



# The PLS GAZETTE

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

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### Green Signals Ahead

Here we go again! It's a new running season, 2019, at the Pennsylvania Live Steam Railroad and over the past few months we have been working hard to get the railroad ready for this seasons run days and meets. One major and recent fix was rebuilding about 100 feet of 7 ¼ inch track starting just above Beck Tower and ending just short of the Multi-Gauge Bridge. This portion of track was pushed around, side to side and up and down by some very large and nasty roots from our VERY LARGE sycamore tree that has been growing in the turntable for more than 45 years. Once the track was removed the job of digging down to the roots, some larger than your entire leg. This enabled the roots to be cut away and removed in several locations along the down grade. Very time consuming work! And not the best weather conditions to be working in at ground level. The 100 feet of track was completely rebuild with new ties, tie plates and fasteners. Then came the task of reinstalling, connecting, setting the grade, setting super elevation, lots of new ballast and tamping along with new bonding wires, the work was completed on April 13, 2019. It is likely that the tree which is also causing damage to the turntable, the turntable wall and the grading wall next to the track will have to be removed.

Another long and difficult over the winter repair headed up by Jim Miller was the replacement of about 100 feet of old full size railroad tie curbing just behind the clubhouse porch. A new block wall was installed from Building S (lawn mower building) west to the cross walk by Build-

ing 1 that takes you across the track south to PECO's parking area. The new wall not only looks great, but is a little higher and much closer to the height of the 4 ¾ inch track that it protects. The stone had been running away from the siding track making it difficult to keep it in alignment. This job is very near completion and just a little track adjustment and tamping will make the job completed.

This brings me to the current open project list. I will not go into any great detail in this recap, but it will give you some idea of what is open for the balance of 2019 and beyond and what needs a fair amount of man/woman power to complete.

PLS Projects priority list:

- a. Caboose paint restoration – Lead Bob Morris
- b. Multi-Gauge track work – Henry Blanco White
- c. Building S repair – T-111 and Door needs woodworking and paint – Lead: TBA
- d. Cross buck on North side of property needs clean up and paint. Consideration should be given to moving
- e. 1" Switches and Signals Brown Box thru mainline past 1" station – Lead: Ron H. – Frank W.
- f. Backhoe lean-to east side of Bldg. 3 – Leader: Need lead for this project
- g. 4 ¾" track repair – Ongoing repair of 4 ¾" track is underway Lead: Jim Miller

h. 4 ¾ Passing Siding and Wall South side of property: Lead: Jim Miller **Completed**

i. One hundred feet of 7 ¼" mainline track repair, down grade just east of 7 ¼" station **Completed**

What's not reflected on this list is a small part of the 7 ¼ inch station/yard track alignment project that we finished last year. This was the realignment of the main line track swapping the Station track and the yard track back to an earlier configuration to improve yard traffic flow, mainline traffic flow and station traffic flow. The part of the work that was not completed was the re-installation of diamond crossover that takes trains from the 7 ¼ inch station bypass track to the turntable. The diamond was re-build by Jim Salmons, but is waiting for re-installation. This is a time sensitive project as diamond sits in the middle of the 7 ¼ inch mainline track. Once we begin digging up the mainline we have a short window to put it back in service. We would not want to spoil a regularly scheduled run day due to mainline track being out of service

This brings me to the work we need to complete before our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I know it sounds like the 75<sup>th</sup> and 2021 is a long way off, but it's not! Two item on the about list that we need to complete are the Caboose paint restoration and the Multi-Gauge track work. Both are huge projects and both need to be completed before the 75<sup>th</sup>. There is likely other paint work that we will need to complete. As you know Bob Morris has done a fantastic job at

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## PLS Election Results

Elections were held at the regular membership meeting on March 23, 2019. Frank Webb, Lee Nonnemacher and Bob Morris, running unopposed, were confirmed as President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. For the Board of Directors, only two members - Jim Miller and Jim Salmons agreed to run. They were confirmed to two Board positions and Pete Brown was confirmed to stay on for one year to fill out the Board. Bob Hillenbrand, Larry Moss and Ross Magee round out the Board in the second year of their two-year terms.. Congratulations and best wishes to those who will be serving.

## 2019 Spring Meet Information

The Spring Meet will be held on May 24, 25, and 26 this year. As usual, running will start on Friday afternoon, May 24th. Volunteers are needed for gate duty, station duty, and kitchen duty. Just sign up for a time slot when you arrive at the meet.

Also, please remember that **we depend** on your donations of baked goods for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Please note: during the meet, the clubhouse refrigerators are used for food and drinks sold by PLS throughout the weekend. Should you need refrigeration for either personal use or items brought for the pot luck dinner, please use your own cooler if at all possible. Thank you.

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Alan Haney and Ted Heller.

## PLS Upcoming Events 2019

Saturday, April 20	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM <b>Spring Clean Up in AM</b>
Sunday, April 28	Run Day - Members & Guests <b>Boiler Testing</b> <i>Rain Date May 5</i>
Saturday, May 18	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 AM
Friday, May 24	<b>Spring Meet</b> - Members & Guests
Saturday, May 25	<b>Spring Meet</b> - Members & Guests <b>Pot Luck Dinner - 5:30 PM</b>
Sunday, May 26	<b>Spring Meet</b> - Members & Guests
Saturday, June 15	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM
Sunday, June 23	Run Day - Members & Guests <i>Rain Date June 30</i>

## Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following members for donations received during February and March: Charles Radford, Fred Daddi, Don Maleta, and Barry Shapin. Thank you also to the estate of Win Becker for their donation.

## 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 Bob Morris with your payment or send to PLS c/o the Treasurer.

## Membership Gauge

As of March 31, 2019 PLS has:

- 111 Regular Members**
- 155 Associate Members**
- 5 Honorary Members**



## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

<b>President</b>	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	president@palivesteamers.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Lee Nonnemacher	1474 North Wales Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422	lee_n@msn.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Road, Norristown, PA 19403	rmorris1171@verizon.net
<b>Gazette Editor</b>	Lawrence Moss	815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438	LarryMoss@outlook.com
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	Peter Brown, peteprivate@yahoo.com; Jim Miller, jbmiller@msn.com; Jim Salmons, jshay6@verizon.net Bob Hillenbrand, RDH7917@comcast.net; Larry Moss, l.moss256@gmail.com; Ross Magee, mrrmagww@gmail.com		
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keeping the paint brush moving and has painted just about every building on our property. And what Bob hasn't painted Larry Moss has. If you look around you can see that some of our paint work is showing its age. It is very likely that a fair amount of paint work will need to be started and completed sometime next year.

Yet another concern is the roof on Building 1, our Clubhouse. The roof is in fair condition, but the underlying wooden purlins have reached a point where they will no longer hold a screw due to dry rot, we have not fully determined how many of the purlins will need to be replaced, but if you look up at the roof and the screws that are popping out it appears to be a large number. To get this answer we need to open up the roof.

I would like to remind everyone that this work only happens when you (we) do the work. We have an option to hire it done. I am sure we could hire a roofer to fix the roof. I am also sure it would cost a big bag of money for a hired contractor to come in and do the work we should be doing, it is for that reason that I send out these messages to you the membership to keep you informed of what we are doing and the help we need to keep the railroad running.

See you on the mainline,

*Frank Webb, President*

## New Regular Member



Meet John Kane, a new Regular Member approved by the Board in March 2019.

## Root of the Problem

by Bruce Saylor



We finally got to the root of the problem. During the winter we pulled up 90 feet of track of the lead coming out of the 7 1/4" yard past the lower steaming bays. A lot of stone was removed and finally we got to the roots that were pushing the track out of shape. A tremendous amount of work was needed to remove these roots so we could put in the new track sections.

The new track is now back in. A lot of new stone needs to be brought in. Then the track needs aligning and finishing. Thoughts are now to remove the tree to prevent further misalignment of track and steaming bays from being pushed out of line. Several years ago the turntable was out of line and required a lot of work to get it back to normal.

Once this project is complete we have a bit more of track work to get back in shape for good running this summer.

## Pot Luck Dinners

As in recent years, a *Pot Luck* dinner will be held on Saturday evening of the spring meet. These dinner events began more than a decade ago with a lot of participation, with many sumptuous side dishes being supplied by attending members to round out the hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by PLS. Unfortunately, the number of side dishes being donated has dwindled as the years have gone by to the point where there have been very few items to go with the PLS provided fare. Although the truly homemade items that have been provided have been widely enjoyed, store-bought items such as your favorite potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad or chips would be welcome for our hungry diners to share. Large amounts of everything are not necessary; if many contribute, small amounts will go a long way and increase the enjoyment of these get-togethers for all participants. Thank you.



## ANNIVERSARY PLANNING UPDATE

The Anniversary Committee will hold their first meeting the end of April. We welcome Kathy Parris to the team. Kathy will act as part time food consultant for the event.

If you wish to be part of this planning group, please contact Larry Moss at:

[l.moss256@gmail.com](mailto:l.moss256@gmail.com)





# The PLS GAZETTE

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## FIRST CLASS



## Still Need Your Help

Filling our kitchen staffing needs during Spring and Fall Meets continues to be a challenge. PLEASE consider volunteering. Just one hour of your time will allow the PLS kitchen to function smoothly. The kitchen will be open until 3 PM on Saturday and 1 PM on Sunday.

Below is a sample of activities where help is needed.

- |             |            |                              |             |            |                              |
|-------------|------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Friday   | 9 AM       | 1 or 2 people, set up, etc.  | 7. Saturday | 3 PM-4 PM  | 2 people clean up            |
| 2. Saturday | 9 AM-10 AM | 1 person kitchen preparation | 8. Sunday   | 9 AM-10 AM | 1 person kitchen preparation |
| 3. Saturday | 11 AM-Noon | 2 people serving & 1 cashier | 9. Sunday   | 11 AM-Noon | 2 people serving & 1 cashier |
| 4. Saturday | Noon-1 PM  | 3 people serving & 1 cashier | 10. Sunday  | Noon-1 PM  | 3 people serving & 1 cashier |
| 5. Saturday | 1 PM-2 PM  | 3 people serving & 1 cashier | 11. Sunday  | 1 PM-2 PM  | 2 people clean up/tear down  |
| 6. Saturday | 2 PM-3 PM  | 3 people serving & 1 cashier |             |            |                              |

Please contact Kathy Parris via email at [parrisk415@gmail.com](mailto:parrisk415@gmail.com) with any questions and to indicate your availability for volunteering.