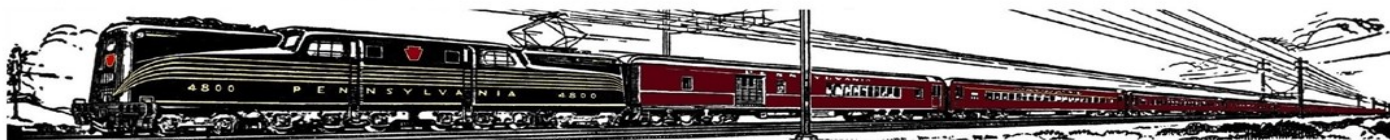


LANCASTER DISPATCHER

1935-2024



LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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OCTOBER 2024



The iconic Safe Harbor during Penn Central era, June 24, 1978.
Fred Schneider III photo.



Railway News Flash

By Steve Ferrell

Gathered from press releases and revised for this publication

Starting on August 22nd, Amtrak Virginia began service to a new transportation center in Newport News. Two daily roundtrips will utilize this station in addition to the Amtrak Thruway Bus Service. A 3,450 square-foot waiting area with vending machines, restrooms and an Amtrak employee manned ticket counter highlight this bright new facility.

On September 7th, Amtrak's Adirondack with service from New York City to Montreal, has resumed. The Canadian trackwork however, is incomplete. The service, operated with Canadian National was suspended mid-May until June 29th. They soon extended the line from NY to Saratoga Springs.

On September 5th, 2024, Amtrak's CEO Stephen Gardner joined the United States Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenburg, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and other officials to break ground on the new Connecticut River Bridge, located between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme, Ct. Replacing a bridge built in 1907, the new and also moveable bridge that features a trunnion bascule span with modern track, signaling and catenary and a maximum train speed of 70mph (over the older bridges' 45mph speed limit).

The first United States high-speed rail production facility shop will be located in Horseheads, New York. This new complex will build Brightline West's train set beginning in 2026. The new line will operate between Southern California and Las Vegas. Siemens, in partnership with the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace workers were the winning bidders in this undertaking.

New regional rail timetables took effect for SEPTA trains on September 8th, 2024 for all lines. Septa has increased regional rail service by adding 99 weekend trains and 24 weekday trains to the schedule. These additions restore 80% of the pre-COVID service on weekdays (up from 77%) and 84% on weekends (up from 63%). Amtrak ridership is currently at about 67% of pre-pandemic levels.

On September 15th, New Jersey Transit invited the public to Hoboken Terminal to view an historic railroad equipment display entitled: "Meet Our Rail Fleet: Past and Present" and to learn about careers with New Jersey Transit rail operations.

From Dan Cupper: After being out of service for eight months, East Broad Top Railroad's steam locomotive #16 (2-8-2 Mikado) is back in service. The Locomotive resumed pulling regularly scheduled EBT trains on August 30th and will continue on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through October 27th. Additionally, it will pull special trains this fall, plus in December, the Christmas trains. The locomotive was taken out of service when during the annual boiler inspection, it was discovered that two spokes of a main driving wheel had cracks.

From October 4th-6th, the Friends of the East Broad Top will host their fall reunion with a full schedule of unique programs, rides and tours. Some activities at these events are available to those holding a Fall Reunion Registration. Other activities are ticketed separately. Exclusive Friends activities include the Friends of the EBT dinner train on October 5th. Other exclusive activities include: Walking and railbike tours of the Robertsdale Mine area, an Open House in the Rockhill Yard, panels and presentations and more!

CSX debuted its newest heritage locomotive: Number 1900 which honors the Seaboard Air Line. The diesel locomotive wears Seaboard's "citrus" passenger livery.

**THIS MONTH ON THE PENNSY****PRR, PRSL & LIRR EVENTS IN OCTOBER**

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

October 20, 1915 Port Newark channel and dock opens on Newark Bay; originally a city project later taken over by Port of New York Authority; reached by both PRR and CNJ from Oak Island Jct.

October 31, 1920 PRR turns over sale of sleeping and parlor car tickets at Penn Station to employees of Pullman Company after firing seven agents for demanding bribes for tickets.

October 6, 1925 PRR's Philadelphia Terminal Division baseball team beats NYC's Indiana Harbor Belt team 5 to 4 at Rochester for American railroad baseball championship; game was result of challenge from W.W. Atterbury to NYC Pres. Patrick E. Crowley; employees from all over both systems travel to game in 32 special trains.

October 1, 1930 PRR has 5,757 locomotives, down from 7,270 in 1918; average HP per unit has increased from 1,578 in 1918 to 2,346 in 1930; total HP now 13.5 million vs. 11.5 million in 1918.

October 1, 1930 PRR has record 212,311 stockholders, of whom 100,347 are women.

October 5, 1935 Penn-Princeton football game is played at Princeton; PRR runs 12 specials from Broad Street Station direct to Princeton, leaving Philadelphia about every 5 minutes starting at 11:30 AM; trains run against the current of traffic from "MO" to Princeton Jct. using 3 temporary intermediate block stations; PRR proposes to electrify additional tracks in the Upper and Lower Yards at Princeton to eliminate the use of steam power on football specials.

October 14, 1935 National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) is founded at Philadelphia by the merger of the Lancaster Railway & Locomotive Historical Society and the Interstate Trolley Club.

October 8, 1940 The Hal Roach movie Broadway Limited, starring Dennis O'Keefe, Victor McLaglen, ZaSu Pitts and Patsy Kelly, begins location shooting at Pittsburgh with streamlined K4s No. 3768, removed early from the New York World's Fair; film uses a combination of studio sets and location shooting; is a flop when it opens in 1941.

October 10, 1945 PRR authorizes purchase of 10 6,000 HP passenger diesels; EMD Model F-3 in A-B-B-A configuration; one 2,000 HP passenger diesel and 5 600 HP diesel switchers.

October 16, 1950 Eleven-car "Pennsylvania Week Special" departs Harrisburg on a 6-day tour of the state; includes four examples of the PRR's postwar lightweight passenger car fleet and a 70-ton flat car rebuilt at Altoona as a stage; entertainers include Ezra Stone, aka radio's "Henry Aldrich," Alexis Smith, and Ham Fisher, creator of the popular "Joe Palooka" comic strip.

October 18, 1950 PRSL receives first order of six Budd RDCs, Nos. M-402 to M-407.

October 10, 1955 Last run of LIRR steam locomotive in revenue service as G5s No. 50 runs Oyster Bay to Long Island City.

October 25, 1960 First Class E44 electric locomotive No. 4400 delivered and displayed at 30th Street Station; all are to be equipped with brass bells salvaged from steam locomotives.

October 29, 1960 PRR delivers Class D16sb 4-4-0 No. 1223, combine No. 4639, coach No. 3556 and Cumberland Valley combine from historical collection to Strasburg Railroad.

October 20, 1965 Two days of oral arguments for PRR-NYC merger begin before full ICC; PRR and NYC agree to all preliminary conditions set by examiners, including inclusion of New Haven freight service, possible disposition of Lehigh Valley Railroad, job protection.

Photography of Fred Schneider III

The One-time 52nd St. Station Area and Schuylkill Branch Bridge in West Philadelphia

In 1978, Conrail was operating the passenger trains in Philadelphia.



Conrail MU Manayunk to Philadelphia at 52nd Street Station on June 23, 1978. The station was burned by vandals in 1980 and torn down in 1995.



CR Paoli Local 52nd St. June 23, 1978



SEPTA / Conrail Paoli Local at 52nd Street, June 23, 1978



Amtrak Washington DC Section of the Broadway Limited at 52nd St. June 23, 1978.

Photography of Fred Schneider III

The One-time 52nd St. Station Area and Schuylkill Branch Bridge in West Philadelphia



Above: SEPTA Conrail Silverliner IV Manayunk - Philadelphia crossing the Schuylkill Branch Bridge at 52nd St. June 23, 1978.

Right: A SEPTA Conrail-operated MU train to Manayunk local as seen from the top of the bridge on June 23, 1978.



Ferry Fun! An Ocean-Going Ferry to Rockaway Beach!
By Steve Ferrell

It was a sunny and cool summer morning as five of us at Exton Station boarded Amtrak’s Keystone #600 at 758am. Eight “Ride with Me Steve” riders were already on the train. Knowing all of us well, our conductor welcomed me by name. At Philadelphia four more riders boarded and our group was complete. A quick trip up the Northeast Corridor placed us on platform 6, under the Penn Station complex right on time! Our group then rode up the escalator then walked through the old Penn Station’s concourse to catch the 7th Avenue #3 subway. After proceeding through the turnstiles (much easier now as you can just tap your chip credit card), we all met back up on the platform. We caught the #3 train and within about ten minutes we were at the Wall Street station.

We ascended the long stairway up to ground level and walked the short half mile hike to the Pier 11 Ferry Terminal. We purchased our ferry tickets (\$8 round trip) and many riders enjoyed a lunch from one of the four food trucks. Pier 11 is a busy place that has about eight ferry routes arriving or departing every 15 minutes.

We waited in a long line to board this popular ferry with many of the riders wearing beach clothes for Rockaway Beach. It was a pleasant trip down the East River and into the Upper New York Bay. We sailed to the west of Governor’s Island and had a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island as the Manhattan skyline receded behind us.

Our ferry stopped in Sunset Park, Brooklyn Army Terminal. Picking up a few passengers, we departed the dock and proceeded southward, then under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Soon we navigated past the final green buoy and into the Atlantic Ocean. The ocean was as smooth as glass! We cruised off the shore of Coney Island and Brighton Beach, as our Brooklyn born rider pointed out the various rides and sights. Within a few minutes the ferry entered Jamaica Bay with JFK International Airport on the far left in the distance. On the right riders noted the nice beaches on the bay at Breezy Point. Shortly, we arrived at the Rockaway Ferry Terminal and the town of Rockaway Beach.



Riders on the #3 Subway – Photo by Randy Lennon



Our topside riders on the trip out to Rockaway – Photo by Randy Lennon



Verrazano Narrows Bridge, photo by Doug Henry

Ferry Fun! An Ocean-Going Ferry to Rockaway Beach! (continued)



**Above: The beach and rides at Coney Island
– Photo by Randy Lennon**

We re-boarded the same ferryboat for our return trip. Leaving the dock, our boat retraced the route on this much windier return trip, except we traveled on the west side of Governor’s Island which gave us better views of Brooklyn. After stopping at Sunset Park Ferry Terminal, we traversed the upper harbor to Pier 11. A nice two-hour voyage featuring a small jaunt into the Atlantic Ocean!



**Left: Arriving at the
Rockaway ferry dock
Photo by Doug Henry**



**Above: The iconic Coney Island
Parachute Jump
- Photo by Jim Donohue**



**Left: The Marine Parkway Bridge in Jamaica
Bay
– Photo by Doug Henry**

Ferry Fun! An Ocean-Going Ferry to Rockaway Beach! (continued)

We hiked to Wall Street Subway station and took the next northbound train to Penn Station. Here we noticed a sign that said where our favorite (and train themed restaurant), “Tracks” was planning to reopen by this spring. Currently it is located at 31st Street next to Madison Square Garden while the Long Island Railroad Terminal at Penn Station is being remodeled. Coming up to street level at 32nd Street, the group strolled over to the “street Level” Tracks and all of us enjoyed fantastic food for an early dinner.



**Tracks Restaurant -
a Ride With Me Steve tradition**

Left: Tracks on 31st Street

**Right: John Smith's seafood tower
- Photos by John Smith**

**Below, left: The group at Track's -
Photo by Doug Henry**

**Below, right: Another shot of the
group at Tracks - Photo by Steve
Ferrell**



The group walked the one block to Moynihan Hall and soon boarded our Amtrak Keystone # 653 and departed at 510pm. Lively conversation and some sleeping occurred during the homeward bound trip. Soon we each reached our destination train stop and then home to rest after a long trip.

SECOND CHAPTER "AWAY" MEETING AND TRAIN RIDE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th 2024

In lieu of a October formal meeting, the Lancaster NRHS Chapter invites our members to an excursion ride on the West Chester Railroad in West Chester, PA.

Members will drive / carpool to the Railroad's Station in West Chester and meet at the train station. The station is just one hour, 20 minutes from Lancaster area via Rtes. 30, 322 or the Turnpike.

West Chester Railroad
230 East Market Street
West Chester, PA 19380

There is ample free parking at the station.



The schedule and fares are as follows:

2:00 pm Train Ride \$ 30.00 (90 Minutes)

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: _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed with order: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Lancaster Chapter, N.R.H.S.

Mail your ticket request and remittance to:

Mr. Tom Shenk
11 Marquis Court
Lititz, PA 17543

In order to make reservations for The West Chester Railroad excursion for the entire Chapter group, please reserve as early as possible.

**LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., N.R.H.S.
 ANNUAL BANQUET
 FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 22, 2024
 DUTCH-WAY FAMILY RESTAURANT
 365 PA ROUTE 41, GAP, PA 17527**

JOIN US AT DUTCH-WAY FAMILY RESTAURANT FOR A WONDERFUL EVENT WITH GREAT FOOD AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF YOUR FELLOW CHAPTER MEMBERS. MAKE THIS YOUR FIRST EVENT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

5:30 PM - DOORS OPEN

6:00 PM - DINNER SERVED

FOLLOWING THE DINNER, ATTENDEES WILL DRIVE THE 4-MINUTE TRIP TO THE CHRISTIANA FREIGHT STATION FOR THE EVENINGS PROGRAM.

7:30 PM PROGRAM: DON FISHER—THE RAILROAD MUSEUM of LONG ISLAND

This year's Lancaster Chapter's Annual Banquet Speaker will be Don Fisher, President of the Railroad Museum of Long Island, located in Riverhead and Greenport, NY. A former firefighter and a school audiovisual coordinator, Don is a vibrant promoter of restoring his museum's G5 steam locomotive now mostly housed at Strasburg Railroad, with the idea of the locomotive eventually running at Strasburg.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET COST FOR 2024 IS \$30.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING OR YOU MAY MAIL THIS COUPON INCLUDING A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE.

ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 6, 2024



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

NO. OF SEATS _____ **@ \$30.00 EACH = TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LANCASTER CHAPTER, N.R.H.S.

MAIL TO: LANCASTER CHAPTER, N.R.H.S. INFORMATION:

**C/O TOM SHENK
 11 MARQUIS COURT
 LITITZ, PA 17543
 CELL - 717-314-4448**

"INSIDE THE BACK PAGE"**UPCOMING LANCASTER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

OCTOBER 20, 2024 - CHAPTER TRAIN EXCURSION - WEST CHESTER RAILROAD
230 E. MARKET STREET, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380

NOVEMBER 22, 2024 - FRIDAY, 5:30 PM - ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET AT THE DUTCHWAY FAMILY RESTAURANT, 365 RT. 41 GAP, PA. PROGRAM FOLLOWING AT CHRISTIANA FREIGHT HOUSE AT 7:30 PM. (TICKET ORDER FORM ON PAGE 10).

CHRISTIANA HERITAGE DAYS **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2024**

The Chapter and our freight house served as a key host to Christiana's annual Heritage Days on September 13th and 14th. Many visitors came through, looking at exhibits and greeting Amtrak express trains passing by. Glenn Kendig's speeders were a big hit, along with 7 1/2" scale train rides through the alley.



ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2024**



Chapter Meeting Minutes September 22, 2024

Tom Sherk opened the meeting at 3:45 PM.

The West Chester RR excursion is on for October 20th

Steve Himpl reported a new photo display of Christiana borough photos and a model of the J tower are displayed in the freight house.

Vintage PRR blueprints Thorndale and Christiana track plans are also in the freight house.

The freight house roof is to be done in October. The Roof fund is still active

Caboose seat pads have been redone. Two brass diesel bells have been added to our collection.

Heritage Day was enjoyed by all visitors who came.

We can now process credit cards for in-house sales.

The Dutch-Way Family Restaurant is confirmed for the 2024 Banquet followed by freight House meeting.

2025 Hershey Farms Chapter Banquet confirmed.

Richard gave financial report. The 2025 Budget was reviewed.

A motion to approve was made by Jim Donohue, seconded by Doug Henry was unanimously approved by the membership.

Glenn thanked volunteers for Heritage day help.

The meeting concluded at 4:20 PM. 34 members attended.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHUCK AND ELAINE CHALFANT AND DAN MURRAY

LANCASTER CHAPTER BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2025

THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 22ND ANNUAL BANQUET. THEY WILL BE HELD AT THE FREIGHT HOUSE PRIOR TO OUR SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION.

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NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., N.R.H.S.

OCTOBER 20, 2024 - SUNDAY, 2:00 PM WEST CHESTER
 RAILROAD EXCURSION
 230 EAST MARKET STREET
 WEST CHESTER, PA 19380

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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