

TRAIN EXCURSION TO RAILFEST

OCTOBER 5, 2002



The Harrisburg Chapter, National Railway Historical Society is selling tickets for a train excursion from Harrisburg to Altoona, PA and return on October 5, 2002. The excursion will feature coach seating, optional, extra-fare seating on private cars, a ride around the world-famous Horseshoe Curve and a train pulled by a pair of immaculately-restored, vintage passenger diesel locomotives. There is also the opportunity to extend your stay to two days, with a train ride to Pittsburgh and an overnight stay at the Weston Hotel included.

The chartered train, called the *Capitol West*, will depart the Harrisburg Amtrak Station at 7:15 am. After a non-stop run to Altoona, where additional passengers may board, the train will climb the Allegheny front, traversing majestic Horseshoe Curve en route. After tunneling under the crest at Gallitzin, the train will make a loop and return to Altoona for detraining all passengers at 12:15 pm. Riders will then be able to participate in all the activities of Railfest--a celebration of Altoona railroad heritage. A barbeque chicken dinner will be available Saturday to all Railfest attendees.

Passengers returning to Harrisburg Saturday night will travel by chartered buses boarding at the Museum. The excursion trainset will go to Pittsburgh Saturday night and park in the Amtrak station. Passengers choosing this option will stay at the Weston Hotel, within easy walking distance of the station. On Sunday, October 6, they will reboard the train for the return to Altoona. At the conclusion of Railfest on Sunday, they will ride the train back to Harrisburg.



The locomotives for the excursion are privately owned by the Juniata Terminal Company and are restored to their original Pennsylvania Railroad colors and numbers. They were built in the 1950's and were last used by Conrail to power its executive train. The coach cars for the train are air-conditioned and restroom-equipped. There is no food service available on the train, but guests are welcome to bring their own food along.

If you lean toward riding in style, three private cars--the "Kitchi Gammi" (seating 20), the "Dover Harbor" (seating 20) and Lounge 1157--are your answer. You will have seats on these cars for the trip around the Horseshoe Curve and, if staying two days, to Pittsburgh and back to Harrisburg (Lounge 1157 available Hbg-Altoona-Hbg only).

Railfest 2002 is a two-day event centered around the Railroaders Memorial Museum in Altoona, which is reached by a footbridge from the train station. The Museum houses numerous exhibits and displays of the rich railroading tradition of Altoona and its citizens. Free shuttle bus service to the Horseshoe Curve is included with the ticket price. Railfest admission also includes free entry to the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and the newly-opened Staple Bend Tunnel, both of which must be reached by car from Altoona.

Fares for the *Capitol West* are \$100 each for coach seats and \$200 each for private car seats for Saturday. Included in the cost is the train fare to and around the Curve, admission to Railfest, the chicken dinner, the shuttle bus in Altoona and the bus (Saturday) back to Harrisburg. Children under the age of two sitting on the lap of a parent or guardian are free. Fares for the Harrisburg to Pittsburgh round trip are \$250 for coach or \$350 for private car. This fare includes the entire train trip, Railfest, shuttle bus, chicken dinner on Saturday and the hotel room. Fares are also available for those who want to stay overnight in Altoona on Saturday and return on the excursion train. The departure from Altoona on Sunday only is scheduled for 6:30 pm and arrival in Harrisburg should be approximately 9:00 pm.

Tickets may be ordered from Harrisburg Chapter NRHS, Railfest Trip, 637 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1924. Checks must accompany an order and should be made payable to "Harrisburg Chapter NRHS." PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR MAILING OF YOUR TICKETS. There are no refunds given on purchased tickets. Tickets may be ordered by credit card by calling 717-232-6221 (answering machine) and leaving a call-back number. The Railfest website is <http://www.railroadcity.com>. The Harrisburg Chapter website is <http://nrhs-hbg.pennsyrr.com>.