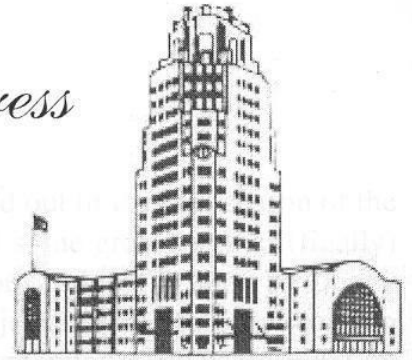


Empire State Express



OCTOBER 2024

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

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

The meeting of the Chapter is scheduled for Friday, October 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town of Wheatfield Community / Senior Center, 2790 Church Road, North Tonawanda NY. Follow Rt 62 north to Ward Rd, turn left onto Ward Road and turn right onto Church Road.

ALONG THE NEW YORK - PENNSYLVANIA STATE LINE



As many people know from a geographic and historic perspective, the states of New York and Pennsylvania have shared their state border since America's colonial age. Throughout their history as US states, railroads criss-crossed the NY-PA state line at various points that all

helped connect north to south and east to west. In the modern present, that still remains to be the case with Class One, Two, and Three railroads leading the charge on tracks laid by their fallen flag predecessors. In this program, we will follow the mainlines and branchlines of railroads such as Norfolk Southern, Western New York & Pennsylvania, Buffalo & Pittsburgh, New York Susquehanna & Western, and more along the state line through the southern end of Western New York, the Southern Tier, and parts of Northern Pennsylvania. Join us as expert rail photographer Mark Klingel presents "Along the NY – PA State Line". *Photo: Andover, NY September 8, 2023. Mark Klingel.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Good Grief! Has another month gone by already? I'm looking off my deck at the trees beginning to turn and yes, Virginia, Santa will be coming in a couple of months. Apologies to Mr. Church for paraphrasing his line.

We recently received another installment of material from the James Van Brocklin Estate. As you many of you know, Jim was a big Pennsy fan. We loaded the beds of two pickup trucks with relays and signal parts. Do you know how many pieces there are to one of those color position lights? Lots to sort, catalog and store away. At some point we plan to assemble one and put it on display.

On Saturday October 12 we expect to unveil the Historic Marker for EL-2. You are all invited to the Ceremony. Park at the Museum or on Oliver Street and walk over to the Tower. Festivities to begin about 11 am. We are hoping for some TV coverage; the marker is number one in the new Transportation Series from The William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The weekend is part of New York States Fall Path Through History promotion. Very fitting I think, don't you agree?

Many thanks to Anton Schwarzmeuller for managing the application process and to Bruce Becker and Steve Frey for managing the installation. Good work Gentlemen!

In other news, the Chapter Calendar, a perennial favorite, is back. It went on sale at the September meeting. Bob and Greg have done a spectacular job on the latest edition. Be sure to get yours soon; last year they sold out. They make a great Holiday Gift. See our Facebook page for ordering details.

On September 24, 2024 the Oliver Street Merchants Association Public Art Committee met at our Museum. The meeting was chaired by Natalie Brown, Chair of the Public Art Committee and assisted by Katy Baker, President of the Oliver Street Merchants Association. Bruce acted as host and Becky and I were on hand for support. City Councilman Frank Di Bernardo represented the City of North Tonawanda. It was a good meeting and the Chapter Board of Directors approved a Motion shortly thereafter to enter into a collaboration with the City and the Merchants Association for an "artpiece" to be installed on the Museum grounds.

It was back in April of this year that Jim Tammoro, Archives and Record Management Consultant, was invited in to assess what we are trying to do and advise us on a course of action. We are still trying to implement his advice, but at least we know what to do now. To that end there is a lot of clerical work to be done in the Archive room. If this fits with your interest and skillset we would welcome the assistance. Contact Becky at 716-434-5665.

So, as the leaves turn and fall, we know what comes next. We have contracted a plow service to have the Museum open on Saturdays. We publish that it is open on the first Saturday of the month after the regular season is over. If the need to cancel the Monthly Meeting should arise please look to Chanel 2 on your TV. On the radio listen in to WGR 550AM, Oldies 104.1FM or WYRK 106.5FM. We will try to make the decision early enough to make the 5pm broadcasts. When in doubt, err on the side of caution.

See you at the Meeting, or at the Museum.



Jim Ball

PATH THROUGH HISTORY



I ♥ NY



FALL WEEKEND

Saturday, October 12 11:00am - 4:00pm



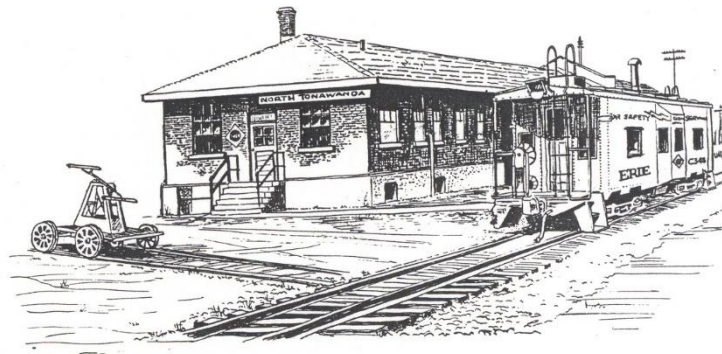
*Unveiling Of A New Historic Plaque At The
Museum's 'EL-2' Switch Tower*

And Enjoy Viewing Our All-New Exhibits...

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- ➔ Niagara Junction Railway
- ➔ Niagara, St. Catherines & Toronto Railway

Free Admission - Donations Welcome - Fully Accessible

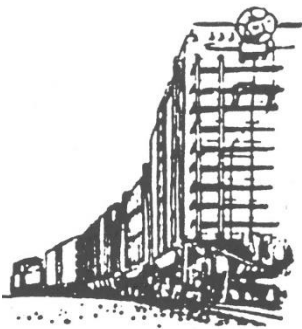
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SCENE ON THE LINE

Photos by M.J. Lewandowski

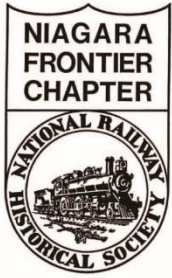
One of the essential essence features of railroading is captured in these two photos by Mark (M.J.) Lewandowski. Trackwork rebuilding at our station museum in North Tonawanda continues on the former mainline of the Suspension Bridge and Erie Junction RR, chartered by the Erie Railroad in 1868 and opened in 1871. It connected the Erie main at East Buffalo to Niagara Falls and the important Canadian gateway at Suspension Bridge. The technology of railroading of course has evolved and yet a certain timelessness mood remains and Mark has captured that here. Photo date: September 28, 2024.



SCENE ON THE LINE – continued



Train time at Hudson, NY on September 27, 2024 was busy indeed. In the top photo, southbound train #280 for New York City is coming under the old Cross St. bridge which looks to be no longer in service since it has no decking, just after 11 AM. The Adirondack, northbound for Albany and Montreal rounds the sharp curve into the station stop a few minutes before at 10:48AM. For a few minutes it must have been a great show! *Both photos, Larry Gustina.*



2025 Western New York Railroad Calendar

53rd Edition

Another Fine Publication Of The Niagara Frontier Chapter - National Railway Historical Society

Outstanding Color And Black & White Photographs Are Featured In A Limited Edition Printing Of The Chapter's Annual 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 Southern Ontario. The 2025 Photographs Were Carefully Selected From The Chapter Archives And From The Collections Of Chapter Members.

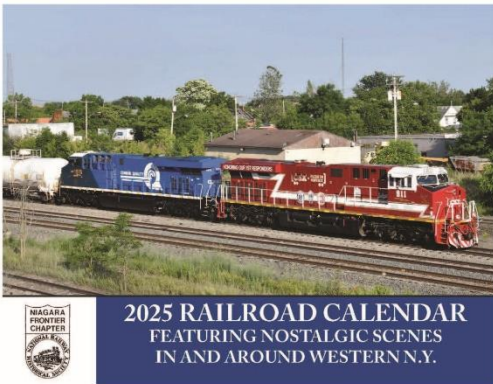
- **Rochester Transit Corporation** - #66 (Cincinnati Car Company 1916) a former Utica & Mohawk Valley Railway car
- **New York Central** - 4-8-2 class L2c Mohawk #2836 (American Locomotive Company, 1929) near Tower #47 in Buffalo, NY
- **Erie Railroad** - A set of FA-1 locomotives (American Locomotive Company, 1947-1949) lead a freight train in Corry, PA
- **Canadian National Railway** - HR-412 #2587 (Bombardier, November 1981) leads two other locomotives passing Dundas, Ont
- **International Railway Company** - Car #2002 (Kuhlman Car Company, 1916), a Niagara Falls High-Speed car, in Buffalo, NY
- **CSX Transportation** - ES44AH #911 & #1976 (General Electric, July 2008 & May 2012) are both wearing special paint schemes
- **Lehigh Valley Railroad** - GP-9 #300 (Electro Motive Division, September 1959) is at the Tiftt Street diesel locomotive service track
- **New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad** - Nickel Plate 2-8-4 S-3 Berkshire #776 (Lima Locomotive Works, May 1949) in Pomfret, NY
- **Chessie System** - Sperry Rail Service car #136 (J.G. Brill Company, 1928) was built for the New York Central RR as Doodlebug car M-1
- **Conrail** - U33-B #2909 (General Electric, September-1968 built for Penn Central) is westbound on train HB-1 in in Alden, NY
- **Baltimore & Ohio** - 2-8-0 class E-60 #3140 (Alco-Brooks Locomotive Works, 1908, ex-Buffalo & Susquehanna #166) at Westfield, PA
- **Arcade & Attica Railroad** - 4-6-0 #14 (Baldwin Locomotive Works, February 1917) is passing the depot in Arcade, NY



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NEW YORK & LAKE ERIE RR



NY&LE FPA2 #6758 is crossing Commercial Street in Gowanda, NY on October 16, 2022 at the conclusion of a foliage “leaf peeping” excursion into the rural splendor of Cattaraugus county. Alco locomotive power is increasingly rare and yet in Western New York we are very fortunate to have several great examples still operating in regular service on the NY&LE, WNY&P and now A&A. If you subscribe to Railfan & Railroad magazine, the October 2024 issue is devoted to Alco, and we have to put in another plug....Mark Klingel who will present the meeting program on October 11, has a full feature article on the Arcade & Attica, including its “new” Alco. Stunning photos by Mark of the A&A in all seasons are featured. *Photos: John C. Dahl*



NY&LE will operate several fall foliage excursions. Please check the web site <https://nylerailroad.com/schedule/> for full details and fares.

MILEPOST 48

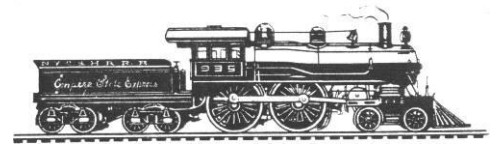


October 22, 2022 finds then new Chapter member Lane Pawlewski (left) and the now late, long time member Jon Rothenmeyer in Cherry Creek, NY on the New York & Lake Erie RR. The occasion was an impromptu chase of a NY&LE fall excursion that sun filled day and some additional exploring afterwards of the great scenery that is Western New York in Autumn. The historic depot, built by the Erie RR on the former Buffalo & South Western, is still in good repair behind them. Jon was born in 1948, so this milepost was always one of his favorite photo props. Looking back at this picture of just two years ago and remembering that day brings a smile and tears at the same time. Less than a year later, sadly, Jon would pass away from cancer. But in this moment, Milepost 48 shows us only a happy memory. *Photo: John C. Dahl*



CHAPTER MEMORIES

Story collected by Geoff Gerstung



The Railroad Enthusiast – May-June 1941 issue

At the regular meeting of February 7 in the Lehigh Valley Terminal, the speaker was Mr. A.H. Smith of New York, the Assistant to the Manager, Dining Service, New York Central System. He presented a very interesting talk covering the history and present operation of railroad dining cars. Following his lecture, Mr. Smith answered questions and distributed sample N.Y.C. menus to everyone present.

Enginehouse Tour

On Sunday, February 9, the Buffalo Division played host to members of the Central New York Division of the Enthusiasts and the Rochester Chapter of the NRHS. The visiting fans arrived in Buffalo at noon, and after viewing the yards from the 15th floor of the NYC Terminal (Central Terminal), the group of 32 visited one of the towers which controlled the terminal tracks. Next on the program was dinner at the Lackawanna RR YMCA at East Buffalo. Then came an inspection tour of the Lackawanna enginehouse and freight car shops. Later in the afternoon the group visited the Erie RR enginehouse in Buffalo. In the evening various railroad motion pictures were shown in the Conference Room of the Central Terminal.

ON THE TRACK AHEAD



Bob Andrycha and Bob Scheib teamed up a year ago for the Town of Newstead 200th anniversary celebration with an exhibit and a public program celebrating the railroads in Akron and Newstead. Come see the excellent results that these gentlemen accomplished. Here is a scene from August 28, 1949 at the Brixment depot near Akron on the old New York Central Peanut Line.



CHAPTER CALENDAR

- OCT 11** **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by Mark Klingel. "Along the New York-Pennsylvania State Line"**
- NOV 8** **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by Bob Andrycha and Bob Scheib. "Railroads of Akron & Newstead, NY"**

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.

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RAILROAD MUSEUM ADDRESS: 111 OLIVER ST. NORTH TONAWANDA, NY



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