



HARRISBURG RAIL REVIEW

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE HARRISBURG CHAPTER, NRHS, INC.
637 WALNUT STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17101-1924

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STAR BARN VILLAGE:

You may recall seeing the historic 1872 Star Barn that for years sat along I-283 near the Hbg Airport. You also probably know that it was physically dismantled and moved to a new location called Star Barn Village in Lancaster County. A ticketed grand opening event was held for Star Barn Village July 3 and 4. As part of a larger venue that will be used for special events, weddings and corporate events, other buildings, activities and features will be added. Of special interest to railfans is the purchase, display and intended eventual use of a steam locomotive named the Leviathan. The Leviathan was built by David Kloke over a 10-year period in his construction company shop in the suburban Chicago city of Elgin. He unveiled it in 2009 and added a Lincoln funeral car replica in 2015 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The steam locomotive traveled to tourist railroads, museums and festivals for years and was stored at Ohio's Age of Steam Roundhouse in recent years while the funeral car replica went elsewhere for display.

Both pieces of equipment were purchased by the Village and are now on display on 120 feet of panel track. Project Coordinator Steve Torrico told *Trains* Newswire that the Village also will build a combine and two coaches to go on a new three-mile railroad that will be laid partially on a half mile of right of way that belonged to the now-abandoned Harrisburg Portsmouth Mount Joy & Lancaster Railroad, which hosted the Lincoln funeral train in 1865. "We will be laying track back down on this right of way and building 2½ miles of new track through the property," Torrico said. "We plan to build a copy of the turntable at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, a wooden water tank, and we will have a wooden, covered railroad bridge, harp switch stands..." and more. The operation—called the Harrisburg, Lincoln & Lancaster Railroad—will not be open as a tourist railroad but will operate on special occasions.

Kloke got the idea for building the 35-ton replica while watching a Lincoln documentary. "I am into history,

and you cannot help but be awed by these wonderful locomotives," he told *Trains* in 2009. The original Leviathan was a sister engine to Jupiter, the Central Pacific 4-4-0 that was nose-to-nose with Union Pacific's No. 119 at Promontory Summit, UT, on May 10, 1869, to mark the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. Schenectady Locomotive Works built the original Leviathan in August 1868 as part of an order for three other 4-4-0s, namely: Jupiter, No. 60; Storm, No. 61; and Whirlwind, No. 62. Kloke built the operating replica using plans from the replica Jupiter, now displayed at the Golden Spike National Historic Site at Promontory Summit. The Leviathan was the first standard-gauge replica built in the U.S. in 30 years since O'Connor Engineering in CA constructed the two Promontory replica engines in 1979. Leviathan burns oil and features air brakes, an appliance the original did not have. The backhead is equipped with two water glasses to conform to modern safety standards. Injectors ensure a safe water supply, but replica water pumps adorn the locomotive's crossheads. The locomotive features a Russian blue boiler jacket, brass boiler bands, ornate oil cups, and a host of other decorative items from the 19th century (*Trains* Newswire).

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER WINDOW:

John W. Smith

The chapter's annual July picnic at Bridgeview B&B was a great success with over 60 participants. Appreciation is extended to our host Keith Latimer, Kristy's Whistlestop for the great food and Dick Crow for handling the money. On the way home, Charlie and Patti Webb delivered two 5000 BTU window air conditioners to Harris Tower. With this indefinite loan, plus purchasing another 14,000 BTU window unit that Bob Lane and Eric Ohstrom graciously installed for us, our cooling needs seem to be met.

A successful work day was held on 7/14. Accomplishments included: Fred Wertz installing a flag post holder next to the outdoor light, Dick Crow continuing landscaping efforts, John Wright taking down the WWII-era *Life* magazine display and Bob Lane setting up a new display of local

photos. Robert Killoran worked on cleaning up the far back corner of Harris, Dan Rapak and Jim Nowotarski continued to put the interlocking machine back together and George Greider and I worked on putting doors on the rear of the model board. I stayed late and sealed the basement walls with two coats of concrete sealer. The change of the display is the first time that we have rotated displays. The interlocking machine painting project is going slower than expected as there are a lot of parts both big and small. It does look very nice.

Our museum development assistant Dwana Pinchot was hospitalized for two weeks, but is now back home. In other news, a visit to Harris right after these recent rains shows that the parapet sealing appears to have stopped the leakage problem. The date for the August work day as been changed to August 18. Please call 717-774-4196 or email me johnsmith354@verizon.net with your attendance plans for August 14 Harris picnic (see below).

CHAPTER NEWS:

The August get-together will be another picnic held this time at Harris Tower on August 14 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, baked beans and beverages, while attendees are invited to bring a covered dish or dessert or pay \$10 per individual to defray costs. Please confirm attendance and covered dish you are bringing with John Smith, johnsmith354@verizon.net or 717-774-4196, by August 12. By 4:30 pm, parking should be available in the lot just north of Harris Tower. It is recommended that you bring a folding chair.

The chapter is planning to have a sales/order table at the picnic. In the near future, we are going to be ordering more T-shirts for sales at Harris Tower, and we are going to order some sweatshirts as a new item. The image on the sweats will be the same as that on the T-shirts, but we have never sold Harris sweats before. Sizes will be from adult small to 3XL. The cost for Harris sweats will be: \$25 per sweatshirt and they must be ordered. That is, we will not be stocking this item. Also, we will have a clearance sale at the picnic for Renovo T-shirts, sweatshirts and Renovo coffee mugs. All Renovo T-shirts will be \$8, sweatshirts will be \$12 and coffee mugs will be \$4. The image on Renovo items is Bennett Levin's E8s, and some are marked with the excursion date. Not all sizes are available. While not on sale, Harris Tower coffee mugs are \$8. Harris T-shirts are priced based on size: Childs \$10; Adult thru XL \$12; Adult 2XL \$14 and Adult 3XL and 4 XL \$16. We are currently out of XL and 2XL, but will take orders. Be sure to bring cash or a valid check.

A Harris Tower work day will be held one week later than normal on August 18 from 9 am to 4 pm. In regard to chapter activities, John Smith has developed the following year-end calendar, subject to any changes as timing dictates.

All work days are held from 9 am to 4 pm. All chapter meetings at Hoss's run from 5:30 to 8:45 pm. Please mark your calendars.

August 18: RESCHEDULED Harris work day to reassemble machine, pick up trash, repair call box, mow grass, weed, review ROW files/train dispatch sheets, wipe down steps, sand lockers, clean bathrooms, install missing floor tiles, vacuum basement, hang catenary fittings, work on track display.

September 8: normal Harris work day to mow grass, pull weeds, pick up trash, review ROW files, clean bathrooms.

September 11: chapter meeting @ Hoss's; presenter Frank Tatnall "*100 Years of Pennsy Electrification*".

September 25: informal slide show in Harris basement 6-8:30 pm. Bring EDITED slides or digital images to share.

September 26: bus tour from Steamtown to Harris Tower.

October 9: chapter meeting @Hoss's; presenter Jim Rose "*PRR Switching Towers*".

October 6: RESCHEDULED Harris work day to mow grass, rake leaves, weed, review ROW files/train dispatch sheets, wipe down steps, wash floor.

October 23: informal slide show in Harris basement 6-8:30 pm Bring EDITED slides or digital images to share.

October 27: last day of season for Harris; *Appreciation Dinner* for all those who volunteered at Harris or Train Show in 2018 3:30- 7 pm.

November 3: RESCHEDULED Harris work day; clean floor, clean bathrooms.

November 6: Board meeting @ Harris 5 pm.

November 13: chapter meeting @ Hoss's; presenter Bill Metzger "*Mapping Harrisburg -1950*".

December 8: Harris work day; install lights and wreathes in the windows, clean.

December 11: chapter meeting @ Hoss's; presenter Steve Runkle "*Logging Railroads in the Susquehanna River Basin Watershed*".

SHORT HOPS:

The legal skirmish over who will operate five short-line railroads in Central PA took an unusual twist last month and is heading back to the court in Clinton County for additional consideration. Commonwealth Court (an appeals

court in Hbg) on 6/28 ordered most of the case remanded to county Judge Michael F. Salisbury so he can consider new facts that may affect the resolution of the claims. The controversy stems from a July 8, 2015, vote by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority to award a seven-year, multimillion dollar contract to new operator Carload Express instead of the North Shore Railroad. Whether Carload received the required votes of the Authority is the issue. A three-member Commonwealth Court panel overturned the County Court decision, saying the law allows contracts to be awarded with a simple majority of the board members in attendance. Susquehanna Union (legal name for the North Shore) is challenging the vote, claiming five of the Authority members who abstained did not have to do so. It also argues the vote of one Authority member should be voided because, in a sworn deposition, he stated he meant to give Susquehanna Union a raw score of 60 out of 100 points when ranking the three finalists. He testified that he did not realize he had submitted an incomplete ranking sheet giving Susquehanna Union zero. A 60 raw score ranking would have resulted in a tie between Susquehanna Union and Carload. Susquehanna contends that several Authority members voted for Carload based on its top ranking.

Circus Model Builders will have a display of their models at the Railroad Museum of PA in Strasburg from 8/2 to 8/5. Regular admission fees apply. . . . The Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association annual show will be held from August 26 to September 3 (Labor Day) this year. The website www.wghsea.org lists "train rides" to be offered every day, but traditionally, ex-PRR steam engine 643 is used only on the last several days of the show when attendance is up. Furthermore, there have been some mechanical issues with 643, so it may or may not be running. If not, trains will be pulled by one of the smaller diesels. There is an admission fee for entering the grounds.

Fred Wertz, Editor
Eric and Joan Ohstrom, Mailing



The Harrisburg Rail Review is published by the Harrisburg Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, 637 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1924. The Chapter has an answering machine for current events and to receive messages at 717-232-6221. Membership information may be obtained by writing the chapter, by calling and leaving a request or by logging on to our website listed on the masthead. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the chapter or its officers. Material from HRR may be reproduced provided credit is given.

Central Pa. Chapter, NRHS



White Deer, Pa. station
and museum

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**43rd Annual Train Meet
"The Allenwood Show"**

**Sunday, August 26, 2018
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

WARRIOR RUN FIRE DEPARTMENT SOCIAL HALL
Second Street, Allenwood, Pa. (Convenient to U.S. Route 15)
Air-conditioned and excellent lighting! Great food at reasonable prices!

BUY - SELL - TRADE
ALL SCALES AND GAUGES OF MODEL TRAINS
MODEL TRAIN SUPPLIES AND RAILROADIANA

* DOOR PRIZES - SPECIAL DEALER'S DOOR PRIZE *

ADMISSION: \$5.00 PER PERSON, CHILDREN 12 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER ADMITTED FREE WITH ADULT

TABLES: \$18.00 EACH, DEALERS PERMITTED ONE HELPER AT NO CHARGE
REGISTRATION CLOSERS AUGUST 22, 2018

DEALERS ADMITTED AT 7:30 A.M. TO SET UP, THE PUBLIC AT 9:00 A.M.
* Chapter not responsible for damage or loss *

INFORMATION: DAVE HOLLENBACH at 570-524-4703
No phone calls after 9:00 P.M., please!

DIRECTIONS: From Williamsport, take U.S. Route 15 South to traffic light at Allenwood (Sunoco gas station on far left corner,) turn left to Second Street, go on Second Street to Warrior Run Fire Dept. Social Hall. From Lewisburg and Interstate 80, take U.S. Route 15 north to traffic light at Allenwood (Sunoco gas station on near right corner,) turn right to Second Street to Social Hall.

Name _____ Table(s) at \$18.00 each \$ _____
Street _____ Extra admission(s) at \$5.00 \$ _____
City, State and Zip _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
Telephone _____ Special request? _____

DEALER AGREES TO REMAIN SET UP UNTIL 2:00 P.M., SIGNED _____
Make checks payable to: "CENTRAL PA. CHAPTER, NRHS" and mail to:
CPA-NRHS TRAIN MEET, C/O DAVE HOLLENBACH, 124 WILLOWBROOK BLVD., LEWISBURG, PA. 17837.
Please enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope for confirmation.