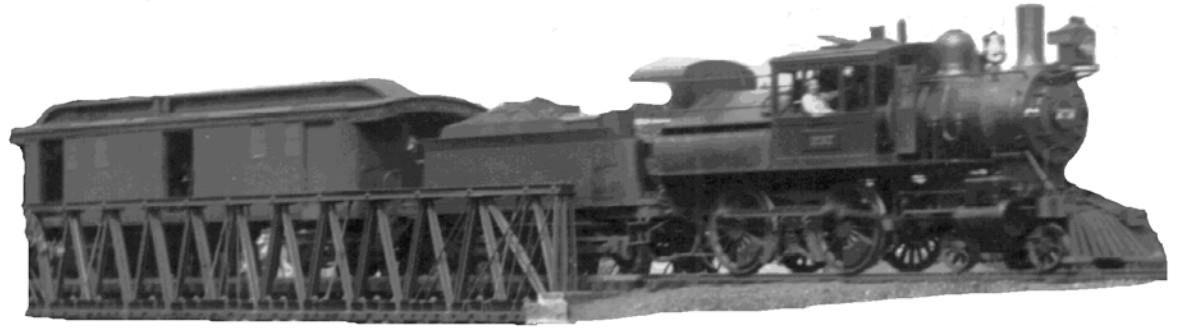




Pottstown & Reading  
Chapter, NRHS Inc.



# THE COLEBROOKDALE LOCAL

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April, 2009

Our next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday, April 23, 2009, 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 on "Last Run of Cab Forwards Over Donner Pass".

The May 28th meeting will feature an Operation Lifesaver presentation by Eugene Bastian from Norfolk Southern.

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.

## Presidents Message:

Wow! Did the change to Daylight Saving Time occurring earlier this year surprise you, and make a nice difference in the length of time for additional daylight each evening? Of course, the weather was unsettled, but the welcome daylight hours made a difference at least to me.

I was a participant in the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Pottstown Carousel building and park area, with presenting a check from our Chapter. Thanks to Gary Weney for being our contact committee person for the volunteer group over the years during the development stages. We will get more involved in the future once the building structure is completed. The people of the Pottstown area have been collecting money for 11 years, and now their efforts will be rewarded. They are looking for this to be the gateway from the west to Pottstown and Montgomery County.

Several of us that participate in operating the model railroad at Gring's Mill Park were honored by the Berks County Park & Recreation Board by the County employees at an award dinner in March. Thanks to Gary Weney, Dick Freeze, and Rich White, who recently operated the Gring's Mill model railroad for the Berks County Easter event. Hoping that as the weather becomes warmer that you will participate in the scheduled work sessions. Thanks to Rich White for continually leading the effort that gives us exposure to the area about our organization.

We have a candidate to sponsor to attend RailCamp in Steamtown this summer.

Finally, congratulations to those Chapter members that are celebrating 25 years of continuous membership in NRHS: Bill & Dawn Bubeck, Bill Reber, and Jim Von Neida.

Mark your calendar for a trip by rail to tour "Harris Tower" as restored and operated by the Harrisburg Chapter on the last Saturday in June. Train schedule times to follow.

See you at the next meeting.

John D. Sweigart, President

### Raffle guy::

Congratulations to Tony Dawson for winning the book "Rails Around Reading" at the Spring Banquet. Thanks go out to everyone who purchased tickets at either our chapter meetings or at the Banquet, and to Charlie Weber Jr. for working the crowd and collecting the money. The total raised was around \$100, which goes right into our treasury.

The next item to be raffled will be a DVD titled "The Transcontinental Railroad". As many of you may know, May 10, 2009 will be the 140 anniversary of the driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah. The American Experience, a PBS presentation, has produced a DVD on this great national event. This DVD will be our next raffle item. We will pick a winner at the Fall Banquet. Contact Wayne Blattner for tickets, which are \$1 a piece. Thanks for your support!

## RAIL NEWS

A new shortline, dubbed "Lehigh Railroad", has applied to lease 56 miles of the ex-LVRR mainline from Mehoopany to Athens, PA, and trackage rights into Sayre, to interchange with NS. They anticipate handling 2500+ cars per year.

The Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Rail Authority will purchase 10.6 miles of mainline track owned by NS that was originally the Erie Lackawanna mainline between Scranton and the NS interchange at Slateford, PA. Purchase price is \$4.5 million. The PNRRA currently serves more than 25 customers. The purchase will also ensure the continuation of the Steamtown passenger trains from Scranton to the Delaware Water Gap and the Dansbury Depot in East Stroudsburg.

Berks County is the new owner of the 8.6 mile Colebrookdale Spur, which runs from Pottstown to Boyertown. East Penn Lines, LLC, had previously asked \$2.3 million for the line, but agreed to sell for \$1.35 million after Berks County presented an appraisal of the land and scrap value of the rails. The county will hire an operator, seek grants to improve the line, and encourage other businesses to use it. In 2001, the county purchased the line from the state for \$155,000, then sold it to Penn Eastern Lines for \$177,000. East Penn then acquired it from Penn Eastern. Switcher #52 was moved off the line in early April.

The latest word is that the Gettysburg RR has canceled the Pioneer Lines Scenic Railway passenger train for 2009, with possible resumption next year.

NS has installed a Wye track on land formerly occupied by the Bethlehem engine terminal. Previously, locomotives were run to Reading for turning.

The Reading & Northern has their Temple (Tuckerton Rd.) station up for rent. The station was originally moved from Frackville around 1980 and served for many years as the base point for steam and diesel trips to Hamburg. The RCT&HS had a small museum there, but has since moved to their new museum in Hamburg.

The RCT&HS and the Philadelphia Chapter have extended their agreement with the Railroad Museum of PA to allow the FP7's #902 and #903 to remain on loan to the museum in Strasburg for another year, with options to renew for up to three years.

It appears that the \$42 million project to relocate NS's Dillerville yard will finally proceed. Site prep equipment has been moved in to the former municipal dump site behind the Post Office on the Harrisburg Pike. Both F&M College, Lancaster General Hospital, and NS have been working on the project for several years, and the Rendell administration has awarded a \$10 million grant to F&M to assist in paying for the project.

## - Coming Events -

May 9

Bee Line Festival at the RCT&HS museum in Hamburg. Various indoor exhibits, HO scale layout, 40 minute train rides, food vendors, locomotive displays, children's games, and craft displays. Admission \$10 adult, \$5 children. Events will be held rain or shine, 10AM to 5PM.

June 22-26, 2010

The Lackawanna & Wyoming Chapter, NRHS, will host the 2010 NRHS Convention, to be held in Scranton, PA.

August 10-16

2009 Annual Convention of the NRHS to be held in Duluth, MN. Inbound/outbound special trains, steam & diesel-pulled excursions, night photo session, museum visits, banquets, and special seminars.

Special "Railroad Days" at the Railroad Museum of PA, in Strasburg:

May 29-31 - Conrail Days

June 5-7 - Pennsy Days

July 1-5 - Reading RR Days

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.rrsignal.com/nrhs](http://www.rrsignal.com/nrhs)

