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A bi-monthly electronic official newsletter of the PRRT&HS published for the purpose of disseminating information on current issues and events pertaining to the Society's and Chapter's operations and administration as well as other information of interest about the PRR.

Editor – Pauletta Ader

Please send comments and corrections to the Editor at: pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

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NEW EDITOR

I would like to introduce myself, I am Pauletta Ader, wife of Director and Accessions Manager Rich Ader. It was brought to my attention the society was in need of an E-news editor, so I volunteered to fill Ed Swain's shoes, now that I have retired from my full time job. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the E-news please feel free to contact me. I would like to send out bi-monthly editions. With that said, I will need help from our membership for the material for each edition. Please feel free to contact me with information that maybe pertinent for the E-news. I thank you for your help and patience with this endeavor.

MEMBERSHIP

As of January 9, 2016, the PRRT&HS membership for 2016 is as follows:

Regular	360
Sustaining	67
Contributing	12
International	1
Keystone	33
Total	473

Non-renewals 2,390 Renewal Rate $463/2,853=16.2\%$
Keystone mailings include 12 gratis copies (museums, libraries, etc.)

The number of new members for 2015 is 10

Submitted by Andy Hart

STATION AND ARCHIVES

Station:

2015 closes with the final phase of the fire suppression system, the interior sprinkler System, waiting to be approved by the BoD. The language of the contract for construction, and minor changes concerning the sprinkler heads and ceiling space in the archive storage rooms, caused a delay in the completion of the job. The construction should take about 14 days, and should be completed by the end of January 2016, pending BoD approval.

2015 has also been a record year for accessions. We have received 54 donations to the archives this year, beating the old record of 51. Among the donations have been the addition of a cast iron keystone whistle post, and 2 PRR TrucTrain metal signs. Both pristine.

The whistle post will be permanently mounted in the yard by the tool shed along with the other whistle post, crossing bucks and flagpole. NS has promised us the PL signals at Lewis interlocking when they will be replaced with new signals. We are also looking for a mile post and pedestal signal for the yard. (Hint, hint)

There were several major repairs made to the station by the Middle Division Chapter. A new Amtrak waiting room sign was designed and installed on the waiting area door, curbing on the platform was repaired where severely damaged, reducing liability, and the outside Scales were repaired and made operational.

Submitted by Richard Ader

Archives:

Nothing current in this issue.

MODELLING UPDATES

Any modelers out there who would like to share any modelling updates and ideas please contact me at pauletta.ader@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

The 48th Annual Meeting of the PRR T&HS, hosted by the New England Chapter, will be held May 19-21, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg (formerly known as the Radisson Penn-Harris) 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

The room rate is \$116/night plus taxes. To be eligible, reservations must be made before April 19.

The full schedule will be posted on the website in February; the brochure will be sent out in February as well via first class mail.

Though the schedule is not fully firm yet, here are some highlights.

Banquet speaker. We are excited to have Rush Loving, Jr., author of *The Men Who Loved Trains*, back. Rush's new book, due out in March, is called *The Well-Dressed Hobo: The Many Wondrous Adventures of a Man Who Loves Trains*. He'll provide a personal look at the dramatic and often contentious men who ran America's railroads over the last 80 years.

Presentations. Not all speakers have finalized their topics yet, but we do have presentations as follows:

- Sessions by former employees of the PRR, including (1) a panel Saturday afternoon where they will share anecdotes from their time on the PRR, (2) PRR Memories (George Heumrich), and (3) Canton Diesel Shop (Bill Volkmer).
- Sessions focusing on history, including Past, Present, and Future of Penn Station (George Chiasson Jr.), PRR Covered Hoppers (Jack Rudnicki), Development of the GG1: What it Can Teach Us (Hampton Wayt).
- Sessions oriented to PRR modelers, including Using Historical Data to Recreate the PRR Stifftown Branch (Ron Hoess), Modeling the N5-N5c Cabin Cars of the 1940's (Matthew Hurst), Sunnyside Yard (Doug Nelson), Modeling the PRR's Electrified Territory (Andy Rubbo), and of course, the Modeling Committee Forum.

Additional speakers on PRR history will be Dave Evans, Al Giannantoinio, Ken Kobus, and Ian Fischer; additional speakers on modeling will be John Greene and Bob Jans. Titles and descriptions will be available in the full schedule.

Special Event. Joe Acri has organized a Special Event at the Pennsylvania State Archives As part of the 2016 PRR T&HS Annual Meeting. Starting in November of 1986, and continuing today, a dedicated group of volunteers has assisted the staff at the Pennsylvania State Archives with the task of processing large collections of railroad related record groups. Many members of the PRRT&HS have assisted with this effort.

These record groups include the Pennsylvania Railroad mechanical department files, the Baldwin Locomotive Works mechanical department files and most recently the Standard Steel Car Co. mechanical department files. There are thousands of individual drawings and linen tracings that comprise each group and hundreds of man hour have been spent organizing these records so they are usable to researchers and modelers.

As part of the 2016 PRRT&HS convention, permission has been received to have a group of up to 15 Society members visit the Pennsylvania State Archives on Thursday. This will be a modeler's focused activity. Several Society members, who are volunteers that have worked on the above mentioned record groups, will discuss how they have used the collections to aid their modeling and research interests. Information will be provided that will help you understand what is available at the site and how to access it.

To avoid having to pay \$3.00 per hour for on street parking, members attending this activity will be shuttled from the hotel to the site, with the first shuttle leaving at 8:15. The day will end at 2:15 pm by return shuttle to the hotel. The schedule will be as follows:

- 9:00 to 10:00. Staff introductions including a special welcome from the Bureau Director Mr. David Carmichael. Overview of the railroad collections by Kurt Bell.
- 10:00 to 12:00. Volunteer presentations.
- 12:00 to 1:00. Lunch on your own. There are several places to eat nearby.
- 1:00 to 2:00. Volunteer presentations.
- 2:15. first return shuttle to hotel.

Presentation topics will include Baldwin diesels and the PRR. Myth busting, don't take fiction for fact. Microfilm records, there was much more than just the PRR mechanical drawings that were microfilmed. Tender topics. Why the BV588 document is important for your modeling project. Gold nuggets, interesting items we found throughout the years..

Layouts. Jerry Britton has lined up

- The Capital PenNscalers with their NTRAK setup in the Model Room;
- Four layouts for Friday evening;
- Eight layouts for Sunday.

Model Room and Vendor Room. Great stuff, as usual.

Submitted by Ralph Weischedel

FEATURE CHAPTER

A Brief Introduction to the New England Chapter

The New England Chapter primarily serves members in the six New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The current officers are

President	Ralph Weischedel
Vice President	Andrew Miller
Secretary	Tim Garner
Treasurer	Keith Thompson

Of the 107 members in 2016 renewing from 2015, many are from outside New England. One draw for those outside New England is *The East Wind*, a quarterly publication prepared by Tim Garner and available as a .pdf download to members. *The East Wind* covers a wide variety of topics including Chapter news and schedules, modeling stories, photos, memorabilia, PRR history, and more – all with a Pennsy flavor. Thanks

to the writing of George Chiasson, Jr., some special issues were published recently as well. The Chapter website is at <http://prrths-ne.org/>

We have four official meetings each year:

- March, which is typically an HO operating session at one of the New England model railroad clubs.
- June, which is frequently an excursion to one of the railroad museums or rail attractions in New England.
- September, which may be another HO operating session or rail-related excursion.
- December, which is lunch near the NMRA HUB Division's Fall Show in Marlborough, MA.

The Chapter sponsors additional activities such as home layout visits and other events between meetings. One of the most popular is meeting informally at noon Saturday at the rear of the Stroh Building at the Railroad Hobby Show of the Amherst Railway Society in Springfield, MA. The meeting this year will be noon, January 30. It provides a good time to talk about acquisitions that day, news from manufacturers, and interesting models/exhibits to see.

Anyone living in or traveling through New England is invited to come to our meetings and check us out. Contact Tim Garner at t.a.garner@verizon.net for the latest meeting information.

In the past two years, we have been privileged to be able to make donations to the PRR T&HS Station & Archives Fund and to restoration of PRR equipment at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum.

Membership is open to everyone that appreciates the PRR. Annual dues are \$15 payable by January 1. Dues cover mailing and copying expenses of the club.

Submitted by Ralph Weischedel

SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK The Society has been on *Facebook* since June 2010, we post interesting tidbits there from time to time. Check it out: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pennsylvania-Railroad-Technical-Historical-Society/136126329733054>

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society is to bring together persons interested in the history and modeling of the Pennsylvania Railroad, its subsidiaries and its predecessor companies. Our goals are to promote the preservation and recording of all information regarding the organization, operation, facilities and equipment of the PRR.

The Society's quarterly illustrated journal, *The Keystone*, has been published continuously since 1968. Each issue of 84 or more pages contains illustrated original authoritative articles, about locomotives, cars, other equipment, facilities and operating practices of the PRR. The Society also publishes its own thoroughly researched books and other materials concerning Pennsy history. *The Keystone Modeler* is also a quarterly special 30-plus page online publication of the Society. These publications are for sale on our website.

The Society meets annually, usually during the first weekend in May, providing an opportunity for its members to get together and learn more about the PRR. Local chapters around the country also provide members and guests with regular meetings that feature PRR related programs, see listing below for chapter events. The 2016 Annual National Meeting will take place between May 19 and May 21 at Camp Hill hosted by the New England Chapter. We hope to see you there.

Information about our Society may be found on our website <http://www.prrths.com>. To join the Society you may use the e-Store http://www.prrths.com/estore/index_estore.html#membership or send \$40.00 to: PRRT&HS, PO Box 54, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-0054. All memberships are for a calendar year, renewals after February 15th are \$45.00. The additional late dues fee pays to ship any Keystones that missed the normal mailing.

Drawings from Microfilm

Copies of PRR equipment drawings are available from the Society's microfilm collection. To order drawings, you must know the drawing number and title. Ordering information and lists of arrangement drawings are available on the Society's website, www.prrths.com, under National Society, The Interchange. If you require a printed copy of this information, please send your address and a check for \$2.00 made out to PRRT&HS to: Richard C. Price, 779 Irvin Hill Road, McVeytown, PA 17051.

**JOIN THE SOCIETY, MAKE DONATIONS, BUY BOOKS
AND PAST ISSUES OF *THE KEYSTONE*
AT OUR e-STORE
Visit us and shop at
http://www.prrths.com/estore/index_estore.html**

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Support your local chapter - become a member.

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Contact: Sec/Treas. Phil Anderson 480-756-4359 ma393@aol.com

LINES WEST – BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER

Contact: Al Doddroe at: adoddroe@earthlink.net

CHICAGO TERMINAL CHAPTER

Contact: President Marv Caldwell at: ld_mlc43@comcast.net

GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA

Contact Jim Winslow at: G5s472@aol.com

MIDDLE DIVISION

Contact Rich Ader at: richie0745@yahoo.com

NEW ENGLAND

Contact, Tim Garner at: t.a.garner@verizon.net or write to New England Chapter PRRT&HS, c/o Tim Garner, Secretary, PO Box 624, Marlborough, MA 01752-0624

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER EVENTS

Saturday, January 30, 2016 – Informal Chapter Meeting
Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show – West Springfield, Mass.

The annual two-day event at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) is the biggest train show in the northeastern US. It has become a tradition for Chapter members to meet briefly at noon on day one by one of the roll-up doors in the Stroh Building to say hello, swap stories, and compare purchases so far. You can buy admission in advance to save lines. Visit www.railroadhobbyshow.com for details on the show.

Saturday, March 19, 2013 – Spring Chapter Meeting
South Shore Model Railway Club – Hingham, Massachusetts

Hosted by club member and New England Chapter President Ralph Weischedel, this operating session will give us a chance to run a variety of PRR equipment on the club's sizeable HO layout. We'll arrive at the club beginning at 11:00 a.m. to set up equipment and order salads and pizza to be brought in for lunch. We will have our business meeting at noon, then return to the layout for the operating session for the rest of the afternoon. Layout can run DCC only. Members running DCC equipment should de-consist their locomotives before running them on the layout. The club uses a Digitrax system. If you have Digitrax controllers, please bring them. The club is located in Building 51 of Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill Street, Hingham. Please notify Tim Garner by email at t.a.garner@verizon.net by Tuesday March 15 if you plan to come. For directions to the club, www.ssmrc.org.

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

Contact President Jerry Britton at: jerry@pennsyr.com
Chapter web site: <http://ncchapter.pennsyr.com>

PENN-TEXAS CHAPTER

Contact Secretary Walt Van Arsdale at: varsdale@verizon.net

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Contact: President Steve Staffieri at: interceptor92@verizon.net
Philadelphia Chapter website is: <http://www.philaprrths.com>

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Contact: Newsletter Editor Don Coulter 412-372-4221 donald.coulter3@verizon.net

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Contact: Paul Schulz at: paulschulz@verizon.net

[PLEASE CONTACT CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEETING DATES AND TIMES](#)

WEBSITE www.prrths.com



SOCIETY SERVICES

See our website http://www.prrths.com/newpr_r_files/newPRRSocietyServices.htm

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