



# The PLS GAZETTE

**A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.**

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## Green Signals Ahead

I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy, upcoming, New Year. I hope to see all of you at the PLS railroad in 2018.

It seems like yesterday it was summer and today in the blink of an eye it's turned to winter as the days have grown shorter. Soon it will be dark at 4:30 PM as well as much cooler or down right cold! I myself prefer the long warm and often hot days of summer. With that being said I would like to remind everyone that as weather permits work will continue on the PLS railroad throughout the winter months and as you have heard me say before there is always something to do on our 5 acres of property. Winter brings down a lot of leaves and branches from our trees and cleanup is ongoing. Jim Miller is still out working on improving the 4 ¾ inch gauge track and I am sure he will continue improvement and maintenance until the ground freezes. It is also likely that Henry Blanco White will be down in Building 2 rebuilding track panels for the Multi-Gauge track. For those of you that may have forgotten about the Multi-Gauge, it is a unique four (4) rail track loop that support three (3) gauges of engines and rolling stock that includes 2 ½ inch gauge, 3 ½ inch gauge and 4 ¾ inch gauge. The Multi-Gauge loop is a great asset that is in need of track work. There are so many railroad ties to replace that many of the ten foot long track panels will be taken up and rebuilt in Building 3 and as weather permits the side banks of the road bed need to have fill dirt added. So if you feel inspired please come out and grab a wheelbarrow, rake and shovel and help put some new life back into Multi-Gauge track. It's a good way to work off some of those extra pounds gained from all those great holiday meals and snacks.

In 2017 we completed one significant project and that was the porch extension to

Building 1 and a second significant project that is nearing completion; the refurbishment of the Gauge 1 track with the final work of closing the tunnel to be completed in the early spring. In addition many smaller, but none the less important projects were also completed. Bob Hillenbrand rebuilt the two full size crossing gates at the entrance to our property. We now have two newly constructed wooden gates with fresh paint along with the painting of the large metal motor boxes and hardware. Bob is now working on the refurbishing of the full size cross buck and light set that sits on the north side of our property.



These are just a few examples of the work that goes on every Wednesday and Saturday work days. Please have a look at our project list.

Below is our open project list:

1. 1 ½" Yard to main line switch and signals (North side 1 ½" station) – Lead: Ron Henderson
2. 1" Switches and Signals Brown Box thru mainline past 1" station – Lead: Ron Henderson – Frank Webb
3. Backhoe lean-to east side of Bldg. 3 – Leader: Paul Quirk
4. Caboose paint restoration – Lead: Bob Morris
5. 4 ¾" track repair – Ongoing repair of 4 ¾" track is underway/ongoing Lead: Jim Miller
6. Multi-Gauge track work – Henry Blanco White
7. Gauge 1 track refurbishment – Lead Mike Moore
8. Cross buck on North side of property needs clean up and paint. Consideration should be given to moving this railroad item to a more favorable location – Lead: Bob Hillenbrand
9. PLS Library – We have a valuable Library resource that needs exposure to our membership – Lead Joe Gotlewski

Some work has been completed, but all items still require work. Please review this list and if you have interest in any item that you would like to give a hand with please see me (Frank Webb) and I will introduce you to the people involved and get you started working.

One item that does not appear on this list involves a machine shop project. We have six sets of Railroad Supply rough castings that will be machined into new switch stands and applied to new motor driven switch machines. Time permitting, Lee Nonnemacher will be setting up our milling machine to turn the castings into finished components. On the surface the machine work looks fairly simple, but upon close examination you will see that what looks to be simple requires some difficult setup in order to keep the operating parts in proper alignment. This requires careful setup, fixturing and measurement before the mill is even turned on. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to go about machining odd shaped castings where the centerline of each casting must lineup on several axis to allow free operation of the switch stand when assembled. Please check with Lee for

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## Green Signals Ahead

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a schedule of when he will be doing this work.

See you on the PLS Mainline,

Frank Webb, President

## PLS Upcoming Events 2018

Fri-Sun, Jan. 12-14 Cabin Fever Expo. (CabinFeverExpo.com.)

Sat, January 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Sat, February 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

## PLS Membership Renewals for 2018 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 e-mail secretary@palivesteamers.org.

Included with your renewal notice will be a copy of the "ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION" form. Please complete and return that form with your renewal to pre-register family members and guests whom you expect may visit PLS during the year. Completing this form in advance will save your guests from having to complete the form at the gate each time they visit and will ease the administrative workload for PLS volunteers.



## Pertinent Dates for the 2018 Election

The 2018 election of all officers and three non-officer directors will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on March 17, 2018. John Caldwell and Pete Brown 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 2017 (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 2018 election are: Nominations close on January 13, 2018; Final Ballot to be posted in clubhouse by February 17, 2018; and, Absentee Ballots must be requested by March 2, 2018.

## Leaf Cleanup Thanks

PLS would like to thank the following members who responded to our last-minute request for help doing leaf cleanup on Saturday, December 2nd: Bob Morris, John Kane, Roy Nelson, Pete Brown, Frank Webb, Lee Nonnemacher, George Cooper, Henry Blanco White, Harry Quirk Jr., Jim Salmons, Jim Miller, Paul Rice, Duane Quenzel, Larry Moss, Steve Mallon, Ron Shupard, Erich Boldt Sr., Hank Riley and Mike Haenn and his sons Linn and Caleb. Additionally, thanks to Bruce Saylor and Bob Hillenbrand who rounded up and mulched leaves from the yard area on the previous Wednesday.

## Donation

### Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank member Paul Nichini and the Time Bandits Car Club for their donations. Our appreciation also to the Exxon Foundation for their donation on behalf of Terry and Cindy Smelser.

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Member: Ed Moninger.

## Membership Gauge

As of November 30, 2017 PLS has:

**110 Regular Members**

**193 Associate Members**

**6 Honorary Members**

## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

<b>President</b>	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Lee Nonnemacher	1474 North Wales Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422	lee_n@msn.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Road, Norristown, PA 19403	rmorris1171@verizon.net
<b>Gazette Editor</b>	Lawrence Moss	815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438	LarryMoss@outlook.com
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Peter Brown, peteprivate@yahoo.com; Jim Miller, jbmiller@msn.com; Jim Salmons, jshay@verizon.net Bob Hillenbrand, RDH7917@comcast.net; Larry Moss, l.moss256@gmail.com; Paul Rice, ricepaul@verizon.net		

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# PLS Calendar of Events for 2018

## January

Saturday Jan. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

## February

Saturday Feb. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

## March

Saturday Mar. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
**Annual Elections**

## April

Saturday Apr. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
**SPRING CLEAN-UP in AM**  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Apr. 22 Run Day - Members & Guests -  
**BOILER TESTING**  
(Rain Date April 29)

## May

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

Friday May 25 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday May 26 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Sunday May 27 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

## June

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

Sunday Jun. 24 Run Day - Members & Guests  
(Rain Date July 1)

## July

Saturday Jul. 14 **Annual PLS Picnic - Noon**  
(Train rides will be available from Noon until 3 PM )  
  
(Picnic Rain Date Sunday July 29)

Sunday Jul. 22 Run Day – Members & Guests  
(Rain Date July 15)

**Note:** No meetings in July

## August

Saturday Aug. 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Aug. 26 Run Day - Members & Guests  
(No Rain Date )

## September

Friday, Aug. 31 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday Sept. 1 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

Sunday Sept. 2 **FALL MEET** - Members & Guests

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

Sunday Sept. 23 Run Day - Members & Guests  
(Rain Date September 30)

## October

Saturday Oct. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
**FALL CLEAN-UP in AM**  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Oct. 28 Run Day - Members & Guests  
(Rain Date November 4)

## November

Saturday Nov. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday Nov. 23 Turkey Trot Run – Gauge 1 only -  
(Rides not available)

## December

Saturday Dec. 15 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.

# Scenes from Last Summer...



Ken Chermak rides the ridge on Pat Murphy's NYC Hudson



Ron Henderson adjusts the sound system wiring harness on Rich Poletto's Galloping Goose



Chris Becker and family ride their Tom Thumb

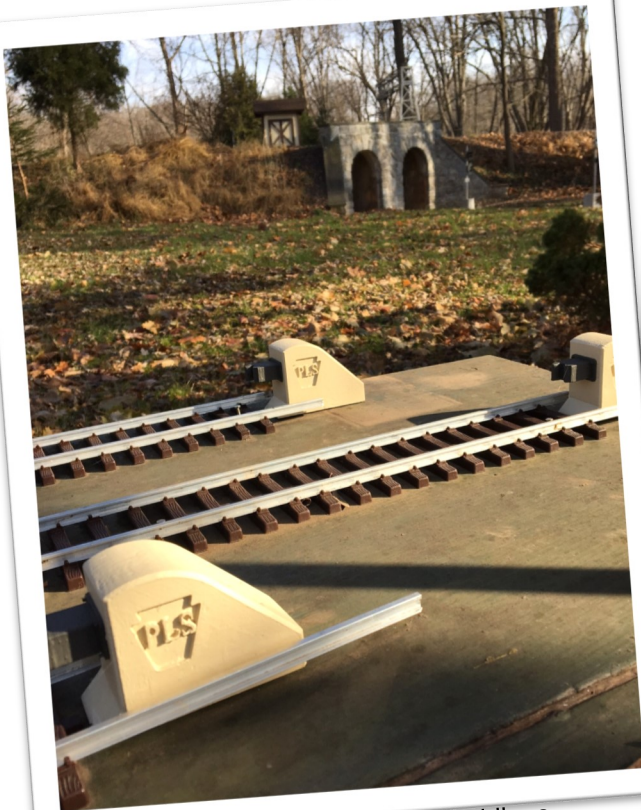


Bruce Barrett picks up steam on his CNJ Ten Wheeler

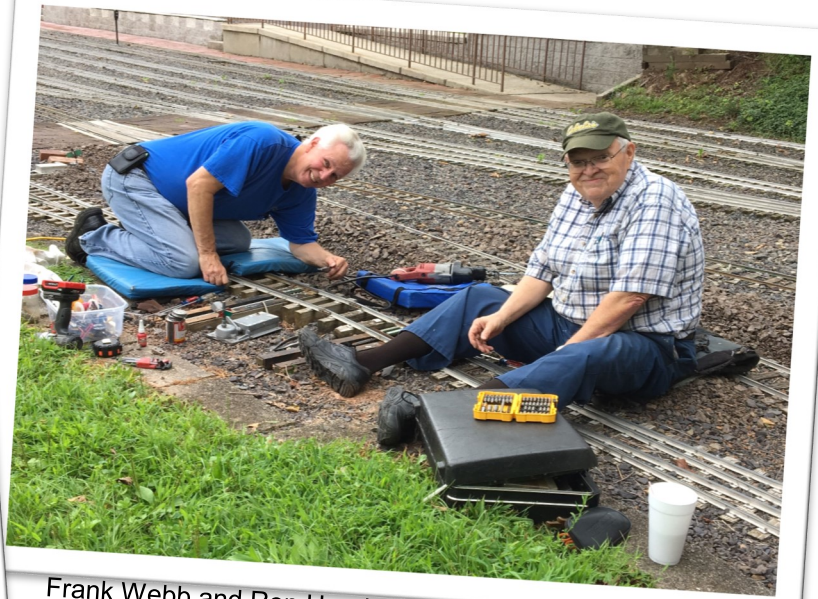


Buddy Borders and crew climb aboard their Speeder





New PLS bumpers on the gauge 1 sidings



Frank Webb and Ron Henderson make repairs on a 1" scale turnout near the North Rahns station



Erich Boldt's new bright red Burlington Route caboose



Builder demonstrates the 'O' gauge streamlined Tinplate engine that he converted from electric to live steam >





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Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

## FIRST CLASS



A Fourney locomotive crosses the gauge 1 trestle during the Turkey Trot Run on Friday, November 24, 2017. Warm weather brought out a larger than average number of engineers and guests to this annual event.