



# The PLS GAZETTE

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

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## Green Signals Ahead

**THANK YOU**, to all that helped make the Pot Luck dinner at our Spring Meet a great success. With the help of our outstanding cooks, Jay Shupard and his family, and all those that supplied many many items for the Pot Luck table, we had one of the best meals ever. We estimate that we served more than 125 members and guests. To all those that helped with the setup, take down and cleanup for this event, I would like to offer a well-deserved thank you as well.

May was a very wet month for our area with a record rain fall of almost 7 inches (nearly 3 inches more than the average). Even with the very wet weather, we were able to complete our new 20 foot wide x 30 foot long covered porch extension just in time for the Spring Meet. Here again, I would like to say thank you to all members that participated in the construction of our porch. I would like to offer a special thank you to probationary regular member, Ron Drenth, who put in many hours on this project and also took on the difficult placement of the final roof pieces between the ever present rain drops. The new roof addition makes the total roof length 42 feet long over concrete.

You may remember from a previous Gazette article that I mentioned another outstanding member, Bob Morris, who always seems to be running around with a paint brush in hand. Bob was so impatient that he pre-painted much of the wood porch structure parts before it was ever erected and if you didn't notice the entrance end of Building 1, it too was painted, including

the steel doors! Way to go Bob! It looks great!

Some of you may know that many of the architectural features you see at PLS like the brackets on the two PLS stations and the new porch are a Bill Normart design. Not only did Bill do the design for our stations, he also made many of the pieces including the original station and porch brackets. Thank you Bill! The brackets for the new porch add a very nice finished touch and we have Pat Murphy to thank for his donation of all the new brackets that he had made in his shop. Thank you Pat!

As some of you might be able to imagine it is often difficult to prepare a writing for each Gazette, especially articles that have a Hat-in-Hand theme and ask for more member support. Although I try to vary the topics to include interesting train history, updates on what's happening at PLS and facts about the railroad, I often find my message is one that is pointed to the membership and asking for greater participation to help improve the PLS railroad.

Here is an example. During the Spring Meet we discovered a plumbing leak in the piping that feeds water from Building 1 to the stand pipes with faucets in the middle of our yard. Not only does this line feed water to the center of the yard, but also the 7 1/4" gauge station including the water fountain, hose, scale water tank and stand pipe used to supply water to steam engines. This piping was put in the ground 40 years ago and the problem is there is no clear dimensional diagram of where this

piping is buried. To make matters worse, a good deal of new construction was added since this piping was put in place and even the yard tracks were moved around to add an additional track. It is likely a lot of digging will be needed to find the leak or add new by-pass piping. Any volunteers? See what I mean? Membership help is always needed. However, during the meet Bruce Barrett stepped in to help with hoses to get water for the steamers that stop in the yard. Here again I would like to thank Bruce and the other members that took time from their run day to resolve a problem that impacted many. The fix is at best temporary and the long term solution will take time to troubleshoot and resolve. Dig we must!

The Spring Meet was a big success! I am sure the weather kept some visitors away but even with the threat of poor weather we had visitors from Buffalo, Saratoga Springs, Long Island, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Chicago, Illinois and I am sure other states as well. The railroad was busy but not too busy to get in some good running. The Gauge 1 track was up and running with the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of a significant repair completed and the popular Mike Moore Gauge 1 portable track had a very good turnout as well.

Again, thank you to all that made the Spring Meet great.

See you on the mainline,

*Frank Webb, President*



## Spring Meet Thank You

Despite a questionable weather forecast, attendance was unusually high. Thank you to all who pitched in to help the PLS kitchen function smoothly.

Special thanks to Rich Poletto and Gayle Keir who spent five days working in the kitchen and around the PLS grounds.

Among the many others who donated time and baked goods were: Jim Salmons, Bob Morris, Rose Ann Wagner, Sue Borders, Greta Wagner, Ross Magee, Dawn Kendter, Jim Gotlewski, Heidi Vertrees, Paul Rice, Joanne Stapleton, Barry Shapin, Mary Saylor, Bruce Saylor, Walt Mensch, Hank Riley, George Cooper, Pete Brown, Mike Moore, Bruce Barrett, Dick Moore, Lee Nonnemacher, Jim Barker, and Roy Nelson.

PLS also wishes to acknowledge the continued support of Redner's Market and the Philly Pretzel Factory.

Again, thanks to everyone. Hope you will continue to volunteer at future PLS Meets.

*Kathy Parris*  
Kitchen Coordinator

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 25 Run Day - Members & Guests  
*Rain Date July 2*

Saturday, July 15 Board of Directors Meeting - Cancelled  
Membership Meeting - Cancelled  
**Annual PLS Picnic - 12:00 Noon**  
(Train Rides will be available from 12:30 PM to 3 PM)  
*Picnic Rain Date Sunday, July 16*

Sunday, July 23 Run Day - Members & Guests  
*Rain Date July 30*

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

Sunday, August 27 Run Day - Members & Guests  
*No Rain Date*

Friday thru Sunday **Fall Meet** - Members & Guests  
September 1, 2, 3 *No Rain Dates*

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members: Roger Ravier, Brian Poi, J. Ransley Lennon, Richard Kilday, Stefano Singer, Donald Eisenhower Sr., Thomas Toth and Whit Yost.

Nicholas Wilson, Joseph Rue, Harry Quirk Jr., and Mark Landgraf have applied for Regular Membership.

## Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following members for donations received during April and May: Michael Moore, John Kane, Jim Barker, Rita Bixler, and the Shapin Family.

Thank you also to those who have contributed to the extensive Gauge 1 renovation project: Michael Moore, Alan Redeker, Lee Nonnemacher, Kathy Parris, Henry Blanco White, and Carol Jobusch.



## Membership Gauge

As of May 31, 2017 PLS has:

**109 Regular Members**

**175 Associate Members**

**6 Honorary Members**

## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

<b>President</b>	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
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# 2017 Spring Meet



In spite of the threatening weather, the attendance at the Spring Meet was better than expected. Many members and guests took advantage of the Company Train rides. Lots of smiling faces on our passengers as they traveled PLS's scenic route.

This train run was driven by Lee Nonnemacher working as Engineer with Hank Riley at the rear acting as Conductor.

## New ADA Compliant Picnic Tables

The Pennsylvania Live Steamers and all of its members would like to thank David Rose for his generous donation of two very nice ADA Compliant picnic tables in Memory of his wife Deborah Rose. It was great seeing his son Zach (Zachary) using one of these tables at our Spring Meet. The new tables make a great addition to PLS and will serve us well for many years to come. Thank you, David!



## Pioneer Valley 65th Anniversary Invitation

Pioneer Valley Live Steamers, located in Southwick MA, is celebrating its 65th year on the weekend of August 11th, 12th, and 13th. This will be a clubs-only event. There is room on the property for camping. Breakfast and lunch will be served on both Saturday and Sunday. Dinner on Saturday is also planned.

**If you plan to attend**, contact Ray at [wejusk@earthlink.net](mailto:wejusk@earthlink.net) or phone 203-746-2882. Any questions can also be directed to Ray. Also visit PVLS website: <https://www.pvls.org/> for directions.

# Gauge 1 Track Replacement Project

Mike Moore is the Team Leader for the Gauge 1 rebuilding project. The existing track is now 20 years old and has exceeded its life expectancy due to constant weathering. This summer all the track and roadbed will be replaced with brand new materials.

A few improvement will be incorporated including the softening of the “S” curve near the approach to the tunnel that has long been the cause for derailments. Also the crumbling infrastructure under the trestle will be upgraded to strengthen it and enhance the appearance.



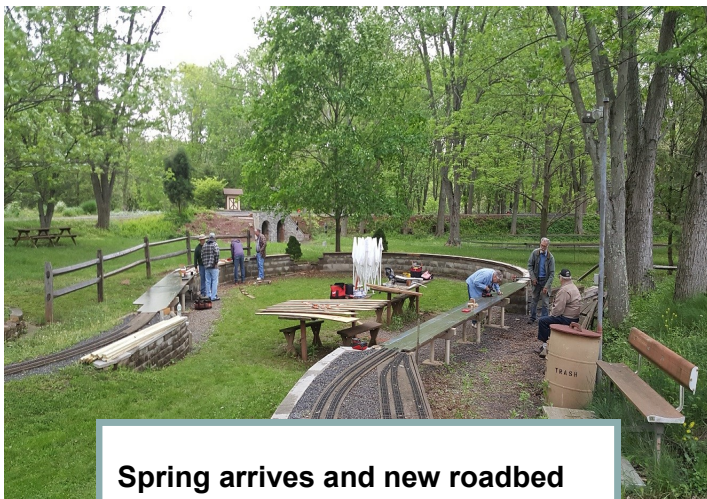
**The first step was to remove half the existing track and turnouts.**



**The next step was to remove the old deteriorating roadbed.**



**Stripped down to the metal 2 x 4's.**



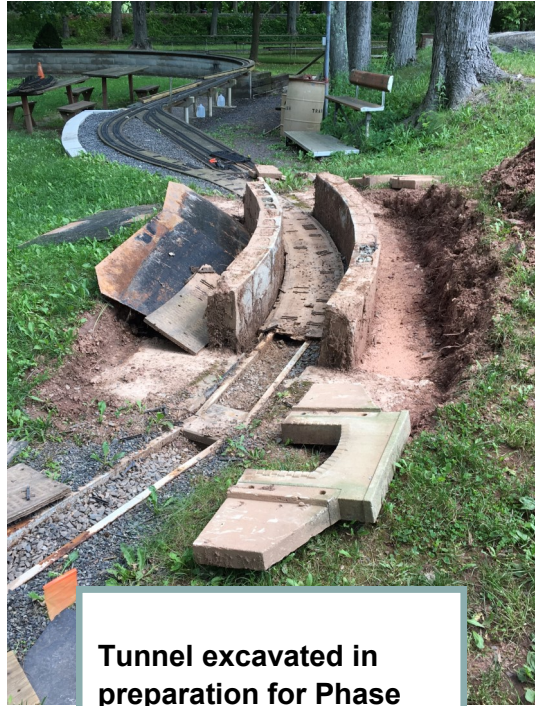
**Spring arrives and new roadbed was applied to the foundation.**

The plan was to have the east side of the layout finished in time to host the Spring Meet. This was accomplished because of the excellent turnout on the workdays. The west side, including the tunnel, will be tackled as phase two during the remaining work days this summer to be operational on or before the Fall Meet.

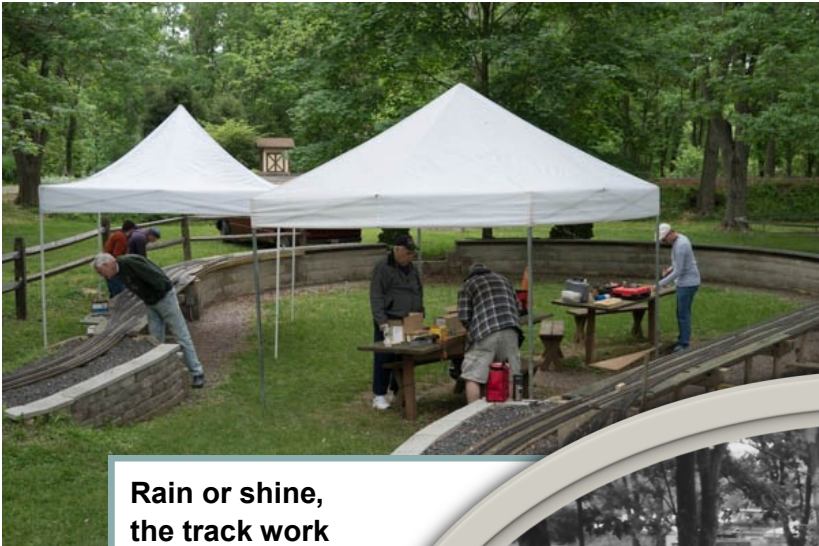
The backup plan is the temporary mobile track owned by Mike Moore which has been erected for the intervening run days .



**Murray Wilson assists Paul Quirk in cutting track.**



**Tunnel excavated in preparation for Phase Two of the project.**



**Rain or shine, the track work continues.**



**Gauge 1 circa 1997**

Photos courtesy of Mike Moore



**The  
PLS GAZETTE**

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

**FIRST CLASS**



**Annual PLS Picnic**  
**Saturday, July 15th**  
**Noon - 4 PM**  
Rain Date, July 16th

We supply the  
Hotdogs, Burgers  
and Ice Cream...  
You bring a Favorite  
Dish and Beverage.