



September - October 2023

The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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The Wheel Report

Dear PLS Members:

Recently I was reminded by a fellow member about how expensive most of our equipment is and of the potential physical harm accidents can cause with regards to the larger scales (1.5"-1").

Let's face it, there must be a constant balance between operating our equipment in a SAFE and RESPONSIBLE manner while still having FUN. This is why the club has had long standing (but rarely reviewed) operating and safety rules that govern behavior and responsibilities without sacrificing the enjoyment we try to achieve.

Hard feelings happen when people are admonished in a non-helpful way for the sake of enforcing the safe operation of our club. This past year, I witnessed a collision between two trains due to one operator who endangered everyone by deciding to stop his train on the main line and the following train operator's failure to obey signals and loss of situational awareness while conversing with a passenger and to take evasive action due to being distraction with passenger conversation. The end result was hard feelings all around.

I do not agree that we "need more rules" when we already have adequate safety rules that have served us well but that we frankly have become "casual" with these rules and do not review them on a regular basis. Furthermore, offering corrective feedback in a less than "clublike collegial manner" diminishes the fun of the hobby.

I would welcome feedback for the following SUGGESTIONS that I am considering to present to the Board of Directors.

1 - Any incoming regular member should be familiar with all operating and safety rules (where to find them? - on the club website) and that new regular members henceforth should be tested to answer correctly say 10 reasonable questions. For that matter I would like to see associates become more aware of the rules as well.

2 - All members (Associates and Regular) should receive a printed copy of the rules (operating and passenger) as an attachment to the annual membership renewal package.

3 - Regular members who operate equipment should be tested say every two years on the operating rules. (or even carry reduced printed copies of the operating rules?).

4 - All rules (operating, etc.) should be posted in a public place in or around the club house during run events. (Can you accurately quote, without looking, 4 rules that have been commonly posted on the club property since 2002?).

5 - We need to rely on each other, not the administration, to assist our fellow members in corrective feedback when an operating or safety rule may have been violated.

I would welcome and support (with a smile) anyone wishing to participate in a committee on better communication for enhancing rules awareness without sacrificing the ENJOYMENT of the club and the hobby. Am I diminishing the fun and purpose of the club by making these suggestions? I welcome comment via email or in person at the remaining membership meetings.

Peace,

Patrick J. Murphy, President
Pennsylvania Live Steamers



Upcoming Membership Renewal

Please Pre-register Family Members

Membership renewals for 2024 will be sent in late November. 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.

Printed Gazette Reminder

As previously announced, effective Jan 1, 2004, there is a \$15 annual fee for members requesting Gazettes by mail.

PLS Board

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
FALL CLEAN-UP in AM

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)*

Sunday, Oct. 22 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date October 29)

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

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday, Nov. 24 Turkey Trot Run - Gauge 1 only
(Rides not available)

Saturday, Dec. 9 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.

Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate members: Jonathan Acker, Patrick Dougherty Sr, Theodore Flood, Vincent Mayberry, Dennis Arms, Paul Bastek, Dave Hutchison, and Stanley Kopiczak.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received during August and September: Ron Drenth, Paul Miller, Kathy Parris, John Forsythe, Erich Boldt, and Bill Bower.

Membership Gauge

As of September 30, 2023 PLS has:

102 Regular Members

149 Associate Members

4 Honorary Members

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	Pat Murphy	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary	Mark Cahill	mark.cahill@verizon.net
Treasurer	Robert Morris	Treasurer@palivesteamers.org
Gazette Editor	Lawrence Moss	LarryMoss@outlook.com

Board of Directors

Steve Mallon, mallonmusic@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/25

Ross Magee, mrrmagww@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/24

Paul Miller, pava77@comcast.net - Term Expires 3/24

Paul Rice, ricepaul@verizon.net - Term Expires 3/25

Peter Brown, peteprivate@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/25

Jim Salmons, jjshay6@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/24

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RR Crossing Sign Relocated

The RR Crossing Sign that long sat largely unnoticed along the main-line near Bldg. # 6 has been relocated to an actual crossing site behind the club house.

The heavy work was performed by Bob Morris and Rick Stoughton. Someday it may be operational with alternating red lights.



Pete Brown Photos



PLS Library

Due to limited shelf space, the PLS library is no longer accepting donations of non-relevant books and magazines. Until our collection is complete, we will accept donations of printed material that pertains directly to the Live Steam hobby, such as Live Steam, Outdoor Railroading, Home Shop Machinist, and other similar magazines. Also welcome is historical or technical material about prototype railroads that served Pennsylvania and its neighboring states.

If you donate, do not be offended if your donations are eventually placed on our "For Sale" table. PLS reserves the right to repurpose donated materials as we deem necessary. For example, a book on Chinese Steam locomotives that came from Walden Books as a Christmas gift would probably end up on our "For Sale" table. A manuscript about the history of the Perkiomen Valley railroad would most definitely be added to our library. We are NO longer accepting donations of Trains, Model Railroader, Classic Trains, Toy Trains, and Railfan magazines, etc. We

want to prevent the caboose and club house from becoming a dumping ground for unwanted magazines, as it has in the past.

Our goal is to establish a reference library that can be used to research specific techniques and prototype equipment.

Library Restoration Team



Not actual model

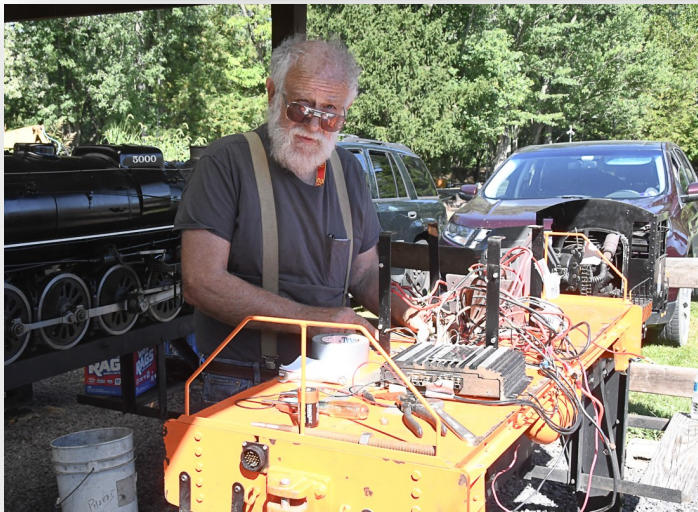
Reading 0-4-0 Camelback A5a Project for Sale

I am selling an A5a Reading 0-4-0 Camelback project, as I am no longer able to do it. This includes all castings and bits from Iron Horse Supply, plus a full set of drawings, and a fixture made for the frame work. No parts have been machined.

**For information, call Al Gould at 267-318-697
or email: alg6717@verizon.net.**

Scenes from Around the Track

Fall Meet 2023





Photos by Allen Underkofler



The
PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202

Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

FIRST CLASS



Enjoy the 2023 PLS Fall Meet Photos

More Color Photos at www.palivesteamers.org
Taken by Club Photographer, Allen Underkofler