

NRHS News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2023

NRHS Fall 2022 Conference - Springdale, Arkansas

The 2022 Fall Conference of the NRHS was held in Springdale, Arkansas from Friday September 23 through Sunday September 25, 2022. Activities included a train ride on the Arkansas & Missouri with a visit to the Fort Smith Trolley Museum and a special rare-mileage trip from Springdale, Arkansas to Monett, Missouri with photo runbys.

Business of the Society was conducted, including organization of the May 2023 Spring Conference and the Fall 2023 NRHS Convention. The Spring Conference is part of the combined R&LHS, NRHS and Southern Pacific Historical Society conference in Sparks, Nevada.

For more conference details, please see the report and photos by Mike Yuhás (Wisconsin Chapter) and Elizabeth Guenzler (Central Coast Chapter) in this issue starting on page 4.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE YUHAS

C420 62 IS GLISTENING IN THE SEPTEMBER SUNSHINE – The special train for delegates at the NRHS Fall Conference performed a runby just south of Monett, Missouri.

Share the Love of Railroading History and Preservation!



NRHS NEWS – FEBRUARY 2023

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Upcoming NRHS Conferences, Conventions and RailCamp

May 16 - 21, 2023, NRHS Spring Conference*

Reno (Sparks), Nevada

**Combined Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, National Railway Historical Society Conference*

Register at <https://www.splives.org/sprhc-rlhs-joint-meet-may-2023>

June 18 - 25, 2023, RailCamp Northwest

June 25 - July 1, 2023, RailCamp East

September 1 - 6, 2023, NRHS Annual Conference

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Upcoming Deadlines for Submissions

March 2023

Print / mail issue

February 20, 2023

April 2023

Online issue

March 15, 2023

Editor’s Note: Source for heart train image at bottom of page 1.

https://i.etsystatic.com/11948843/r/il/8b5d1c/1116967022/il_794xN.1116967022_5yj3.jpg

NRHS 2023 Spring Conference - Reno (Sparks), Nevada

By *THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD HISTORY CENTER.*



May 16 to May 21, 2023

It is our pleasure to announce an incredible opportunity to experience a joint meeting of three railroad history organizations in Reno/Sparks, Nevada.

The Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, in partnership with the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, is pleased to invite its membership and the public.

The conference will be at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada, May 16 to May 21, 2023.

Joining us in the event is the national membership of both the *Railway and Locomotive Historical Society* and the *National Railway Historical Society*. This event will serve as the annual meeting of the R&LHS and as a business conference for the NRHS.

The History Center is sponsoring a three-day focus of Southern Pacific's last twenty-five years. This overview will be provided by panels and presentations. Confirmed speakers include Rob Krebs, Mike Mohan, Rollin Bredenberg, Mike Ongerth and Ron Batory. All of the speakers have unique observations that will help to fill in many portions of the story of this era of Southern Pacific that has yet to be told.

The Pacific Coast Chapter has arranged an array of outside events, including tours to Carson City, Nevada and Portola, Quincy, and Truckee, California. We encourage you to purchase your tickets now as seats are limited. The Southern Pacific Railroad History Center is also hosting two events at the Nugget: the Southern Pacific Employee Reunion and Meet Former Southern Pacific Officers Up Close and Personal, and tickets for the latter event are limited.

Adjacent to the former Southern Pacific yard at Sparks, the hotel rooms are in the Resort Tower with direct access to our meeting rooms by elevator. Reservations can be made by using this link: <http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=3617296&hotelID=96145> or by phoning the Nugget at 1.800.648.1177 and requesting group code: GSPRHC. For best room locations, it is suggested that reservations be made early.

Please go to <https://www.splives.org/sprhc-rlhs-joint-meet-may-2023> for the event schedule, to purchase tickets, download registration forms and review important vendor instructions. Click the appropriate tabs under the Events tab.

Have questions? Please email Bill Fowler at wefowler@pm.me.

Trains Photo Contest 2023: Icons in Railroading

By JEFF SMITH, Editor Bulletin NRHS

In Partnership with *Trains*

The NRHS Photo Contest Committee is happy to announce the continuation of its partnership with *Trains* for the 2023 photo contest. The NRHS's promotion of the study of the railroad industry is a mission the *Trains* brand shares. Both groups celebrate railroad history and present-day operations and the two organizations believe that supporting and encouraging photography is beneficial to the individuals who practice and enjoy images of railroading.

The 2023 contest theme is "Icons in Railroading". "Icons could be entirely vintage or mixed with modern elements." says Jeff Smith, NRHS Bulletin editor and head of the photo contest committee. "An icon is a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol or is worthy of veneration. Icons exist all over the railroad landscape. To some, icons are GG1s, Santa Fe Warbonnets, the streamlined beauty of the N&W Class J Steam locomotives or PRR position light signals. For instance, a modern locomotive passing an iconic station or Grand Central Terminal in New York City being used by modern commuter trains would be considered Icons of Railroading."

NRHS members are invited to enter the contest. You can illustrate the theme however you like, but be ready to provide an explanation. Photographs can be taken recently or decades ago as icons transcend time. Please submit no more than three high-resolution images (3,000 pixels on the longest edge). Do not alter your images beyond minor color corrections, burning, dodging and levels adjustments. Send JPGs to TrainsContest@nrhs.com no later than June 1, 2023. Please include your full name and phone number. We do not accept mailed submissions.

Winners will be announced in the November 2023 issue of *Trains*.

- **Grand Prize**
Winner will receive: \$1,000 from the National Railway Historical Society
- **First Prize**
Winner will receive: \$500
- **Second Prize**
Winner will receive: \$250
- **Five Runners-Up**
Winners will receive: a three-year subscription to *Trains* magazine or equivalent *Trains* products

All winners will also receive a complimentary one-year membership in the NRHS.

RULES

1. Enter up to three (3) digital images to TrainsContest@nrhs.com.
2. Contestants must include their name, a daytime phone number, email address and basic caption information in the digital image's metadata.
3. All entries must be submitted by June 1, 2023.
4. Winning photos will be published in *Trains*' November 2023 issue.
5. *Trains* and NRHS reserve the right to retain electronic copies for future publication, use as a contest gallery exhibition on their respective websites, Facebook walls, Twitter feeds, other social media, or for public exhibition. In all cases, the photographer retains the copyright to the image.
6. A committee of NRHS members and *Trains* staff will judge photos on a "blind" basis, meaning they will not know the identities of the entrants.
7. Multiple prizes will not be awarded to any individual.
8. Employees of Kalmbach Media Co. or their families are not eligible to enter. NRHS photo contest committee members and their families are not eligible to enter.
9. By entering the 2023 *Trains* photo contest, you agree to share your name and contact information with the NRHS and *Trains*.
10. Photographs of model railroads will not be accepted.

Contact Jeff Smith at bulletin@nrhs.com for questions/comments.

Fall 2022 Conference - Springdale, Arkansas - Highlights

By MIKE YUHAS, Wisconsin Chapter NRHS

Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25

Friday's activities centered around a train ride on the Arkansas & Missouri (A&M). Delegates rode in a restored dome car and rear platform car on the regularly-scheduled Springdale to Van Buren trip behind a pair of Alco C420s. At Van Buren, there was a quick motor coach ride to Fort Smith for lunch and visits to the Fort Smith Museum of History and the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, the latter of which included trolley rides on a restored 1919 Birney. The bus brought the crowd back to Van Buren for the train ride back to Springdale.

After arrival at Springdale, those who wished to tour the A&M's engine facility had the run of the place, seeing 50+ year old Alco Centuries mingling with modern EMD SD70ACes. On Friday evening, back at the hotel, the meeting of the NRHS Fund took place.

Saturday was a day of meetings. The Advisory Council met in the morning and the Board of Directors met in the afternoon. The evening banquet featured an informative presentation by local historian (and president of the Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter) Mike Sypult, who spoke on the history of northwest Arkansas railroads.

Sunday found the delegates onboard the "rare-mileage" trip from Springdale to Monett, Missouri and return. Lunch was served aboard the train and three photo runbys were held.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE YUHAS

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM – Provided rides to the delegates of the NRHS Fall Conference on restored Fort Smith Light & Traction 224. At the controls is museum president Bradley Martin. This Birney 'safety car' was built in 1919 and ran in Fort Smith until the cessation of streetcar service in 1933. The truck and motors were detached and the body ended up as a diner. Eventually, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum acquired the body, and mated it to a Birney truck and wheels from elsewhere, beginning its excursion career in late 1990. And still, in 2022, the car is going strong, its time in service to the museum far surpassing its original 14-year tenure on the system for which it was built.



DISCHARGING VAN BUREN-WINSLOW-VAN BUREN PASSENGERS AT THE DEPOT –
Next, two C420s run around the train in preparation for the return trip to Springdale.



NRHS DISCUSSIONS – *New NRHS president Tony White discusses strategy with former-president Al Weber on board the train back to Springdale, Friday, September 23.*



VARIETY OF ALCO LOCOMOTIVES - *Resting at Arkansas & Missouri's Springdale shop.*



RUNBY AT EXETER, MISSOURI - *Passengers on the rare mileage excursion detrained for the runby.*



RARE-MILEAGE RUNBY – Delegates of the NRHS 2022 Fall Conference take pictures of their train's runby on the rare-mileage trip between Springdale and Monett. Train is northbound near Garfield, Arkansas, on Sunday, September 25.

The NRHS Admin Site - Information at Your Fingertips

By ELIZABETH GUENZLER, Central Coast Chapter NRHS

Looking for a back issue of the NRHS News? Curious as to what was discussed at a previous convention's Board Meeting? Perhaps you are searching for an NRHS policy document?

At the bottom of the NRHS homepage is a link to Documents, otherwise known as the Admin Site. This brings you to several categories:

Documents Available to the Public contains election results, general information, policies and forms, financial statements and agendas, minutes and reports from our conferences and conventions over the years.

- *NRHS Fund* contains policies, bylaws and minutes of the NRHS Fund.
- *NRHS Telegraph* contains back issues of this newsletter geared to Chapter leadership.
- *NRHS News* has all the back issues of this publication since 2014.
- *NRHS Bulletin Index 1936 to 1985* is an index of articles in a downloadable and searchable PDF format.
- *NRHS Bulletin Index 1986 to 2006* is an index of articles in a downloadable and searchable PDF format.
- *HRSS Extant Roundhouse Survey* (Historic Railway Structures Survey) contains a data request form as well as the PDF of the survey results.

2022 NRHS Autumn Conference - Report

By Elizabeth Guenzler, National Representative, Central Coast Chapter NRHS

The *NRHS Autumn Conference* was held in Springdale, Arkansas September 23rd to 25th, at the Holiday Inn, co-hosted by the Arkansas-Boston Mountain Chapter and the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. The conference was attended by forty-three members.

Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25

Most people arrived on September 22nd. The following day *September 23rd*, the rear two cars of a regular Arkansas and Missouri train bound for Van Buren were reserved for us. It was a real treat having the ability to enjoy the ambience and rear platform of parlor car "Explorer" and the dome "Silver Feather". (See histories at the end of this report.) Light snacks and refreshments were complimentary throughout the day.

On arrival at Van Buren, we boarded a bus for the drive to Fort Smith where after a boxed lunch at the Fort Smith History Museum, passengers could either take the Fort Smith Light and Power Trolley down to the Fort Smith Trolley Museum or walk down. There was plenty of time to wander the grounds, take pictures, ride the trolley on its full route and stop in at the gift shop. A very enjoyable visit. The motor coach took us back to Van Buren and everyone had a good train trip back to Springdale.

Here we were given a tour of the J.R. McCarren Locomotive Shop and were able to take pictures of the motive power both in and outside the shop. The rare T-6s, and a mixture of Alco and General Electric motive power were readily photographable.

Saturday, September 24th started with the Advisory Council Meeting. 13 representatives were in attendance and about 30 joined remotely. Richard Shulby, representative for both the Baltimore Chapter and Piedmont & North Carolina Chapter, was unanimously elected as Chairman and I was unanimously elected as Secretary; a position in which I had been acting since November 2021.

The main outcomes resulting from the meeting were:

- a) A committee has been established to assist the Film Library to strengthen their process and give more support as the current two-person group is very limited in manpower.
- b) The 2023 spring conference in Sparks will have the NRHS Board and Advisory Council meetings occurring on May 21st, the final day of the convention. Hotel is the Nugget Hotel and Casino, \$99/night Monday to Thursday and \$129 Friday and Saturday.
- c) If the Board meets at any other time apart from during conventions and conferences (in person or virtual), the Advisory Council will meet beforehand on the same day
- d) A Chapter Communications/Engagement Committee was formed to continue communication between the Chapters and National, keep representative information (and website chapter information) up-to-date and to work with those chapters who do not have a representative. I and five others volunteered to be part of that committee.

The Board meeting took up the majority of the afternoon, with Tony White being officially announced as the new President. He named Frank Cornelius as Vice President. The new board, as a result of the recent election are: Ellen Scott (also the National Secretary), Carol Ann Cornelius (also the Assistant Treasurer) and they are joined by Eric Fogg, Skip Waters, John Goodman, Kevin Feeney, Bob Bitzer, Scott Andes and Charles Webb.

That evening was the banquet with the President of the host Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter giving a presentation on the history of railroads in Northwest Arkansas.

Sunday, September 25th was not an official conference event but was a rare mileage trip to Monett, Missouri; most members participated in this. Again, we had the same two passenger cars as Friday.

There were five photo runby opportunities in three locations. A good lunch of pulled pork sandwich, choice of coleslaw or crisps, refreshments and apple pie for dessert was enjoyed by all. This was a very nice way to end the conference.

Notes on the A&M passenger cars: "Explorer" was built by Pullman Standard in 1955 as Long Island P72 coach 2927. This car went to the Northern Central Railway in Pennsylvania before being moved to the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad in December 2004.

Arkansas and Missouri dome "Silver Feather" built by Budd in 1948 as Western Pacific dome-coach 812. When retired it went into Auto Train service becoming 461. In the 1980's, it served on Texas Southern before turning into Washington Central 151, and in 1997 it moved to BC Rail and their Pacific Starlight Dinner Train but became "Moonglow". It was sold to Ontario Northland and renumbered 901. In December 2010 the car was sold to Arkansas and Missouri, numbered 108 and renamed "Silver Feather".



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIZABETH GUENZLER
VIEW FROM THE REAR PLATFORM OF A&M "EXPLORER". This is the second of three trestle bridges on the Arkansas and Missouri line to Van Buren, Trestle Two stands 110 feet high, is 431 feet long and is known as the Boston Mountain Viaduct 2.



MISSOURI-KANSAS-TEXAS COACH 910 - Built by American Car and Foundry in 1938 and converted to Diner Bunk Car 100162. This is part of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum's collection.



ST. LOUIS - SAN FRANCISCO 2-8-2 4003 - Built by American Locomotive Company in 1919 for the Pennsylvania Railroad but they rejected it and the United States Railway Administration assigned it to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad. 4003 was retired in early 1952. The Frisco kept the locomotive until 1954 when it was donated to the City of Fort Smith and placed on display in Kay Rodgers Park. It remained there for almost fifty years until 2002, when the city transferred ownership to the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

Annual Christmas Dinner Train – Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter

By J. L. Gattis, Arkansas–Boston Mountains Chapter NRHS. Photos by Mike Sypult

Friday evening, December 16, 2022, about two dozen riders boarded the Arkansas & Missouri parlor car in Springdale, Arkansas. This outing was held for the annual Christmas dinner train of the Arkansas–Boston Mountains Chapter.

Hugh Harris had arranged the event. After the meal, there was a “dirty Santa” gift exchange. The A&M parlor car, with an open-end platform, was built in the mid-1950s for the Long Island Railroad.



ONBOARD THE A&M PARLOR CAR – Smiling crew and passengers.



HOLIDAY CHEERS – Members and friends share their cheer.

2022 Lancaster Chapter Banquet

By Jim Donahue, Lancaster Chapter NRHS

The 2022 Chapter Banquet was held at the Dutch-Way Family Restaurant in Gap, PA on November 19, 2022. Following the buffet dinner, the membership moved to the Christiana Freight House. Our guest speaker, Ira Silverman, presented an excellent slide show entitled “*Ten Years Before and Ten Years After Amtrak.*”

Ira Silverman’s career includes the *Illinois Central* (where he actually worked with three future Amtrak presidents: Reistrup, Boyd and Gunn); *Amtrak*, where most of his almost 20 years were spent as Manager, then Director, of Route Marketing; *MARC*, which is part of the Maryland MTA as Chief Transportation Officer; and following a brief return to Amtrak, finished his career in planning for MARC and freight. He currently volunteers in the archives at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM DONAHUE

RECOGNIZING 25 YEARS AS AN NRHS MEMBER - Linda Himpl receives her 25-year member certificate from NRHS President Tony White with Chapter President Tom Shenk.



A LOOK BACK AT AMTRAK - Ira Silverman presents his “Ten Years Before and Ten Years After Amtrak” slide show.



CELEBRATE! - Members enjoying the buffet dinner at the Dutch-Way Restaurant.



CELEBRATING TOO! – Members and friends chatting at the buffet dinner.



The Society Needs Your Help to Run a Conference

By Bob Bitzer, Washington DC Chapter NRHS

Yes, the NRHS is still operating our twice-yearly conferences for the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council to conduct the business of the Society and allow us to get together for some rail activities and socialize. Our meetings are normally held in Spring (April-May) and again in the Fall (September-November).

Where are we going in 2023? The Spring meeting is a joint operation with the R&LHS and the SPRHC in Sparks, NV on May 16-21 as part of their convention. Information is available on our website and registration is open. The Fall meeting will be part of the NRHS Convention to be held in Fort Lauderdale/Deerfield Beach, FL from September 1-6, 2023.

Putting on my NRHS Conference Coordinator's Hat, I regret to report that we have no conference sites available after the scheduled one in Florida. We like to have these events scheduled about one to two years out. We should have 2024 already planned for and approved. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The Society relies on the support of the chapters to host NRHS Fall and Spring Conferences. Most of the important business that takes place is done at these conferences which are held for meetings of the NRHS Board of Directors, NRHS Advisory Council and the NRHS Fund Board of Trustees.

How can the chapters help? Give serious thought to hosting a Spring or Fall conference. It's really not that hard. It will result in the satisfaction of helping the Society and giving our members the opportunity to experience your local rail scene, its culture and history. Look at your area and you will be amazed with how much there is available to offer visitors. You may have a museum, operated by the chapter or another historical group, have local or regional railroads that can operate excursions, be part an annual festival event for your area, have an important historical rail or related event which could be tied to a conference, have knowledgeable historians or railroad officials who can be guest speakers, etc.

Remember that conferences are normally only three days in length. It is not an extensive time commitment. Our normal schedule is Thursday for check-in and an evening visual program, Friday is a rail-related event, NRHS Fund meeting (evening) and Saturday is for NRHS Council and Board business meetings, and as an option an evening banquet with speaker.

If you are ready to sign-up to run a conference, or have questions and wish to discuss operating one, we want to hear from you. The Society will provide full instructions and support. We have a handbook that will be provided and a crew of knowledgeable folks who can walk you through the entire process of running a conference.

Please contact me for more information, or any questions that you may have related to running a NRHS conference. Email is treasurer@nrhs.com and the phone is 301-206-5321. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks much!

NRHS Help Wanted - Assistant Treasurer

By Bob Bitzer, Washington DC Chapter NRHS

The NRHS financial management team needs your help. Our Current NRHS Assistant Treasurer has found it necessary to resign from her position for personal reasons. With the volume of financial transactions which the Society is required to process, this is an important and critical job. It cannot be handled by one individual (Treasurer) with no back-up. Control and reporting of the Society's finances is an extremely important job in the Society. It must be done in a timely and accurate manner.

What type of background and experience is needed to be an Assistant Treasurer of a non-profit volunteer organization? Let's begin with a brief definition and overview of what the Society's Assistant Treasurer's requirements and duties for the job are:

1. Needs formal training and knowledge of practical business accounting skills.
2. Practical business work experience in accounting to manage bill payments, bank account balancing, spreadsheet preparation etc.
3. Needs to be familiar and work with QuickBooks PRO on-line accounting software.
4. Ability to work with NRHS outside CPA firm to provide information for annual audits and tax return preparation (990's).
5. Work with NEON Membership System financial transactions and reports.
6. Assist NRHS Convention Committee on financial controls of bill payments and registration/ticket sales.

Before everyone asks how many hours a week, conference calls and travel is involved, let me assure you it is not that difficult. All of the Society's accounting is done through QuickBooks and is on-line through a cloud server. If financial business meetings are required, they are often done by conference calls or using internet on-line services such as "Go To Meeting" or "Zoom".

If you need more information or want to throw your accounting cap in the ring for this extremely important job, please call me so we can discuss further. Reach me by phone 301-206-5321, or by email at treasurer@nrhs.com to volunteer. Let's talk. Remember, it's rewarding and it feels good to be a part of this great organization of ours.

RailCamp Dates Confirmed for 2023

By BECKY GERSTUNG, Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS

The NRHS RailCamp dates have changed.

- **RailCamp East** will now be June 25 - July 1, 2023.
- **RailCamp Northwest** will now be June 18 - 25, 2023.

An **updated application** is available at <https://nrhs.com/programs/railcamp/>. The **FINAL DEADLINE** for submissions is **April 1, 2023**.

Mail your completed application to: *RailCampNRHS*, PO Box 1481, Lockport, NY 14095-1481

Questions? Please email *RailCamp* at railcampnrhs@yahoo.com

Heritage Grant Report – Susquehanna Valley Railway Historical Society

By JOHN T. GOODNOUGH, President, Susquehanna Valley Historical Society, NRHS

SVRHS Grant Report Susquehanna Valley Railway Historical Society Chapter Archives

Dedicated funds for the project since inception in 2018 came from four major sources.

As noted in the Application submitted in January 2020, SVRHS had already allocated an Archival Fund basis of \$4,000.

This was supplemented over the course of the project by a \$2,000 grant from the Syracuse, NY-based Pomeroy Foundation and proceeds from the National Media's 2019 "Giving Tuesday" program (\$505.00).

The \$2,500 donation received from the NRHS Heritage Grant Program in 2020 brought the total support for the project to \$9,005.00.

Expenditures on the Archives Room Development Project through the end of 2021 were \$9,549.93. The excess was paid from authorized transfer of funds from the General Account, as needed.

Since the "Pandemic" began in the Spring of 2020, the Society lost many months that would have seen meetings, however during the "down" time there were virtually no expenditures from the General Fund, and only sporadic limited efforts at Archive Room Development by the volunteer membership, resulting in only \$702.82 spent in 2020 and \$513.24 in 2021.

Along the way, when virtually no activities were undertaken due to the COVID restrictions, members were generous in donations to the Society's programs. Also when restrictions relaxed, we were able to host public events under minimums of social distancing and wearing of masks, such that recent income including periodic fundraisers has restored our basic Archives Room Development fund to about \$9,000.

As the project arrived at basic completion near the end of 2019, and received enhancements when possible in 2020 and 2021, we are now on the verge of final completion to the extent authorized to date by our Board of Managers.

Activity through 2022 and 2023 anticipated as follows:

1	Purchase additional folding chairs	\$ 700.00
2	Purchase additional audio/visual equipment	\$ 750.00
3	Complete electrical work for restored signal display	\$ 200.00
4	Archival photo processing, sleeves, and frames	\$ 600.00
5	Prioritized RR artifact restorations	\$ 750.00
	Estimated Total	\$ 3,000.00



Susquehanna Valley Railway Historical Society
P.O. Box 2415, Binghamton, NY 13902-2415

July 18, 2022

National Railway Historical Society
Heritage Grants Award Program
505 South Lenola Road
Suite #226
Moorestown, N.J. 08057-1549

Re: Susquehanna Valley Railway Historical Society Archives Room Restoration Project

The Susquehanna Valley Railway Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the \$2,500 Heritage Grant awarded to the organization in July 2020. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the receipt of the grant, we hereby submit the enclosed report of the expenditure of the awarded funds.

Attached is a summary of the progress and improvements we made to the space we obtained in the Kilmer Building to store our archival material.

The included photo displays illustrate the success we achieved in converting a former empty storage space in the basement of the Kilmer Building into an attractive place for storage of many of our larger railroad-related items, including a signal tower with operative lights, an actual locomotive bell and a mock station-agent's office and display and storage locations for many perishable publications and related items. The contrast with the original condition of the room is striking.

While a portion of the funds were used to reimburse previously occurred expenses, the report illustrates that there are approved plans to complete the project using remaining available funds.

On behalf of the Society, we convey our heartfelt gratitude for the financial support of this project provided by the NRHS.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert S. Prohaska, Treasurer
SVRHS (Chapter No. 58 of NRHS)
Kilmer Building, 31 Lewis Street
P.O. Box 2415, Binghamton, NY 13902-2415



KILMER BUILDING, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

Kilmer Building Basement Transformation into an Attractive Display and Storage Space

The next several pages show 'before' and 'after' views of the basement's transformation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERT PROHASA

VIEW TO THE ENTRANCE.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PASTORKEY, 12/10/22



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERT PROHASA

FRONT WALL.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PASTORKEY, 12/10/22



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERT PROHASA

FAR SIDE WALL.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PASTORKEY, 12/10/22



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERT PROHASA

BACK WALL RIGHT.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PASTORKEY, 12/10/22



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB PASTORKEY, 12/10/22



AGENTS WORK AREA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GONGLESKI

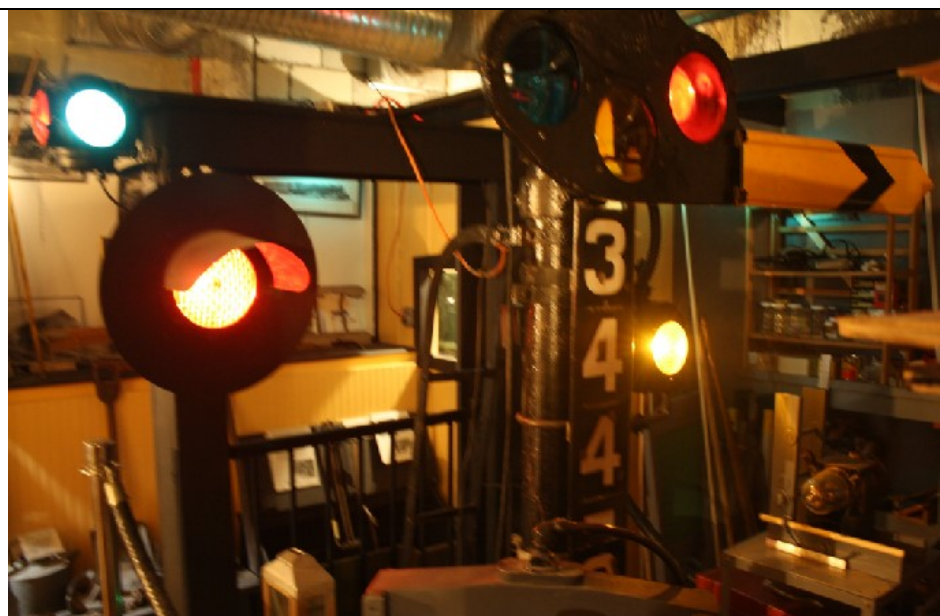


DISPLAY CASES.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB GONGLESKI



LOCOMOTIVE BELL.



OPERATING SIGNALS.

NRHS Photo Gallery - Rail History Through Photos

By *MARLIN TAYLOR, Digital Archive Committee NRHS*

The Digital Archival Committee is pleased to announce the introduction of the *NRHS Photo Gallery*, a collection of 800 photographs out of the thousands that have been donated to your Society for preservation. These have been scanned digitally; with visual corrections made (where appropriate) and documentation attached. This may not seem like a big accomplishment. However, when you consider the time-consuming work and tedious detail involved for each original photo, to reach this level is a solid beginning.



Remember, your Society depends on volunteers for all that it does ... and when it comes to an endeavor like this, professionalism and accuracy are of the utmost importance.

Here are the steps to view the photographs:

1. Start at the NRHS web site (<https://nrhs.com>)
2. Click on Programs in the header (<https://nrhs.com/programs/>)
3. Look below for the link to Photo Gallery. 4. Go to Search to choose the particular category of rail history of personal interest.

Enjoy! Thank you for being an NRHS member and supporting the Digital Archive projects. You may contact the committee by email at heritagefilms@nrhs.com.

The Final Ride

By TONY WHITE, President NRHS

Wonderful and memorable members of the NRHS have taken their final train ride and will meet with all of us at the station eventually.

Marjorie (Marj) Fiorilla, wife of our General Counsel John Fiorilla, passed on November 13 at the age of 89. Marj played the piano classically but decided to become one of the few women to get an engineering degree. She worked as an engineer in the construction industry. We knew Marj as an active member of the Board of Directors and as a member of the Advisory Council. Marj loved gardening, bird watching and traveling around the world.

John, her husband, has always said that she was the love of his life. When we would see them together, their love was always apparent. John, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren survive Marj.

Ann Harrod passed on December 17 at the age of 84. Ann graduated from Vassar College and completed the Business Administration program at the Harvard-Radcliff school. She worked as a financial analyst, Certified Financial Planner and a tax return preparer.

We knew Ann for her smile, frequent attendance at NRHS conventions and her knowledge of railroad history. She also had a great sense of humor.

Ann is survived by her sons and grandchildren, Vassar Classmates and congregants at the Keswick's Grace Episcopal Church.

The following is from Member Bud Thompson and relates to his friend **Bill Chapman** who has also been a friend of the NRHS and the *RailCamp* program.

As we begin another year with its promises and challenges, we will be facing the future without one of our dearest friends and source of support on so many matters. During his life, Bill Chapman is remembered for saying yes and being wherever there was a need. On the evening of December 27, 2022, while visiting his daughter in Denver, Colorado, Bill Chapman's life came to a quiet, peaceful end with his wife, Farrell and his daughter, Janette at his side.

I first met Bill in Tacoma at the 2011 NRHS National Convention. From there working with Barry Smith, Ed Berntsen and Bill, *RailCamp West* was born, with the first camp taking place in Tacoma, August 2012. As the time passed Bill and I worked very closely with our industry partners around the Puget Sound region to create an experience that the campers would never forget. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of *RailCamp*, Bill joined me for one of my 'Bucket List' items. He flew from Boise to Seattle where he boarded #11, the Coast Starlight. I joined him in Tacoma and our adventure began. We took #11 to Sacramento, where we transferred to #6 the California Zephyr to Chicago, and then transferred to the Cardinal to Wilmington, Delaware. It was an incredible trip that I will never forget.

We had a chat in early November about him coming out to Tacoma for a chance to see some of the friends he made while working on *RailCamp*. I'm sorry that did not happen, but for Bill, I will say a big "Thank You" for being a part of *RailCamp West* and giving 72 campers the opportunity that only exists because you joined him in exposing them to railroading "Up close and personal". As Bill would say, "They aren't there to watch someone else do something, they are there to get their hands dirty doing what had to be done".

Event Board - Chapters & Members Railroad Events

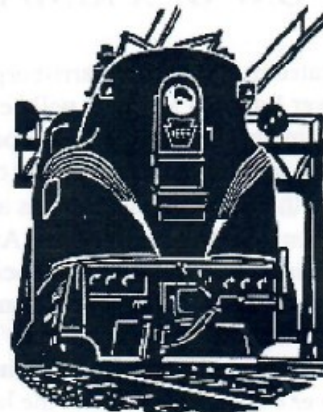
Harrisburg Railroad Show & Collectors Market – Sat. March 11, 2023

Thirty Fifth Annual Harrisburg

RAILROAD SHOW & COLLECTORS MARKET

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



The Scottish Rite Harrisburg
2701 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Conveniently located just south of I-81 in Harrisburg, PA. From either direction, use exit 66 off I-81, then go south (down river) on Front Street 1.4 miles. Turn left on Division St., go four blocks and turn right on Fourth Street. The Complex is on the right with a large parking lot. Parking is also available in the lot on Third St. For a map, Google "Scottish Rite Harrisburg".

- Railroadiana
- Model Railroad Items
- Books, Videos, Apparel
- Snack Bar
- Train Layouts
- Test Track

HARRIS TOWER WILL BE OPEN THIS DAY. SEE BACK FOR DETAILS

SPONSORED BY THE HARRISBURG CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. (a non-profit educational organization)

Donation at the Door: \$5.00 Children under 12: FREE

Vendor Information: _____ Date _____

Name _____ Types of items sold _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (D) _____ (N) _____ e-mail _____

_____ (#) 8' Tables @ \$25.00 each = \$ _____

_____ (#) Additional admissions = \$ _____

Note: Each table includes two admissions.
Make check to Harrisburg Chapter, NRHS.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____ Wall space _____ Electricity _____

Information and Table Reservations: Mark Irvin, 3814 Leyland Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Telephone: 717-343-7182 (For table confirmation, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

Website: <http://harrisburgnrhs.org> E/mail address: irvinwepfer@msn.com

Harrisburg Chapter NRHS will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items or any accidents of any kind.

NOTICE: All vendors are responsible for collecting 6% PA Sales Tax. State law requires that all vendors have a temporary or permanent PA Sales Tax License.

Harrisburg Railroad Show & Collector's Market (continued)

ONE OF A KIND INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Located in downtown Harrisburg at the corner of 7th and Walnut Streets (across from The Forum), Harris Tower Railroad Museum will be open for visits on March 11, 2023. The Museum is a railroad control tower built by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1929 to control all train movements through downtown Harrisburg, PA. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the tower once controlled the switches and signals that routed more than 100 passenger trains a day through the Central Pennsylvania area. The tower was used by the PRR, the Penn Central Railroad and Amtrak until closing in 1991. Upon closing, the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society purchased the building and began the process of restoration. Following an extensive restoration project spanning more than 15 years and thousands of dollars and volunteer hours, Harris Tower opened to the public as a living history, interpretive rail museum in 2008. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the tower's Interlocking Machine and Model Board, both of which are fully operable. Visitors to Harris Tower can actually operate the levers of the Interlocking Machine and observe the illuminated model board and follow the simulated train movements, exactly as it was done decades ago. The Interlocking Machine and Model Board have been linked to a computer simulation that is programmed with the actual Pennsylvania Railroad train schedules from the early 1940's. It is then up to the visitor to throw the proper levers to route the trains to their correct destinations. In this way, rather than simply viewing a static display, visitors to Harris Tower can actually operate the equipment and experience for themselves what it would have been like to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad in its heyday. To the best of our knowledge, **there is no other exhibit like Harris Railroad Switch Tower anywhere in the world.**

The tower lies adjacent to very active railroad lines, making Harris a perfect vantage point for youngsters and railroad buffs to view and photograph numerous Norfolk Southern and Amtrak trains each day from a safe location, regardless of the weather. Admission is free, but donations to benefit the Chapter's educational programs and on-going preservation initiatives are welcome. Souvenir T-shirts, coffee mugs, railroad prints and other items are sold at the tower to benefit the chapter. From the train show at the Scottish Rite Entertainment Complex, return to Division Street and turn right. Proceed to N. Seventh Street and turn right. Continue on N. Seventh to the next traffic light at Maclay St. and turn left. Proceed to next light and turn right on N. Cameron (Burger King on the right). Continue approximately one mile to Market Street and turn right. Immediately after the next overhead bridge (railroad), turn right on Fifth St., then right at the light on Walnut. Harris Tower is directly ahead; the parking lot is just past the Tower on the right. When you are ready to leave, turn right from the parking lot to exit. For a schedule of times when Harris is open during 2023 or for additional information or for group visits visit www.harristower.org or contact the Harrisburg Chapter of the NRHS at 717-232-6221 or by e-mail at HarrisTower@verizon.net.

For more information on Harris Tower please see <https://www.harrisburgnrhs.org/visit>



Winchester Chapter Annual Banquet – Sat. March 11, 2023

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET & PROGRAM Saturday, March 11, 2023

Regional Railroad Roundtable



with Representatives from



Banquet Menu

- ✓ Creamy Chicken Cordon Bleu
- ✓ Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- ✓ Carrot and Pea Medley
- ✓ Dinner Rolls
- ✓ Strawberry Shortcake Dessert
- ✓ Tea and Coffee

Details

Location: Calvary Church of the Brethren
578 Front Royal Pike
Winchester, Virginia 22602

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Reservations Deadline: March 4, 2023

Information: cwsWC-NRHS@earthlink.net
(703) 554-9681



Reservation Options:

By Check payable to Winchester Chapter NRHS, and mailed to:

Carl Stephanus, P. O. Box 364, Bluemont, VA 20135

Print Your Name: _____ Print the Names of your full Party on the reverse.

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ # Attending _____

Email: _____

Please contact

cwsWC-NRHS@earthlink.net

**for online
reservation options**

Baltimore Chapter Banquet – Sat. March 25, 2023

BALTIMORE CHAPTER

National Railway Historical Society, Inc.



When: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 25, 2023

Where:

Columbus Gardens
4301 Klosterman Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236

Cost: \$35 per person until March 13, \$40 per person on March 14 to the date of the banquet

How to purchase tickets:

If you wish to pay by **credit card**, use this link or scan the code at the bottom of this form:

- shorturl.at/dsw39

If you wish to **pay by check**, please make your check out to:

Baltimore Chapter, NRHS

Mail your check and this form to: Cynthia Atwood, 3502 Randall Rd., Suitland, MD 20746.*

Names _____

Phone # _____

No. of tickets _____ x \$ 35 (\$40 on or after March 14) \$ _____ Total

*After you have mailed your check, please call Cynthia at (301) 967-4994 to tell her how many tickets for which you have sent payment so that we can manage the ticket inventory. There is limited seating available for this event.

The all-you-can-eat buffet will include meats, salads, vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

Directions to Columbus Gardens

4301 Klosterman Avenue

From I-695, Baltimore Beltway, take U.S. 1 North, Bel Air Road, approximately 1 mile, turn right on Klosterman Ave, go one block to parking lot. You will pass five (5) traffic lights.

If you are coming south on U.S. 1, Bel Air Road, from Silver Spring Road, be in the left lane as you pass St. Joseph Catholic Church (about 1 mile from Silver Spring), and turn left at Klosterman Avenue. (Note, there is no left turn lane or traffic light)

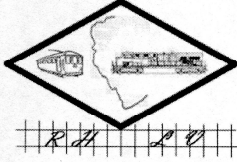


Railroad Explorer II, Lehigh Valley – Sat. April 15, 2023

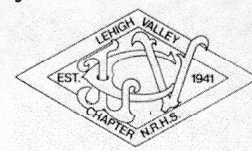
Two groups...

Railroad Historians of the Lehigh Valley

...one mission!



&
Lehigh Valley Chapter, NRHS
www.lehighlines.org



-ANNOUNCES-

The RAILROAD EXPLORER II

A Railfan R.D.C. Branchline Excursion

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

Ride the R & N's Budd R-D-Cs over historic rare mileage trackage of the P & R Mainline and The Mine Hill & Schuylkill Haven RR now branches of the Reading and Northern, through the Schuylkill County Anthracite Regions.

Ride thru *Auburn, Landingville, Schuylkill Haven, Cressona, Westwood Junction, and Silverton Junction* to **TREMONT and MINERSVILLE**. Numerous Photo Stops planned.

A Special Opportunity with *Steam Locomotive Jersey Central 113* is planned.

* The Railroad reserves the right to substitute motive power.

Boarding begins at 8:30. Train Departs Port Clinton promptly at 9:00

Port Clinton GPS Address is: 1 Railroad Blvd. Port Clinton, PA 19549

- A route map will be provided -

Your choice of *Turkey, Italian, or Roast Beef Hoagie* *
Please list your choices on the Ticket order form, below.

SNACKS, SODA, & WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE ALL DAY AT AN ADDITIONAL COST - SOLD BY THE RAILROAD



All are welcome, membership not required!

FARE: \$ 119.00/per Rider

Includes train charter over rare mileage, limited seating, photo-stops, run-bys, and lunch.

PLEASE RESERVE BEFORE APRIL 2, 2023

Tickets will be mailed to the address you provide below.

Information or questions- KGJR1554@earthlink.net

Mail checks to: Kermit Geary Jr, 1266 Riverview Drive, Walnutport PA 18088

Make checks payable to: Lehigh Valley Chapter- N.R.H.S.

Please Include a Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope WITH Your Order - or Tickets will be held for pickup the day of trip



clip

RIDER NAME(S)	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
*FOOD CHOICE	* _____ Hoagie *	* _____ Hoagie *	* _____ Hoagie *

ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ .00 TELEPHONE: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____

President's Corner – Two Organizations, Same Goals

By *TONY WHITE, President NRHS*

In January, I attended my first Rail Passenger Car Alliance (RPCA) conference. There were many NRHS members attending this four-day event, including Wisconsin Chapter member Cate Kratville-Wrinn. The RPCA is an alliance to promote the preservation and operation of historic rail equipment. To accomplish this, they have educational, operation, maintenance, restoration and safety seminars by working with Amtrak and the FRA to ensure that the cars meet the standards established by the industry. However, like the NRHS, they believe that younger people need to have access to the unique nature of railroading. The younger generation is the future of all things related to trains.



MEMBER CATE KRATVILLE - WRINN VISITED THE RPCA CONVENTION - Cate is the wife of the late Jim Wrinn, the former editor of *Trains Magazine*. Both Wisconsin Chapter members, we had a lively conversation about the chapter and the NRHS.

Cate is also the daughter of William W. Kratville, the noted rail author, historian and photographer. One evening, Cate shared wonderful photos that her father had taken.

The NRHS premier program to attract youth is its *RailCamp* program. Over 600 youths have attended the program since its inception. Chapters and individual NRHS members donate so that teens may learn hands on about railroading from the professional railroaders and companies. Many of these youth remain members of the NRHS for years. Some come back to help with the *RailCamp* program.

While I was speaking about the *RailCamp* program, baskets were passed around and members at the banquet reached into their pockets and donated a record amount of money to *RailCamp*. The RPCA, through their members' donations, offer two scholarships yearly for one female and one male to attend one of the *RailCamp* programs. Check out the application for *RailCamp* on the NRHS website at nrhs.com

Editor's Note – Even More News, Read All About It!

By *VALLI HOSKI, Editor NRHS News, Member Harrisburg Chapter, NRHS*

Welcome to 2023! We are already into the second month of the New Year, and what a year it will be for rail history and preservation supporters. Several significant rail conferences and conventions have been announced and more are being planned across the country and globe.

- **Enjoy sunny times with the NRHS in Nevada and Florida!** Get your reservations made and tickets booked for the coast-to-coast excitement. Whether you go west or east, there will be much rail history and excursions to enjoy – from the NRHS Spring Conference in Nevada to the NRHS Convention in Florida, be sure to stop and visit the 'little spots' along the way.
- **Send postcards, photographs and funny captions along the way, please!** The News will enjoy them all and you can see your name 'in print'!

The *NRHS News* brings new tidings for 2023 with new features and more photographs.

- **Get your picture on the cover of the News!** New to photography? Or haven't shared a photo yet in the News? *The Back Page (TBP)* is a visual space for rail enthusiasts and your photos. A whole page is yours!
- **"Events Board" for members, Chapters** – Swap meets, train shows, excursions, all are welcome in the Events Board section of the News. Send in your flyer and get the word out in the *NRHS News*.

The News is all about you and the Chapters – Please fill these new spaces with your news in 2023.

Happy Valentine's Day from your editor Val.

The Back Page

Welcome to **The Back Page** – A new visual space for those who enjoy photography, railroading and capturing the rail image. Whether you are new to the rails, novice photographer or seasoned rail enthusiast, this space is for you. The entire page is yours to showcase a single image and its story. All are welcome to submit; anyone new to the hobby is especially invited to send a personal visual impression of railroading.

Submission Tips: 1. A single, original submission is accepted per individual each month. The image may be color or black-and-white, in png or jpeg format. Include a text caption or brief description of the image, your name, email address and phone. 2. Submission may not be previously posted or published online or in print. 3. Submit by email to News@nrhs.com or by mail to NRHS News, c/o Valli Hoski, P.O. Box 234, York Springs, PA, 17372. Email is preferred. Images will not be returned.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX MAYES

CSX AT PENOLA, VIRGINIA IN FEBRUARY, 2002 - A long CSX manifest train rounds the sweeping curve at Penola, Virginia on February 6, 2002 following a snowstorm that blew through the mid-Atlantic region the previous day. This location is on the former Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac main 35 miles north of Richmond, VA. The RF&P was a bridge line that connected Washington DC to Richmond, about 112 miles in length. In 1991, after nearly 160 years of continuous service, the RF&P was purchased outright by CSX Transportation.

About the NRHS News

The *NRHS News* is published nine times a year by the National Railway Historical Society. A full-color issue is published each even-numbered month and is available as a pdf file on the NRHS web site. The three remaining issues are printed black-and-white and mailed to members in March, July and either September or November.

Valli Hoski, Harrisburg Chapter NRHS, Editor. Alex Mayes, Potomac Chapter NRHS, Content Assistant. Elizabeth Guenzler, Central Coast Chapter NRHS, Editorial Assistant. Eileen Weber, St. Louis Chapter NRHS, Editorial Assistant. Email submissions to News@nrhs.com or mail to NRHS News, c/o Valli Hoski, P.O. Box 234, York Springs, PA, 17372.

The address for the Society is: National Railway Historical Society, Inc., 505 South Lenola Road, Suite 226, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Membership information changes should be sent to Patti Webb at Membership@nrhs.com. Membership dues should be mailed to NRHS - Membership, PO Box 31074, St. Louis, MO 63131-0074.