

# 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

May 2008

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## GREAT NEWS INSURANCE ISSUE SETTLED

We have waited a LONG time. But it is with great pleasure that we can now announce that our insurance problem is settled. A New York State Judge has reviewed the entire case, and has ruled very much in favor of Adirondack Live Steamers. While ALS was still left with a small amount to pay in the case, the amount is not nearly as much as originally thought. In addition, this in turn has made it possible for ALS to acquire a new insurance policy, which will again allow INVITED guests onto the property.

This new policy is with the insurance firm of Hamman-Miller-Beauchamp-Deeble, Inc. and goes into effect immediately. This means that members may now invite guests on the property. HOWEVER, there are a few things that we as members must remember.

First, ANYONE coming on ALS property must still sign a release waiver.

Members must sign one when they join, and visitors must sign one when they arrive on the property. Second, invited guests may not, in turn, invite other guests to come along with them. Only persons specifically invited by a member may attend. Third, the member issuing the invitation is COMPLETELY responsible for the guest when they are on the property. Don't just invite people, and then let them wander about aimlessly. We must stay with them, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, and stay alert for their safety. This is not a time to relax our safety standards. The "Safety First" at the top of our newsletter is there for a reason. We must all continue to think safety, talk safety, and work safely.

Rich Dean, our Insurance Chairman, has spent a great deal of time acquiring this policy, and we thank him for all of his work over the past few years.

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, May 9, 10:00 AM  
Notice TIME**

**Deadline for June *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, May 16**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Well, hello everyone! It is beginning to look like spring has finally reached ALS! Yes, the track is now OPEN and the three man crew of Ray Dwyer, Dick Hosmer, and Charlie Pellock has gotten the water turned on. Hopefully, a lot of the clean up will have gotten done on April 18. There is a list posted indicating the many things that might still need to be done.

Work on the library is progressing; taping, spackling and painting are next.

Get your engines tested, as I will be checking on you! Are your engineer's qualifications up to date? May 16 is the test day for both, so if you need either, show up. Remember you can **RUN** after you get this stuff done.

Remember that EVERYONE must sign a waiver each year with NO EXCEPTIONS. They can be found in the depot (clubhouse) as well as in the registration booth.

Now that the weather is better, remember if you are the last one out to *please* close the gates. If you have any questions, *write them down* and give them to me. If I don't know the answer, I will find one.

Enjoy the club as now the weather is getting better and better.

See you at the club,

**Skip**, President

Whistles in the Woods  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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NEWSLETTER

*Whistles in the Woods*

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MEMBERSHIP

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Phone: (518) 656-9091

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## HAROLD CROUCH PASSES

Don Buesing

Harold Crouch of the Finger Lakes Live Steamers passed away on March 26, 2009 just shy of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Harold visited ALS several times in the past, once or twice with his 1½" Pacific. Harold was a walking encyclopedia of steam and railroad knowledge and was very free to offer it to anyone who asked or listened.

Harold was a graduate of RPI in Troy, class of 1943. Among his extracurricular activities was the repair and operation of a 9½" gauge 4-4-0 steam locomotive recovered from the Burden Estate in Troy.

Soon after graduating, Harold began his career with the New York Central Railroad as a mechanical engineer. Being the young man on the totem pole, his was assigned some of the tasks befitting his stature. One of these tasks was operating the pressure indicating diagram equipment mounted on the cylinders of what were then the brand new NYC 4-8-4 Niagras. While perched behind a makeshift wind deflector just ahead of the loco's cylinders, Harold's task required him to focus on the recording of the cylinder events as the loco sped down the mainline at track speed! Perhaps some of you have seen the published photo of Harold performing these duties.

To Harold's family and friends we offer our heartfelt sympathy. And to Harold we give a hearty whistle salute; may your block signals be eternally green. \*\*\*

# Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

One of the safety items which is frequently addressed at ALS is our speed limits. We discuss them at our engineer safety meetings, we tell engineers about them at various times when necessary, and we are all reminded of them on signs which have been posted along the right of way. But since they have not appeared yet as part of this “Safety Tip” column, we would like to address them this month.

Do you know the “maximum” speed at which you may travel at ALS? Do you know what is considered a “slow” speed? Can you provide the speed limit at any given point on our railroad? We will start at the beginning and try to understand not only the reason for our speed limits, but also an easy way to follow them.

## ANSWERS:

At ALS, the MAXIMUM or track speed is **5 MPH**, which translates to 40 *scale* mph. At this speed, your train should take 12 seconds to travel between any two “mileposts.” More about our mileposts later.

SLOW speed is **2 MPH**, and should take your train 30 seconds to travel between any two “mileposts.”


While 5mph is considered the usual speed limit, there are specific places along the right of way where a slow speed is required. These places include Yard Limits, points where we travel over facing point switches, over bridges, through tunnels, and where “slow” signs are displayed. Let’s examine each of these.


We have two specific “Yard Limits” at ALS. One is in Wilton, where we load passengers. The three tracks in DeSantis are part of this yard limit. The other one is in Pierson Yard. In this location you will find signs indicating where your speed should drop to “slow.”

We currently have two tunnels: Phantom and Ott. When completed, the new trackage will include a new one named Busse Tunnel.

For various reasons, including track work, an engineer will occasionally come across an **S** in a yellow diamond. This indicates a slow speed (2 mph) which should

be followed until reaching an **R** in a green square. This indicates that the engineer may resume the speed of 5 mph where appropriate.

 *Yellow*  
Immediately begin slow speed.  
**2 MPH**

 *Green*  
Resume speed where appropriate. **5 MPH**

Now for our “mileposts.” The “mileposts” on our railroad are located at 88-foot intervals. They can be found on the engineer’s right when operating in the NORMAL or westbound direction. In this direction of travel, the mileposts will go up from 1 to 58, beginning in Wilton, or just outside the clubhouse where we load passengers. Obviously, when operating in the REVERSE or eastbound direction, the mileposts will descend, and will be found on the engineers left.

It only takes one derailment or collision caused by excessive speed to damage equipment or cause injury. Let’s have a SAFE summer of operation.

See you next month.

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# Minutes

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

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

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

Treasurer Glenn Freedman presented his report, which was approved.

Membership Secretary Rich Dean reported that we currently have 167 members.

Three new members were accepted by the membership.

Membership cards may be found in the Registration Booth, where they will be left until picked up. They are available AFTER the member has signed his/her waiver.

All visitors must sign a waiver.

Committee Reports were presented as follows:

- Insurance: Our new policy is now in effect as of April 1. Guests must be invited by a member, and must sign a waiver. Junior members and visitors must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Live steamers from other clubs are considered “invited” by advertisements in *Live Steam* magazine.
- Safety: Ted Wilming is servicing all fire extinguishers. Steam engines MUST be checked by Ray Dwyer. Engineers must provide a connection for a 1/8“ pipe thread from their blow off valves. Diesels must have a working fire extinguisher. Don Buesing will inspect all cars, especially those carrying passengers. Don is currently putting together requirements for seat height, coupler height, etc.
- Club House: No mold has been found as yet on the interior. Outside mold must be removed before repainting is begun.
- Equipment: Charlie Pellock has had the back hoe repaired and it should be available for use by next week. He has also repaired the chipper.
- A porta-john has been offered to ALS at no cost. It would cost \$42 to service it each time as necessary.
- Signals: Work will continue in DeSantis as soon as the weather allows.
- Grounds: Clean up next week, and again on May 16. A new chairman is needed for Grounds.
- Gauge One: The track is now in operation. A new chairperson is needed.
- Engine House: New locks will be installed on May 9.

Old Business:

- Pete Petrillose presented a “donation” of the money left over from the Winter Banquet.
- Woodstock: A new boiler will arrive within the next month. A motion was made and seconded that Karl Pickles will work on the engine. Anyone wishing to help should call Karl.
- British steam engine: It was moved and seconded to keep it. Don Buesing, Dick Hosmer, and Ray Dwyer will chair its operation. Don read a list of requirements for using the locomotive for teaching how to operate steam. The BOD will go over this list.
- DeSantis Estate: Don Buesing will contact his family the Monday after Easter.

New Business:

- Gas will be piped into the kitchen. No more bottles should be brought inside.
- Spring Meet: Don Buesing will chair the kitchen. A General Chairman is still needed.
- A Wood stove will be installed in the Clubhouse.
- All members are asked to keep an eye out for another 40’ container.

The Meeting was adjourned.

# Notes From Rich

I am happy to report that we have acquired a new insurance policy, which went into effect on April 1 of this year. Among other items covered in the policy, we now may allow INVITED visitors on the property. The key word here is “invited.” Only those whom one of our members invites may be on ALS property. Being invited does not allow one to invite others. Only members may issue an invitation. The member who does issue that invitation is responsible for the safety and behavior of their guest while they are in attendance. Please do not bring friends on the property and let them wander about aimlessly.

As of our April Membership Meeting, we have 167 members. The membership did accept three new members as follows:

**Jeff Redecker** from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania joins us as an Associate Member.

**John Lehman** and **Kathy Drezelo** were sponsored by Ken Nelson. They are from Rotterdam, NY, and plan to be married in May.

As was the case last year, all members are issued membership cards. You may pick up your membership card at the Registration Booth the next time you are on the property. We do not mail them out due to postage costs. You may not receive your card, however, until you have signed your waiver. In addition, anyone who desires a Membership List should e-mail me at [deanelect@roadrunner.com](mailto:deanelect@roadrunner.com) and I will e-mail one back to you in return. Please notice my new e-mail address.

Membership dues are now past due. If you know of anyone who is planning to join again this year, please ask them to get their dues in immediately.

I hope to see many of you at the workday in May, as well as at our Membership Meetings. Let’s have a great summer of running.

See you at the track,  
**Rich**, Membership Secretary

## THESE WEB SITES MAY INTEREST YOU

Ken Nelson

Many of our members are into model railroading in various scales. I recently had brought to my attention, two interesting videos available on the web.

They are both on You Tube, and deal with the very large model railroad in Hamburg, Germany known as Miniatur Wunderland. This is supposedly the largest model railroad in the world; it covers some 16,000 square feet. Besides the trains, which are a spectacle in themselves, there are also cars and trucks moving on the highway, and

boats which make their way over the waterway.

For a view of this very large model railroad go to:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN\\_oDdGmKyA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN_oDdGmKyA)

Also on You Tube is a virtual ride in a model locomotive over this railroad. Try this web address:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBArNAyODLc&NR=1>

Enjoy your ride.

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## WANTED

Member Ben Maggi is looking for a pair of flame-cut frames suitable for an Allen Mogul. Rogers-Cooke used to make them, but is no longer in business. If anyone has any leads on where one can find a set, please contact Ben at [BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com](mailto:BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com) or call him at (585) 506-2680. Thanks.

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## OTHER CLUBS

For those who may be interested in visiting other live steam clubs over the next few months, here are the important dates for many of them.

### Spring

Long Island – May 15, 16, and 17

Pennsylvania – May 22, 23, and 24

New Jersey – June 5, 6, and 7

Pioneer Valley Steam Up – May 1, 2, and 3

Pioneer Valley Spring Meet – June 19 and 20

Finger Lakes – May 23 & 24

### Summer

Montreal 75<sup>th</sup> Live Steam Meet and Exposition – July 1-5

Long Island –

Waushakum – August 28, 29, and 30

Finger Lakes June Meet & Open House – June 26, 27, and 28

Finger Lakes 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebration – July 31-August 3

(Closed to the Public – Pre-registration required by June 19)

### Fall

Pennsylvania – September 4, 5, and 6

Pioneer Valley – September 18, 19, and 20

Pioneer Valley Blow Down – October 9, 10 and 11

Finger Lakes Fall Meet – September 25, 26, and 27

Finger Lakes Blow Down – October 4  
Long Island –

New Jersey – October 2, 3, and 4

New Jersey Blow Down – October 25

It is always a good idea to check the web site of a club, and/or contact a member of that club to determine if there is any limitation on your visit. Some clubs invite guests only to certain functions. \*\*\*

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

## **First Class**

### **NOTE PAD**

**May 9 – Membership Meeting  
10 AM - Clubhouse**  
**May 16 – Mass Work Day, Engineer  
Test Day, Membership  
Day, Fire Dept. Visit**  
**June 11 – Membership Meeting  
10 AM – Clubhouse**  
**June 12-14 – Spring Meet  
Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work  
Days**  
**Every Day – Run Day**

**Is your  
Membership  
Renewal  
overdue?**