



The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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Green Signals Ahead

The new running season beginning on April 26th 2015 is fast approaching and we will once again see trains running on the tracks at PLS. And speaking about tracks, the tracks at PLS are in excellent condition thanks to our track crew that for years has been continuously working to aligning, replace rail, upgrade fasteners and making many improvements to our track system. It should be noted that some of our track has been on the ground since 1946 and although it was taken up from its original location in Paoli, PA in the late 1960's and placed back on the ground at its current location in Rahns, PA in 1970. Parts of the railroad today is running on track that is 68 years old and still offers a smooth safe ride to all engineers and passengers that climbs aboard trains at PLS.

As noted above, some of our track work was needed to "replace rail". Some of the rail that required replacement was due to damage caused by either engines or rolling stock that had wheel profiles having what we most often refer to as square flanges. Wheels with square flanges do not have the correct profile and have improper angles and radiuses that can cause the wheel to act like a knife and slice off part of the railhead. Last year we found a number of locations on our railroad where long strings of railhead had been sliced off and rolled up into a curly-cue. Square flanges can also cause damage to guard rails, frog

points and switch points. It is likely that wheels that have square flanges also have improper flange depth as is evident by looking at our switch frogs where you can see cut marks where wheel flanges have bottomed out in our frogs and although not as evident it is likely that the wheel gauge on the same equipment is not to specification either. Equipment with incorrect wheel profiles can cause track damage, is not safe and is not welcome at PLS.

PLS does have published track gauge and wheel dimension standards for 2 ½ inch, 3 ½ inch, 4 ¾ inch and 7 ¼ inch track gauges along with the standards dimensions for each wheel associated with its gauge size. As an example the two most common track gauges, 7 ¼ inch and 4 ¾ inch are built using setup gauges for both tangent track (straight track) and curved track where the curved track has been opened slightly to reduce/eliminate wheel binding that can lead to derailment and/or track damage. The PLS standard back to back dimension for 7 ¼ inch gauge is 6 ¾ inches. Switches on PLS 7 ¼ inch gauge track have been widened to accommodate wheel sets with a back to back of up to 6 7/8 inches as often found on equipment from other Northeastern railroad clubs. These eased dimensions have allowed other visiting club members to run on PLS track and enjoy our facility.

It is not fully clear why in the past few years the problem with track damage due to square flanges has been on the increase. It might be that more equipment is being

purchased from new suppliers and/or companies that are not paying attention to standard wheel profile or for other unknown reasons. I am asking all PLS Regular Members and visiting engineers from other organizations to check their equipment for the proper track gauge and wheel profile before running on PLS track. If you have any questions or need a copy of gauge and wheel standards you can contact the PLS Secretary at:

secretary@palivesteamers.org

or the PLS President at:

president@palivesteamers.org and we will be happy to forward you a copy by e-mail or you can pick up a copy at the PLS clubhouse.

Since we have seen an increase in track damage we will be on the lookout for equipment that does not meet our standards and has the potential for causing damage to PLS property. Please help us to keep PLS track in good condition and safe for all who run their equipment.

Our goal is to keep our railroad in good operation condition and safe for all who operate their equipment and for the passengers who ride our trains.

I look forward to seeing you on the PLS railroad soon.

Frank Webb, President

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following members for donations received during December and January: Steve Leatherman, Robert Gray III, John Caldwell, Bryan Del-Monte, Jim Salmons, Wanda Gammon, Edgar Hendler, Raymond Matus, David Staplin, Kenneth Thomas, Carmen Visalli, Robert Blackson, Henry Blanco White, Wayne DeVilbiss, Richard Poletto, Sean Skelonis, James Stapleton, Thomas Die-drich, R. Buzz Heidenreich, John Henchar, Frank Morris Jr, Jerry Shank Sr, Joseph Springer, Dolores Stahl, Jeffrey Stahl, Deborah Voynar, John Wessels, Brian Ziegler, Chris Becker, Susan Borders, David Brush, Robert Goepel, Lawrence Moss Jr, Roy Nelson, Lee Nonnemacher, Thom-

as Caldwell, James Milo, Douglas Pyatt, Alan Redeker, George Cooper, Kathleen Parris, Frank Webb, Terry Weinstein, Richard Moore, Duane Quenzel, Jack Richards, Douglas Eddy, Steven Quenzel, George Spohrer, Kenneth Valeri, Patrick Murphy, Robert Small, Wayne Gillmor, William Shields, Wayne Baldwin, Newell Godschall Jr, Paul Nichini, Casey Quenzel, Chris Rood, Harry Quirk, Robert Bergey, Ronald Drenth, Carolyn Mlynarczyk, Brittany Grimm, Joseph Rohanna, Carl Bruhns, Stephen Roadcap, Dean Rupp, David Laird, Jared Schoenly, Rich Falzone, Mark Collins, Ronald Marburger, Michael McDevitt, Virginia Kulak, James Connelly, Sharon Connelly, Edward Kabak, Eric Peffel, Holly Garman, Marc Carpino, and Gita Talmage. Thanks also to Rita Bixler.

Notice of Elections and Annual Meeting

PLS elections will be held during the annual membership meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 12:30 P.M. To be elected are president, secretary, treasurer and three board members.

Nominees for the offices are as follows:

President - Frank Webb
Secretary - Lee Nonnemacher
Treasurer - Bob Morris

Board of Directors:

John Bortz, Jr.
Pete Brown
Bob Freer
Robert Hillenbrand
Bruce Saylor*

*Denotes incumbent running for second two-year term.

Membership Cards

Membership cards were mailed in early February. If you have sent your renewal and have not yet received your membership card, please e-mail:

secretary@palivesteamers.org

or write to Pennsylvania Live Steamers at the address on the bottom of this page.

Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Francis C. Maressa, David S. Bucher and Kristy M. Kurtz. James Stapleton and James Schaefer have applied for Regular membership.

Congratulations to all.

Membership Renewals Past Due

As a reminder, membership renewals were due by December 31, 2014. In order to remain a member, we must have your paid renewal. If you do not renew, this will be your last issue of the *PLS Gazette*. Please take the time to complete the renewal notice that you were sent in early December and forward it with your dues. If you have misplaced your renewal notice, you can receive another one by e-mailing to secretary@palivesteamers.org or by writing to PLS Inc. at the address at the bottom of this page. **Please do not forward dues without the renewal form.** We must have the signed renewal form completed for our records. Your membership cards will be sent to you when your dues are received.



Membership Gauge

As of January 31, 2015 PLS has:

104 Regular Members

251 Associate Members

9 Honorary Members

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

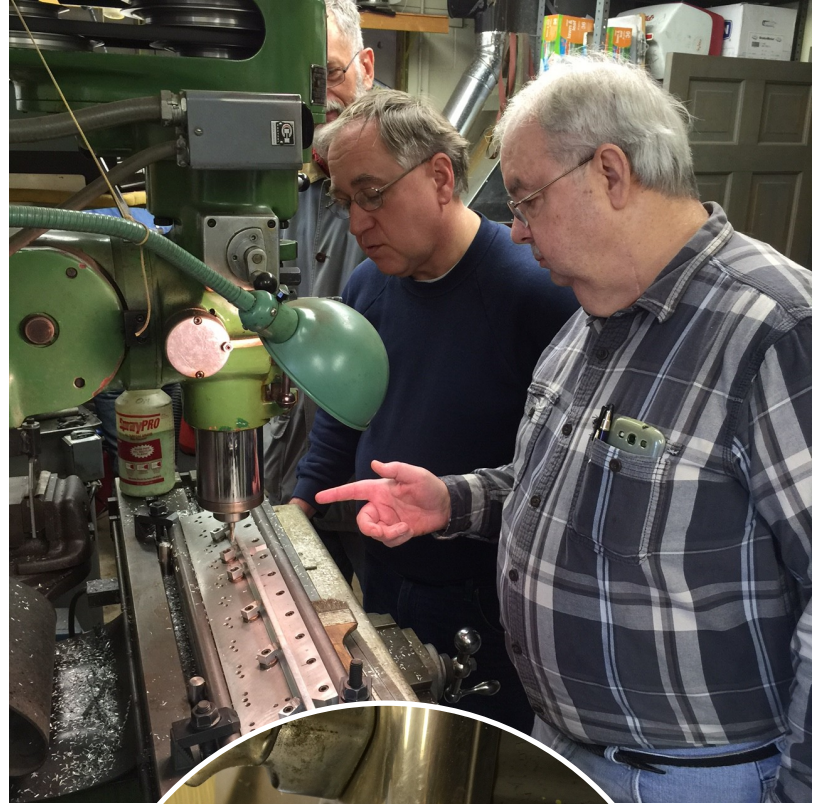
President	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
Secretary	C. Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Road, Norristown, PA 19403	rmorris1171@verizon.net
Treasurer	Walter Mensch	1348 Sheep Hill Road, Pottstown, PA 19465	
Gazette Editor	Lawrence Moss	815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438	LarryMoss@outlook.com
Board of Directors: Sharon Connelly, connellywood@verizon.net ; Ron Henderson, ronhenderson@verizon.net ; Steve Leatherman, steveleatherman@gmail.com ; Jim Salmons, jshay6@verizon.net ; Bruce Saylor, bgsberk@comcast.net ; Ron Shupard, ShuSmoke@aol.com			

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc. • P.O. Box 26202, Collegeville, PA 19426-0202 • 610-454-0477 • www.palivesteamers.org

Making Tracks

Work days have been challenging this winter. Freezing temperatures and an accumulation of snow and ice have prevented a lot of outdoor work from being accomplished. Saturday, February 7th was no exception, so Lee Nonnemacher took the opportunity to demonstrate how to create switch points to be used for new turnouts or repairs to existing ones.

- Larry Moss



Peter Brown Photos



Middle: The operation begins with extruded aluminum rail stock. **Top:** Lee Nonnemacher explains how the special jig works on the milling machine to Paul Rice while Henry Blanco White keeps an eye peeled. **Bottom:** Milling machine in action.

2015 Complete Calendar of Events

January

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

February

Saturday Feb. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

March

Saturday Mar. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Annual Elections

April

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

Sunday Apr. 26 Run Day - Members & Guests -
Boiler Testing
(Rain Date May 3)

May

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

Friday May 22 *Spring Meet* - Members & Guests
Saturday May 23 *Spring Meet* - Members & Guests
Sunday May 24 *Spring Meet* - Members & Guests

June

Saturday Jun. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Jun. 28 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date July 5)

July

Saturday Jul. 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Saturday Jul. 18 *Annual PLS Picnic - 2:00 PM*
(following the Membership Meeting)
(PLS provided food and train rides will
be available from 2 PM until 4 PM)
(Picnic Rain Date Sunday July 19)

Sunday Jul. 26 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date August 2)

August

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

Sunday Aug. 23 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date August 30)

September

Friday, Sept. 4 *Fall Meet* - Members & Guests
Saturday Sept. 5 *Fall Meet* - Members & Guests
Sunday Sept. 6 *Fall Meet* - Members & Guests

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

Sunday Sept. 27 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date October 4)

October

Saturday Oct. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Fall Clean Up in AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Afternoon/Evening Run (See Note)

Sunday Oct. 25 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date November 1)

November

Saturday Nov. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday Nov. 27 Turkey Trot Run - Gauge 1 only -
(Rides not available)

December

Saturday Dec. 19 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.

PLS Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Income

Expenses

Donations

Run Day.....	\$ 475.00
Special Run Day.....	350.00
Pot Luck Dinner.....	425.00
Picnic.....	175.00
General.....	5,700.00

Dues

Regular Member.....	8,560.00
Associate Member.....	7,500.00

Sales

Boiler Treatment.....	50.00
Coal.....	.00
Steam Oil.....	.00
Soda.....	1,300.00
Snacks Non-Run Day.....	300.00
Snacks Run Day.....	725.00
Kitchen on Meet Weekends	1,400.00
Table Sales Taxable.....	250.00
Table Sales Non-Taxable...	1,300.00
Miscellaneous.....	75.00

Storage Track Fees

Building # 3.....	3,636.00
Building # 6.....	2,380.00
Building #8.....	432.00

Recycling

Aluminum Cans.....	<u>20.00</u>
Total Income.....	\$ 35,198.00

Utilities

Electric.....	\$ 1,975.00
Oil.....	900.00
Septic Tank.....	900.00
Portable Toilets.....	925.00
Telephone.....	350.00
Dumpster.....	1,125.00
Miscellaneous.....	200.00

Miscellaneous

Picnic.....	300.00
Pot Luck Dinner.....	275.00

Maintenance

Backhoe.....	75.00
Machine Shop Supplies	50.00
Building # 1.....	1,000.00
Buildings # 2-7.....	750.00
Gauge 1.....	100.00
Track.....	900.00
Mowers.....	350.00
Signals.....	200.00
Gas Mowing.....	175.00
Gas Track.....	75.00
Club Locomotive.....	200.00
Landscaping.....	250.00
Trees.....	5,000.00
Fire Extinguishers.....	150.00
Miscellaneous Property	750.00

Communications

Gazette Postage.....	\$ 630.00
Gazette Printing.....	630.00
Other Printing.....	400.00
Computer.....	100.00
Internet.....	1,080.00
Community Support.....	100.00
Web Page.....	700.00
Miscellaneous.....	200.00

Corporate

Legal & Accounting Fees	750.00
Office General.....	200.00
Property Tax.....	4,500.00
Sales Tax.....	45.00
Office Postage.....	540.00
Insurance.....	3,700.00
Corporate Miscellaneous	100.00

Food & Merchandise Supplies

Kitchen.....	650.00
Snacks.....	400.00
Soda.....	550.00
Sale Table Items.....	1,000.00

Special Projects

Building # 3 Lead Track	1,400.00
Building # 1 Canopy Ext.	6,700.00
Loader Shed.....	800.00
Steamer Bay Repairs.....	100.00
Gauge 1 Wheelchair Ramp	<u>200.00</u>

Total Expenses..... \$ 42,460.00

Machinery for Sale

After 60 years in the hobby, it has become necessary for me to give up work because of deteriorating vision. I am disposing of machinery and related tooling in three lots:

- MicroMark 7" x 12" TruInch MiniLathe and tooling
- MicroMark TruInch Vertical MiniMill and tooling
- 4" H/V Rotary Table with Tailstock & Dividing Head

Full descriptions and prices are available by e-mail.

Bob Thomas SteamRR@Comcast.net 215-616-0570



The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202

Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

FIRST CLASS



January 1st Wintery Run by the Hearty: Larry Moss, Roy Nelson, John Bortz, Ron Shupard, Bruce Saylor, Guy Godshall, Bob Freer and Bob Hillenbrand (not pictured) started the year off right and got in some cold weather running time. Everyone ran slow because the air got nasty when you speeded up. Bruce is in the red snow suit. He's no dummy.