



March – April 2024

THE PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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The Wheel Report

Dear Friends:

In this installment of the newsletter, I first wish to congratulate the newly elected Board Members, **John Forsythe**, **Bonny Mallon** and **Fred Daddi**- Welcome!

I also extend heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Board members **Jim Salmons**, and **Ross McGee**. **Mark Cahill** moves to the Treasurer's position succeeding the ever-diligent **Bob Morris** who served in this position for many, many years. Thank you, Bob!

Paul Miller, who completed his term on the Board, has been elected to serve in the Secretary position. I remind everyone that Paul is still the acting Gazette editor until a new person is identified to take over and expand our newsletter.

I encourage all PLS members to thank those outgoing members and support those newly elected as we all navigate our club forward. Feel free to speak with them with any questions you may have.

In the coming weeks we are once again tasked with opening up the property from the winter slumber and prepare for the next event - Boiler Testing Day - on **Sunday, April 28**.

Special thanks to **Bruce Barrett** and **John Geib** for helping to tend to the facilities related to run day events.

I have directed the editor to include the log book attendance for the Wednesday and Saturday work sessions. I sincerely extend sincere THANKS to these stalwart individuals for their important work contribution that is always needed on behalf of the club. We look forward to adding more names in the coming Wednesday and Saturday work sessions.

Be sure to always check the Club House Bulletin Board. We are making an effort to update and post important general documents (exp. boiler test procedures) up there.

Lastly, we bid farewell to our faithful (but tired) servant – the Ford Backhoe. A fine piece of equipment that largely help in the building of our property. Well, done.

Patrick J Murphy

President PLS, Inc.



PLS Election Results

PLS Election Results, Annual elections held at the regular membership meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Pat Murphy, Paul Miller and Mark Cahill running unopposed, were elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors: Fred Daddi, John Forsythe and Bonny Mallon. 2024 will be their first year of a 2-year team.

Board members Pete Brown, Paul Rice and Steve Mallon will be entering the second year of their 2-year terms expiring in 2025.

Congratulations and best wishes to those elected. And special thanks to those that served many years, Bob Morris, Ross Magee and Jim Salmons.

2024 PLS Upcoming Events

--Sat, April 20	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM SPRING CLEAN-UP in AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
--Sun, April 28	Run Day - 9:00 BOILER TESTING Rain Date May 5
--Sat, May 18	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
--Fri, May 24	SPRING MEET Members and Guests
--Sat, May 25	Breakfast & Lunch, Pot Luck Dinner
--Sun, May 26	Breakfast & Lunch
--Sat, June 1	Perkiomen Community Day Run Day – Township Residents

Storage Track Payments are Due

To regular members who have storage tracks at PLS: your annual fees were due as of April 1. If you have not already paid, please see Mark Cahill with your payment or send to PLS c/o the Treasurer.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received since January: James Meadowcroft, Tom Zimmer, Sharon Connelly, John Sommer, Don Maleta, Rose Ann Wagner, David Taylor, Barry Shapin, Peter Jessup, Bob Morris, and John Forsythe.



Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members David Van Winkle, Leland Pedrick, and Roberta Henderson.

Membership Gauge

As of January 31, 2024

- 93 Regular Members
- 6 Probationary Members
- 129 Associate Members
- 3 Honorary Members

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	Pat Murphy	of Gilbertsville, PA	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary	Paul Miller	of West Chester, PA	secretary@palivesteamers.org
Treasurer	Mark Cahill	of Perkasie, PA	treasurer@palivesteamers.org
Gazette Editor	TBD		

Board of Directors

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

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

John Forsythe, john@tcsdcc.com - Term Expires 3/26

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

Bonny Mallon, quiltnewlady@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/26

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

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Workdays at PLS

Below illustrates an example workday on the sign in sheet. Workdays are every Wednesday and Saturday typically 9 AM to Noon. Work includes Track, Grounds and Buildings.

PLS Sign-up Sheet

Date	Name	Comments
27-Mar	Jim Adams	Building track
27-Mar	Henry Blanco White	Building track
27-Mar	Theodore Flood	Building track
27-Mar	Rick Stoughton	Building track
27-Mar	George Fitzgerald	Building track
27-Mar	Frank Webb	Unstated
27-Mar	John Forsythe	Unstated
27-Mar	Bob Morris	Unstated
27-Mar	Ross Magee.	Unstated
27-Mar	Jim Salmon	Unstated



Images show a curved Track panel recently completed and our small stockpile of completed panels ready to install. The 4.75 track panels are for the passing siding between the Tunnel and Mercer Bridge. Most of them can be installed without taking the Main Line out of service. We will need to finish the installation of the new Turnout at Mercer Bridge and its connection to the new siding.

The 7.25 Track panels are for first Main Line replacement project in some time. The goal is to create 10 Track panels so we can plan a Main Line outage. They need be installed between our planned Run Days. We do need to estimate how many Track panels can be removed and replaced in a given time frame and the labor force required. Installation may need to include a small connecting Track panel to reconnect the Main Line. The first section to be replaced is the Main Line starting at the south end of Mercer Bridge heading south.

As spring has arrived, we will also need to get the Movers and other equipment ready for grounds maintenance. General cleanup of the Tracks and weed suppression also needs to be started. Last year we did get half of the drainage swale east of the Foot Bridge cleared. It would be nice to complete that effort. Many other opportunities to fix/maintain the property exist.

Many projects require different skill levels. By volunteering you may learn new skills and help keep the railroad running,



Trackside Images



New Turnout installed just east of the Tunnel on the 4.75 track. The beginning of the new passing siding that will connect just before Mercer Bridge,



The most dangerous Tree on the property is down as the cleanup continues. Three other trees were taken down. One had fallen down this winter east of Mercer Bridge, another was partially down along the path to the Mercer Bridge. The other was a tree in bad shape near the main entrance.



Some of the remains of the tree that fell east of Mercer Bridge.

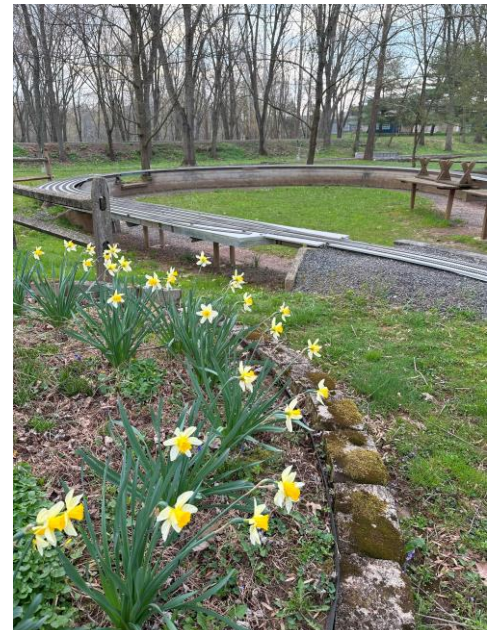


Tip: when viewing the PLS Gazette electronically you can Zoom In and Out to see the Images in better detail.

Trackside Images



The new turnout at Mercer Bridge is in place and still needs to be connected to the 4.75 Main Line on both ends.



Cleanup has begun for the Gauge 1 layout. Starting with the plywood and track.



Looking at the Caboose, it is a reminder that our 80th Anniversary is just 2 short years away. Hopefully we will have better luck celebrating that milestone than we did with our 75th. Planning should start soon, please help us with this effort.



Looking for more clear signals ahead as we begin the 2024 running season.

Three cheers to Frank Webb who has led the effort to maintain our Signal System.

We must deal with the many ways the System was built and maintained over the years. Also many of the signal cables that go block to block have been in the ground for many years (water can be cruel).

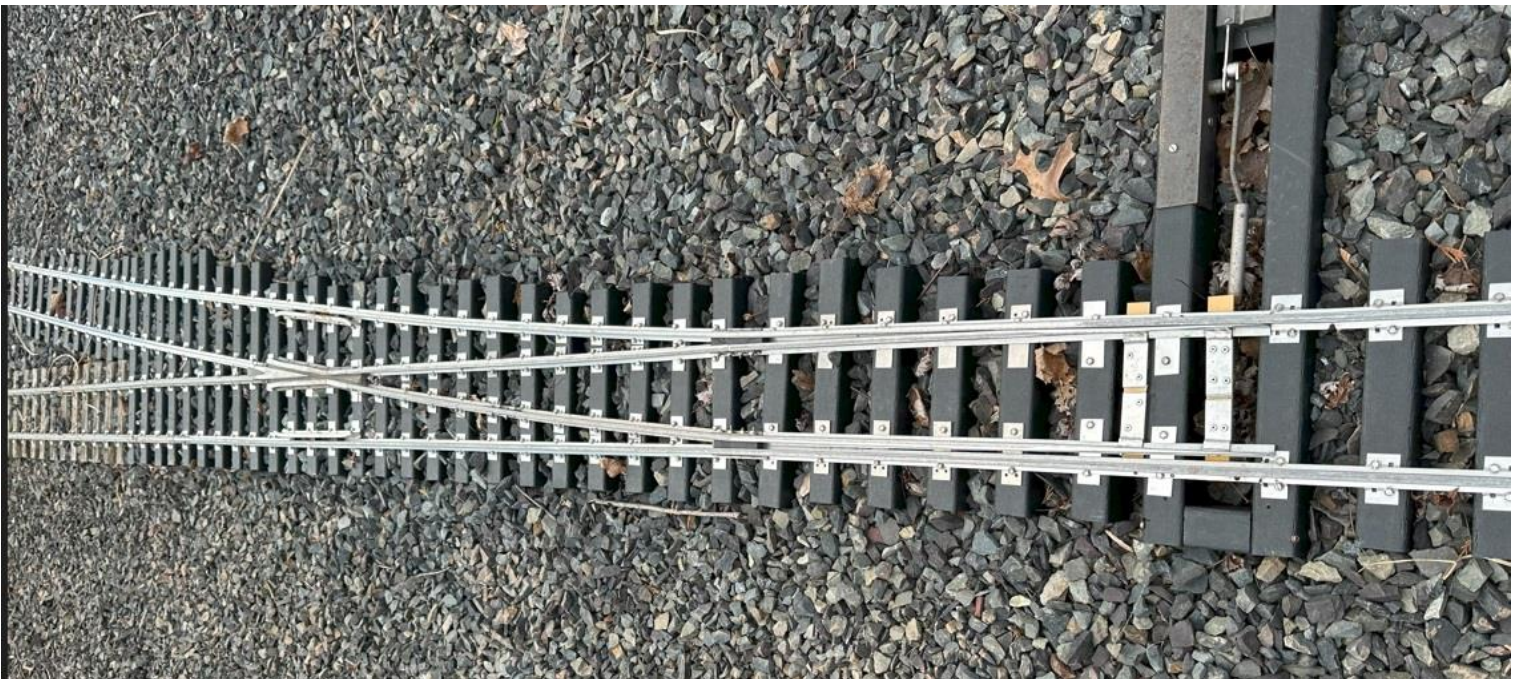
Every picture tells a story.



The PLS GAZETTE

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

FIRST CLASS



Our first Turnout built with all Plastic Ties