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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Not for sale.

If you have a submission for the September E-news PLEASE forward it to me by August 15th. Thank you. Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

IN THIS ISSUE

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➢ STATION
➢ MODELING UPDATES
MEMBERSHIP
As of June 12, 2017, the PRRT&HS membership for 2017 is as follows:

Regular 1,995  
Sustaining 321  
Contributing 80  
International 27  
Keystone 142  

Total 2,565  

Non-renewals 341  
Renewal Rate 2,447/2,788=87.8%  
Keystone mailings include 12 gratis copies (museums, libraries, etc.)

The number of new members for 2017 is 118.

Submitted by Andy Hart

ARCHIVES

HELP WANTED: Producing PRR Valuation Map DVDs

For those of you who attended the 2017 Annual Meeting, you were able to purchase the first volume of the PRR Val Map DVDs that we plan to produce. Volume 1 is a two-disk set of the Pittsburgh Division circa 1939-1948. The combined content of over 8 Gigabytes of files included over 550 1949 Val Maps covering 531.82 miles of “First Track”, 1945 track charts for the entire division, historic topographic maps, and an excerpt from the 1945 CT1000. Member prices are $25 for the two-disk set. We are working to determine the shipping costs for mail order and online sales. The non-member price is $50 plus shipping.

At the meeting there was considerable interest expressed in producing DVDs for other divisions, and this is where we need some volunteer help. The vast majority of 1949 Val Maps in our collection have been scanned by Stephen Titchenal and several other devoted PRRT&HS archive volunteers. We have also searched through the Archive collection and found many track charts and interlocking diagrams for the PRR that we also plan to scan, but that collection is incomplete. We will likely broadcast a request to borrow private track charts and interlocking diagrams that we can scan to fill the gap for some of the division DVDs.
The effort to “publish” the entire PRR Val Maps on DVD will be extensive – in 1940 the PRR owned and operated 9,793.37 miles of “First Track” (with another 13,850 miles of second, third and fourth tracks and sidings and yard tracks!), so the Pittsburgh division DVD only published 5.4% of the railroad – we have a lot more to do (and there is another 1500 miles or so of first track for PRR associated lines, such as LIRR and PRSL, that we may publish if we have the maps). More later on how we are grouping the Val Maps, but our estimate is that 25 volumes will need to be produced just to cover the PRR (one volume per division in all but two cases), and that at least 13 of those volumes will be two-disk sets because they contain so many Val Maps. Bottom line, two disks down and at least 36 more to go!

So, we need your help, in two areas:

- Our biggest upcoming challenge is to find volunteers to be the “expert” for each division. The Pittsburgh division DVD effort illustrated the challenges in clarifying and organizing the content of each DVD set. As the PRR reorganized, divisions were consolidated (e.g. Cresson Division became part of the Pittsburgh Division), and tracks were re-configured (e.g. the Cresson Branch was changed considerably in the 1930’s, long after the Valuation Map section organization had been established.) The Pittsburgh Division DVD’s PDF files of the Val Maps and Track Charts required a fair amount of explanation using the bookmark features in PDF to help people understand “what happened” between the 1918 configuration of the Cresson Division “Main Line” (still reflected in the 1949 Val Maps), and the 1940-1948 configuration of the Pittsburgh Division’s “Cresson Branch” as documented in the 1945 track charts and CT1000.

- We would like to create a guide that documents the reassignment of various PRR main lines and branches over the years as the PRR re-organized its operational divisions. For that, we need to locate more copies of the PRR’s “Record of Transportation Lines.” We used the 1940 version to organize the Pittsburgh Division DVD (it is available on the Internet and we included it on the Pittsburgh Division DVD.) Several individuals have attempted to bring clarity to the shifts in assignments over the years – Jerry Britton has an explanation of many of the shifts on his Keystone Crossings Web site – but Jerry acknowledges that it got very confusing in the post-1951 era. Some of the dates for the consolidations in the 1920’s and 1930’s are not well documented either. Roger Keyser made a similar attempt years ago, but that analysis has gaps too, and it doesn’t get into the reassignment of branches over time. Ideally, we would like to determine the history of organization for every branch – which divisions it was assigned to over the life of the PRR. In order to “clear the air” we believe finding the PRR’s Record of Transportation Lines (RTL) from other years would enable us to create a timeline of reorganizations that we can include on the Val Map DVDs.

So how can you help?

If you consider yourself an expert on a specific division of the PRR, to include its branches, then you could become our division expert to help us document and organize all of the content we want to include on that division’s DVD. Your scope of work would not be that extensive, but it
will likely take around 50 hours of work, perhaps more if the division was reorganized multiple times prior to 1940. Others on the Val Map team will do the document scanning and electronic file cleanup, and then the actual production of the DVDs (we already have processes in place for those steps.) Familiarity with Adobe Acrobat’s bookmark features will help, although we can probably work with someone not familiar with Acrobat to do the actual book mark creation. Across the PRR, we are looking at approximately 1500 hours of “expert” help, and the archive team simply does not have access to that many volunteer hours, nor, for many divisions, the required expertise.

Secondly, if you know someone with a copy of the PRR’s Record of Transportation Lines, it would be a big help if they would allow us to scan it and then include that scan with the DVD (let us know the year, and we will determine if it fills a gap – we already have access to three different years – RTL’s were issued as of December 31st.) This will allow us to create a document that will greatly assist people in understanding how the PRR re-organized over time, and when sections of track were abandoned (also noted on the Val Maps for abandonments through 1949.)

Your reward in this effort is the additional knowledge you will gain about the division you are interested in, your own copy (serial number 001) of the production DVD’s, and the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped future historians and modelers better understand the scope of the PRR’s physical plant and how it served the nation.

Future Val Map Work:

In addition to publishing the 1949 Val Maps, the society has joined in the effort to scan a set of Conrail Val Maps from circa 1980 (we think). They are from a set of aperture cards, so they are not of the same quality as the 1949 Val Map set, but we also plan to make those Val Maps available in the future (scanning is underway, but far from complete). Because so much of the PRR had been changed, or been abandoned, by that era, they may not be useful to as many people, so currently we are not quite sure how they will be distributed.

Buying the DVD’s:

The Board of Directors has decided to set a modest member price to encourage more members to buy the disks and gain exposure to more of the PRR. Recognizing that it is very likely that additional information may be uncovered at the archives, or donated to the archives after DVD’s are mastered, we have decided to register all DVD buyers so in the future they can purchase “errata” DVDs that will have the more recent information on them. Only previously registered DVD purchasers and active PRRT&HS members will be able to buy the errata DVD’s. Bottom line is that we want to provide an added value to PRRT&HS members to encourage them to join and remain in the society.

More Details:
To date, our biggest challenge in this effort, beyond the time to scan all of the maps (not quite finished at this point) has been determining how complete our set of 1949 Val Maps is. Early analysis is cause for optimism – we certainly have well over 90% of PRR owned and operated track, and more likely over 95%. The challenge is that the Val Maps are organized by state and owning company as of 1918 or so – which is before the PRR’s massive re-organization into one company in the early 1920’s. So confirming that all lines and branches are included in the maps we have is not trivial. Understanding what was moved where, and when, during the 1920’s through 1960’s is a significant effort.

Lacking hard information on these re-organizations, we decided that we would organize the DVD’s by the division structure that was used from the late 1930’s through early 1949, for three reasons:

- It is the period where we have the most data
- It was the maximum extent of the PRR – abandonments during that era were limited to small branches (mostly mines)
- It looks to be the longest period of organizational stability for the PRR.

That helps us organize the DVD’s, but it doesn’t provide as much help to people interested in other eras. For example, in the 1940’s the Monongahela Division was a full division that included the Southwest branch, which connected the Pittsburgh Division Mainline to several locations on the Monongahela Division. With 250 miles of “first” track, that represents a nearly full DVD of content, and as a result neither the division nor the branch is included in our Pittsburgh division DVD set – we will issue a separate DVD for that Division of the PRR (which became a part of the Pittsburgh division post 1948.)

Background (updated from the previous e-News):

Valuation maps were required by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the 1916 time-frame to accurately record all of each railroad’s “infrastructure.” The ICC would then estimate the value of that infrastructure, and use it as part of the basis for setting freight rates. The society has an incomplete set of original “linens” from around 1919, a nearly (over 95%) complete set of 1949 Blueline prints, and the board of directors recently agreed to contribute financially to the scanning of what may be a complete set of late 1970’s Val maps obtained from Conrail on aperture cards.

Each Val map covers one mile of Right-of-Way – for the PRR, that results in nearly 15,000 Val maps for the entire RR. For each year, PRR Val maps show the current RoW – they do not track revision history, so the 1970’s set does not document the track and structures previously removed, and the 1970’s set is not of the same quality as the prints and linens in the society's archives. So different members will need to use different maps, depending on their era of interest.

One challenge of viewing Valuation maps is the very large computer file sizes. Over one “Giga-byte” of files for one division’s main line, and that is just for one format of the data. In the near-term the most labor effective method to distribute the maps is to publish them on DVD’s – with
both PDF and jpeg file formats. In addition, the Val maps are indexed as civil engineering documents, and will benefit from other documents to help understand each map’s location and context, and we plan to include such documents on the DVDs. Given that we are relying on volunteer effort to distribute the maps, we believe that selling DVDs requires the fewest volunteer hours to get the maps out to the members.

During the February Board of Directors meeting, the directors agreed to start the process of making these digital Val map scans widely available. As a trial, the board agreed to sell DVD's, each containing the Val maps for one of the PRR's division's based on the late 40's system organization. The first Val map DVD is to be of the Pittsburgh division using the 1949 set of maps. Hopefully the team can include the Pittsburgh division branches, although that will require a second DVD. The board agreed to sell the DVD's priced so that as many members as possible can afford them, within the constraint of not losing money, but also not priced to make money either. Initial pricing will be $15 for a single DVD, and $25 for a double DVD set that includes the mainline and branches for the larger divisions (like Pittsburgh.) The first DVD was available for purchase at the annual meeting (a 2 DVD set.) More divisions will follow - how often will depend on the number of volunteers who help with Val map project.

Below are two examples of small portions of the Pittsburgh Division Val maps. The first is GY interlocking, between Altoona and Horse Shoe Curve. The second is the 28th street engine terminal in Pittsburgh, just railroad east of the Pittsburgh passenger station.

GY interlocking - 1949

Pittsburgh terminal 28th street engine facility:
Both images displayed here are at one half of the resolution of the maps included on the Pittsburgh Division DVD's.

Additional information and discussion on the Val map project can be found on the yahoo PRR-FAX discussion group. If you purchased the Pittsburgh Division DVD, please let us know what you think of it.
Dave Evans

ALL PRRT&HS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO COME VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES IF PRESENT DURING AN ARCHIVE SESSION. CONTACT CHARLIE HORAN charliehoran@verizon.net.

STATION

Gary Hoy and Dave Evans continue the installation of the Comcast network and phone system. New floor mount power outlets are being installed in the Middle Division room to accommodate volunteers working at their various work stations. This eliminates multiple extension cords and greatly reduces tripping hazards. Cables will also be run from the main panel to the Amtrak room and Tower for future use, i.e. security cameras and a feed live rail watching.

Also, work continues on the installation of shelving and electricity to the portable storage units. Written and submitted by Richard Ader

UPDATE ON STORAGE CONTAINERS:
The photo shows new fiber aluminum roof paint. Fiber aluminum sealed holes and cracks and was performed by Kish Valley Roofing.
PHOTO SUMMITTED BY PAULETTA ADER

MODELING UPDATES

If you are a modeler and you would like to share your layout etc. with your fellow PRRT&HS members in the E-News please contact Pauletta.adler@yahoo.com.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

PRRT&HS 2017 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Washington DC Chapter would like to thank everyone who made the 2017 Annual Meeting a success. In addition to chapter members, other members volunteered to help out with registration and the model room, and a large number of PRRT&HS members, and even a few non-members, provided presentations. The chapter is especially appreciative of the members from the DC chapter of the NRHS and the RF&P historical society for adding some DC-specific content to the presentation schedule.

Rick Musser, VP and assistant Chief Mechanical Officer of the Strasburg Railroad closed out the meeting with a very enlightening after dinner presentation on the challenges of operating and maintaining steam locomotives, and especially the recruitment and retention of the craftsman necessary to repair, restore, and even build steam locomotives. Kudos to the Strasburg Railroad for maintaining so many unique and important skills from the steam era. Don Fisher of the LIRR G5s #39 restoration effort provided support by showcasing how challenging steam locomotive restorations can be. From comments, it sounds like moving everyone to the Keystone room, and away from the adjacent Ballroom’s wedding reception (can they play their music any louder?), allowed everyone to clearly hear Rick’s presentation without any background noise.

With Thursday’s leadup train ride on the Shamokin branch, and even though we were at Camp Hill for the second year in a row (and 3 out of 4 years), we had 347 members register, with an additional 93 guests, and picked up 6 new members. Many attendees took advantage of the Harris Tower open house, the Safe Harbor Dam tour, and the local layout tours, which is fortunate since it may be five years before we return to the Harrisburg area for another annual meeting. A display in Keystone A of current NS traffic on the PRR lines in the Harrisburg area based on the ATCS effort generated a lot of interest (our thanks to Brad Bender for the setup!) — stay tuned for more news on that capability.

Twenty-two individuals prepared 24 different presentations, and by using three presentation rooms nearly all were presented twice between Thursday evening’s kickoff on the Shamokin Branch, and the modeling committee meeting late Saturday afternoon. Only a few presentations were standing room only, so the revised room layout at the Radisson appears to have worked better than the previous layout. Most of the events came off without a hitch, although the Beer and Pretzels for The Keystone Modeler’s 100th issue celebration lacked pretzels until it was almost over. Speaking of the TKM, we displayed all 100 covers of the TKM at the celebration, which garnered a lot of interest and fond recollections. It served to remind everyone that the TKM has published 3796 pages of ad-free PRR modeling content, far beyond the efforts of any other railroad historical society! Well done to all who have contributed!

Many individuals have provided TKM content over that 14-year period, and Jim Hunter reminded everyone at the celebration that more articles are sought, and that you do not need to be a world-class writer to submit an article, nor a world-class graphic design specialist. Jim and Tim Garner, respectively, will impressively and consistently deliver those skills for you — you just need to provide the modeling content.
Speaking of the TKM, expect to see models from this year’s model room in an upcoming issue. Well over 100 models were displayed – some members brought complete trains! Nearly all scales were represented (except Z and TT), with impressive models from N scale up to the extensive Gage 1 display (1:32), which included quite a few live steam locomotives.

Gus Foster won the Best in Show award for his model of Duncannon Station, and the modeling committee awarded the Bob Yagodich award to Rick Glas for his reefer models. If you missed them, keep an eye out for them in TKM.

We hope to see even more models at next year’s meeting. And with more space this year, the Harrisburg N-track group was able to display and operate a bigger layout than in the past. With a revised room arrangement for the annual meeting, we were able to support a few more tables and vendors than in the past, but we did not pick up as many new vendors as we had hoped. If you know of vendors who have not been able to get in for previous annual meetings, let them know that even more space may be available next year in Altoona.

During the Banquet, President Steve Staffieri awarded the Atlantic Shield award to Al Giannantonio for his many contributions to the society over the years, most recently his massive effort to pull off Thursday’s train ride on the Shamokin branch, which attracted well over 400 riders, including over 200 PRRT&HS members. Well done Al.

As the vice-chair of the 2017 annual meeting planning committee, and the program chair, I want to personally thank all who contributed to the meeting. One of our non-PRRTHS presenters was very impressed by the number of members attending our meeting, and by the number and scope of the presentations – much more significant than other railroad historical societies. This is only possible because over 10% of our members attend and support the annual meetings. These annual meetings would not be possible without so many volunteering to contribute their time and talents. Thank-you to all.

See you in Altoona in 2018!
Dave Evans
PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Al Giannantonio was awarded the Atlantic Shield Award for his outstanding contribution and labor to the archive project at the Lewistown Station.

Live demonstration of a live model Steam Engine.
Model room Photos

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETING LOCATIONS:

2018—2018 – Altoona - 50th Anniversary!

2019 – Strasburg/Lancaster

2020 – Penn State

2021 – Open, looking for volunteers to manage
RAILROAD HERITAGE DAYS:

PRRT&HS will be an active participant at the Railroad Museum of Pa. Railroad Heritage Days, September 9th and 10th. Once all the activities have been finalized, updated information for this event will be placed on the Society web site.

Submitted by Joe Acri

FEATURE CHAPTER

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE YOUR CHAPTER IN A FUTURE EDITION PLEASE CONTACT pauletta.ader@yahoo.com editor of the E-news

NAME THE LOCATION GAME:
This is a game for the E-News with the locations all being PRR. Rules of the game, there will be a picture posted in each issue of “somewhere on the PRR system”. Please email me with your answer/guess. (pauletta.ader@yahoo.com)

Name the Location Game:  
 Where is this located? (2 Photos)
May results:

Harrisburg, PA

If you would like to submit a picture for this game, email me with the picture and location. Individuals submitting photos cannot participate in that issue. Please send digital pictures or photos of pictures.

PRRT&HS PUBLIC RELATIONS

One way for members to help increase the Society’s visibility and promote membership in the PRRT&HS is to host the portable display in their area. For those unfamiliar with it, the portable display contains sample issues of The Keystone, The Keystone Modeler and The Keystone e-NEWS, as well as membership brochures, membership applications, information on the Lewistown Archives and a list of PRRT&HS publications available for purchase on our website. Book samples are available to those hosts willing to display them. While train shows are an obvious venue consideration should be given to events sponsored by local historical societies and railroad museums; especially those in areas that had a strong PRR presence.
The Pittsburgh Chapter hosted the portable display at the RPM-EAST Meet held on March 24 & 25 in Greensburg, PA. The display gave the 206 attendees an opportunity to browse all the current PRRT&HS publications and learn the benefits of membership. Many existing members stopped by to converse and our presence reminded some to get their 2017 renewals completed.

The portable display gives the PRRT&HS exposure to those unaware of our existence and the potential to attract new members; please consider hosting it. An increase in membership is beneficial to us all. Table cost and shipping charges are covered by the PRRT&HS.

Another way for members to help promote the Society is to ask permission and place copies of the PRRT&HS Membership Brochure in hobby shops, museums, local historical society’s, etc.

To arrange for use of the portable display or to request copies of the Membership Brochure contact Frank Napoleon at frank.napoleon@verizon.net.

ERIE & PITTSBURGH BRANCH BOOK - SOLD OUT

The Erie & Pittsburgh Branch book is SOLD OUT. If you missed the boat and still want a copy, please call 610-683-7341, extension 1005 to be placed on a list of those interested in a (possible Second Edition reprint). Also, check the E-store located on the PRRT&HS website for other available Society publications.

Submitted by Frank Napoleon

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.

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.

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**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.

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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

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**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 1872 Lakeview Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464

LONG ISLAND
P.O. Box 1620, Ronkonkoma, NY 11766

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.
We’ll start with our business meeting and lunch at Chip Faulter’s home in Phippsburg, ME at 10:00am, then head over to the WW&F Railway Museum in Alna, ME for a steam train ride and brief shop tour. Alna is north of Portland, ME. If you plan to attend, please let us know by July 7. Visit the wwfry.org for more information about the museum.

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER
Contact President Jerry Britton at: jerry@pennsyrr.com
Chapter web site: http://ncchapter.pennsyrr.com
Next meeting: Sunday, September 10, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Contact President Jim Trunzo at: jetrunzo@gmail.com
The Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society Has Formed a Pacific Northwest Chapter.

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.prrhs.com

SOCIETY SERVICES
See our website http://www.prrhs.com/newprr_files/newPRRSocietyServices.html

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Please respond to paulettA.ader@yahoo.com