

WHISTLES IN THE WOODS

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

SAFETY FIRST

November 2009

IT'S A COLD BLOWDOWN

Cloudy and cold weather was not kind to ALS for this year's Blowdown. On Saturday, several people each took a few trips around the railroad for one last time this year. Most of the traffic was diesel oriented with one steamer going strong. Everyone was bundled up just to fight off the cold breeze caused by the 5 mph movement of the trains. On Sunday, there were about five people in attendance, and they didn't last long.

But there were also positive things going on during the weekend. We had at least two distinguished visitors, at least distinguished to the ALS community. Cam Brown was in attendance, along with some of his family, and was able to take a ride with Donna Densing at the throttle. In addition, Hank Buesing was again able to attend one of our functions. It was indeed a treat to see both of these fine gentlemen, and many of us got a chance to talk with them.

Another positive was the great turkey dinner provided by Don Buesing. He

worked most of the day to prepare it, and did have some help from several others who peeled potatoes, and provided help in the kitchen. In addition, several people brought covered dishes of vegetables, appetizers, and desserts. We all had a great time with dinner in our heated clubhouse.

While most of us socialized in and around the main building, Rich Dean was busy operating both the large tractor and the dump truck to prepare the ground for the tunnel that will be a key part of the new trackage. If you haven't been to the club lately, there is much to see in the vicinity of "Skippytown." Rich and Charlie, along with a few others have spent a lot of time working in this area. Just because you can't see any progress at either end doesn't mean that nothing is being done. Take a look the next time you ride down the hill from Tanglefoot.

(Continued on page 7)

See **Blowdown**

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, November 14, 10:00 AM
In the Club House
Election of Officers**

Deadline for December *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, November 21

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi Everyone!

REMEMBER! Elections are this month. Please attend the Membership Meeting.

It seems that everyone has enjoyed this past year and I want to thank ALL those who helped – you know the ones who worked on projects, those who help at the Meets, and all those that did things most people don't usually see. This would include the supply getting people (paper towels, food, fuel, etc.), the members of the BOD, and the “dirty dozen.” What would you like to see done next year? Can you lead the group?

Let us not forget TRACK MAINTENANCE! We need to do better; remember that if the track is not maintained, all the other stuff will go away.

I'm happy to say that our tool shed so far has been kept up and I thank you all. We got Gasoline Alley moved, as per the request of our insurance company. In so doing, we found ten gasoline containers with names on them, and fifteen with no names. If you wish to purchase a container, they are \$5 each, first come, first served.

There are so many things we do at the club, but we really don't have a list to SHOW what they are, and in what order they must be done. For example, Water: Turn on in the spring/turn off in the winter. But where is the nozzle, and is there a certain way to do it? Club House: What supplies are needed and where do they go? Everything must have a place, but where is that place? What needs to be done to run our trains? Who checks the track before an event? Check lists for all of these items would be helpful. Can you help make a list?

Do you want to do a winter project for the club? If you would be willing to help, please call one of the BOD members and find out what is being done and when. With the exception of severe snow storms, the club is accessible all winter.

As mentioned in the article elsewhere in this issue, we do plan to have a showing at the Albany Train Show in December. Would YOU be willing to help? If you are planning to bring a large item (a locomotive or car for example) call Dick Hosmer. If you can just show up and be at the booth for an hour or so that would be great.

As always, I hope to see you at the club doing something and enjoying the company of friends.

Thanks,

Skip, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
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MEMBERSHIP

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

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ALS ELECTIONS COMING AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Ken Nelson

Yes, it's November again, and with November comes the Membership Meeting and our annual Election of Officers.

At the October Membership Meeting, our 2009 Nominating Committee Chairman, Charlie Pellock, along with those present at the meeting, nominated the following for office for 2010.

President: Skip Densing

Vice President: Ray Dwyer

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Membership Secretary: Richard Dean

Treasurer: Ben Maggi

Director 2011: Dick Hosmer

Ted Wilming

Each of the first five is running unopposed. However there will be an election for Director 2011 between Dick and Ted. We thank both of them for running, and the winner will be up to YOU. This is YOUR club. Who do you want on the Board of Directors?

As you probably know by now, the office of Director is a two-year term. Charlie Pellock will serve his second year as Director 2010 and he, along with the Past President, Don Buesing, will fill out the Board of Directors.

Please try to attend the November Meeting on Saturday, November 14 at 10:00 AM in the Clubhouse. Besides the election, there will be several other important matters to discuss regarding the future of our club.

Don't worry about the chilly weather. The heat will be on. ***

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

This month's Safety Tip is coming to you as the result of an observation made at several recent ALS events. While it primarily has to do with steam engineers, we can all learn from it.

This month's tip involves being a bit more careful with the fires that we build in our locomotives. Steam locomotives burning coal eventually produce ashes, and we have seen several engineers recently dumping those ashes all over the railroad. In addition, the engineer sometimes does not notice sparks and other debris flying out of the locomotive stack, and this can cause fire.

So this month we ask two questions, both with pretty obvious answers:

1. Where is the proper place to dump locomotive ashes?
2. Who is responsible for guarding against fires?

Answers:

1. Please dump all ashes from locomotive fires only in an ash pit.

There are two "pits" on the property. One is located right in front of the water tower, and another can be found on the siding in South Park. (Perhaps it would be a good idea to add one or more ash pits along the track. We have added to our railroad, but are still depending on the original two ash pits that were built when the railroad was first started.) Dropping ashes along the right of way can damage ties, and the results, besides being unsafe, don't usually look very nice. In addition, ashes may be dumped under any of the steaming bays, but it would be nice if steam engineers helped to clean the ground under the bay tracks every so often.

2. The answer to the second question is really "EVERYONE."

Fire is one of those things that is associated with our hobby. And it is not only steam engines that can cause fires. Diesels and electrics can also spark, or drop an item that may start a fire, especially in dry weather. Everyone, including passengers, should be constantly on the alert for fires. If we catch them early, there are several water barrels, every two mileposts, which can be used to fight them. The engineer will usually not see the fire his train may have caused. Enjoy your ride, but be alert.

Another thing which might be dropped from trains is trash. We haven't seen this happen very often, but it is worth mentioning. We are lucky to have our beautiful woods. Let's take care of them. Please bring your trash (soda cans, food wrappers, etc.) back to Wilton with you and deposit them in a trash can.

See you next time.

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the October Meeting

President Skip Densing called the meeting to order.

Committee Reports:

- Good and Welfare: Myron Rapaport has had a stent inserted. He will be out of commission until spring.
Thank you letters have been sent to Bruce Rauch and Richard Piasecki for donations made during the past year.
It is hoped that Cam Brown will be able to visit us during Blowdown.
- Equipment: The new boiler for the club engine *Woodstock* will be shipped shortly. (*Woodstock* is the steam engine currently on the pedestal in the Clubhouse. *Ed.*)
A total of fifteen gas cans have been found in Gasoline Alley with no names. They will be sold at \$5 each by the club. ALL containers left in Gasoline Alley must be identified with the owner's name. Gas cans must be red, diesel must be yellow, and kerosene must be blue. Also, Gasoline Alley has been moved and placed on a concrete slab. The door is low. Duck; don't bump your head.
The club diesel will have its hour meter moved so that it can be read without moving the front hood. Also there will be a new ignition key issued to those members who are qualified to run the locomotive.
- Gauge One: The tarp which covers part of the Gauge One area will be removed for the winter after Blowdown.
Several items in the Gauge One area need attention. If you are interested in this area, please contact Lance Sherman.
- Track: The crossing and new turnout which will be installed at the top of Cemetery Hill are being constructed by Dick Hosmer and will be installed shortly.
- Grounds: The tunnel area for the new trackage is being worked on by Rich Dean and several others. The tunnel will not be ready before next summer.
The bricks which were ordered for the new retaining walls are currently out of stock. Don Buesing will have three pallets delivered when they are available.
A stump grinder is available for \$250 per day. Several trees will be dropped and the grinder will be rented when they are ready.
- Clubhouse: Tom Rhodes and Lance Sherman are currently working on the design and construction of the wainscoting on the interior walls.
The club has received a donation of a file cabinet and a copy machine, both of which will be kept in the Library.

Old Business:

- Further discussion was held regarding the new roof trusses over the new containers. A motion was made and approved to spend \$10,000 as needed.

New Business:

- A suggestion was made to add a February Membership Meeting to the 2010 Calendar. This would be held the second Saturday of February at a location to be announced.
- Charlie Pellock has submitted an offer to plow snow at ALS this winter.

(Continued on page 6) See **Minutes**

Letters to the Editor

Cam Brown Visit

Good afternoon everyone!

I just wanted to send my sincere thanks to all of you for helping to make Dad's visit to the Club on Saturday so special. It was just what we had hoped for – a nice Fall day. Thanks Dick for the tour and Donna for taking him for a ride. The seats on your cars were just perfect! Please say thank you from us to anyone who was not included in this letter. Hope you all enjoyed your turkey dinner! Sorry we missed it.

Thanks again,
Nancy Peters

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Minutes (Continued from page 5)

- Any donations from the DeSantis Estate will be left in the Clubhouse during the winter.
- Don Buesing will organize a Turkey Dinner on the Saturday Evening of Blowdown. Each family is asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and each member will be asked to pay \$10.
- One or more passengers at the Fall Meet were spotted taking videos from a moving train. Everyone was again reminded that this is not allowed. Anyone wishing to take a video or photos while riding must make prior arrangements and be the only passenger.
- Nominations for 2010 Officers were made. (See separate article for names.) Elections will be held at the November Membership Meeting.
- ALS will again take part in the Albany Great Train Extravaganza at the Empire State Plaza on Sunday, December 6. Anyone willing to help should contact Dick Hosmer as soon as possible. (This is an ideal opportunity for ALS to let the area know who we are, what we do, and to encourage new members to join us. *Ed.*)

The meeting was adjourned.

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HELPING AT THE CLUB

Skip Densing

Much has been written and discussed, and appeals have been made concerning how to get more help from more people at the club. In addition to Saturday Work Days, we tried having a Retired Members Work Day on Wednesdays this year. In addition, I have suggested that every member who lives within a reasonable distance from ALS try to get to the club for working or running at least ten times during the summer. While several have been able to do this, not nearly everyone has made it that often.

I understand that the Pennsylvania Live Steamers now ask that every Regular Member give at least 15 3-hour sessions per calendar year. Other clubs ask that all members who help, sign in at the club when

they are present and their names are mentioned in the newsletter. Some boat clubs require a certain number of work hours from each member; otherwise that member is charged a surcharge. Perhaps there are other ideas that you may have to generate more help from members.

I frequently talk about the “dirty dozen” who seem to do all of the work at the club. We have several rather large projects facing us. Everyone is happy to stand around and take credit after the work is done. How can we get more people to give more time while the work is in progress?

This is an area that needs more study. If you have ideas, please contact me by e-mail or phone, or talk to me at the club. Our potential is great. ***

Blowdown *(Continued from page 1)*

Cold weather does not have to stop us from continuing our work for a bit longer. We may not wish to operate in the cold, but there is still time to accomplish a bit more. Have you noticed that Gasoline Alley has been moved? As winter approaches, several items need attention. The tarp in the Gauge One area needs to come down for

the winter. The Emporium tent also must be removed. The picnic benches need to be stacked against the trees for the winter, the water shut off, and a few other items will need to be addressed. We do plan to have a class on building track panels after the November Meeting. See the article below. ***

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**WE NEED TRACK PANELS
WILL YOU HELP?**

We hope to begin laying our new service tracks in the spring and summer of 2010 as soon as the ground is ready for it. The new tracks and the main line around them will use a lot of track panels, and we currently have only five unused sections belonging to the club. Now is the time to begin building new ones. (A track panel is a ten-foot long section of two rails screwed to wood ties with tie plates between the rail and ties..) For those who have never done this, be aware that it is not difficult. But there are some things to learn about gauge, and the placement of rail.

Following the Membership Meeting in November, we will have a short class in how track panels are built. If you have a power drill, bring it with you. If you do not have one, we will have several around that you may use. We currently have about 1000 ties cut and ready for use in the clubhouse, along with several bundles of rail and the necessary screws and tie plates. We also have a list of the number of track panels that will be needed for our new addition. Based on previous experience, six to ten panels can be built in a day, so several days work will yield enough to get us started in the spring.

Please join us and join in the fun. ***

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ALS WILL ATTEND ALBANY TRAIN SHOW

At the October Membership Meeting, it was decided that we would again take part in the Great Train Extravaganza on Sunday, December 6 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Some set up work is necessary on Saturday, the day before. Dick Hosmer has offered to again be in charge of setting up our part of the show. He needs everyone's help. This is an ideal opportunity to show the public what our club is, and perhaps encourage new members to join us.

We generally display one or more locomotives, a car or two, and show videos of what we do at various events during the year.

If you would be willing to help Dick with loading/unloading equipment, please call him at 518-235-0771. If you would be willing to show up and help on Sunday, to talk with visitors about our club, please call Skip Densing at 518-663-5507.

We again need your help! ***

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

**November 14 – Membership Meeting
10 AM – Clubhouse
Election of Officers
Track Panel Class
Picnic Table Stacking
December 6 – Albany Train Show
Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work
Days**

Election of Officers

Vote!

