

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

OCTOBER 2008

FALL MEET OUTWITS HANNAH

Ken Nelson

The 2008 Fall Meet is history, and although the remnants of Hurricane Hannah did have an effect, the Meet was by no means washed out. Wednesday, a beautiful day, found the usual early arrivals present and operating. Thursday and Friday were equally beautiful and by Friday evening, there was quite a bit of night running. As in the past, operation on Friday morning and afternoon was in the opposite direction or "eastbound." Both members and guests seem to enjoy the feeling one gets of a "different" railroad when going the other way. About 3:00 AM on Saturday, the rain started. Talk all over the ALS grounds was that the rain was supposed to stop between 10:00 and 4:00, and that everything would go off as scheduled. Well your Meet Chairman hoped they were right. At 12:15 or so, it was drizzling, but plans continued to have all participants line up in Pierson Yard for the planned anniversary festivities. As if

on cue, the showers came to a halt at 1:00 PM and we began with a short talk by Don Buesing concerning our history. This was followed by a whistle salute which brought the house down. We then burned the mortgage, heard about our newly acquired club locomotives, and began the parade of locomotives lead by a train of our Charter Members. The drizzle began again during the parade, but by that time no one seemed to care. After the parade, a cake and sparkling cider were served to all.

Sunday dawned beautiful, and while many guests began to disappear, others spent the day getting in another run.

If you stayed away because of the weather, you missed a good Meet. I do want to thank all those people who were there for the duty for which they signed up. As usual, some did not show and their positions had to be filled by some of our old reliables.

(Continued on page 4) See Fall Meet

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Next Meeting: Saturday, October 11, 1:00 PM

Club House

Nomination of Officers

Deadline for the November *Whistles in the Woods*

Saturday, October 18

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Although I was not there for every moment, the Fall Meet seemed to be well attended and enjoyable for everyone. It was nice to once again see our friends from the various steam clubs across the Northeast. This particular weekend was also our celebration of 25 years of building trains, tracks, and friendships. Though somewhat low key, and just the way we like things, we did have a few minutes of pomp and circumstance. A short narrative of the club's history was read, mention was made of all those who have given as the club's presidents, and a special ceremony to commemorate the final payment of our newest land acquisition. Neighbor and ALS member Charlie Pellock received final payment earlier in the year. This was celebrated with a "burning of the mortgage" within the locomotive fireboxes of Dick Hosmer and Richard Dean. Ray Dwyer would have had his share to burn but his loco was not steamed up. Dick, Richard, and Ray were the force behind making this land purchase agreement work. Thank you gentlemen! I would also like to thank our Meet coordinator, Ken Nelson, for being the 25th Anniversary Event MC as well as for his duties as the Meet Chairman. Thanks Ken...Well Done!

As the season is rapidly coming to a close it is probably appropriate to dwell on this year's accomplishments. There are many. The new mainline expansion upon the new land is well underway, with the cut and fill operation at and near Busse Tunnel in full swing. The final tasks to finish the DeSantis Divide rebuilding project are nearly done as the track bonds are being installed for signaling. The conversion of the rear storeroom into the new library is well underway. The foundation and earthwork for the new ballast dump are complete. A second 10x40 storage container is to be delivered soon with a third joining it for more storage capacity. And these are just some of the more notable highlights. Also of note is the continuing and never ending track maintenance that largely goes unnoticed. That great ride doesn't just happen ya know!

In the coming winter months we hope to get back to track panel building. The new expansion will require over a thousand feet of track to complete. This does not include the new steam service area or the car storage yard. Hopefully we'll see the library room finished. Then we need to plan the shelving etc. This is not an easy task as everyone seems to have an opinion of how to do it. So what else is new? As a club, everyone's input is important...but we can't satisfy everyone.

In a few weeks, we'll have one last organized fling on the rails for our Blowdown Weekend, October 18 & 19. I'm planning to do another Turkey Dinner with all the fixins'. Call me (518-587-3172) with your reservation. It will be \$10 per person, and please bring something to share. Or you can e-mail me at donbuesing@gmail.com.

At the October 11th meeting we will have nominations for the club's officers. As the Junior Director, Ted Wilming is the Nominations Chairman. All positions are open for nomination except for the Junior Director and Past President.

Hope to see you all at the Membership Meeting and the Blowdown!

Don

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
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Whistles in the Woods

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MEMBERSHIP

- Anyone interested in joining the ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS should contact Rich Dean, Membership Secretary.
Phone: (518) 656-9091
E-Mail: Isomlocoworks@adelphie.com OR
rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

BLOWDOWN

Another summer at ALS is rapidly coming to an end. Have you taken full advantage of your membership and joined the fun throughout the year?

You have one more chance. The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 18th and 19th is our annual Blowdown, when we all get together for our last official days of operation.

As mentioned in Don's President's Page, he is planning another turkey dinner. Please bring \$10 per person and something to share. Call or e-mail Don with your reservation. We hope to see you there. ***

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NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Our Membership Meeting in October traditionally includes the nomination of officers for the following year, with election to follow in November. We will nominate one or more people to run for President, Vice President, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, each of which is a one year term. In addition we will nominate one or more persons to run for the office of Director which is a two year term.

Only Regular Members may serve **in** office, but any member may nominate a Regular Member **for** office. Please be sure to get their permission before nominating them.

Those with questions should contact Ted Wilming, Director 2009, who is currently chairman of the nominating committee.

This is your club. Expressing a willingness to serve on the Board of Directors is a fine way to get your ideas and opinions into action. ***

Fall Meet (*Continued from page 1*)

Of course no Meet can take place without the help of many people. Ted Wilming did his usual good job with Registration, often on short notice when the scheduled person did not show up. Beth Levine was, as always, outstanding in her job as Food Chairman. I think she lived in the kitchen for three or four days, often substituting for members who thought we were rained out. Penny Landgraf and Bobbie Nelson held down the fort in the Emporium, selling many items including our new Anniversary T Shirts designed by Jonathan and Warren Hockaday. Bill Eckert and others were always available when needed to help our guests with the lift. Nancy Eckert, with the help of several others, kept our

trash under control, and John Camerota, with the help of Mark Landgraf, kept our track in good operating condition. Llyn Rice and several others kept the Gauge One operating.

On Saturday, as mentioned above, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary. I want to thank Charlie Pellock for his tireless help with the sound system, Joyce and Paul Sternitzke of Green Frog for putting the entire celebration on video, and Dick Hosmer and Skip Densing for their help in arranging the Anniversary Festivities.

It was too bad that we had to have a little rain on Saturday, but on the whole, I think we can say that the 2008 Fall Meet was a success. Many thanks to all who made it happen. ***

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SAFETY REMINDER

Ted Wilming

REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU FOLKS MAY HAVE HEARD OR SEEN AT THE FALL MEET, IT IS NOT OK TO EXCEED THE POSTED SPEED LIMITS AT ANY TIME ON THE PROPERTY!

The speed limits were set to preclude damage to the property and operating

equipment as well as to ensure the safety of the equipment operator and others on the property.

This rule is for the safety of all members, and applies to all members and guests. Without the cooperation of everyone, this facility might be lost to all who wish to enjoy our great hobby. ***

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OCTOBER SAFETY TIP

Ted Wilming and Ken Nelson

For the past four months, we have dealt with hand signals. We hope that you have benefited, and have been able to get comfortable with those which we have presented. You can practice at home with your spouse and/or your children. Give them a signal and see if they know what it means. Then reverse roles and take a signal from them. The more you use them, the more comfortable and natural they will become. As we have said so often, please do not make up your own. That just confuses everyone.

This month, we move to whistle signals. Several years ago, a friend of mine who had little interest in the railroad, indicated to me that the engineers who operated trains in his neighborhood just loved to blow their

whistles. He had no idea that the whistles which he was hearing actually meant something, and that some of them were required by the federal government.

While ALS does not require us to blow our whistles or horns, such signals can be a great help in both communication and safety. It would certainly be beneficial if ALL engineers were aware of them. So let's begin with perhaps the most often heard of all.

First, let us explain that there are basically two types of whistle signals. A long, which we will indicate with a long line: _____, and a short, which we will indicate with an 0.

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

_____ 0 _____

Answer: APPROACHING A GRADE CROSSING

This signal is a "safety" signal, and indicates that the train which is blowing it is coming up on a grade crossing or a place where the railroad crosses a street, road, or highway. It lets any car, or other vehicle on the road, know that you are coming.

At ALS, we have several grade crossings. The one at the top of the hill in Tanglefoot is used by pedestrians walking to see or operate the Gauge One Layout. I have seen several small children running across this crossing who aren't looking for trains which may be approaching. Another is located in Big Moose, and is currently very seldom used. The same thing is true for the one approaching Pierson Yard, and the ones on either side of Horseshoe Trestle. However these will be used a lot more when we complete the road which will run around our property. Another is located between the Clubhouse and the Car Barn. Several cars and trucks now use this crossing in going to the Car Barn or a camp site during a Meet. The last one is, for the most part, a pedestrian crossing as you approach the steaming bays and head toward the Clubhouse. Many people cross this and cannot see trains coming around the curve and through DeSantis.

In every case, the train has the right of way, but should be very careful to prevent an accident. Blowing the proper whistle signal goes a long way in letting others know that you are approaching. At the same time, engineers must exercise caution and LOOK both ways before crossing. Each crossing has a post with a "W" on it to remind you to blow. These are not there for decoration.

Some railroads use this same signal for approaching a tunnel, but we will talk more about that next month. See you then.

DESANTIS SIGNALLING WORK CONTINUES

Skip Densing and Ken Nelson, with the help of Dick Hosmer, have continued the work of signaling DeSantis. Most of the bond wires are completed, and they have begun running the conduit along the wall. After the signal cabin is installed, wires must be run through this conduit from each of the track circuits, and to each of the signals. In addition, the turnout at

the entrance of DeSantis will be operated by air pressure. When they complete the signals for westbound running, they hope to install signals for running eastbound.

All of this will take some time. Please be patient as this work is under way and don't be afraid to offer your help. ***

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Notes From Rich

It was good to see many of you at the Fall Meet, although Amy and I could not be there for the entire weekend.

We did accept several new members during the Meet. In a couple of cases, handwriting was hard to read, so please forgive me if I misspelled your name. We are happy to welcome the following:

Garrett Aldershoff from Scotia, NY joined as an Associate.

Chris Aguirre and **Mary Beth Shannon** along with son Devin and their daughters Gracie and Mardy all live in Ballston Spa, NY and have joined as Associates.

John Clemens and **Nancy** of Brattleboro, VT joined us as Associates. John is a friend of Bill Banta.

Leroy Ketchum

Edward Odoriska who lives in Troy, NY joined as an Associate.

Frank Raymond of Mechanicville, NY

William and Phyllis Szymko, of Marcy, NY, have joined us again as Associates.

Lawrence Wills from Red Hook, NY also joined as an Associate.

We hope you can all join us at Blowdown on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19.

See you at the track,

Rich, Membership Secretary

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the September Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Hosmer at 7:30 PM

In the absence of Recording Secretary Lynn Rice, and Treasurer Glenn Freedman, there were no minutes or treasurer's report read. Membership Secretary Richard Dean presented the names of two new members as of the time of the meeting. (*Several others joined during the Meet and all are listed in Rich's report elsewhere in this issue.* Ed.) Rich also reported that a few people who have joined are not listed on the Membership List due to the fact that they have not signed their release form as yet.

- New locomotive – Dick Hosmer reported that the 0-4-0 Camelback Locomotive has been traded to John Lukasavage of the New Jersey Live Steamers for a sum of money and an SW switching locomotive diesel. Two caveats were included in the sale:
 1. A plaque hung on the diesel locomotive in memory of the previous owner's son must remain on the loco.
 2. The new owner must attend our Spring Meet next year and demonstrate the work he has done to make the steam locomotive operable.
- Ken Nelson gave a report concerning the Fall Meet. Those in attendance were asked to fill in, where necessary, the few blanks still needing volunteers. Ken explained the planned activities for the Anniversary Festivities to be held on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 PM.
- A discussion followed concerning the new Anniversary T Shirts.
- It was reported that Hank Buesing (Don's father) was in the hospital and was recuperating from a seizure. It was doubtful that he would be able to attend the Anniversary Festivities on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned

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PHOTOS WANTED

Did you take any photos at this year's Fall Meet? If you got some good shots, please send along a copy of one or more to our webmaster, Bill Eckert.

We have a place on our webpage for such photos, and unless you send some along, that page is blank.

And your photos need not be just of Fall Meet. Anything that happened this past year is interesting to look at.

Send your photos to:

bill@adironacklivesteamers.org

Our webpage is seen by many, and is as interesting as YOU make it. ***

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

First Class

NOTE PAD

**October 11 – Membership Meeting
Nomination of Officers**
**October 18-19 – Blowdown and
Turkey Dinner**
**November 8–Membership Meeting
Election of Officers**
December 7 – Albany Train Show
**Wednesdays and Saturdays –
Work Days**

Blowdown

Come Join Us