

# 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

NOVEMBER 2006

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## **BLOWDOWN 2006: CHILLY BUT FUN**

Ken Nelson

ALS finished its operating year in the usual way with a two-day Blowdown on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15. The weather was a bit better on Saturday than on Sunday, but both days proved to be fun. On Sunday, it was decided to run opposite direction for the day, and as those who have done this will agree, there is another whole new railroad running "eastbound." The grades are different, the signals are in a different place, and one sees items in the woods that might be missed going in the usual direction. With coats buttoned to the neck, all engineers and passengers seemed to have a great time.

We want to express our appreciation to Don Buesing who took charge of Saturday night's dinner on very short notice. He also was the first of several

cooks at the grill on Sunday, providing hot dogs and hamburgers for all.

Please do keep in mind that even though our "operating" is about finished for the year, there are still items that need attention at the club. Our new track at DeSantis is moving along (see article elsewhere in this issue) but there is still work to be done. We need many new track panels built for DeSantis as well as our new service track, and there are several items on the board in the Clubhouse that need attention. By the time you read this, nominations will have taken place for our officers for 2007 (See article elsewhere in this issue). Please plan to attend the important annual Membership Meeting in November, where we get to choose our leaders for the following year. \*\*\*

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, November 11, 2006, 1:00 PM**

**Clubhouse**

**Annual Meeting: Election of Officers**

**Deadline for December *Whistles in the Woods*:**

**Saturday, November 18**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Richard Dean, President

I just have to wonder how November arrived so fast! It seems as though it was just last week that I was writing about making repairs to the 10-wheeler for the 2006 summer running season. Now, it's already time to store the steamer away for the winter and start thinking about shop time to make repairs to the Allen steamer and also, once again work at making new parts for my C-19 consolidation. And, I don't want to forget to allot some time at ALS for any projects to be finished from this year and starting on new ideas for the coming year.

A lot has happened at "The Track" this year. Most everything has been good and some not so good. But, on a scale of 1 to 10, I believe it was a 9.25 year. We did have great weather for the Fall Meet. There was no rain and just the right temperatures. It was a great STEAMER weekend. Oh, there were some of the other trains there also, and we will allow them back, but I always like to see the steaming bays full and the steamers running. I think it has something to do with the smell of burning coal and the black smoke.

Next, the Blowdown weekend was again blessed with great weather. For being a low key run weekend, there were many familiar faces on the property on Saturday. To my regret, I didn't get any of Don's spaghetti dinner Saturday night, but, I must confess I did find a nice tray of fresh cider donuts that helped me get through the afternoon. Personally I was not able to be present on Sunday, but I understand there was clear running on that day also.

DeSantis Divide has also received a rework. Thanks to Charlie Pellock's backhoe and Dick Hosmer's John Deer tractor, there are now two tracks laid and bolted together. The next step is to tie in the new station track to the existing station siding. Then the new main line will be moved and tied into the existing main line. Before the tracks were laid, a drainage system was installed to help eliminate any water in the new cut. It sure would be nice to see the station siding completed this year.

So, as you see, in the year of 2006, there has been a great deal of activity. It's all for OUR enjoyment.

See you at the TRACK!

**Richard Dean**, President

**Whistles in the Woods**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS**  
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## NOTES OF THANKS

On Tuesday, October 10, Pete Petrillose organized a picnic at ALS for a group called the Nifty Fifties from Our Lady of Grace Church of Ballston Lake, NY. It was an Educational Day for all, as we answered questions about our railroad, our club, and generally how railroads do the job they do. Most of the church members who attended were given rides on one of several trains and all were very impressed. We want to thank Mark Armitage, Ray Dwyer, Ron Mocko, and Ken Nelson for providing rides for the members.

We received the following notes of thanks from two of the attendees.

*I just wanted to thank you for taking us on the train ride. We loved it. Keep in mind that all of us are over 60, some in their 80's, and one man who is 91. We would love to do it again some time.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Amelia Stack*

*The Nifties would like to take this opportunity to say a big "THANK YOU" to everyone at ALS who made our outing a day to remember. Our visit on October 10 was enjoyable and educational. The train ride and scenery through the countryside was very entertaining despite the chilly temperatures.*

*We have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$50 to help keep your club on the right "track."*

*We look forward to visiting again during the summer of 2007 and enjoying a picnic for the day. Please accept this as an invitation for all to join us. We will be in contact with Pete Petrillose to coordinate the occasion.*

*Again, thank you.*

*Sincerely,*  
*Bonnie Arbitrio, President*

## OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*(Editor's Note: Due to the fact that our October Membership Meeting was held a week later than usual, Recording Secretary Llyn Rice and Membership Secretary Jeane Lutz were unable to get their columns to me in time for publication. Following are some of the highlights of the Meeting for the information of our membership.*

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Dean. Secretary, Treasurer, and Education Reports were presented, and several new members were accepted.

Under Old Business: an update was given on the rebuilding of DeSantis Divide. Larry Green presented an update on the current status of Gauge One. Don Buesing reported that the roof of the crossing shanty, now leaking, will be covered with a tarp for the winter. A 100 gallon LP gas tank will be installed outside the Clubhouse to fire the furnace which has been installed and made ready for LP by Ray Dwyer.

Bill Eckert will chair a committee to

investigate the "admission policy" for visitors to our club. It was decided that ALS would have a presence at the Albany Train Show again this year. Dick Hosmer is chairman.

Under New Business: It was announced that member Charlie Pellock has donated two days of time with his front end loader in memory of his father in law, George Busse. The Proposed Calendar for ALS activities during 2007 was presented (see below).

Nominating Committee Chairman Ted Wilming presented a slate of officers for the November Election during the Membership Meeting. (See the article elsewhere in this issue.) \*\*\*

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## ALS CALENDAR FOR 2007

Sunday, March 11 –  
Winter Banquet (Tentative)

Saturday, May 19 – Membership Day

Friday, Saturday, Sunday,  
June 8, 9, and 10 – Spring Meet

Sunday, July 8 –  
Family Day I

Sunday, July 15 –  
Prototype Operation Day I

Sunday, August 12 –  
Family Day II

Sunday, August 19 –  
Prototype Operation Day II

Friday, Saturday, Sunday,  
September 7, 8, and 9 – Fall Meet

Saturday, Sunday, October 13 and 14 –  
Blowdown

Sunday, December 2 –  
Albany Train Show

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of March, April, May, July,  
August, and November and October 20 –  
Membership Meetings

## NEW TRACKWORK AT DESANTIS

For much of this summer, work has been progressing at DeSantis Divide to widen the radius of the trackage through that area, and to provide access from the engine terminal to the Car Barn with minimal or no interference with the main line. This has been a major project, especially since it involves the moving and grading of a sizable area. All of this work is progressing in phases so as not to have to close the main for more than an hour or so at a time. As mentioned in previous issues of *Whistles*, much of the initial grading work was accomplished by John Pasquance with the help of Vinnie Lutz, Bill Eckert, and others. During the past month, Rich Dean, Dick Hosmer, and Ray Dwyer have installed a drain pipe to prevent water problems in the cut. Dick Hosmer, Ken Nelson, and Melanie Sembrat have built 25-30 track

panels which have been laid in place for the main line and station track. Charlie Pellock, Dick Hosmer, and Rich Dean have put in place the large stone blocks which will become the piers for the new bridge over the tracks. Last Saturday, Chuck Currey, Robert Mansfield, Ken Nelson, Jim Ogden, Lance Sherman, and his son Brett laid the first coat of ballast for the main and station tracks. Dick Hosmer is currently building several turnouts which will be installed soon to complete another phase of the project.

A job such as this requires much time and effort, and it is not too late for you to help. Give Dick Hosmer a call at (518) 235-0771 and let him know that you would like to help. Or just show up on Saturday morning, and be ready to have fun assisting in moving your club forward. \*\*\*

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## ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS COMING

At the October Membership Meeting, Nominating Committee Chairman Ted Wilming presented the following slate of officers for election at the next Membership Meeting to be held on November 11 in the Clubhouse.

President – Richard Dean  
Vice President – Don Buesing  
Recording Secretary – Llyn Rice  
Membership Secretary – Jeane Lutz  
Treasurer – Glenn Freedman  
Director 2008 – Skip Densing

Following the Nominating Committee's report, there was an additional nomination from the floor.

Director 2008 – Bill Mischler

Election for these offices will be held during the Annual Membership Meeting on November 11 at 1:00 PM in the Clubhouse. According to the Bylaws of the Adirondack Live Steamers, each officer is elected for a one year term, with the exception of the Directors who each serve a two year term. Director 2007 Ted Wilming and Past President Dick Hosmer will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

Please make an effort to attend the November Membership Meeting, cast your vote, and find out what is happening at ALS. \*\*\*

*(The following article originally appeared in the Niagara Frontier Live Steamers' newsletter. Ed.)*

## **WINTER CARE FOR YOUR STEAMER**

Joe Tanski

Well, winter storage time of your engine is here. Just what should you do to prevent damage over the cold season? First off, this is the method that I have been using over the past years, and it works.

1. Run the engine one last time in the fall and blow her down HOT (100 psi steam). Pull the grates and drop the fire. Then using the pumps, injectors, tender pumps, fill the boiler to the top with water, leaving the blower running. When the boiler pressure comes down to about 30 psi, open the blow downs. Make sure that you and others stay clear of the equipment. STEAM BURNS!

2. While you wait for the engine to cool, drain all the water from the tender lines.

3. Clean the tubes with a good new flue brush. Scrape out the inside of the smoke stack, removing the carbon and oil build up. Blow out with air the fire box, tubes, and smoke box.

4. Spray some light heating oil or kerosene mixed with oil inside the smoke box and firebox. This will help prevent rusting and keep the mice out.

5. Wash down the engine with heating oil to remove all the dirt and grit. Wash with a good spray gun, NAPA auto parts sells a nice one.

6. Use air to blow out all the water lines, whistle line, hydrostatic lubricator, steam pump line, steam pressure gauge, bourbon tube, bell

ringer, and cylinder cock line. Open steam line at cylinder cocks and blow out all water lines.

7. Jack up the engine and run on air with the cylinder cocks open. This will remove water from the cylinders.

8. Remove timing plugs and flood the cylinders with light oil (10W-30), reinstall the plugs and roll engine back and forth to remove water/oil out of the cylinder drain cocks. Let cylinders drain.

9. Hook up engine to tender and all tender lines and pour in 1 gallon of RV antifreeze (pink). Pump tender pump, roll engine to fill axle pump, run steam pump on air, injector, etc. Fill all lines!

10. Drain off all excess antifreeze from tender; disconnect all tender lines and drain. Blow out boiler one last time of all antifreeze.

11. Wipe down engine with clean dry rags and rub down all running gear (valve gear and rods) with heavy gear oil (120W).

12. Install grates, put ball or can in the smoke stack, wrap engine in plastic.

13. Do not store engine with a light bulb in smoke box or fire box. This will only cause the engine to sweat and promote rusting and corrosion.

Try it. This method works!

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## **SAFETY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY**

Ted Wilming

The Safety Committee has been busy during and since the Fall Meet. Classes which reviewed the ALS Operating Rules were offered for nearly 100 people. Ninety four quizzes were taken and passed by members and visitors who wished to operate on our track.

The Committee greatly appreciates the patience shown by all who were involved, but I think everyone now knows that ALS is serious about our emphasis on safety.

As we have observed people operating on our tracks, the one infraction we have noted more than any other is EXCESSIVE SPEED. Since this is one of the major reasons for accidents, derailments, and injury, we must continue to remind people about the importance of observing our speed limits. Anyone with questions should

read carefully the Operating Rules which are available on our web page: [Adirondacklivesteamers.org](http://Adirondacklivesteamers.org). Note especially section N regarding excessive speed.

Passing the test will result in the permission to operate on ALS tracks for three years. Any member or friend who plans to operate, or anyone who took the test during 2004 or earlier, may go on line, read the rules, and take the test. The results of the test will be sent to the Safety Committee. A list of Qualified Engineers is kept in a loose leaf notebook and is available in the Clubhouse.

Several of the questions have been updated, and a new test will be available in January of 2007. You may take the current test or wait and take the revised one. \*\*\*

Adirondack Live Steamers  
c/o Peter Petrillose  
41 Goode Street  
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## **First Class**

**NOTE PAD**  
November 11 – Annual Meeting  
and Election of Officers  
December 3 – Albany Train Show  
March 11 – Annual Banquet  
(Tentative)  
Every Saturday – Work Day

**November  
Membership  
Meeting:  
Attend and  
Vote**