

# The Central Suffolk Dispatch

A News Service For The Central Suffolk Operations Group

Located In The F. P. Carlsen Printing Co. Building

Carlsen, New York 11738

BFL - Owner, CEO, Author, Editor and Delivery Boy 163564

dateline: Island Central Rail Road, March 17, 2016

The Central Suffolk Operations Group met at the Island Central Rail Road for an operating session on March 17, 2016, which just happened to coincide with Saint Patrick's Day. In retrospect, with all the crazy things that occurred tonight, it might be wise not to conduct sessions that fall on major drinking holidays. We bet there was a major parade over there on the Colls Corner City Circle that we missed. With any luck maybe the last remnants will still be passing in review next week, you know, like empty beer cans, drunks, and the marching "Fighting 69th" Army Band. In attendance for tonight's session were Howard, Ron, Ward, John, Mike, Jeff, Mike Jr., JJ, and Byron. The included photograph shows the group hard at



Action on the Island Central RR.

work. Just in case we may have forgotten who they are, left to right we have: Mike (green shirt), Howard (green shirt), Ward, JJ, the glare from Byron's head (green shirt), Mike Jr., and Jeff. Ron is missing from the photograph because he is camera shy and where is John? Oh yeah, someone had to take the photograph, but then again, he is pretty adept at selfies (reference the "A-Team" photograph from last week). We mention the green shirts because it is Saint Patrick's Day, you know. The first two guys are obvious, Byron is tied into the McNamara Clan, but does that green hat make the cut for Jr.?

This was a really busy session. Howard was on site as the Supervisor and made a number of changes to the normal train assignments. He was really busy keeping things organized and

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running smoothly. We don't know what happened but at one point he threw a switch on the Dunton Yard board and then just cracked up laughing! He was overheard saying something like his wife never let him do that before? Next in line was Ron operating as the Dispatcher. His night was pretty busy also. After a particular confusing episode where a head-to-head confrontation manifested itself, Ron was heard to broadcast over the radio when someone asked for clearance to proceed, "You are cleared to proceed, if the track is clear up ahead of you." Ward was the yard master and complained all night that trains kept coming into the yard that took him away from his job. Aren't taking care of trains coming into the yard his job? What else goes on there that we are not aware of? In spite of this, we must congratulate Ward on his steadfast dedication to the JOB. There was an episode very late in the session, where the coal train was being held up on the siding at Port Richmond. The coal train had two more deliveries to make and one of them was not more than three feet away directly across the aisle. Ward looked at Byron. Byron looked at Ward. Byron almost caved in to conduct a five oh'ed coal car transfer, but Ward held his ground and wanted to stay to complete the run by putting away the last coal car at the Dunton Yard coaling tower. The two did not succumb to the temptation even though it most likely meant they would be the laughing stock of the session since they would be the last ones done for the night. In addition to that, his reach went far beyond the yard limits in straightening out a particularly serious rail congestion problem. We were fortunate tonight to have a real "Far Tower Operator" available to free up Howard so he could conduct his Supervisor duties. Aside from all his expertise in helping trains conduct their assignments in Farmingville and Dellwood, Jeff was also observed beating a downed tree to death with a big stick. He settled down later in the session after someone gave him a pretzel. The rest of the crew operated the trains. JJ operated what was, from our prospective, the longest freight ever observed on the Island Central, a whopping fifteen car consist. However, it couldn't make it up the incline under North Lake heading for Richmond Hill and had to be assisted. John spent a lot of time at North Lake operating what we think was the Dellwood Turn and others. He was in the aisle so often that he started charging a toll to pass by. There was a major earthquake at Liberty that rocked an entire city block. Buildings were sent askew and the entire MOW crew came over



Mike reviews earthquake repairs at Liberty Mrs. Rodrigues stepping over Maureen Mr. O'Malley at the fountain of youth

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from the Jerome Central to repair the damage. The report was that the buildings were put back good as new, even better if one considers the prior problem with the extension on the rear of the first building. The included photograph shows Mike surveying the repairs. It was reported that the disturbance knocked poor Mrs. Maureen O'Malley prone on the side walk in front of her building. However, in an interview with Mrs. Rodrigues, the lady stepping over Maureen in the photograph, it was learned that this situation is repeated on numerous occasions, so why not on Saint Patrick's Day! Mr. O'Malley was found in their back yard emptying the bird bath, by drinking it! That will put a feather in one's cap.

Our news crew usually hangs out after a busy day of news reporting over in our old location in East Utica. However, it was just confirmed to us that the Red Cedar Lounge in Carlsen was once the notorious "Wicked Wanda's" place, with upstairs amenities. This is just a stone's throw away from our new location and no one gave us a hint about its existence. Well, it is too late now, they moved to Jerome. Late in the session the coal train came pounding around the turn from Farmingville toward Carlsen. The train took the inside track to leave the outside track open for passenger train activity. It then came head to head with a tied down freight train which displayed not a single warning sign, no lights, red flags, brakemen, track torpedoes, nota! The entire crew was found frolicking in the Red Cedar Lounge. God only knows where that train ended up.

Mike Jr. probably never encountered a Cave Troll before, or even knew there was one living under the layout at the Wohleking Industrial Park lead. Well, you can see by the expression on his face in the first photograph when one actually popped up after the long winter hibernation, he was pretty startled by the sight of the creature and didn't know what to do. In the second photograph you can see he was a little more relaxed after realizing the troll just surfaced to check out the weather conditions to decide if there will be six more weeks of winter.



Mike Jr. observing the Cave Troll from a safe distance



Mike Jr. realizes the Cave Troll is not a threat.



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Our faithful readers may remember that the last time we visited the Island Central the Miner from over in Stone Canyon was being interviewed for a job on the Island Central. We didn't think it went that well after it was determined he couldn't handle the coal tower height. He was later observed getting instructions as a front, or rear, brakeman, but no evidence of any on the road instructions. Well, some very interesting photographs were left on the office steps of the CSD. They were un-dated so we can't establish a time line. The first photograph shows the Miner up on the coaling tower, but this time in the presence of the Rail Lady. Why is she there? Is she there to comfort the Miner and lead him down? Is this how he was able to build up enough courage to climb back down last time? But if she was there the last time, why weren't there more photographs of her around, with her celebrity status and all? Maybe this is a new encounter tonight. Maybe the Rail Lady read the last ICRR newsletter and thought that he was easy pickings. Maybe a quick insurance policy, and then lead him up the tower where everyone knew he had issues, and then push him off? What do you think? Could she be that sinister? But then again, the second photograph shows them both lovey-dovey riding the point of a fast moving freight train,



Miner and Rail Lady on Loading Tower



Miner and Rail Lady Lovey-Dovey on locomotive.

right under our noses in front of the new headquarters building. Maybe we have it backwards. Maybe the lovey-dovey came first and that's what she used to coax the Miner back up on the coal loading tower. Stay in touch. We foresee a catastro... violent ending here. How can that be? We would lose two of our most beloved characters. Naaah!

Funny sayings overheard tonight. "Hay, I just found another car!" "Anybody find my gondola car card down by North Lake?" "Which way to Ronkonkoma?" "I keep hearing a beep in my head!" "My battery just died!"