



LAUREL LINES

Celebrating 51 Years this month!



Vol 51, Issue 11 - November, 2024

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

Valley's former 2-8-2 #1647 sitting in Essex Station, CT. The Chapter took a bus trip back in June of 1990 to the Valley Railroad. More on this on page 7. Photo by Mike "Breezy" Bischak



Mike Bischak photo
Essex, CT
June 17, 1990

The Chapter Meeting will be held November 14th, 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:

Pete Putnam will present "Steam & Rails" - the conception, planning and production of the movie shown in the Steamtown Theater.

Mission Statement:

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

Presidents Message -

Here comes what I refer to as “the busy season”. We are in the process of converting the station & freight house at Moscow into a Holiday Wonderland in preparation for the holiday trains the weekend of Thanksgiving. There of course is Thanksgiving itself with family gatherings for traditional feasting. Holiday baking begins, gift shopping, home decorating and holiday greetings to be sent fill the hours of the day. Please take some time out of your busy days to be thankful for all our many blessings. I’m always thankful for all the support I receive from the chapter members for the many projects we engage in during the year. Without that support, we wouldn’t have such a strong chapter.

I mentioned at the October meeting that December and January are “Members Choice” for programs but, I will repeat what I said. I know many of you have extensive slides/videos collections. While you may be shy about doing an hour long program, this is the time when you can present a short program of 10-15 minutes. Think about it and contact our program director, Neil Weinberg (laurellines@gmail.com). If you find you have enough material and are comfortable doing a full program, Neil will be very thankful as he plans next year’s schedule.

Have a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving.

Vee Pauli, President

SEASONAL REMINDER

If the Scranton School District is closed for a snow day or goes to virtual class because of bad weather the chapter meeting is cancelled.

Any questions please contact Vee Pauli 570- 344-9728.

“TESTING NEW BRAKE”**An Electrical Device that may be Adopted by the Scranton Railway Co.**

From The Scranton Tribune, November 15th, 1902

Submitted by Bob Young

“For the past several days the Scranton Railway Co has been experimenting with a new brake known as a Magnetic Brake. This brake is placed on the car which is operated on the Petersburg Line, as it is considered the most severe on brakes that is operated by the Company. The new brake seems better adapted than anything ever used for this purpose in the city .The brake is constructed that it not only retards the wheels under the car but also brakes on the rail. The track brake and the wheel brake is independent of the hand brake which remains on the car.

The brake is operated by electricity and when it is applied with full force the rail brakes are attracted to the rail at a force of about 2000 pounds. The power for the application of the brakes is obtained from the motors of the car itself and not from the trolley wire and therefore the brakes work as well with the power off of the line as well as on. The retarding power is so distributed between the rail and the wheels that it makes a sudden stop possible without skidding the wheels and for this reason it is particularly valuable in doing away with flat wheels. A car going at the rate of 15 miles per hour can be stopped in its own length. Ice on the rail or slippery rail do not affect the application of the brake.

The brakes seize and cling to the rail regardless to its condition and as the track shoes are between the wheels of the motor truck they will clear the rail effectively for the hind wheels. The brakes are used extensively in Pittsburgh that there are only two cars not equipped with Magnetic Brakes. They are reported to give good satisfaction in the “Smokey City”

Secretary Minutes of the October 10th Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7pm Iron Skillet Restaurant, Dupont, PA

President Pauli opens the meeting in due form and asks for a moment of silence for Chapter member Dan Demianovich who passed last September, 2024. Dan just joined the Chapter in 2023. Dan was a maintenance of way employee on the D&H and CP. Pauli then led the attendees in a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Pauli asks for a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as appearing in October 2024 LL. Motion made by Koehler, Jr. and 2nd by Barrett. Passed w/o exception.

Pauli asks Chapter **Treasurer Ed Zech** to make his report known. Ed reads his report of balances of the General Fund and Special Projects accounts with expenses and income credited to both. Motion made to accept his report by Salerno and 2nd by Vacula. Passed w/o exception.

Moscow Station - Norm Barrett reports that all exterior lights at the Station and Freight House are working! The architect is working on drawings for replacement of the deck around the FH. As reported, this will be a 3 year project, it will require grant funding and is a very big project with State requirements that must be complied with. The Chapter will request the assistance of Moscow Borough once again. They have proven to be a solid partner of this Chapter and we're striving to make the property safer and enhanced for all to enjoy.

Station Director Roy Pauli reports he and volunteers commenced work on Holiday Trains from Steamtown on September 19, accruing 15 and 1/4 hours. These trains will arrive the weekend after Thanksgiving - Friday the 29th, Saturday the 30th and Sunday December 1st. Roy is asking for separate donations to support the activities associated with these trains and of course, Roy needs **V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-S**. If you read this message and can let him know you'd like to help, please call the number on the back page of this issue.

2026 Calendar Committee Chairman Jim Kilcullen reports that they will commence working on this next year with an emphasis on Conrail, account that it will be the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Consolidated Railroad Corporation. It had a prominent presence in our area, however, it slowly declined. Portions remain active with short line railroads. The Committee invites anyone interested in helping them. Jim can be reached at: educ123rr15@outlook.com. Anyone interested in submitting photos of Conrail, please limit them to the area of the Chapter. These photos must be your own photos or those whom you have permission to reproduce. Credit to the photo must be produced as well. The more information available to the photo will aid the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to reject anything not found in compliance with photographic irregularities.

Membership - Paul Hart and Ken Kertesz report that 2025 renewals will be going out sometime in the last quarter of 2024. We concluded the 2024 rolls with over 225 members. We also have accepted new members' applications late in the 3rd/4th quarter of the year. These will be credited as having paid dues for 2025. The Chapter appreciates the interest in supporting our efforts and our activities. New members will receive the 2025 calendar and will automatically receive the LL newsletters electronically unless they advise the Officers they wish to have it mailed.

NRHS VP & National Advisory Council Ed Fortuna reports the next quarterly meeting being conducted in Delaware is happening this weekend - well, after you get to read about it. If you are an NRHS member, then you should have received notice. Ed will attend this meeting via Zoom since he is not able to travel down this weekend. Joining NRHS is easy and is \$50.00 per year, www.nrhs.com will provide all the information you need to join. ***The NRHS is a big supporter of this Chapter.***

The Chapter will continue to accept donations from any member desiring to support sending Chapter members (of age) to the Annual Railcamp in Newark, Delaware. The fee is \$1500.00 per student. At Chapter meetings, we conduct 50/50 drawings to help defray this expense. Last year the NRHS accepted 2 of our members. We anticipate seeing those young men make a presentation on their educational aspects of Railcamp along with the fun they no doubt had and the friendships they formed.

The 50/50 winner this month was Chapter member Bob Doan. *Thank you one and all for your support in this ongoing fundraiser for our future rail-rovers!*

Laurel Lines Editor Katie Bischak crafted a great last edition of *LL*, heading to print and with the help of Roy, got it in your hands shortly after October 2, in time to decide if you would like to attend the October meeting. The same will apply for November's issue. One week after the monthly meeting, get any desired information to Katie at: kbischakphoto@gmail.com *Thank you again Katie.*

Chapter Historian & Program Director Neil Weinberg reports the following: Tonight's presenter is Tom Walsh, who is a Norfolk Southern RR Special Agent who will provide a presentation on Operation Lifesaver™.

For the November 14th meeting, Peter Putnam will show a feature on the movie at Steamtown - "Steel Steam".

December 12th's meeting is Member's Choice as is the January 9th meeting. If you would like to be a presenter at our meeting, please reach out to Neil at: laurellines@gmail.com.

Weather considerations apply from November through March. If the Scranton School District closes schools due to bad weather, then the meetings are canceled. January and February meeting programs will be deleted from the schedule. If you are a presenter during these months and we cancel, you will be

asked to appear at a subsequent meeting.

Webmaster Alex Strausser stands ready to update the website with all information germane to the Chapter. His contact is: alexstrausser9@gmail.com *Thank you Alex!*

Old Business

The Iron Horse Society hosted 2 "Wine Trains" that made their destination our Moscow Station on September 14th. The Station was opened and refreshments were made available. Through the efforts of the Iron Horse Society Officers, including Norm Barrett, they are endeavoring to support all the Partners along the D-L Main. The Holiday Trains are sponsored by Steamtown - They will conclude the 2024 Train Season.

Our Chapter is grateful to the IHS and Steamtown for their support and look forward to lots of trains for 2025!

The notice for Chapter Officer Elections appeared in the October *LL*. Nominations or those desiring to serve actually closes this evening. If there are no duplicate candidates, those current Officers will stand for another term of service by acclamation.

The Chapter was one of 33 vendors who attended the Lackawanna County Historical Society event at the Viewmont Mall last September 28th. We had a nice display of items for sale, information about joining the Chapter and was manned by several members. All came from the day feeling that we really stood out among those vendors and had a great time doing it. Thank you for making the Chapter look great!

HUMOR ME

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 51 from Miss America?

New Business

Flyers for the Holiday Trains are available for posting at locations that members wish to help spread the message. The SNHS is not permitted to place ads in media locations, but only on their website. For the Chapter to have a successful turnout, we need to spread the word. If you would like one, please inquire with one of our Officers.

Good of the Order

Neil Weinberg has spoken to Congressman Cartwright's Office regarding the status of SNHS and why some buildings remain closed. Stand by for an update.

Adam Budney inquired about Moscow's Night Out. Vee responded by saying that event is held away from the Station. The Chapter supported the event with a donation.

Ed Koehler, Jr. reports that the East Broad Top RR 2-8-0 #16 is back in service after a drive wheel was repaired. It last ran in 1956. Ed also sadly reports that the President of the Long Island Historical Society, S. Quigley, passed unexpectedly and Ed is assuming that role.

Randall Kasorek Jr speaks on the devastation impacted in the Southeast by the 2 recent hurricanes.

Carl Packer reports that the Huber Breaker Site in Wilkes-Barre has installed some track for display purposes of vintage coal loading cars from the old mine.

John Kudo reports of upcoming train shows at Dunmore and Taylor Hose Company. Information on these events is available on Facebook.

Joe Boshek was absent this evening and so the honors of calling for "Adjournment" was made by Scott Barrett, who was thrilled to assume those duties. *(Don't get too comfortable Scott...Joe will be back next month.)*

Adjourned at 7:40pm. 40 in attendance.

**Submitted Respectfully,
Ken Kertesz, Secretary**

ELECTION NOTICE

November 14, 2024 will be our Annual Chapter Meeting with the election of officers and directors.

The following officers are up for re-election:

One Year Term:

President: Vee Pauli
Vice President: Ed Fortuna
Secretary: Ken Kertesz
Treasurer: Ed Zech
Historian: Neil Weinberg
National Rep.: Ed Fortuna

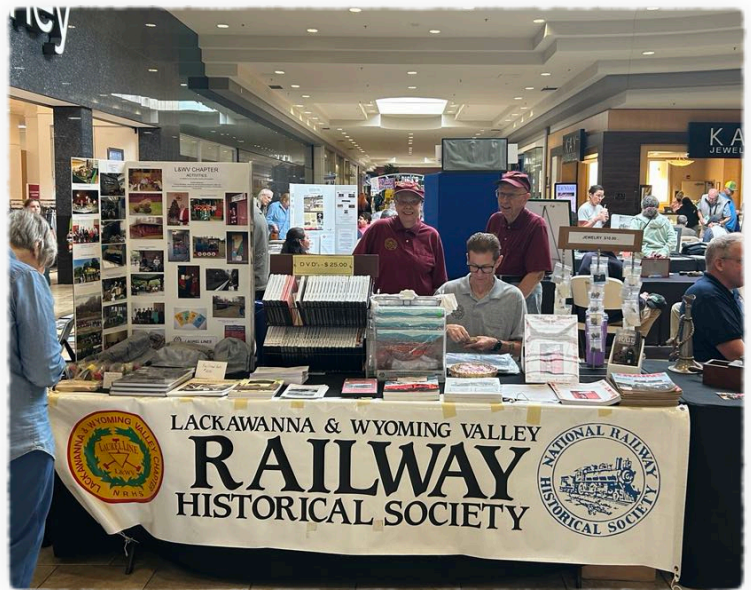
The following director positions are up for re-election:

Two Year Term:

Norm Barrett
 Katie Bischak
 Jim Kilcullen

Suzanne Kilcullen has agreed to serve as Election Chair.

BELOW: Vee & Roy Pauli stand behind Scott Barrett as they man the table for Lackawanna County Historical Society's "History Fair" at the Viewmont Mall on September 28th.





ABOVE: 11Z rolls through Yatesville. On the left is the old Eastern Trestle.

Photo taken by Adam Budney

HUMOR ME

Black Friday is immediately followed by Broke Saturday.

MOSCOW RAILWAY STATION HOLIDAY TRAIN REQUEST

I am requesting your help to sponsor The Steamtown Holiday Trains to Moscow Station.

Some of the items we need to purchase are:

GIVE-AWAYS:

Candy Canes, Cookies, Crayon & Coloring Books

ACTIVITIES:

Count Down Chain Kits, Hand Tattoos & Ornament Kits. Also, Photo Ops With Santa

We also need to purchase all the food items for resale at the snack counter and small items to sell at the merchandise counter. Any contribution large or small would be greatly appreciated.

Please make checks payable to **L&WVRHS** and mail to - **Roy Pauli, 708 Stafford Ave.**

Scranton, PA 18505-2516

THANK YOU!

The excerpts below were submitted by Norm Barrett from the January 1946 edition of *Trains Magazine*.

“What is a Full Crew?”

In these days of union demands for "full crew" laws and the like, it is of interest to note that on one of the country's streamliners, it takes 44 employees to operate the train. These include engine and train crew, dining car staff, porters, passenger representative, etc.

Ten years ago many trains of the nation were not handling that many revenue passengers.

“How to Recognize a Railroader?”

Three things a man does around railroad tracks and yards identify him as a capable railroader no matter how he's dressed, says C. L. Earle, safety expert of the Central Vermont Railway.

The identifying actions are: Looking both ways before crossing a track, stepping over and not on rails and keeping at least 10 feet from the end of standing cars.

Remember When...

BY MIKE "BREEZY" BISCHAK & KAT BISCHAK, EDITOR

"This was a Chapter bus trip to the Valley RR in Essex, CT. on June 17, 1990. We rode behind their Chinese Mikado. It was built in May of 1989. I also included a boat ride on the Connecticut River at Deep River Landing. We rode the "Becky Thacher" - *Mike "Breezy" Bischak*



The Valley RR runs on the old Connecticut Valley Railroad, which was founded in 1868. The engine on the front page, #1647, is now renumbered to #142 and is owned by New York, Susquehanna & Western. They bought it not long after the trip pictured to replace their Chinese steam engine they had imported that unfortunately sunk on it's voyage.

The Becky Thatcher steamboat is a 20th Century replica that takes passengers up and down Deep River.

- *Kat Bischak,*
Editor

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

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

Holiday Trains to Moscow Station

Nov. 29 – 30 and Dec. 1, 2024

Ticket information at Steamtown NHS website



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