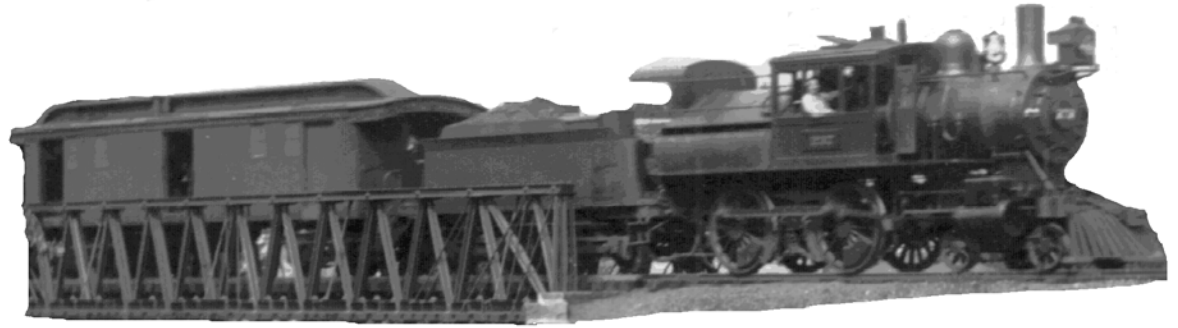




Pottstown & Reading
Chapter, NRHS Inc.



THE COLEBROOKDALE LOCAL

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A lineup of Reading power on the Grings Mill Model Railroad. The railroad was open last December, 2007, during the Holiday Lights Festival at the park. Thank you to chapter members Barron Batchelder, Dick Freeze, Jim Von Neida, Paul Skvarla, John Sweigart, Gary Weney, Paul and TJ Weber, and Dick White for helping run for the holiday season. (Photo: Rich White II)

Our next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday, February 28, 2008, at our present meeting location - the Extern Bible Church's cafeteria - Off Route 422 in Extern behind the Sheets. After the meeting, a video titled "Steel and Ice - Trolley Days of Winter" will be presented.

In the event of snow, sleet, or freezing rain on a scheduled meeting night, tune into radio stations WEEU 830AM, WRFY 102.5FM, or FRANK 107.5FM for cancellation information.

Redners' Warehouse Markets has issued new "Save-A-Tape" cards - just stop at the Courtesy Counter to pick one up. In the past, the old cards gave some problems with certain stores and the self checkouts. The new cards are supposed to be more user friendly.

From the Raffle Guy:

Our current item is a DVD, by Greg School Video Productions, entitled “Rochelle Double Track Diamonds”. The town of Rochelle is located in Illinois and has been a hot bed of train activity for many years. It is an action packed production. As always, a ticket is priced at \$1 a piece, with all proceeds going into the chapter Treasury. We will sell tickets at the February meeting, and also at the Banquet in March. At the Banquet we will pick the winner. Please plan on attending the Banquet because we will have a door prize to give away, along with other raffle items.

Thank you! -Wayne Blather

Last Minute Banquet Correction: Allen Keller will present a slide show on the PRR’s experiments with Remote Control locomotives. Rich Frey will be the guest at the Fall Banquet. See flyer on page 4 for reservation sheet.

Congratulations to the following members who will receive their 25-year pins this year:

Steve Ondik Jr.	John Laughner
Lynda Klein	Henry Kehs Jr.

2008 dues - members are urged to get their dues in to Bill Reber as soon as possible. February 29 is the last day to avoid being dropped from the membership list. If you have any questions, call Bill Reber at 610-582-3323. Because the mailings originated from Fernley & Fernley, we can’t be sure if notices were mailed to all members. If there is a check mark in the box to the left, your dues have not been paid.

The NRHS National Library, which was located in the Robert Morris Building in Philadelphia, has been moved to a storage facility with its ultimate disposition uncertain at this time. NRHS National offices will be located at Fernley and Fernley’s facility at 100N 20th St., 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.

RAIL NEWS

The Philadelphia Inquirer recently published an article on the Chester Valley Trail (Reading’s former Chester Valley Branch), an 11.5 mile bike/hike route from Warner Rd. in King of Prussia to Downingtown. Paved construction should begin within a year with a price tag of \$16 million. Montgomery County is working on plans for a 4-mile \$7 million extension linking King of Prussia with the existing Schuylkill River trail near Norristown.

Norfolk Southern has filed a notice of abandonment and discontinuance of service on the 7.70-mile railroad between MP PX 3.10 and PX 10.80 in Phoenixville, known as the Phoenixville Industrial Track. This is the section of track west of the Smurfit plant near Hallow Rd. NS will be relieved of maintaining 2 of the 3 bridges on the line. The last customer on the line was American Sweeteners, which closed down three years ago. For a while, NS stored covered hoppers on the line, but they have been removed and the brush cut in an anticipation of a sand reclamation facility. The line actually starts at MP PX 0 off NS’s Harrisburg Line, crosses the Schuylkill River on a plate deck girder bridge into Oaks where it crossed the PRR at grade. At present, there is a group in Chester County that is proposing that the section of track between Phoenixville and the Great Valley Corp Center be re-activated as a commuter rail line.

Norfolk Southern has finally opened its new intermodal terminal at 201 Kittyhawk Ave, near the Navy Yard in South Philadelphia. It is adjacent to the CSX Greenwich yards. The PICT yard, according to NS’s website, handles only containers, with connections as far as Chicago and California destinations. NS/CP Rail run the 30J and 31J three times a week for the present to service the facility. The old Port Authority-owned “Ameriport” terminal off Columbus Ave. in South Philadelphia has been closed.

The Tioga Central Tourist Railroad is up for sale. If new buyers/operators are not found, the owners claim they will sell off the rolling stock piecemeal or auction off all assets. The 34-mile line ran from Wellsboro to a location three miles south of Corning, NY. The owners claim "shortage of help" doomed the line, which carried about 20,000 passengers last year.

- Coming Events -

March 15

Harrisburg Chapter's 22nd Annual Railroad Show and Collectors Market at the I.W. Abel Union Hall, 200 Gibson St., Steelton, PA.
For more info, call 717-732-3867.

March 29

EastRAIL 2008 slide show and video multi-media presentations at Warren Hills Regional School, 41 Jackson Valley Rd., Washington, NJ. For more info, visit their website at www.urhs.org

April 5

RCT&HS 3rd Annual Convention - Leesport Fire Hall

April 6

RCT&HS Train Meet: 9AM to 3PM, Leesport Farmers Market, Rt. 61 Leesport. For more info, contact Dale: 610-372-3759.

April 12

Dedication of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum at Hamburg, PA.

May 24

PicnicRAIL at Maiers Grove in Blandon. Details not available.

May 25

Special Western Maryland Scenic Railroad excursion from Cumberland to Frostburg using the #734 steam locomotive for power. The event will be the release of 200 Monarch Butterflies when the train reaches Frostburg. The release is "an opportunity to symbolize the remembrance of someone special who has passed on or an event that has happened in our society." The butterflies will be released in a lovely garden setting. For more info/tickets, call 800-TRAIN-50

June 16-22

NRHS Convention in Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, hosted by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS. More details to follow.

Railroad Museum of PA (Strasburg) Special Events:

May 23-25: Walt Disney's Backyard Railroad - special presentations on Walt Disney, lectures, film clips, photographs, memorabilia, and miniature train rides.

May 30-June 1: Pennsy Days

July 2-6: Reading Days

December 6-13: Home for the Holidays Displays & Polar Express. Parties aboard an authentic 1907 passenger coach

The Reading Company Technical & Historical Society is in the process of arranging trips on the R&N's Schuylkill Division to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the PRR in 2008. Also, the Berks County Historical Society would like to have a mainline excursion between Reading and Philadelphia to celebrate the event (Cinders)

Circus Train activity in the area: The "Red Train" will be in State College 4/24-27. The 61-62 car "Blue Train" will be in Philadelphia 4/16-27, Hershey 5/21-26, and Wilkes Barre 5/29-6/1. RBB&B Operations are on your scanner at 151.625

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. Members are encouraged to submit railroading related articles or items of interest for possible inclusion in future issues. Monthly deadline for each issue is the 5th. 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: ewwhite@juno.com (Editor) or rwhite2@dejazzd.com (Rich White). Chapter web site: www.rrsignal.com/nrhs