

June 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 everybody,

The club has been a beehive of activity. The Gauge One guys have been cranking along with their area. On the 7.25" side, we had a month long project replacing the main crossing. Salt washing down the hill from the club house had slowly eaten away the rail in the crossing, to the point where just putting in more screws wasn't going to be a long term fix. Many hands made this enormous task possible. The signal department has been furiously contending with signal upgrades and unexpected repairs. Our track department is pleased to report that the mainline is in fairly good shape but needs help in spots. We took delivery of a new—to us—John Deere tractor, courtesy of several members. This will help us significantly in track repairs and club maintenance. Our venerable Yanmar gave us many years of labor saving, earth moving and grass cutting. The John Deere has a higher capacity and is more stable where it's needed most.

Coming up swiftly is our Spring Meet for 2026, from June 11 - 14. Our fingers will be crossed for good weather and lots of trains. Friday night our recording secretary, Nancy French will be preparing a delicious baked chicken dinner. ALS club historian and co-founder, Don Buesing will be preparing his famous roast beef dinner for Saturday evening, in honor of recently deceased long time members Tom Rhodes and Myron Rappaport. There will be a tribute for them as well at the depot on Saturday at approximately 11:00 a.m. (for more details see page 10).

The Emporium will be open for purchasing dinner tickets and ALS merchandise.

In addition, we will be welcoming the Hudson Berkshire NMRA who will be attending the event. A good time and many a fancy feast is anticipated, so please join us for our Spring Meet.

Any help for our meet would be greatly appreciated. As always, we need help staffing the sign-in booth, assisting loading/unloading, janitorial duties, cooking and serving lunch, as well as, kitchen duties. ALS members are encouraged to support their club in this annual event.

Outside of that, there isn't much else to report. Our ever increasing insurance has been paid. On that note, this should serve as a reminder to those who haven't renewed their dues and those on the fence about joining to please do so, as it would help to defray some of this cost and be greatly appreciated. The short and skinny of keeping these doors open counts on two things — money coming in and participation. This is YOUR club. That imparts some manner of ownership and maybe an obligation to help when you can.

I'd like to extend a BIG thank you to all who came out to help get the club going this year and who have put in a tremendous effort keeping it the beautiful slice of heaven that it is.

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

CARDISH CUT

By Warren Hockaday

After some slow but steady work from several of our members, which has been written up in earlier *Whistles in the Woods*, our new retaining wall is very near completion. A couple of weeks ago, Don Davis came up to the club and with the help of our new (to us) John Deere tractor, moved the remaining blocks to the long end of

the wall and installed the last course of blocks and the cap blocks!! During the process, he cut back some tree roots with the help of the pruning bow saw. Don returned to level the base for the approach wall and installed the blocks making the wall almost complete. We just need to do a little detail work on the ends and back fill behind the wall,

and we will be ready for the track realignment to the increased 65' radius and then additional signaling up the hill. To reiterate, I would like to thank Don and everyone who worked on this project up to this point and am looking forward starting work to lay the new track and signaling up the hill.



NEW-TO US-EQUIPMENT

By Warren Hockaday



After many years of working with our undersized, but very faithful, Yanmar tractor, we have now upgraded to a John Deere 4210 tractor. A big thank you goes out to Richie Falzone for scouting out the tractor and Mike Tilger working with Richie to assess

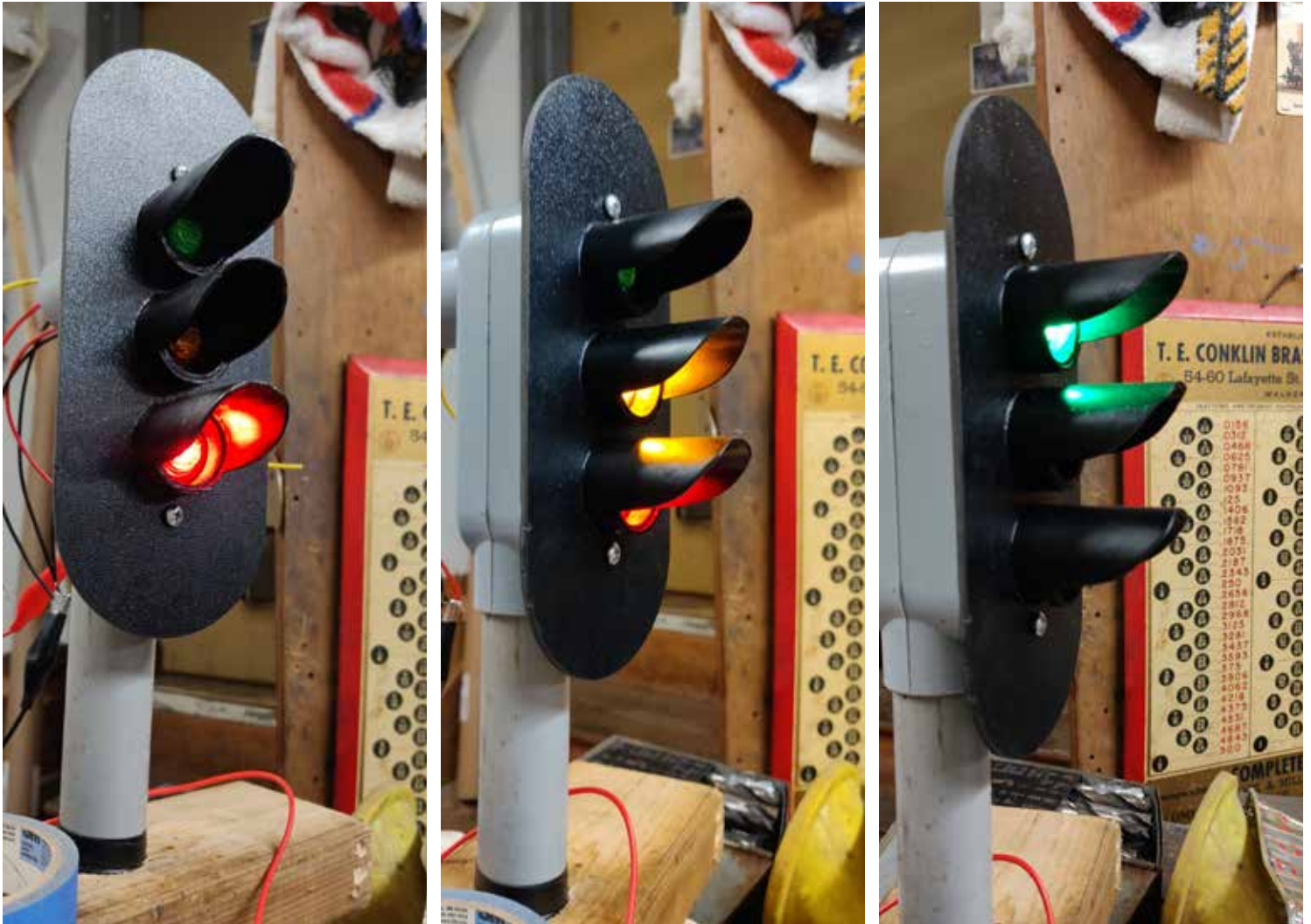
which would be best for us. Richie purchased some cosmetic parts, repainted as necessary, and he and Mike changed all the fluids and filters to make the tractor like new!! Richie and Mike then delivered the tractor to us from Pennsylvania.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Richie and Micheal Parker for their very generous financial donations toward the purchase of the tractor. The remaining balance was paid for using some of the club's funds (our dues and storage at work). This tractor will be, and has already has proven to be, a great help with all our projects.



NEW SIGNALS

By Warren Hockaday



We have run out of existing signals (thanks to Dave's tireless work) and as we continue our signal installation towards Cardish Cut, new signals were needed. After a fair amount of time and effort, I have developed the prototype pictured which will soon go into production of the signals necessary to cover from Steve Ianno's yards through Cardish Cut and up to Marshall Hill. We will be utilizing our new solid state stand alone controls as we go forward with this project.

WILTON STATION BEAUTIFICATION

By Warren Hockaday



Justine Gauckler enjoys flowers and she and Chris Rittner thought that it was time to plant some flowers in the flower boxes at the station.



We all have our areas of expertise and it is great when we can share some of that expertise at the club for the benefit of all. If you have a skill or talent that could be of help to our club, please take the initiative to come up and check with anybody on the Board of Directors to help point you in the right direction.



WILTON CROSSING

By Warren Hockaday

Our first major project is very near completion and by the time you read this the final drainage work should be done. Due to the fact that salt had been applied to the crossing and sand had packed into the rails, leaving a very corrosive salt sand mix, the bottom flange of the rails had been severely

consumed as has been illustrated in previous articles. After disassembling the crossing, a plan was finalized as to how best to rebuild the crossing to help mitigate the problem in the future. With the help of several volunteers, we have opened up the clearance between the rails and the decking, cleaned out

and aligned the substructure, and put drainage in at the low end of the crossing so that any accumulation of water and sand can naturally flow away or be washed out. I would like to thank Chris Rittner, Bill Critchlow, Peng Chen and Dave French for their extremely valuable help.

continued page 10



Wilton Crossing (continued from page 9)



This was a large project in a very condensed area where a few skilled people worked together to make it happen in a short amount of time. In the future, there will be more opportunities for people to work as we rebuild and realign the railroad. Of special note, our newly completed and fitted out “machine shop” was used to cut the decking to fit around the curved rails in the crossing. A big thank you to everyone who worked to make the machine shop a reality.





NEWS & HAPPENINGS

SPRING MEET

by Karen Ward

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Spring Meet** is scheduled for June 11 - 14, 2026. The ALS **Membership Meeting** will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 7 pm.

On Friday, June 12th, Nancy French will be cooking her delicious **baked chicken dinner** which will be served at approximately 6 p.m. Bring your appetite!

Join us for a **Celebration of Life** at the depot at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13th. In honor of our recently deceased members, Don Buesing will recognize long-time member Myron Rappaport and pay tribute to his dear friend and ALS co-founder Tom Rhodes with a small service. Bill Bibby will be presiding, and Tom's family members and non-ALS friends will be present.

On Saturday, June 13th, Don Buesing will be making his famous **roast beef dinner** in honor of Tom and Myron. Dinner will be served around 5:30 p.m.

Dinner tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Emporium the day of.

VOLUNTEERS

To host our guests so that they have a great experience, we need our members help.

Kitchen Help

We need help in the kitchen for our Spring Meet:

- For lunches, we are in need of someone to grill burgers and hot dogs.
- For dinner on Friday, Nancy French will need an assistant to help with cooking and serving.
- For dinner on Saturday, Don Buesing will need an assistant to help with cooking and serving.
- In addition, we will need assistance in after meal clean up and dishwashing.

Clean Up Help

The depot will need sprucing up before the Meet.

Additional Help

Other needs include:

- Helping with the sign-in booth as guests arrive
- Assisting guests with loading and unloading

An email will be sent to members who have indicated on their membership forms that they would be willing to volunteer for these various areas.

If you hadn't previously opted in on your membership form but would like to help, please email Chris Rittner at cjrittner@gmail.com or Karen Ward at karen@adirondacklivesteamers.org to volunteer.





NEWS & HAPPENINGS



ALS 2026 CALENDAR

Our ALS calendar is always available under the Current Schedule of Events tab on our website at adirondacklivesteamers.org.

NEIGHBORING CLUBS

Below is a list of our neighboring clubs and their website addresses. Visit their websites for news and information on their 2026 schedule. We recommend traveling to other clubs, to meet other fellow live steamers and help support them in their efforts. ■

Finger Lakes Live Steamers | fingerlakeslivesteamers.org

Montreal Live Steamers | montreallivesteamers.org

New Jersey Live Steamers | njlivesteamers.org

Pennsylvania Live Steamers | palivesteamers.org

Pioneer Valley Live Steamers | pioneervalleylivesteamers.org

Waushakum Live Steamers | waushakumlivesteamers.org

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JUNE

- 11. Monthly Meeting 7 pm
- 11-14. Spring Meet
- 27. Fun Day Run Day

JULY

- 11. Monthly Meeting 10 am
- 11. Family & Friends Day — (Bring a Dish) 12 pm
- 25. Fun Day Run Day

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AUGUST

- 8. Monthly Meeting 10 am
- 8. First Responder Day, Family & Friends Day — (Bring a Dish) 12 pm
- 15. Dispatcher/Track Warrants Day

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SEPTEMBER

- 10. Monthly Meeting 7 pm
- 10-13. Fall Meet Meet
- 26. Fun Day Run Day

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OCTOBER

- 10. Monthly Meeting 10 am (Slate of Officers Presentation)
- 16-18. Blow Down
- 24. Fun Day Run Day

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NOVEMBER

- 14. Monthly Meeting 10 am (Officer Elections)
- 14. Winter Prep Clean Up — (Following the Meeting)
- 21. Fun Day Run Day

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DECEMBER

- 6. Great Train Extravaganza (The Egg/Albany, NY)

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Ad continues on page 13.



- Hopper car: \$1,000



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



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



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



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



- 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

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