



The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

JULY- AUGUST TOPICS: Green Signals Ahead **1** Membership News **2** 2019 Fall Meet **2**
 Membership Gauge **2** Upcoming Events **2** Donation Acknowledgements **2** PLS Library **3**
 Scenes from Tracksides **4-5** Fall Meet Kitchen News **6**

Green Signals Ahead

Think Safety and Security is my message for this Gazette article. We work very hard at PLS to insure that everyone has a safe environment to work and play, but in our haste we sometimes forget some of the simple things that can keep us all safe. One example is the use of safety glasses. Often our railroad work involves the use of tools that throws debris/particles into the air. Sawing, grinding hammering and other activities can cause eye damage if eye protection is not worn. This can affect both the worker and bystanders that may be observing the work. Hearing protection is another important safety item. It is highly recommended that when using equipment that makes loud noises that you wear hearing protection. Tools like grinders, chainsaws, weed whackers, and mowers can all have high noise. Please use common sense and protect your hearing from loud noise.

Safety also extends to our property. Every run day and non-scheduled run days we operate some form of propelled railroad equipment; locomotives that require some type of fuel. We burn coal, wood, gasoline, propane, butane, and alcohol just to name a few. We also have equipment that is powered by high current electric batteries. All of these fuels are flammable and have the potential to cause a fire, especially when being used around hot engines and locomotives that have a fire burning in their fire box. Electric engines are also a potential sources of ignition. Use care when refueling and only refuel in a yard area that has fire protection nearby. This is the reason PLS owns and maintains more than a

dozen fire extinguishers. Unfortunately we cannot leave our fire extinguishers out while no one is on our property. It is our joint responsibility when we are operating the railroad to take these safety items out of storage and place them around our property as needed. The majority of our fire extinguishers are stored in Building 2 and the balance in Building 1. They should be distributed to the main yard area, two at Building 3's steaming bays, one at the front edge of Building 1, two in the lower turntable area, one at the 7 1/4" gauge Station train exit (east side) and one in the gauge 1 area. The more activity there is on the railroad the greater the need for more fire protection (extinguishers) to place in the yard and other areas. We have been lax in this important safety step. If you are attending a run day and don't see fire extinguishers you need to lend a hand and get a member or two to help you put them out.

It is important that the last member(s) leaving PLS know that they have the responsibility to **LOCK UP and SHUT DOWN** the property. If you are the last person to be on the property it is your responsibility to make sure it is ready to be left unattended. As an example: You must make sure both Engine Transfers are locked up, even if you did not use them. The turntable needs to be locked up. Locking the turntable is for both Security and Safety. When you cannot rotate the turntable you cannot move a piece of equipment to the off-loading area making it more difficult for someone to steal a piece of equipment. Locking the turntable stops the unauthorized use of our railroad. Should someone come on to the property in our absences and decide the turntable is a fun toy they

are a lot less likely to be injured if the table cannot be rotated. We have Safety Chains on Mercer Bridge and the Trestle. These chains are to deter anyone from walking, riding bikes, skeet boards or other vehicles on the trestle and possibly becoming injured. Locking up is more than just closing the door on Building 1. The compressor room needs to be closed, the signals need to be turned off, the compressor system needs to be turned off the cage to the compressor room needs to be locked up. Building 2 needs to be locked, the curtains in the storage area next to Building 2 needs to be closed and Building S needs to be locked. The yellow fuel cabinet next to the coal bin needs to be locked. Building 1 has to be shut down and locked up and this starts with the meeting room. The computer needs to be shut down, window air conditioner needs to be off, the window shade need to be pulled down and the lights need to be turned off. Next is the shop area, the doors need to be closed and locked top and bottom from the inside. Now the light board over the door should be looked at, if there are any lights on all should be off. One exception is the Heater, it should remain on in the winter months and the thermostat should be set to 50 degrees. This is to prevent pipes from freezing. Make sure the "GREEN VALVE" is closed, the valve is in the closet to the right of the sink that has the large blue water tank behind the door. The green valve is located to the right of the blue tank and near the back wall, it is the second valve to the right. Make sure the coffee pots are turned off. I will not go into the details of what switches you must turn off in this message. If you don't know how or what to turn off....

ASK someone to show you the process.

(Continued on page 3)

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received during June and July: Jerusalem Lutheran Day Care, North Penn "S" Gauge Club, and Don Maleta.

2019 Fall Meet

As we prepare for our 2019 Fall Meet, it is again time to remind all members, Regular and Associate, that we depend on you to help the weekend run smoothly. Our need for volunteers to perform gate duty and/or staff the kitchen/snack areas seems to be more difficult to fill each season. So please sign up when you arrive on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. Thank you.

Also, PLS donations of baked goods for our snack area, either home made or store bought, **are greatly needed.**

REMINDER: 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 potluck dinner, please use your own cooler.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 17	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM Afternoon/Evening Run*
Sunday, August 25	Run Day - Members & Guests (No Rain Date)
Friday, Aug. 30	Fall Meet - Members & Guests
Saturday, Aug. 31	Fall Meet - Members & Guests Pot Luck Dinner at 5:30 PM
Sunday, Sept. 1	Fall Meet - Members & Guests
Saturday, Sept. 21	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM Afternoon/Evening Run*
Sunday, Sept. 22	Run Day - Members & Guests (Rain Date 9/29)
Saturday, Oct. 19	Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM FALL CLEAN-UP in AM Afternoon/Evening Run*
Sunday, Oct. 27	Run Day - Members & Guests (Rain Date 11/3)

***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.

Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Member Ed Sotak.



Membership Gauge

As of July 31, 2019 PLS has:

110 Regular Members

167 Associate Members

6 Honorary Members

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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(Continued from Page 1)

All Regular Members of PLS that run equipment should know how to **LOCK UP and SHUT DOWN** our property. Before you leave you should check Building 3, Building 6 and Building 9 to be sure all doors are closed and locked. Don't forget to close the front gate when you leave, it is important to remember if you parked on the PECO side of the property that the Main Gate still needs to be checked and closed.

Many of you know we have been working to increase the security of PLS and I think most of you know we have been working on video surveillance to help with protection of the property. We have posted signs telling those that come on to the property of this surveillance. I received a call about a week ago telling me that the light board over the Building 1's door was showing that Building 3 was being powered. I drove to PLS and turned off the Power to Building 3. I found it a bit odd that all other power was turned off and dismissed the one switch left on that is until just this week when I was driving by PLS and the gate was open. I turned around and entered the property. One of our members was just leaving. We stopped outside of the gate and had a brief chat and told him I often stop by to check the property and mentioned the Building 3 power incident. He said he would be back tomorrow and that he had left the power to Building 3 on to change the batteries in his train. I told him this was not acceptable and the reasons why we power down all PLS out building. The reason is simple, **FIRE**. The only time the buildings are powered is when someone is on the property. We know that on every Wednesday and Saturday work day Building 3, Building 6 and Building 9 and powered. We know these building all have equipment with batteries that are being charged. We have all agreed that as long as someone is in attendance powering these buildings is OK. Originally this only applied to Building 3, but in recent years we expanded this to allowed electric equipment with batteries to be keep in Building 6 and Building 9 with the understanding that these buildings would only be powered when someone is on the property. Please remember it is not just your equip-

ment you place at risk of loss, but all those that occupy the building if the power is left on and results in a fire. In addition to the issue of powering the building I am reminding all that the storage of bulk (Canned) Gasoline and any Propane is not allowed in any of these building. In other words, engines with gas in their tanks is OK. Propane is not allowed and must be removed from a train prior to the train's storage. **NO PROPANE IN OUR BUILDINGS.** We have even removed PLS stored gasoline from Building S and moved it to an approved outdoor storage cabinet next to the coal bin.

I have the good fortune and sometimes the bad to live just 3 miles from PLS and I often stop in to check up the property. Over the years I have found many of the issues mentioned above; doors left unlocked or open, power/lights left on, chains down, transfers left unlocked and even equipment left out. We have been very fortunate that most people respect our property and incidents have been few, but times are changing and the surrounding population is growing. We need to keep up our vigilance and not leave an open door for someone to walk through. We need to protect what is ours and do our best to safeguard those that might come on to our property from being injured. We always need to work and play as safely as possible and use safety equipment when required. My Message to everyone is please, **"Think Safety and Security"**.

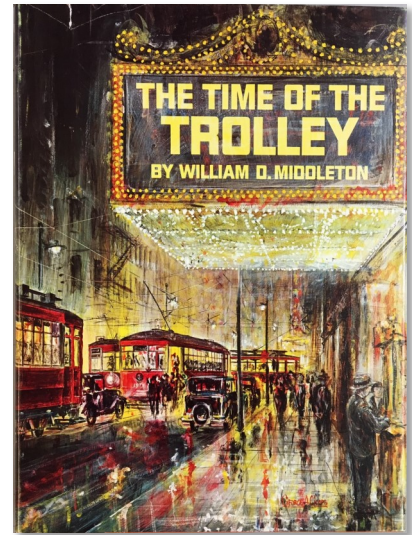
See you on the Railroad,

Frank Webb
President



PLS Library

Book of the Month



Book Review

The Time of the Trolley is a 436 page volume with more than 80,000 words and 738 illustrations. From the humble horse drawn streetcar to the perfected electric street car - a complete history up to the 1960's.

For information contact:

Joe Gotlewski, Librarian
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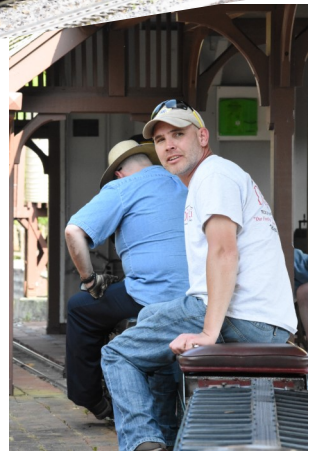
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Scenes from Trackside...





Spring Event Photos
Courtesy of
Allen Underkofler



The PLS GAZETTE

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FIRST CLASS



Fall Meet Kitchen News

As always, on Friday of the PLS Meet, the kitchen will be selling hot dogs throughout the afternoon. In addition to hot dogs, other hot sandwiches will be offered on Saturday and Sunday.

**Please note that the kitchen closes at 3 pm
on Saturday and at 1:30 pm on Sunday.**

Still needed are both cashiers and hot dog servers for a one hour shift. Saturday shifts begin at 11, 12, 1, and 2. Sunday shifts begin at 11:30 and 12:30.



Please contact Kathy Parris via email at parrisk415@gmail.com with any questions and to indicate your availability for volunteering.