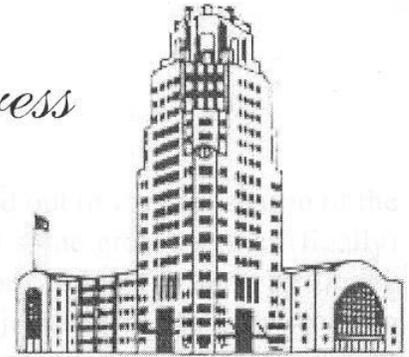


Empire State Express



November 2019

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

Editor: John C. Dahl Email: newsletter@nfcnrhs.com

The meeting of the Chapter will be held on **Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM** at the Degraff Community Center, 139 Division St., North Tonawanda, NY. **NOTE EARLIER MEETING START TIME.**

ED WEBER'S LOOK AT THE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN in the 1950's Part 2



Mount Pocono, PA is viewed on September 4, 1950. Ed Weber photo.



We return to the late, great Delaware, Lackawanna & Western for part 2 of Ed Weber's mostly-in-the-1950s photo review of the railroad. We pick up our inspection train in Binghamton, NY and continue east along the *Route of Phoebe Snow* into Pennsylvania, the Pocono Mountains, and will also explore the Bloomsburg branch through the coal fields. Come and join us. It's a great ride over the *Road of Anthracite!*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm looking out the window at the leaves. All the trees were decked in Mother Nature's finest hues, but they are beginning to thin and fade. Soon these silent sentinels, so glorious now, will be stark and bare. We know what happens after that. We had hoped to have the framing of the archive room expansion finished by now. It's been held up since August because of needed electrical work. That work is happening now. We are also upgrading the gas line and installing a furnace in the middle section of the station. We will be able to turn on the heat there whenever we have something going on. Winterwalk, which we will be doing again this year, will benefit. Becky has asked for the pony rides to be on the Museum "front lawn" again. They seem to be a big draw. The Museum will be open

for the event on Saturday December 7th from 11 am to 4 pm. Stop by and see what is going on for yourself. Better yet, call Becky at 434-5665 and volunteer to help decorate or be on hand as a docent on the day.

We have been very fortunate of late to have had more money in the treasury to work with than we have had in long time. We had the grant money that was spent on EL-2. We earned money parking cars for Canalfest, selling calendars, Great Gorge books and magazines at the train shows. We also did the chicken barbeque and for the first time this year, we sponsored and ran the train show at Central Terminal. We have a number of projects that are lurking in the background, awaiting opportunity. Among these are track rehab, equipment restoration, and re-decking the loading dock. We purchased a used handicapped lift from an estate sale this fall. The installation of that and some concrete work are planned for spring. Some of our projects have money appropriated to them and some are just waiting their turn. Interior windows for EL-2 are being made and rebuilt by Steve Frey. Dennis Hurley is painting them and installing glazing. The work will go on over the winter as it is feasible. We will keep you apprised as we go.

During all the work that is going on at the station, we were open for visitors. We tallied the guest book at the Museum to find that 119 had signed the book so far this season.

We are going to be at the WNYRHS train show at the Fairgrounds weekend of the November 23rd & 24th. We can always use help with set up and take down for this.

John Dahl is gathering more films from the archives to be digitalized. As these come back to us and we can edit them, you can expect to see "the best of" at a future meeting.

Neal reminds us that membership renewals will be in the mail soon and now you can renew on line. Thanks to Bruce Becker for that. It's high tech, Vern; know what I mean? Please be as generous as you can with your donations, we still have a lot to do. We have a good momentum going and I'm hoping we can ride it all through 2020.

Speaking of 2020, do you have your new Chapter calendar yet? The Calendar Committee has produced another great edition and this year several months are in color. You can get yours at the meeting for the Members Special price or by mail or at the train show. They make a great Holiday gift. Until then, I'll see you at the Meeting.

Jim Ball

“SCENE” ON THE LINE - SALUTE to FIRST RESPONDERS, POLICE & ARMED SERVICES
All photos by Jon Rothenmeyer



Over the weekend of October 12 & 13, at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society museum in North East, PA CSX railroad displayed three special paint scheme locomotives, each one dedicated to those who serve us everyday. Above, appropriately in a fire-engine-red color, is #911, dedicated to First Responders. Below, Law Enforcement is honored with #3194 in a blue, white and black scheme.



“SCENE” ON THE LINE - continued



Our men and women in the Armed Forces are represented with #1776 in a blue, yellow and camouflage style paint scheme. Having all three units on display in the same place at the same time is indeed a rare occurrence.



It's a quiet autumn afternoon on the former Erie Railroad at Silver Springs, NY. The venerable station still serves as a maintenance of way facility for current owner of the line, Norfolk Southern. October 21, 2019

“SCENE” ON THE LINE - continued



A rust streaked team track still loops around an even more vintage former Erie Railroad depot at Darien Center, NY. Although no longer in railroad use, it is still a landmark reminder of the line’s heritage.

“THE LITTLE LOCOMOTIVE THAT COULD”

Photos by John C. Dahl

Our favorite 0-4-0 visited Hamburg, NY this past October for a series of short excursion trips. Operating over the Buffalo Southern, the former Erie and EL branches were the perfect host for these mini-steam safaris.



Here #6 has just crossed Lakeview Road heading south to Water Valley. October 5, 2019

“THE LITTLE LOCOMOTIVE THAT COULD” – continued



Barking up a storm with her stack-talk, the handsome 0-4-0 is crossing the Water Valley trestle amid the golden splendor of autumn foliage. A local hound nearby howled incessantly as the engine got her footing and then let out whistle blasts for the grade crossing at Stevens Road. October 26, 2019.



Maybe even more rare than steam, this “bobber”, a restored four wheel caboose from the Lehigh and New England Railway, #514, was a part of the consist on October 26, 2019. Complete in every detail, this magnificent museum quality piece makes a perfect compliment to the excursion train. The trips carried dozens of youngsters and families dressed up in Halloween costumes for a bit of ‘spooktacular fun’.

“THE LITTLE LOCOMOTIVE THAT COULD” – continued



The Viscose #6 is a Baldwin built engine, from 1924. It served its namesake company, “American Viscose” for many years as the facility switcher. Located in Roanoke, VA the company manufactured “viscose”, an early type of man made fiber. The restored locomotive is now owned by Scott Symans and has been a regular visitor to western New York over the past several years operating on the Buffalo Southern, the New York and Lake Erie and at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railway Museum near Rochester among other venues.

At left, as the afternoon light begins to fade on October 26, 2019, #6 is working its way north towards the Bayview Road crossing. Endpoint of the run would be about one mile north, at Zittels farm market.

During the layover, “trick or treat” kids on board will each pick out a perfect pumpkin for Halloween, and in the dusk of the afternoon, return to the venerable Scott Street depot in Hamburg, making for a happy memory of childhood.

And, for this railfan, “The Little Engine that Could” has done it again! - JCD

THE EMPIRE BUILDER – 90 Years for a Great Passenger Train

Despite Amtrak’s recent moves downgrading service on several eastern trains, the western long distance trains retain some of the their cachet of elegance from railroading’s glory years. Still outstanding is the Empire Builder which this year in June marked 90 years of continuous service, now of course under Amtrak.

Quoting from the May 2019 “Passengers Voice” published by the Rail Passengers Association, “James J. Hill – the original “Empire Builder” knitted together the Northern Tier of the United States from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest and beyond with his empire and is generally considered to be the most influential railroader in American history.

When a new streamlined version of the Empire Builder was launched in the 1950s, the Great Northern Railway touted the train as “incomparable”. Today with continued service to world-class tourist destinations such as the Columbia River Gorge, Glacier National Park, Puget Sound and the Wisconsin Dells, and continuing to link transportation starved communities in Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota to the medical and commercial centers of Portland, Seattle, the Twin Cities and Chicago, the legacy of James J. Hill and his empire lives on in the Empire Builder – Amtrak’s most-riden long –distance train in 13 of the past 15 years. That’s why in 2019 – as has been the case for most of the past 90 years – the Empire Builder remains ‘incomparable’.

The following two photos, while from a few years ago, still gives an accurate view of the great scenery along the route of the Empire Builder.



East of Glacier National Park, the eastbound Empire Builder is crossing Two Medicine trestle. July 26, 2007.
Both photos, John C Dahl



Not only is the scenery magnificent, but railfans are treated to a parade of trains on the BNSF mainline. This overlook is near Belton (West Glacier), Montana. July 26, 2007.

ELECTION TIME AGAIN - NRHS National representative and Chapter officers

Becky Gerstung has graciously accepted the nomination to once again be the Chapter's representative to NRHS National. The election confirming this will be held at the November meeting. December will feature the election of all other Chapter officers. The list of positions and nominations will appear in the December newsletter.

ON THE TRACK AHEAD

December is Member's Night. **That means you, dear members provide the program!** We can accommodate digital photos and digital video (with or without sound included) and 35mm traditional slides. Please limit your presentation to about 10 minutes so all who want to participate will have time to do so. This is YOUR night, so come on out and show some photos. It's informal and lots of fun.

January 2020 will review "Rail Camp" the NRHS's effort to support and educate young persons with an interest in railroads, transit and related history. Mark, "MJ", Lewandowski will be our guide to the events and programs offered at the 2019 Rail Camp.

Looking beyond, we need programs for the balance of the 2020 meeting cycle through June (and beyond). Please contact Jim Ball with any questions or ideas.



But before we jump ahead, let us look back in this postcard view to about 1920 and the glory years of railroad travel. Lackawanna's Binghamton station was a beehive of activity. Come join us this month as we look at the stations and towers which served "*The Route of Phoebe Snow.*"

IMPORTANT MEETING TIME REMINDER

The Chapter meetings now begin **EARLIER, at 7 PM** per demand from our members. It is hoped the earlier start time, and thus earlier end time, will help encourage attendance at meetings. Mark your calendar now!

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- NOV 8 Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 7:00 PM. Program “Ed Weber’s Look at the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western in the 1950’s”, part 2, Binghamton to the Poconos.
- NOV 23-24 WNYRHS Train Show, Hamburg, NY Fairgrounds 10 AM to 5 PM. Chapter table needs volunteers.
- DEC 13 Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 7:00 PM. Program: Members Photo Night
- JAN 10 Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 7:00 PM. Program: Rail Camp 2019 by Mark “MJ” Lewandowski.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) publicly supported organization. Contributions may be deductible for income tax purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service.

***** IMPORTANT REMINDERS ***** If you receive hardcopy of the ESX and your mailing address changes, please send to the attention of Neal Kerin so that your Empire State Express can be addressed properly. Likewise, if your email address changes for any reason, please let Tony Schill know by sending it to the newsletter@nfcnrhs.com THANK YOU

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