



# The PLS GAZETTE

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

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## To PLS Members:

As a change of pace, I thought it would be fun to share with you my railroad related events over the past 30 days.

**Club House Updates** - On July 16<sup>th</sup> the Board of Directors at PLS voted to accept a bid to install new zoned heating and air conditioning for the entire club house. Installation is expected to happen this fall. Also, the Board accepted a bid to repair and update the water softener thereby addressing the layers of redundant and obsolete plumbing and control systems. This work is now complete and as a result, the system is now optimized and there will no longer be any winterization required to the system. Currently work to the second bathroom is still ongoing.

**Hobby Related Travels** – On August 1<sup>st</sup> I traveled to the **Mill Creek Central Railroad** in Coshocton, Ohio to attend their **Large Engine Meet** <https://www.millcreekcentral.com>. Started in the late 90's by Dick McCloy, MCC is now an impressive fully signaled layout that offers bi-directional running, excellent loading facilities and many operating challenges. MCC has a private 1.5" railroad (7.5") with 5 miles of track (3 miles of mainline), 206 turnouts, an average of between 1.5 and 3% grades, as well as 3 yards all built to ILBS standards.

he meets are always well attended and this year offered an alternative for those who did not attend the Triannual meet at Train Mountain in Chiloquin, Oregon. The meet lasted from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> with approximately 35-40 trains and locos in at-

tendance, most being steam. The highlight to me was the gathering of nine H10 class Consolidations all constructed by the Godshall's Custom Machining & Live Steam of Shermans Dale, PA.



Currently the track has an addition/expansion underway that includes a nearly 1 mile pull of 1.5%. Like many Live Steam clubs however, help in maintaining and expanding the track has always been a challenge. MCC is now formulating the beginnings of a succession plan to ensure a bright future for the property. New LED signals, electrical turnouts with LED point indicators, and additional sidings with water stands makes this location a must see for the Live Steam community. I have been visiting this track since 2005 and have forged strong friendships as well as enjoying the excellent track work and dedication to the hobby.

**Reading Ramble** - Lastly on August 13, my wife and I rode on the Reading Ramble hosted by the Reading & Northern between the Outer Station in Reading to Jim Thorpe. The stars of the show were the newly and spectacularly restored (former

Reading) T1, 2102 doubled headed with light Pacific 425 (former Gulf, Mobile and Northern). The sold-out train of 19 coaches – most with windows wide open – offered exciting stack talk from the grades climbing up to and out of Jim Thorpe, PA. One of the many highpoints was the departure from the company facilities at Port Clinton. Upon the given “highball”, both throttles were wide open and whistles blowing to produce a thunderous display of smoke and steam of how to “get out of town fast”.



Our focus now will be on the upcoming Fall meet from **September 2nd through the 4<sup>th</sup> for club members and guests**. As of this late date, we do anticipate limited food service and a Saturday Pot Luck dinner. See the Gazette below as well as a PLS Blast for more information.

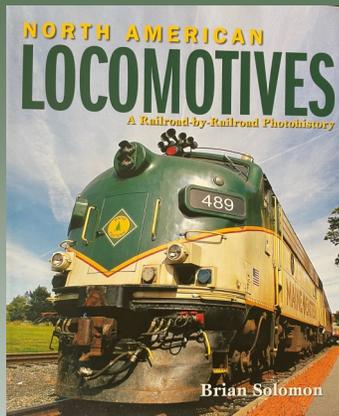
See you at the Track,

Pat Murphy  
President



# PLS Library

## Book of the Month



### Book Review

Profusely illustrated with rare historic and previously unpublished modern photography, this is the perfect book for every railfan.

#### For information contact:

Joe Gotlewski, Librarian

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Afternoon/Evening Run\*

Sunday, August 28 Run Day - Members & Guests (No Rain Date)

Friday, Sept. 2 **Fall Meet** - Members & Guests

Saturday, Sept. 3 **Fall Meet** - Members & Guests

Pot Luck Dinner at 5:30 PM

Sunday, Sept. 4 **Fall Meet** - Members & Guests

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

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Afternoon/Evening Run\*

Sunday, Sept. 25 Run Day - Members & Guests (Rain Date 10/2)

Saturday, Oct. 15 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

**FALL CLEAN-UP in AM**

Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Afternoon/Evening Run\*

Sunday, Oct. 23 Run Day - Members & Guests (Rain Date 10/30)

\*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.

## Donation

## Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for their donations: Paul Miller, Joseph Sullivan, Jim Miller and the Delaware Valley Triumph Club,

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members David Jefferson, George Chantelau, Stan Jackson, Jill Zimmerman, and Brian Ley.

## Membership Gauge

As of July 31, 2022 PLS has:

**105 Regular Members**

**137 Associate Members**

**4 Honorary Members**



## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

**President** Patrick Murphy 2439 Overlook Drive, Gilbertsville, PA 19525 president@palivesteamers.org

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# Building a 1-1/2" Scale Wooden Trestle

by John P. Mitchell &  
Grandson Jayden Wilson

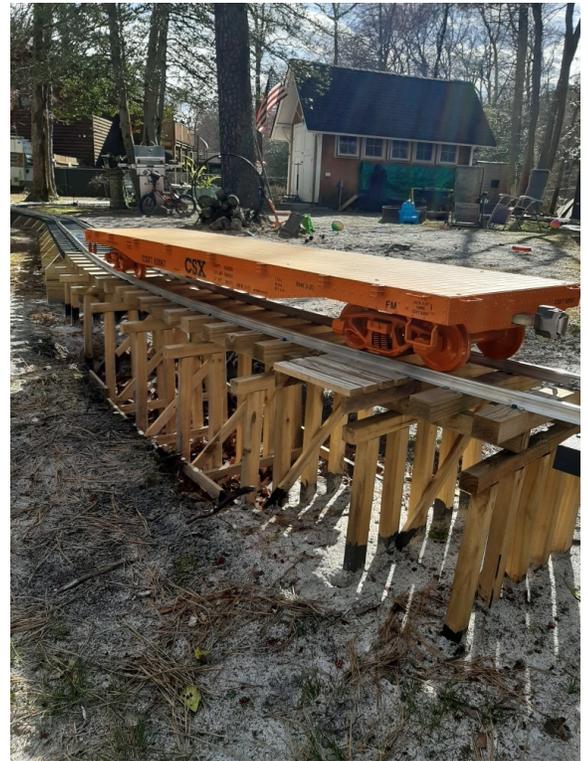
Hello All -

My home track is 7-1/4" gage, 1-1/2" scale and I have completed my 10' long curved trestle bridge. This was a fun project. It all started with a scale trestle drawing that I used to create a jig to help all trestles come out the same. The trestle wood was off-the-shelf 1-1/4" square railing post from one of the big box stores. Next, I ripped a treated 2x4 x 12' long into pieces of 1-1/2"

wide x 1/4" thick x 12' which gave me enough to make two stringers. After cutting, I layered them up in glue and clamped them in a curved jig till dry. Once dry, I was able to run them thru my planer to square them up and clean off any unwanted glue. Following that I spaced out the trestles over the stringers and fastened with stainless steel wood deck screws. I then assembled a section of curved track and fastened to the stringers.

I finished up with a couple concrete bases and some damp proofing of the lower trestle ends, dug a long trench and went to work installing. From the pictures I think it came out pretty good for a first time try. Check out the photos. Anyone want to keep in touch or talk shop, please reach out to me, [John@pasheetmetal.com](mailto:John@pasheetmetal.com).

Thanks,  
John P. Mitchell  
Medford, NJ



The Completed Project



# Maintenance on the Main Lines

The Gauge One Guys got busy and corrected a problem with the original application of the epoxy paint finish on part of the gauge one track platform that had been completely rebuilt a couple of years ago. The job included removing all the track on the front part of the layout and re-sanding the surface so that it could all be repainted.

The job should be completed well before the Fall Meet.

Photos by Mike Moore



George Fitzgerald on the Floor Sander

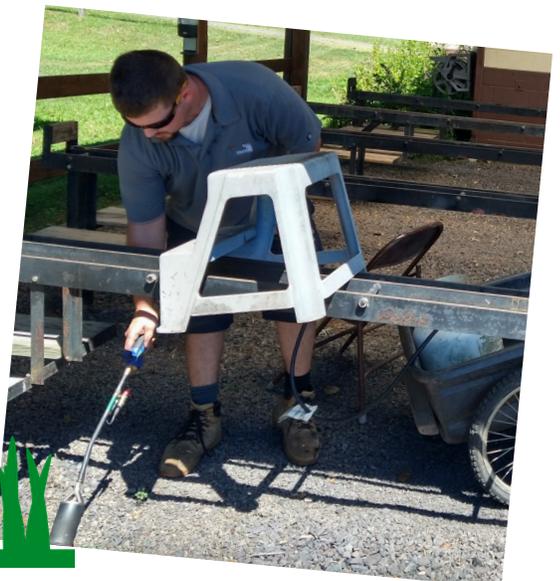
Henry Blanco-White finishing the Edges

David Kim adding to his Hours



## A Better Way to Kill Weeds

Jay Forsythe perfected a propane powered weed burner which also kills the roots and reduces the frequency of weeding. He tested this theory at home. The propane it operates on is fed from a tank which John Forsythe is pushing behind him in a yard cart.





# North Georgia Live Steamers

1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE Conyers, GA 30013



## Fall Meet 2022

The 2nd annual NGLS Fall Meet will be held Thursday, October 20th through Sunday, October 23rd and you can be part of it! Additional details about the event will follow but for now here is what we have so far. Please note this is NOT part of our public run day events.

### Dates and Gauges:

When: Thursday, October 20th—Sunday, October 23, 2022

Railroad Gauges: 7 1/2" & Gauge 1

### Accommodations:

We have limited room for RV's and trailers onsite however overflow space will be available at the RV parking area located at the Georgia International Horse Park facility which is directly across the street from the site. Another hotel option is La Quinta Inn & Suites. It is less than 4 miles from the site.

### Visiting Trains:

All locomotive types are welcome, but steam engines are required to have a hydro-static test. The test can be completed at the railroad with help from a NGLS member.

### More Information:

For more information visit us online at <https://nglsrr.org/nglsfallmeet> or contact Peter Craymer or Robby Mossman for more details (<https://www.nglsrr.org/contact-us>). You can also call us at 470-207-5025.





**The**  
**PLS GAZETTE**

P.O. Box 26202

Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

**FIRST CLASS**



*Fall Meet Bill of Fare*

September 2 -4, 2022



Saturday - September 3rd - Lunch - from 11 AM to 1 PM

Pot Luck Supper at 5 o'clock\*

Sunday - September 4th - Full Breakfast from 8 AM to 10 AM

Lunch from 11 AM to 1 PM

\*Should you need refrigeration for either personal use or items brought for the potluck dinner, please use your own cooler. The PLS kitchen is currently closed for repairs due to the flood.