



Green Signals Ahead

Merry Christmas

It's now the first week of December 2019 and in just about 3 weeks we will welcome in the New Year - 2020. The PLS railroad has gone through a winter shut down with all outside water turned off and the pipes blown down to help avoid damage by freezing in cold winter months ahead. Winter clean-up has been underway and a good part of the leaves from our many trees have fallen and have been picked up. All in all the year 2019 was another successful running year. We did have our normal ups and downs, but we managed to get in a good amount of running, the down side again was the weather or should I say weather forecasts. Our Spring and Fall meets were somewhat under attended in part because of the weather forecasts, keeping some of our visitors from outside the area away. We had to reschedule the club picnic due to the extreme heat we experienced in July. The day of the picnic was rescheduled for the following week and we had very nice weather and a good picnic and a great run day.

We did have several events in 2019 that did put up a few Red Signals. Our tractor/backhoe broke down. You do not realize what a workhorse this machine is until you don't have it up and running. The problem started with a hydraulic cylinder failure and as fate would have it the failure was with largest cylinder in the most inaccessible space to work in and around. It

The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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only took two levels of scaffolding, rope four people and great persistence to get the cylinder removed and sent to an outside cylinder shop for rebuilding. Putting the cylinder back in backhoe's dipper arm was another matter, we had to hire a diesel mechanic with a truck and a small lifting crane to lift and squeeze it back in place. This was not the end of our tractor problems. Although the tractor ran once the cylinder was replaced, it did not run for long and for the past several months we have tried to get the beast running. Talked again with the diesel mechanic and narrowed the problem to something in the fuel system, but the system is a little complicated in that it has a fuel tank with piping and valve, a fuel pump, a fuel filter an injector pump, fuel injectors, and bypass lines and more. To make a long story short all symptoms pointed towards the injector pump. To make matters worse our Fordson Tractor was built in England in 1962 and parts and service are difficult to find, unless you are willing to work with the folks in the United Kingdom (England). A rebuilt pump, if you can find one, carries a price of ~\$1200 plus tax and shipping. Last week we took a chance that one of the components on the pump, a vacuum operated governor had a torn diaphragm. We took it off and found the diaphragm was OK, but we also found that the rod that the diaphragm operated inside the injector pump was stuck and did not move freely. With a bit more grunting in the cold weather we were able to clean up a little corrosion, free-up the stuck rod, tighten some loose fasteners and get our tractor running again. It all sounds so easy now, but the trouble it gave us was anything by easy.

Another large and expensive event was having a half a dozen trees serviced including having another large sycamore tree taken down. We had several large limbs that overhung our tracks removed as they were showing signs of disease. While the tree folks were on the property we also had the two large brush piles below the tunnels cleaned up. These piles blocked access to the east side of Mercer Bridge; the path to the bridge is now clear. While doing the tree work some damage was inflicted to the 4 3/4" and 7 1/4" outside the east side tunnels. This repair work took several weeks to complete, but we were back up and running for our last run day in October. This is just a few highlights of the 2019 season.

Now on to an important part of my article for this issue of the Gazette. Our next Membership Meeting will be held 12:30 PM on March 21st, 2020. Some of the items to be discussed and voted on at this meeting with include work preparation for the 75th Anniversary meet to be held in 2021. The PLS Calendar for the New Year 2020. The Budget for 2020 and the **Election of Officers and Board of Directors for 2020**. At the time of this writing our election committee is calling all Regular Members that have meet the requirements of eligibility to run for the three Officer and four Board of Director (BOD) positions. In this coming year we have to elect three new BOD Members for a normal term of two years and one to fill a half term of one year. The reason for the one year half term is to fill the position that was left vacant last year due to the lack of having a willing eligible Regular Member to fill one of the three positions open. As we did not have a member to fill this position and per

(Continued on page 3)

PLS Membership Renewals for 2020 Now Due

PLS renewal notices have been sent and are due by the end of December in order for your membership to remain current. Please be sure to complete both sides of the renewal form and return it with your payment in the envelope provided. Membership cards will be sent in early February to all those who renew. If you have not received your renewal notice, please email secretary@palivesteamers.org. Please Renew. We value your support. Important! Please complete the "ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION" form included with your renewal notice for all family and guests so that they do not have to complete the form at the gate each time they visit. This will ease the administrative workload for PLS volunteers. Questions on completing this form may be directed to:

secretary@palivesteamers.org

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Member Thomas Gmitter.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank John Forsythe, the Del Val Triumph Car Club, the Time Bandits Car Club, Don Maleta, Mayland Crosson, Cub Scouts Pack #146, and the Exxon Foundation on behalf of Terry and Cindy Smelser, for their donations. Also thank you to Lawrence Forrest for his donation in memory of Lee Nonnemacher.

PLS Upcoming Events 2020

Sat, January 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Fri-Sun, Jan. 17-19 Cabin Fever Expo. (CabinFeverExpo.com/)

Sat, February 15 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Sat, March 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Annual Elections

Sat, April 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
SPRING CLEAN-UP in AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (see Note)

Note: Rides may not be available at afternoon/evening run days following membership meetings due to possible limited participation by equipment owners. All members and their guests are welcome to attend with the understanding that rides are not guaranteed at these events.

Pertinent Dates for the 2020 Election

The 2020 election of all officers and four non-officer directors. We need to elect the normal three directors plus one director for a one year term. The reason for the one year term is we only had two directors run in the last election and per the By Laws Pete Brown was held over to fill that position until this year. The election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on March 21, 2020. Bob Hillenbrand and Ross Magee have volunteered to be this year's Nominating Committee. They will contact all eligible members. Regular Members who attended at least half of the membership meetings in 2019 (four) are eligible to

be nominated for election to a seat on the Board and to any office except president, which requires prior service of at least one term as an officer or non-officer director. Pertinent dates for the 2020 election are: Nominations close on January 13, 2020 and Final Ballot to be posted in clubhouse by February 15, 2020. Absentee Ballots must be requested by March 6, 2020.

Membership Gauge

As of November 30, 2019 PLS has:

- 110 Regular Members**
- 175 Associate Members**
- 3 Honorary Members**

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary			
Treasurer	Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Road, Norristown, PA 19403	rmorris1171@verizon.net
Gazette Editor	Lawrence Moss	815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438	LarryMoss@outlook.com
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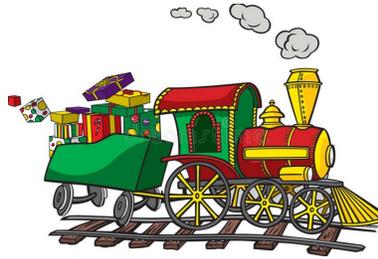
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the By Laws, one of the sitting BOD members was held over for an additional year. This year's elections will, as last year, be difficult due to the small number of members that have qualified to run for office. As a matter of disappointing fact only 13% of our regular members meet the requirements to be eligible to run for office this year. When you consider that we currently have 108 Regular Members and only have 14 that are eligible to run for office it leaves our organization greatly under represented and it shows a lack of interest in members willing to supporting our organization. This lack of interest is also shown by our members in that the eligibility requirements are very modest as you only needed to attend one half of the Regular Membership meetings held during the year. We had eight meeting making the requirement needed to be eligible - **four** meetings. I think it is fair to say that some members' feel they are not qualified to run for office, maybe so, but not showing up of four meetings where the health, welfare and needs of your organization are discussed is not covered by any excuse. I am sure that out of 108 members we have many members that are qualified to support our organization but not eligible by their election. At this year's election will also need to elect a Secretary as our past Secretary long time member Lee Nonnemacher passed away this summer and his ongoing contributions to PLS will be missed, including the many terms he served as a Gazette Editor, Director, Secretary and President. Now I ask you, the 108 Regular Members of PLS, to do the math. We need to elect 7 people out of a pool of 14 to fill this year's open office positions. I ask that you please come out and support PLS by attending as many Regular Meetings as you can. It is your opportunity to tell the organization about the needs of PLS, how we are doing and be a part of PLS. We need all members to participate and although this is not fully realistic, I am sure we can do better than 13%.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Frank Webb, President



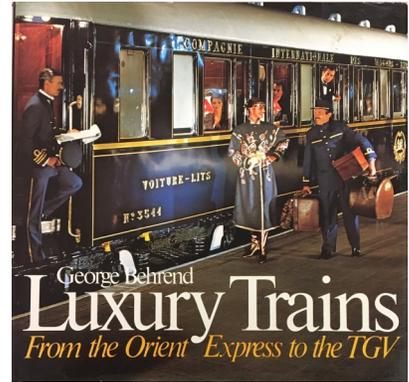
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PLS Library Book of the Month

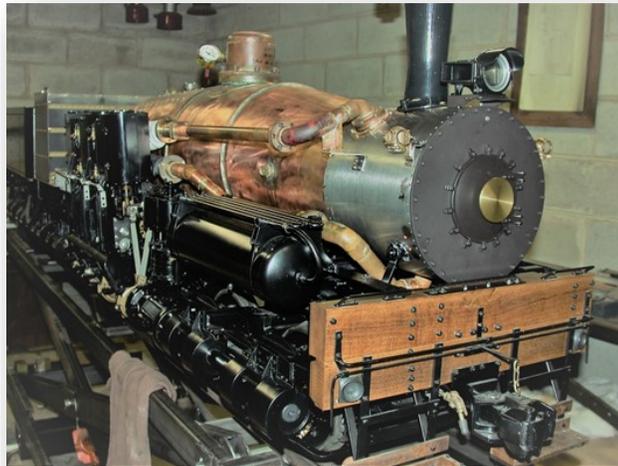


Book Review

The most exhaustive data ever published on the hundreds of Trains de Luxe that formerly linked every major city in the world.

For Information contact:
Joe Gotlewski, Librarian
jogotlewski@gmail.com

Shay Locomotive Project Engine for Sale



- 7-1/4" Gauge • Museum Quality • 1-1/2" Scale
 - Western Maryland #6 • Copper Boiler • Runs on Air
 - Built to LIMA LOCOMOTIVE Drawings
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- For Details contact Jim at jshay6@verizon.net**



The 24th Annual Cabin Fever Expo
January 17-19, 2020
Lebanon Valley Convention Center
For more info: www.cabinfeverexpo.com

PLS Calendar of Events for 2020

January

Saturday Jan. 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

February

Saturday Feb. 15 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

March

Saturday Mar. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Annual Elections

April

Saturday Apr. 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
SPRING CLEAN-UP in AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Apr. 26 Run Day - Members & Guests -
BOILER TESTING
(Rain Date May 3)

May

Saturday May 16 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Friday May 22 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday May 23 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Sunday May 24 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

June

Saturday Jun. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Jun. 28 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date July 5)

July

Saturday Jul. 18 **Annual PLS Picnic - Noon**
(Train rides will be available from Noon until 3 PM)
(Picnic Rain Date Sunday July 19)

Sunday Jul. 26 Run Day – Members & Guests
(Rain Date August 2)

Note: No meetings in July

August

Saturday Aug. 15 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Aug. 23 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date August 30)

September

Friday, Sept. 4 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday Sept. 5 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

Sunday Sept. 6 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday Sept. 19 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Sept. 27 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date October 4)

October

Saturday Oct. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
FALL CLEAN-UP in AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Oct. 25 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date November 1)

November

Saturday Nov. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday Nov. 27 Turkey Trot Run – Gauge 1 only -
(Rides not available)

December

Saturday Dec. 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Note: Rides may not be available at afternoon/evening run days following membership meetings due to possible limited participation by equipment owners. All members and their guests are welcome to attend with the understanding that rides are not guaranteed at these events.

Familiar Faces at the Fall Meet...



Photos by Allen Underkoffler



The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202

Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

FIRST CLASS

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