



LAUREL LINES

Celebrating 51 Years!



Vol 51, Issue 12 - December, 2024



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

NS GP38-2 #5619 leads a short local into Riverside, PA, 2/19/24.

Photo by Aiden Matkosky



The Chapter Meeting will be held December 12th, 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:

Member's Choice Slides

Mission Statement:

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

Presidents Message

If you missed the program by Pete Putnam at the November Chapter meeting, you missed a real gem. I can't tell you the number of times Roy and I have seen the Steamtown NHS movie "Steel and Steam" either at the park or at Home on DVD. We never get tired of seeing it. Pete presented the back story of the production of that movie and what a great story it was! Did you ever wonder how Phoebe Snow disappeared into the cloud of steam or how all the great shots of the wheels and track were accomplished? Did you know that Pete himself played the role of the grown up boy, the rotating station agent? This is one program I would like to see again.

As I am writing this, we are still preparing for the Holiday Trains to Moscow Station with fingers crossed that we have a successful weekend. Hope to have photos to share in the January issue of Laurel Lines.

Please take some time to enjoy the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Vee Pauli, President

"Laurel Line Passenger Service Bows Out to Motor Age Next Wednesday Night"

From *The Tribue*, Wed. Dec. 24th, 1952

Submitted by Bob Young

"This story won't be found on the obituary pages of the Jan 1, 1953 newspapers, but it could very well read: "Laurel Line passenger service passed away last night following a long illness."

"Death came to the majestic queen of the road at about 11:45 p.m. and stilled forever passenger service between Scranton and Wiles-Barre via the third-rail carrier. Cause of death was given as complications of senility. An autopsy has revealed that the passenger service has been in ill health for a long time. Complications were listed as too many private automobiles, car pools and bus lines which cut deeply into the Old Girls' blood supply or in words of the financial world she couldn't carry on any longer because there wasn't enough money coming in the keep her going.

The Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad better known as the Laurel Line will discontinue passenger service between the City and Wilkes-Barre on New Year's Eve ending an era in transportation which dates back to 1903.

The last car--or cars if the need be--will leave the Scranton Station at 10 p.m. en route to Wilkes-Barre. It will leave the Baron City at 10:45 p.m. and make its way to Scranton. The car or cars will then be moved into the Yards and that will officially end a service known to practically everyone in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The carrier will then become exclusively a freight line. Eventually only one track will be utilized.

The Public Utility Commission has given the Laurel Line permission to abandon passenger service because of a terrific loss in revenue.

During its hay-days the Laurel Line catered to millions of clientele. Its peak year was in 1920 when a total of 4,220,596 passengers was carried. The passenger service dropped to 882,618 last year. This year's passenger figures will be less than 800,000."

HUMOR ME

WHY DID SANTA VISIT HIS DOCTOR BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS?

He always gets a flue shot before he slides down the chimney.

Secretary Minutes of the November 14th Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7pm Iron Skillet Restaurant, Dupont, PA

It was announced that the 50/50 drawing this evening will be dedicated to support the Holiday Trains at Moscow Station for the Thanksgiving weekend.

President Pauli opens the meeting in due form and proceeds to call The Pledge to the Flag. Vee then requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10 meeting as appearing in November LL. Motion made by Mike Rushton, 2nd by Mike Bischak, passed without exception. Vee then requested the Treasurer provide his report to the body.

Ed Zech proceeded to provide a breakdown of balances in the accounts and then gave a detailed report on bills paid as well as income derived. Motion to accept the report by Carl packer, 2nd by Rich Vacula, passed without exception or correction.

President Pauli requested Nominations of Officers and Director of the Board positions be read by Nominations Chair Suzanne Kilcullen. The following Chapter Officers will serve for one (1) year terms:

President: Vee Pauli

Vice President: Ed Fortuna

Secretary: Ken Kertesz

Treasurer: Ed Zech

Historian: Neil Weinberg

NRHS Representative: Ed Fortuna

Chapter Board of Director Positions for a

two (2) year term:

Norm Barrett

Katie Bischak

Jim Kilcullen

There were no other nominations or protests lodged for the positions, therefore Chapter Secretary Ken Kertesz as duly mandated by Chapter Bylaws casts one (1) vote for each candidate by acclamation.

Moscow Station: Norm was absent, however Vee reported that a new patio heater was purchased for the FH; the furnace at the Station was fully serviced and Norm reported to her that it was noted that the recent lighting installed at the Station appears to be inadequate as to intensity. Norm is working with the contractor who installed to correct the problem.

Station Director Roy Pauli reports that the set up for the Holiday Trains is about 98% complete. The outside decorations need to be put in place. A work session is scheduled for November 27. Roy needs 6 people to volunteer this day.

The Holiday Trains are *SOLD OUT!* Trains arrive Moscow at 12:00 pm and depart 1:45pm all three days. This means roughly 165 riders for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for each of the trains that arrive. There is only 1 train per day - all train arrivals are the same time. Given the ridership, the trash will accumulate at the Station and Roy is asking those who volunteer, offer to take a bag of trash with them when they leave. Last year, there was a cost incurred to have it all removed.

Roy estimates that 22 volunteers are needed for those 3 trains and he will pass around a sign-up sheet during the meetings seeking volunteers. He will also follow-up with a phone call. Lastly, when the train departs on Sunday, Roy needs a crew to complete clean-up of the Station and Freight House. If you are there or can show up on Sunday, please help the Director pull Moscow back in pristine order. Otherwise, he is forced to do it all by himself. That is not fair to him.

Moscow runs on Volunteers. The Station is completely restored and looks great! Let's help keep it that way. **PPPLLLLLLEEEASE!!!**

Jim Kilcullen, Chairman of the Calendar Committee, reports the Committee will convene on November 16 to begin development of the 2026 Calendar. Jim reports this will be the 50th Anniversary of Conrail, therefore heavy emphasis will be given when Conrail served the two Valleys. Vee inquired if the calendar will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our -

- Country? Jim stated the Committee will review this potential. **Paul Hart** reports that mail order sales of the 2025 calendar stands at 180 orders, which is not quite on pace with other years.

Director Paul Hart of Membership Committee reports that 2025 renewal notices have been mailed. Ken reports that 2024 membership levels finished at 240. There were a number of new applications in late 2024 and those who did will have their memberships commence in 2025. If you are reading this in *LL* and have not received your renewal, please contact Paul at prhrail@verizon.net or **570.963.2090**.

NRHS VP and National Representative Ed Fortuna reports that the NRHS is a little quiet, catching their breath after the Convention in Harrisburg. While it is not a requirement to belong to the NRHS to be a Chapter member, which was once a requirement, Ed is requesting that more members take the initiative and *JOIN THE NRHS*. The dues are \$50.00 per year. The benefits are worthy of your attention, plus you will be helping preserve rail history on a larger scale. Of all our membership tally, there are slightly over 50 members who are NRHS members. The NRHS supports this Chapter and we have a great relationship with them. Joining is a WIN-WIN situation for both you and the Chapter! We stand about 24% of the membership are members of the NRHS. ***Can we get 5 or 10 more to join the NRHS?*** This Chapter has proven to be one of the most active in the U.S.A, and we continue to receive recognition for that.

Editor Katie Bischak of Laurel Lines composed a great issue for October, and we think you will agree. To make *LL* even better, get your information to her 1 week after the monthly meeting.

Of course, Roy and Vee and Paul are still the go-to people for *L.L.* Roy goes to the printer and picks up the issues. Vee and Roy fold, and label them, while Paul prepares the labels for mailing. To keep our reduced bulk-rate permit, a minimum of 205 copies must be taken to post office each month.

Yes...Roy does that too! It takes a Village... no, just 4 dedicated volunteers of the Chapter to provide you with up-to-date information on the activities and health of the Chapter.

Membership support is key to keeping this Chapter alive and well. We thank you for all the support we receive. We can always use volunteers at Moscow... on the Calendar Committee... when we sponsor an excursion... offering to make a presentation at the Chapter meeting.

Chapter Historian and Program Director Neil Weinberg reports tonight's program is by Peter Putnam. Peter was commissioned by the NPS to produce a film on "Steam & Rails". Peter and a whole crew scoured the Country and focused on 6 railroads to make the film. It was completed in 1994 and had been shown in the Theater at Steamtown until the Theater was forced to close temporarily due to heating and fire suppression systems failed. Copies were available at the National Bookstore at Steamtown and may still be so. Peter's presentation was excellent! He related of how it got started, all the issues to get it done, and even had his son in the film. Oh yes, Peter even made a cameo appearance.

Thank you Peter for a great presentation. Please allow this to be a standing invitation for you to visit the Chapter again and again!

Neil reports that December is Members Slide/Digital Choice. Let him know if you want to showcase your talents of rail photography. January is simply Members Choice again, however, we may in fact have our Rail Camp Graduates of 2024, and Alex and Aidan give us a presentation on their "shenanigans". They are both attending college, but will endeavor to attend.

Each presenter is requested to keep their program to a maximum of 20 minutes.

Neil can be reached at laurellines@gmail.com

Since winter is approaching if the Scranton School District cancels classes, then it's also our turn to stay home and not risk life and limb to attend a Chapter meeting that will not happen.

Webmaster Alex Strausser is doing his level best to keep the site relevant and informative. Your submissions to add to the site will help accomplish this. Contact Alex at alexstrausser9@gmail.com.

Old Business

The Lackawanna Historical Society set the date for the local history fair for next September 20th, 2025 at the Viewmont Mall. Our Chapter attended this year and reported great, positive feedback.

New Business

Vee showed the Moscow Borough flyer.

Vee and the Officers wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Carl Packer reports he is turning over the Vulcan locomotive that was on display in his front yard back to the Rockfish Foundation. This move will occur fairly soon. Thanks Carl for preserving a rich history of a locomotive manufactured in Wilkes-Barre, PA by Vulcan Iron Works.

Motion to adjourn by Joe Boshek at 7:37 pm, with 35 in attendance.

Submitted Respectfully,
Ken Kertesz, Secretary

From everyone at L&WV RHS,

*Have a Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year!*

A flyer from a 1966 Fantrip.

Uploaded by Daniel McFadden,

Submitted by Neil Weinberg

BE A FULL TIME COMMUTER FOR A DAY

ON THE ERIE LACKAWANNA'S NORTHERN NEW JERSEY BRANCH LINES THROUGH LIVELY SUBURBS AND PICTURESQUE COUNTRYSIDE

**A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO COVER
SOME SOON-TO-BE-ABANDONED
BRANCH LINE SERVICES. ALL IN
ONE GRAND DAY**

Sunday, September 25, 1966



RAIN OR SHINE



SCHEDULE

(Daylight Saving Time)
Lv. New York (See Note)
Lv. Hoboken (E-L Terminal) 9:00 A.M.

RETURN (Times Approximate)
Dover 8:30 P.M.
Hoboken 9:30 P.M.

NOTE: New York passengers should use PATH (Hudson Tube) trains from 33rd, 14th, 9th Streets or Hudson Terminal. Allow 45 minutes. (No Sunday Ferry Service).

Special Train tickets will be honored from Suffern and Dover to Hoboken in each direction. Connecting train service available.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Available from the Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc. or from the following Erie Lackawanna stations: Boreas; St. New York; Hoboken, Newark, Summit, Dover, Paterson, Ridgewood.

TELEPHONE INFORMATION

Telephone information by calling (201) (NJ) 947-1664 or 944-4832



SPONSORED BY
**New York Division
The Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc.**

ROUTE

NORTHERN BRANCH—Hoboken to Sparkill
PIERMONT BRANCH—Sparkill to Nanuet
N.J. & N.Y. R.R.—Nanuet to West End Tower
OLD BOONTON LINE—West End to Paterson
NEWARK BRANCH—Paterson to Hoboken
GREENWOOD LAKE-BOONTON LINE—Hoboken, Great Notch
CALDWELL BRANCH—Great Notch, Essex Fells and return
GREENWOOD LAKE LINE—Great Notch, Wanaque, Midvale and return to Mountain View
BOONTON LINE - OLD MAIN LINE — Mountain View to Washington and return to Dover
MORRIS & ESSEX DIVISION—Dover to Hoboken

EQUIPMENT

DINER — serving reasonably priced meals
BUFFET LOUNGE—serving sandwiches and beverages.
BAGGAGE CAR — with protected open doors
COACHES

PHOTO STOPS OF INTEREST

ADULTS \$9.95
CHILDREN 5 YEARS OF AGE & UNDER 12 \$6.95

\$1 ADDITIONAL IF PURCHASED ON TRAIN

RESERVATION ORDER FORM

Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc.
P. O. Box 258
Caldwell, N. J. 07006

Please send _____ adult tickets at \$9.95 each and _____ children's tickets at \$6.95 each for the Special E-L Excursion on Sunday, September 25, 1966, from Hoboken to Washington, N.J. and return.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Tel. _____

Cash sent at sender's risk. Please make checks and money orders payable to the Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc. and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your tickets. Thank you.

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

**Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Scranton, PA
Permit #245**

Change Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

L&WV CONTACTS

**Vee Pauli - President (570) 344-9728
Ed Fortuna - Vice President/ Nat. Representative
edfed243@aol.com
Ken Kertesz - Secretary
kkertesz@comcast.net (570) 814-6032
Paul Hart - Membership (570) 963-2090
prhail@verizon.net
Ed Zech - Treasurer/Chairman of Board
(570) 347-5901 zechedward4@gmail.com
Roy Pauli - Moscow Station Master
(570) 344-9728
Jim Kilcullen - Calendar Chair
educ123rr15@outlook.com
Alex Strausser - Webmaster
alexstrausser9@gmail.com
Neil Weinberg - Historian
laurellines@gmail.com
Kat Bischak - Editor of LL
kbischakphoto@gmail.com**

**Laurel Lines is published monthly except for July by the
Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society,
Inc. Chapter NHRS.**

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

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.**

DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME 51 ISSUE 12 LAUREL LINES - L&WV RHS