



The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202
Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

FIRST CLASS



Don't Forget the Picnic!

July 19th, 2:00 P.M.

**We supply the Hotdogs, Burgers &
Ice Cream ...**

**You bring a Favorite Dish &
Beverages.**



The PLS GAZETTE

May-June 2014

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

MAY-JUNE TOPICS: Green Signals Ahead **1** Bob Bent **3** Pot Luck Thanks **3**
Membership News **3** Donations **3** Membership Gauge **3** Spring Meet Thanks **3**
Spring Meet Photos **4** Faces at the Meet **6** Projects Update **7** Picnic Reminder **7**

Green Signals Ahead

As one might imagine, it takes a lot of hard work to keep the property at PLS looking good for our members and guests. When all our hard work is measured against regularly scheduled run days held on the 4th Sunday of each month from April through October, we start off with a scant seven run days for a normal running season. Add the Picnic, Spring and Fall meets along with Turkey Trot day (a special Gauge One run day in November), you are up to 13 regularly scheduled run days. Although not well attended due to the late afternoon starting time, the scheduled afternoon runs we have on the third Saturday after our membership meetings brings us up to a possible 20 days when we can all get together to enjoy visiting with friends, seeing, riding and running trains at the PLS track site.

Now considering every Wednesday and Saturday between 9 AM and 3 PM is a work day at PLS, and, depending on the tasks being worked on, the work day might end at noon or extend until three PM or longer for work that cannot be interrupted. Work like painting, concrete, and some mechanical projects cannot be stopped until completed. The Wednesday and Saturday work days total about one hundred (100) days every year to keep the railroad running and looking good. In other words, for every one day of fun running trains, we put in five (5) to eight (8) days of work. I should mention that although Wednesday and

Saturday are “scheduled” work days, it is not uncommon to find members working on other days to “get the job done.”

I sometimes think we forget that we are all custodians of the PLS property. That gives us great pride and pleasure, but when I look around on work days I see that the majority of the work is performed by a rather small number of members who work very hard performing the tasks needed to keep PLS running and looking good. Not only is it a small number of members doing the majority of the work, but it is the same members doing the work.

Here are some of the activities you see going on at PLS on Wednesday and

Saturday work days. Grass is being mowed with both riding and hand operated mowers. Weed whacking and shrub trimming is taking place and it is not uncommon to see someone painting — there is always something to paint at PLS! With about 11,000 feet of track on the ground having approximately 44,000 wooden track ties that are held together with 176,000 track nails or screws there is always track maintenance required. And to get from one track to another there are dozens of switches manual and electric that needs to be kept in good working order. Keep in mind that some of our track has been on the ground for more

(Continued on page 2)



Ronald Shupard

Perkiomen Day Visitors get a ride behind the new club engine on May 24th.

Green Signals Ahead

(Continued from page 1)

than 40 years and yes, wood placed in the ground, no matter how it is treated, does rot or is attacked by bugs! To get the trains and cars to the track and two steaming bays areas we have two electric train transfer elevators and one manual lift. We have nine buildings, large and small on the property that require attention throughout the year. There are those non-glamorous jobs that need to be done like trash cans to be emptied, rest rooms with toilets that need to be cleaned. A small kitchen that needs cleaning and a carpeted meeting room that needs to be vacuumed. Like a rest room for people, steam trains need to dump (ash) too. The steaming bays and the rail yard has ash pits or cans that need to be emptied and cleaned. Another activity that is overlooked is set up on run days. Set up includes putting up the small tent and chairs at the front gate, setting up signs, putting out fire extinguishers in the yard, making sure the fire buckets are filled on the trestle and track side, unlocking the chains on Mercer Bridge and the Trestle. Walking the track and clearing the track of limbs and branches that may have fallen from our many, many trees. We should not overlook that in the fall all our beautiful trees drop all those wonderful leaves that need to be raked and vacuumed up. Set up for the Spring and Fall meets require setting up our big tent and tables for sale items and our Potluck dinner.

All Associate and Regular members are invited to participate in keep-

2014 PLS Calendar of Events	
Saturday, June 21	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM Afternoon/Evening Run
Sunday, June 22	Run Day - Members & Guests
Sunday, June 29	Run Day Rain Date
Wednesday, June 25	TCA Convention Visit – Noon-2 PM
Saturday, July 19	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM Afternoon/Evening Run
Saturday, July 19	Club Picnic
Sunday, July 20	Club Picnic Rain Date
Sunday, July 27	Run Day - Members & Guests - No Rain Date
Sunday, August 3	Run Day Rain Date

ing PLS looking good and running smoothly. I know that not all of our members can spend Wednesday and Saturday working at PLS as many have busy work schedules and family activities and other obligations that keep them away. I do have a few suggestions on how you might give a helping hand. When planning to attend one of our run days consider showing up a little early, around 9 AM, and give a hand in helping set up for the days' activities. Even if it's just moving a fire extinguisher or two, help set up a table or bring out a few chairs, these simple tasks go more quickly when there is an

extra helping hand. If you are interested in some of the work we perform to set up on the railroad you might want to walk along and give a hand setting up the ten semaphore signal heads. Good walking shoes are needed because it means walking part of the rail road. Kids can help too by picking up sticks and branches that have littered the track. Railroading is fun and the work it takes to keep it running can be fun too.

I look forward to seeing you track side,

Frank Webb - President

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary	C. Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Rd., Norristown, PA 19403	rmorris1171@verizon.net
Treasurer	Walter Mensch	1348 Sheep Hill Rd., Pottstown, PA 19465	
Gazette Editor	Allen Underkofler	Box 609, Kimberton, PA 19442-0609	pls@apunderkofler.com

Board of Directors: Sharon Connelly, connellywood@verizon.net; Ron Henderson, ronjhenderson@verizon.net; Steve Leatherman, steveleatherman@gmail.com; Jim Salmons, jshay6@verizon.net; Bruce Saylor, bgsberk@comcast.net; Ron Shupard, ShuSmoke@aol.com.

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc. • P.O. Box 26202, Collegeville, PA. 19426-0202 • 610-454-0477 • www.palivesteamers.org

Projects Update

Station Roof Extension

The station roof extension was fully operational and painted in time for the Spring Meet. It received plenty of use at the meet. Here passengers await a night ride on Saturday evening.



1" Car Barn

The 1" car barn is now completely operational with several of its tracks occupied.



Multi-Gauge Bridge

The newly-completed multi-gauge brige received action during the Spring meet.



Faces at the Meet



Clockwise Top Left: PLS president Frank Webb; past president Lee Nonnemacher; Bill Normart and John Caldwell; Dave Rose; Scott Spencer and his sons.



In Memoriam

Bob Bent

Robert D. “Bob” Bent Passed away on April 20, 2014.

Bob was a long-time Associate Member of PLS who upgraded to Regular Member status in 1996 when he acquired a one-inch scale 0-4-0 steam locomotive. For many years, he was a regular volunteer at PLS work days. Bob also had an interest in the East Broad Top Railroad in Rockhill, Pennsylvania. Bob’s health began failing in the last few years, and in 2013 the PLS Board of Directors bestowed him with an Honorary Membership. Bob lived most of his life in Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania where he worked as a supervisor for the parks department. He was also a lifetime member of the Springfield Fire Company. Bob is Survived by his wife of 48 years, Ann Marie, a son, two daughters and three grandchildren. Our condolences go to Bob’s family and friends.



Thanks to Our Pot Luck Helpers

PLS could not provide the great picnics and pot luck suppers if it were not for the welcomed efforts of members like grill master Jay Shupard and his family.

Many thanks to Jay and his helpers!



Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Tyler Stamy, Joe Guarilia, Kenneth E. Thomas, Gary Beadle, Russell Fox, Louis M. Skypala, Harihar Chudamani, Douglas Eddy, Richard Ritter, Elise Robinson, Cory Straub, Stanley J. Noeker Jr, Paul Tyson, and Walter Berko. Applying to upgrade to Regular Membership are: Jay Forsythe, Chris Becker, and Paul W. Miller.

We are sorry to learn of the passing of Honorary Member Bob Bent and of long-time Associate Members Alan Hansen and Pete Heberer. PLS wishes to extend its sympathies to their families and friends.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following members for donations received during April and May: Tom McInerney, Jim Barker, and Scott R. Spencer. Thank you also to Catherine Bent, and Bruce and Mary Saylor for their contributions to PLS in memory of Bob Bent.

Membership Gauge

As of May 31, PLS has:

- 104 Regular Members
- 236 Associate Members
- 8 Honorary Members

Spring Meet Thanks

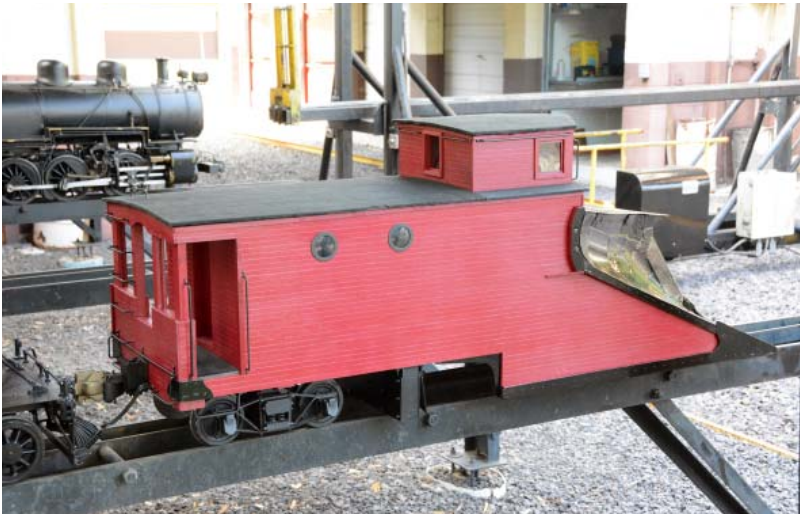
Kathy Parris wishes to acknowledge those who helped from set up to clean up of the Kitchen and Snack Areas, plus the donors of the delicious baked goods, macaroni salad, pickled eggs, and baked beans. Thanks to: Al Hein, Rose Ann Wagner, Sue Borders, Sharon Connelly, Cathy Barker, Gail Keir, Heidi Vertrees, Walt Mensch, Mary Saylor, Bruce Saylor, Barry Shapin, George Cooper, Ron Shupard, Sue Webb, Bruce Barrett, Joan Freer, Carol Quirk, Fran Shirey, Kirby Haskell, Mike Moore, Roy Nelson, Janet Fego, Barb Miller, Pat Speak, Deb Rose, Pat Heller, and Mary Lou Delp. The continued support by Redner’s Warehouse Markets is appreciated.

Spring Meet Photos

The weather was great but the turnout light for our Spring Meet. The new club SP diesel received a good workout with guests

— Allen Underkofler.

Clockwise Right and Center: Steve Leatherman gives visitors rides using the club engine; Bruce Saylor unveils his new scratch-built snowplow; Joe Tanski who travelled from New York; John Forsythe.



Kaeden Peffel selects a route.