

# WAUSHAKUM JOURNAL Winter 2015

### 2015 Dues Are Due Now

Membership Dues for 2015 are now due. Please clip the membership coupon from Page 3 and mail your check to Treasurer, Jim Abrams. Alternately, you can pay your dues in person at off-season business meetings through April.

### 2014 Officers Returning in 2015

By unanimous vote, the club offers will remain unchanged in 2015. Their names, titles and email addresses appear on Page 2.

### Happy 60th, WLS!

2015 marks the Waushakum Live Steamers' 60th year. Have an idea to make this year special? Bring your idea to the next business meeting



*Winter views of the track, Page 12.*



*WLS Members exhibiting at N.E.M.E.S., Page 11.*

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# WAUSHAKUM JOURNAL

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### Waushakum Live Steamers, Incorporated

#### President

Jim O'Brien  
nia6000gra@cs.com

#### Vice President

Bob Newcombe  
bobnewcombe@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Jim Abrams  
abrams464@yahoo.com

#### Secretary

Jed Weare  
jed@wearecnc.com

#### Membership Coordinator

Dan Connor  
Send email and postal address corrections to:  
dan@connorandconnor.com

The Calendar of Upcoming Events may be found on our website and on Page 9.

[www.waushakumlivesteamers.org](http://www.waushakumlivesteamers.org)

#### Webmaster

John Kelly  
jkelly487@gmail.com

For **WAUSHAKUM JOURNAL**:

#### Editor & Newsletter Designer & Photographer

J.B. Mentzer  
creative@zekedev.com

To contact the Waushakum Live Steamers in writing, address your correspondence to:

Waushakum Live Steamers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6034  
Holliston, MA 01746

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## From the Editor

*J.B. Mentzer, Editor, Layout Designer and Lead Photographer*

### Thank You ...

A nod to the members who helped bring this issue to you:

Tomasz Palkon, Jim O'Brien and Marc Arsenault for submitting photos. Dan Connor for proof-reading and distribution of the *JOURNAL* via email and snail mail.

### The *JOURNAL* Seeks Reporters

The Editor seeks a few members to volunteer to take notes at meets in 2015.

To have an adequate number of photos for each meet's report, the *JOURNAL* wanders the property actively shooting everything that moves.

At busy meets, being deployed at Page Station or along the

broadway between the High Line bridges, precludes visiting the Steaming Bays to interview engineers. Notes from these interviews provide the source for the captions that accompany photos in the meet photo galleries.

Interested in writing for the *JOURNAL*? Say hello! I look forward to speaking with you via email or at a club event.

### A Word About Submissions ...

The *JOURNAL* reserves the right to edit any content received.

Stories may be corrected for spelling, readability or to fit the available space.

## Cover Photos



**Photo 1:** The Highline has a challenging grade between Cornell and Butler Bridge. Treasurer Jim Abrams' 1" scale 4-6-4 works the grade on January 1, 2014. Photo by J.B. Mentzer

**Photo 2:** W.L.S. President Jim O'Brien visited the track in late February 2015 and offered this view of the Ground Line Station area from the tower stairs. There are additional views on Page 12.

**Photo 3:** The WLS was well represented at the NEMES model engineering show. This is Colt Stewart's display. The Atlantic was just one of several dozen models running on air. Photo by J.B. Mentzer

# Club Business Update

Jed Weare, Secretary

## November 13, 2014

The November 2014 meeting was held at the Holliston Historical Society House and was called to order by the President at 8:02 PM, with 24 people present.

### Minutes of Last Business Meeting

As there was no meeting in October, the Minutes of the September 2014 meeting were read by the Secretary.

The start time of the meeting was corrected to 8:02 PM.

A motion to accept the Minutes as corrected was proposed by Bob Foster, seconded by Bob Newcombe and passed unanimously.

There was some discussion of the electric bill. Some members felt it was surprisingly high, given the amount of use of the track. Various possibilities were discussed and the Treasurer provided a quick analysis of the bill for the last two years, showing that the bill is roughly the same amount, but no conclusion about whether the energy usage was reasonable was reached; more investigation is needed.

### Superintendent's Report

Mark Arsenault presented the Superintendent's report.

Someone left on the lights in the Maintenance shop.

The track has been winterized.

Coal and ballast have been delivered.

Steaming Bay #1 has been re-seated and re-leveled. The steaming bays seem to be in good shape generally.

The highline switch shanty had severe rot, but has now been rebuilt. It still needs painting.

Brush was cleared inside the highline behind Cornell Station, and Howard Gorin's picnic tables have been placed there.

Ed Delaney has painted the Tower.

Dick Ball has ballasted about 1500 feet of the Ground line to bury conduit for the signal system.

A lot of leaf blowing has been done, though there is always more to do.

### Old Business

There was some discussion of the electric bill. Some members felt it was surprisingly high, given the amount of use of the track. Various possibilities were discussed and the Treasurer provided a quick analysis of the bill for the last two years, showing that the bill is roughly the same amount, but no conclusion about whether the energy usage was reasonable was reached; more investigation is needed.

The Neighborhood Appreciation Day was slow. About \$65 was received in donations.

Steam oil and hydraulic oil have been purchased. You are asked to replace the cover of the steam oil when done, to prevent water getting into the barrel.

There was a Safety Committee meeting last month, the topic being the repair of the transfer table. The Committee's consensus was to replace the chain with the same size, but to use the corrosion resistant variety, as the ratings are significantly higher. It was also decided to replace the chain drive from the gearbox to the main transverse drive rods, as these are probably worn too. This will increase the bill by about \$450. The committee also suggested that a locked spare parts cabinet be installed close to the table, and that a maintenance and inspection program be developed. Repair work is planned for the end of this year.

### December 11, 2014 continued

The idea, thought of by Pam O'Brien, of a printed program for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meet, to be handed out to visitors and guests, was brought up and discussed. The program would include events schedule, local resources, etc. The Treasurer offered to look into the

*continued Page 5*

## Waushakum Live Steamers Dues Payment Coupon

2015

Name _____	ANNUAL DUES	<input type="text"/>
Street _____	ENGINE HOUSE RENTAL ( \$50.00 )	<input type="text"/>
City State Zip _____	WAUSHAKUM JOURNAL PRINT SUBSCRIPTION** (optional)	<input type="text"/>
Email ~ print legibly ~ include to receive WLS updates by email _____	CONTRIBUTION	<input type="text"/>

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2015:**

FULL \$ 100.00     AFFILIATE \$ 15.00     LIFE     ENGINE HOUSE RENTAL\* \* Add \$50.00

JUNIOR \$ 15.00     ASSOCIATE \$ 50.00     HONORARY

**WAUSHAKUM JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION:**

CHANGE TO EMAIL FROM POSTAL EDITION     CHANGE TO POSTAL EDITION FROM EMAIL\*\* \*\* Add \$15.00 for Printing and Postage

Please make check payable to:  
WAUSHAKUM LIVE STEAMERS, INC.

TOTAL ENCLOSED

# Superintendent's Report

Marc Arsenault, WLS Superintendent

## Building and Grounds Maintenance Update

Here we are in mid February with two feet of snow on the ground and more on the way, and I just finished watching several train videos and began thinking about our club grounds where I'm sure all is at a stand still for the moment. Reflecting back on another year of accomplishments thanks to our dedicated members who donate hundreds of hours each year to the betterment of our facilities, I began to list primary projects that were addressed and completed in 2014.

The year started with general clean up and assisting with the club work day projects. In May, the toilet trailer was moved back to its former location after the central site proved to be unpopular. The camper area outside electrical project was completed and ready for our annual meet in August. In addition, we designed and installed a fire hydrant and potable water faucet



**Photo 1:** Superintendent Marc Arsenault building the Ground Line's new signal bridge . **Photo 2:** The complete signal bridge, ready to bring to the track.



Two photos, MARC ARSENAULT

Dues payment, Engine House rental and WLS member information coupon is on the reverse side. Please mail back with payment (if applicable) by January 2015 to;

Waushakum Live Steamers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6034  
Holliston, MA 01746

You may also give this to the Treasurer by the January Business Meeting

## Superintendent's Report

*Continued from Page 4*

local to the campers for their safety and convenience.

The dining and vendor tent areas has been improved with the placement of approximately 30 yards of stone dust gravel spread over their foot print to seal the base against insects and shed rain water. The seemingly never ending project of leveling steaming bays upset due to frost movement, was again addressed on the hot days of July. Track

work, switch construction, painting, block signal system design and installation, along with track ballasting efforts continued throughout the remainder of the year.

With the annual meet preparations consuming our time for the month of August, we continued in September on another nostalgic project, to refurbish the weather degraded highline switchman shanty which was originally built by George Hildreth at the Norfolk Street location and transported to

Holliston in 1992. Once completed, the area local to shack and around the flag pole were cleared of brush and cleaned. Picnic tables donated by Howard Gorin, were set for members to enjoy the highline trains from a different view.

As I think about the items that need to be addressed this year, health and weather permitting, I anticipate 2015 will be another ambitious and productive year.

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## Club Business Update

*continued from Page 3*

possibility of obtaining a hotel block reservation.

### New Business

There were three applications for membership. Richard Osgood of Middleton, MA was sponsored by Dick Boucher and was elected an Affiliate member. John Kurdzionak of Malden, MA was sponsored by Jay Berry and was elected a Full Member. Joseph D. Monty of Boxford, MA was sponsored by Dick Boucher and was elected an Associate Member.

Nominations for Officers for 2015 are open until the January meeting, when elections will be held.

Dick Ball assisted the President in recycling drink cans collected at the track. After a lengthy explanation and discussion, it transpired that we got \$136 for 2720 "valid" cans. This represents about 2 years worth of cans.

Dick Ball replaced the broken visitor control chains. Plastic was used again, as it was felt to be safer than metal chain.

Bob Newcombe installed 4 new turnouts to make a double crossover between the inner and outer loops of the ground line, in the area of Dimond Trestle. They are not yet operational as crossovers, as electric motors,

buttons and signals need to be built and installed.

The President reported that we can purchase monogrammed bicycle lights, which we can sell for use as tail lamps for night running, at a cost of \$276 for 200. Bob Huston proposed we buy 200 monogrammed lights. The motion was seconded by Bob Newcombe and passed unanimously.

There was a good turnout for the Purinton Memorial Blow Down Meet. \$110 was received in donations.

Joe Cardelle said that we will need some new elastic ties for the tent tarpaulins when we re-erect them next year, as many have badly deteriorated.

As the water system has been turned off and drained for the winter, members should use only the hose at the entry shed, and also ensure that the hose and faucet are turned off and drained after use. Take care to not turn on any other valves.

Marc Arsenault suggested we institute a "Reverse Running Day" as a members-only event. The suggestion was well received.

The purchase of a new toilet trailer was discussed at some length. Several members have inspected one that is for sale at \$1500. It needs work, but has flush toilets and will be a great improvement over the existing unit. There are many aspects to consider,

such as transportation, disposal of the old unit, price and condition. It needs to be looked into in a lot more detail before we can commit.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Bob Foster, seconded by Bob Huston, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:40 PM.

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## December 11, 2014

### Minutes of Last Business Meeting

The December 2014 meeting was held at the Holliston Historical Society House. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM with 16 members present.

The minutes of the November 2014 Business Meeting Minutes were read by J.B. Mentzer.

A motion to accept the Minutes was proposed by Bob Newcombe, seconded by Bob Mitchell, and passed unanimously.

### Superintendent's Report

Mark Arsenault presented the Superintendent's report.

The property is shut down for winter. He instructed those using water during the winter to shut it off using the red

*continued Page 9*

# New Year's Day Meet

By Pat Fahey • Photos as noted

January 1, 2015

Today was the first day of the new year, and as usual the club did have its Annual New Years Day Meet. The day started off quiet because when I arrived at the track there were only two members there. Our President Jim O'Brien had the coffee on and donuts in the Hilton, and member Dick Ball was keeping Jim company. And the heat was on and it was a good thing because it was cold-only about 15 degree's above zero.

After I had a cup of coffee and a donut, I went out to see if the club compressor would start. Once I got it to start, I had to let it run for a while because of the cold weather. The only lift that would work was the one for the steaming bays.

After a while, more people started to arrive. One was Joe Cardelle. Joe brought his Highline Boston & Albany 2-6-6T No. 300 that he just completed. Joe did his usual fine work on the engine, and got all the details in. The locomotive was not steamed up, but was on the unloading turntable for display.

The club was not without steam for 1/1/15, member Colt Stewart brought two of his locomotives to run on the Highline. Once they got their engines to start, WLS Members running included Joe Ng, with his

**Photo 1:** Hank Walther run his speeder with his girlfriend Lilly as Conductor. **Photo 2:** Mark Hirtle and another well dressed train load of visitors. **Photo 3:** Jay Berry's Action Red Canadian Pacific SD40-2 by the Compressor Shed. **Photo 4:** The fire barrel was a popular meeting spot. Notice: the lack of snow.



2

Four photos, JIM O'BRIEN



3



1



4



5



6



7

TOMASZ PALKON



8

Three photos, JIM O'BRIEN

**O'Brien's Hobo Hilton** was alive with members enjoying lunch. **Photo 5:** Pam O'Brien serves the hungry hoardes. **Photo 6:** Those meatballs were yummiel!. **Photo 7:** Arthur Butler with Tomasz Palkon. **Photo 8:** Don Thomas talks with Dick Boucher.

CB&Q diesel, Jay Berry with his CPR diesel, and Marc Arsenault with the Charlton diesel, with help from Mark Hurtle.

Midday the club was busy! The parking lot was just about full, between members and guests. As always, Pam O'Brien had her soup going in the Hilton. But she wasn't alone, other members brought in meatballs, stews, cookies, etc. There was so much to eat, at times you didn't know where to begin.

Prior to the event, President Jim O'Brien requested members to bring either canned or non-perishable food to the event. This food would be donated to the Holliston Food Bank.

I would like to thank Pam & Jim O'Brien for helping to put on this event, and I would like to thank members & their wives that brought in food for the event, you know who you are.

*The club started the New Years get together back at the old Norfolk St. club site. Back then the only place to meet was in the tower with the kerosene heater, and plenty of Hi-line Steam.*

- PAT FAHEY



9



10



11



12

**More NYD Meet .....**



13

Above and Left by, TOMASZ PALKON

**Photo 9:** Marc Arsenault eyes the Charlton RS-3 as Mark Hirtle departs the station. **Photo 10:** ON THE GROUND!  
**Photo 11:** Marc quickly re-railed the RS-3. **Photo 12:** Highball!  
**Photo 13:** Russ Steeves prepares to fire his scale cannon.  
**Photo 14:** Big activity around a little engine during the afternoon hours at the 2014 New Year's Day Meet.



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## Club Business Update

continued from Page 5

### December 11, 2014 continued

handle. Also, bring the Entrance Shanty's garden hose inside. To prevent a frozen pipe, open the faucet and let it drain.

A signal bridge will be built on the ground line [location?]. Another will be installed to protect backup moves toward the Transfer Table from the Outer Loop.

### Old Business

#### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

WLS founded 1955. Aged 60 years in 2015.

President Jim O'Brien is looking for ideas on how to make the 2015 season unique.

Another painting? The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary painting covered costs, but missed its sales projection. For a new painting, Jim Abrams suggested a non-WLS railroad scene without a date.

#### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video

The video company will start shooting on Thursday. Early video will be edited on-site to produce a trailer which will be shown at the sales table.

Chris Colby suggested adding video from earlier events. Jim O'Brien said it was too time consuming to convert and edit.

J.B. Mentzer asked if the Waushakum Journal should change for the anniversary year. No ideas were forthcoming.

### Calendar

Jim O'Brien proposed an 18 month calendar that could be sold beginning at the August meet. Jim Abrams' Photo Lab offers calen-

continued Page 10

Winter 2015

## 2015 Waushakum Calendar of Events

Edited by J.B. Mentzer

Live Steam meets for May ~ October 2015 are listed below by date. Not listed: New Year's Day Meet on January 1st, 2016.

Unless noted, the Cook Tent is **closed**. Soft drinks are available at the soda machine all season.

### Saturday May 2nd, 2015

Spring Work Day: Members new and old come get the track ready for another season.

### Sunday May 3rd, 2015

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual Members Meet

Members Only

**Cook Tent:** Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

### Sunday May 17th, 2015

#### George Dimond Memorial

Spring Steam-up Meet

### Sunday June 21st, 2015

#### 14<sup>TH</sup> Annual Van Brocklin Meet

**Cook Tent:** Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

### Sunday July 19th, 2015

#### 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual

#### Antique Car Club & Motorcycle Meet

**Cook Tent:** Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

### Annual Meet 2015 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thursday August 27th, 2015 6:00 pm

#### Annual Diner

August 28th, 29th, & 30th, 2015

#### 45<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meet

Full Cook Tent • Saturday Night Dinner

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### Sunday September 20th, 2015

#### 14<sup>TH</sup> Annual

#### Neighborhood Appreciation Day

Members & Invited Guests Only

**Cook Tent:** Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

### October 18th, 2015

#### George Lovett Memorial

Fall Blow-down Meet

2015						
<b>MAY</b>						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
<b>JUNE</b>						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
<b>JULY</b>						
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<b>AUGUST</b>						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
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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	31			
Happy Holidays						

## Club Business Update

*continued from Page 9*

dars wholesale. J.B. Mentzer would like to typeset it.

Bob Huston suggested including photos of members from other clubs, too.

### TOILET TRAILER

Points raised during the discussion: Asking price \$1,500; unit has major condition issues: it needs a new floor, fixtures cracked, valves missing, middle holding tank and two women's toilets disconnected.

Bob Huston and Marc Arsenault estimated \$4,500 to bring until to good state of repair.

Conclusion: it was decided that Bob Huston would call seller and report the membership decided to hold off on a purchase decision.

### TRANSFER TABLE

Replacement parts will be ordered after insurance premium has been paid and weather improves to suit outdoor projects.

Replacement chain will be No. 40 and corrosion resistant. This will offer an 8% load rating improvement.

Bob Huston estimated the Transfer Table's lifting current capacity at 1,800 lbs. Bigger engines test this limit.

### OTHER POINTS

Jim O'Brien visits weekly to run the air compressor.

Nominations for Club Officers are open through the January 2015 Annual Meeting. Nominees need to be present at the Annual Meeting to refuse or accept a nomination.

Camper reservations for the August 2015 meet will open at the January meeting. Jim O'Brien needs to know the following: the type of vehicle (trailer or camper), its length, and the date of arrival. To reserve: notify Jim O'Brien in writing (paper or email).

## New Business

Proposed Town of Holliston Day at WLS: This would be in place of the Neighborhood Appreciation Day. Concern was expressed about unsavory persons attending. Also: the town's Building Inspector should be invited. Jim O'Brien offered to invite him personally.

Jim O'Brien noted the 2015 Event Calendar will be unchanged from 2014, though some of the event names will be changing.

Jim O'Brien asked for suggestions of model railroad clubs to invite to our meets to replace the Car Club Meet.

### TRACK UPDATE

Jim O'Brien noted some small branches had fallen. The parking lot has soft spots. He admonished the membership to not open the three water valves in the Entrance Shanty. Bob Huston suggesting filling buckets from the large puddles in our parking area.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY MEET

Tony Raiano offered to plow Abraham Way if needed before the first of the year.

Jim O'Brien asked members to bring canned food to the NYD Meet for donation to the Holliston Food Pantry.

Member's wives are encouraged to make something. Dan Connor noted he wouldn't be attending, but offered his meatball recipe.

Bob Huston reminded members about the Veridian offer. For members that switch their home electric service, the WLS gets \$2.00 per month.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Bob Newcombe, seconded by Bob Mitchell, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.B. Mentzer (Recording Secretary,  
December)

Jed Weare (Secretary)

## Many Operating Models

The New England Model Engineering Society held their annual show on February 28, 2015.

New for 2015, the show was held at the National Park Service's Boott Mill Historic Park in Lowell, MA.

Several WLS members were present including Colt Steward, Dick Boucher, Howard Gorin, Luke Collette and Russ Steeves.

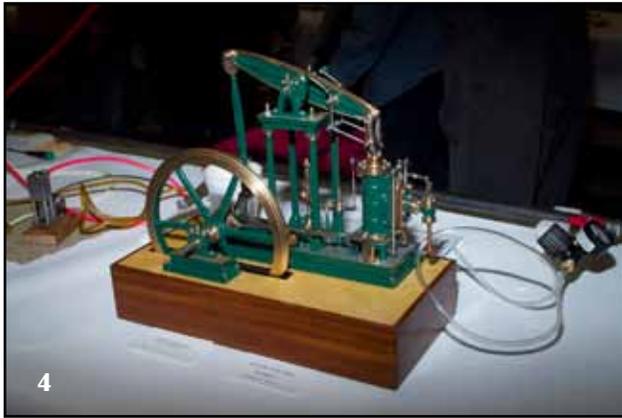
There were so many operating displays, the NPS air compressor overheated! It cooled enough that the displays operated again for an hour or so before the event concluded.



**Photo 1:** A radial airplane engine. **Photo 2:** One of several vertical mill engines displayed. **Photo 3** Colt Stewart with his 4-4-2 Atlantic and other live steam on air models. **Photo 4:** A walking beam mill engine. **Photo 5:** Dick Boucher discusses his model with a show attendee. **Photo 6:** A model engine built by Les Russel. **Photo 7:** A scale Showman's Engine on display.

# WLS at N.E.M.E.S. 2015

Photos by J.B. Mentzer



## Waushakum in Winter

*J.B. Mentzer • Photos by President Jim O'Brien*



History will record the winter of 2014-2015 as one of the snowiest on record. The WLS track, in the suburbs of Boston, received much of that snow.

With drifts like this, will the Member's Work Day in early May feature a plow train?

The Waushakum Live Steamers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6034  
Holliston, MA 01746