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May 2018

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 July E-news PLEASE forward it to me by June 15th. Thank you.
Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

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MEMBERSHIP

As of May 16, 2018, the PRRT&HS membership for 2018 is as follows:

Regular	1965
Sustaining	301
Contributing	79
International	29
Keystone	139
 Total	 2513

Non-renewals 345 Renewal Rate $2,379/2,722=87.4\%$
 Keystone mailings include 12 gratis copies (museums, libraries, etc.)

The number of new members for 2018 is 134.

Submitted by Andy Hart

Station and Archive

Rotary Club Presentation

On May 15th the Lewistown Rotary Club invited Director and Vice-President Rich Ader to give a presentation about the PRR and the Lewistown Station. Since it is our 50th anniversary year, Rich opened with a different approach, asking the 30 plus attendees, “How many of you heard of the Pennsylvania Railroad?” Surprisingly, fewer than half of the attendees raised their hand, which reinforced Rich’s thoughts that the older the PRR becomes, the fewer people know about it and what it was or even care. Once his presentation on the history of the PRR and the Lewistown connection was completed and an ensuing Q&A session, the attendees all seemed to have a greater sense of pride knowing “they” have a community treasure to be proud of.



Submitted by Pauletta Ader

Lewistown Station Open House

An open house was held at the Lewistown Station on May 13th for all interested members returning home from the annual meeting. Hosts Charlie Horan, Charlie Woodward, Ed Kline Ian Fischer and Rich Ader made sure all who attended enjoyed their tours. A big thank you to the archive crew for all they do.



Article submitted by Pauletta Ader
Photos 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.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Vendor Room Summary

There were 38 Vendors using 90 tables in the vendors room. There were also 8 Layouts open for display in the greater Altoona area.

The first 50 of 1000 TTX books sold out by Friday afternoon in the Vendors Room and will be available for purchase from the societies website soon.

"There was an announcement made by Bennett Levin, who is partnering with former Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman and the Altoona Railroaders Museum concerning the future restoration of PRR K4s 1361 to full operation with more details to be made available once an official announcement is disclosed."

Submitted by John Frantz, PRRT&HS Director

PRRT&HS Online Email List Changes

The PRRT&HS maintains several on-line email lists. Many of these lists have been located on the Yahoo Groups service. Unfortunately, a variety of circumstances have led to a lack of support for these lists and there is concern that they could cease to exist without notice. For this reason, the PRRT&HS has begun to move our lists to a different web service, groups.io, that supports on-line mailing lists. Note that some servers can see email from the groups.io server as SPAM, so be sure to check your SPAM folder and contact your network admins to get the group email removed from their "suspicious" list. The lists, and their current status is as follows:

PRRPRO – The PRR Projects groups works on PRR based modeling projects. Every six months, the group selects a new project and then works to complete models in any scale of that project. The group is a communal effort, as opposed to a "follow me" effort, where contributions, suggestions and questions from all members are encouraged. This group has successfully migrated to Groups.io and can be found at: <https://groups.io/g/PRRPro>
The group is currently working in F28, F29 and F33 heavy duty flat cars. The next project will be X23 boxcars and their derivatives, such as the NX23, X23 MOW cars and R7 reefer; that will start July 1st.

PRR-Modeling – This group was set up to specifically discuss PRR modeling questions.

PRR-FAX – This group was set up to specifically discuss PRR prototype questions. Both groups are currently in the process of being migrated to groups.io. Based on an overwhelming vote on both lists, these groups will be combined going forward. Each group will be migrated to a subgroup of the new list and will preserve all of its messages, files and photos in two independent archives. However, messages will be posted to a single main list. This group can be found at: <https://pr.groups.io/g/PRR>

If you are a member of either of the old Yahoo groups, you will automatically migrate to the new list when the move occurs, which should occur within the next 2 weeks so you do not need to do anything. If you are not a member of the old groups, you can join the new group now, although posting will not be allowed until the move occurs.

Neither the *e-NEWS* notification list, nor *The Keystone Modeler* notification list are affected by this move. Likewise, the PRRT&HS Discussion Web site is not affected. With respect to the

latter, after the untimely passing of Steve Agostini, the PRRT&HS has no access to moderate this list. While it remains active, people are encouraged to use the groups.io lists to ask relevant PRR questions as they are far more active.

Submitted by Bruce Smith, PRRT&HS Director

PRRT&HS Needs Some IT Volunteer Help

Dave Evans, PRRT&HS Director

My primary task on the board of directors is to lay out a plan to modernize the PRRT&HS from a technology standpoint – web site, digitization of the archives, and several other tasks. The “wish list” has become very daunting and requires much more volunteer hours than one or two people can afford. At this year’s annual meeting, we had a work session to solicit more help from the membership to assist in this effort. Ten members attended the late Friday evening session, and some very good ideas were proposed, and even a few potential software solutions were identified. Because of that effort, an “IT-Vol” subgroup of the PRR’s ADMIN user group at groups.io has been established, and those attending will be contacted soon to join that group. The group is specifically for members with Information Technology skills willing to volunteer time to help implement a number of capabilities the membership has been clamoring for over the past three years. If you have the time and skill to help, please e-mail Dave Evans at devanspr@gmail.com.

Most of the tasks are specifically to provide better services to our members, but we may initially focus the efforts on automating a few tasks that consume an excessive amount of the society’s volunteer hours, especially for administrative tasks. For example, the annual meeting registration process is the most time consuming and thankless task that the annual meeting committees must conduct – so we hope to have that process on-line by 2020 at the latest, and possibly 2019 if we find an easy to implement membership management system (which will do a lot more than handle annual meeting registrations.)

Below is the “Wish List” of IT projects the board is considering:

On-line Membership Database:

- On-line renewals, including possible automated renewals
- Annual Proxy’s (Voting on official society business electronically)
- Annual meeting registration
- Collection of member demographics to better aid future recruitment and retention
- Support for member discounts in e-store
- Support for free document downloads to members (a limited set of archive documents, annual meeting presentations, or at least web viewing to members only (or videos or presentations?))
- Possible member profiles on-line for those who wish to participate (The T1 Trust supports this)

Expanded e-store:

- Member discounts

- Valuation map DVD's/memory sticks
- *TKM* CD's
- *The Keystone* DVD's
- Photo CD's
- MP229's, other roster information
- Rare but commonly sought documents (e.g. passenger terminal ETT's?)

Expanded on-line content that promotes PRRT&HS and PRR History:

- Railfan web camera at Lewistown
- Youtube video subscriptions (models and layouts)
- *TKM* bonus content (videos, supporting documents for model construction)
- Reference materials available to the public (e.g. PRR Chronology)
- PRR Wikipedia?
- Support for chapter web sites and/or content
- Geospatial indexing of all material (Val maps, photos, events/articles)

Archives (note – digitization of the Archives will be a massive effort, and unless the society receives a massive donation of money, will take many years – this will be a multi-year project, and the immediate focus here is to develop the IT infrastructure necessary to support everything that the Archive team is currently doing. Actual digitization of our collection, which is massive, will be at the direction of the society's Archivist and his team, not the IT group. But we need to prepare.):

- Accessions management, capture of finding aid data
- On-line catalog of finding aides
- Digital asset management system (scanning/OCR with individual item cataloging)
- On-line catalog of materials in collection
- Remote access to Archive systems so volunteers can work remotely
- On-line sales of archive documents by reproduction or scanning at the archives
- On-line sales of already digitized archive content
- Video surveillance of the station/archives (to prevent vandalism/theft)

More timely member outreach:

- *e-NEWS* push to members (using member data base)
- Event reminder push to members (e.g. annual meeting registration forms due, etc.)
- Integration with other social media (Facebook, others)

Miscellaneous:

- Support for possible future e-delivery of *The Keystone*
- Hosting Internal PRRT&HS committee forums/folders/resources (for example, our move to groups.io)
- Video teleconferencing of committee and board meetings.

Administrative tasks:

- Server management
- Station network management
- Network, server and application security!

If you are not IT skilled or can't contribute to this effort, but there is a web based or IT based capability you would like to see the society deliver to our members, please contact me at devanspr@gmail.com.

Submitted by Dave Evans

Changes to PRRT&HS “PRR Valuation Map” Distribution Process Coming

For those of you who attended the 2017 Annual Meeting, you were able to purchase the first volume of the PRR “Val” Map DVDs – the Pittsburgh Division. Unfortunately, the level of volunteer effort required to produce a complete set of “feature rich” Val Map DVDs for the entire PRR is not available to the society, in part because the DVD production model was based on a small group of people dedicating a significant number of hours each - about 60-100 manhours per division, for a total of 1500-2000 manhours! That process might take five, or even ten years to produce the full set of about 28 different “feature rich” Val Map DVD's (one DVD or DVD set for each of the 28 divisions of the PRR in the 1940's.)

Because this was not meeting the board's objective of sharing these recent Val Map scans with the members in a timely manner, we conducted a Val Map session at this year's annual meeting to survey member preferences. Stephen Titchenal, who has led the effort to scan Val Maps for several Railroad Historical Societies, including the PRRT&HS, gave an introductory presentation on the information that is available on the valuation maps, which is extensive and fascinating.

At the end of Stephen's presentation, a brief presentation was provided to explain the current distribution challenge and propose alternative methods of Val Map distribution. These ranged from the current process, to on-line databases of Val Maps for individual download, to raw Val Map distribution to members on memory sticks, to a “crowd-source” concept to create the “feature rich” content on a dedicated internet user group/web site, much as the PRR Yahoo groups operated (see Bruce Smith's article on moving the PRR Yahoo groups to groups.io.)

The second half of the session was specifically to solicit member feedback on the various concepts. A considerable number of members volunteered to support such a “crowd sourced” effort, and while a few members lamented the lack of the sale of further “feature rich” Val Map DVD's, it was clear the crowd source path would get the Val Maps into the hands of many members much sooner. After the meeting, one of the members attending suggested an interesting compromise – as the crowd source effort creates the feature rich content on the group's web site, the would society “harvest” that content and produce DVD's for members who are not likely to participate in the crowd source effort, or do not have the time, or computer resources, to organize the crowd sourced effort into a form that is useful to them. This appears to be a reasonable compromise, since collecting the results of the crowd source effort, and burning it to a DVD, should not take that much volunteer effort.

Also discussed in the meeting was whether the Val Maps should be distributed on DVD (these are DVD's that require a computer to display - they are not compatible with video DVD players), or on memory sticks, since so many computers, and all tablets, now lack DVD players.

If you are interested in joining the crowd source effort to create interpretive and "feature rich" content for the PRR's Val Maps, e-mail Dave Evans at devanspr@gmail.com. We hope to have the group up and running by the end of June – most likely on groups.io.

Submitted by Dave Evans

Be on the lookout for pictures from the 50th Anniversary in future issues as they come to me.

MODELING UPDATES

HEY, you guys, I know there are many of you train enthusiast with 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:

2019--Strasburg/Lancaster

2020– Penn State

FEATURE CHAPTER

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

We currently have 34 members, 3 of whom are honorary.

Our officers are Ronnie Schnepf as president, Gerard Jewels as vice president, Greg Kruzeski as secretary and John Thompson as treasurer.

The Chapter is focused on the LIRR's unique place in PRR history, and actively engages in fundraising efforts for projects such as the restorations of G5 locomotives #35 and #39. We are a 501 c3 organization chartered by the New York State Education Department.

Our meetings are usually the first Sundays of February, May, August and November, and take place either at the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum or the Railroad Museum of Long Island. Meetings typically include a brief business meeting with news and updates on local projects, followed by a slideshow or other entertainment.

The next two meetings will be the weekend of July 28-29, which will be a special joint meeting with the New England chapter at both museums, and November 4th at RMLI's Riverhead location.



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: This month the game is name the person.

May:



Photo courtesy of the PRRT&HS archives

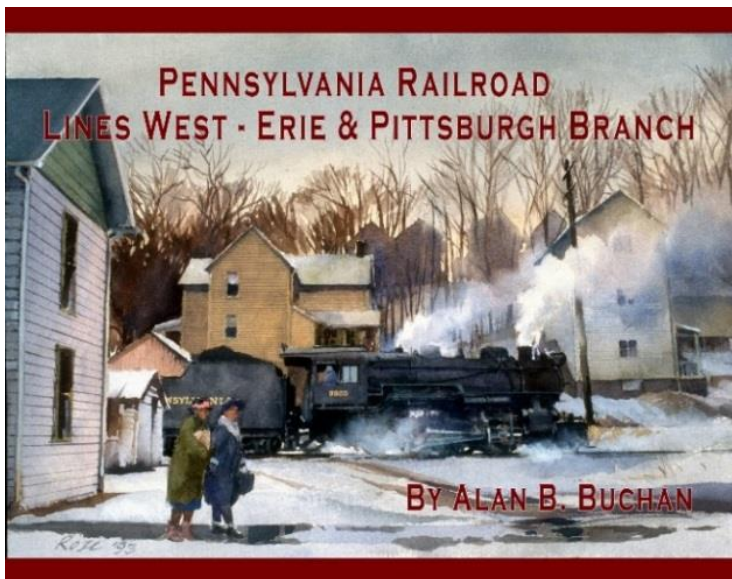
March Results:



This engine is an E44 engine.
Submitted by Pauletta Ader

**ERIE & PITTSBURGH BRANCH BOOK
SOFTBOUND REPRINT NOW AVAILABLE**

Less than 100 COPIES REMAINING!!!!



The original printing of Al Buchan's *Erie & Pittsburgh Branch* sold out very quickly. Due to numerous requests the PRRT&HS is offering a one-time softbound reprint of this book. Only two-hundred copies have been printed so act now; don't miss this opportunity!

PRRT&HS Member price is **\$60.00** each, plus shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$65.00** each, plus shipping and tax (where applicable).

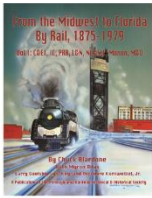
Attention: Address correction on the flyer in the Winter Keystone for the Erie & Pittsburgh Branch Book is:

PRRT&HS

7036 Snowdrift Rd

Allentown, PA 18106-9582

This book can be purchased over the phone by calling Kutztown Publishing at 610-683-7341; ask for Connie and please have your credit card ready. It can also be purchased online from the e-Store located on the PRRT&HS website at www.prrths.com. While there check out the other available Society publications.



From the Midwest to Florida by Rail 1875-1979, by Chuck Blardone
These two volumes, totaling over 1,000 pages, tell this complete story, from the first Jacksonville Pullman to Amtrak's *Floridian*. It covers all railroads, trains, and years. Each book contains hundreds of photos, ads, artwork, schedules, and consists. Many illustrations are in color. Most have not appeared in print previously. The covers are new Mitch Markovitz paintings. While each railroad is titled to be in one volume, there is substantial crossover material. Buy both for the complete history. \$75 each, plus shipping



Pennsylvania Railroad Advertising Art, 1859-1968, by Chuck Blardone
A volume of the best artwork that exemplified the image that the railroad presented to the public through the decades of its service to the nation. Posters, booklets, flyers, timetables, original art and ephemera, much relating to passenger service. 284 pages, all in color. All images restored to their original brilliance. \$50, plus shipping

Pennsylvania Railroad Business and Special Cars, by Chuck Blardone
A century of Tuscan red deluxe. The detailed history of every business car assigned to officers, plus pay and inspection cars, from the first wooden ones to the dawning of Penn Central. 148 pages, some in color. \$20, plus shipping.



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

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 are developing a plan to meet with the Long Island Chapter on Long Island the weekend of July 28-29 with the possibility of meeting both railroad museums on Long Island.

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

Contact President Jerry Britton at: jerry@pennsyrr.com

Chapter web site: <https://www.facebook.com/northerncentralchapterprrths/>

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>

February 10, 2018 – Next chapter meeting.

Drexel Hill Methodist Church

600 Burmont Road

Drexel Hill, PA

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.ht

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