



# 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/>

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<b>Charles W. Kinzer – President</b>	GAUGES	<b>Craig E. Close – Editor/ Stationmaster</b>
<b>Michael E. Schroeder – Vice President</b>	7.5”	(contact Editor at <a href="mailto:bigsteam@comcast.net">bigsteam@comcast.net</a> )
<b>Steven Zuiderveen – Secretary</b>	4.75”	<b>Robert Schwoerer – Maintenance of Way</b>
<b>James L. Carpenter – Treasurer</b>	3.5”	<b>Glenn Sharpe – Switch Department</b>

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Deadline for submittals to *The Steam Whistle* is the last Sunday of the month.

### CABIN FEVER EXPO

Herb Schroeder worked with the Expo organizer to be sure that CALS has as much room as needed. Members hauled several trailers loaded with exhibits for CALS as well as for their own tables. Steve McDonald's Big Boy and Mike Taber's Readings were displayed. Steve Zuiderveen shared a booth with Al Francis and Marty Knox of Ridge Locomotive Works selling books and magazines. Marty recently built the Hudson boiler for Glenn Sharpe and is presently building two Shay boilers for Steve and George Payne. Glenn had a table with Mike Taber for their new venture. Helping with CALS were several members you might identify in the photos. Poul Petersen manned the table to present information on this year's weekend at Cass.

### GLENN SHARPE DOING WELL

Glenn Sharpe finally entered Johns Hopkins after only one additional delay – his surgeon was called to Italy to perform an emergency operation – and came through with little apparent difficulty. He is already overdoing things as he helps with continuing construction of switches and has already returned to work on “light duty”. Get fully well soon, Glenn, before you hurt yourself.

### 'DOC' KINZER DOING WELL

There is a very good chance you knew nothing of the cardiac surgery performed on CALS President, Bill Kinzer. Apparently he had little inkling. He says he felt bad on a Thursday morning and went to the doctor who had him go through some tests that same day. Bill obviously failed something and had a multiple bypass surgery the next day. He was home in a few days and is now recuperating. Get well soon, Doc.

### **I THOUGHT I HAD MADE A PIECE OF TRACK**

CALS needs track panels - about 250 of them to complete the full reworking of our layout. To do my share I set about that work, and it went smoothly. First I placed 24 ties in the track jig, being sure the end ties were labeled, and that the screw hole patterns all aimed in the same direction. Next I stapled a ½” tape along the milled grooves of one side, and set tie plates in the grooves. Rails were set in the tie plates, and using a special measuring tool, the ends were spaced to be staggered with a 5” difference. Screws with washers on them were drilled into place, fastening the rails and tie plates to the ties. Finally screwing the rail joiners in place completed the piece. Time: 45 minutes single-handed.

Was it complete? Hardly! It would have to be removed from the jig with help, stacked in the building and then carried to a container for storage until weather permits it to be put in its bed, fastened to its neighbor, ballasted, leveled and tamped into place before being ‘complete.’ And others were involved. Bob Schwoerer designed and built the flexible jig as well as the special tool for measuring the rail offset and the mill for grooving the ties for the tie plates. Ties had been cut, drilled and stacked for ready use by the efforts of a gang of guys. Mike Schroeder built the jigs for drilling pilot holes for the screws. Glenn Sharpe and others ordered the ties in twelve foot lengths, fetched them in personal and rented trucks, and off-loaded them to our property for storage. Craig Close managed the rail, both salvaged and new, cleaning, straightening and filing irregularities flat, cutting pairs to proper length and smoothing the ends to accept joiners. Mike Schroeder and Jim Carpenter ordered special washers and stainless screws (around a 100,000 and maybe more), and Tim Allen assembled so very many of them to be ready when needed. Over the years, rail has come from many sources, much given by members or purchased with funds donated by those proud members wishing to see CALS prosper.

No, I had not made a piece of track, not I alone. I had a lot of help.

### **SAFETY MEETING**

The operating season is coming soon, even as this is written we watch the thermometer struggle to get to 20° and we wonder if there really will be snow tomorrow. Running trains is not the start, though. The annual, mandatory Safety Meeting will be on March 14 at 11 am. There are a number of modified rules beyond the significant number changed last year. If you will be helping on Run Day, you need to be there. Whether you operate a locomotive or sit at the rear as a conductor or help out at the station, you need to know the rules. Come to the meeting for the read-through and sign the attendance sheet. If your signature is not on the list posted at Hamilton Station, you are not permitted to work on a Run Day, and we do not want that to be true because we need your help. The make-up for missing the meeting is a very inefficient instruction session with a member of the Board. Let’s not have to do that.

**PHOTOS FROM CABIN FEVER**



**CALS Had a Substantial Display Area at Cabin Fever Here Is the Cass Display and Our New TV to Play DVDs**



**A Visitor Examines Steve's Big Boy**

Photos by Bob Schwoerer

**PHOTOS FROM THE PARK**



**Bob Schwoerer Has Been Busy Building Rack #2 in Container #2 for Car Storage**



**Bad News Is the Coming Work To Clean the Crossing**

Photos by CALS

**CROSSING GATE**

Norm Warfield, with help from John Frederick and Robert Slenbaker, has been building a realistic road crossing gate for the driveway at Leakin Park. It is operated on the circuits with the current crossing signal and should block the driveway when appropriate. Just in case a blunderhead driver tries to drive across anyway, the gate arm should swing away without being broken. Are we just lucky that a gate has never been needed?



**LEAF DUMP/WATERLESS**

In last month's Activity Notes there was mention of the water pipe running through the City's leaf dump had again been compromised. As of late January there still was no water, but some heavy duty plastic water pipe had been delivered. Here's hoping the line gets fixed soon. And that the powers-that-be in DPW tell their dozer operators about the line. A couple of pictures:



**We Thought It Was Rain Run-off**



**Pooling by the Container**

Photos by CALS

**PHOTO CONTEST COMING**

Unofficially: The Friends of Gwynns Falls and Leakin Parks will be sponsoring a photo contest in the spring. Details later, but generally the photographs must be from the year preceding the latest submittal date for the contest and must have been taken in a Baltimore City Park, such as our Leakin Park. There will be several categories for entries.

**ARCHIVES ON WEBSITE**

Three additional years of back issues of *The Steam Whistle* in PDF have been submitted for inclusion in the Archives folder on the Society website ([calslivesteam.org](http://calslivesteam.org)). Please give Paul Seyfrit some time to get them posted. This second batch of issues covers the years that your current editor has assailed your sensibilities. Eventually the later issues supplied by "Steamboat" O'Dea will be posted, too.

**DIRECTORY**

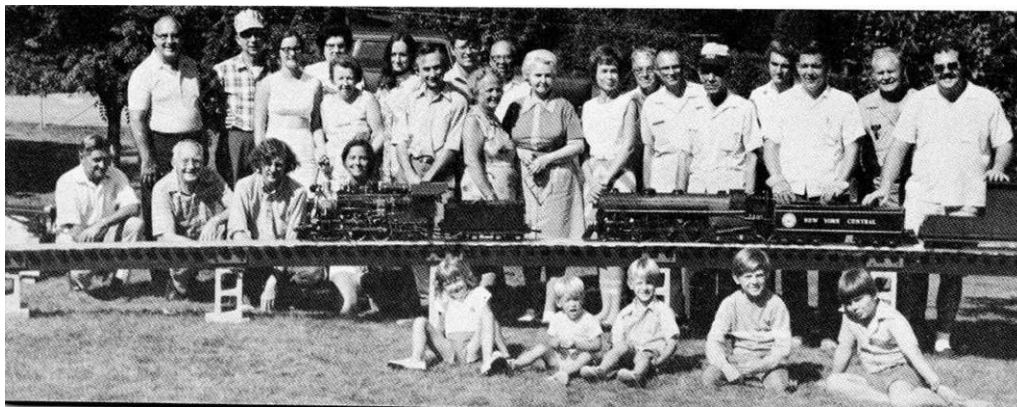
The new edition of the member directory is on its way to you if you have not already received it. An additional copy may be obtained for \$5 from Jim Carpenter at 9617 Hillridge Dr, Kensington, MD 20895. There will be no mention of the date on the cover. Perhaps there just won't be a new directory for next year.

### PLINY HOLT

Some of the old timers in CALS may remember Pliny Holt as one of the first members. Pliny died on January 4 at age 99, perhaps the oldest Navy aviator. He had a long list of technical accomplishments during his Naval career and even after retirement. His grandfather invented the system which came to be called the caterpillar track and then founded Caterpillar Tractor. Pliny carried on that inventiveness with an impressive list of patents to his name. It was after retiring from the Navy that he built his live steam engine and track. He also constructed an indoor layout which was featured in multiple railroad magazines and moreover made wood ship models. He was buried at Arlington with Full Military Honors.

### PHOTO RESPONSE

No, not some automatic bodily response to sunlight. Al Adams has responded to the photograph published in November's Whistle to identify a few more folks: Al is behind Elam Sprengle and his wife is behind the smokebox of the Hudson; Joey Anthony is on the far right.



### ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF THE WHISTLE

If you are interested in receiving your copy of *The Steam Whistle* electronically rather than by postal delivery, e-mail your name and e-mail address to the Editor at the address in the masthead. Your e-mail address will be published in the Directory unless you specify otherwise. The Board encourages you to sign up for e-mail delivery. The e-version not only will have full color photos but also will save copying and postage expense.

### TCA COMES TO CALS IN JUNE

The national convention for the Train Collectors Association is being held in Baltimore this year, and they have set up a visit to Leakin Park to see our facility and ride the trains. As noted previously, the date is WEDNESDAY, June 23. Bob Schwoerer gives his assurance that there is much to do to get ready for the big day. Please be planning to help out with the Wednesday and Saturday work sessions if you live in the Baltimore region. Whether you help beforehand or not, PLEASE think about helping on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ACTIVITY NOTES**

Last month's activity ended with a big snow and this month's ends with a small storm coming in with an inch. Oops; make that 6" to 8", as this was a truly busted forecast. The month was much a continuation of the preceding one. There were a couple of sessions concentrated on making ties. All of the plastic stock in the building has now been transformed, thereby creating room for Mike Schroeder to begin his maintenance of the mowers for Spring work. The track building operation has slowed a bit as we are finding that the batteries for the drills are getting old. They are slow to charge and do not retain the charge for long. Tim Allen and others have prepared screws down to the last washer. The washers are special order and more have been ordered. Track sections are filling container #4 because the weather continues to be too cold to lay any track.

Glenn Sharpe recuperated from his surgery by helping to build more switches at his home with Mike Taber and Bob Schwoerer.

Mike Schroeder has dragged mowers into Hamilton Station and Tim Allen is helping him get them ready.

Still was no water at Hamilton Station.

**WORK RECORD**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>WORKERS</u></b>	<b><u>WORK ACCOMPLISHED</u></b>
12/23	M Schroeder	Shoveled snow; Sharpened 10" saw blades; Called about waterlessness
12/30	Kinzer, Close, Carpenter, M Schroeder	Mail Whistle; Replace fluor. ballast; Drill ties; Build track
01/02	Sharpe, Taber, R Schwoerer B&B Schwoerer, Kinzer, Close, Taber	Build switches at New Windsor Prep rail; Drill ties; Build track; Track to container; Plastic to HS; Take rail for switches
01/03	Sharpe, Taber, R Schwoerer	Build switch at New Windsor
01/06	Kinzer, Close, Carpenter, Derr, H Schroeder	CMD ties; Prep rail; Build track
01/09	Close Sharpe, Taber, R Schwoerer	Build track Build switch at New Windsor
01/13	B&B Schwoerer, Carpenter, Derr, Kopecni	CMD ties
01/16-17	Cabin Fever	
01/20	B&B Schwoerer, Derr, Slenbaker M Schroeder	CMD ties; Prep rail; Build track
01/23	B&B Schwoerer, Close, Kinzer, Kopecni Sharpe, Taber	MD ties; Prep rail; Build track Build switch at New Windsor
01/27	B&B Schwoerer, Carpenter, Close, Derr, Kopecni, M Schroeder, Allen, Law	Mail Directory; Build track; Maint mowers
01/30	Close	Pick up Work Sheet; Snow starting

**2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>PLACE</u></b>
<b><u>JANUARY</u></b>			
Wed 6	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sat-Sun 16-17	09:00 – 5:00/4:00	Cabin Fever Expo	York Fair
<b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b>			
Sat-Sun 6-7	09:00/10:00 –4:00	Great Scale Train Show	Timonium
Wed 10	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>			
Wed 10	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sun 14	11:00	Mandatory Annual Safety Meeting	Hamilton Sta
<b><u>APRIL</u></b>			
Wed 7	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sun 11	11:00 – 3:30	Opening Public Run	Track site
Fri-Sat 16-17 (tentative)	09:00 – 2:00	Boiler Inspection	Track site
Sun 25	11:00 – 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<b><u>MAY</u></b>			
Fri-Sat 1-2 plus 4/30	09:00 – 2:00	CASS	Cass, WV
Wed 5	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sun 9	11:00 – 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sat 22	10:00 – 4:00	Herb Festival	Track site
Sun 23	11:00 – 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<b><u>JUNE</u></b>			
Wed 9	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sun 13	11:00 – 3:30	Public Run	Hamilton Sta
Sun 20	11:00 – 3:30	Member Run	Track site
Wed 23	9:00 – 4:00	TCA National Convention Run	Track site
<b><u>JULY</u></b>			
Sun 11	12:00 – ?	Annual Meeting w/ Election & BOD	Hamilton Sta
Wed 7 (probably NOT)	7:30 PM	BOD & Member Meeting	Hamilton Sta
Sun 11	11:00 – 3:30	Public Run	Track site
Sun 25	11:00 – 3:30	Member Run	Track site
<b><u>TRACK WORK SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR</u></b>			
Wed	9:00 AM	Cut grass; Build track; Maintenance	Track site
Sat	9:00 AM	Lay track	Outside loop

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02/02/10 CEC

CHESAPEAKE & ALLEGHENY  
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**FIRST CLASS**