LANCASTER DISPATCHER

1935-2023



LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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APRIL 2023



Artist Edward Hopper "Compartment C, Section 293" in 1938, IBM Corporation Collection



By Steve Ferrell

Gathered from press releases and revised for this publication

The 2023 dates for Thomas the Tank this year at Strasburg Rail Road are June 17, 18, 22 and 26. Then in the fall from September 24-28. Starting June 9th, Strasburg will offer a "Bonnie & Clyde Experience" with actors doing stunts, and featuring pyrotechnics to enhance the experience.

Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern is launching passenger service between Pittston (near Wilkes-Barre) and Jim Thorpe and back. The line will operate round-trips select Saturdays and Sundays (plus holidays) starting May 28th. Scheduled departure from Pittston is 8:45am with an arrival at Jim Thorpe at 11am. The return trip leaves Jim Thorpe at 3:50pm arriving back at Pittston by 6pm. Alternate stations for departing (and returning) are located at Penobscot and White Haven Stations.

Amtrak has been named one of America's Best Large Employers by Forbes Magazine. On a related note, Amtrak said it still has more than 4,000 openings for well-paid jobs.

Amtrak will resume service to Montreal from New York City in April as soon as April 3rd, according to U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. The Covid-19 Pandemic and after that staffing shortages had prevented resumption of service.

Amtrak is reopening their dining car service to coach passengers on some of their long-distance trains. Since the pandemic, dining car service was only available to sleeping car passengers.

Amtrak is coordinating with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to support the Penn Station Access Project on the Hell Gate Line. This will include the construction of four new Metro-North stations in the Bronx and allow the MTA to enter Penn Station. It also includes improving the Hell Gate Line infrastructure. Starting in March 2023, the project is expected to be completed in 2027.

Metro-North's new R211 Subway cars, built by Kawasaki are now coming into service. These cars will replace the aging R46 cars on the subway lines and all very much in need of replacement R44 cars on the Staten Island Railroad. SEPTA said it plans to continue its free parking policy at least until the end of its fiscal year on June 30th.

Construction of SEPTA's new Conshohocken Regional Rail Station is proceeding on schedule. The facility will have high-level and accessible platforms.

Long Island Railroad on March 9th announced that four additional trains will go into Penn Station instead of Grand Central. This change was in response to ridership comments.

On February 23, SEPTA awarded a contract to Alstom Transportation for the purchase of fully ADA-compliant trolleys to replace the entire aging fleet. Septa will receive 130 trolleys with an option to order 30 more. Deliveries are expected to start in 2027.

Septa awarded the contract for the final rail design of the extension of the Norristown High Speed Line (formerly the P &W line) four miles to King of Prussia. Construction is planned to begin in 2025 if funding is secured. Genesee Valley Transportation acquired a historic former Nickle Plate Road #190 Alco PA locomotive. It will be relocated from Portland Oregon to its new home at Scranton, Pennsylvania. Genesee Valley's Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad plans on eventually have the locomotive lead excursions in Northeast Pennsylvania on former Delaware and Hudson tracks.



PRR, PRSL & LIRR EVENTS IN APRIL

Source: Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society (permission of Christopher Baer, PRRHTS).

April 1, 1914 PRR discontinues a total of 118 passenger trains on Lines East; 500 clerks at Broad Street Station furloughed; total layoffs on PRR now at 40,000; cuts save 2,040,000 train miles per year on Lines East and 2,100,000 on Lines West, with a total saving of \$4 million a year.

April 3, 1924 Prohibition agents find 22 cases of wine, whiskey and gin in VP George LeBoutillier's private car and arrest steward Charles Jones; they also seize the car, which is later repossessed by court order.

April 28, 1929 New Lancaster station opens on cutoff; old downtown station and track abandoned; "CORK" Tower placed in service.

April 18, 1934 Burlington Zephyr, lightweight diesel streamliner, christened in Broad Street Station; event is broadcast over the NBC network; speakers include W. W. Atterbury, who speaks from Radio City in New York, Gerard Swope of GE, Alfred P. Sloan of GM, William A. Irvin of U.S. Steel, Edward G. Budd, and Ralph Budd of the CB&Q; makes two demonstration runs to Downingtown and return for guests; a backup steam-powered train follows, with passengers transferring as the Zephyr waits to turn on the New Holland Branch wye, so that four sets of people can ride it.

April 16, 1939 PRR operates a fan trip from New York to Harrisburg and Enola in two coaches attached to No. 25 The Metropolitan, with inspection of new engine terminal and yard improvements; \$3.50 fare.

April, 1944 Class T1 4-4-4-4 No. 6110 removed from service after logging 120,000 miles and placed on the Altoona Test Plant, which is rebuilt to take its extra length; 6,552 indicated horsepower is 40% greater than any locomotive tested to date; 6,100 drawbar HP is 46% greater than any other locomotive tested; capacity to evaporate 105,475 lbs. of water per hour is 40% lower than any previously recorded.

April 24, 1949 PRR contributes 3 all-room sleepers to pool with RF&P, New York-Richmond; 1 car to pool New York-San Francisco via California Zephyr on Manhattan Limited (west) and The Rainbow (east); 1 car each to pool with N&W for New York-Norfolk, New York-Hagerstown-Roanoke, New York-Washington-Williamson.

April 25, 1954 Broadway Limited schedule cut to 15:45 westbound and 15:30 eastbound to match NYC cuts on Twentieth Century Limited and eastbound Commodore Vanderbilt; its fastest running time ever.

April, 1959 The PRR Art Director replaces the Raymond Loewy five-stripe "cat's whiskers" striping on the GG1 with a single yellow stripe, saving \$125 per paint job.

April 5, 1964 New Haven tests borrowed GG1 No. 4884 between New York and New Haven for clearance and power compatibility.

April 1, 1969 Penn Central Holding Company incorporated in Pennsylvania. Penn Central secures \$300 million line of revolving credit and term loan from a group of 52 major banks, secured by all the stock of the Pennsylvania Company as collateral and converting to a straight loan on January 1, 1971.

April, 1974 Amtrak assumes formal jurisdiction over 200-series "Clockers" and 600-series Harrisburg trains, which are finally ruled to be "intercity."

April, 1974 David P. Morgan and J. David Ingles publish a photo essay in Trains entitled "Fallen Flags"; the term catches on as a label for longstanding railroad companies being erased by bankruptcy or merger.

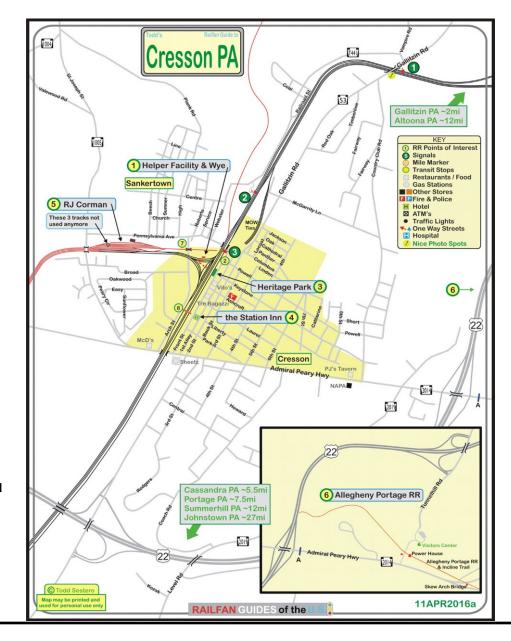
Railfanning in the Cresson Area

By Steve Ferrell and using a map by Todd Sestero of Railfanguides.us

While Horseshoe Curve is an amazing place to railfan, I actually like Cresson a lot for that purpose. Great views, lots of action and good eats to be had!

Cresson is only about a 20-minute drive west of the Curve and is very active. All of the trains that pass through the curve also go through Cresson. Additionally, there is short line activity and an engine facility. A helper engine fueling and storage track is on a branch off of the mainline with a wye and there are two RJ Corman short lines (transload sites) that interchange with Norfolk Southern that come down from the North. Unfortunately, during my last two visits I didn't see any activity on these lines and I was told service is spotty, depending on freight needs. Amtrak's Pennsylvanian (New York to Pittsburgh) operates each way during sunlight hours. Railfans can expect about sixty trains during a twenty-four-hour period. The scanner frequency for the area is 160.800 for NS. RJ Corman's frequency is 160.845.

Cresson provides an excellent raised platform (called Heritage Park) for viewing the activity. There is a cabin car on site and a nice gazebo with picnic tables nearby. The platform used to have a speaker with the local track scanning frequency, but during my last three visits it didn't work. Trains coming in from the West are climbing up a long upgrade from Johnstown and are impressively noisy, although not as loud as those at the Curve.



Map by Todd Sestero

Railfanning in the Cresson Area (continued)

The place to eat at Cresson is Vito's. This is a fantastic pizza and sub shop right across Railroad Street from the tracks. Vito's makes their own bread and their pizza, subs or hoagies, and stromboli's are to die for. I have enjoyed the meatball parmigiana sub and their Italian hoagies, while my wife and my friend rave about their tuna hoagie.





While staying in town, the Station Inn Bed & Breakfast has always been a railfan's favorite. They have a raised wooden porch with rocking chairs with a scanner over a loudspeaker for complete railfanning. The rooms are clean and the breakfast is good. The longtime innkeeper recently passed away and new owners are in the midst of renovations. It should be noted that they do not accommodate children under the age of ten

Baltimore and Ohio Suite at Station House Inn- from their website

Gallitzin and the famous tunnels of the same name are only two miles away and the Allegheny Portage Railroad is about a ten-minute drive south using route 22.



East Bound train



Westbound Train with helper servicing area in the background

Topp's Railroad Trading Cards

Everyone is familiar with Topp's baseball trading cards. Any boy growing up in the 1950's and 60's bought and traded cards for their favorite team's players. And with a clothespin, added a "motorcycle" sound to their bicycle. But very few people know that Topp's offered "Rails and Sails" cards, only in 1955.

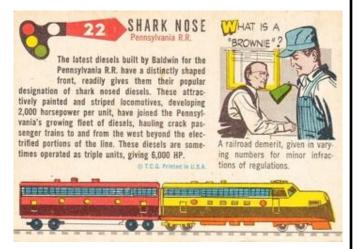
Topp's started as a tobacco distribution business and in 1938, created Topp's Chewing Gum, as their tobacco business was struggling. In 1949, Topp's began adding cards with baseball stars to their gum packages, to enhance gum sales. In 1951, spurned by interest and increased sales, they began packaging Topp's Baseball Cards, but packed with taffy, not gum. Then in 1952, Topp's introduced their first baseball cards, six to a pack and a slab of gum, all for only five cents.

The 1955 Rails & Sails card set consists of 200 horizontally oriented cards, each measuring 2½" by 3¾". The set features locomotives on cards #1 to #130 and ships on cards #131 to #200. Interestingly, the trains and ships have each have their own groups of "high-number" cards, which were printed in much smaller numbers and cost considerably more today. The 1955 Topps Rails & Sails "short-prints" range from #81 to #130 for the trains, and from cards #151 to #200 for the ships.







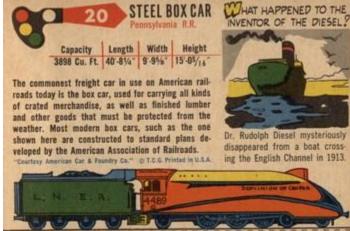


As seen above, card # 3 was the GG-1. The back side contains accurate information on the locomotives and each card adds generic railroad information, in this case, the standard length of rail as thirty-nine feet.

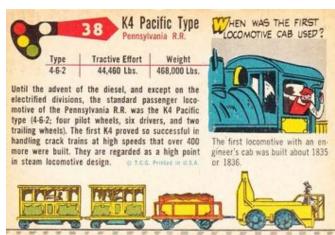
The PRR Baldwin Sharks graced card # 22 and a visual blurb on railroad demerits.

Topp's Railroad Trading Cards (continued)





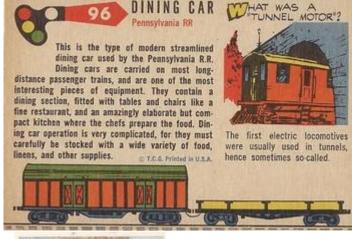














Topp's Trading Cards Listing

- 1 Locomotive "999"
- 2 Covered Hopper Car
- 3 Electric Locomotive
- 4 First Electric Type
- 5 "Daylight" Streamliner
- 6 Camelback Loco
- 7 Electric Locomotive
- 8 Electric Locomotive
- 9 Steel Caboose
- 10 Ballast Dump Car
- 11 Stock Car
- 12 Steam Turbine Loco
- 13 Three-dome Tank Car
- 14 Wooden Tank Car
- 15 Chlorine Container Car
- 16 Enclosed Cab Loco
- 17 Depressed Center Flat Car
- 18 Steam Loco
- 19 Tank Locomotive
- 20 Steel Box Car
- 21 Diesel Loco
- 22 Shark Nose Diesel Loco
- 23 PCC Trolley
- 24 "Mississippi"
- 25 "North Star"
- 26 Diesel Switcher
- 27 Rack-rail Loco
- 28 Electric Locomotive
- 29 Ballast Hopper Car
- 30 "William Mason"
- 31 Wedge Snow Plow
- 32 Diesel Streamliner
- 33 First Consolidation
- 34 Rotary Snow Plow
- 35 Inspection Engine
- 36 Diesel Switcher
- 37 Refrigerator Car
- 38 Pacific Type Loco
- 39 Steam Locomotive
- 40 "Holman's Absurdity"
- 41 First Diesel
- 42 Diesel Switcher
- 43 Wooden Caboose
- 44 "Muddigger"
- 45 Switching Engine
- 46 Birney Trolley Car
- 47 Forney Locomotive
- 48 Bay-window Caboose
- 49 "Fireless Cooker"
- 50 "Rocket"

- 51 Gas-turbine Loco motive
- 52 Diesel Locomotive
- 53 Vista Dome Coach
- 54 Gas-electric Car
- 55 "York"
- 56 "General"
- 57 Steam Locomotive
- 58 "Lafayette"
- 59 Sailing Car
- 60 Stephenson's "Rocket"
- 61 Street Car
- 62 McKeen Motor Car
- 63 "Eddy Clock "
- 64 One-dome Tank Car
- 65 Casey Jones' Loco
- 66 Cable Car
- 67 Live Poultry Car
- 68 Diesel Locomotive
- 69 Crampton Loco
- 70 Electric Locomotive
- 71 Horse Treadmill Car
- 72 8-Wheel Trolley
- 73 Wrecking Crane
- 74 Wootten Camelback Loco
- 75 Rail Diesel Car
- 76 "Sandusky"
- 77 Observation Car
- 78 First Mogul
- 79 Stourbridge
- 80 Steam Locomotive
- 81 "South Carolina" SP
- 82 Diesel Locomotive
- 83 Commodore Van derbilt SP
- 84 Pulpwood Car SP
- 85 1902 "20th Century"
- 86 Articulated Type SP
- 87 Early Switcher SP
- 88 Electric Type SP
- 89 Passenger Car SP
- 90 Incline SP
- 91 Theatrical Car SP
- 92 Demonstration Loco
- 93 "John Bull" SP
- 94 Experimental Loco SP

- 95 0-6-0 Switcher SP
- 96 Dining Car SP
- 97 Sugar Cane Car SP
- 98 Ore Car SP
- 99 Automobile Box 95 0-6-0 Switcher SP
- 96 Dining Car SP
- 97 Sugar Cane Car SP
- 98 Ore Car SP
- 99 Automobile Box Car SP
- 100 Private Car SP
- 101 "Joshua Rhodes" SP
- 102 Steam Streamliner SP
- 103 Refrigerator Car SP
- 104 The "Hiawatha" SP
- 105 Narrow Gauge SP
- 106 "Best Friend" SP
- 107 The "Pioneer" SP
- 108 Subway Train SPCar SP 100 Private Car SP
- 101 "Joshua Rhodes" SP
- 102 Steam Stream liner SP
- 103 Refrigerator Car SP
- 104 The "Hiawatha" SP
- 105 Narrow Gauge SP
- 106 "Best Friend" SP
- 107 The "Pioneer" SP
- 108 Subway Train SP

SP = Short Prints.

As stated in the article on page six, the cards numbered from 81 through 108 were printed in much smaller numbers and cost considerably more for collectors



Believe it or not!

April Fool's jokes? Sadly, not all of these are!

Beginning with 1938-39 season, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad drops movies from the recreation cars of the Florida Special in favor of an accordionist!

In the late 1800s, a baboon named Jack was officially employed as a railroad signalman in South Africa. He was paid in money and beer and never made a mistake!







Raising Stack Trains to new heights!

This Would Get Your Goat

ABERYSTWYTH, Wales (UPI) — Railway officials wondered today what to do with a consignment of goats that ate their carboard destination labels.

ANNUAL CHAPTER "AWAY" MEETING AND TRAIN RIDE

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

In lieu of a July formal meeting, the Lancaster NRHS Chapter invites our members to a visit to the East Broad Top Railroad and Rockhill Trolley Museum.

Members will drive / carpool to Rockhill Furnace and meet at the train station. East Broad Top is just two hours from Lancaster City.

East Broad Top Railroad 421 Meadow Street Rockhill Furnace, PA 17249

The schedule and fares is as follows:

1:00 pm Train Ride \$ 18.00 (1 Hour) Open-Air Car

Tom Shenk is arranging to purchase tickets. Please use this page as an order form and mail your request to Tom.

Member Name: _				
Guest Names: _				
Street Address: _			-	
State, Zip Code: _			-	
Number of Train	Ride tickets requested: _	<u>@</u> \$18.	00 = \$	_
PLEASE MAKE	CHECKS PAYABLE TO	LANCAST	ER CHAPTER	

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LANCASTER CHAPTER, NRHS

Mail your ticket request and remittance to:

Mr. Tom Shenk 11 Marquis Court Lititz, PA 17543

In order to make reservations at East Broad Top for the entire Chapter group, please reserve as early as possible.

Chapter Member Additional Options: (Note: the Chapter is not handling reservations for these two portions).

11:00 am Shop Tour \$ 16.00 (1Hour) Open Trolley Rides \$ 10.00 (45 Minutes)

To make your reservations for either or both of the above, please visit the EBT web site: https://eastbroadtop.com/







"INSIDE THE BACK PAGE" UPCOMING LANCASTER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

APRIL 17, 2023 - MONDAY, 7:30 PM CHAPTER MEETING AT CHRISTIANA FREIGHT HOUSE 10 RAILROAD AVENUE, CHRISTIANA, PA 17509

If your 2023 Lancaster Chapter dues are past due – Renew Now!

NOTE: THE LAST DATE FOR RENEWING 2023 MEMBERSHIP IS APRIL 30, 2023!!

2023 Chapter Dues: \$20.00 - plus \$2.00 if you have a family member

Please make your check payable to "Lancaster Chapter NRHS"

DO NOT ADD YOUR NATIONAL DUES TO YOUR LANCASTER CHAPTER CHECK!

If you would like us to forward your National Dues, **please make a 2nd check payable to NRHS** National Dues \$50.00 – plus \$7.00 if you have a family member

Mail to: H. L. SHAAK, JR

P O BOX 813

ADAMSTOWN PA 19501-0813

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2023

The Membership Meeting of the Lancaster Chapter, National Railway Historical Society was held at the Christiana Freight Station, Christiana PA on Sunday, March 19th 2022. Twenty-Three were in attendance.

Tom Shenk called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer Richard Rutledge gave the treasurers report for the month of October, November and December of 2022, and January and March of 2023 as well a reviewing the Chapters annual budget.

Other:

- -Steve Himpsel announced the renewal of the clubs radio licensure. Radios are available for use!
- -Saturday, May 13th: Clean-up Day at the Christiana Freight House in the morning
- -Saturday, June 10, 2023: Columbia Railroad Celebration, Columbia PA 9am-4pm
- -Sunday, July 16th, Chapter Away Meeting at East Broad Top Railroad
- -Helen Shaak reports we currently have 72 individual and 34 family memberships in good standing

Approval of December Minutes

Helen Shaak made a motion to approve the December 2022 Minutes. Steve Himpsel approved and the motion carried.

Adjournment

After the group enjoyed fresh brewed coffee and snacks, at 3:40pm, Tom Shenk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Fluck seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Fluck, Secretary

Happy Birthday Card Shower Request

Chapter member Richard Brenner is having a Milestone Birthday (# 80) on April 30th! Friends of Richard are requested to "shower" him with cards. Please mail to:

Mr. Richard Brenner Lancaster Nursing & Rehab Center 900 E. High Street Lancaster, PA 17602 Welcome, New Member!

Chris Kratz

LANCASTER DISPATCHER APRIL 2023

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CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING
LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., N.R.H.S.
APRIL 17, 2023 - MONDAY, 3:00 PM
CHAPTER MEETING
CHRISTIANA FREIGHT HOUSE
10 RAILROAD AVENUE
CHRISTIANA, PA 17509

LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC.
NATIONAL RAILWAY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10 RAILROAD AVENUE
CHRISTIANA, PA 17509-1416
PHONE: 717-917-5137
CHAPTER WEBSITE: WWW.NRHS1.ORG



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