



THE STEAM WHISTLE

A Monthly Bulletin of the

Chesapeake and Allegheny
Steam Preservation Society, Inc.

Facilities Located in Leakin Park, Baltimore MD
(Off Windsor Mill Road east of Forest Park Avenue)

Tel. (410) 448-0730

<http://calslivesteam.org/>

Lawrence Law – President	GAUGES	Craig E. Close – Editor/ Stationmaster
Michael E. Schroeder – Vice President	7.5”	Robert Schwoerer – Maintenance of Way
Charles W. Kinzer – Secretary	4.75”	Louis A. Koehler – At Large
James L. Carpenter – Treasurer	3.5”	Steven Zuiderveen – At Large

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MAY, 2008

HERB FESTIVAL

If this be May, it should be time for the Leakin Park Herb Festival. Fact is that the 24th is truly on the schedule. As in previous editions, this is a Saturday event, and CALS is expected to provide amusement. Let's hope that this year we return to the masses of yesteryear attending the event. They can turn to us for train rides and perhaps provide some donations. The event runs from 10 to 4; so it is a longer run than we normally provide. Please come out to help and get there early. If you have a steamer, arriving at 8:30 should be your goal.

2008 OPENING RUN DAY

Faithful CSX Bob Schwoerer showed up but went down with horrible sounds after his first trip. That event set the tone for the day. Even the weather failed us for the first time in a long while. At most of last year's run days we had very nice weather in between miserable weather spells. April greeted us with cool, breezy conditions which became uncomfortable after standing at the station for several hours. Whereas bob got started, the steamers which were in the bay had difficulty making the show. Herb Schroeder made a "test" pass through the station but never returned. Fritz Dahlin had his narrow gauge electric switcher out, but he had a wire shorting against the frame and had to push the train into the station on his first run. It was noon when the WM diesel arrived. At that time only TWO runs had been made! Luckily, Bob found that the scary sounds emanating from the front of CSX were not from a failing alternator but were from the coupling to it. A screw had dropped out and allowed the coupling to become noisy. CSX returned to service. The crowd started fairly large and hung

in while we got through our startup problems. There was a second influx around 2:30 but they generally rode one trip and left. We closed up shortly after 3 o'clock.

BOILER INSPECTION

About 16 steam engines were brought by the Park on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, for the State inspection. The inspector also went over to the Hamilton's to inspect the Adams and 614. Only one boiler did not pass and the new owner was just learning about the engine. This inspection is helpful for our members as well as for some out-of-state owners. The State Inspector has our thanks for the service, especially on the Saturday session.

REMEMBER: each boiler is expected to undergo an accumulation test (to check safety valve capacity) at Leakin Park the first time that boiler is steamed up for the year. This test involves firing the boiler vigorously and demonstrating that the safeties do not allow the pressure to rise. This test must be witnessed by a member of the Board of Directors, and an accumulation test form must be filled out.

CALS AT CASS

Much of the gang is at Cass as the month of May begins. There should be an exciting report next month.

AT STEVE MACDONALD'S

Bill Kinzer asked Jim Carpenter and Craig Close to join him at Steve MacDonald's place in Laurel to gather information for a follow-up article in *Live Steam* magazine. Steve whipped around quickly in his powered wheel chair – and Jim Carpenter was really jumping to keep out of the way. Jim also installed a 3-phase breaker for Steve while Bill took a number of photographs. Even though he knew full well that the power was off, Jim still jumped high when Bill took a picture of him working in the box – the camera flash was very much like sparking wires! Ultimately, Bill got his pictures, Jim survived, and Craig held screws taken from the panel box (his normal level of usefulness).

ACTIVITY NOTES

Activity has picked up as the weather warms. However, the month included multiple examples of the plans of [mice and] men going awry. The fence at the station has probably seen no attention since it was installed and has been rusting for several years. Time to fix it up! And a Wednesday gang did just that by replacing the top rails and the mesh. The verticals were left as they were. Good job, right? Well, after having stood for many

years with only weathering, on the morning of Public Run it was found that the new north section of fence was leaning and two of the interior posts were almost out of the ground. No comment regarding the reason except that it is not believed to have been a nefarious act. New posts were installed and all is now well with the fence – until we see it next time.

With certain members of the Wednesday crew being at Steve MacDonald's (do not look at the preceding section for names), there was a flurry of successful activity as Mike Schroeder replaced the ignition switch on the Kabuto tractor, affixed a new Honda engine on the ballast regulator, and started rehabilitating the station gate. All per plan, but that luck was to end soon.

Bob Schwoerer had his improved green laser for track alignment and was ready to install track! The alignment setup process was nearly completed with just a final check needed when it was noticed that the laser could not be seen at the target. The vaunted green laser had sucked the batteries dry in much too short order. Old faithful red laser was put back to work, but the height of the mount is higher than that of the green laser and the spot is broader; so all the setup had to be reconfigured and re-figured. The first panel of the outside loop was then laid - too high out of the ground, though. The culprit was a non-level level. Out came the ratty old stick of lumber. More adjustment was made and finally a second panel was installed. So ended the reporting month's activities. Whew...

LET'S GET TO WORK

It was actually good that just a small number of workers were involved with the first track-laying session. Getting back to that work is a travail because of the basic complexities involved with alignment; and any others attending would have been sitting around, getting bored, and deciding not to come out again. Well, now the setup process should work more efficiently, and there are also other jobs which can be performed in parallel with track installation. For instance, there's digging to be done to provide the base for the track. And the supply line of tie stock has been resumed. That means that the whole process of cutting ties, preparing rails, and fabricating track can begin anew. It is not fair to have those who lay track also to be the ones who have to build the track. Come out to the Park and help with these chores. With a crew of 10 or 12, the sessions can be short.

DIRECTORY PROBLEM?

It is near time to put together a new 2008-2009 Membership Directory. If you want any change to your entry, contact Directory Man:

James Carpenter 6918 Fern Lane Annandale, VA 22003.

DAN FREE

One of our past editors of the Whistle apparently wasn't exhausted enough with "writer's block" after his stint writing the Whistle. We learn from Dan Free that despite the fact that he no longer has the space to store live steam locomotives in the middle of New York City, there apparently still is sufficient steam in his system. Over the past four years, Dan has researched the early years of railway building in Japan, learned how to read "Railroad Japanese", spent more than a few hours in research libraries, and managed to ingratiate himself with a few kindred spirits in Japan, the UK, and New Zealand along the way. The result of his efforts is a book titled "Early Japanese Railways 1853 – 1914" that has just been listed on Amazon.com among the pre-order list and in the Fall 2008 catalogue of Tuttle Publishing (www.tuttlepublishing.com). The book traces the history of railway building in Japan and the impact it had on Japan's modernization. Dan relays that he has included around 350 old photos and images from his collection in the book, which weighs in at 224 pages. Release is currently scheduled for November 15th. A "teaser" spread can be seen in the Tuttle Catalogue on-line. Anyone interested in narrow gauge railroading in distant locales might want to take a look.

WORK RECORD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WORKERS</u>	<u>WORK ACCOMPLISHED</u>
04/02	H Schroeder, Law, M Schroeder, Carpenter, Koehler, Krapp	Rebuild station fence; Donate cans
04/05	Bob Schwoerer, Close, Law, Taber	Fix north station switch; Remove 1" track
04/09	M Schroeder, Allen, Carpenter, Koehler, Law	Maintain soda machine; Repair switch; Spray pre-emergent
04/12	Bob Schwoerer, Close, Koehler, M Schroeder	Boiler Inspection (Saturday)
04/16	Close, Carpenter, Law, M Schroeder, Kinzer, Koehler, Krapp	Repair new station fence; Rake leaves; Cut grass
04/19	Close, F&J Dahlin	Trim trees; Dig first section for outside loop
04/23	Close, Carpenter, Kinzer	At MacDonald's
04/23	Close, M Schroeder, Allen, Carpenter, Krapp, O'Dea	Cut grass; Repair Kabuto; Place new engine on ballast regulator; Finish station fence; Prep station gate; Spray weeds
04/26	Close, B&B Schwoerer, Zuiderveen	Set up to lay track (2 panels in)

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
<u>MARCH</u>			
Wed 5	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 9	11:00- 3:30	MANDATORY Safety Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 23	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<u>APRIL</u>			
Wed 9	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Fri 11	9:00-2:00	Boiler Inspection	Track site
Sat 12	9:00-2:00	Boiler Inspection	Track site
Sun 13	11:00- 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sun 27	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<u>MAY</u>			
Wed 7	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 11	11:00- 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sat 24	10:00- 4:0	Herb Festival	Track site
Sun 25	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<u>JUNE</u>			
Wed 4	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 8	11:00- 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sun 22	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site
Sat 28	8:30- 4:00	Train Show	Timonium
Sun 29	9:00- 4:30	Train Show	Timonium
<u>JULY</u>			
Sun 6	12:00 Noon	Annual Meeting & Election	Hamilton St
Wed 9	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 13	11:00- 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sun 27	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<u>AUGUST</u>			
Wed 6	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton St
Sun 10	11:00- 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sun 24	11:00- 3:30	Member Run	Track site

TRACK WORK SESSIONS EVERY YEAR

Wed	9:00 AM	Cut grass; General maintenance	Track site
Sat	9:00 AM	Install track	Outside loop

19400
04/29/08 CEC

**CHESAPEAKE & ALLEGHENY
STEAM PRESERVATION SOCIETY
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FIRST CLASS