

TRAIN EXCURSION TO RAILFEST

OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 2003



The Harrisburg Chapter, National Railway Historical Society again is selling tickets for a train excursion from Harrisburg to Altoona, PA and return on the weekend of October 4, 2003. The excursion will feature coach seating, optional, extra-fare seating on a private car, a ride around the world-famous Horseshoe Curve and a train pulled by a pair of immaculately-restored, vintage passenger diesel locomotives. Passengers originating in Harrisburg may return from Altoona on Saturday evening by chartered motor coach. There is also the opportunity to extend your train ride to Pittsburgh on Saturday night, returning to Altoona on Sunday. The chartered train will return to Harrisburg at the end of the day on Sunday, October 5.

Called the *Capitol Tripper*, the train will depart the Harrisburg Amtrak Station at 7:15 am. After a non-stop run to Altoona, where additional passengers will 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 detrainning 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. The motor coaches (buses) will depart Altoona for Harrisburg at 6:30 pm, arriving back before 9 pm.

The train will go to Pittsburgh on Saturday night and return to Altoona Sunday morning. For extra fare, passengers attending Railfest may ride either coach or on the first class car, to Pittsburgh. Overnight accommodations in Pittsburgh for coach passengers are the responsibility of the passenger. On Sunday, October 5, the train will depart Pittsburgh at 7:00 am and arrive Altoona at 9:35 am for the day. At 4:50 pm, the train will depart Altoona and arrive in Harrisburg at 7:30 pm. All train times are approximate.



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, the first class lounge car "Warrior Ridge" is your answer. This option will include spacious seating for up to 30 people and, if going to Pittsburgh, a dinner on board the train Saturday night, a hotel in Pittsburgh and breakfast on the train Sunday morning.

Railfest 2003 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. New this year are an opening day parade, tethered balloon rides above the Curve, a 5K run, entertainment and other surprises.

Fares for the *Capitol Tripper* to Altoona are \$125 each for coach seats and \$150 each for Warrior Ridge seats, roundtrip from Harrisburg. Included in the cost is the train fare to and around the Curve, admission to Railfest (both days if staying over) and the return bus ride to Hbg on Saturday. Fares for the Harrisburg to Pittsburgh round trip are \$275 for coach or \$400 for private car (Hbg-Altoona only, then coach to and from Pgh) or \$750 first class the whole way, including dinner, breakfast and a room.

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>.

Details on parking in Harrisburg and a Railfest brochure will be mailed with your tickets.