



March - April 2025

THE PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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A look in both directions at PLS

First off, many thanks to Pat Murphy for his steady hand as president of PLS for the second time. His leadership and guidance are very much appreciated. I know he will continue to be a strong asset to the club.

As I look back on the last season at PLS I am very encouraged.
We had a lot of good times together and a lot of work was accomplished.

- Many old wood ties were replaced with plastic ties by Rick Stoughton and his helpers.
- Painting by Jim Adams and others.
- Bench and table renewal along with the complete replacement of the turntable deck by Bruce Barrett.
- Removal of the old Fordson tractor and the dirt pile in the infield both of which have been eyesores for a long time.
- Lots of tree work was done.
- Building Three roof replacement.
- Painting of the club house floor.
- Electric outlets added to the pavilion for food service and ceiling fans by Paul Miller and Pete Brown.
- Signal maintenance by Frank Webb and of course the everyday task of grass cutting and maintenance that goes on by many members. There is much more we could mention.

As I look forward to the upcoming season I am equally encouraged.
We have a great group of people! We anticipate more good times together.

- Fellowship around the table with good eats provided by our faithful food service people and pot luck events.
- Lots of fun train activity of course.
- Refurbishment of the club steam locomotive continues. This loco will surely provide much coal shoveling fun particularly to members without a steamer.
- Working together on projects ... well its work, yes, but yet very satisfying to see the results of that labor and the benefits to PLS in are ongoing part of our great Live Steam Hobby.

Bring a smile with you to the club, I hope to see you there often and let's enjoy the upcoming season together!

John Forsythe
President PLS, Inc.

PLS – Election Results

PLS Elections were held during the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday March 15, 2025.

Office positions:

President: John Forsythe

Secretary: Paul Miller

Treasurer: Mark Cahill

Board of Directors 2-year term:

Steve Mallon

Bruce Barett

Pete Brown

Board of Directors 1-year term:

Steve Leatherman

2025 PLS Upcoming Events

--Sat, Apr 19	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Spring Clean-Up Membership Meeting – 12:30 PM
--Sun, Apr 27	BOILER TESTING Run Day – Members & Guest (Rain Date May 4)
-Sat, May 17	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
-Fri, May 23	Spring Meet – Members & Guest
-Sat, May 24	Breakfast & Lunch, Pot Luck Dinner
-Sun, May 25	Breakfast & Lunch
--Sat, May 31	Perkiomen Community Day Run Day – Township Residents

Membership Gauge

As of February 12, 2025

93 Regular Members

11 Probationary Members

129 Associate Members

2 Honorary Members



Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Eric Anastasi Jr, Ralph Orr Sr, and Matan Moshe. Applying for Regular Membership is Scott Fulop and applying to upgrade his membership to Regular is Jonathan Acker.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received since January: Cheryl Guffy, Pat Murphy, Neil Sardinas, Michael Tillger, Ronald Marburger, and Barry Shapin.

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	John Forsythe	of Blooming Glen, PA	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary	Paul Miller	of West Chester, PA	secretary@palivesteamers.org
Treasurer	Mark Cahill	of Perkasio, PA	treasurer@palivesteamers.org
Gazette Editor	TBD - Paul Miller (Interim)		

Board of Directors

Steve Mallon, mallonmusic@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/27,

Fred Daddi, F_Daddi@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/26

Bonny Slater, , quiltnsewlad@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/26

Peter Brown, peteprivate@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/27

Bruce Barrett, greenjeeps2@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/27

Steve Leatherman, steveleatherman@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/26

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Workdays at PLS

Our newest Main Line upgrade project is the 7.25" Main in the Driveway Tunnel area. The outside Rail in this area was very thin and we had built 11 Track Panels with the new Plastic ties last year. We got started by laying out the Panels and determining the starting point east of the Tunnel. We determined that we would use 10 of the new Panels and create the tie in at the Yard Turnout with a custom Panel built in place. The next step was to remove the old Panels and remove the old ballast so the new Panels could be placed just below grade. Next, we started joining the new Panels with new hardware. We then started the alignment and grading process. Even though the Radius of the curve in this area is 70' we had to follow the alignment of the parallel 4.75" Main. The Mains at the starting point were on 42" centerlines. The Mains at the tunnel were 36" and the tie in at 48" centerlines. We had to create the spiral easements between the different centerlines to keep a smooth transition.



The layout process begins seeing how many panels we will use.



This shows south of the tunnel towards the Yard Turnout at the 3 Way Signal.



This shows where we cut the Main and created are starting point.



This shows the first 2 Panels in the ground as the excavation continues.



The alignment process begins as more Panels are being connected.



This shows the tight alignment in the tunnel on 36" centerlines.

Workdays at PLS

As the curve alignment and grading process continued, we also had to account for 2 Block boundaries where Insulated Joiners will be replaced. We also had to protect the Block feeder wires, so they can be reconnected to the rails. We will also need to add the Bonding Wires at each Rail Joint so the Signal System will continue working. After final alignment and grading we also need to add Thread Blocker on the Bolts to finalize all the new Rail joints. With all that the deadline of April 27 is coming fast. Many thanks to the members who contributed to all aspects of this Project.



The first 5 Panels being connected.



All new hardware being used by Paul Rice and Rick Stoughton.



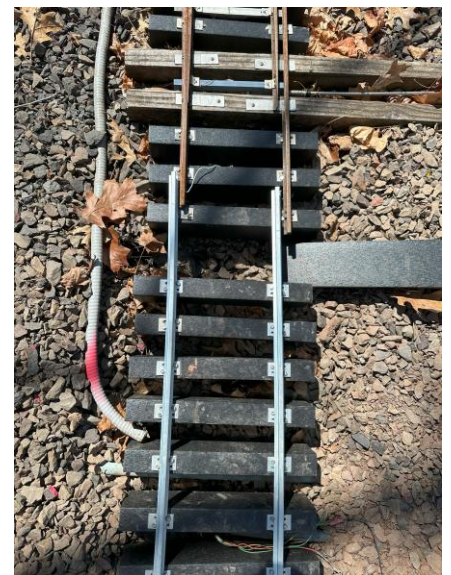
We had to be careful with the existing signal system conduits.



Grading and alignment just south of the tunnel.



This shows where the grade will climb a little to meet the elevation at the Yard Turnout.



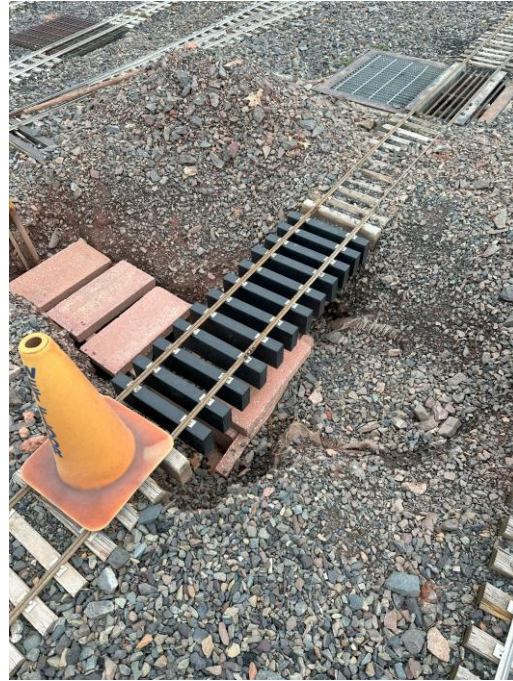
The last joint at the tie in at the Yard Turnout. Measure twice cut once.

Workdays at PLS

Bruce Barrett led the effort to restore the Air System at PLS. The project started last season when we noticed the Air Compressors were running almost all the time when they were turned on. Bruce finally determined the issue was we had a leak in the Air Supply lines. He narrowed the search to between the Turntable and the Yard Air Tap. After several test holes he finally found the leak using a leak detector. New Plastic Air pipe was inserted into the existing metal pipe reconnected at both ends. Good job to all those who helped complete this fix, now we can Steam Up again.



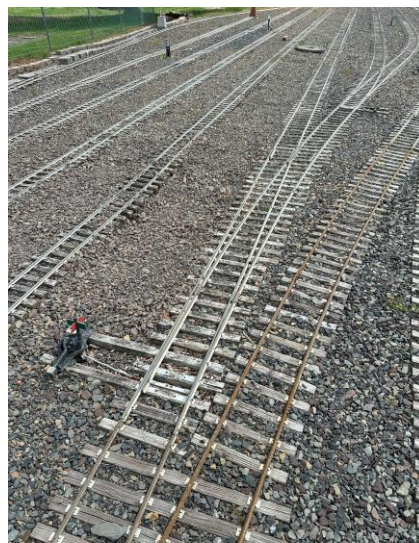
This is where the Yard Air Tap will be reinstalled at the west end of the repair,



Another view showing the new Ties getting ready for backfilling.



The new Yard Air Tap right next to the Water Tap and the hole is back filled ready for Tamping the Yard Track.



The depression next to the Turnout was the site of the leak. It was just a few inches from the original test dig, that's Plumbing.



The PLS GAZETTE

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FIRST CLASS

PLS Outdoor Furniture Update



Bruce Barrett continued his efforts with the first two Picnic Tables rebuilt at his shop. The metal legs were cleaned and repainted. The top and benches are new wood that was treated before reassembly.

