



## **Electronic Pop Valve No. 409.1 March 2017**

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### ***Board of Director's Notes***

This is a reminder that the first business meeting of the season will be at the clubhouse in Marengo on April 8 at noon. Hopefully this will be the kickoff for a long and rewarding operating season! Keep in mind that the odds are high that the lawn will be too wet to drive on especially with the late snowstorm.

If you would like to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning process, please note a change in plans. We originally were planning a kickoff meeting on April 22 but it has been pushed back a week. Instead it will be held at Marengo on April 29 from 10:00 until noon. There are many ideas that need to be shared and discussed and we need to fill planning positions (see article). Please volunteer and join us for lunch afterwards. The plan is to use leftover Italian sausage from last year's open house experiment. Contact facilitator Sue Caiazza if you plan to attend or want to participate but are unavailable at that time.

This is a reminder to anyone who comes out to the club to work and opens any building that it is imperative to lock it back up when you are done. Even if you don't open anything please check the grounds before you leave. Thank you.

### ***Harold Crouch Award***

Monte May and Jack Wylie were awarded the 2017 Harold Crouch award for their outstanding service over many years to the club. Many thanks from everyone.



2017 Harold Crouch Award Winners - President Tim Guenther with honorees Monte May and Jack Wylie. (Lois Banning photo)

### ***Internet Items of Interest***

<http://boingboing.net/2017/02/24/a-master-of-miniature-model-ma.html>

Somebody send this guy a membership form:

<https://livestream.com/brasstrains/OuttakeAndExtras/videos/150775422>

Home movies from Waushakum and Pioneer Valley in 1971-72

<https://youtu.be/QFYJp695Qrc>

# 2017 Live Steam Calendar

2017							
FLLS Meetings				FLLS Operating Days			
FLLS Events				FLLS Open House			
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
February	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
March	5	6	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	1
April	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
May	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
June	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
July	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
August	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
September	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
October	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
November	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
December	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	3	4	5	6	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

# 2017 Live Steam Events

- 4/8 – FLLS April Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 4/29 – FLLS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff Planning Meeting at 10:00 AM at Marengo
- 5/13 – FLLS May Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 5/20 - FLLS Steamup Run Day
- 5/27 - FLLS Memorial Day Run and Picnic at 5:00
- 6/10 – FLLS June Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 6/11 - FLLS Hosts Upstate Garden Railway Clubs: Picnic at 1:30, open 10:00 to 4:00
- 6/21 – FLLS Hosts Big Train Operators National Convention
- 6/23-25 - FLLS Spring Public Open House
- 7/1 – FLLS 4<sup>th</sup> of July Run and Picnic at 5:00
- 7/8 – FLLS July Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 7/17 - FLLS Hosts Ottawa Valley Garden Railway Club Picnic
- 7/22 - FLLS Model Railroader’s Run Day. Operating sessions on the One Inch and the Gauge One layouts
- 8/4-8/6 - FLLS Summer Invitational and Picnic at 5:00 (Public not invited) Operating sessions on the One Inch and the Gauge One layouts
- 8/12 – FLLS August Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 9/2 - FLLS Labor Day Run and Picnic at 5:00
- 9/9 – FLLS September Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 9/22-24 - FLLS Fall Public Open House
- 10/14 – FLLS Blowdown Run Day
- 10/14– FLLS October Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 11/11 – FLLS November Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS
- 12/9 – FLLS Annual Meeting and December Business Meeting at Noon at FLLS



Texas Transportation Museum, San Antonio, TX

## ***Volunteer Task List***

The Board is looking for volunteers to sign up to coordinate activities on the task list. There are several purposes: let folks know what tasks need to be done, find volunteers for coordinating different activities, and, when tasks get completed or work is done provide information to give credit to those who are doing the work. The Task List board will have sticky notes with specific tasks. Here is the current status of projects.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Replace sink and faucets	
Planning responsibility for Memorial Day picnic	
Planning responsibility for Fourth of July picnic	
Planning responsibility for August Invitational picnic	
Planning responsibility for Labor Day picnic	
Planning responsibility for Model Railroader Run Day	Ken Cameron
Planning responsibility for Garden Railway Club Picnic	Roger Caiazza
Planning responsibility for Ottawa Valley Garden RR Visit	Roger Caiazza
Planning responsibility for May Public Run Day	
Planning responsibility for July Public Run Day	
Planning responsibility for August Public Run Day	
Junior Engineer Program	
Junior member responsibility	
Contact Finger Lakes Tourism to see if groups would want to visit	Tony Mesollela
Boy Scout merit badge coordination	Fruitt, May, Spencer
Power supply requirements	
Clean engine house blocks and seal them	Jack Wylie
50th Task List	Susie Caiazza
Plan 1" car storage buildings	Steve Pontarelli
Club house proposal	
Rehabilitate the 7 1/4" wooden steaming bays	
Implement task list board	Roger Caiazza
Planning responsibility for BTO visit 6/21/17	Roger Caiazza
Coordinate social media run day - May 27	
Coordinate social media run day - July 29	
Coordinate social media run day -August 26	
Planning responsibility for Spring open house dinner	Susie Caiazza
Kitchen coordination for Fall open house	
Planning responsibility for Fall open house dinner	
Safety video script	Tom Pierson
Plans for permanent pavilion or tent on east end of clubhouse	
Draft letter and mailing list for car club invitation	Roger Caiazza



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Meeting

Saturday, April 29, 2017

It is time to get this party on the road or, should we say, get it on track. The goal for this meeting is to outline the basic planning structure. We are looking for thoughts, discussion and volunteers to make this an enjoyable event for all. A draft list of committees that would break down this grand task is below. Ideally, there will be one lead coordinator for each committee that would report to the event coordinator (Susie Caiazza) and have other folks helping them out. Many hands, make light work, so think about where you could help out. I cannot find the notes on who has already volunteered for what so please check this out to see if it correct.

## Publicity Committee:

Contacting other clubs  
Design a flyer to announce/invite

## Vendors Committee:

Contacting vendors  
Asking for door prizes  
Assigning layout in tent  
Helping vendors set up/take down  
Arranging/ hiring security for vendors tent

## Banquet Committee:

Contact venues/ get prices/ set menu  
Get head count from registrar  
Provide list/count day of the banquet

## Lunch Committee:

What to serve  
Determine cost to be added  
Order/ Cook/ Clean up  
Hours? How many lunch days?

## Breakfast Committee:

Do we want to do anything?  
Coffee? Donuts?  
Cash only or honor system?

## Video Committee

Develop/produce a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video  
Determine cost/ Take orders  
Responsible for mailing to those who purchase

## Hotel Committee (Ed McConnell):

Investigate/develop list

Arrange for special pricing?

Include locate campground facilities

## On-site Camping Committee:

How many can we take?  
Plan and mark the layout  
Leave a hand out map on site  
Include rules and regulations on hand out  
Be there for arrival of on-site campers

## Printer/ Paper Committee:

Get anything printed we need (registration forms, name tags, lunch tickets, banquet tickets, etc.)  
Responsible to get hard copies to committee that needs it

## Merchandise Committee Janet Pontarelli:

T-shirts? Travel mugs? Pins? Attendee bags?

## Program Committee:

Develop the schedule for the event  
Produce a program handout for the weekend  
Develop and produce program for the banquet

## Gauge Chairperson/liaison:

Each gauge will have a liaison/key person who will deal with questions or issues  
If visitors bring rolling stock, where is it kept? Decide if you need sign up for run time or how equitable running times will be assured

## Facilities Committee:

Rental of any needed hardscape tent, port a potty  
Parking for the event

## ***Social Media Run Day***

The board discussed this at their February meeting. They have "some concerns regarding social media days actually making more work for the club. We would like to use this to bring in new members and would like to try it this year on model railroaders run day. Focusing in the media, that the run day be an educational day for people interested in the hobby and wanting to learn more about model railroading. This would give our members a chance to talk with visitors about the hobby. We will bring up social media days to the membership to see if there are any concerns since they have had time to think about it."

Your editor has advocated this experiment. When I proposed this concept to the general membership last fall I made the point that this would mean extra work but addressed that concern by saying that we would ask for commitments before the event and if we did not get commitments we would not pull the trigger on the social media campaign. If you recall we voted to proceed. As a result of that vote Tom Pierson and I have been discussing how we would implement this. Tom has researched a program to limit the number of people who could reserve tickets to come out so we could put a cap on attendees. Tom and I need to come up with a list of jobs so that we can determine how many people have to commit to this before we can pull the trigger. Then we would like to present this to the BOD and membership for final approvals.

Granted this is an experiment that will take more work but there are advantages. First and foremost the primary purpose is not to make

money but to try to bring in more members. During the open houses most people don't have time to talk about the advantages of membership or fully answer questions. This would give people that opportunity. Secondly, it gives those members who like to run trains the chance to run and support the club at the same time. We can also use this as a training session for people who want to help out at the meet but have not had training. We need to train not only engineers but also conductors and station masters. Lastly, if we get some added donations that is not a bad thing.

As for the dates of the event, I think that more discussion is warranted. Using social media to advertise Model Railroaders Run day is a good idea. As the BOD notes we could tailor the campaign to that audience. I wonder if adding the public to that event would dilute its effectiveness to those people who are already interested in railroads. Moreover do we exclude model railroaders who may want to come when we hit the limit?

Another thing that needs to be addressed is an explicit summary of the benefits and conditions of membership. Before we target the general public we should agree on the benefits of social membership. In the past we have said that people could run the club locomotives but I believe there is a contingent that worries that if we break one of the club engines that we would be screwed. As a result we would clearly need to eliminate that as a benefit or determine limits on how much and when the club locomotives can be used for social members and regular members for that matter.

## ***FLLS Yahoo Group***

### ***Ken Cameron***

To help improve member communication and discussion, we have set up a web/email discussion group. This forum is limited to club members and can be used to discuss things about the club and activities. It is not intended to replace other methods like the newsletter, email blasts, Facebook or face to face discussions. It is just another option that may fit some people and topics better.

It can be used in two ways: as a web based forum or as an email list. As an email list it saves having to know everyone's current email address. As a web based forum, it provides other features like being searchable and also a place to store files and photos for the others in the group to see. And you can use it for both, it all depends on how you join the group.

If you only want to deal with it as an email list and skip the web side of things you will get emails that announce project work days and describe work planned. To join this service send an email to:

[FLLS-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:FLLS-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Please include your whole name in the mail so we can check against the membership list. You will get a response sent from the list to confirm you really sent the email (not somebody faking your address). Just follow the instructions and you will be on the list. What you won't be able to do is browse the files on the site or search past messages on the web.

In order to get those capabilities you need to setup a Yahoo identity. Many of you may already have this from other lists. The instructions are on their help pages here:

<https://help.yahoo.com/kb/groups/sln2409.html>

In brief:

1. Sign in to yahoo groups
2. Search for 'FLLS'
3. When it finds our group, click 'Join Group'
4. It will ask for more customization details like name, delivery options (each message, digest, or none), and a few other options.
5. Click the 'Send Request'

This gives you all the web access options noted above but you can also use email as a way to post or get messages. The web will also let you post messages and view the files, photos and messages posted.

This group is being set up because there have been complaints that there isn't enough discussion amongst the entire membership. Many people only talk with a few others when you are at the club. Time is also valuable and trying to get something done and talking to others can be incompatible. This gives you a way to present questions and ideas to a wider group of members when you have the time.

We hope this will be used to discuss items like who will be around on a Sunday, request help if a project could use a few extra hands, or find out if anyone has a specific tool for a task.

It is important, however, to keep in mind that this is a voluntary program and if you don't want to join the group you don't have to. Of course, unless we get a critical mass of people in the system it will be of limited value. So we encourage you to try this new option to stay abreast of what is going on and to make your voice heard to a wider audience.

## ***Texas Transportation Museum*** ***Roger Caiazza***

On our travels this winter we spent a week in San Antonio, TX and took time to visit the [Texas Transportation Museum](#). The museum has a short train ride, a collection of autos, fire trucks, tractors, and carriages, a couple of model railroads and the San Antonio Garden Railway Society has a [garden layout](#).

The train ride is an out and back trip on a 1,765' "mainline". The day we visited the engine was a former USAF 44-tonner pulling a caboose and a covered flat car. Needless to say our layouts are much more interesting.



They also have an S-4 locomotive, couple of Pullman sleepers, a 2-8-0 Consolidation that does not run, two cabooses and a bunch of speeders. They rent the cabooses and have a pavilion that is also used for parties. I thought it was a possibility for our plans.



They have a [depot](#) that originally was on the Southern Pacific. I think it is an ideal size for our layouts.



This railroad depot was originally located in Converse, on the eastern edge of San Antonio, on the Southern Pacific tracks from Houston. It is a Class 3 depot, 40 by 16 feet, with two rooms and a central hallway. It was erected in the early 1940s as the third Converse depot. The first was a wooden hut built in 1878. As the town of Converse and local agricultural production grew, it was replaced by a larger masonry structure to house not only the agent and his family but also seasonal migrant laborers. By 1940 passenger traffic had declined, along with the need for housing laborers. Taxation on depots that were also dwellings had also increased so the Southern Pacific demolished the larger building and replaced it with this smaller wooden structure which did not even have running water or a restroom. Some of the materials used in the original building including the bay window were incorporated in the smaller replacement depot. In 1968, when the depot was closed and scheduled for demolition, the Southern Pacific donated it to TTM. Volunteers cut the building in half to move it by truck to its current location.

All of the rest of the collections are nice but the garden railway layout was spectacular. They currently run trains on seven active loops at their popular site which occupies over an acre. All the track is electrified and they have a very well done control system but are in the process of rehabilitating it. There are three elevated loops that can be used with live steam too.



# Finger Lakes Live Steamers, Inc.

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**Membership Applications** are available on our website.

## **Rail Fan Opportunities (aka filling up blank space)**

**Key, Lock & Lantern Convention** The annual Key, Lock & Lantern Convention will be held from May 11-14, 2017 in Scranton, PA. The convention includes programs, a train excursion, and a Transportation History Exposition with exhibits and dealers of memorabilia. Registration information and forms are available at [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org). Online registration is available on the website's Convention page.

**Easter Bunny Trains on the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley** The Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society is sponsoring four two-hour train rides with the Easter Bunny and friends April 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2017 @ 1pm. Reservations & prepayment required. Seating is limited. All Trains Leave from the Milford Depot, 136 East Main Street, Milford, NY. For Reservations: call 607-432-2429. More information at [www.lrhs.com](http://www.lrhs.com).