

# 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 ¼" GAUGE 1 ½" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

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SAFETY FIRST

JUNE 2011

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## SPRING MEET

Chuck Currey

Spring Meet is right around the corner. June 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be our chance to welcome live steamers from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Canada, and other areas. Our club is the host, and we will need the help of all of our membership.

Last month, I asked all of you to call me with the date, time, and job that you wanted. Have you called me? I know that time flies, and we all tend to put things off. But time is running out, and there are a lot of you from whom I have heard nothing.

Please remember that we need the help of retirees who can offer their services on Thursday and Friday. We will have visitors arriving on those dates, and we need to be able to register them,

help them unload their equipment, and feed them. Please don't leave these jobs to our usual few. Please call TODAY, RIGHT NOW, and let me know you are available. It is much easier for you to make one call, than for me to make a hundred calls. We usually have an abundance of help on Saturday and Sunday, but if they are the only days you can attend, please call NOW and set up a time that we can depend on you. Please plan to help for at least one hour, then you are free to enjoy the rest of the day.

We need help with Registration, the Kitchen, the Lift, Trash Collection, and Gauge One. Please call today and let me know what time you desire. My phone number is 518-346-0067. If I'm not home, leave a message. My e-mail is: [Cchhcurrey3@aol.com](mailto:Cchhcurrey3@aol.com). \*\*\*

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 7:30 PM  
Clubhouse**

Spring Meet Organizational Meeting

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

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Hi.

What time is it? SPRING MEET! Are you set with what you are doing for one or two hours over the weekend for the club? If you have not yet called and gotten something you can handle, then do it NOW please.

I am looking forward to people who can make it to our Spring Meet and want them to have an enjoyable time. That takes everyone helping wherever and whenever they can.

Have you called a fellow member whom you haven't heard from in a while? Why not call them today and say "Hey, we haven't seen you in a long time. Why not come out so we can talk." You would be surprised how this kind of phone call will bring people out. Sometimes they even thank you for it, because they had a good time!

There is nothing major to worry about that I have heard of, just the ongoing work taking care of our place. Work has been done on the Depot (can you tell me what?) and the new track. We replaced all of the ties on one of the Marshall Hill crossover switches, put ballast in the dump body, put in drainage at the beginning of our driveway, cleaned up both ends of the car barn yards (Thanks Myron), and refilled the hill in front of the Depot again.

So remember our Family Day and Prototype Operation Day in July and come on out and enjoy your club!

*Skip,*  
President

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS**  
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NEWSLETTER

*Whistles in the Woods*

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MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

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## MEMBERSHIP DAY

Ken Nelson

Another Membership Day has passed, and it was an active one. After a whole week of rain, Saturday was a beautiful day and gave us a chance to get some work done.

The area in front of the Clubhouse was completely raked, and after we built several piles of leaves and pine needles, they were carried away and dumped in the woods. The same is true of the area around the tool shed and the steaming bays.

During the afternoon, some 18 members of the Glens Falls G Scalers organization visited our grounds and many of them took membership applications. Later three more arrived and were also given applications.

If you were unable to attend Membership Day this year, we do hope that we will see you soon.

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## THINKING AHEAD

For those who like to look ahead, we have two fun filled activities coming up in about a month.

We hope that you are making plans to attend our first Family Day on July 10. This is a chance for great food and great fun on our beautiful property. Come on out, have a picnic, take a ride, and say "Hi" to all of your fellow live steamers. More details next month.

We also hope that you have considered joining the fun at our first of two Prototype Operation Days scheduled for July 16. Come on out and give it a try. You will never know how much fun it can be until you try it. Again, more details will follow next month. \*\*\*

# Minutes

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

Following the Pledge to the Flag, President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

Recording Secretary Karl Pickles read the minutes of the April meeting. They were approved as read.

Membership Secretary Rich Dean reported that memberships continue to be turned in for this year. Eleanor Lawrence was accepted as a new Associate Member.

Treasurer Ben Maggi gave the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted as read.

### Committee Reports:

- Safety – Water barrels are being filled for this year.  
The new engineer's test is available on line.
- Clubhouse – The last brace over the kitchen wall has been installed.
- Track – The crossover at Marshall Hill has had new ties installed and needs to be ballasted.  
All of the crossings need to have their flange ways cleaned.
- Signals – Warren Hockaday is working on a new signal box.
- Grounds – The water tower at Twilight Park has been filled.
- Gauge #1 – Lance Sherman reported that the area is being worked on.
- Engine House – Ray Dwyer reported that on Membership Day stalls will all be cleaned.
- Car Barn – Myron Rapaport reported that he would like to retire as chairman of the Car Barn. A new chairman will be needed.

### Old Business:

- It was reported that "cattle passes" have been investigated as possible supports for the new tunnel. They would give us more headroom than the concrete sections mentioned last month. One drawback; they are very expensive.

### New Business:

- Spring Meet is June 10-12. Mike Petrillose will be kitchen chairman.  
A better system of identification tags for visitors is being looked at. Our paper nametags fall off and are lost.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:16.

# Notes From Rich

One new member was accepted at the May Membership Meeting.

Welcome to **Eleanor Lawrence** as an Associate member. She is from Hudson Falls and is a friend of Dick Hosmer.

All members are reminded that their membership cards are currently available and may be found in the Clubhouse. Please pick up yours the next time you are at the club. This will save a lot of mailing expense.

I'll see you at the track.

*Rich*

Membership Secretary

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## Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

We don't want you to think we are "beating a dead horse," but this topic has become more and more important over the past few weeks. We are hearing of several cases of lime disease that have been reported in several areas. This is caused by ticks.

Tick season is with us again. To prevent lime disease, you must use Deep Woods *Off* or a similar spray that contains Deet. Some such products are designed for use on the skin, and others, such as *Sawyer's Insect Repellent for Clothing* are designed to be put on your clothing before you put the clothing on your body. Always follow the directions on the product.

Symptoms of Lime disease are fever, headache, muscle and joint pain. The telltale red spot with a circle around it is

not always present, so don't depend on seeing it.

In addition, there are other tick-born diseases that are even more dangerous! They are babesiosis and ehrlichiosis, and both have the same symptoms. However the latter two will compromise your immune system.

No, we are not trying to scare anyone with this information, but no matter where you are spending your time outside this summer, please check for ticks daily. It only takes a few minutes, and could save you a lot of grief. \*\*\*

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

The wife of one of our charter members is in very poor health. Your prayers are needed at this time.

Donna Rhodes, wife of Tom, is currently having several serious health problems. Tom has been spending as

much time with her as possible, and wanted everyone at ALS to know that he has not disappeared or lost interest.

Everyone at ALS is concerned and is asked to please think positive thoughts. Our prayers are with both of you. \*\*\*

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## RICHARD STEINHEIMER DIES AT 81

Ken Nelson

Noted railroad photographer Richard Steinheimer passed away on May 4, 2011 at the age of 81. Steinheimer was one of the railroad world's most famous photographers, and anyone with a railroad book containing photos will likely find at least one of his in the book.

Those of you with computer access can search his name under Google or your favorite search engine and you will find a large amount of information. More such information may be found at: "The Center for Railroad Photography and Art."

Those of you who read the *Trains* magazine weekly newsletter on the computer will also find an article written by five railroad photographers explaining how Steinheimer influenced each of them. It is interesting to see how he effected different people.

Two of his books include *A Passion for Trains* (W. W. Norton 2004 with text by Jeff Brouws) and *Done Honest and True, Richard Steinheimer's Half Century of Rail Photography* (Pentrex 1999, with text by Ted Benson). \*\*\*

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## TRACK TRACK TRACK

Skip Densing

It is the basis for our railroad. Without the track, we wouldn't be here. It is great that we have just about a full mile of mainline run, but with all of that track comes maintenance, which is NOT a one-man job.

First we need to keep it clear, which sometimes means that each time we use it, branches, leaves, and sometimes even a tree need to be removed. Keeping the track cleared enough as to see the top of the ties allows you to see that the track is clear and you can see the points of

switches. Most of our switches don't have any indication of their position.

Second, we need to keep our switches working well. This starts with keeping a space under the length of the point rails. This helps keep the points from binding on debris or ballast since it leaves a place for it to fall out of the way. Point joints should be checked at least once a year to be sure that points are seating well in each direction.

(Continued on page 7) See **Track**

**Track** (Continued from page 7)

Third is the never ending settling and heaving of the track. Yes, after two or three years, most track stays in place pretty well, but there are some spots that seem to never stay put. Sometimes it can be spring run off, growing tree roots, or any number of other causes. This is just another on-going thing that, if not taken care of, will lead to derailments.

Last, and probably least of desired jobs that are always ongoing, is tie replacement. If we don't keep up with it, it will lead to CLOSING sections of track because they will not be safe enough to ride on! If we do keep up with it by replacing ties here and there, we won't need to pull sections of track

out of service and stop traffic. Ties are checked and when they start getting bad enough to need replacement, they get a YELLOW mark on them, usually on the outside of the two rails. When you are riding on the track, and see ties with yellow marks, this indicates possible trouble ahead. Replacing a single tie isn't that hard. If you are willing to help with this ongoing task, find someone who knows how to do it and learn from them.

Remember fellow members, it is up to ALL of us to take care of our track. Mentoring is a good thing to do. Teach what you know to someone else, so they can help too. \*\*\*

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**DISAPPOINTMENT**

Skip Densing

It is great to have vendors that produce good products. But when one places an order, one usually expects a reasonable response time. Well, being me, I placed an order with Mountain Car with whom I am well pleased with trucks I am still running today! It was to me a fairly large order: ten pairs of trucks! With the order that I paid in full, I said I didn't need them overnight; a pair or two every other month would be fine. I tried to be reasonable and not apply any pressure, because I don't want to lose a good vendor. So I waited, and waited, and received my first pair of Bettendorf trucks on March 26, 2009, after placing this order on January 29, 2008. Do you see the time element? Fourteen months! Do you understand why I wrote another letter? That got me four pair of trucks on May 8, 2009 for the Spring Meet. I had a broken bolster on one truck; after a phone call I was sent one within a month. Then on June

15, 2009, I received two pair of Modern trucks. Wow!

So now I have seven out of ten trucks: five pair of Bettendorf, and two Modern. That leaves one more pair of Bettendorf and two more pair of Modern to go. So I wait, and wait till October 15, 2010 and write another letter. By the way, all of these letters and bills (sales order, packing list) are all in a file. As of this writing on May 20, 2011, which is three years and four months after the original order, Mountain Car still owes me three pair of trucks and I don't know when to expect anything. I paid for them three years ago.

I would hope that vendors would fill orders in the order they get them within reason. Because that is why customers get turned away when there doesn't seem to be good reason why their order hasn't yet been filled.

I'm disheartened.

\*\*\*

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

June 9 – Organizational Meeting for  
Spring Meet  
June 10-12 – Spring Meet  
July 9 – Membership Meeting 10 AM  
July 10 – Family Day I  
July 16 – Proto Op Day I

**SPRING MEET**  
**HOW ARE YOU**  
**HELPING?**