thank Ben for his help. \*\*\*

\* \* \* \* \*

## WANTED

Don Buesing

ALS could use a gas powered vibrating compactor for tamping in the earth under the new track work of the southward expansion. While the club already owns a manual compactor, a six-inch piece of iron with a handle, a gas powered one would greatly help in tamping the large amount of roadbed that we face with our new service tracks and main line expansion.

Anyone who is willing to donate one, or knows of a compactor available somewhere is asked to please contact a member of the Board of Directors. \*\*\*

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

This month we have a grab bag of different topics to discuss concerning safety on our property. In the usual fashion, we'll first ask some questions, give you an opportunity to answer them, and then give you more information on each of the topics.

Topic 1: Alcoholic Beverages, including beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

What is the club policy regarding alcoholic beverages?

Topic 2: Smoking, including cigarettes, cigars, and pipes.

What is the club policy regarding smoking on our property?

Topic 3: Water Barrels

Where are the water barrels located along our main line, and what are they for?

## ANSWERS:

Topic 1: According to the ALS Engineer's Operating Rules, Rule G states: "Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed on the grounds at ALS during train operations."

This includes ALL alcoholic beverages of any type. Keep in mind that anyone who causes any type of problem with alcohol on our property may be asked to leave by the Board of Directors.

Please remember that we have many children and young people on our property on any given day, and especially at Meets. We must constantly set a good example for them to follow. Furthermore, ALS as well as the state of New York strictly prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages by anyone who is under age.

Topic 2: While ALS does not have a specific rule regarding smoking, we must all remember that we are in the woods. Combustible materials including leaves, grass, and wood are everywhere. If you must smoke, please be extremely careful with any smoking materials. Flicking a

cigarette into the woods is an irresponsible act. Ideally, the only thing that smokes at ALS should be our steam engines. Learn where the closest fire extinguisher is located.

Topic 3: Large water barrels, each with a smaller pail, are located as follows:

The top of Cemetery Hill at Dwyers

Just west of South Park

Marshall Hill Crossover

Just west of Phantom Tunnel at Big Moose

Just east of Hank's Creek Bridge

Pierson Yard

Just west of Ott Tunnel

Woodland

Rhode's Ravine by the road crossing

While we don't expect anyone to memorize this list, please do take note, as you travel about the railroad, of where the water barrels are located. They can be used to fight fires or by steam engineers who need water in a hurry.

See you next month.

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# Minutes

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

President Skip Densing called the Meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles read the minutes, which were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Glenn Freedman was not present. There was no treasurer's report.

Membership Secretary Rich Dean reported that we currently have 178 members. The breakdown is as follows: 57 Regular, 93 Associate, and 28 Junior.

President Densing reported the following:

- While Associate members may invite guests, only Regular members have keys. Therefore a Regular member should be present so that rest rooms, telephone, and other services are available.
- Visitors must sign a waiver and wear a nametag with their name and the person who invited them. The color system of nametags (introduced two years ago) has been eliminated.

Committee Reports were presented as follows:

- Track: Dick Hosmer is continuing to build turnouts. Rich Dean will work with John Camerota and Tom Rhodes regarding elevations for the new trackage.
- Safety: Ted Wilming is servicing all fire extinguishers. They will be missing for a few days.
- Club House: The exterior needs to be power washed and painted. Thanks to Lance Sherman for taping and painting the walls of the library.
- Equipment: Charlie Pellock has had the Case Tractor repaired.
- Signals: No report.
- Grounds: Two large dead trees will be removed by a friend of Charlie Pellock. Two trucks, which have been on the property but did not work, have been sold at scrap value. Several items were removed from the trucks and will be available for sale at the Spring Meet.
- Gauge One: The canopy must be put up.
- Engine House: New locks have been installed. If you rent a stall, see Ray Dwyer for your new key.
- Car Barn: The broken electric wire has been replaced. There is electricity again in the building. Thank you Rich Dean. The canopy over the entrance door needs to be repaired.

Old Business:

- DeSantis Estate: Don Buesing continues to work on this project.
- Clean up and maintenance: Several items have been accomplished. Those still needing work may be found on the list hung on the Clubhouse wall.
- The second club flat car, which has been missing for several years, has been returned. Thank you to whomever.

New Business:

- Gas will be piped into the kitchen by the Spring Meet. A new gas range will also be installed as soon as possible.

(Continued on page 6) See **Minutes**

**Minutes** (Continued from page 5)

- Sheet metal pans or catch basins, each ten feet long, will be installed under each of the upper stalls in the engine house. This should control “drips” which currently fall on the locomotives on the lower stalls.
- A side-by-side refrigerator in good condition has been donated to the club. It will be installed in the kitchen.
- Ken Nelson will chair the Spring Meet. Help is needed from every member.
- Ben Maggi will edit the July issue of *Whistles in the Woods*. (See article on page 3)
- Don Buesing has inspected several riding cars in the Car Barn. See Don to find out if your car(s) has passed, and may be used to haul passengers.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:34.

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## **THIS WEB SITE MAY INTEREST YOU**

Ken Nelson

We all love steam, whether we are owners, operators, or watchers. With the passage of time, prototype steam locomotives are becoming harder and harder to find. Therefore we all enjoy models of them. That may be as close as we can get.

However there are still a few prototype steamers in our country and abroad. I recently came across a short segment on YouTube which you may enjoy investigating. Try this site:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR8h03yShu8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eR8h03yShu8)

You'll see a great example of steam from Queensland, I believe, including an 18-car passenger train pulled by steam. You can also enjoy watching a condenser locomotive, which reuses its steam by returning it to the tender which turns it back into water.

At the end of the video, there is a choice of several other like videos on steam from various parts of the world. These are all excerpts of DVDs which are available from the website:

[www.trainpictures.com.au](http://www.trainpictures.com.au)

Enjoy!

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## **ANOTHER CONTAINER DELIVERED**

Ted Wilming

On Monday, May 4, another container was delivered and set in place near its mate in the field along the driveway. ALS has been looking for another one and we thank Don Buesing for finding this one on Craig's List. After talking to the owner, a price was worked out, and delivery was set for Monday. Skip Densing, Charlie Pellock, and I helped in taking it off the truck and placing it about 20 feet from the other one.

At this point, we are looking for trusses with an approximate 12 on 12 pitch, which

can be placed between the two containers. A metal roof can then be placed over the trusses under which we can then store our large equipment.

These containers will be used to store some of the items which are now crowded into other buildings. In addition, we will be acquiring some additional tools and other equipment. Further discussion will take place at our next meeting.

Thanks to all who helped in acquiring and placing the container.

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## DO YOU NEED COAL?

If you run a steam engine, you may be looking for the best place to get coal. Several ALS members have suggested the Furniture House, which is located not far from ALS. They have an advertisement on our Club House

bulletin board which you may have seen. To see if they have the kind of coal you are looking for, you might give them a call at 518-587-9865. They are located off I-87. Take Exit 14 and go left on Route 9P to Saratoga Lake. \*\*\*

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## ARTICLES NEEDED

Ken Nelson

We are looking for your articles, news items, classifieds, letters to the editor, and anything else you would like to see in YOUR newsletter, *Whistles in the Woods*. Perhaps you have something in the line of trains to sell. Maybe you are looking for a particular item. Your vacation to a train location would be a great contribution about which to write. Have you come across an interesting web site dealing with trains that might be interesting to our membership? Perhaps you have a question about steam engines in particular, or about railroading in general. Maybe you have noticed something at the club that you think could be done in a better way. Why not write a letter to the editor with

your idea? Are you building a live steam railroad on your own property or that of a friend? Are you in the process of building a locomotive? We would love to hear about it.

The point of all of this is that this is your newsletter. Please make your contributions. With over 150 members, we can't know everyone. There are interesting things going on in the world of railroading that we would all like to hear about.

Please drop a line of information to me at any time (write it down please). I will be glad to edit it and put it in the proper form for the newsletter. But I need the information from you. I look forward to hearing from you. \*\*\*

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## GETTING TO THE CLUB

Some time ago, our president, Skip Densing, suggested that to get the MOST out of your membership, everyone should try to get to the club at least ten times during the summer. What you do when you come is up to you. We always appreciate any help you can provide, but we also look forward to

seeing your equipment running around the track. If you are sure someone else will be running, you might just want to go for a ride. The Adirondacks are beautiful, and we are fortunate to have our facility to help in enjoying them. Will we see you at least ten times this summer? \*\*\*

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

June 11 – Spring Meet Org. Meeting  
7:30 PM – Clubhouse  
June 12-14 – Spring Meet  
July 5 – Family Day I  
July 11 – Membership Meeting  
10:00 AM – Clubhouse  
July 18 – Prototype Operation Day I  
Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work  
Days  
Every Day – Run Day

**Spring  
Meet is  
coming.  
We Need  
You!**