

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

September 2009

FALL MEET IS RIGHT AROUND THE BEND!

Ben Maggi

Yes, our Fall Meet is nearly upon us, taking place on September 11-13. Attending and operating or riding trains at one of our meets is a lot of fun, and many of our visitors come from different states or even Canada to experience our scenic main line and fellowship with our members. To insure that everyone, including us ALS members, have a good time, we all have a responsibility to pitch in and work hard to make sure some people don't get stuck doing all the work. An hour or so here, an hour or so there, and then you can enjoy the rest of the meet with everyone else! You can help:

... In the REGISTRATION BOOTH making sure greeting people and helping them fill out waiver forms;

... In the KITCHEN cooking food, serving it, or running the cash register;

... In the EMPORIUM STORE, selling clothes, hats, and other novelty items;

... At the LIFT AREA if you are qualified, loading and unloading trains;

... At the GAUGE ONE track, assisting people operating and answering questions;

... Take out the TRASH, (and no, it isn't as bad as it sounds!); and

... CLEAN UP THE CLUBHOUSE by sweeping, picking up papers, checking the bathrooms, etc.

*** PLEASE... call Skip Densing NOW (518-663-5507) to volunteer for your preferred positions. If we don't have enough volunteers to allow the meet to run smoothly, people will be assigned!**

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 7:30 PM
In the Club House - Organization Meeting for Meet**

Deadline for October *Whistles in the Woods*: Saturday, September 19

Other Important Dates: See Last Page

President's Corner

Hey Everybody!

Wow... summer is OVER already! Do you believe it? It seems to have gone awfully fast: did you get YOUR TEN visits to the club yet this year? Did you bring another member with you and did you *enjoy* the visit.

Part of the *dirty dozen* has laid the ballast track in place but it still needs to be ballasted. (How ironic!).

The **FALL MEET** is only two (2) weeks away and **NO ONE** has called me or Charlie about what they want to do. Regular members should give two hours minimum, with the preference being two hours on each of two days. Remember, these hours will be quicker than you think and then you can take *all* the time you want to see all of the kinds of trains, and talk with their owners... meaning fellow live steamers!

I would like to see track building get back into swing with the list that is posted. After the meet we can set up the track jigs and get started. We should also figure out a time to have a short class to instruct new members on how to help build the track panels.

I know it is *only* September but *our* elections are coming up in November. Do you like your present board? Have you asked them if they all want to run another term? Do you have someone you want who you think could do a better job of it? Have you asked them if they are willing to run for that position? REMEMBER: nominations **CLOSE** at the end of the October meeting so you only have two months to get this done...

So I hope you have enjoyed your club this season so far. Labor Day weekend is coming so have a **HAPPY** and **SAFE** weekend! See you all at the **Fall Meet!**

Thanks,
Skip, President

Whistles in the Woods
NEWSLETTER OF THE
ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS
CLUB TELEPHONE
(518) 583-2580

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Skip Densing

Phone: (518) 663-5507

E-Mail: skip@adironacklivesteamers.org

Vice President: Ray Dwyer

Phone: (518) 692-7001

E-Mail: ray@adironacklivesteamers.org

Recording Secretary: Karl Pickles

Phone:

E-Mail: karl@adironacklivesteamers.org

Treasurer: Glenn Freedman

Phone: (518) 877-6274

E-Mail: glenn@adironacklivesteamers.org

Membership Secretary: Richard Dean

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: rich@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2008: Ted Wilming

Phone: (518) 654-7108

E-Mail: ted@adironacklivesteamers.org

Director 2009: Charlie Pellock

Phone: (518) 584-4492

E-Mail: charlie@adironacklivesteamers.org

Past President: Dick Hosmer

Phone: (518) 235-0771

E-Mail: dick@adironacklivesteamers.org

NEWSLETTER

Whistles in the Woods

STAFF

Editor: Ken Nelson

Phone: (518) 377-7176

E-Mail: pocovalley@msn.com

Publisher: Pete Petrillose

Columnists: Skip Densing and Rich Dean

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

WEB PAGE

Webmaster: Bill Eckert

Phone: (802) 226-7618

E-Mail: bill@adironacklivesteamers.org

Website: adironacklivesteamers.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

Phone: (518) 656-9091

E-Mail: deanelect@roadrunner.com

WEATHER HOLDS FOR FAMILY DAY II

We hope that you did not stay home on August 9th because it was cloudy. It only "sprinkled" at ALS, and the way the weather has been going this summer, that was a great plus. The light shower that we got was very brief, and while it was cloudy, about twenty people enjoyed a fine day at the track. The ALS track that is, not the one in Saratoga with the horses. Ours has Iron Horses!

About the only thing missing was steam. While I don't blame anyone for not wanting to steam up in cloudy weather, with the threat of rain, the diesels kept the show going. Nancy and Bill Eckert had Big Red pulling people for a while in the morning, and Dave French and Ken Nelson pulled several trainloads of people all afternoon. I think everyone who wanted a ride got at least one, and everyone got their trains put away before any real rain began. We were fortunate to have a few visitors present who had not previously seen our facility. They were very impressed, and plan to return in the near future. They were guests of a member whose husband is in a nursing home. We are sorry that he could not join us, but he was with us in spirit.

Bill Eckert, Jim Odgen and Ted Wilming helped with the cooking of hamburgers and hot dogs, and there seemed to be enough food for everyone. The usual thanks goes out to all who provided dishes for the food table. Maybe next year, we will be able to have a Family Day with sunshine for a change. We were not very lucky in that department this summer.

Safety Tip

Ted Wilming

All visiting Engineers must be current in the 3-year Operating Safety Quiz, which means that if you have taken it since 200 (and passed) you are good to go. However, if you know that it has been a while since you last took the quiz or you are not sure when it was you last took it you can easily meet our requirement before the meet. As long as you take the quick prior to operating on our property, you will be allowed to run on our rails. The easiest way is to log onto our website at: <http://adirondacklivesteamers.org/>, then click “operational rules” along the left hand side of the webpage, and follow the next red link to the quiz. If you need a refresher course on our operating rules, they are also on the website at the same location. Either print out the quiz, fill it out and bring it with you to the club or fill it out online and send it in that way. protects everyone operating trains or riding on trains by insuring that everyone follows the same rules and uses common sense.

Just a reminder: even though we have lots of great things to see along our mainline, NO photographic cameras, video cameras, cell phones, or other recording devices are to be used by anyone while riding, operating, or standing on any trains at the Adirondack Live Steamers. If you want to take movies of the track while operating to show others, or if you want to take pictures while riding along, you must FIRST talk to the Club’s Board of Directors. NOT ask for forgiveness after! There are special procedures that can be arranged to accommodate on-train photography, but it must be with their permission. Remember, it is so easy for someone to accidentally tip the train and cause an accident.

All trains operating at the Adirondack Live Steamers must have safety chains, ropes, or metal linking devices between all of the cars pulled by the locomotives. In addition, a serviceable fire extinguisher must be carried on all electric or gasoline powered locomotives. If you haven’t checked lately to see if your extinguisher is still good, do it now before the meet. That way, if it needs to be recharged or replaced you will still have time to do it.

Be safe, and have a great time running!

Minutes

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the August Meeting

President Skip Densing called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM

The Recording Secretary's report was read and accepted as corrected.

The Treasurer was not able to attend, so there was no report.

In the absence of Rich Dean, Membership Secretary, two names were presented for Regular Membership. They are Charlie Reilly and John Lukasavage, both sponsored by Nancy and Bill Eckert. Both were accepted.

Committee Reports:

- Safety: As mentioned previously, Gasoline Alley needs to be moved. A concrete form must be poured as a base, and then the existing building will be moved to it. It is planned to place fire barrels at every two even numbered mileposts. Additional barrels will be needed. Anyone interested in helping, please contact President Skip Densing.
- Clubhouse: Lance Sherman has installed additional braces. A new refrigerator has been acquired for the Club House kitchen. The one it is replacing will be stored in the back room unplugged and used only for Meets.
- Grounds: The boundary line on the north side of the property needs to be marked. Charlie Pellock, Skip Densing, and Ray Dwyer are working on this.

Old Business:

- Blocks are needed for building retaining walls, and replacing several such walls, which were previously built with wood. Study continues as to what type of blocks to use.
- A motion was made and seconded to purchase the material needed to build trusses over and between the two new containers, in order to have a place to store our large equipment. The motion was passed.

New Business:

- A Chairman for the Fall Meet is still needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

* * * * *

LAST CALL

For several months, we have been asking all members to put their names on their gas cans, battery chargers, and any such items which have been stored at ALS in gasoline alley, the engine house, the car barn, the tool shed, the club house, or any other building. If you have not been to ALS lately, and may have such items stored here, please come this month and put your name on them. Any item found on the property which does not have a name on it, will have ALS put on it in September.

We are not talking about locomotives and cars here. We are referring to the small items that are left everywhere. We hope that you know what is here that belongs to you, and will identify it now.

This is your last and final call to claim your property. There is too much stuff lying around which is unidentified, and nobody knows to whom it belongs. Please take note today.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Myron Rapaport is interested in selling some of his train equipment. Some of the freight cars include a boxcar, a hopper, a Burro crane with accompanying tender, a flat car, and a caboose. He also has a Shay steam locomotive and an accompanying log car, and a blue ALCO Fleximotive connected to a flat car set

up for the operator. All of his equipment can be seen in the Car Barn, and he can be reached via telephone at: (518) 656-9509 or through regular mail at: 16 Burnt Ridge Road, Lake George, NY, 12845.

LIBRARY DONATIONS:

Thank you to everyone who has made donations in the form of books, magazines, Historical Society newsletters, and other printed media. We have also received donations of movies and DVDs. The generosity of our fellow club members has meant that our library is really turning into something that we can all be proud of. I am currently going through our collection and recording what we have. If you have made a donation recently then I already have a record of it.

If you are thinking of donating something please either talk to me first or write down what it is and put it on the table in there. I am not sure if these donations qualify for tax-exemption purposes, but I can look into it. If that is something that might interest you, make sure you keep a record of what you donated. Regardless, we all win with a clean, well stocked, well organized, and well used library!

* * *

Proto Operation Day II - August 22, 2009

Ben Maggi

Normally this is where Skip or Ken or I would write about what a great time we had. And it is always easy to do because we have a blast running trains. Granted, twice this year there were weather reports threatening rain and it did sprinkle for about 30 minutes on Saturday, but the rest of the day was perfect. It didn't stop us from having a great time. What is stopping you?

Most of you know by now what a Proto-Operations day is. In essence, we take the railroad's circular layout with many passing sidings and alternate routes and break it up into a point-to-point railroad, starting and ending at Pierson yards. Some passing tracks are used for trains (which can be long with freights frequently over 10 cars and Passenger trains as long as necessary to meet the demand) to meet, and other passing sidings are treated as two independent industrial sidings that happen to be arranged back to back. Cars are shuttled around through waybills into and out of their destinations, freight trains pass each other and get off the main for passenger trains, and railroad forms are communicated to crews from the dispatcher for main line authorization. We enforce all the necessary rules to keep the crew safe, and ignore the technical details that only John Camerota can fully understand. (Though he will try to make you learn 'em)!

This Operations day was notable for a couple of firsts:

- One of our brakemen/conductors, Bill Critchlow, drove almost two hours each way to work his first shift. And he had a blast!
- I tried my hand at dispatching and had two trains "meet" each other in an unplanned location. Thankfully, it was in a place they could pass safely. Oops!
- Skip ran a passenger train "scenic special" full of children and parents who were able to take in all the natural wildlife, including two deer at the Car Barn!
- Chris and Karsen Ritter handled one freight train assignment by themselves while Ken and Bill worked together to keep another freight train on track.

If you want to join in the fun, stop by next Operations Day. You can run your train, serve as a crew member on another's, help run one of the yards, watch me bungle the dispatching again, or just ride the trains back and forth. Whatever your pleasure, you will have a great time. And guess what? I will bring FREE DONUTS next time for all!

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

FIRST CLASS

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 10 – Fall Meet Meeting
7:30 PM – Clubhouse
September 10-13 – Fall Meet
October 10 – Membership Meeting
10 AM – Clubhouse
Nomination of Officers
October 17-18 – Blowdown
November 14 – Membership Meeting
10 AM – Clubhouse
Election of Officers
December 6 – Albany Train Show
Wednesdays and Saturdays – Work Days
Every Day – Run Day