



# THE MAINLINER

*The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Live Steamers*



**MAY 2011**

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

## Run Report for Southgate

Saturday, May 21, 2011

By: Karen Polaski

Everyone was excited that the weather was going to cooperate with us this month, so that we would be able to enjoy a day in the park and visit with our friends that we have not seen since the Santa Express run in December.

Out early for set up was Steve & Stevie Chapman (who is back home for the summer, from Mich. Tech), Cary Polaski, Don Goodman, Johnny Pernicano (Choo Choo Johnny), Harold Maxwell, Lee Wehlann, Tony Mazurek, Chad & Katarina Konefe, Floyd Gregory, Jerry Murray, (with his Mom, Candy, who is a member in waiting and volunteered to take over the editor of the Mainliner for us), Roger Jennings, Gary Mead, Clive Catchpole, Rob Schieb, and Dave Taylor. Everyone worked together to clear the tracks of debris, check the switches, set up the line (with the new poles & chains that look real nice), and ensure everything was ready for a safe and enjoyable 4 hour run for the day. The weather was sunny and bright, and the temps were in the mid to upper 70's, which made for a beautiful day in the park.

Before noon, more members started to appear. Chuck Polaski came and brought Hot Dogs for the Members to enjoy and helped to finish the preparation for the day. Karen Polaski, Louie & Phil Pittoli, Jean Goodman, (with camera in hand), Jim & Theresa Slimp, and their daughter Patty, Bruce Gaither with his Granddaughter close behind, Michele Konefe, Ben & Catherine Rusch, Fred Field, Diane Mazurek (with some family members), Joe & Ann Sarich, and Betty Pernicano, all showed up to enjoy the day. Other Members Families started to appear in the park. Phil's Family, Joe & Ann's Family, and Karen's Family drug up the rear, as usual.

Cary took the time to teach Jerry Murray and Floyd Gregory how to operate the Club Engine. Jerry is our newest member and is one of the biggest train fans we have seen. Cary has certified Jerry as an Engineer on both club engines. Floyd is doing good with the training to be certified, and Cary will continue to work with him. Cary also took the time to ride with and test Katarina Konefe to see if she has the knowledge to be a Conductor on the run days. Katarina has passed with flying colors and is now certified as our newest and youngest conductor, at this time. Congratulations to Jerry and to Katarina from all of us. And, Floyd, keep up the good work.

Al & Larry Goldsby came out to test their newly built electric engine. It was a pleasure to talk to them and see their new project completed. Their batteries were not fully charged, so they did not get to run very long. But, let me tell you, their engine sure is pretty. They let Katarina drive it as well. They soon packed up and left. We sure would like to get them to become GLLS Members and enjoy being with us.

The new cement slab looks real nice, and we received many compliments from our riders. Members made many compliments, especially since our chairs were not sinking in the mud. The new yellow poles and chains looked nice as well. It seems the riders; young and old are all interested in the projects that we are currently working on and the ones that are finished. There are more projects in the works for this year as well.

Steve, Lee, Chad, Clive and Dave all brought their engines out and helped take Members and fans for rides around the park. Roger brought his engine out and he enjoyed riding it around the track. Toward the end of the day, Dave's engine blew a hydraulic line and the evidence was seen a long way down the track. He loaded it up and took it home for repairs.

It was a fun day in the park and we had many riders. Some people came out for the first time and were amazed with our set up and trains, but promise to return. A quick clean up and put away was done by all, and we all set off to get something to eat. Most of us went to Zodiac for dinner, because our meeting was going to be held there at 6 pm.

Just a Reminder: Please make sure you wear your Name Tags, and bring your whistles, on run days. Also, if you have 2 way radios, please bring them for communication throughout the park.

Sunday, May 22, 2011

By Karen Polaski

The Weather forecast for the day was supposed to be Hot & Humid. That was according to Channel 7 News, early in the morning. It turned out to be another beautiful day to be enjoyed by all. Out early for set up was Steve & Stevie Chapman, Cary Polaski, Johnny Pernicano (Choo Choo Johnny), Harold Maxwell, Chad & Katarina Konefe, Floyd Gregory, Jerry Murray, (with his Mom, Candy), Roger Jennings, Bill Wagner, Gus Hermans and Dave Taylor. (cont. page 2)



Sunday run report...Continued from page 1

Everyone worked together to clear the tracks of debris, check the switches, set up the line, and ensure everything was ready for a safe run for the day. There is still standing water in the park and a lot of mud, but who cares about that? Before noon, more members started to appear. Karen Polaski, Louie & Phil Pittoli, Jim & Theresa Slimp, Dennis Sekmistrz and their daughter Patty, Ben & Catherine Rusch, all showed up to enjoy the day. Other Members Families started to appear in the park, again today.

Cary took the time to continue to work with Floyd Gregory how to operate the Club Engine.

Steve, Lee, Chad, Bill and Dave all brought their engines out and helped take Members and fans for rides around the park. Roger brought his engine out and he enjoyed riding it around the track. We were all glad that Dave was able to make the necessary repairs and his engine returned to service. We had a Birthday party booked, which Bill volunteered to take the responsibility of train rides for the party. Katarina volunteered to be the Conductor and load and unload the riders in a safe manner. The parents of the birthday child, staged a train robbery with Cowboy hats, bandanas, cap guns and stuffed horses, and don't forget the fake money bags. That was quite a lively show and many people enjoyed watching it. Thanks to our volunteers who devote their time to private parties. We had many repeat riders. There was not as many people in the park today as it was yesterday, but it did seem that everyone had fun.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the GLLS Members for all the hard work they do to maintain our track, and equipment, and for all the help to set up and tear down for the runs, for all the help to load and unload the trains. It goes to show when we all work together toward one goal, we can have something fun and enjoyable for all.

Hope to see everyone out for the June runs.

Royal Oak run dates are June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Southgate run dates are June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Our Next Meeting is Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, at the Southgate Ice Rink, in the upstairs Meeting Room. Please show your support and plan to attend the meetings. All Club business should be discussed at meetings and not out in the open for the General Public to hear. Just a Reminder: Please make sure you wear your Name Tags, and bring your whistles, on run days. Also, if you have 2 way radios, please bring them for

**May 2011 Meeting Report:** Meeting Date: May 21st, 2011 Meeting Location: Zodiac Club, Southgate, MI

**By: Harold Maxwell**

**Members Present:** 16 **Officers present:** Cary Polaski, Karen Polaski, and Harold Maxwell

Cary Polaski noted that no minutes were recorded at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting because a quorum was not present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Polaski gave income and expenses reports for both March and April and gave balance for the checking account. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Harold Maxwell asked for a motion to nominate Ted Anderson as an honorary member. A motion to elect Ted to Honorary membership was passed.

**Presidents Report:** Cary noted the lack of conductors at the Southgate run and stated that junior members may be qualified as conductors.

-Flyer dates have been corrected.

-The City of Southgate will start the concrete pad for the transfer table next week and should complete the project before the next run. We are paying for the concrete. A motion to authorize Cary to pay up to \$2000.00 for the concrete was made and passed.

-New rest rooms and Train station projects to start in June.

- The City is waiting for drier weather to complete the grading for the track extension.

- Two of the Southgate riding cars have had their springs replaced.

**Old Business:** Status of the 501-3-C, Karen reported that the IRS has requested addition information and that Phil Pittoli and she have responded to their request.



Minutes continued from page 2

- Phil reported that the insurance has been paid through May 12, 2012.
- Cary noted that the State boiler inspection is scheduled for Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Royal Oak track.
- Cary reported that Candy Murray, a prospective new member, has volunteered to be the Editor of the Mainliner newsletter.
- New Electric switch- Harold reported for Jim Slimp that the switch has been ordered and should arrive in a few weeks. Fred Fields has donated an air compressor and it is stored in our container. Thank you Fred.

New Business: None.

Committee Reports:

**Year End Party 2011:** Chuck Polaski reported that he is looking at several new places. The date has moved to December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 because of the addition of the Santa Express run.

**-Santa Express Run:** The dates are December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the time will be 5pm to 8pm. There will be no makeup date. Jerry Murray has volunteered to be in charge.

**-Halloween Run:** The dates are Friday and Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, from 4pm to 8pm. There will not be a Saturday daytime run. The Sunday run will be normal time, 12pm to 4pm, with no decorations. There will be no rain dates. The October meeting is changed to the second Saturday, October 8th, for last minute discussion of Halloween Run. Jim and Harold will be in charge.

**-Website and Flyers:** Louie Pittoli, 2011 half page flyers have been printed. Louie will print more as needed.

**-Safety Committee:** Bill Wagner and Steve Chapmen, Steve and Bill have car inspection forms. Steve also wants the train engineers to pay more attention to what is going on in front of them and avoid talking to passengers.

**-Track Extension Crew:** Steve Chapman and Bill Wagner, we are waiting for the City to install an additional culvert and finish grading the hill. Clive Catchpole needs to purchase six switch frogs, Cary approved purchase.

**-Track Repair Crew:** Wednesday morning crew, both tracks need ballasting and leveling. The Roulal curve switch has been repaired and reinstalled. Thank you for the switch repair Clive.

**-Eagle Scout project:** Harold, Tom Bee is working on metal frames and trucks.

**-Royal Oak Articulated Cars:** Tom Bee will handle getting the cars separated.

**-Special Run Committee:** Jim Slimp will be responsible for 2011.

**-Club Souvenirs:** Theresa Slimp will be responsible for 2011.

**-GLLS Sign at Royal Oak:** Lee Wehlann is refurbishing the sign that hangs at the front entrance at Starr Park.

**-Southgate Heritage Days:** Jim Slimp and Harold Maxwell, the dates are Friday through Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31, 2011. On Friday a float for the parade will be constructed at Jim's. The parade is Saturday at 10am. Flyers and/or candy are to be considered.

**-Junior Members:** Phil Pittoli, need to implement a form stating rules of safe conduct and equipment use.

**-Operation Life Saver:** Jerry Murray requested to provide child railroad safety books at our events. A motion to provide \$50.00 for the purchase of the books was made and passed. Jerry has volunteered to get Operation Life Saver certification.

General Comments or Announcements: Unacceptable language or a member being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol is absolutely not tolerated. You will be asked to leave. Do not discuss GLLS business, problems, issues, or money in public.

**-Incidents or injuries must be reported to a Safety Committee person or an officer immediately.**

**-Meeting Schedule:** Meetings are scheduled on 6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17, 10/8, and 11/19. All meetings are at the Southgate Ice Arena at 6pm.

**-Up Coming Shows:** No report

**-If you know of a Member being Sick / Hospitalized / Surgeries / Death in Family, please let Harold know, so Greeting Card can be sent.**

Raffle: There was not a raffle this month.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm



Editor's note: Even though these stories were sent out via e-mail to members I decided to reprint this and send it out to members through The Mainliner so members who get postal mail will also have this.

### **Inspector Fired for Allegedly Falsifying Report on Miniature Train Before Crash That Killed Boy**

March 21, 2011—[Foxnews.com](http://Foxnews.com)

**A South Carolina agency says an inspector falsified a report on a miniature train that derailed Saturday at a park, killing a 6-year-old boy, as that and other new details raise questions about the safety of the ride.**

The crash, which happened in Spartanburg County's Cleveland Park, left 6-year-old Benjamin Samuel Easler dead and sent a dozen people to the hospital. About 20 people were riding the train when it derailed. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation chief Catherine Templeton told reporters that the inspector, Donnie Carrigan, could not have tested the ride March 16 because a battery in the train was dead, making it inoperable. Carrigan marked the train's operation at proper speed as "satisfactory," according to the agency's report. "Unfortunately the inspector did not complete his job," Templeton said. Carrigan, a 20-year agency employee, came forward after the accident and admitted to falsifying the report and has since been fired, Templeton said. Officials have not said what they think caused the train to derail. Officials also said Monday evening that the ride had opened a week early to accommodate a blast of spring weather. In nearby Greenville County, recreation commissioner John Liston told the Daily Mail newspaper earlier that it would be unlikely for the train to derail on its own. "It doesn't go that fast," he said. "It would take an act of sabotage." However, the main office at the Greenville County Recreation District later walked back Liston's claim. "I think the 'sabotage' is highly unlikely. I don't think kids riding on trains is a big target," said community relations director Mike Teachey, adding that "no one knows what happened in Spartanburg." He told FoxNews.com the state has shut down operation of miniature trains until officials learn what went wrong. Lt. Regina Nowak, with the Spartanburg Public Safety Department, said an investigation is underway, but at this point it's not being treated as a criminal investigation. She told FoxNews.com officials are reviewing evidence, including video of the incident, and will look at whether the driver was "under the influence." Jeff Caton, a Spartanburg Parks official, told WSPA that the driver was a veteran driver and had even conducted test runs the day of the crash to make sure "everything was in working order." "I'm going to suggest to you the train has been in operation for 58 years and we've never had problem," Caton told WSPA. The county runs Cleveland Park. Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt said the train was inspected Wednesday and went on several test runs before Saturday, its first day of operation for the season. He told the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg that the train's track, which collapsed in the crash, had been reworked a couple of years ago.

### **Park Train Filled With Children Jumped Tracks**

May 24, 2011

**THE CAUSE OF THE MINIATURE TRAIN** accident this past March in Spartanburg, South Carolina has been determined to have been **excessive speed with no other mitigating causes**. The accident occurred on March 19 in Cleveland Park on the amusement ride's opening day of operation. The train, loaded with mostly young children jumped the tracks while going over a bridge that crosses a creek in the park. The entire train tumbled into the rocky creek bed and left one 6-yr.-old boy dead and 25 others injured, several seriously



Photo's are from Cleveland Parks Train Accident March 21, 2011

## MEMBER TO BRING OPERATION LIFESAVER TO GREAT LAKES LIVE STEAMERS

By: Candy Murray

Jerry Murray is in the process of bringing the Operation Lifesaver program to be used on run days. Started in 1972 when the average number of collisions at U.S. highway-rail grade crossings had risen above 12,000 incidents annually. To address this, the Idaho governor's office, along with the Idaho Peace Officers and Union Pacific Railroad launched a six-week public awareness educational campaign called Operation Lifesaver to promote highway-rail grade crossing safety. After Idaho's crossing-related fatalities fell that year by 43%, the successful program was adopted by Nebraska (1973) and Kansas and Georgia the following year. Within a decade it had spread around the country; in 1986 a non-profit national Operation Lifesaver office was created to help support the efforts of state OL programs and raise national awareness on highway-rail grade crossing issues. Today Operation Lifesaver's network of certified volunteer speakers and trained instructors offer free rail safety education programs in fifty states. We speak to school groups, driver education classes, community audiences, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. Our programs are co-sponsored by federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety organizations and America's railroads. Together we promote the three E's - education, enforcement and engineering - to keep people safe around the tracks and railway crossings within our communities. With this program we are hoping to reach not only the children but adults as well.



We received this E-mail from Pat Patton of the Mid Michigan Railroad Club. They had severe damage from the recent storms.

“There is a large number of trees down across the track. And some have pulled track up with their roots. A good portion of the track we can't see to tell if the trees landed on it or (hopefully) spanned over it. Our long wooden bridge was turned upside down. The other two have some minor damage but appear o.k. Then Consumers Energy was in and tore up another 80' of track pushing trees out of their way. The depot is intact. The car barn has a smaller tree on it but no holes in the roof. Our picnic shelter has a tree on it but only a dent on one side. Our intent is to rebuild. Some of our members have been out cutting wood already. The Cornwell's have an employee that comes out when he can along with Blaine Cornwell. Russ Eldred was down today doing some cutting. We have a meeting Saturday to get a plan together and continue work. The trees will need chain saws, muscle and maybe some heavy equipment. The track will need folks who know how to lay it. We are welcoming any help “

If you can assist or help in any way, Please contact Tom Patton at [Pattonpat@aol.com](mailto:Pattonpat@aol.com)

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Hi, my name is Candy Murray. My son Jerry & I are recent members. We are eager and excited to be members of the Great Lakes Live Steamers. I have volunteered to be the editor of **The Mainliner**. I have many years experience of doing newsletters. I was the Editor of the **Communicator**, The newsletter of the U.S.S. Nemesis, at one time we were the oldest Star Trek club in Michigan. I was the editor for 7 years. I was born and raised in Lincoln Park, we currently live in Ypsilanti. I look forward to meeting and to getting to know all the members. I would like to have you send me articles, stories and information to be placed in **The Mainliner**. This is **Your Newsletter**, I am just here to put it together and send it out. Please send any information to me at [CANDYM1958@COMCAST.NET](mailto:CANDYM1958@COMCAST.NET) Or you can mail it to me at **2240 Holmes Rd. Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198.**



## 2011 CLUB OFFICERS

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\*\*\*Deadline for all Mainliner reports  
and articles is one week after the  
last run of the month. July dead-  
line is June 26th, 2011\*\*\*



"You had to go and buy him the biggest  
train in the store, didn't you?"

## 2011 CLUB EVENTS

**CLUB BUSINESS MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE SOUTHGATE ICE  
ARENA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

- Saturday June 18 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena
- Saturday July 16 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena
- Saturday July 30 at 10 am - Southgate Heritage Days Parade
- Saturday August 20 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena
- Saturday September 17 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena
- Saturday October 8 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena-  
date change due to the Halloween Run
- Saturday November 19 at 6 pm, Club Business meeting at Southgate Ice Arena
- Saturday December 10 Year End Holiday Dinner

### Northern Division

Starr Jaycee Park  
Royal Oak, Michigan  
13 Mile Rd. Between Crooks & Main Street  
[GPS Coordinates: N 42.518241 W 83.158648](#)

June 4 & 5  
July 2 & 3  
August 6 & 7  
September 3 & 4  
October 1 & 2  
November 5 & 6

### Southern Division

Kiwanis Park  
Southgate, Michigan  
Trenton Road & Leroy Street  
[GPS Coordinates: N 42.190950 W 83.193817](#)

June 18 & 19  
July 16 & 17  
August 20 & 21  
September 17 & 18  
October 14\* 15\* & 16  
December 2± & 3±

- Halloween run from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Normal run from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
on October 16
- ± Santa's Christmas Express Train Run presented with  
the City of Southgate.  
Visit Santa and ride trains from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.