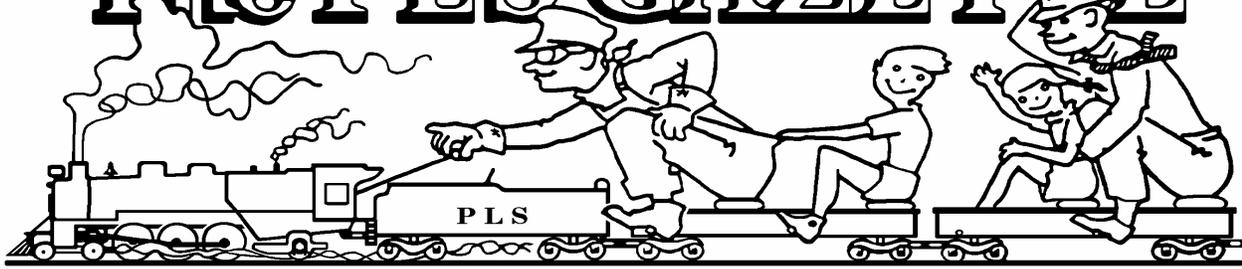


# The PLS GAZETTE



## PENNSYLVANIA LIVE STEAMERS, INC.

P.O. BOX 26202, COLLEGEVILLE, PA. 19426-0202

**November, December – 2007**



### **Bruce Saylor Doing What We Do Best-Merry Christmas to All THE PREZ SEZ**



In response to a flood tide of requests, I will offer no poetry this year. Many suggest that what I offered last year was not poetry, either. We are now in the Christmas season. Christmas has increasingly become a holiday in celebration of stuff. It seems reasonable, therefore, to discuss moving stuff. Retailers call this distribution, I call it freight.

When we hear the lament about vanishing railroads, it is usually about passenger service. The railroads still move an enormous amount of freight in very efficient fashion. In addition to the movement of bulk cargoes, like coal, the railroads handle a lot of merchandise, too. When you consider how many of our consumer goods are manufactured in China, it is clear that much of what we buy crosses the continent of North America. After being unloaded from container ships on the west coast, most of the shipments are loaded onto trains for transit to the Midwest and Eastern population centers, so your children and grandchildren will be opening packages from under the Christmas tree that have arrived by rail.

Rail freight is very energy efficient. A widely circulated television commercial claims that rail can transport a ton of cargo 400 miles on one gallon of fuel. To match that energy efficiency, your car would have to achieve a fuel consumption rate of 200 miles per gallon. Let me know how you make out with that. The secret of this efficiency is: 1) the very low rolling friction of steel wheels on steel rails, and 2) moving things in large shipments.

Another way to save energy would be to ship things shorter distances, or stated another way, manufacture goods locally. Lots of luck with that, too. Movement of passengers by rail is much more energy efficient than driving or flying as well. With oil prices headed north of \$100 per barrel there may be wider passenger rail travel in the future of the U.S.

(Continued on Page2)

## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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**Clubhouse Phone** – 610-454-0477 **Club Web Site**: <http://PALiveSteamers.org>

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2008

Saturday, January 12	Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, February 9	Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, March 8	Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, March 15	Membership Meeting – Elections- 12:30 P.M.

The PLS *Gazette* is published 6 times a year starting in February. Deadline is BOD Meeting  
***Membership cards will be mailed to all paid up Members with the April Gazette***

### *Prez Sez (from page1)*

Here at PLS, we are completing another year. It has been a year when the club accomplished much, but also lost much. Several members of long standing are no longer with us. We will miss their presence, but look forward to new members and new projects. We also have a sizeable contingent of members who are ill or injured. Our thoughts are with them in this holiday season, we hope that they get well very soon.

The preceding paragraph reminds us that the PLS membership is aging. If the club is going to continue and to prosper, it must recruit and integrate younger members who will be the leaders and workers in the future. I wish to point out that we are unlikely to succeed in this recruitment if we view the new, younger members as workers only. They will not wish to join your club to preserve your visions and serve at your pleasure. They might want to join an organization that values them as members and permits them a strong voice in the governance of the club and choice of future plans. If you cannot tolerate such change, you can prevent it, but the club will have no future. Please think about this and, as Tiny Tim said, “God bless us every one!”

### *Bill Love*



October Blow Down Day

## PLS Library

Our library is now officially open for business. We have over 400 books, pamphlets, videos and DVD's. All members, regular and associate can take out items for a one month period. After that there will be a \$1.00 fine for each week that the item has not been returned.

Thanks to a generous member, we now have a number of these items on display in a new glass front bookcase in the clubhouse. Please see Lynn Hammond on a Wednesday or a Saturday if you would like to take out any of the items.

## 2007 Fall Meet Thank You

As many of you know Dave Taylor, a recently elected regular member, recently suffered from a terrible paralyzing accident. He has been showing wonderful progress in his recovery and is now at his just renovated home in Landsdale. (A number of PLS members helped build the deck and handicapped ramp in front of the house.) After being so busy everyday at the re-hab center he now has much more time on his hands and we believe that he would welcome visitors even if only for a brief chat. Please call first at 215-368-9374.

Lynn Hammond

To All Members:

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, made phone calls and visited me during my recent hospitalization and recovery from triple by-pass surgery. At the present time I'm coming along fine.

Walt Mensch

(Walt made his first trip to PLS last Wednesday)

## Nomination Committee

You may be called in the near future about serving on the Board of Directors. If you are, please give it some consideration.



Keith Dorn – October Run Day



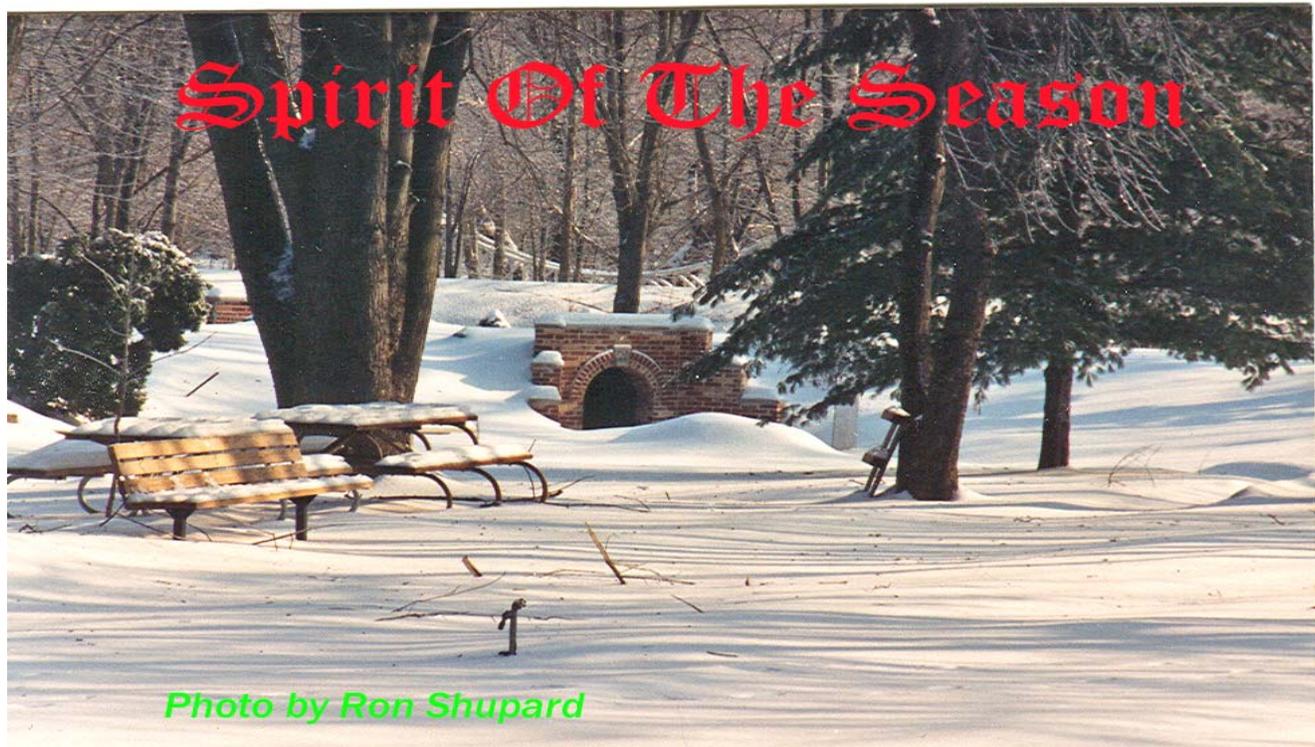
**No. That's not Santa checking his list, but it is Ron Henderson**

**The PLS Gazette  
P.O. Box 26202  
Collegeville, PA 19426-0202**

**FIRST CLASS**



**Think Spring !!**



Jim Salmons-Oct.2007



Rich Falzone

