

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

NOVEMBER 2008

The Fall 2008 Blowdown Meet was well attended by both our local and distant ALS members. A count showed 13 steamers steaming and a few diesel or electric locos running, some arrived Friday afternoon. The loco count includes both 7-1/4" gauge and gauge 1 equipment. The weather held out nicely although a bit chilly. The Steam plumes were impressive all weekend. As usual the track structure gave us no trouble thanks to our track department. Unfortunately the turkey dinner did not go without a hitch again this year. Last year the oven blew up. It was scrapped. This year the new(er) oven created some smoke but through no fault of its own. It seems the cheap aluminum pan sprung a leak allowing the drippings to reach the heating coil and 'poof'. The offending pan and turkey were removed and placed on the gas grill while the leak free turkey and pan remained in the oven. As a result of all this commotion the dinner was delayed about one hour while the turkey in the leaky pan was allowed to catch up.

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Next Meeting: Saturday, November 8, 1:00 PM

**Club House
Election of Officers**

**Deadline for the December *Whistles in the Woods*
Saturday, November 22**

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

A year ago I was asked to serve as ALS President for 2008, I accepted with some reservation. If I had a crystal ball I would have certainly declined. Regardless, the job was mine.

Now it is time for us to elect a new **ALS President** and we are lucky to have two well qualified and able candidates to choose from. Dick Hosmer has once again stepped up to the plate as nominee for another term and Skip Densing is willing to be considered for the position for the first time. We are fortunate to have members such as Dick and Skip who look beyond the rigors of serving for the good of the club. I wish we had more. It is never an easy task for the Junior Director to full fill his duty as Nomination Committee Chairman. I suspect a dentist's work may be easier.

I am pleased to announce that our veteran club officer, Ray Dwyer, has decided to return from retirement to serve as **Vice President**. Ray always rewards us with a different approach to most problem solving. Ray is running unopposed. Must be the competition is a bit much. Thanks Ray!

Our **Treasurer** will once again be Glenn Friedman as he also is unopposed. The duty of Treasurer is likely the most scrutinized position on the BOD and Glenn serves us very, very well. Thank you Glenn, we are extremely fortunate to have you.

As of this writing, we still do not have a candidate for **Recording Secretary**. Over the past five years the position has been admirably and honorably served by Llyn Rice. Llyn has decided it is time to step down and I thank him for all his hard work. Llyn has always been the steady sail to keep ALS and especially the BOD meetings on an even keel. Your insight will be missed and I thank you for your excellent service all these years Llyn.

My comments regarding Llyn go equally to Richard Dean, our **Membership Secretary**. Not surprisingly, Richard is unopposed and I thank him for his continued excellent service. The position of Membership Secretary is likely the most time consuming and stress causing. During the membership renewal months the Secretary is glued to his computer trying to keep up with all the changes in

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membership status, ensuring the forms are filled out properly, and legibly, forwarding the funds to the Treasurer, and maintaining the Club Roster. Just trying to keep up with roster changes throughout the year would make mince meat out of most of us. Thank you once again Richard.

This year's unopposed candidate for **Junior Director** is our good neighbor Charlie Pellock. Charlie has been resisting "the call" from ALS for years. For too long he was 'just' our neighbor. Then a few years ago he gave in and became an Associate Member much to the surprise of his wife, Sandy, who commented... "Are you nuts?" Last year Charlie upgraded to Regular Member. I guess it was just a downhill slide from there and has agreed to join our BOD.

With Charlie coming aboard as Junior Director Ted Wilming is bumped up to **Senior Director**. Ted's participation at ALS goes far beyond his directorship as Ted chairs the Safety Committee and also manages and coordinates the registrations during all events. No easy task. Ted has many irons in the ALS fire and somehow juggles them with skill. Thanks Ted.

And this brings us full circle to our departing Senior Director, Skip Densing. As noted above, Skip is running for ALS President. For two years Skip has been an ALS director, he has served us well. Thank you Skip!

One last thing before I sign off, and I hope I'm not too blunt. The job of being the **ALS Newsletter Editor** is not easy. Think about it for just a bit. Deadlines...input...organizing pages...input...proof reading...input...and the most daunting part...WRITING! Did you notice how 'input' is repeated several times? The most difficult part of Ken's job is getting input. I don't know how Ken Nelson puts up with it but somehow he manages to put Whistles in the Woods out time after time, month after month. This time I am filling in for Ken. If you feel there is room for improvement as I try to approach Ken's significant measure then step in and help out. Ken vacations about twice a year, he'll be happy to give you pointers on how to be the editor of one and maybe two newsletters each year. In the meantime step up to Ken and show your appreciation for his hard work. I try to thank him as often as I remember. And that brings us to our ALS Publisher, Pete Petrillose, another unsung hero at ALS. Pete has been printing and mailing "Whistles" for most of the 25 years it has existed. Do you think he has done a good job? The next time you see him...tell him!

Don

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
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SUBMISSIONS: *Whistles in the Woods* welcomes articles, news items, classifieds, and other contributions. Please contact any of the staff.

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ELECTION DAY

At the October Membership Meeting, the following members were nominated for office for the 2009 calendar year.

President: Dick Hosmer/Skip Densing

Vice-President: Ray Dwyer

Treasurer: Glenn Freedman

Recording Secretary: OPEN

Membership Secretary: Richard Dean

Director 2009-2010: Charlie Pellock

Our ALS Election Day is the November Membership Meeting. This is your chance to elect your officers for next year. Please remember that only Regular Members are eligible to cast a vote.

Each office is a one year term with the exception of Director. Each Director, when elected, serves a two year term. Therefore Ted Wilming will continue as Director for another year. The Director elected at the November Meeting will serve the years of 2009 and 2010.

The Board of Directors is made up of all of the above officers plus the Past President. Because Rich Dean was elected as Membership Secretary last year, the position of Past President has been vacant for this past year.

All members, both Regular and Associate, are encouraged to attend all of our Membership Meetings. While only Regular members may vote, all members may express opinions and take part in discussions. The Meeting is an opportunity for all to find out what is going on and make your opinions known. ***

NOVEMBER SAFETY TIP

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

Last month, we began covering the most important whistle/horn signals which are commonly used by the railroad for both safety and communication. This month we continue with those signals used by ALS and other live steam railroad clubs.

First a reminder that long sounds are indicated by “_____” and short sounds are indicated by “o.”

Here is this month’s signal. What does it mean and when would you use it?

_____ o

Answer: Approaching a tunnel, station, curves or other points where view may be obscured.

This is another “safety” signal, and there are many places on our track at ALS where it would be appropriate. We currently have two tunnels: Phantom Tunnel just beyond Overlook, and Ott Tunnel just west of Pearson Yard. When the new trackage is complete, we will have a third one. While all of our tunnels are posted with “Keep Out” signs for pedestrians, people do walk through them. In addition, deer have been spotted visiting both of them in the past, and you would not want to meet a frightened deer as you pass through any of our tunnels. We do have signals protecting other trains in both tunnels, but they can fail, and sometimes may not be in operation. Sound

your whistle or horn as you approach the tunnel, and if you are stopped for any reason in a tunnel and hear such a signal, either get out or have your flag person stop the approaching train.

In addition to the tunnels, we have several “blind spots” on our railroad. One is found as you reach the top of Cemetery Hill and take the turnout to the right. People have been seen walking through the cut under Bossert and West Bridges, and giving this signal would give them an opportunity to get out of the way. Another is found as you leave Ott tunnel traveling westbound. That long curved cut can be dangerous if someone is walking, or is stalled there. Giving this signal, and or sounding your bell, if you have one, is a good idea.

When approaching the passenger loading area in front of the clubhouse, engineers should keep their eyes open for pedestrians crossing the tracks, and others, especially children, climbing over the fence next to the station track. Here is another use for this month’s signal.

Some prototype railroad rule books suggest the use of the grade crossing signal from last month when approaching a tunnel. This works, but the use of this month’s _____ o seems to be more common.

Incidentally, don’t confuse this month’s signal with a series of short horn blasts which is used as an alarm to people or animals on the track. We’ll get to that one in the future.

We will be back next month.

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

November 8—Membership Meeting & Election of Officers

December 7 – Albany Train Show

Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work Days

