



# The PLS GAZETTE

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

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## Green Signals Ahead

**U**pdate to my last article that appeared in the July – August Gazette. That article discussed several acts of vandalism that took place on PLS property and the fact that several individuals were caught on a PLS security camera that was installed by Pete Brown. The time stamped video and several enlarged still pictures were sent to the State Police.

The good news is the three youths we caught on camera were identified by the Pennsylvania State Troopers and have admitted to the break-in of Buildings 6 and 9. State Trooper Kassel gave us an opportunity to meet with the three individuals involved in the in the vandalism and a chance to tell them about the long history of PLS and the members that work very hard to keep our property in good order. We expressed our extreme disappointed in the damage that they did to our property, property that did not belong to them. We also received an apology for the damage they caused.

This is not the end for these offenders that will now have to participate in the Montgomery County Youth Aid Program, a unique program for first time offenders created by the District Attorney's Office. The program offers and alternative to court prosecution for juveniles alleged to have committed certain minor offenses. The program is designed to help juveniles avoid future contact with the criminal justice system through the involvement of local community volunteers and keeps the juvenile from carrying a criminal record.

As part of this program, the juvenile must admit his/her involvement in the incident and appear before a panel of carefully selected and trained community volunteers. The panel members supervise juveniles in an effort to hold them accountable for their actions and facilitate a constructive contribution to the community. Juveniles are required to fulfill certain assigned conditions aimed at teaching community responsibility within a specified time in order to complete the program successfully. This may include community service of compensation to PLS, the victim for any out of pocket loss caused by the crime. If the offender fulfills all of the obligations ordered by the panel, the juvenile will avoid a criminal record. Failure to complete the conditions will cause the case to be sent to court for prosecution.

It is a shame that three young men, one eighth grader and two tenth graders decided to trespass on our property and force the doors open on two of our buildings. The program outlined above seems like a sound path to second chance. It is likely that we will see these boys on our property again as the Fall leaves will soon be falling and a few extra hands to help clean up the mess that mother nature will soon be making is always welcome. We also have a few other areas that could use clean up.

We are taking a number of actions to improve security at PLS. Pete Brown is working on expanding our camera system to give us more coverage of the property, this will require expanding the reach of our wireless system to reach across to the north side of our property. We will post signs that will let anyone entering PLS property that we are using video surveillance, those

signs are being prepared by Larry Moss. We will improve the locking system on both Building 6 and 9 making it more difficult to force the doors open. We have also taken several other actions to better protect the assets of Building 1 our clubhouse. I will not write about those actions in this message, it is better if it is communicated in a face to face at a membership meeting or possibly in a BLAST.

As mentioned above, Pete Brown has been working to improve our video surveillance, I should warn you that this also includes both video and audio and the microphones are very sensitive so you might want to watch your language, not just because it may be recorded, but because it is the courteous thing to do and we do not want to offend anyone. And don't forget we often have children on the property. In case you didn't figure it out the cameras run 24 hours a day seven days a week. If you're on the property your also on camera (video)!

The scheduled running season is coming to an end with the last run in October, just about the time that you will be reading this message. Don't forget that just because the running season is coming to an end that doesn't mean the work season is over, especially Fall cleanup. We always have something to work on at PLS!

See you on the Mainline,

*Frank Webb*, President



## Fall Meet Thank You's

Despite the weather, so many of you contributed your time to ensure PLS had the best Meet possible. Thanks to all those volunteers who prepared the facilities, manned the gate, staffed the kitchen, provided the Pot Luck, donated food, and jumped in to clean up at the end of the weekend.

*Kathy Parris*

Kitchen Coordinator

**Thanks** once again to John Forsythe and his family for putting together another great PLS picnic dinner.

As with last year's PLS picnic we owe John and his family a very special THANK YOU. If you didn't attend the picnic you missed a very nice event. For the second year John and family went well beyond just cooking hamburgers and hot dogs by adding many special touches right down to the table cloths. The food was great, and although the weather was a little iffy all those that participated had a good meal and good time.

## Donation

### Acknowledgements

**THANK YOU** to Pat Heller for a very substantial donation to PLS. Many of you know Pat but for those that don't - here is a little history. Pat's Husband, Al Heller, was a longtime Associate Member of PLS and although Al was only an Associate Member he spent more time working at PLS than many Regular members and was a great supporter of our organization. Al passed away several years ago and those of us that knew Al miss him. Pat continues to come to PLS events and has been a great supporter. I am both happy and sad to report that Pat has moved from the local area to be closer to her son in Maryland. This will make it more difficult for her to visit but she knows that she is always welcome at PLS. Thank you Pat!

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
**Fall Clean Up in AM**

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Afternoon/Evening Run\*

Sunday, Oct. 28 **Run Day - Members and Guests**  
(Rain Date November 4)

Last Regular Run for 2017

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

Friday, Nov. 22 **Turkey Trot Run - Gauge 1 only**  
(rides not available)

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.

PLS also wishes to thank the following for donations received during August and September: The Exxon Foundation on behalf of Terry and Cindy Smelzer, Christine Hoenstine in memory of her father Bill Normart, Pat Heller toward PLS security measures and Fred Brecher for donation of his one-inch scale cabooses.

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members John Blake, E. Fred Brecher, Vincent E. Sly, Ethan Wizorek, and Dietrich Wiemers.



## Membership Gauge

As of September 30, 2018 PLS has:

**112 Regular Members**

**187 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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## European Visitors to PLS



Dietrich and Sabina Wiemers from Berlin, Germany contacted Club Secretary Lee Nonnemacher via our website and asked if they could visit our club while they were vacationing in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Jersey. Both are avid rail fans and run their own live steamer at the Dampffreunde Berlin-Brandenburg club. A special run was organized at PLS on Thursday, September 20th.

The Dietrichs toured numerous excursion railroads and visited several railroad museums on their trip to the US. They made application to be Associate Members thus making PLS an international club. See: <https://www.dampffreundeberlin-brandenburg.de>



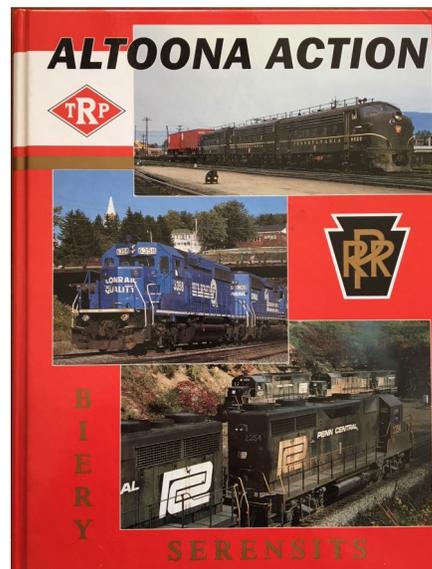
**ATTENTION PLS MEMBERS** - The 75th Anniversary Committee is growing but we need more members. To date we have three on the committee and an advisor who organized the 50th anniversary celebration. If you would like to be in on the fun, contact Larry Moss at [LarryMoss@outlook.com](mailto:LarryMoss@outlook.com)

Both Regular and Associate Members are eligible to join the team.

## Upcoming Membership Renewals Please Pre-register Family Members

Membership renewals for 2019 will be sent in early December. Included with the renewal material, as in past years, will be a copy of the "ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION" form. **If you have family members who may want to attend run days**, we encourage you to have this form completed and return it with your renewal. If you do so, a **guest card** will be sent to you along with your membership card. That card will allow family members to enter without having to sign in at the gate when they visit. It will also help to reduce paperwork for PLS volunteers.

## PLS Library Book of the Month



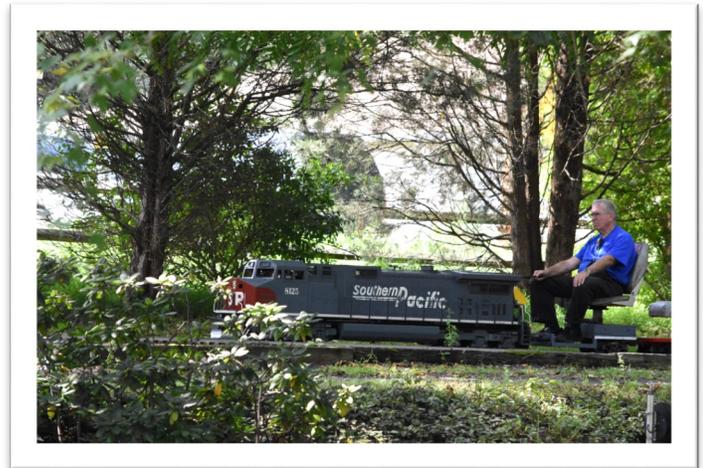
### Book Review

A photographic history of the Pennsylvania Railroad and its successors from the 1960's to the 1990's centered on the Altoona area. Many of the photos are in color. Also maps and timetables.

### For information contact:

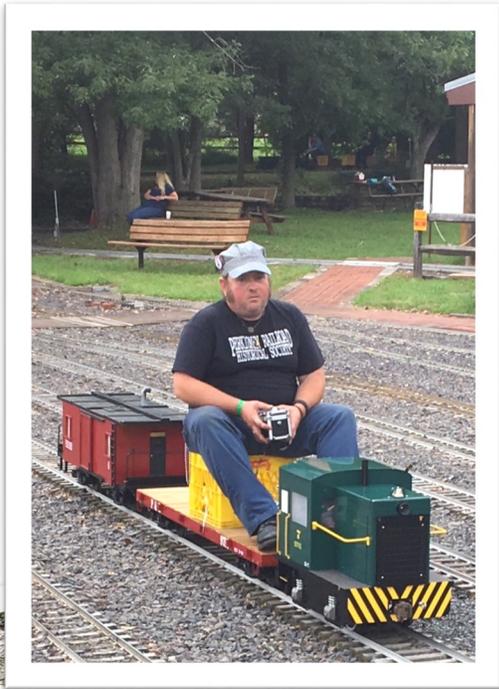
Joe Gotlewski, Librarian  
[joegotlewski@gmail.com](mailto:joegotlewski@gmail.com)

# Seen on the Rails...



Photos courtesy of Allen Underkoffler

# ...at the Fall Meet





# The PLS GAZETTE

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## FIRST CLASS



Mike McDivitt offered train rides on his portable track during the Schuylkill Haven Borough Day. Mike together with Joe Gotlewski provided 1,200 rides in 6 hours.