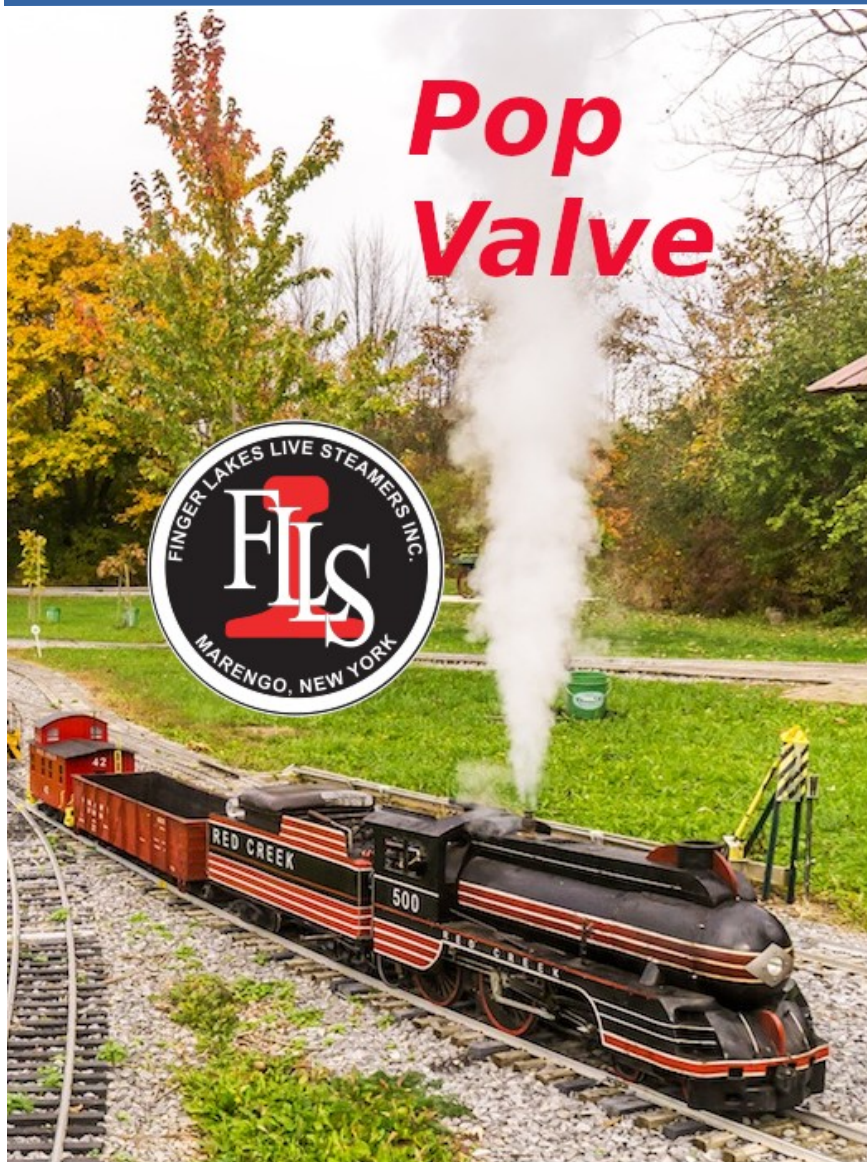
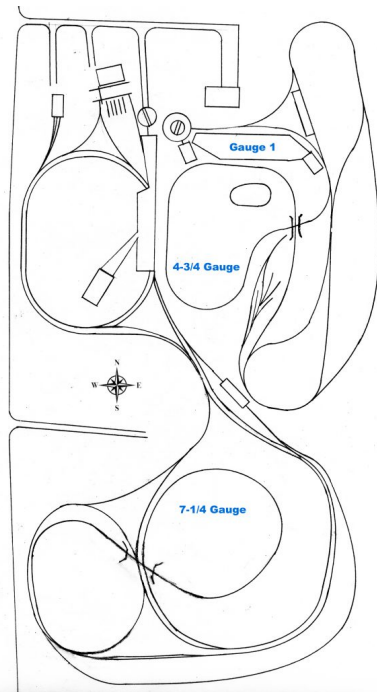




BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President: Wayne Henning
 Vice President: Ken Sutterby
 Secretary: Sue Henrichs
 Treasurer: Reggie Aceto
 Director: Alan Francis II
 Director: Kevin Lepel
 Director: Dave Pierce



Issue No. 465 ~ March 2025

All photographs by Tim Guenther, unless otherwise noted.

Finger Lakes Live Steamers, Inc.
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Mailing address:
P.O. Box 141, Palmyra NY 14522-0141
www.fingerlakeslivesteamers.org

Contact information is only available to active club members.
See club membership list in the members only section of the club website.
info@fingerlakeslivesteamers.org

President's Message

Fellow Finger Lakes Live Steamers, March is here, and with it, the promise of spring! The snow will soon melt away, the days will grow longer, and the sounds of steam, diesel, and electric engines will once again fill our tracks. A new season is upon us, bringing fresh opportunities to build, restore, and run the trains we love.

This is always an exciting time of year, filled with anticipation and preparation. Soon, we will gather once again to wake our locomotives from their winter slumber, inspect the rails that have patiently awaited our return, and bring our beloved railway back to life. There is something special about those first runs of the season—the hiss of steam engines, the quietness of electric engines, the rhythmic chug sound of diesel engines, and, most importantly, the camaraderie of friends who share a passion for this wonderful hobby.

As we prepare for the upcoming season, I encourage everyone to get involved. Whether you enjoy working on track maintenance, fine-tuning locomotives, helping with club projects, or simply sharing your enthusiasm for railroading, there is a place for you here. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to the continued success of our club.

We also look forward to another year of club events, and gatherings where we can share the magic of our passion with visitors and fellow enthusiasts. These moments not only keep our club thriving but also introduce new generations to the joys of railroading. If you have been thinking about starting a new project, lending a hand in club operations, or even just spending more time on the track, now is the perfect time to jump in!

Let us make 2025 a season to remember—one filled with great runs, exciting projects, and strong friendships. I look forward to seeing each of you at the track as we bring Finger Lakes Live Steamers back to life for another year.

Warmest Regards,
Wayne Henning, Sr.
President, Finger Lakes Live Steamers

PSB 3 Update



Pete Hart and Tim Guenther have been busy, early this year. They got a building permit from the town of Galen, contracted Joe Schmucker (our local Amish barn builder) to build the pole barn. Ken Sutterby will be filling the area with stone and Tim ordered switch kits and track materials from Accu-tie. The interior lower level tracks will be one inch square steel tubing welded to ¼ x 1-1/2 inch steel ties. Alan Francis has designed the steel structure for the upper level tracks and he is working on the design for the transfer table.



Looking north, March 15, 2025

The Harold Crouch Award *presented by Ken Sutterby at the March 8th club banquet.*

Good afternoon, everyone. It is an honor to stand before you today as we come together to recognize the dedication, passion, and hard work

of those who make Finger Lakes Live Steamers the incredible club that it is. Each year, we present the Harold Crouch Award to individuals who embody the generosity, commitment, and craftsmanship that Harold himself exemplified. This award is not just about the work done, it's about the passion behind it, the willingness to share knowledge, and the lasting impact these individuals have on our club and its members.

This year, we are proud to honor Skip Enck and Wayne Henning, men whose unwavering dedication helped shape our club in so many ways. Whether it was through countless hours of track work, the meticulous craft of steam locomotive building, mentoring fellow members, or simply being someone, you could always count on, Skip and Wayne truly represented the values this award stands for.

Their contributions strengthened our community, preserved the traditions of live steam railroading, and inspired the next generation of enthusiasts. It is because of individuals like Skip and Wayne that Finger Lakes Live Steamers continues to thrive.

Today, it is my great privilege to present the Harold Crouch Award to Wayne Henning and posthumously to Skip Enck. Accepting the award on his (Skip's) behalf is Reggie Aceto.

To everyone here today, thank you all for being here and for making our club such a wonderful place. Let's continue to celebrate the spirit of Finger Lakes Live Steamers and the community that makes it all possible.

Childhood Train Memories

~Wayne Henning

From the time I was three years old, trains held a special place in my heart. My maternal grandparents lived in Palmyra, their house perched on a hill that overlooked the bustling tracks of the New York Central Railroad and the West Shore Line. Whenever I heard the distant wail of a steam whistle, I would drop whatever I

was doing and rush out to the back porch, eyes wide with excitement. Moments later, a powerful steam locomotive would roar past, churning out great clouds of smoke, its massive driving rods hammering in perfect rhythm. Whether it was a sleek passenger train, or a freight consist stretching far beyond my view, I was mesmerized by the sheer power and motion of it all.

My grandfather often told me stories about the railroad, explaining the details that fascinated me most. One of my favorite topics was the track pans, long troughs of water laid between the rails. He described how engineers, without stopping, would lower a scoop beneath the tender to collect water. When the tender was full, water would shoot from the hatch like a geyser, a brief, controlled chaos before the engineer sealed it shut, and the train charged forward. I remember picturing that scene in my mind, imagining the skill it took to operate those mighty steam engines.

Another vivid memory was our occasional trip to the Palmyra passenger station, which stood just beyond the Route 21 north overpass. If my grandmother needed to retrieve a package from my uncle, who was serving in the Navy, we would head

down to the station. Sometimes, we went to the freight depot on the opposite side of the tracks, near Walker Road, to pick up larger deliveries. For me, these visits weren't just errands, they were adventures. The station itself had an air of anticipation, a place where people came and went, where locomotives paused just long enough for passengers and cargo before continuing their journeys.

I would watch in awe as a steam engine idled at the platform, its steel frame breathing like a living creature, hissing, sighing, occasionally venting great plumes of steam into the crisp air. The firebox glowed within, radiating heat as it fueled this magnificent machine. Then, all too soon, the conductor's call would signal departure. The

engineer would release the brakes, and the locomotive would come to life, its massive drivers turning, pistons pumping, and the deep, mournful wail of its whistle marking its farewell.

Then, one day, something was different. The familiar, thunderous chug of a steam locomotive was gone. In its place was a new sound, steady, mechanical, almost sterile. A diesel locomotive. It didn't hiss, it didn't breathe, it just rumbled. The giants of my childhood, the thundering steam engines that had captivated me, were vanishing.

On May 3, 1957, the New York Central Railroad officially announced the complete dieselization of its system. The era of steam, which had defined rail travel for generations, had come to an end. Five years later, on August 29, 1962, the New York Central closed the Palmyra passenger station, a casualty of declining ridership. Not long after, the station itself was torn down, erasing a piece of history. The freight station lingered on for two more decades, repurposed as a lumber store, until a fire ultimately claimed what was left.

Though the buildings are gone, the memories of steam and steel, of whistles in the night, of childhood wonder standing on that back porch, watching the great locomotives roll by, remain.

***The Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter of the
National Railway Historical Society
Presents a new book by Richard F. Palmer
and Kenneth E. May***

The Auburn Road

The Auburn Branch of the New York Central Railroad. 183 pages, soft cover, featuring over 150 photos. The Auburn Road, by Richard F. Palmer and Kenneth E. May, traces the history of the Auburn Branch of the New York Central Railroad and its predecessor lines.

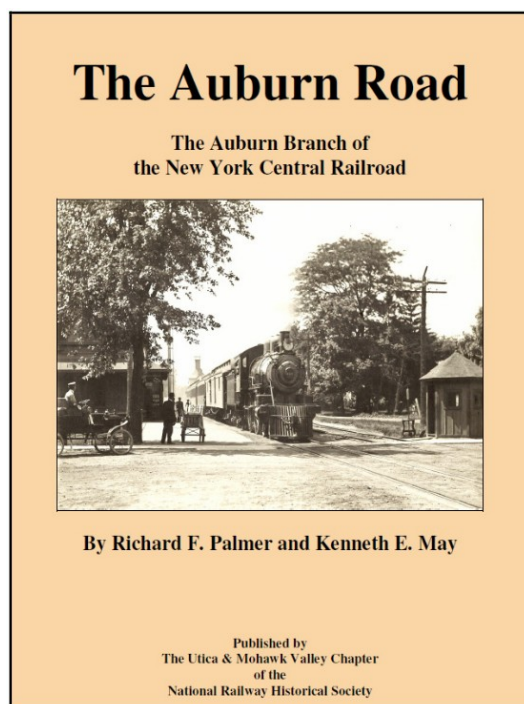
The railroad started as the Auburn & Syracuse Railroad in 1834 and the Auburn & Rochester Railroad in 1836. They merged with each other and later became the Auburn Branch of the mighty New York Central. This book covers the 190-year story of the Auburn Road, from its crude beginnings, when horses drew modified stagecoaches over wooden rails, through today's modern and aggressive Finger Lakes Railway, which rescued what was left of the line from oblivion. Instead of a trackless right-of-way, we now see 2,000-horsepower diesel locomotives, decked out in the classic New York Central "Lightning Stripe" paint scheme, busily serving both old and new freight customers. It is a railroad determined to survive and thrive.

\$40 + \$8 shipping from:

U & MV Chapter, NRHS
PO Box 455
New Hartford, NY 13413

Order form:

<https://ontarioexpress.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Auburn-Road.pdf>



**FINGER LAKES LIVE STEAMERS 2025
TIMETABLE**

January 11, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting

February 8, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting

March 8, 2025 - Annual Dinner

*April 12, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting*

*May 10, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting - Steam Up*

*May 24, 2025 - Social Membership Drive Day &
Club Picnic at 5pm*

June 7, 2025 – Garden Railway Club Picnic

*June 14, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting*

June 15, 2025 - Father's Day Event

*July 5, 2025 - Model Railroader Day and Club
Picnic at 5pm*

*July 12, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting*

*July 19, 2025 – Packard Car Club visiting FLLS
12 noon*

*August 1-3, 2025 - FLLS Invitational Meet &
Club Dinner at 5pm*

*August 9, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting*

*August 22-24, 2025 – Waushakum Live Steamers
70th Anniversary*

*September 13, 2025 - Board of Directors
Meeting, Business Meeting (nomination
committee set)*

*September 27 & 28, 2025 - Fall Open House and
Saturday Dinner at 5pm.*

*October 11, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting; Blow Down.*

November 1, 2025 - Nominations due

*November 8, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting,
Business Meeting*

*December 1, 2025 - Mail in ballots need to be
postmarked*

*December 13, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting
and Annual Business Meeting with election of
officers for 2026*

Dates and events are subject to change...

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Safety Committee / Peter Hart

Communications Committee

Newsletter Subcommittee / Tim Guenther
Newsletter Electronic Publisher / Tom Pierson

Good and Welfare Subcommittee / General
Membership

Public Relations Subcommittee / Sue Henrichs

Website Subcommittee / Ken Cameron

Social Media Subcommittee / Tom Pierson

Seven and One Quarter Inch Track Committee

Track Subcommittee / Dave Pierce

Facilities Subcommittee / Tony Mesolella

Equipment Subcommittee / Don Jermyn

Signals Subcommittee / Bob Fruitt

Four and Three Quarter Inch Track Committee

Track Subcommittee / Ken Cameron

Facilities Subcommittee / Steve Pontarelli

Signals Subcommittee / Ken Cameron

Gauge One Track Committee

Track Subcommittee / Roger Caiazza

Elevated Track Subcommittee / Kevin Lepel

Storage Building Subcommittee / Rocco Scaptura

Equipment Subcommittee / John Spencer

Club Infrastructure Committee

Clubhouse Subcommittee / Dave Wierowski

Grounds Subcommittee / Reggie Aceto

Electrical Subcommittee / Dave Wierowski

Workshop Subcommittee / Tim Guenther

Education Committee

Library Subcommittee / Carl Paulson

Long-Term Planning Committee / Roger Caiazza
& Steve Pontarelli

Membership Committee

Membership Subcommittee / Sue Henrichs

New Member Recruiting Subcommittee / Monte
May

Merchandising Committee / Kristine Lepel

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