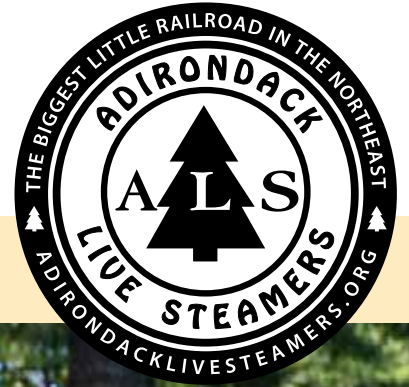


April 2026

WHISTLES IN THE WOODS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS



ADIRONDACK LIVE STEAMERS

CLUB INFORMATION

President

Chris Rittner
cjrittner@gmail.com

Past President

Warren Hockaday

Vice President

Dave French

Recording Secretary

Nancy French

Treasurer

Mike Parker

Membership Secretary

Chuck Bauer

Director (2024-2026 Term)

Scott Sidusky

Director (2025-2027 Term)

Doug Flanagan

Newsletter submissions and advertising

Please email Karen Ward at karen@adironacklivesteamers.org for newsletter submissions and ad placement.

COMMITTEES

Please consider joining one of our Committees. Learn more by contacting the project chair.

Track Department

Warren Hockaday
John Camerota
Chris Rittner

Machine/Work Shop

Scott Sidusky

Kitchen Department

Richie Eriksen

Building Department Superintendent

Dave French

Station Master

Vacant

Engine House/Car Barn Foreman

Chuck Bauer

Grounds Committee

Richie Eriksen

Gauge One

Bob Mansfield
Tom Comito
Doug Flanagan

Sunshine Committee

Nancy French

Safety Department

John Camerota

Road Foreman of Engines

Scott Sidusky

Engine & Rolling Stock Maintenance Foreman

Tom Sadlon

Trainmaster

John Camerota

Signal Department

Dave French

Public Relations

John Camerota

Emporium & Branding

Sue Parker
Karen Ward

Club Historian

Don Buesing

Education Coordinator / Show Chairman

John Camerota

Newsletter

Karen Ward
(Designer/Editor)
Pete Petrillose
(Print Publisher)

Dispatcher's Notice Emails

Karen Ward

Photography/ Videography

Corey Ward

Website

Karen Ward
(Editor)

Technical Services

Andy White

VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us and members who can take the lead on various projects. Please let us know if you have a skill that could be of help to ALS. There are many tasks however that do not require experience, so anyone can contribute and for those that do require skills, Committee Members will be glad to show you how you can help.

THIS CLUB IS YOUR CLUB. PLEASE HELP WHERE YOU CAN.

For more information about our future projects and where you may be able to help, please contact Dave French.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Chris Rittner



Hey everyone. First, it is with great sadness to share the news of the passing of one of ALS founding fathers — Tom Rhodes. Tom was instrumental

in shaping the concept and defining the aesthetic vision for ALS.. Tom was a solid guy who was always pleasant and more than willing to share his vast knowledge. A memorial is being planned in Tom's remembrance which will be held at our Spring Meet on 6/13.

Additionally, I regret to report that another long-time member, Myron Rappaport, has also passed away. Myron was a very creative and generous soul. Among other projects, our car barn was spearheaded and funded largely by Myron. At the time, his rolling stock collection started to grow, and he recognized a need for the club to have its own storage available to club members to help alleviate the need for trailering equipment to the club for every run. Another notable contribution from Myron is his Great Northern electric locomotive that is mounted on the wall above the vestibule in our clubhouse. He had built quite a few locomotives, most powered with motors and controls from golf carts.

Myron and Tom will be missed. They left their mark on the club to make it a better place for everyone.

On that sad note, I'm sure just about everyone has had their fill of the cold and snow. This has probably been one of the hardest winters in recent memory. As the snow slowly melted away at the club, it left plenty of mud, stalling our ability to resume club operations. Even hosting our first two monthly meetings to get the ball rolling at the club were impacted, first by a thick layer of ice and subsequent mud. Fortunately, a very generous Wilton Fire Department gave us a room to use at their location on Ballard Rd last minute. Hopefully, we'll be able to show them our appreciation on our first ever "First Responders Day" in August. More on that later in the year.

We're gearing up for another successful year at the club. Coming up on April 11, we'll have our normal 10 a.m. meeting.



Tom Rhodes (Top & Left)
Myron Rappaport (Below)



Following the meeting, we will have our first Clean Up Day for 2026. We'll need as many hands as possible to help clean up a significant accumulation of debris left over from many hard storms that passed through our area. We also need to get the tables put back in their proper respective locations. Inspect and clean out the grills. A deep clean of the clubhouse as well as getting the water supply switched over. Not everything has to be accomplished on the 11th. We'll have another Clean Up Day in May as well. There will be plenty of work (continued on page 4)

for those that want to help. If you have a rake and gloves that you can bring that would be helpful as the club only has a few. We have several members that may show up mid week to work on various projects. If you, like I do, have free time during the week it's also a good time to help.

On Saturday, April 25, we'll have our first "Fun Day Run Day". My thinking is to promote the idea of regular enjoyment of the club. I figure we'd at least pencil in one a month (keep an eye on the club calendar) and see if we can build some enthusiasm around having them.

In addition to the Fun Day Run Day idea we're also rebooting a prototypical day of operation calling it "Track Warrant Day". Instead of switching cars and delivering them to imaginary industries, we'll simply operate bidirectionally under the supervision of a dispatcher using track warrants. The emphasis will focus on keeping trains moving so it remains enjoyable

but will still be challenging enough to be interesting. If you're wondering what a "track warrant" does, definitively, it authorizes a train or engine to occupy a main track within designated limits. This will allow us to permit operation in both directions in a controlled manner as our 1:1 scaled cousins do. If this once a year event works out, hopefully we'll be able to plan more. If members from other clubs want to participate, we certainly welcome them to join us.

Conversely, I also need to promote the need for help and commitment to maintaining what we have. Either way, I want everyone to enjoy themselves and feel like they have a place in our organization. That requires adhering to respecting each other and their input.

I plan on spending a lot of time on my days off from work (Tuesday and Wednesdays) working at the club... weather permitting. I also need a team of members that have a flair for cooking to run the kitchen and make sure there's food available on Saturdays.

This includes stocking the drinks and procuring meat, buns for burgers and hotdogs. Our tri-annual meets are another call for help but I'll get into that in the next newsletter.

If you haven't remitted your dues or storage fees to the club for 2026 it isn't too late to get them in. Making sure everyone's paid is crucial to keeping our doors open. Membership Secretary, Chuck Bauer will expand on that plea in this newsletter. Chuck has done a commendable job and is well suited to keep our members current.

I'm excited to see everyone this year and to enjoy your company — having fun and working to make the club a better place and preserving our little slice of heaven.

Thank you and see you at the club,
Chris Rittner
President



MY SAD DUTY

By Don Buesing



It is my sad duty to announce the passing of my friend Thomas Glenn Rhodes on the afternoon of the 14th of March 2026 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Tom was 77 years old. His address the past four years was at an assisted living home as he dealt with Parkinson's related difficulties.

Besides ALS, Tom is familiar to us old timers via the pages of *Live Steam* magazine during the 1970's and '80's as he chronicled the construction of his 29' cabin steam boat TUSCARORA in a lengthy series of articles and again with his series on the building of his FITCHBURG NORTHERN #34. Design and construction of #34

started soon after Tom co-founded Adirondack Live Steamers in 1982. He also edited the magazine's *Steam Boat Wharf* column for several years.

And as if that wasn't enough to keep Tom busy he also edited the *ROLLER COASTER* magazine for American Coaster Enthusiasts. Yes indeed, though Tom was reserved, cautious and possessed a usually quiet demeanor, he just loved waving his arms and screaming as the coasters careened and plummeted down!

Besides all that, Tom was a steam ship historian, a steam boat historian, a metal and screen print shop manager, an electronic circuit designer, a dispatcher for the Delaware & Hudson Railroad, held a Masters Degree in History from the State University of NY, and much more.

Looking forward, I'm confident Tom's legacy will continue as each and every present and future FN loco from Allen Models castings polishes the rails. And to us, the ALS membership, Tom's legacy will continue as you ride the rails around our club and remember his solid contributions or even realize them for the first time. The tool shed, our first new structure... Tom designed and built it with helpers. The layout of the steam bay, turntable, engine house....that was Tom. The building of the original 1800' loop?

Tom was a determining factor. All this was during the first year of our club's existence! The 'new' station? Tom designed it, all of it, 20+ years ago. Myron Rappaport then brought that design to an architect for approval and stamping for permitting purposes. I could fill pages here with details of Tom's efforts as the years unfolding ahead.

Tom was a planner. Tom was passionate. Tom had unbounded energy. Tom was focused. The ability to plan with energy and passion is truly remarkable, and we all have that in abundance to one degree or another, but the DIRECTED disciplined energy and passion Tom had with his ability to engage and lead others in a focused productive manner was his hallmark. Tom was a leader to even those who refused to be led.

During this year's spring meet a celebration of Tom's life will be held during the weekend including a small service in the late morning on Saturday followed by a whistle blast from attendees. That evening a roast beef dinner will be served as a tribute to Tom.

Thanks Tom, it was fun, and gonna miss you!

Don Buesing,
ALS Co-founder, etc.

ONCE AGAIN IT IS MY SAD DUTY

By Don Buesing



ONCE IS HARD, BUT TWICE WITHIN ONE MONTH IS VERY HARD

Once again it is my sad duty to report the passing of our friend, ALS Regular Member Myron Rapaport on March 26th of this year. For several years Myron fought kidney failure with treatments. He was 92.

Myron was the kind of guy who gently encouraged others to strive to a higher level than they thought they could achieve. If something could be better, he made sure it was. Myron was involved in many of this club's important decisions and construction projects over the years, here are a few but not all.

His first project for our club was rebuilding the tool shed floor. When originally constructed there was no

such thing as treated lumber and after fifteen years it was suffering. I was not there to see the work performed but somehow Myron replaced the entire floor. It looked as if he picked the building up, built the new floor and put it down again. I'm not sure how he did it but after another 25 years it's still like new. His generosity became apparent as he insisted there be no charges to the club's treasurer.

Our original station had a small 12' x 24' footprint with two small bathrooms at one end and a kitchen at the other. It was adequate for the ten or so people who attended meetings in the late 70's and early 80's. Myron decided it needed a bit more room for the talked about library, so he added on an additional 12x12 room beyond the bathrooms. Again no charge to the club.

Early on our only loco and car storage was the engine house, we decided to purchase a 40' shipping container. Within moments after it was delivered, Myron thought it was nice but didn't we want more? A year later our carbarn was finished. Myron

and Marcel Zucchini offered to loan the club the funds to build it and the received future storage donations were to be used as repayment. Myron designed it then oversaw the entire project daily as his team of hired professionals built it. When it was done Myron purchased the steel for the racks the equipment rolled in on and installed it. No charge. The day we were to begin repaying him he simply waved his hand and with his easy smile declared it was to be his donation.

As a finishing touch, Myron installed the large letters spelling the words "CAR BARN" at each end over the doors. To recognize and honor Myron's generosity two more words were added over them....."MY CAMP". A shortened play on 'MYron' and the lakeside 'camp' he called home.

About twenty five years ago we realized our membership had finally outgrown the station, an expansion project was undertaken. Tom Rhodes designed the addition, Myron brought Tom's drawings to an architect for

(continued on page 7)

the necessary approvals. Just as the building was being finished at a pace the club could afford, Myron speeded it up by purchasing all the windows and doors to close it in. Again, no charge. Tom's drawings included the large exterior brackets at the corners that support the roof overhangs, Myron sawed them out of solid lumber for a perfect fit.

Myron was always very busy in his home shop, he built two 1-1/2" scale steamers...an Allen Models mogul from castings and a three truck Class C Shay. Both were lettered for "MY CAMP RAILROAD". An electric ALCO RS3, a Great Northern Box Cab electric and half dozen or more cars were also built in his shop. At some point he removed all the motors, batteries and controls from the boxcab and donated it to ALS as a display piece where it resides today above the station's bay window.

Myron's education from New York University served him well as his livelihood was earned as a yacht designer for Sparkman & Stephen's. During his retirement years at his Lake George, NY home he shared with his wife Barbara, MY CAMP was a showcase for all the beautiful and functional furniture and decorations he created over the years. Many more of his creations were gifts to others. During one of my last visits to MY CAMP, I was shown all the wooden toys he was making for his grandchildren who he called 'my little people'. Invitations to visit Myron and Barbara's wonderful home was always such a treat!

Several years ago Myron asked our club if we would receive his machine and shop tools upon his demise. To make it easy for us he also planned to build the heated shop it would reside in. "I want to make sure it has a place to go!". We agreed.

Unfortunately the planned shop did not survive an unauthorized attempt to sway Myron's mindset. We had to build it ourselves and I'm happy to say it is finally finished, and sadly, just in time.

On behalf of Adirondack Live Steamers, I wish to offer our most sincere condolences to Barbara and their family. Myron was truly one of a kind and we are very grateful he was within our small circle of friends and members for all the years he was able.

Thank you Myron, your smile will certainly be missed but always remembered.

Don Buesing,
ALS Co-founder, etc.



WILTON CROSSING

By Warren Hockaday

Spring is rapidly approaching and it is time to continue the progress that we have been making on tuning up our track.

Our first project is to continue rebuilding Wilton Crossing, which was started last year, the rails to the station have been replaced. Due to the electrolytic process, hastened by the winter salt, the bottom flanges of the rail have been almost completely dissolved (again) where the rails are

screwed to the ties. Within the next few weeks we are planning to continue this project which will include removing the decking, removing the stone and fabric underneath (which aids in containing the wet sand and salt around the rail), replacing the rail, and reinstalling, or replacing the decking.

We are thinking of having a Wednesday work day to do the removals, a Saturday work day to

reinstall new rail followed by another day to finish up. The time, dates, and amount of days to completion are dependent on how many volunteers that we have. I will be emailing those who have volunteered for track work on your membership application but anyone else interested can contact me at warren@adirondacklivesteamers.org. We plan to have this project planning finalized at our April 11th meeting.



OUR FIRST CLEAN-UP DAY

By Dave French

Hello everyone,

It appears we have survived a hard winter once again. Let's hope it warms up soon!

Our first clean-up day is after our regular membership meeting on Saturday, April 11.

It'll be a little easier around the station house. A group spontaneously raked and scraped around the station house last fall and did a great job. Many hands make the work easier, but it still needs cleaning however. There's still leaf blowing around the whole layout. Lots of twigs and branches to be picked up before we can run. Ghidorah and it's three heads is getting impatient! You don't want to make it angry! For those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, stick around for clean up day.

We have a list of projects for this season, to keep our railroad in top shape. Come to the membership meeting and be enlightened!!

Thanks in advance to all.
Dave French, VP, ALS



Ghidorah with it's three heads!

YET ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THAT PESKY GUY WHO COLLECTS YOUR DUES AND FEES

By Chuck Bauer

Yeah – here he comes again. If it's not emails, newsletters, USPS mail, or phone calls, who knows what he'll do next in his seemingly never-ending harassment program.

Anyway, your friendly neighborhood Membership Secretary and Storage Foreman is back yet again to remind you that your dues are due, as well as those storage fees as well (if applicable).

I'm certainly proud and appreciative of the two-thirds of the membership who have already completed the task of filling out all those forms and sending in checks (not to minimize the PayPal patronizers). But, my latest goal is to convince the last third of you to get that task completed. With a business meeting coming up soon (April 11th), that might be a great opportunity to come out and see what the place looks like after a fairly memorable winter (and I'd call 17 below memorable). Perhaps even bring the checkbook along with you if envelopes and stamps aren't typically your thing. I'll be here, and – I promise – I'll have at least one empty pocket in which to store your contributions. Any related paperwork can get added to my clipboard for transport back to the Loudon Road office (down the street at 107) for further processing.

So, waddya think, kids? Come on out, see some of your fellow members, participate in a meeting, contribute a thought or suggestion or three, consider making a donation of time and/or effort in anticipation of the coming operating season, or any number of other things. It 'takes a village', they say. And, in fact, it does take bodies to get things accomplished. I'm sure there'll be more than a few things to do this spring. I know I've got 'em right down the street from ALS. Even if you're old and decrepit like me, there's always something you can do (like: here I am, playing on a computer and collecting paper). So, please get your outstanding dues and storage fees cared for, and then come out and spend some time not only helping get the place ship-shape, but also come enjoy this little piece of heaven we get to share. There's not another one like it on the planet.

OK – a couple of closing thoughts. I'd expect that somewhere in this newsletter will be an acknowledgment that we've recently lost one of our original and founding members – Tom Rhodes. I still see him every day. He's on my kitchen wall, in a 1986 panorama photo of the 25th NJLS "reunion". I can't possibly list the contributions he's made to our little piece of 'heaven', but just know we at

ALS owe him a great debt of gratitude. God bless you, Tom. And, on behalf of everyone, thank you.

Last one, I promise: this is an item that nobody really sees, but I truly appreciate it, since it is my, as well as our (as in ALS's), only connection with all the members who do not have or use email. It's the Petrillose family: Pete, Mike, and Doreen. They are the ones who make the printed version of this newsletter happen, pushing it through the necessary formatting and composing and printing on paper to make it into the final official presentation, and then off to be delivered by the local Postmaster(s) General. Thank you all for performing yet another thankless (and mostly unseen) job.

Sadly, Pete: that's one more name to take off from your distribution list.

Alright – I'm done now. Time to return to our regularly-scheduled program.





NEWS & HAPPENINGS

ALS WEBSITE & MAILCHIMP EMAIL ISSUES RESOLVED

by Karen Ward

Within the past several months, I've had to hire a WordPress consultant to make some repairs to our website. The theme and plugins needed updating since the drop down menu was no longer appearing and the registration link to our MailChimp newsletter had broken. Repairs were made and we were back in business.

Then I began to see that a number of our emails were soft bouncing and not delivering to some of our subscribers, even to email accounts that had been receiving them previously. After looking into the matter, I learned that our MailChimp account, as most accounts these days, now required two factor authentication to prove that I am who I say am for deliverability to inboxes.

The two factor authentication was needed not only for our email

account but for our WordPress website as well. In addition, MailChimp was preventing me from sending emails since our subscribers list had grown past the 300 maximum limit for the free account.

In lieu of the MailChimp lock out and some of the issues we'd started having to functionality of our website, it was decided by the ALS Board and members in attendance of recent meetings, that it would be best to upgrade MailChimp and move the hosting of our site locally.

I am happy to report that all has been upgraded and functioning properly. Our MailChimp account has been upgraded and is authenticated using my new email address, karen@adirondacklivesteamers.org. We are no longer locked out and can email up to 500 subscribers ten times within

a month. Our website has been authenticated and migrated to a local hosting company who will be able to address any future needs expeditiously.

We now contract our hosting with Beth Weise Moeller who owns Image Media Consult in Saratoga Springs, NY and specializes in design and hosting of WordPress sites. Beth and her family have actually visited ALS in the past as guests of Marcel Zucchini. So she is no stranger to the club.

Thankfully these issues are now resolved. It certainly makes it easier to do my job as ALS Dispatcher, Whistles in the Woods and Website editor.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE CANNONBALL BALLAST CAR



Car was previously owned by stepfather Charlie Selteneck, ALS member about 20 years ago

- 7 1/4 gauge
- Dimensions 16 inches wide x 4 ft long and 16 inches high

Asking price: \$1,500 (price negotiable)



CONTACT: Nikki Soden, email nsoden@nycap.rr.com, text or call 518-727-5743.

CLASSIFIEDS



FOR SALE

Ad continues on the top of page 13.



- Hopper car: \$1,000

- Berkshire Steamer Project Engine: \$6,500 or best offer



- Black gondola w/no floor or trucks (wood, gas cans and signal lights not included): \$750



- Black gondola, needs floor and trucks: \$750
- Aluminum gondola: \$1,200



- O and flat car with army tank: \$1,500



- Caboose: \$1,700

CONTACT: Steve Ianno, speed.ianno@yahoo.com, 518-391-8363 (no calls after 4 pm). Parts can be shipped if needed, shipping fees are extra and not part of the item cost. All other items are pick up only.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE



- Green and white F7 dummy engine 7 1/2 gauge: \$3,100
- Silver F7 engine 5 1/5 hp, 7 1/4 gauge (will finish): \$13,500



CONTACT: Steve Ianno, speed.ianno@yahoo.com, 518-391-8363 (no calls after 4 pm). Parts can be shipped if needed, shipping fees are extra and not part of the item cost. All other items are pick up only.

WANTED

Ben Maggi is in the process of acquiring a lathe and is in need of a portable 1-ton gantry crane to help remove it from its current basement and relocate it to his basement. Similar models are available at Harbor Freight and other stores, but since this is a one-time use he would prefer not to have to purchase one (and later have to explain to his wife why it is taking up space in the garage!). If any member already has one and would be willing to loan it to Ben this spring, please contact Ben at 585-506-2680. Thank you.

WANTED

The club is in desperate need of someone skilled in building maintenance. The position includes keeping an eye on our structures and performing regular repairs and improvements. Please reach out to Chris Rittner at cjrittner@gmail.com if you are interested.

IS THERE A PROJECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TACKLE AT ALS

Let us help you get the word out. We can:

- email requests for help via our *Dispatcher's Notice*
- create a help wanted ad in the classifieds section of our *Whistle in the Woods* newsletters
- post a notice on the ALS Facebook page

SEND DETAILS OF YOUR PROJECT TO:

Karen Ward at karen@adirondacklivesteamers.org



Adirondack Live Steamers
c/o Pete Petrillose
41 Goode Street
Burnt Hills, NY 12027



The Biggest Little Railroad in the Northeast