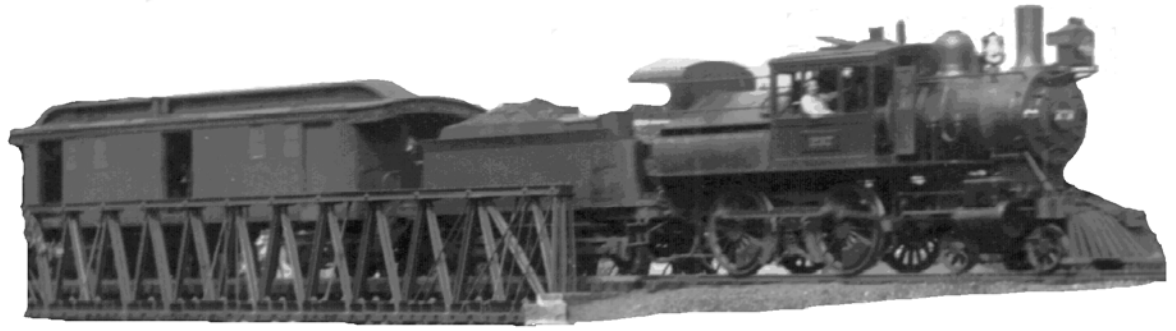




Pottstown & Reading
Chapter, NRHS Inc.



THE COLEBROOKDALE LOCAL

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May 15, 2010: The Lebanon Valley Junction interlocking machine, on display at the Reading Company Technical & Historical Society's 3rd Annual Bee Line Festival. "Valley" controlled (L to R) Titus, Millmont, Cumru, Eyler, Lebanon Valley Junction, Wyomissing Junction, Lawn, Tulp, Belt Line Junction, and Tuckerton. This machine was placed in service in 1954 and removed from service in 1987.

This month's meeting will take place on Thursday, August 26, 2010, at our present meeting location - the Exeter Bible Church's MUSIC ROOM (rear entrance by the dumpster) - Off Route 422 in Exeter behind the Sheetz. Dick Freeze will present a slide show on "Railroads to Yellowstone"

Don't forget to sign up for the Fall Banquet, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 25. Flyer is on last page.

The October 28th meeting program will be "America By Rail 1994".

Presidents Message:

It seemed to be an usually busy period on Friday on the NS Harrisburg Line with 3 eastbounds and 1 westbound freight train, as I write this piece for the Chapter publication. I attended the NRHS 2010 Convention in Scranton, meeting Chapter members and many friends from all over the US. The activities that I participated in were done very well, and were enjoyable, in spite of the hot weather.

Don't forget our regular 4th Thursday meetings, except for the September Chapter Banquet. Also, the time has rolled around for nominations and election of officers for the coming year. It would be nice to have some new persons involved with new ideas for our Chapter. Our 40th anniversary will be celebrated in 2012. I am looking for persons willing to be on the committee.

I hope to see you at one or more of the future meetings.

John Sweigart

Raffle Guy:

The next raffle item will be a book entitled "Anthracite Railroads & Mining in Color", volume 1, by Chuck Yungkurth. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Fall Banquet in September. This all-color Morning Star book looks at the intimate relationship between the anthracite coal industry and the railroads in northeastern PA. As always, raffle tickets are only \$1. See Wayne Blattner to purchase tickets. You need not be present to win, but please plan on attending the Fall Banquet in Shillington at the Deluxe Restaurant. That evening, there will be a door prizes and some great additional raffle items. Thank You.

Wayne Blattner

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.

Grings Mill Model Railroad: Holiday Lights is fast approaching. This year's dates will be from December 3rd to the 30th, 6-9PM. Closed on Monday and Tuesday, and December 24 and 25th. Please start considering some dates to work the layout - a sign-up sheet will be at the next few chapter meetings. We will also start planning some work sessions over the weekends this fall.

RAIL NEWS

Norfolk Southern and GE Transportation has implemented GE's new "Rail Edge Movement Planner" on a 200 mile section of track in Georgia. The "Rail Edge" integrates railroad logistics with traffic control systems. The technology projects expected track usage, based on train schedules, and then produces an optimized plan to get trains moving faster and more efficiently. It also improves crew management. NS hopes to have the program operational in it entire 22 state rail network by 2012.

Norfolk Southern is in negotiations with the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum with regards to the operation of a limited schedule of steam event and passenger excursions beginning late this year. The event, dubbed "21st Century Steam", would feature three coal-powered steam locomotives, including Southern Railway #4501, a Mikado that was retired from regular service in 1963 - later to be run in excursion service from 1966 to 1994. The second locomotive, Southern Railway #630, a consolidation-type, just finished up an extensive six-year rehab to FRA standards in TVRM's shops in Chattanooga. The third is TVRR's #610, a Baldwin Consolidation

type, which was one of the last steamers built in the US. Excursions could possibly take place as early as this fall in the Chattanooga area.

Lionel Electric Trains has announced that they will be making a replica of the Union Pacific #2010, an ES44C that honors the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The limited edition will be featured in Lionel's 2010 Volume 2 catalog and will be available for the holiday season. For more info, go to www.lionel.com.

Alcelor-Mittal Steelton, the owner of the former Bethlehem Steel mill in Steelton, will invest \$54 million to upgrade its rail production with a new walking beam reheat furnace that will be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The new operations are scheduled to start up in 2012. (Railway Track & Structures)

The current owner of the Greenbrier Hotel and Resort will spend nearly \$15 million on a plan to run a steam-powered luxury train from Washington, DC, to White Sulphur Springs, W.VA, but would actually use diesel power for the first year or two, beginning in the summer of 2012. The initial plans call for the 17-car ultra-first class train to bring 210 guests from Washington DC to the Greenbrier Resort, departing DC on Tuesday and the arriving in White Sulphur Springs around 5PM. The route of the GBX will be the same as Amtrak's Cardinal. When arriving at WSS, the train would be met by a bevy of ten horse-drawn carriages to take the guests to the hotel. Round trip fare will be \$750 with no child's fare. The GBX will leave WSS on Sunday at 10AM, arriving back at Washington around 5PM. The train will consist of seven parlor cars, two dining cars, kitchen car, open platform tavern-lounge-observation car, plus other special cars including two baggage-generator HEP cars. Service is scheduled to take place July 2, 2012. Ex-Conrail C39-8's (24 year old locomotives) will furnish power for the train. NSSX #8211, #8202, #8207 will be moved from Altoona to Warminster and then to the New Hope & Ivyland for repairs. #8208 and #8212 are also possibilities, but not moved to Warminster. All equipment will be moved to one of the buildings that were the old Bethlehem Steel facility at the east end of Pottstown for repairs/painting.

On June 1, Progress Rail Services Corp. announced an agreement to purchase EMD for \$820 million from Berkshire Partners, LLC, and Greenbrier Equity group. The deal should close by the end of the year. Progress Rail, owned by Caterpillar Corp., would still maintain its La Grange, IL, headquarters.

- Coming Events -

September 3-6: Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway will use the #425 to run from Jim Thorpe.

September 4: The Reading Co. FP7's will run from Scranton to E. Stroudsburg – sponsored by the RCT&HS.

September 4-5: RailFest 2010 at Steamtown. The theme this year is "Passenger Rail – Past and Present"

September 12: Fall Hamburg Dutch Train Meet from 9AM to 1PM at the Hamburg Fire Co. Field House. For more info, call Ralph Maurer at 610-987-3144.

2011 NRHS National Convention: June 20-25 in Tacoma, WA

2012 NRHS National Convention: June 18-25 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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