



The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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Green Signals Ahead

September and October were great months for those who love live steam railroading, as a special event took place at the Strasburg Rail Road. The Norfolk and Western Number 611, J class 4-8-4 (Northern) streamlined steam locomotive built by the railway's own Roanoke Shops located in Roanoke, Virginia in 1950 was in town for a little shop work and to operate on the Strasburg run from the Strasburg Station to Paradise and back, a round trip of 45 minutes. The good news was the price of the ticket to ride the train being pulled by No. 611 was the standard price of about \$15.00, the same cost as a ticket on any of the Strasburg trains to and from Paradise.

The N&W shop built 14, J class 4-8-4's, see table "A" below, and only one locomotive No. 611 survives. It was retired in 1959 from revenue passenger service and moved to the Virginia Museum of Transportation (VMT) in 1962. In 1982, Norfolk Southern restored the locomotive to operating condition for excursion service as it became the star of their steam program pulling excursions throughout the eastern United States. No. 611 was retired again in December 1994 and moved back to the VMT. In February 2013, the VMT formed a campaign called *Fire Up 611!* to return No. 611 to operating condition once again in May 2015.

Here are a few interesting highlights about No. 611. Driver diameter 70 inches, Length 109 feet 2 inches, height 16 feet 2 inches, axle load 72,000 pounds, total weight locomotive and tender 82,600 pounds, water capacity 20,000 gallons, fuel – coal, 70,000 pounds, boiler pressure 300 pounds per square inch (gauge), power output – 5,300 horse power tractive effort – 80,000 pounds, maximum speed – 110 mile per hour, current owner – Virginia Museum of Transportation.

In addition to No. 611 the Strasburg Rail Road Shop returned to service it owns, No. 475. No. 475 was the 101st of 125 M class 4-8-0 steam locomotives built for the Norfolk & Western from 1906 to 1907, rolling out of Baldwin Locomotive Works in June 1906. It worked on the N&W hauling freight and coal trains. It was later re-assigned to branch line duties when bigger locomotives such as the Y series 2-8-8-2s, K series 4-8-2s, and J 4-8-4s starting arriving on the N&W. It was later retired in 1956, completing 50 years of service. It passed through a number of owners and in 1982 was purchased by C. Rosenberg and others, being donated to the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad in 1985 and moved to Boone for display in 1986. It was purchased by the Strasburg Railroad in 1991 for \$100,000 and was restored to operating condition in 1993. It was good seeing two N&W engines running on the same track on the same day, a very nice reunion of N&W steam power.

I am sure many of you went out to see No. 611 at the Strasburg Railroad. During my visit I took a few pictures to share. The morning my wife Susan and I arrived at Strasburg, Friday September 27th, at about 8:00 AM it was a bit foggy. (SEE PHOTO SPREAD ON PAGES 4&5)

The normal running year at the PLS railroad is coming to an end with our last scheduled run day on October 27th, 2019. Please don't forget although the normal running season is over our scheduled work days on Wednesdays and Saturday will continue throughout the winter and into spring. There is plenty of work needed to keep our railroad up and running and you are always welcome to come out and give a hand. We will be having a Fall/Winter clean up sometime in November and we will send out a PLS Email BLAST to let you know when we have a final schedule for that event.

Hope you did make it to Strasburg and had a great time. I know I did.

See you at the railroad,

Frank Webb - President



(Continued on page 4)

Quantity	Serial Nos.	Year Built	N&W No.	Notes
5	311 – 315	1941 – 1942	600 – 604	No. 604 had a booster on its trailing truck
6	347 – 352	1943	605 – 610	Originally built without streamlining surrounds
3	388 – 390	1950	611 – 613	No. 611 lived on in excursion service

Table A

Fall Meet Thank You's

We had great weather and many of you contributed your time to ensure PLS had the best Meet possible. Thanks to all those volunteers who prepared the facilities, manned the gate, staffed the kitchen, provided the Pot Luck, donated food, and jumped in to clean up at the end of the weekend.

Kathy Parris,
Kitchen Coordinator

PLS Picnic Thank You

A very special thank you to Mike Moore and the many Gauge One members who hosted this year's successful picnic. A wonderful time was had by the many people who attended. Thanks also to the Riehl family for once again providing their delicious Steam Cream.

Upcoming Membership Renewals Please Pre-register Family Members

Membership renewals for 2020 will be sent in early December. Included with the renewal material, as in past years, will be a copy of the "ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION" form. **If you have family members who may want to attend run days**, we encourage you to have this form completed and return it with your renewal. If you do so, a **guest card** will be sent to you along with your membership card. That card will allow family members to enter without having to sign in at the gate when they visit. It will also help to reduce paperwork for PLS volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 19	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Fall Clean Up in AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM Afternoon/Evening Run*
Sunday, Oct. 27	Run Day - Members and Guests (Rain Date November 3) Last Regular Run for 2019
Saturday, Nov. 16	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Friday, Nov. 29	Turkey Trot Run - Gauge 1 only (rides not available)
Saturday, Dec. 21	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.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received during August and September: Don Maleta and Dietrich Wiemers. Also, a special thank you to Paul Wilcox for his generous donation of small hardware, Live Steam Magazines, and an unfinished 1" PRR Bobber Caboose, all of which the club sold at our Fall Meet.



Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Butch Lingenfelter, Stephen Konizer, Steven Diehl, David Hutchison, Thomas Mosteller, Donald Gorman, and John Matsko. Rick Stoughton has applied for Regular membership.

Membership Gauge

As of September 30, 2019 PLS has:

- 110 Regular Members**
- 174 Associate Members**
- 6 Honorary Members**

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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Cord Reel Replacement Crew

Pete Brown (below on right) crafted a wooden jig to support the new 50 lb. replacement Cord Reel that was recently installed for powering the transfer table in Building 3.

The jig was raised into position by using the table lift.



Photos by
Pete Brown



Fred Daddi (left) and Steve Mallon (right) provided the manpower to bolt the reel securely to the beam above. Excellent work by all. We are back in business.



Lee G. Nonnemacher 1947- 2019

Long time Pennsylvania Live Steamers member Lee Nonnemacher passed away September 2019 at the age of 72 years. He is survived by his wife Loretta Nonnemacher.

Lee Joined PLS in May 1981 as an Associate Member and became a Regular Member in April 1984. Lee had many talents and served as a mentor to many at PLS. His knowledge of railroading and his ability as a machinist will be greatly missed. There is little doubt that Lee has left his mark on the PLS railroad and as you pass many of the signals and roll through the switches both manual and electric please think of Lee as he made many of the parts, assemblies and preformed much of the installation of these items.

Many members will remember Lee for his tireless operation of both his own SOO LINE 5000 Northern (4-8-4) locomotive and more recently the Dash 9 club diesel locomotive that he ran pulling hundreds of passengers around the PLS track. In addition Lee also served in many PLS administrative positions that included:

President – 6 Terms, 1990 – 1994 and 2012

Secretary – 15 Terms, 1998 – 2004, 2008 – 2010, 2015 – 2019

Director – 6 Terms, 1986 – 1989, 1995 – 1996

Gazette Editor – 12 Years, 1990 – 2001

Picture above by Pete Brown, Lee is right front and Paul Rice Left rear. Lee was giving pointers to Paul on the making of Switch Points using a sine plate type fixture Lee had made to hold the rail at the correct angles for each of the machining operations required to complete the points profile.

Lee will be missed by all at PLS. Our sincerest condolences to Lee's wife Loretta.

Norfolk and Western J 611

Photo 2 - No. 611
Pulling into Strasburg Station ↓



↑ Photo 1 - No. 611
Foggy Morning



Photo 3 - No. 611
Getting ready for work ←



Photo 4 - No. 611
Run-around at Paradise ↓



Footnote

Photo 1 was taken just as the fog started to dissipate. Photo 2 – No. 611 coming into the Strasburg Station. Photo 3 – No. 611 getting ready for the days' work. Photo 4 – No. 611 the run-around at Paradise moving to the head end of the car consist for the return to Strasburg.



Photo 5 - No. 611
Return run to Strasburg



Photo 7 - No. 475
Pulling into Strasburg



Photo 6 - No. 611
Pulling into Strasburg Station



Photo 8 - No. 611
Builders Plate





**The
PLS GAZETTE**

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

FIRST CLASS

Remember when...

... Jim Salmons and Lee Nonnemacher
enjoyed lunch on the dining car while
riding the mainline at PLS?

Those were the days.

Circa 1986

