

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

OCTOBER 2006

GREAT WEATHER GREET'S FALL MEET

Ken Nelson

After a weekend of great weather and a chance to visit with many old friends, another ALS Fall Meet is history. Perhaps it was the weather, but this Meet began for many people as early as Wednesday. By Thursday evening, the steaming bays were virtually filled, and many of our visitors and members were happily running. Friday was an interesting day with many visitors running, but very few people requesting rides. This changed on Saturday, with long lines, sometimes back to the clubhouse, waiting for rides. A few of our visitors were willing to take passengers, and we do want to thank Skip Densing for making available his long train for most of the day.

Many steam engines, both old and new were present at the Meet, along with some interesting diesels. Ken Gates operated his new Providence and Worcester M420R. Montreal Locomotive Works built only five of these, and Ken has built a model of one of

them. Dave Bortz was seen running an SW 1500 when he wasn't on his Berkshire. Many others, too numerous to mention, were seen enjoying the atmosphere through Sunday afternoon.

Anything as large and complex as this needs a lot of help to make it run smoothly, and I want to thank all of those ALS members who were willing to give of their time to create a successful Meet. Ted Wilming wore two hats for the entire weekend. While organizing the Registration Booth, he also served as Safety Chairman, running several Rules Classes and qualifying many engineers so that they could run over the weekend. Beth LeVine did her usual fantastic job of overseeing the Kitchen, with the help of Pete Petrillose who spent many hours at the grill. Pete and his wife Helena provided another fine meal on Friday evening, and Don Buesing and Beth made possible our Saturday evening Roast Beef dinner.

(Continued on page 4) See Fall Meet

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Next Meeting: Saturday, October 21, 2006, 1:00 PM

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE (See page 9 for details)

Club House

Deadline for November *Whistles in the Woods*:

Saturday, October 21 (Same day as the Meeting)

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Richard Dean, President

Well, "It's in the can." The Fall 2006 Adirondack Live Steamers Meet is over. What a great time. We had wonderful weather and it couldn't have been a better weekend. It rained to the north, it rained to the south, but at ALS it was perfect!

Thanks go out to everyone who pitched in to make the weekend so enjoyable for all. Ken Nelson and Bill Eckert made over 100 phone calls to get people signed up for various positions. Then, Ken and Bill took charge of the weekend and kept things running smoothly all weekend. Thanks, guys. Ted Wilming and crew held numerous safety seminars to get all of the engineers current with the safety quiz. Thanks guys. Beth LeVine did a great job of keeping the kitchen going and stocked. Thanks Beth. We can all pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. It takes many hands to accomplish the great results we ended up with. Thanks ALS club members!!!!

On the same subject, we want to send out our thanks to all of the visiting engineers. It is a monumental task to load, drive hours, unload, run all weekend, load, drive many more hours, and unload the equipment again. The goal at ALS is to provide everyone with an enjoyable time at the "track."

Note: On Friday there were more steamers running than the other brands!

Now, it's time to continue the track expansion at DeSantis Divide. All of the tie material, tie plates, and screws are on site. By the time you read this I hope the new drainage will be installed from the track crossing northwest to the new turnouts for the station entrance. We need track panels built and soon they will need to be installed. Please contact Ken Nelson or me for track building work parties.

NOTE: Due to a conflict at the October 14th ALS Membership Meeting and the Blow Down on the same day, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO HOLD THE ALS OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON THE 21st of October, 2006. Please make a note on your calendar!

See you at the track soon,

Richard Dean, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
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MEMBERSHIP

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WEB SITE FOR MODEL ENGINEERS

Ken Nelson

I want to thank *The Micrometer*, the newsletter of the Tonawanda Creek Road in Amherst, NY for the following:

For those of you who are home machinists, there are two web pages of which you may not be aware. They are connected, and can each be opened by searching "Chaski" or "The Home Machinist."

The first one is www.chaski.com. On this site you will find a list of ten recent topics discussed on the web page. You may choose whichever ones you are interested in.

The second web page can be found at www.chaski.org/homemachinist, and is a forum. There are a variety of topics from which to choose, and you can insert questions for which answers will be forthcoming. ***

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GOT COAL?

For those of you with coal burning steam engines, we have two sources for coal which have been brought to our attention.

According to Larry Green's friend Keith Taylor, Pocahontas soft coal is available at any Aubuchon Hardware store. The store may not stock it, but will order it for you. The price is reportedly \$7.49 for a 50 lb. bag, and if you get more than 60 bags, the price drops to \$6.74 a bag. If you have an Aubuchon nearby, you might want to check it out.

Skylands Energy in New Jersey is now offering Rice, Pea, and Nut-sized coal suitable for live steamers. You can order 25 or 50 lb boxes and have it delivered right to your door. This is anthracite low ash coal. You can call 888-782-3001 or contact their e-mail at alv@skylandsenergy.com, or their web page at www.skylandsenergy.com. ***

Fall Meet *(Continued from page 1)*

Of course there were many others who helped at the cash register, served lunches, made salads, wrapped eating utensils, sliced onions, and did whatever was necessary to help in making our food service possible. One part of preparing food is cleaning up the mess after it's over. Many thanks go out to all who helped sweep and polish.

Saturday and Sunday breakfasts were prepared by Rich and Amy Dean with the help of Howie Bird. Rich was another member who wore several hats acting as president, cook, lift operator, and problem solver.

Jeane Lutz and Bobbie Nelson were the mainstays in the Emporium with the help of several other fine ladies.

Everyone who brought equipment to run was helped by our Lift crew headed up by Vinnie Lutz. Stan Brother, Frank Pierson, Howie Bird, Bill Eckert, Warren Hockaday, Rich Dean, Dick Hosmer, and others all helped with this big job. Meanwhile, Bill Mischler made many trips to pull rolling stock to Pierson Yard. After all of this equipment was put on our track, the job was repeated in reverse on Sunday as our visitors departed.

The very important job of loading passengers onto trains was handled by Skip Densing, Chuck Currey, Bud Weinreich, Dan Pasquance and Jim Ogden among others, and several members made numerous trips around the railroad serving as Conductors. This was the first Meet during which we required Conductors on every train carrying passengers, and our crew carried it off well.

Harry Abendroth did his usual fine job of running the Swap Table, while Larry Green headed up the crew at the

Gauge One area. Llyn Rice, Alan Redecker, and Paul Sternitzke all helped in this operation which drew a lot of visitors, and it is good to see the work which our Gauge One crew has accomplished.

Many people, again too numerous to mention, helped keep the bathrooms and Club House clean throughout the weekend, and John Camerota was always available for emergency track repairs.

Even before the Meet officially started, Mark Armitage spent several hours cutting grass, while Pete Petrillo spruced up the Clubhouse. Howie Bird was a great help to me in spreading ballast on Wednesday, and people like Lance Sherman, Nancy Eckert, Ed Eggleston, and several others always seemed to be present when something needed to be done.

During the Meet, ALS received a gift of several signals which were made by Dave Olson, Associate member from Brookfield, Massachusetts. Dave and Tom Rhodes hope to install and wire these over the coming months, thus adding yet another element of safety to our operation. ALS expresses its appreciation to Dave.

My co-chairman Bill Eckert was always there when I needed him, and ran things on Saturday when Bobbie and I had to leave for a wedding. Both Bill and I want to thank everyone for making the Meet a success. I know we have missed people who should have been mentioned, but please know that if you helped at any time during the Meet, it was noticed and appreciated. At this writing, I have no financial information, but the camaraderie was great, and I feel that we can all be proud of another fine ALS Meet. ***

Notes From Jeane

Membership Secretary's Report Jeane Lutz

Another Fall Meet behind us and a lot of happy people went home from a fun weekend at ALS. We did miss a few of our friends from other area clubs but all in all, the track was never quiet.

Some of our familiar faces were not there this year either. One was Frank Chambers, our librarian. He fell and broke his pelvis a few weeks ago. We all wish him a speedy recovery and his afternoon nap chair is waiting for him. Frank just turned 90 and that makes him our eldest.

Another face that did not appear until late Saturday afternoon was Henry Buesing. Henry is better known to all of us as Hank. He had a tractor fight, the tractor won, and he has been in rehabilitation for a few months. He was our first benefactor for the start of Adirondack Live Steamers Inc. I understand he will be home for good Friday the 15th. We missed you Hank and are so very happy you and Alice are recovered and we shall see you both more often now. You can now court Alice in the Blue golf cart. But watch out that we can find you.

The Emporium stayed steadily busy and again became the focal spot for all to get together and talk of what has happened over the past year.

One very important item I would like to bring up was two of our junior members, Dylan Stein and Nicholas Furnia did one heck of a job in selling raffle tickets for the beautifully quilted Christmas Tree Skirt made by our own Loretta Green. We raffled it last year and there was no claim for it. I even put it in the newsletter numerous times. There was a challenge given to these two boys and they went above and beyond the challenge. I cannot thank you boys enough for the fine job you did. I am sure you all know who they are as I don't think they missed a one of you. These two can even engineer a train also. Thank you both for a job well done.

See you at the track,

Jeane Lutz, Membership Secretary

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You will agree that an ALS member should be involved. I write as a friend and several year ALS Associate member. From the news and impressions when I am “on campus” at ALS, these are my viewpoints. Forgive my blunt recollection of the ‘facts,’ as I only know what other ALS members reported to me.

How did we reach the “Safety Action Items” listed? The long and successful tradition of operations at ALS has been the envy of many. One of our members invited a lady guest, perhaps in the belief that ALS is a “tourist attraction.” That member failed us all by not properly personally instructing his/her guest about our beloved hobby and train ridership. That member’s careless regard for **US**, our club and its history, has put us all in danger. She leaned too far and predictably fell and was injured.

Can this limit the fun, fellowship, and future of ALS?

One of the fond excitement sources has been the ability to “pretend and dream” the experience of railroad travel on our tracks. Children (of all ages) especially benefit from this illusion. The introduction of “decks,” “safety rails,” “no cameras,” “tree removal,” etc. seriously detracts from enjoyment.

Perhaps rather than [installing] OSHA-type safety everything, ALS should consider “Access Issues” as to:

1. Who can enjoy our hobby and grounds.
2. What are the legal and financial duties, responsibilities, and

payments an ALS member accepts for **all** his/her guests. (Paying from one’s own pocket always gets people interested in safety.)

Finally a couple of really good observations:

1. Should ALS be rebuilt for the benefit of an unpredictable insurance carrier?
2. Our organization is a “club;” perhaps it has been allowed to become a “tourist attraction.”
3. Look at all the time ALS’s volunteer leadership has spent on one injury.
4. Remember the goose that was killed for four pounds of dinner, and never again laid a golden egg.

Thank you for receiving and discussing these ALS points.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Lawrence A. Wills

PO Box 650

Red Hook, New York 12571-0650

[It is important for all to understand that the family involved in this accident was not invited in a random way by any member of ALS. This happened on Membership Day, and the “potential member” was invited by the Membership Secretary as are many potential members of our organization. There is also no record of exactly who leaned to cause the derailment. – Ken Nelson, Editor]

A DIFFERENT WORLD

Bruce Rauch

I've been living in Florida for two years now and have adapted reasonably well, I thought. When I came to visit ALS in August, I was not surprised at the progress made in the year since my last visit. The clubhouse nears completion, a major change is being made to DeSantis Divide, Piasecki Bridge is structurally complete, etc. Projects are moving along at a pace I was accustomed to. I can now see why people who only visit once a year are amazed at how much progress is being made while those working on the projects bemoan the slow pace.

I do miss the forest at ALS. When I'm working on or riding the rails at Ridge Live Steamers in Dundee, Florida, I frequently think of how much more comfortable it would be at ALS with lower temperatures and all that shade. Then, I think of your Fall Meet and how things are winding down for the winter, while RLS is getting ready for a small Fall Meet in October and really preparing for a major Winter Meet in February. As you are meeting in your very comfortable, heated clubhouse, we are at the mercy of the weather in our open pavilion.

I am very pleased with the progress on the garden railroad. It has grown so much greater in size and number of participants than I ever imagined. I understand that a lot more expansion of the facilities and an increase in interested members is in the offing. Since I no longer have a basement, I built a very small garden railroad in my front lawn. One of the unexpected benefits is that every time I work on it, neighbors walking by will stop to chat. Everyone thinks it's a great idea. However, if I

want to run my LGB NYC F7 A-B-A with nine coaches I have to take it to RLS. I think the coupler on the front of the lead engine would engage the coupler on the rear of the last car if I tried to put it on my home track.

Friends at both ALS and RLS have asked me if I miss my 1½" scale F7 and the circus train. I really haven't missed it. When I think of the problems of storing it in my garage, or building a storage building at RLS, then have it baking in the summer heat, I don't want all the work and expense involved. Then, when I was at ALS, Nancy Eckert graciously let me take her train around the track. All the old feelings came back and the desire for large scale equipment was rekindled. Perhaps I'll get back into the big stuff before too long.

Probably the biggest difference I've experienced between ALS and RLS occurred on Saturday, September 9, 2006. At ALS when work is winding down and it's getting toward lunch, everyone migrates to the clubhouse for food and camaraderie. There is a similar pattern at RLS except for this particular Saturday. A little after 11:00 AM, we gathered at the gazebo on the highest point of our property and watched the Space Shuttle launch from Kennedy Space Center about 65 miles away. Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore.

As I've said repeatedly, in person and in print, anyone coming to central Florida for a visit should contact me before their trip. I may have a room or two available and I'll be glad to show you some things you would probably never see.

Keep having fun. I'll see you at ALS next summer. ***

FOR SALE

Little Gasser
3 Horsepower gas engine switcher
locomotive
Made by Cannonball
Excellent condition
Asking \$2000
May be seen at ALS
Glenn Freedman (518) 877-6274

Steam Engine
1½" scale, 7¼" gauge
0-6-0 New Haven RR Switcher
Built by James Altieri
Asking \$15,500
Will provide photos upon request or
appointment to see engine.
Craig Weed
H-(603) 336-7245; C-(802) 324-3615

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PLANKS ADDED TO BRIDGES

Thanks to Myron Rapaport and Dick Hosmer, several 2x10 pieces of lumber have been installed in two of our bridges. Hank's Creek Bridge and Dean's Bridge have both had the planks added to their respective decks in order to make a safer walk way across the bridges in case of necessity. A derailment on one of these bridges could also create a problem for passengers trying to get off of the bridge. Now this problem has been eased. In the case of Dean's Bridge, walkways have also been

added to the approach to the bridge on both sides.

We do want to emphasize that these additions are for emergencies only. We do not encourage walking across these bridges except when necessary.

We want to thank Myron for acquiring the lumber and Dick for its installation.

Also for those who may be curious, the wrench which was dropped into the "muck" under the bridge, and temporarily lost, has been recovered and returned to its owner. ***

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Llyn's Summary

Recording Secretary's Report Llyn Rice

Since there was no Membership Meeting in September because of Fall Meet, there are no minutes to report. Our next meeting will be October 21..

CHANGE OF DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

If you have read this issue page by page, you have probably noticed several references to the change of date for our October Membership Meeting this year. We had already scheduled our annual Blowdown for the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15. After getting over the Fall Meet, and preparing ourselves for October, we realized that having a Membership Meeting the same day as Blowdown was just not going to work at all. As a result, our October Membership Meeting for this year will be held on Saturday afternoon, October 21 at 1:00 PM.

Please keep in mind that among other important issues to be discussed during this meeting, we will hear a report from the Nominating Committee, headed up by Director Ted Wilming. Following this, the meeting will be opened for

nominations from the floor. This is your opportunity to nominate any Regular member for any of the following offices:

President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Director

Each of these officers is elected for a one year term with the exception of Director which is a two year term. The remainder of the Board of Directors is made up of the second Director finishing the second year of his term, and the Past President. Elections will be held during the November Membership Meeting.

Please plan to attend the next two important Membership Meetings as we discuss some very important things regarding the future of our club. ***

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JUST FOR LAUGHS

A live steamer was working in his garage/workshop late in the evening, and decided it was time to go to bed. As he got up to his bedroom, his wife indicated that he had left the lights on in the garage. Certain that he had turned them off, he looked out to find that there were several men in his workshop, robbing him. He immediately called the police and indicated that he was being robbed. The police said that they were awfully busy at the present but that they would get there as soon as possible. After watching for another few seconds as the men carried item after item into their get-away car, he again called the police and said

“You won’t have to worry about those guys robbing my garage. I just shot them all.” Within two minutes, his house was surrounded by police. They arrested all of the men and said to the owner

“I thought you said that you had shot them all.”
The owner answered

“I thought you said that you were busy.”

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

First Class

Nominations

+

Blowdown

=

Join Us

NOTE PAD

October 14, 15 – Blowdown

October 21 – Membership Meeting

November 11 – Annual Meeting
and Election of Officers

December 3 – Albany Train Show