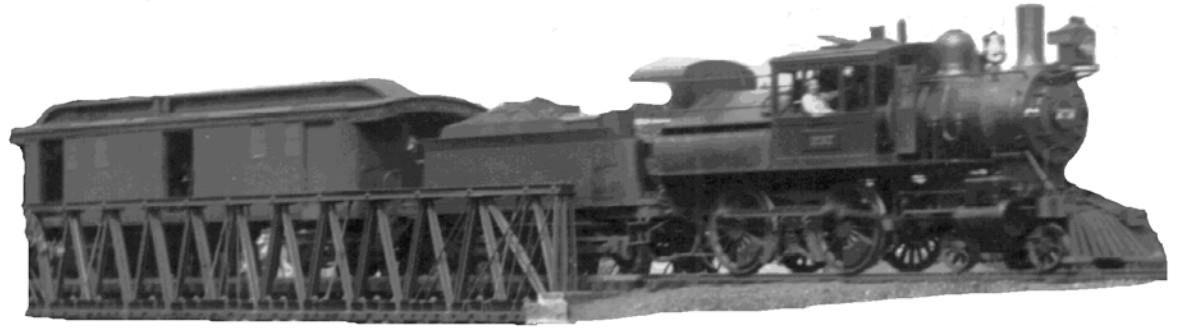




*Pottstown & Reading
Chapter, NRHS Inc.*



THE COLEBROOKDALE LOCAL

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NS has put into service a prototype 1500hp switching locomotive #999 that relies solely on rechargeable batteries for power. It is classed as a BP4 locomotive and the frame and trucks came from GP38 CR #2911 (PC 7732). It uses 1080 12-volt lead acid batteries, which when fully charged, are able to power the #999 up to three shifts without recharging. The plug-in locomotive also regenerates dynamic braking energy thru a system engineered by Brookville Equipment Co., which continually replenishes the storage system. The batteries are monitored and controlled through an elaborate battery management system to assure safety and maximum battery life. The cab and lower stripe on the carbody are dark green, separated by a white stripe, and the upper carbody is painted black.

The COLEBROOKDALE LOCAL is the official newsletter of the Pottstown & Reading Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. The NRHS is a non-profit organization for historical and educational purposes. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and/or contributors and not of the Chapter or Society. Items of interest should be addressed to Richard White, 918 Charles St., Reading, PA 19606-3708. Phone (610)-582-1437, Fax # (610)-404-0666, E-MAIL: rwwhite@yahoo.com (Editor) or rwhite2@dejazzd.com (Rich White). Chapter web site: www.rsignal.com/nrhs

This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at our present meeting location - the Exeter Bible Church's cafeteria - Off Route 422 in Exeter behind the Sheets. After the meeting, there will be a video by Trains Unlimited showing 25 years of trips in North and Latin America.

For the February 25 meeting, Dick Freeze will present a video entitled "Bye Bye Blues" on Septa regional rail.

And make plans to attend our March 20 Spring Banquet, with a program by Richard Bell.

Redners' Warehouse Markets has issued new "Save-A-Tape" cards - they also can be used at their Pump Perks (\$100 in groceries = 10 cent/gallon gas discount). Be sure to stop by their Courtesy Counter to pick up the new cards.

In the event of snow, sleet, or freezing rain on a scheduled meeting night, tune into radio stations WEEU 830AM or WRFY 102.5FM for cancellation information.

Presidents Message:

Happy New Year!

The annual election of officers occurred at the November meeting with all being reelected, except for a vacancy for the editor of our newsletter. The Chapter really needs you to volunteer to be our newsletter editor. Please contact Dick White for more information, or yours truly.

At the December meeting, Nick Serafino our sponsored RailCamper, and Barry Smith the Senior Vice-President and Director of the RailCamp programs, provided those in attendance information about the 2009 program put on by the NRHS. The Chapter is again looking for a student interested in RailCamp 2010, if they meet Chapters qualifications?

Your National Director is attending the Winter Board of Directors meeting, in early January, so that the organization can continue to meet the organizations business requirements, and that of the members.

In case you did not renew your membership, I am reminding you that the annual membership renewal time continues, even though the membership year ended December 31, 2009. Do not let your membership lapse. Let's try to have 100% renewal for 2010.

This is your Chapter, so we would like to see you in 2010. Our meetings are on the 4th Thursday of each month, except as otherwise scheduled.

See you at the upcoming meetings in 2010.

John D. Sweigart, President

Raffle guy:

Roy Miller won the DVD on the Transcontinental Railroad at the September banquet. Thanks to all who purchased tickets for this item. Next raffle item will be a 16x24" colored print titled "Iron Horses of the Reading Rambles" from the RCT&HS. It depicts a line up of the Reading T1 type engine in the Reading yard. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Spring Banquet. As always, raffle tickets are only \$1. See Wayne Blattner to purchase tickets. You need not to be present to win. But please plan on attending the Spring Banquet. That evening there will be a door prize and some great additional raffle items. Thanks,

Wayne Blattner

At our last meeting, it was decided that Bob Sabo, a founding member since 1971, will now be an "Honorary Member" and have his dues paid by the Chapter.

For 2010, your officers will remain the same:

President: John Sweigart

Vice President: William Reber Jr.

Secretary Rich White II

Treasurer: Charles Weber Jr.

Historian: Dean Kaiser

National Director: John Sweigart

Editor: We are still looking for a person/persons to fill this post.

In the interim, Dick White will continue to keep you informed of our chapter events.

Thank you to the following people who helped running the Grings Mill Model Railroad for 2009: Dick Freeze, Jim Von Neida, Paul Skvarla, John Sweigart, Paul Weber, TJ Weber, Gary Weney, Dick White, Rich White II.

Meeting Dates for 2010:

January 28

July 22

February 25

August 26

March 20 - Banquet

September 25 - Banquet

April 22

October 28

May 27

December 2

June 24

The former Reading FP7's #902 & #903 have a new home at Steamtown, in Scranton. They will be available for backup power for excursions and possibly trips for the 2010 National NRHS Convention.

The Reading, Blue Mountain, & Northern RR has acquired the assets of the nearly 6 mile Towanda-Monroeton Shippers Lifeline RR., Inc., which is nearly 40 miles north of Mahoopany, in Wyoming County. They will be able to connect the two lines by working with the Lehigh Railway, which leases the tracks from NS from Sarye to Monroeton. R&N hopes to profit from the Marcellus Shale / natural gas traffic.

Plans are moving ahead for the \$11 million expansion at the NS Philadelphia Navy Yard intermodal facility. The project is part of NS's Crescent Corridor project, between the Gulf Coast and the Northeast. The project at Philadelphia will create the capacity to handle more than 72,000 containers/trailers annually. Construction is slated to start by mid-2010. They also plan to build a new \$95 million intermodal terminal in Greencastle, PA, which is expected to open late next year.

Gov. Rendell has announced that the state will allocate \$24.5 million to 39 freight railway companies for upgrades. Some of the recipients in our area:

* Mount Union RR, \$32,500 to rehabilitate and replace track.

* CP/DH RR, \$392,00 to rehab and replace track.

* Delaware Lackawanna RR., \$340,000 to rehab bridge timbers, install ties and rails, and track surfacing between Scranton & Carbondale.

* NS Corp, \$3 million to remodel Dillerville Yard in Lancaster, PA.

* Lancaster Propane, \$249,000 to install a new siding to connect to NS.

* Carbon County RR Commission, \$435,456 to rehab the Hometown High Bridge, leased to the BM&R RR.

* Premium Fine Coal, \$219,975 to construct a siding.

* Gettysburg & Northern, \$247,842 to extend two tracks for transloading opportunities.

* Dyer Quarry, \$331,311 to rehab existing tracks, install track scales, construct new track with unloading pits.

Pottstown & Reading Chapter, NRHS 2010 Spring Banquet

Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010

Time: Meet at 6:30pm, dinner at 6:45pm

Location: Deluxe Restaurant

2295 Lancaster Pike (Rt. 222S), Shillington (Cumru Township)
(1/2 mile past the Wawa in Shillington on Rt. 222S)

Cost: \$20.00 members, \$21.00 non-members

Meal to include: Rolls, fruit cup, and salad, ham, turkey, two kinds of potatoes, two vegetables, dessert, and beverage (served family style). For those who wish a fish entree, please specify on the reservation form if you wish to have the Fish Entree.

Entertainment: Richard Bell will show a slide presentation on the Rhaetische Bahn (RhB) - the largest network of private railways in Switzerland. The RhB is all-electrified and 1-meter gauge.

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

-- Reservation Form --

Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ members attending @ \$20.00 each

_____ non-members attending @ \$21.00 each

_____ members attending (fish meal) @ \$20.00 each

_____ non-members attending (fish meal) @ \$21.00 each

Total \$: _____

Make checks payable to: P&R Chapter, NRHS, and mail to: Richard White, 918 Charles St., Reading, PA 19606-3708, or call me at (610)-582-1437 evenings for reservations.