

Official Newsletter
of



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1361
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www.hscnrhs.org

FALL 2024

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NOTE: Horseshoe Curve Chapter, National Railway Historical Society was granted a charter by the NRHS on May 11, 1968 (3 months and 10 days after the PRR-NYC merger), evolving from the Altoona Railway Museum Club (1965-1968). We meet on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month except December, at the Railroaders Memorial Museum, Altoona, PA, at 7:30 PM. Occasional exceptions are announced to the membership.

90 (+) % of all communications and notices are handled by e-mail. Please keep your e-mail address current with the officers, especially the President and the Chapter Historian/Editor.

FALL 2024 ISSUE OF THE COAL BUCKET

In this issue we will explore some new things being worked on in the area as well as reporting on events held this past summer.

First, is an annual Chapter picnic which was held this year at the Horseshoe Curve. Len Alwine reports on this event as well as providing some photos.

Second, the construction of a new trail in Bellwood which sort of follows the old Logan Valley Trolley line. The trolley line went down the middle of Main Street but the trail uses a path along the Norfolk Southern tracks about 50+ feet away. It then goes over the N.S. tracks on the foot bridge and then turns left to follow the N.S. to Becker Road. It is being built by Antis Township and they already own some of this ground which made it easier to get it built. John Frederick, who was a spear head for this trail, is the guest columnist for this article.

It is followed by a photo essay of the trail by Leonard Alwine.

Next, is a report on the Amtran Bus Rodeo held this year in Altoona. One of the drivers was a former member of our chapter.

Also, there is an update about the incline at the Horseshoe Curve.

Joe Harella continues to keep all informed with the Chapter minutes from this past Summer.

A summary of the bus trip to the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad is provided by Dick Charlesworth.

A Chapter member published a new book on the Logan Valley Union which came out this summer and is something any trolley collector should have on his shelf.

An interesting mix of items is compiled by Len in the A Look Back column.

With sadness, we announce the passing of member Dave Behe in the In Memory section.

With that lineup, it is the hope of the Coal Bucket staff that everyone will find something to enjoy reading.

Since it is getting colder at night and the leaves are falling (mainly due to lack of rain) we all realized that Fall is now upon us. Take a little time to go photograph some trains with the fall foliage in the background and submit them to the editor to be used in future editions of the Coal Bucket.

Enjoy this fall as we all know what is coming soon!!

LATE BREAKING NEWS: Chapter dues have been raised to \$20 due to rising costs and it was decided to not have a Christmas dinner this year.

ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC HELD

by Leonard Alwine

On Sunday, August 4th, the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS held their annual picnic. This summer it was held at the Horseshoe Curve pavilion in front of the old entrance of the original steps used to climb up to the top of the curve years ago.

At about 1:00 p.m., thirty members sat down to a picnic lunch. Once again this year, Frank Givler, President, was chosen to man the grill cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. The members also brought covered dishes of all the regular picnic sides and desserts. That was a great meal enjoyed by all attendees.

Following the meal, the members watched six trains rounding the curve (3 up, 3 down) and Joe Defranco then announced that in the incline should be running by the end of August. (See article about the incline in later pages of the Coal Bucket.)

Several members came to the picnic in their old historic cars which all enjoyed checking out. Following a time of fellowship, better known as the bull session, the members departed for home about 4:00 p.m.



Frank grilling the burgers and dogs for the annual picnic. (Note the old original step entrance in the background, right side.)



Karin Givler setting up the buffet table for the picnic.



Members enjoying the food and fellowship



EDITOR'S NOTE: [Frank's Hot Dog History Lesson](#)

Back in 1899, for the Chicago World Fair, a new type of snack previewed called the Hot Dachshund Sausage Dog. They were called this due to them looking like wiener dogs, a name sometimes referred to the actual real dog.

When reporting this new food in the newspaper, the writer could not spell Dachshund, so he just reported them as Hot Dogs and the name stuck until now.

NEW RAIL TRAILS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

by John Frederick, Guest Columnist

The Bells Gap Railroad Trail

The Bells Gap Railroad was introduced as a narrow gauge spur line in the 1850's with the intention of connecting the Pennsylvania Railroad Mainline to the people and resources in the northern portions of Pennsylvania. It would move people and goods northwest and would help the coal and lumber industry to the west move their goods to the cities along the Mainline and beyond.

The spur line connected to the Mainline in the center of Bellwood, near where the Bellwood-Antis Community Park is now located. Eventually, the spur would be converted to a standard gauge line in 1872, allowing easy exchange of cars and the goods they carried. Though the slope was steep and the ascent of the Allegheny Front was slow and difficult, the line was an important transportational artery for both goods and people until the current Route 865 was improved in the 1930's.

Like most rail lines of the time, the builder and original owners, the Bells Gap Railroad Company, kept the incline below four percent. This could



only be accomplished by wrapping around some of the stream valleys on the escarpment to lengthen the horizontal distance of the climb. The most noteworthy of these is above the Bellwood Reservoir on Shaw Run. The curve near the confluence of Bells Gap and Shaw Run produces an exceptional view of the valley at Point Lookout trail users are now be able to enjoy.

At four percent, the slope of the right-of-way will provide for a gradual ascent well suited, not just for the railroads of the 19th century, but cyclists, hikers, cross-country skiers and horseback riders of the 21st. After leaving Bellwood Borough, the trail goes westward toward Roots Crossing. It parallels Route 865 toward the scenic Bellwood Reservoir. The Altoona City Water Authority has granted a right-of way through their watershed property above the reservoir. The trail then crosses through Pennsylvania State Game Lands, terminating in the village of Lloydsville at the top of Blandburg Mountain.

The trail meanders gently through the bends of the Allegheny Front, across mountain creeks and offers several stunning views of the valley.

Take a break at one of the many vistas to gaze out over the Tuckahoe Valley, enjoying the majesty of the rolling mountains and the tranquil blue waters of the reservoir. A few forgotten railroad spikes can still be found along the trail, rusted and corroded, a reminder of the industry that catapulted the dusty settlements of Bellwood and Blandburg into prosperity during the heyday of the railroad.

The Logan Valley Trail

The northern end of the Logan Valley Streetcar Trail is slated for construction in 2023 and will begin at the Route 865 Bridge. The trail will cross at the Bellwood Pedestrian Bridge and meet the lower end of the Bells Gap Trail. It parallels the path of the trolley line that connected Hollidaysburg, Altoona, Bellwood and Tyrone.



The Bellwood-Tyrone portion of the trolley ceased operation in 1936.

The Bells Gap Trail will go through the Bellwood-Antis Community Park, one spur going along Bells Gap Run until the trail transitions into a share-the-road route to Roots Crossing. Meanwhile, the Logan Valley Trail will turn south at the west end of the pedestrian bridge and follow Bells Gap Run southward to Becker Road. The trail will end just south of Becker Road for the time being until a coal waste reclamation project is completed. Following removal of the coal waste and replanting of the area, the trail will be finished south to Riggles Gap.

Connecting Our Communities, the Past and Present

This trail system will someday link not only westward toward Blandburg, but north and southward to Tyrone and Hollidaysburg. It will also connect past and present, through the men and women whose livelihoods once depended on the railroad. It recalls the days when it was the only dependable mode of transportation to connect these communities. The Logan Valley Trail goes back even further, once serving as a passage for Native Americans along the Little Juniata River.

It is our hope that future generations will follow its path for recreation, exercise, a greater appreciation of our natural beauty and resources, and a new understanding of the fascinating history behind Bellwood-Antis and Blair County. We invite you to visit www.antistownship.org for information on sponsorship and other support of the trails.

PHOTO ESSAY OF NEW TRAILS

by Leonard Alwine

New bridge being built from Norfolk Southern crossover bridge for Logan Valley Trail. The other end is where the trail will turn left and follow the N.S. tracks to Becker Road.

PHOTO 1 (see map)



The Logan Valley trail on the Bellwood side of N.S. tracks where it takes a turn and uses the crossover foot bridge to get to the other side of the tracks.

PHOTO 2



The trailhead about 1/2 mile from the crossover bridge following the Bellwood side of N.S. tracks to the crossover bridge.

PHOTO 3



The parking lot at the trail head in Bellwood along Main Street (Note the A-LVERY registration plate on editor's van.)
Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Railway
PHOTO 4

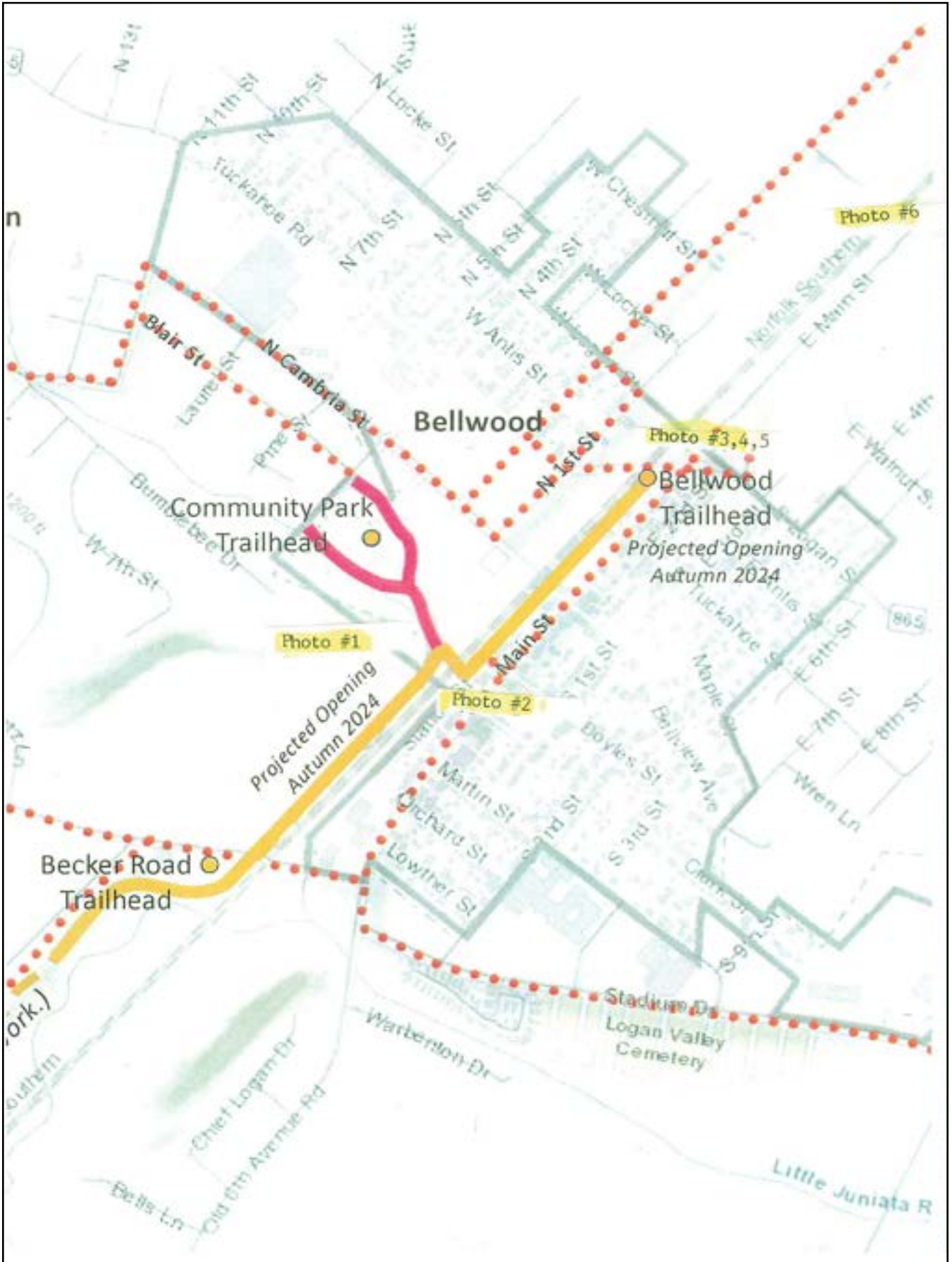


Looking from the parking lot towards E. Main Street in Bellwood where the Logan Valley tracks actually used the middle of the street for the right of way for the trollies, most likely right under the large cement pillar now used for the road.
PHOTO 5



About 1/2 miles from the parking lot on E. Main Street there is still a cement bridge built by Logan Valley now used as private driveway.
PHOTO 6





Trail map with photo locations marked

UNDER THE WIRE AMTRAN HOSTS BUS RODEO

by Leonard Alwine

On Sunday, August 4th, Amtran hosted the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association Rodeo at the Logan Valley Mall Parking lot. This was the third time Amtran hosted the rodeo, the first time was May 1988 and again in May 2008, then this year. Twenty drivers from various state bus authorities competed.

The top three state winners are then granted to compete in the American International Transportation Association International Bus Rodeo the following year.

This year, Amtran driver Joe Beach finished third and is now qualified to compete at the international event. This would be his third time at the international event having won the state event in 2022 (First Place) and also in 2019 (Third Place).

Amtran's other driver entered this year was Jamie Rickens, who finished seventh in this local state event. Jamie is a former member of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS and was sponsored by the chapter to Rail Camp in 2001. Perhaps by finishing seventh he proves that he is good driving both on and off the rails.

The Coal Bucket staff congratulates both of these local winners.



A driver maneuvers through the cones at one of the obstacles at the rodeo.



A driver backs a bus into a parking space without hitting any cones.

BUSES IN LABOR DAY PARADE

Amtran debuted its Logan Valley heritage bus #56 in the 106th Annual Labor Day Parade held in downtown Altoona on August 31, 2024.

The bus is a 2024 Gillig natural gas powered bus which arrived at Amtran in late May with two sister buses in regular Amtran colors (see article in the Summer 2024 issue of the Coal Bucket). The bus was driven in the parade by Jamie Rickens who recently took 7th place in the bus rodeo hosted by Amtran on August 4, 2024.

Riding in the doorway of #56 was Joe Harella, a retired Amtran driver, passing out candy to all the kids along the parade route.

This year Amtran's presence in the parade was enhanced by CATA bus #208 which traveled from State College, PA to be in the parade.



Amtran heritage bus #56 in Logan Valley colors on 11th Avenue in Downtown Altoona for the Labor Day Parade.



CATA bus #208 traveled from State College, PA to be part of the 106th Altoona Labor Day Parade.

INCLINE STILL O.O.S.

by Leonard Alwine

As of September 15, 2024, the incline at Horseshoe Curve was still out of service. It was announced at the chapter picnic held at the Curve on August 4, 2024 that it was expected to have the incline up and running again by the end of August. But that did not happen.

The incline and cars were installed sometime during 1991-1992 when the Horseshoe Curve historical site was rebuilt. The incline and cars were sort of a "one-off" by the manufacturer which is now out of business. This along with misplaced inspection and maintenance records from the beginning has caused a mountain of problems for the current landmark leaders. They are trying against all odds to get it running again.

It did actually venture out of its station and ran a little bit in mid July on what was hoped to be it's final inspection run. More problems just a short number of feet up the hill made more parts needed which had to be ordered from overseas.

Photo taken in July on what was hoped to be the final inspection trip shows the car stopped about 30 feet up the slope. At least it was trying to run after about four years stopped.



The big problem with things shut down and not running for four years is a two fold problem. One, anything not used for a long time will seize up, become stiff and maybe even rust or corrode. Perhaps that is some of the operating problems now.

And second, with it being shut down for such a long time, visitors to the park have maybe found other places to watch trains. And tourist bus lines are probably not listing the curve as a stop on their tours as many using this service are older and cannot walk the nearly 200 steps to the top.

Once reopened, it is going to take a major marketing effort to get the Curve back to it's original tourist attraction status.

Let's hope that it can be done and the Curve will once again be the premiere tourist attraction of the area. All rail enthusiasts should do all they can to help the local current historic landmark leaders re-establish the old Curve venue.

LOCAL YARD NEWS AND CHAPTER MINUTES

by Joe Harella

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 25TH, 2024

The regular monthly of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on June 25th, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Pres, Frank Givler at 7:00 P.M.. The meeting was held here at Perkin's Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ron Givler, second by Don Goebel. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Dick Charlesworth second. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bus Trip- Dick Charlesworth reported that the bus trip to Jim Thorpe has been scratched, however we are working on the Potomac Eagle dinner train. This trip would also include a stop at the Queen City Creamery for a delicious treat in Cumberland, Md. The trip would take place on October 5th, 2024. Either Freedom Excursions or Raystown Transit would provide our transportation. Departure time is tentatively set for 7:00 A.M.. More on this later.
2. Summer Picnic- Pres. Givler informed the members that our summer picnic will be held on Sunday August 4th at the Horseshoe Curve Pavilion at 1:00 P.M.. Pres. Givler will once again serve as the head chef while being assisted by Dick Charlesworth. Love those burgers !
3. Tires for the Walters- Two new tires have been mounted leaving four to go. Pres Givler said that each wheel was cleaned after the tire was removed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Venue Change- A request has been made to change the location of our chapter meetings. A discussion was then held. The suggestion was made to try the Valley Dairy in the Walmart Plaza. Frank will send out cards informing everyone.
2. Denny Walls reported that a former PRR x29 box car is now setting on a pair of EBT trucks.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Paul Campbell- Just to inform everybody that Paul's wife Erma has passed away. The chapter would like to offer our sympathies and condolences to their family.
2. East Broad Top- Denny Walls reported that the grubbing work is progressing. Also engine #16 is down. There will be no steam at the EBT this summer.
3. A Night at the Curve- Len Alwine reported that there are a number of evenings that the curve will be open to the general public. It is a nice way to spend a relaxing evening watching trains.

Ron Givler then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Denny Walls second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.—15 members present.

ATTENDANCE- Ron Givler, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Jean Noonan, Zach Noonan, Len Alwine, Dick Charlesworth, Dan Summers, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Mary Jean Walls, Denny Walls, Joe Harel

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 23RD, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on July 23RD, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 6:50 P.M.. The meeting was held at the Valley Dairy Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ron Givler, second by Gary Price. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Ralph Simpson second. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Up Coming Bus Trip- Dick Charlesworth reported that our bus trip to ride the Potomac Eagle is scheduled for Saturday October 5TH . The first bus which seats 56 passengers is currently sold out. If we are in need of a second bus , Ron Givler has volunteered to serve as the host. The buses will be provided by Freedom Excursions and possibly Raystown Transit. More on this later.
2. Summer Picnic- Pres. Givler informed everyone that our summer picnic is all set for Sunday August 4TH and will be held at the Horseshoe Curve Pavilion at 1:00P.M.. He then went over the list of those signed up to attend and what food item they are bringing. Looks like a great menu.
3. Tires for the Walters- Pres. Givler reported that all six tires have been mounted and the trucks look great. He also said that the next job will be to replace the manifold.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dave Behe- We are very sorry to report that member Dave Behe has passed away. The chapter would like to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to Chris and her family on Dave's passing.

Ron Givler then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Simpson second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.—15 members present.

ATTENDANCE- Ron Givler, Ralph Simpson, Marge Simpson, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Dick Charlesworth, Mary Jean Walls, Denny Walls, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Betsie Price, Gary Price, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HAOESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

SUMMER PICNIC

AUGUST 4TH, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS scheduled for August 27TH, 2024 had to be canceled due to the chapter picnic which was held on August 4TH, 2024,

The picnic was held at the pavilion located at the Horseshoe Curve.

The menu consisted of a variety of picnic foods along with hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the chapter,

The grill was once again manned by Pres. Frank Givler who did an excellent job.

We finished up our meal with a selection from the dessert table,

A good time was had by all.

ATTENDANCE- Frank Givler, Karin Givler, Ron Givler, Dick Charlesworth, Denny Walls, Diane Teeter, Wil Teeter, Betsie Price, Gary Price, Gary Clare, Nancy McKnight, [REDACTED] *Dean* McKnight, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Larry McKee, John Fisher, Len Alwine, Judy Caum, Jim Caum, Jean Noonan, Mark, Andrew Detrick and family [6], Kathy Harella, Joe Harella.

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on September 24TH, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:20 P.M..The meeting was held at Perkin's Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Joe Harella.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Ralph Simpson second. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Potomac Eagle Bus Trip- To be held on Saturday, October 5TH. Dick Charlesworth reported that everything is all set. The bus will leave the Railroader's Memorial Museum at 7:00 A.M.. There will be 52 people on the bus and three people will ride with Dick. Every seat on the bus is taken, and Ron Givler will be in charge. Dick said that we should have about a three hour train ride, with a bus stop at the Queen City Creamery. We should be back in Altoona between 4:30 and 5:00P.M.
2. Up date on the Funicular- Pres. Givler reported that all repairs have been made and after a positive state inspection has been completed, the funicular should be up and running.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Christmas Dinner- A discussion was held as to whether or not to have the dinner this year. Frank and Karen will be out of town and they will not have time to make the necessary arrangements such as the caterer, guest speaker and holiday decorations. Ron Givler then made a motion to forgo the Christmas dinner this year, Dean McKnight second, the motion passed. Dick Charlesworth then made a suggestion that we might be able to have something after the first of the year. Pres. Givler said yes we could possibly do something then.
2. November Meeting- Pres. Givler asked the members if we could hold our November meeting on the 19TH, instead of the 26TH. He will be out of town the week of Thanksgiving. The members agreed.
3. Increase in Dues- Pres. Givler informed everyone that we need to increase our dues by \$5:00. The amount should cover any additional expenses that the chapter might incur. Ron Givler made a motion to increase the dues by \$5.00, Ralph Simpson second, the motion passed. The increase will take affect next year.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Chris and Kelly Behe attended our chapter meeting on Tuesday night. Chris informed us that he will be retiring soon and they will be moving back to Altoona. Chris is Dave Seidel's nephew.
2. Len Alwine informed us that he saw the old 1941 firetruck up at the Horseshoe Curve. It seems that Joe Defrancesco had it out on a test run.
3. John Fisher headed up a discussion on Alto Tower. He said that it is an old landmark and it should be painted up and have some lighting installed . It should be restored, he said.

Don Goebel then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Givler second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.- 21 members present.

ATTENDANCE—Ron Givler, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Len Alwine, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Denny Walls, Dick Charlesworth, Diane Haire, Denny Haire, Jean Noonan, Zach Noonan, Chris Behe, Kelley Behe, John Fisher, Larry McKee, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

by Dick Charlesworth

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, the Horseshoe Curve Chapter ran a bus trip to the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad with 52 people on board.

We left Altoona at 7:00 am to Romney, West Virginia for a 10:00 am departure on a 3 hour train ride along the south branch of the Potomac River.

On board personnel narrated the history of the valley, along with pointing out the flights of Bald Eagles. We also had a choice of meals on board the train: meatloaf, chicken or lasagna.

We arrived back at Romney at 1:00 pm and then proceeded to Cumberland for an ice cream treat at Queen City Creamery. I became aware that the creamery ran out of some flavors due to an unforeseen increase in customers.

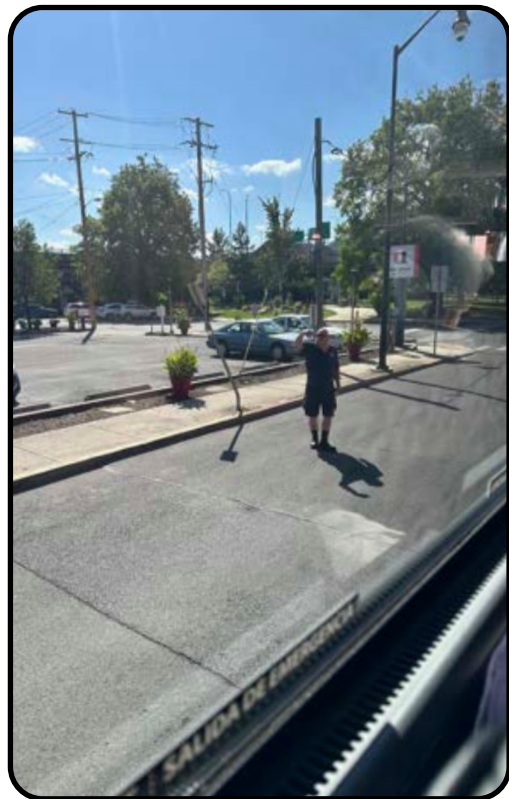
We then departed for Altoona, arriving back around 4:15 pm. Before everyone headed home, we took a group picture.

Thank you to everyone for riding with us, a special thank you to Ron Givler for assisting us on the bus and to Zach Noonan for taking the group picture.

Dick is considering putting together the opportunity for a trip to East Broad Top Railroad in the Summer of 2025. More information at a later date.



Attendees of the
Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad trip
Photo credit: Zach Noonan



Ron Givler directing traffic.
Photo credit: Cathy Seymore

CHAPTER MEMBER PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

by Leonard Alwine

Horseshoe Curve Chapter Member Jeffrey Holland has recently published a new book featuring the Altoona & Logan Valley roots and recording up to the present day Amtran. The book entitled “Amalgamated Transit Union Local 801” details the history of public transit in Altoona.

Mr. Holland is the son of W. Dale Holland, grandson of Jacob Grant Condron Sr., and nephew of Jacob Grant Condron Jr., all whom were members and officers of Local 801 and all long time employees of Logan Valley and Amtran.

With this family heritage background, Jeffrey has collected many photos and items from the past about the Local 801 and the Women’s Auxiliary Division 801-A. They are very nicely interspaced into the pages of this writing. He has also researched and includes a page listing all the Presidents of the Local 801 with photos of them.

The book is a must have for anyone interested in the local transit history of Altoona and it is the first one of it’s kind on this subject.

The second part of the book, “A Time Line of the Public Transit of Altoona” is a rehash of the City Passenger Railway, Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Railway and bus line and the Amtran buses of today.

That history has been documented before by books from Benson Rohrback, David Seidel and Leonard Alwine. But in this new book there are over two dozen never before published photos of trolleys and buses that Jeffrey has added to his collection over many years of collecting transit items. Again, he has included these items inside the pages of his book including many old tickets of the Altoona system.

He ends this part with eight employee photos, rosters given to employees from Logan Valley in 1915 to the time of Amtran’s 60th Anniversary of 2016.

Mr. Holland is priviledged to have relatives working at the transit company over the years which allowed him to collect many first hand items which he shares in this book.

To acquire a copy contact: Jeffery Holland, 212 Ridge Avenue, Hawley, PA 18238.

This book is a must have for the shelves of any Altoona history collection.

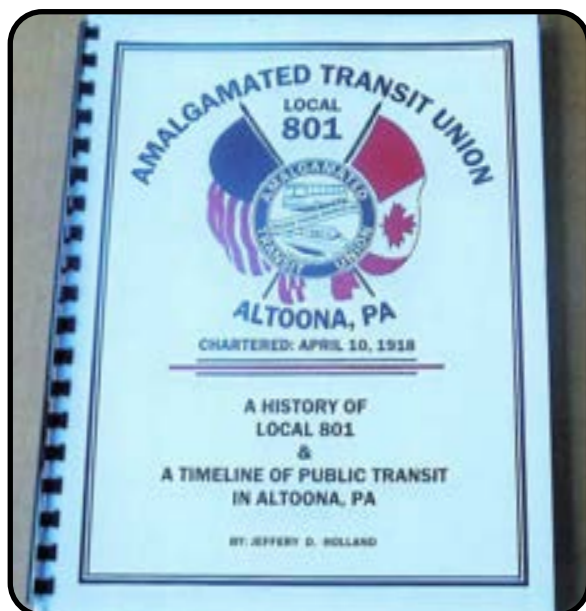


Photo of the cover of the new book.

A LOOK BACK by Leonard Alwine

85 years ago

The Wizard of Oz opened in movie houses across the USA.
The flying monkey scene still haunts viewers today.

50 years ago

Carl Grover, Owner of the Altoona 7Up Bottling Works, was granted a franchise to bottle Dr. Pepper soft drink, based out of Texas, that itself was over 100 years old.

The Altoona Mountaineer Band under the direction of Ray Detwiler, marched 36 boys playing instruments and 21 girls in color guard, baton and flags for the summer season.

The Mown Demolition Co., of Carrolltown that was razing the 70 year old brownstone building of Altoona High School posted notices that pieces of the brownstone could not be taken as souvenirs and anyone caught would be charged with trespassing. Not all people were arrested and many small stones were “preserved” by Altoona Citizens.



A small piece of the brownstone
“preserved” for many years by the
Editor in his basement.

25 years ago

The Keith Junior High Marching Band took top honors at the Parks Festival in Richmond, Virginia and the Keith Orchestra received the festival’s Espirit De Corps Award for excellent ratings.

10 years ago

The Logan Township United Fire Department, Kittaning Trail Fire Department and Newberg Fire Department fought a large brush fire at the Horseshoe Curve near the National Landmark buildings. It was bad enough that Norfolk Southern had to stop all trains until it was out.

REMEMBER WHEN?

Altoona had two hospitals and Mercy Hospital was named the Altoona Region Poison Center with Dr. Richard Moriarty as the Director. They issued “Mr. Yuk” stickers for parents to place on household products that could harm children. The stickers were to teach kids to stay away from these bottles or cans as it would hurt them if touched or eaten.

That was August 29, 1974 - 50 YEARS AGO!
(perhaps N.S. should attach these stickers to tank cars
as a follow up to the derailment in Ohio)



IN MEMORY
by Leonard Alwine

The Coal Bucket announces that David Behe has passed away (11-3-1936 to 7-23-2024)

Dave was a relative through marriage to Dave Seidel and attended meetings with him for many years. His son Christopher was also a chapter member and acted as a chapter webmaster for years.

May you rest in peace Dave.

David G. Behe
Nov. 3, 1936 – July 23, 2024
David G. Behe, 87, passed away Tuesday in Altoona after a courageous multi-year battle with Myelodysplastic Syndrome. He was born in Altoona, the son of Ann Orveta (Grove) and John C. Behe.



Behe

Surviving are three brothers: John Michael "Mick" of State College, Daniel and wife, Joan, of Vineland, New Jersey and Bernard and wife, Marlene "Suzi," of Altoona.

David married Christine (Seidel) on Sept. 2, 1967, and the couple went on to have four sons: Christopher and wife, Kelly (Byers), Dennis and wife, Nancy (Cunningham), Brian and wife, Nicole (Walters) and Timothy and wife, Julie (Ziance). He was the proud grandfather of Morgan, Logan, Luke, Lauren, Leah, Olivia, Riley, Macyn and Elsie.

David was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Martha; sister-in-law, Claire Jean; and a nephew, Derek.

David graduated from Altoona Catholic High School in 1954. He entered the United States Navy and proudly served his country aboard the USS Edisto, where he traveled throughout the Arctic Circle.

Upon his return home, he began working for Stockdale Mine Supply of Punxsutawney. David is mostly known for his 30-year career, where he retired as a regional sales representative for US Tobacco Inc.

Post retirement, David worked as a delivery driver for NAPA Auto Parts, a driver for Blair Senior Services and lastly, as a staffer for Sen. Robert Jubelirer.

David also proudly served his community for 18 years as a volunteer and chairman for the Altoona Fire Civil Service Commission.

In his later years, David enjoyed spending time with his nine grandchildren, walking the many hills and neighborhoods of Altoona, reading, reminiscing about his childhood friends and family and gardening. Above all else, David cherished his family and the relationships he had with his longtime friends.

David was a lifetime member of The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Friends will be received from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 28, 2024, at **The Stevens Mortuary Inc.**, 1421 Eighth Ave., Altoona.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, July 29, 2024, at The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Committal will be held at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry, 1523 Adams Ave., Altoona, PA 16602.