

Number 190

September 2017

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 October 15th.
Thank you. Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

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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 we plan to produce – the Pittsburgh Division. Refer to the July issue of the e-news for the full Val Map story. One update is that the 1980 set of Conrail Val Maps have been scanned, and an effort is underway to catalog those maps. Unfortunately, there were some corporate reorganizations towards the end of PRR and Penn Central that resulted in renaming of some valuation sections, so there is not a 100% match of map names between the 1949 and the Conrail era Val Map sets. That will take some work to “harmonize.”

As for the DVD effort, while we had some positive feedback at the annual meeting, we have not had any feedback since then. We would love to hear from those who bought the Pittsburgh Division DVD set. Join us on the Yahoo! PRR-FAX group so that we can share the content people find to be the most valuable and so that the lessons learned from this first effort can be applied to future Val Map DVDs.

Mastering the first DVD set illustrated the need for volunteers to assist their historical societies. Your annual dues do not even cover the full cost of four issues of *The Keystone*. All other society activities are covered by additional monetary donations from a modest portion of our

members. That means we can't afford to pay people to do any significant archive work. There is a core group of volunteers that log between 100 and 1000 hours per year working on archive projects, and beyond that the Archive volunteer pool is very limited.

So, if our members want to see more Val Map DVDs produced, we will need some volunteer help. In the July issue of the *e-NEWS* we put out a call for more "Record of Transportation Lines", and that was successful in that people identified several more editions of this important document that can assist the Val Map effort.

But we also need some volunteers to assist in organizing the Val maps for each division. That effort is beyond the time available from one volunteer. We have a system in place that will take care of many of the steps required to produce the DVDs, but we really need individuals' expertise in each division to help us organize the maps for each division so each Division's DVDs will be complete. The good news is that volunteering for this effort does not require travel to the Archives in Lewistown. Generating the DVD masters is an "electronic" process. High-speed Internet access will make the process more efficient, but we can also get the work done by mailing DVD's around.

If you are an expert on a division, and would like to help, let us know on PRR-FAX, or e-mail Dave Evans at devanspr@gmail.com.

Submitted by Dave Evans

STORAGE UNIT SHELVING

Many of the Lewistown volunteer session discussions in the last 18 months or so involved obtaining four steel shipping containers and placing them on the parking lot behind the Lewistown Station building. The containers provide overflow storage for donations to the Society and it was planned to obtain shelving for one of the containers so that Rich Ader had a place to hold donated materials until they could be processed and a final archive location determined. I was part of some of those conversations and remembered that shelving was needed. Shortly after one of the volunteer sessions, an Ace Hardware store in my area of Thorndale, PA began the process of going out of business because the owner was retiring. All of the store stock and fixtures would be sold at cut-rate prices. The store is literally $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of where the Thorndale Coaling Wharf stood.

After talking to the store owner and discussing the availability of the shelving, I called Steve Staffieri and alerted him to the possibility of obtaining some of it and discussed how much we would need. It was decided to buy 16 four-foot long wall-mounted sections so that we could install 8 sections (32') on each side of the 40-foot long container. Each section came with a base shelf and 3 additional adjustable shelves that can be mounted at any height. The commercial grade Lozier shelving will hold 500 pounds per each 22" by 48" shelf. The asking price was \$60 per four-foot section, but because we were buying so much of it, we were only charged \$50 per

section. And all the sections came with floor to ceiling, white pegboard backing and fluorescent lighting!

My neighbor and close friend, John Walker, shown in the picture of us, assisted in the shelving disassembly, loading into a rental truck, transport to Lewistown, unloading to the container, and installation during the last four work sessions. We now have all of the support standards bolted to the walls of the container, the lighting fixtures installed and the wiring for the lighting hooked up to the electric cable run to the container from the Station basement by Gary Hoy. John Walker has significant electrical experience and made all of the lighting connections inside the container. We had “beautiful” 90+ degree, humid weather to work in most of the time and grew to greatly appreciate the two fans we set up to help keep the container interior temperature below 100° (we think).

We are converting the lighting from the four-foot long T12 fluorescent bulbs to LED T8’s. When we threw the switch for the first time, three lighting ballasts were found to be bad. Replacements are in hand and will be installed during the September session. With the installation of all of the shelves at the same volunteer session, the project will be complete.

Al Giannantonio

Original shelving location



Photos submitted by Al Giannantonio

Shelving in storage unit in Lewistown



Photos submitted by Pauletta Ader

Sodus Point Road Trip

On Tuesday August 2, 2017, the dynamic duo took another road trip to Sodus Point, NY to visit our favorite Elmira Branch engineer Henry Zerbe. Every trip is a new adventure, and this one was no exception. Accompanying us that day was *e-NEWS* editor Pauletta Ader, who recorded this visit on film. We met up with Ron Stigler from the Philadelphia chapter and his friend Ralph Sheldon. Ron provided the entertainment for the better part of the day, by showing his “Elmira Branch” slide show. The slides covered the whole branch from Williamsport to Sodus Point. When Ralston came up, the conversation shifted to O.P. Orr and *Set Up Running*. Henry never met O.P., but has heard a lot about him. Henry had a tale to tell about all the locations in the

slide show but became teary eyed when pictures of a head on collision came up. He lost a couple of friends in that wreck. Henry and the slide show made again a wonderful day and experience on the PRR Elmira Branch.

Article submitted by Richard Ader



1st Photo: Rich, Henry and Charlie

2nd Photo: Ralph, Ron, Henry, Rich and Charlie

3rd Photo: Back row: Ralph, Ron and Rich. Front row: Henry and Charlie

Photos submitted by Pauletta Ader

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

charliehoran@verizon.net.

STATION

On September 20th, the Lewistown United Way volunteers and Mayor Deborah Bargo will be returning to the station to complete the painting project. Mayor Bargo secured a grant through Home Depot and Behr Paint for the “Paint Pennsylvania Beautiful” program. Paint chips were provided by the archives and both the window casing (red) and dark building paint (brown) were a PERFECT match. Thank you Carl Izzo and the paint committee.

All that remains to be completed is the door trim and bunk house.

Submitted by Rich Ader, Station and Archive committee chairman

MODELING UPDATES

HEY, you guys, I know there are many of you train enthusiast have layouts; so do some bragging and send me some pictures and a brief description.

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.ader@yahoo.com

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETING LOCATIONS:

2018 PRRT&HS 2018 50th ANNUAL MEETING NEWS!!!

May 9th - May 13th, 2018

This year it will be a four-day event, with an “optional” Train trip leaving from 30th street station Philadelphia to Altoona on Weds 9th and returning on Sun 13th. Including a trip around Horseshoe curve.

This trip will be restricted to 250 passengers and will be available thanks to the generosity of Bennett Levin and his equipment. More information will be available soon.

Our annual meeting location is the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona PA. Due to the size of local hotels We have “blocked” rooms at four locations. They are as follows in the order of distance to the convention center.

Use PRRT&HS for all special hotel pricing

(1) Courtyard Marriott Altoona (814) 312 1800 \$106.00 +tax

This hotel has a direct connection to the convention center

There are 70 rooms blocked until 4/09/18

(2) Holiday Inn Express (814) 693 1441 \$124.00 +tax

This hotel is less than a block away and is only one year old.

Complimentary buffet breakfast

There are 40 rooms blocked until 4/09/18

(3) Altoona Grand Hotel (814) 946 1631 \$80.00 +tax

This hotel is half a mile away and is the best bargain!

There are 50 rooms blocked until 4/09/18

(4) Hampton Inn (814) 941 3500 \$129.00 +tax

Less than one mile away has Cracker Barrel and sports bar on same lot as hotel

There are 30 rooms blocked until 4/11/18

There will be shuttle busses courtesy of the PRRT&HS running to all three outside hotel locations.

All hotels have handicapped rooms available.

We would advise making reservations ASAP; this annual meeting will be a record breaker!

Naturally, other rooms are available outside of our PRR T&HS “block” but the special price will not be offered.

More NEWS as it becomes available!!!

Submitted by Steve Staffieri President

2019--Strasburg/Lancaster

2020-- Penn State

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.

The RMPA has agreed to display the keystone number plate from K4s #1737 at our table. In conjunction with this display I will give some information about how K4s #3750 became #1737. I have uncovered some interesting information about this swap from material in the MG-286 files at the Pa. state archives. This information is the basis for an article I am preparing for *The Keystone*.

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?



July Results



Alliance, Ohio

Submitted by Bill Volkmer

PRRT&HS PUBLIC RELATIONS



PRRT&HS display at the 2017 St. Louis RPM Meet, Bob Flores photograph.

The PRRT&HS was one of thirteen historical societies participating in this year's St. Louis RPM Meet held on June 23 and 24 in Collinsville, IL. Bob Flores hosted the Society display and reported that there was quite an interest in next year's Annual Meeting celebrating the 50TH Anniversary of the PRRT&HS. He spoke with a manufacturer that has an interest in producing high-end laser cut models of Pennsylvania Railroad structures and during their conversation described the work being done by the modeling committee, the availability of drawings and other resources from the Lewistown Archives, and the results of Jerry Britton's annual poll highlighting the most requested PRR structures. Hopefully we will see some new structure kits in the future as a result of their conversation.

Following are the current committed dates for the display:

September 9 & 10, 2017; *Railroad Heritage Days at the RRMPA*, Strasburg, PA (Joe Acri)
October 7, 2017; *The Great Scale Model Train Show*, Timonium, MD (Jerry Britton)

If any member attending *Railroad Heritage Days* at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania would like to volunteer some time at the PRRT&HS display please contact Joe Acri at beartrain1018@verizon.net. Joe will be making presentations on both Saturday and Sunday and your help at the Society table, located near the John Bull locomotive, would be most welcome.

REMINDER: Members can help to increase the Society's visibility and promote membership in the PRRT&HS by hosting 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 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 all members of the Society. 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.

THE WILKINSBURG TRAIN STATION RESTORATION PROJECT

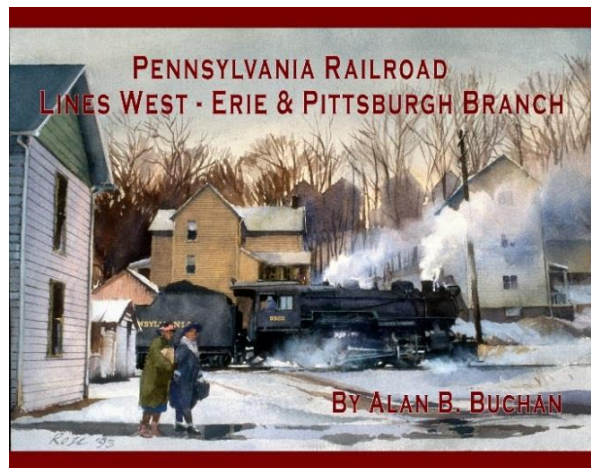




Visit the campaign website and video at <http://www.wilkstation.org>.

Updates on the restoration project can be found on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WilkinsburgTrainStation>.

ERIE & PITTSBURGH BRANCH BOOK



Due to insufficient interest, the *E & P Branch* book will **NOT** be reprinted.

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.

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 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

Next meeting: Saturday, September 16, 2017

Providence Northern Model Railroad Club – Warwick, Rhode Island

We are set for an operating session at this fine club. It will give us a chance to run a variety of PRR equipment on the club's sizeable HO layout. We'll meet at 11:00am at the Greenwood Inn (1350 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI) for lunch and our business meeting, then we'll arrive at the club around noon for an operating session on the club's layout for the rest of the afternoon. The layout runs on DCC with NCE controllers. Members running DCC equipment should de-consist their locomotives before running them on the layout. If you don't bring equipment, Tim Garner will provide PRR equipment for you to operate. Please let Tim Garner know if you intend to come at t.a.garner@verizon.net. For directions to the club, visit www.providencenorthern.com.

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.

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

Next meeting: Sunday, November 12, 2017

Contact President Jerry Britton at: jerry@pennsyrr.com

Chapter web site: <http://ncchapter.pennsyrr.com>

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

Next chapter meeting: October 21, 2017 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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