

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

May 2008

I guess one could call this a 'guest editorial' as our usual editor, Ken Nelson, is on vacation. I hope I'm up to filling at least one of his shoes.

Spring has finally sprung! That means mud season. The day of the April meeting we had our share of it. The area around the entrance gate had the worst problem even after a bucket of stone was deposited. Luckily everyone managed to properly balance their mass vs. momentum on the way in and out resulting in no stuck vehicles. This annual occurrence will see some remedial grade and culvert work this summer.

Our May 10th meeting will be CLEAN UP DAY. Actually, a lot has already been done by several dedicated individuals but we hope to get the finishing touches in place that require several people. Things like moving the outdoor picnic tables back in place and readying the station for summer use. These tasks are doable with many hands.

A statement above mentions a 'bucket of stone'. I'm pleased to say this operation was accomplished with the new (to us) Case backhoe/bucket loader generously donated to ALS by member Larry Fahy. It was transported to ALS from Pennsylvania by our Richard Dean last winter. Thank you Larry and thank you Richard! This machine will certainly ease the burden on our previous resources.

This year we will celebrate the **25th anniversary of ALS**. Our very first meeting took place on May 14th, 1983. This year that anniversary date will be on a Wednesday. To celebrate the date we will have a small anniversary run on the following Saturday, May 17th. The bigger shindig will happen during our Fall Meet. See the details elsewhere in this issue.

Spring Meet It's just around the corner and we'll need all the usual help we can get. Please contact the meet chairman (Don Buesing) with your support. We'll discuss it a lot more at the May meeting.

Don Buesing

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Important dates that are nearly upon us:

**Next Meeting: Saturday, May 10, 1:00 PM
Club House**

**25th Anniversary Party, May 17th
with Potluck Lunch**

**Deadline for the June *Whistles in the Woods*
Saturday, May 17**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

President's Page

I'd like to offer my apologies to everyone who attended the March meeting to find their prez was no where in sight. While most were heading to the meeting, I was heading for Saratoga Hospital per my Dr's orders received at 9am. It turned out my sore left knee had a different problem than my orthopedic guy was used to. Instead of a bone issue, I had an infection. Upon arrival at the hospital I was introduced to my new close friend, strong antibiotics in an IV bag. The next day I had surgery on the knee to flush the infection as much as possible. Six days later I was home with three more weeks of antibiotics in a bag...twice daily.

During this time I received many calls and cards from members of the Live Steam Community with get well wishes and thoughts. You'll never know how much each and every one means to me. Please accept my heartfelt thank to all. At this time I'm still on crutches and progress seems frustratingly slow. At first I was disappointed by the lack of day to day progress. But when I compare week to week progress I'm much more satisfied. My first knee surgery back in 1970 stopped me for about a week before I was back to my routine. For some reason things are a bit slower 38 years later

Don

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CASTINGS (still) WANTED

Benjamin Maggi

Member Benjamin Maggi is beginning construction of an Allen Mogul in July, and will be ordering some castings for it in the next month or so. If you have any castings for it that you don't want or need anymore, either due to a

change in plans or for other reasons, and want to sell them to a fellow club member who can use them, please e-mail me at BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com. Thank you. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the April Membership Meeting

- We will investigate the best plan of attack to remedy the annual mud problem at the entrance gate.
- The fluids etc on the Case backhoe will be changed and new brakes installed.
- The club is investigating the best plan of attack to shelter our growing list of machinery. Two options are a pole barn (expensive, long term) or an aluminum 'car port' (cheaper, short term)
- Ted Wilming will upgrade the rules quiz in order to more accurately reflect our track and operating conditions.
- A quote was received for the manufacture of a new boiler for the club's steam engine, Woodstock #2. A deposit was sent to lock in the quote.
- An order will be placed to purchase new stainless steel switch point actuators for the DeSantis Divide track reconfiguration.
- A quantity of concrete blocks (approx. 30"x30"x72" each) will be purchased to finish up the DeSantis Divide improvement project and also to support the new ballast dump body.
- Discussions continue regarding the 'tin storage building' and realignment of the infield access road via the new overpass. No decision made.
- All members were reminded to wear their name tags while on ALS property.
- The wooden retention wall within Cardish Cut has become a hazard and will be replaced. Quotes are being developed to replace the wood with a masonry structure. The cut will be wider when complete.

Due to lack of input this is a very light issue of Whistles. For filler I offer the following seeing how this is our 25th year.

A very chilly October night in 1982, about 10pm in Don Buesing's driveway: Don suggests to Tom Rhodes there might be enough local interest to support a small live steam club. Tom agreed and the next day Don called Joe Rice at LS Magazine to get his thoughts regarding subscriptions in the greater Albany area. Joe said there were quite a few. He offered to publish a short letter proposing all live steamers in the area to meet at Don's home the next spring. It appeared in the Jan '83 issue.

A very pleasant May 14th, 1983: About 20 live steamers and live steamer hopefuls showed up at Don's home in Ballston Spa. In attendance was Stan Cardish with his Little Engines Mogul and his Clishay, and Don Marshall with his Woodstock #2. During the previous winter Tom canvassed many of our neighboring live steam clubs asking for advice and copies of their constitutions and bylaws. One very notably helpful individual was the late Dan Crabtree of PLS. At that meeting a copy of a proposed Constitution and Bylaws was given to each person in attendance to be voted up or down at the next meeting. It was very generic and would require fine tuning as we went along. Next, a date was set for the next meeting and a hat was passed beginning our treasury.

Over the following summer months ALS met the second Saturday of each one. It was the unanimous opinion that if there were to be a club, it had to have a place to call home. Although not a popular idea, Don and Tom talked to members of the board of the Town of Milton about unused park land. At the time we didn't have any other solution. Thankfully, it went no where.

Then very generous offers to donate land were made. A monthly meeting was scheduled at each one so the membership could consider it first hand.

- The late George Rateau offered his land for club use, but it was in Worcester, NY and a very long drive from where the existing manpower support was.
- Frank DeSantis of Knox offered a piece of land but it was along a streambed that saw annual flooding.
- Dick Hosmer of Melrose offered a very nice piece adjacent to his home. It had very good potential.
- Hank and Alice Buesing offered a piece in Wilton. The day the club inspected it was very wet. There were downpours all that day and the day before. But it was very easy to walk anywhere about the property as it is mostly sand and 'perked' very nicely even with all the rain. It was also heavily wooded with interesting topography.

At the next meeting it was agreed that we would accept the land offered by Hank and Alice.

Adirondack Live Steamers
C/o Peter Petrillose
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First Class

NOTE PAD

May 10 – Membership Meeting

May 17 – 25th Anniversary Run Day

June 12 – Organization Meeting

For Spring Meet

June 12-15 – Spring Meet

Wednesdays and Saturdays –

Work Days

**Have you
helped this
year at the
club?**