



LAUREL LINES

Celebrating 50 Years!

1973 - 2023



Vol 51, Issue 5 - May, 2024

A PUBLICATION OF THE LACKAWANNA AND WYOMING VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC



The Laurel Line southbound on the Erie at Broad Street, in Pittston, about to cross over the now abandoned LWV tracks.

Photo taken By Edward S. Miller
Submitted by Ed Philbin

The Chapter Meeting will be held May 9th, 2024 in the Iron Skillet Restaurant at the Petro Truck Stop in Dupont, PA. Dinner is a-la cart at 6 PM (buffet not available). Meeting at 7 PM, program to follow.

This Month's Program:
Steve Barry will present *"My Journey in Night Photography"*

Mission Statement:

Through fellowship, community and educational outreach to affect rail preservation and appreciation of railroad history focusing on Northeastern Pennsylvania

President's Message:

April was National Volunteer Month and we honored our volunteers with a breakfast on April 6th. This chapter runs solely on volunteers from the Board of Directors and Officers, the Moscow Station "faithful crew", the Laurel Lines crew, the Web Master, and all the various committees that keep us on the right track with our various projects. Just read the minutes to see what all our activities are. A great big THANK YOU to all our volunteers! They make my job as president much easier.

The schedule dates from Steamtown NHS 2024 excursions have been announced. (See Moscow flyer elsewhere and mark your calendars to save the dates.) This means we will have an active spring cleaning up both the freight house and the passenger station as well as the grounds in preparation for the grand re-opening. In order to accomplish these tasks, volunteers will be needed. We have not had summer excursions since the 2019 season so we are all a little "rusty" about set-up but with many hands (and memories) we will be able to show off our new and improved Moscow Passenger Station. We can be proud of all the projects we have completed. I look forward to working with you.

See you at the station!

Vee Pauli, President

"STEAM STILL SUPREME"

From the *D&H Corporation Bulletin*, published by the RR - May 1936
Submitted by Bob Young

"To those moderns in the field of transportation who question the supremacy of the steam locomotive, we submit its performance in the flooded areas where it kept trains moving through water which had reached a depth of over four feet above the rails. Danger of water flowing into the coaches or wetting the lading of freight cars, or unsafe track conditions, rather than inability of locomotives to continue, prompted the decision abandon operations as the water continued to raise. No electric or Diesel-electric unit with traction motors mounted on the trucks could duplicate this performance.

"We cannot but admire the sturdiness and dependability displayed, not only by Delaware and Hudson. Locomotive 772 which with two coaches moved back and forth over the Susquehanna River bridges of the Wilkes-Barre Connecting Railroad for 24 hours during which it removed some 1500 people who had been marooned in their homes south of Wilkes-Barre, but also of "The 609" which took a consolidated train of 16 cars north to accommodate travelers otherwise unable to proceed because of washouts on the Rutland Railroad."

HUMOR ME

Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow internet to see who they really are. - Will Farrell

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The technical term for a warm, sunny day that follows two rainy days is "Monday"

Secretary Minutes of the April 11th, 2024 Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7pm Iron Skillet Restaurant, Dupont, PA

Chapter President Vee Pauli opened the meeting in due form and announced that a 50/50 Raffle will be conducted this evening to help defray the expense of sending our candidates to the NRHS 2024 RailCamp in Newark, DE this June, then requested those attending to recite the Pledge to the Flag.

Chapter members Aidan Matkosky and Alex Strausser have applied to attend. To date, the NRHS has not announced who will be accepted. There are 26 available spots for RailCamp East. The NRHS will also award some scholarship funding, the amount has not been determined to date.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as appearing in the April 2024 Laurel Lines. Motion made, 2nd and adopted without exception.

Treasurer Ed Zech was called upon to report the finances of the Chapter. Upon reading the list of expenses and income, a motion was made and 2nd to approve the report. Motion passes without exception.

Committee Reports

Moscow Station - Norm Barrett reports that a new grant from the NRHS to be used for projects is still pending. A small punch list of items to be completed remains at Moscow. The Freight House deck is on the list, but this is a major project that will take a few years to complete. When the restoration initial steps are taken, they will be published in LL.

Regarding trains destined from Steamtown, Vee states that they have yet to release train departure times nor pricing. Moscow is slated to receive a number of trains, actually more than the other partners. Our Chapter submitted a request for trains for Fall Foliage, which does not appear in the list.

Neither are Railfest 2024 trains listed. We come to understand the Railfest Committee is scheduled to meet soon. Standby for an update.

Station Director Roy Pauli reports that a very large tree fell on the property west of the FH. The Rail Authority has been notified. Volunteers were being dispatched to clean up the property for April 13, minus the fell tree. A 2nd work session is planned to work in the FH. The water is being turned back on.

The Grand Opening of the Station is scheduled for July 20th and there will be an excursion train from Steamtown!!! We can thank the Iron Horse Society for this train. The second train is planned for July 27 to coincide with the Moscow Country Fair - this is a Steamtown train. The Station will be open this day and we will participate in the Fair with a table under the gazebo, near the Station.

More Iron Horse Trains! August 4 is the Moscow Ice Cream Express and September 14 is the Moscow Cork & Rail Train! Details will be available in the near future. Remaining trains will be the Holiday Trains, 1 each day for November 29, 30 and December 1.

Roy is pleading for help to run the Station and maintain the grounds. For those members who live in the area, please step up and volunteer a few hours. Many hands make light work!

Calendar Committee Chairman Jim Kilcullen reports the selected pictures for the 2025 version have returned from the firm that enhances the photos. The Committee will then meet and add captions to those pictures. They are planning to release the proof to the printer in May. Carl Packer, who attends many Train Shows in the area and sells our calendars, reports that the vendors he deals with are very pleased with the calendar we produce and -

the earlier we can get it to them, the better the sales!
OK Calendar Committee ... get'r done!

Membership - Ken Kertesz reports that we wrapped up the renewals for 2024, and had 202 members renew and 19 new members apply. Sadly, 25 members from 2023 did not renew. 2 members passed away and 1 member withdrew citing an aging issue.

NRHS Advisory Council Representative VP Ed Fortuna addressed those in attendance to speak about our two Candidates for RailCamp and informed that the 50/50 Raffle will continue for the May and June meetings. We need to raise \$3175.00 in order to send both in June. We also may have two candidates for next year which we will provide more information in the coming months.

Ed is also attending the NRHS Regional Meeting in Iowa this year. The NRHS National Convention is in Harrisburg, PA this August 26 through the 31. Details on their website is still being developed, so keep checking: <https://NRHS.com>

Laurel Lines Editor Katie Bischak turned the March issue over to the printer and it was mailed on March 28. If you wish to have some information printed in LL, as a footnote, contact Katie within 1 week after the monthly meeting: kbischakphoto@gmail.com

Chapter Historian & Program Director Neil Weinberg announced previously that tonight's presenter is Chapter member Ed Koehler Jr, and he will provide a program on the NYO&W Rwy., the "Old Lady" that shut down operations on March 29, 1957 - 67 years ago. Ed provided a very nice handout on his program which showed a map of the former system, a roster of equipment and what caused its demise.

Neil reports that Steve Barry will make a presentation at the May 9 meeting on rail photography at night.

Chapter Website - Got info? Send it to Alex Strausser at: alexstrausser9@gmail.com

Steamtown currently only has 4 passenger coaches in service. Funding for 2 additional coaches needing repair was not approved by the NPS. If you are unhappy about this, Norm suggests writing your US Congressman and Senators and demand that the NPS make funding available to Steamtown. Our partnership with Steamtown has seen good times and bad - Steamtown is being run on a sparse budget. One can't help but wonder that the NPS does not care about the future of Steamtown. If you like Steamtown and want to see it thrive, get involved! Write and call. The squeaky wheel gets the grease! The Baldwin 26 is also down for repair. As a result, the Anthracite F units are being held in reserve, which also need some tender loving care.

Old Business

Excepts of the SNHS trains planned for the partners this year shows no Fall Foliage trains for us, and no trains for Railfest. Gouldsboro is receiving 2 trains and Tobyhanna is getting 1. Given that fact, we are receiving about 6 trains this year. This pales in comparison to years past. Oh, the Good Ol' Days when Moscow would see 18 to 20 trains each year. We may never see those days again and there is stiff competition from the R&N and other entities. That is no reason to throw in the towel. We need to put our thinking caps on and come up with innovative ideas for Moscow Station. It's in pristine condition and ready to handle all kinds of activities.

New Business

April 20 is being recognized as National Park Week. New Chapter members, David, Colleen, and Lindsee Waldron have stepped up to showcase the Chapter at Steamtown. This will be a display only and no merchandise will be sold.

A dedicated volunteer at Moscow, Bonnie Welsch passed away this past March 22. She and her husband Dan were faithful volunteers at Moscow back when we would see 2 trains per day. They also volunteered for B&M 3713 mailings. May she Rest in Peace.

We have received some very nice donations to offset the expenses for RailCamp in the mail as a result of the notice in LL last month. The 50/50 will be awarded this evening. We sincerely appreciate the support.

Mike Rushton spoke on late member Ed Kaspriske and his collection of photos. While the preponderance of Ed's collection has disappeared, Mike has some in his possession and will volunteer to compile these for a future Sentimental Journey Slideshow

We can report that Laurel Lines Newsletters from the 1st issue all the way through 2023 have been preserved on a thumb-drive. We will continue to provide snippets of our past as space in LL permits.

Paul Hart reports that Chapter Founding Member Don Banks has turned over his book collection. Paul is cataloging these and will provide a list to make these available to Chapter members on a first come-first served basis. Pricing will be set at a modest cost based on the value accrued. Once members have selected their choice, they will be available to the public.

Motion to Adjourn made by our Standard Bearer Joe Boshek at 7:36pm. The Raffle winner was picked and that went to Joe White. Congratulations Joe!

Submitted with Respect,
Ken Kertesz- Secretary

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

A "Thank You" breakfast was held on April 6th, and Tony Kwiatkowski was kind enough to get a photo of everyone! Thanks, Tony!

- Kat Bischak, Editor



"Food was great and a good time was had by all at the historic (recently celebrated their 175th anniversary) Covenant Presbyterian church, Madison Av., downtown Scranton, Pa."

A Photo from the Collection of James Frederici

"I happened to be visiting Steamtown in June 2010; where I saw Lackawanna F3A #664 being painted! You can see from my photo the windows are covered, the roof painting appears to not be finished, and the side is in various states of being protected and painted. How often does one have the fortune to come across an F3A locomotive being painted? There is also some interesting steam equipment in the background."



2024 Summer Trains to Moscow Railway Station
Moscow, PA

The Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, in cooperation with the Iron Horse Society and Steamtown National Historic Site, proudly announces the following trains to Moscow Railway Station.

This short train ride and activities at the station will make an enjoyable day!

Saturday July 20, 2024 Moscow Station Grand Reopening Train
Tickets - email: info@theironhorsesociety.com

Saturday July 27, 2024 Moscow Country Fair
Tickets, www.nps.gov/steamtown

Sunday August 4, 2024 Moscow: Ice Cream Express
Tickets - email: info@theironhorsesociety.com

Saturday Sept. 14, 2024 Moscow: Cork & Rail
Tickets - email: info@theironhorsesociety.com



NOTICE:

Train rides are subject to cancellation due to mechanical issues, inclement weather, or crew availability.

50/50 Fundraiser

TO OFFSET THE EXPENSE OF SENDING A YOUNG MEMBER TO RAILCAMP IN JUNE, THE CHAPTER WILL BE HOLDING A 50/50 RAFFLE AT OUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING ON MAY 9TH, 2024

MOSCOW CLEAN UP



ABOVE: Large tree down down behind the Freight House in April.

BELOW: "Five, six pick up sticks"

Work project in the rail at Moscow.

From left to right - Aiain Matkosky, Jim Kilcullen & Pat Miller.

Not pictured, Joe Scarfo & Roy Pauli.



Photos by Vee Pauli

A Letter from Ed Fortuna, NRHS Advisory Council Representative VP

Our Chapter is recommending two high school seniors to the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Rail Camp in Newark, DE, this June 2024. They are Aidan Matkosky and Alex Strausser. Both young men will be graduating high school in June 2024. Both are active members of our Chapter. Alex Strausser is the Chapter Webmaster and a member of the calendar committee. Aidan Matkosky provided the musical entertainment for us at the Chapter's 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Raddison Hotel in Scranton, PA, in November 2023. They also planned and worked the Revenge of the Oneida Clipper Chapter Excursion in April 2023. They enjoy serving the Chapter whenever and wherever they can.

The cost per rail camper is \$1575.00. That is a lot of money to attend but is well worth the cost for what the experience provides, including future employment opportunities in the railroad industry. During the March 2024 Chapter meeting, Tony Verbilya Jr., the Chapter's first rail camper, discussed his experience at Rail Camp and how it has helped him in his employment with the Reading and Northern Railroad and now Amtrak as an engineer.

We're seeking donations from our members to help defray the costs of rail camp for our two rail campers. Any amount is welcome and will help our rail campers with their expenses and help them in their future employment possibilities in the railroad industry. You can find donation info at the back page of this issue of Laurel Lines.

Hopefully the Chapter can continue to send future rail campers to the NRHS Rail Camp.
Thank you for your support for them.



**Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley
Railway Historical Society, Inc.
Chapter, National Railway
Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 3452
Scranton, PA 18505-0452**

**Non-Profit
Organization
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Change Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

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Inc. Chapter NHRS.**

Visit us online : <http://www.lwvrhs.org>

Thank You

to all who have contributed to the RailCamp Fund.
We continue to accept donations, large or small to send
two of our young members to camp. Another 50-50 raffle
will be held at the May and June meetings.

If you wish to donate, send check payable to L&WVRHS
and in the memo mark 'RAILCAMP'.

Mail to -

L&WVRHS, P.O. Box 3452, Scranton, Pa 18505-0452.

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