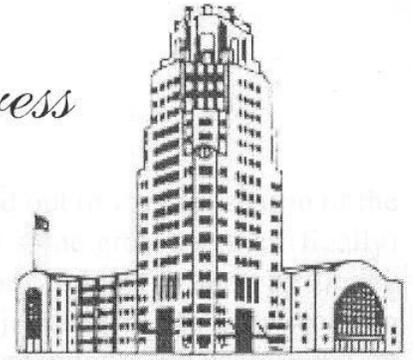


Empire State Express



September 2020

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

Editor: John C. Dahl nfcnrhs@gmail.com

The meeting of the Chapter will be held on **Friday, September 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM** in BUFFALO CENTRAL TERMINAL NOTE DATE & LOCATION

TWO MORE OFF THE BUCKET LIST

Our program will feature Tony Schill's latest overseas excursion of September 2019, this time to Bulgaria in Eastern Europe with the Railway Touring Company, and then independently to the Isle of Man in the middle of the Irish Sea. We'll see lots of steam (and electric) locos in Bulgaria (both standard and narrow gauge), and on the Isle of Man the oldest electric railway cars in the world in regular daily service. We'll ascend to the summit of Snaefell Mountain on the only railway in the world using the Fell rail for braking, followed by a stop at the largest working water wheel on the planet. If you like all of the above combined with a dose of industrial/railway history and spectacular scenery, this program is for you!

NOTE: BECAUSE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS, ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 ATTENDEES. FACE MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE AVAILABLE. ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN WILL BE REQUIRED.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I had hoped that by now that we would be returning to a more familiar schedule and lifestyle. There is progress in that direction, much slower toward normal than I would like, but progress just the same. We will be returning to our regular meeting schedule in October.

Here is some good news, the September meeting will be held at Central Terminal. Please note that it will be on the third Friday, the 18th. As we have done in June of previous years, this is our regular monthly meeting at our home away from home. Wear your masks. The 2021 Chapter Calendar will be premiered, first night pricing will be in effect. I'm told that Project Manager Jacques Garcia will address the gathering. The meetings for October through December will be back at the De Graf Community Center. These will be subject to whatever restrictions are in place from the owner,

Kaleida Health. We have not seen those yet.

We are going to need programs for the regular monthly meeting starting with January. John Dahl also needs material for the Empire State Express. You are all most cordially invited to attend the Historic Marker dedication at Artpark on Saturday September 19th. The ceremony begins at noon. Head for the ticket booth.

Our annual Banquet, our 80th such affair, will go forward on September 26th. Be sure to send in your reservation if you are going to attend. If you have already paid, simply confirm to Nancy that you are going.

On August 6th we discovered that the door to the boiler room of EL-2 was falling off. This was repaired by Greg. As I am writing this our masonry contractor, Marty, is rebuilding the chimney on the tower. This should be the last piece of outside work for a while. Steve Frey continues to build new (exact reproduction) windows for the second floor interior. We arrived on Saturday the 29th to find that the first story brickwork of EL-2 had been spray painted with graffiti. Apparently several businesses in North Tonawanda had been attacked in a similar fashion overnight. A police report was filed. Greg spent many hours over period of several days with a pressure washer working at to removing it.

The concrete work for the handicap lift at the station is now poured. This was done partly with grant money from National. Once it has cured for the appropriate time, we look at building the wooden deck that goes with it so that the lift can actually be installed. Thanks to Becky and Greg for being available to be on site while our contractors are there working.

The folks from Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, located on Oliver Street, filmed their fall episode of Vacation Bible School at our Museum. The edition was themed Rocky Railroad and they wanted the real thing as a background. We were happy to provide the setting.

Bruce Becker does a great job of keeping the Facebook page up to date for those of you who follow that. The "youtube" link is still there for you as well:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiB68URo_eGTrnN5pi9BxDw

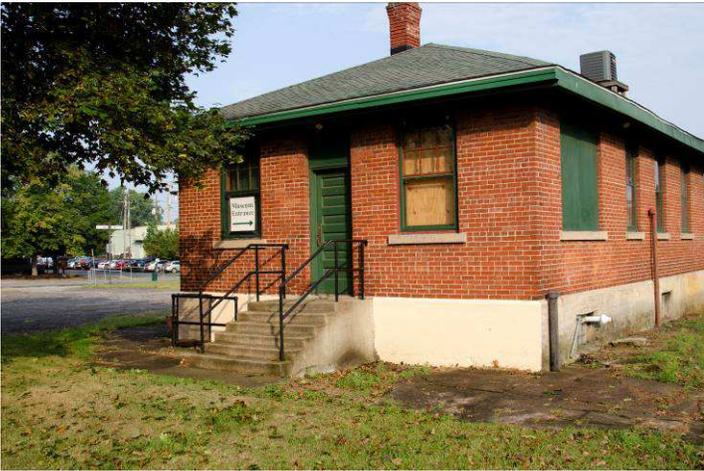
Thanks to Al LeTest for keeping the station grounds groomed. The grass grows whether we are in the building or not. Until then, I hope to see you at the meeting, the Banquet or the Marker Dedication! In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy.

Jim Ball

CONCRETE PROGRESS AT THE STATION

All photos by Greg Gerstung

From a nearly non existent broken up walkway.....



To This



A beautiful new walkway has been poured. It is a part of ongoing restoration work, and in line with the original walkway placed in 1922. A handicap lift access will be installed on the west side of the building. August 27, 2020



EL2 CHIMNEY REPAIRED



Masonry contractor Marty Bryant is pointing the chimney on the tower. This much needed repair work will further insure the preservation of the historic interlocking tower which the Chapter owns. In addition, new interior windows, faithful replicas of the originals, are being constructed by Steve Frey. August 31, 2020

SCENE ON THE LINE

All photos by Jon Rothenmeyer



Utica, NY

With the Adirondack Scenic's tourist train snoozing away the hours on an outer platform track on a beautiful late summer afternoon, an eastbound CSX train of mostly tank cars hotfoots past JR.

August 20, 2020



Eaton, NY was once upon a timetable of the "Old Woman", the New York, Ontario & Western. Located near the top of one of the many steep grades that the railroad's Northern Division had to cross, the old depot remains in remarkably good condition over 60 years since the railroad ceased operation in 1957.

August 20, 2020.

CHARLIE'S PHOTO ALBUM

In the Fall 2020 issue of Classic Trains, Fred Furminger has a feature article on long time Chapter member (one of the original founder members) the now late Charlie Erler. Several beautiful photos taken by Charlie in the years prior to and just after World War II attest to his abilities as a railfan photographer. Most of his camera work was centered on what were then plentiful excursions, almost always with vintage steam and in many locations we would now classify as rare, even exotic, on now long gone railroads. From mainline to shortline, Charlie was there recording the end of an era. All that remains now are photos and memories of these long vanished scenes. Thank you Fred for bringing these photos to light and helping us recall our friend and the classic railroads he (and all of us) loved. - JCD

GO weekend train service to Niagara Falls, Ontario

GO Transit just posted new weekend/public holiday schedule for Toronto-Niagara Falls GO train service, starting Sat Aug 1, 2020. There are 4 round trips Sat/Sun and public holiday Monday's, with departures from Toronto at 08:51, and every 4 hours after that (12:51, 16:51 & 20:51) with running time of 2 hours and 2 minutes, stopping at CNE Exhibition, Port Credit, Oakville, Burlington, Aldershot & St Catharines.

Trains leave Niagara Falls at 11:16, 15:16, 19:61 & 23:16, with the same 6 stops en route to Toronto. It appears this weekend service will operate year around. Interesting to note there is no stop at Hamilton West Harbour GO Station, nor is there an early morning departure from Niagara Falls.

Submitted by John Freyseng

Editor's note: Obviously at this writing, the US/Canada border remains closed to all but essential travel for those who have special clearance documentation. We hope our Canadian friends can take advantage of the GO services. But, without an earlier departure from Niagara Falls, Ont. one wonders how useful these trains would be for a single day trip to the city. The schedule is skewed to day trippers to the Falls, not the other way. I say "Bring back our old reliable Budd trains from Niagara Falls!" - JCD

RE-SCHEDULED CHAPTER BANQUET SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

If you have not already done so, you must reconfirm attendance with Nancy Andrycha. Phone, email, or return by mail the flyer coupon enclosed with this issue of ESX.

ON THE TRACK AHEAD

By special arrangement through the Railroad Station Historical Society, the October meeting program will feature the next part of Ed Weber's "Look at the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western In the 1950's". This is a photo review of the stations, interlocking towers and other facilities of the Lackawanna continuing east from the Delaware Water Gap to end of track in Hoboken, NJ. Vintage views of the railroad that gave us the "Route of Phoebe Snow" will be seen in Ed's beautiful camera work.

EMAIL ADDRESS change for EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS

The Chapter will phase out its old web site and old email addresses soon. Please note for all future submissions direct to the ESX editor, to use jcdahl@twc.com You can use the email nfcnrhs@gmail.com on the Chapter's website page of nfcnrhs.org for general inquiries.

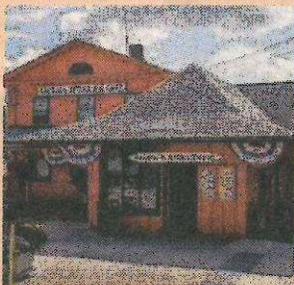
HISTORIC RR MARKER UNVEILING - Artpark, Lewiston NY September 19, Noon, All invited. Use South 4th Street entrance.

ARCADE & ATTICA RESUMES RAIL EXCURSIONS FOR LATE SUMMER INTO AUTUMN

A schedule recently published lists several excursions for late Summer, Autumn and Christmas seasons. Here is a recap from their flyer. Be sure to call and verify trip days. To Purchase Tickets by Phone: 716-948-0505, Arcade office Phone Number: 585-492-3100.



ARCADE & ATTICA RAILROAD



AUGUST TRAINS:

- Saturday, August 15th @ 1:00pm
- Saturday, August 22nd @ 1:00pm
- Saturday, August 29th @ 1:00pm

AUGUST MURDER MYSTERY:

Saturday, August 15th @ 5:00pm



SEPTEMBER MURDER MYSTERY:
Saturday, September 5th @ 5:00pm

WINE TASTERS:



- Saturday, September 19th @ 5:00pm
- Saturday, October 3rd @ 5:00pm

SEPTEMBER TRAINS:

- Saturday, September 19th @ 1:00pm
- Sunday, September 20th @ 1:00pm



OCTOBER ALE ON THE RAILS:

Saturday, October 17th @ 5:00pm



OCTOBER FALL FOLIAGE:

- Saturday, October 3rd @ 11:00am
- Sunday, October 4th @ 2:00pm
- Wednesday, October 7th @ 1:00pm



OCTOBER FALL FOLIAGE (Cont'd):

- Saturday, October 10th @ 11:00am
- Sunday, October 11th @ 2:00pm
- Saturday, October 17th @ 11:00am
- Sunday, October 18th @ 2:00pm
- Saturday, October 24th @ 11:00am
- Sunday, October 25th @ 2:00pm



Train Rides with *Santa*

Dates: December 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th

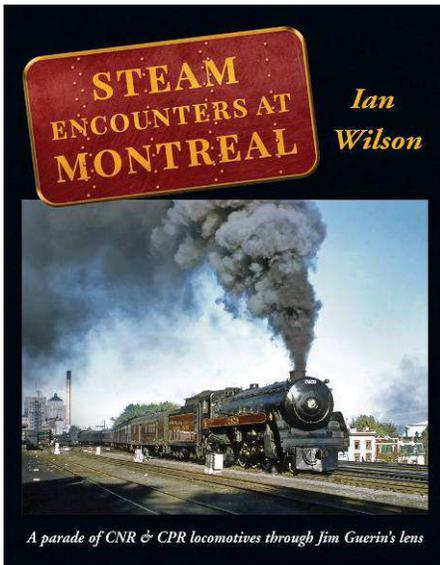
Times for each date: 11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm

Trip will be to the interchange (McDonald's) and back (45 minute round trip total)

TICKETS: \$14.00 EACH

**THIS IS NOT THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS!
COVID-19 HAS RESTRICTED MORE ACTIVITIES!**

A RAILFAN's BOOKSHELF



STEAM ENCOUNTERS AT MONTREAL By Ian Wilson

“Travel back to the 1950s and witness steam and diesel action at Montreal through the lens of Jim Guerin” is what Ian Wilson says on his web site.

This recently published tribute to the railroad photography of his late friend is seen in this beautifully crafted jewel of a softcover book. The vivid Kodachrome colors of the late steam era in one of Canada's leading urban areas is captured, instilled, and disseminated to you the reader in its pages. Canadian Pacific's and Canadian National's well proportioned, handsome steam locomotives are serving out their final assignments as an era is rapidly coming to a close. These photos rank among the best color work ever published, the informative text and captions are as always detailed and

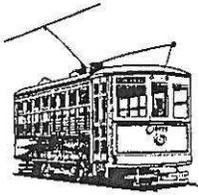
a delight. A full center spread map helps orient you to the vast railroad infrastructure once found in the great steam bastion that was Montreal in the late 1950's. JCD

WHAT IS SO RARE AS A..... SUNNY DAY IN BINGHAMTON

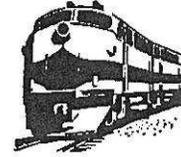


The old brick buildings of the warehouse district of Binghamton, NY have made a great photo backdrop for generations of railfan photographers. Although Norfolk Southern black replaces the once flashy LVRR, regal D&H, and beautifully colorful EL locomotives we used to see here in the late 1970's, the excitement is still real. August 21, 2020. Photo by Jon Rothenmeyer.

2021 RAILROAD CALENDAR



ANOTHER FINE
PUBLICATION OF
NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Outstanding color and black & white photographs are featured in a limited edition printing of a 2021 railroad wall calendar. This high quality publication, a tradition since 1972, contains 12 photographs of steam, diesel and electric railroad action. All scenes were recorded in and around Western New York, Northwest Pennsylvania and nearby Ontario Canada. The 2021 photographs were carefully chosen from the collections of various chapter members and museum collection.

Photographs featured in the 2021 calendar are:

CSX Transportation	Slug #2349 and GP38-2 #2502 switching freight cars at the ADM Milling Co. on Ganson Street in Buffalo, NY
Canadian National Railway	Steam Locomotive #6218 backing into a stall at the Spadina Avenue roundhouse in Toronto
Delaware & Hudson Railway	GP-38-2 diesel #202 pulling a train under the former DL&W bridge near William St. in Buffalo, NY.
New York Central Railroad	E-8 diesel locomotive #4073 is leading NYC passenger & mail train #50 travelling across Southern Ontario
International Railway Company	IRC Car #4009 is parked next to the Gratwick car house in North Tonawanda, NY
Lehigh Valley Railroad	Three C-420 diesel locomotives at the Lehigh Valley engine facility at the Tiftt Street yard in Buffalo, NY.
Buffalo Creek Railway	0-8-0 steam locomotive #26 is switching freight cars in Toronto's CNR Bathurst St yard
Niagara St. Catharines & Toronto Railway	Electric motors #14 & #17 are at the car barn in St. Catharines near the last day of operation
Amtrak	GE P32AC-DM #711 diesel locomotive leaving the CSX Beltline on its way east to Depew, NY
Pennsylvania Railroad	2-8-2 L1s class steam locomotive #137 is leading an NRHS Chapter excursion near Canadea, NY.
Republic Steel Corporation	SW900 diesel locomotive #373 located at the Baltimore & Ohio railroad yard in Buffalo, NY
New York & Lake Erie Railroad	FPA2 diesel locomotive crossing Church Street southbound in Dayton, NY

2021 RAILROAD CALENDAR

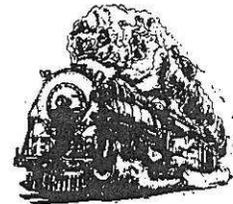
7" X 11" PHOTOS

11" X 17" OPEN FORMAT

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\$14.00 EACH POSTPAID AND TAX INCLUDED

\$15.00 EACH FOR CANADIAN ORDERS



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A
**PERFECT
HOLIDAY GIFT**

Cut here

Please send the following: _____ 2021 Calendars @ \$14.00 each (\$15.00 Canadian) = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- SEP 18 Regular meeting, at Buffalo Central Terminal, 7:00 PM. Program by Tony Schill, Two More Off The Bucket List, a travelog rail program. NOTE DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE. COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN EFFECT.
- SEP 19 Historic railroad marker unveiling at ArtPark, Lewston, NY Noon.
- SEP 26 Annual Banquet, rescheduled from last March. Ilio DiPaolo's 11:30 AM. NOTE DATE & TIME. COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN EFFECT.
- OCT 9 Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 7:00 PM. Part 3 of Ed Webers "Look at the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western RR in the 1950s".

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 editor.
THANK YOU

The Empire State Express is mailed free to all members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. Anyone who is not a Chapter / NRHS member may receive *The Empire State Express* by mail at a subscription rate of \$35.00 a year postpaid, e-mail rate \$25.00. Please contact the Chapter at PO Box 1043, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for details.

www.nrcrths.com



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