

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 2011

BLOWDOWN 2011

Ken Nelson

Our last active weekend of the season, known as Blowdown, was held on October 15 and 16. The weather was rather kind to us, offering some clouds, some sunshine, just a few very light showers, and a chill in the air that made for some fine steaming.

Saturday was quite well attended, with several visitors with their trailers full of locomotives and cars. In addition, many of our local members were out and about running both steam and diesel all day including several of our newest members. Some attendees brought food including eggplant, ziti, beans, and some very delicious doughnuts. The always-present hamburgers and hot dogs were available, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Sunday was a bit calmer, with many of our guests leaving rather early. The

weather was a bit brighter, but there were very few people to enjoy it.

We hope that you have had a good year, and that you have been as active as you were able to be. Now it is time to do some last minute work at the club. The Emporium tent needs to be put away for the winter, the cover over the Gauge One layout needs to come down, and the picnic tables next to the clubhouse need to be leaned on the trees to protect them somewhat from the winter's snow. In addition tie replacement continues to be a priority. We still will have a few nice Saturdays before the bad weather sets in, and retirees are always welcome to come up during the week and pick a job. Meanwhile, don't forget our very important November Membership Meeting, and the Train Show in Albany in December. ***

* * * * *

Next Meeting: Saturday, November 12, 10:00 AM

Clubhouse

Election of Officers

Deadline for December *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, November 19

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

Well, our Blowdown is over, and though there was some rain, most of the weekend was dry. It was also cool so the steamers did well.

Next is our November Membership Meeting, which will include ELECTIONS. I would like a good (big) turnout so the voting is done by a majority of members and not just a few. If you cannot attend the meeting, mail in proxy ballots (*see page 9. Ed.*) must be received by our secretary Karl Pickles no later than the FRIDAY before the meeting in a sealed envelope. They will be given to Director Ted Wilming and a second person to be counted with ballots from the Meeting. Remember that only Regular members may vote. (*See details on page 4. Ed.*)

After this is our Albany Train Show. PLEASE if you can give any time at all contact Ben or Sarah Maggi and let them know (585-506-2680) as they have volunteered to chair this event. If you are bringing something big that will not fit in an elevator, contact Dick Hosmer (518-235-0771) NOW so he can get you access to get to doors close to the area where we will be. Even if you can give only one hour, it would be very helpful. (*See page 3. Ed.*)

So far as winter projects go, you need to contact chairpersons in the area you are interested in, in order to work out time arrangements to do stuff. The heat will be on in the depot, so please KEEP THE DOORS CLOSED whenever possible. Remember to turn the heat down to 45 or 50 degrees when you leave. Thanks!

All committees need to turn in budget requests for next year. The end of December is our usual goal, but January is the absolute deadline. The BOD usually does the budget at the beginning of February.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy doing winter things and get ready to be outside again in the spring.

Skip,
President

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
CLUB TELEPHONE
(518) 583-2580

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

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MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: deanelect@roadrunner.com

ALBANY TRAIN SHOW

Ben Maggi

As December approaches, there are three things to look forward to: Christmas, snow, and The Great Train Extravaganza! Sure the first two get all the attention, but it is our very own local train show in the heart of Albany that really kicks off the winter season on December 4th. It is a great blend of model and tinplate trains, train rides for the kiddies, and all the pictures, books, and slides you could possibly want. Admission is relatively cheap; it starts at 10:00 AM and runs to 4:00 PM, and is centrally located in the Empire State Plaza.

Would you like to enjoy the train show AND help out ALS at the same time? Volunteer to man one of our display tables for an hour or two and really help get our name out there! The show has been growing in attendance every year, which means that thousands of potential members and their families walk by our displays. Our huge 1/8 scale trains can be spotted across the way, but our Gauge 1 exhibits are also popular and help reach out to a different segment of the population. We will have displays featuring a tour of the property, videos of our club activities, literature for the public, and of course our actual models in both gauges. What we cannot provide is YOU!

Oh sure, I bet you have "other things" you need to do that day, but during the same day at the Plaza is the Annual tree-lighting ceremony outside and the NYS Museum has its Annual free Chocolate Expo with lots of free food, exhibits, vendors, and other such things. There is something for everybody.

It doesn't take a whole lot of effort to help out. Whether it is sitting around answering questions as people come up, handing out literature to prospective members, or explaining how trains operate, we can use all the help we can get. Many of our volunteers receive free admission to the show!

If you are interested, please call me or my wife Sarah at 585-506-2680. ***

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ken Nelson

As I said last month, this is YOUR club. How much say do you want to have in how it is run? Several capable members were nominated for office at the October Membership Meeting. Did you have your say?

At the November 12 Membership Meeting, we will have our annual Election of Officers. At that time, you will have another opportunity to help in choosing the pathway that the club will follow in the near future. If you don't vote, you can't complain about what is being done. You will have a choice between two different people who are running for the office of President, Vice President, and Director 2013.

In alphabetical order, the nominees are:

For the office of President:

Skip Densing Ray Dwyer

For the office of Vice President:

John Camerota Mark Landgraf

(Important: See article Important Change below. Ed.)

For the office of Director 2013:

Charlie Pellock Mike Petrillose

Understand that the offices of President and Vice President are one-year terms. The office of Director 2013 is a two-year term.

The remaining members of the Board of Directors were each nominated for another term unopposed. They are:

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Membership Secretary: Rich Dean

Treasurer: Ben Maggi

Each is a one-year term. Ted Wilming will complete the second year of his office as Director 2012, and the past president will also serve on the Board.

In the event that it is impossible for you to attend the November Membership Meeting, and you are a Regular Member, please refer to page 9 where you will find a mail-in ballot. If you choose to use it, this ballot is to be completed and mailed to:

Karl Pickles

134 Loudon Road,

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Any proxy ballots mailed in must include your signature and be received in a sealed envelope by November 11.

In the past several years, we have had elections that were decided by one or two votes. Please attend the November 12 Membership Meeting, vote, and make your voice heard. ***

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Don Buesing

As stated above, at the October 2011 Membership Meeting our Junior Director and nominating committee chairman, Ted Wilming, reported his slate of best qualified and willing nominees for each office position on the ALS Board of Directors. Soon after, a nominee for the position of Vice President decided to have his name removed from consideration for personal reasons.

It has been found that Robert's Rules of Order states:

"As soon as the committee reports, it is discharged of its duties. Sometimes the committee is revived to make nominations to fill vacancies."

Ted has revived his committee to fill the vacancy of Vice President. The result is the removal of John Camerota's name and the addition of Brad Peterson's name. The absentee Proxy Ballot on page 9 reflects this action. ***

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the October Meeting

Following the Pledge to the Flag, President Skip Densing called the Meeting to order at 10:03.

There were no minutes taken at the Fall Meet Organizational Meeting in September. In the absence of treasurer Ben Maggi, Skip Densing gave the Treasurer's Report. Seven applications for membership were presented. Each was for Associate Membership and each was accepted. *(See page 8 for Rich's report. Ed.)*

A letter was read from the Boy Scouts who attended our Fall Meet. They reported that they each had a wonderful time, that several were planning to go for the Railroading Merit Badge, and enclosed a donation to ALS.

Ted Wilming presented a new banner, which will be used at railroad shows and other events.

After some discussion, it was decided that the minutes taken by the Recording Secretary be backed up.

Committee Reports:

- Safety – After a lengthy discussion regarding the Engineer's Test, the Membership agreed to continue requiring the Test every three years. A discussion was had regarding the rule that passengers may not hold children on their laps while riding trains. It was decided to keep the current rule in force. Children may sit between an adult's legs on the floor of a car, or ride on a seat in front of the adult. Every passenger must have both hands free while riding. Babies should not ride trains. Pictures may be taken while riding trains only with the consent of the Board of Directors. If someone is taking photos or videos, there should be no other passengers on the train.
- Clubhouse – All members were reminded to check all doors and windows, along with the coffee maker, before leaving the property if they are the last to leave. Several doors have been left unlocked in the recent past.
- Track – Help is needed in replacing ties along the right of way. Ties marked in yellow must be replaced with new ones. A class will be held in the near future for those interested in helping. Mark Landgraf reported that he has repaired the misalignment of the track at both ends of the turntable.
- Signals – Warren Hockaday reported the availability of 40 valves and a 24-volt power supply along with housings.
- Grounds – All were reminded that due to our deed, our property is private and NOT open to the public. Visitors may visit only when invited by a member, and must be accompanied by that member while they are on the property. On Membership Day, only the guest(s) who are invited may attend, not the entire family.

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

Minutes *(Continued from page 5)*

The Membership desires three bids for snow plowing. Charlie Pellock agreed to submit one.

Skip Densing asked that the water pipe that is removed each winter season to avoid freezing, not be removed until he gives the word. After some discussion it was decided that Skip and Ray Dwyer would settle this problem.

All who use the club engine were reminded of the importance of filling out the logbook after each use. Also please plug in the charger.

- Machine Shop – The shop is still in need of electric power to the container.

Old Business:

In Ken Nelson's absence, Skip Densing read Ken's report of the Fall Meet.

New Business:

Director Ted Wilming nominated a slate of officers for 2012. In addition, several nominations were made from the floor.

The following people were nominated:

*President: Skip Densing and Ray Dwyer

*Vice President: John Camerota and Mark Landgraf *(Important: See both articles on page 4. Ed.)*

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Membership Secretary: Rich Dean

Treasurer: Ben Maggi

*Director 2013: Charlie Pellock and Mike Petrillose

An election will be held immediately following the November Membership Meeting for those offices that have an asterisk.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

* * * * *

Letters to the Editor

Yes Bruce, Things Aren't What They Were

So Bruce, these are my thoughts as to why they're not:

- 1) As you know, we had a serious accident on our track several years ago that stifled our activities – turning a hobby that was fun into one where fear dominated.
- 2) We have fewer active members or members in general than we did several years ago, and that, according to the National Railway Historical Society, has been a trend in all non-profit organizations.
- 3) Some of our older members (and some not so old) who were our most active have died.
- 4) In today's economy, employers are demanding more from their employees, thus giving those employees less free time.
- 5) Also, it's tougher for the self-employed to make a living since they have to work harder and longer hours. During their "free time" they're tired.

So Bruce, things were "good" during your years as an officer. You did a great job, but things today aren't what they were.

Pete Petrillose
Regular Member

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

As the season winds down and you plan your winter projects, now is a good time to perform maintenance on your rolling stock. Here is a brief summary of some items you may wish to address in order to be ready for spring. Many of you just ran your equipment and what needs to be done will be fresh in your mind. If you keep your equipment at the club, taking care of now will avoid you having to face that in the spring.

1. Cars: Check trucks and bolsters for clearances and too much play. You need a certain amount of clearance to avoid derailling, but too much is not safe. Also check your couplers. Do they meet the coupler on the next car exactly?

2. Diesel locomotives – Change your oil and oil filter. It is not good for your engine to be sitting in old dirty oil all winter. In addition check your air filter and fuel filter if you have them. Also check your fire extinguisher. If it is over three years old, it would be good to replace it. Check wiring for a bare wire that could cause a short. Check fuel lines for small leaks and clamps to be sure they are holding what they must hold. Check your battery. Check both

ends of the locomotive for coupler height.

3. Locomotives – Electric: Winterize your batteries. Check for cells that may not be full. Check connectors for corrosion. Check both ends for coupler height.

4. Steam locomotives – Be sure that all moisture is drained. Don't leave anything that could turn to rust. Be sure that everything is lubed for the long winter. Clean flues, check brakes, and be sure that couplers are at the proper height and working correctly. Replace steam oil.

We may have missed some things, but this will get you started. Have a good winter season and we will see you next year. ***

* * * * *

KAYADEROSS & SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK RAILROAD

Brad Peterson

Part III

Editor's note: This is the continuation of a series begun in the September issue.

The 2009 season started in May, but my rail order hadn't come in yet. Not to worry, I had lots to do to keep my crew busy. This year's plan was to get 250 feet of track built including the main crossing across the driveway. I had a lot of faith in my core work crew and plenty of projects to keep

them working on whether I had rail or not. During these first couple of months, we worked on cutting back brush, burning all that brush, hauling fill, and grading roadbed not to mention cutting and distributing all the ties needed for this next big push. We moved the crossing that accesses the back yard from the middle of Maple Bend by the

(Continued on page 8)

See **Kayadeross**

Notes from Rich

At the October Membership Meeting, we accepted the applications of several new members. They are:

Bruce Barrett from Clementon, NJ as an Associate.

Robert England of Hingham, Massachusetts as an Associate.

Brett and Erin Goertemoeller and their daughter **Juliana** from Fairfax, Vermont as Associate Family members.

Bill Kissam from Westport, New York as an Associate.

Richard Rockefeller also from Westport, New York as an Associate.

Edward Sisk of Braintree, Massachusetts as an Associate.

Allan Taylor of Weymouth, Massachusetts as an Associate.

We certainly want to welcome each of you, and hope to see you frequently at the club. This brings our current membership to 55 Regular, 85 Associate, and 10 Junior, along with 1 Life Member, for a total of 151.

Rich

Membership Secretary

* * * * *

Kayadeross

(Continued from page 7)

shed back to near the garage, changed out two hole joint bars in the original 120 feet of track, and got rid of the short ties that I put in the first 50 feet of track.

When July came around, rail had arrived! Our goal (and it sure was an ambitious one for these novices) was to get the track built to the main crossing. That is just under 250 feet from where we had ended up last fall. The roadbed and ties were in place and everyone was ready to work, but it's a slow process just the same. Since I am building track in place, it's hard to get too many people involved in spiking and gauging. We did however get into a nice little system where two guys were spiking and two more were following with ballast and tamping sticks. Overall that day saw track built and finished to MP4 with all the materials laid out the rest of the way up to the crossing.

At this point, I figured that we were done for a couple months. I had been involved in a car accident back in March and this resulted in my needing shoulder surgery scheduled for later in July. I let the guys know that there wouldn't be a workday in

August since I wouldn't be able to do any work with my arm in a sling. They revolted! I was told in no uncertain terms that everyone would be coming for the next meet and I was to not do anything but supervise. Well I gave in and even though it was the least attended meet to date, we got track built to and across the driveway and even got a couple other little projects done too. My always hard working friend Rick took the lead in building the crossing while Tim, JR, and his wife Leanne worked on getting the track up the hill to meet the trench that Rick had dug out. This trench shut down the driveway for the day so we parked the family van in the street nearby. This proved to be a blessing later since we needed the headlights to finish decking the crossing at nearly 9:30 in the evening.

We were able to get two more workdays in for the year and these got more projects taken off the always growing list. We finished the track with another load of ballast spread from MP4 to the crossing and we got started getting the roadbed laid out for the 2010 season. ***

(To be continued)

PROXY BALLOT

This ballot is to be used only by Regular Members of Adirondack Live Steamers who **cannot attend** the November Membership meeting. A regular ballot will be provided for those who attend.

I, the undersigned, do hereby cast my ballot for the following people:

Names for each office are listed alphabetically. Please put an "X" in the blank next to the name you choose.

For the Office of President (Vote for One)

_____ Skip Densing

_____ Ray Dwyer

For the Office of Vice President (Vote for One)

_____ Mark Landgraf

_____ Brad Peterson

For the Office of Director 2012 (Vote for One)

_____ Charlie Pellock

_____ Mike Petrillose

I hereby acknowledge that I am a Regular Member

Print your name

Sign your name

Send completed ballot to:

Mr. Karl Pickles, Recording Secretary
134 Loudon Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Karl must receive this ballot no later than Friday, November 11, 2011 in order for it to be counted.

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

November 12 – Membership Meeting
Election of Officers
December 4 – Albany Train Show
January 1 – New Year's Day Run

Election Day

We Need Your Vote

