



Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

Southeast Chapter

Newsletter No. 107 – June, 2008

R&LHS 2008 Convention, Lancaster, PA

The R&LHS convention, hosted by the New York Chapter, was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from May 28th through June 3rd. It began with a reception and talk by consultant Michael Sussman about his work with OnTrackAmerica.org, and their efforts to revive rail service in America.

On Thursday, May 29th, we went to the National Toy Train Museum, located near Strasburg. The TTM has a wide range of toy trains with many operating layouts. After lunch we visited the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. First we heard a presentation on their archives by Kurt Bell, archivist at the museum. They are cataloging numerous photographs, books, magazines, and documents from several railroads, and making them available for access by the public. We then visited the indoor and outdoor exhibit areas. The museum contains many of the PRR steam locomotives that had been preserved by that railroad and stored in Northumberland, PA. Other Pennsylvania railroads also are exhibited, including the Lehigh Valley, Reading, NKP, Ma & Pa, etc.

That evening, the R&LHS Board met and discussed an agenda that included a report on the work of the Archives Committee, and heard from Parker Lamb and Dick Hillman about efforts underway to iron out problems with our membership records. Three new board members were also elected: Alden Dreyer, Shelburne Falls, MA, Jeffrey Mora, Washington, DC, and Paul Gibson, Wrentham, MA.



One of Strasburg's first steam engines, Canadian National #7312, has just cut off it's train and is passing a former PRR tower moved to the Strasburg RR. Number 7312 was originally painted with Strasburg's name on the tender and was called the #31. Photo by Jim Smith.

Southeast Limited



SE Chapter members, Henry and Dianna Deutch enjoying the “Ride to Paradise”.

Friday was spent at the Strasburg Railroad. We looked at the railroad’s equipment, stores, structures, etc., and then we all rode the 11 am train to Paradise. The train consist included ex-N&W 4-8-0 # 475, several coaches, two diners, and the *Reading*, a former Philadelphia & Reading business car. After the ride we toured the Strasburg’s Car Shop, Locomotive Shop, Back Shop and Paint shop. One especially interesting item was the Rio Grande Southern narrow gauge 2-8-0 steam loco #20, which is being completely rebuilt, including a new *stainless steel* tender. After lunch the group rode the 2 pm train (same consist) and noted a number of horse drawn Amish farmers working their fields.

While the engine ran around the train at Paradise, Amtrak's eastbound *Pennsylvanian* went by at track speed, or in other words, really fast! Then Linn Moedinger (Strasburg’s Chief Mechanical Officer and son of one of the original 24 owners of the Strasburg RR) hosted an interesting question and answer session.

In addition to rebuilding activities, he also told us what it was like to grow up in Strasburg and “working or playing” on the fledgling Strasburg Railroad. Continued on page 3.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

This will be the last issue of the *Southeast Limited* if you have not renewed your R&LHS membership. Our Chapter has been increasing its membership, enjoying an improved newsletter, great monthly meetings and a variety of railfan events. If you have not paid your \$15.00 Chapter dues, a yellow sticky note has been placed on the front page of this issue of the *Southeast Limited* as a last minute reminder. Please renew your membership!

Southeast Chapter has a New Address!

Our Chapter has a new Post Office Box address - R&LHS, Southeast Chapter, P. O. Box 600544, Jacksonville, FL 32260-0544. This box will be shared with the R&LHS at a cost savings to both the National and Chapter. Please immediately begin the new P. O. Box address for any Southeast Chapter business. Thanks!

Announcements:

July 10th - Regular SE Chapter meeting, 3rd floor CSX GOB, Jacksonville, FL 6:30PM

July 12th - Model Train Show, Deland, FL

August 14th - Regular SE Chapter meeting, 3rd floor CSX GOB, Jacksonville, FL 6:30PM

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS

William F. Howes, Jr.	Chairman
John A. Leynes	Vice-Chairman
Reid Adams	Secretary
Robert Van Nest	Treasurer

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Above left inside the Pennsylvania State Railroad Museum we see the PRR E-7 No. 5901. Right, former Pennsylvania GG-1 No. 4935 stands beautifully restored.

The evening banquet included an after-dinner talk and slide show of the 42 trolley lines located in Pennsylvania. It was prepared by Bill Middleton, who couldn't attend, but was ably presented by Kurt Bell. Many of the slides were taken by former Railway Age editor, Bob Lewis.

On Saturday, nearly 30 members went on a Philadelphia railroad tour. It began with a ride on Amtrak's Keystone Service to Philadelphia (we had the entire rear coach and many people took time to talk with friends they only see at R&LHS conventions). At 30th Street Station, we transferred to a SEPTA train that took us to Clifton-Aldan, where we connected to the Route 102 trolley line.

Using typical street running and rare private right-of-way, the very modern trolley took us to 69th Street Terminal. Here we transferred to the Norristown High-speed Line (former Philadelphia & Western), where a few years ago the ex-North Shore Line *Electroliners* ran (renamed *Liberty Liners*).

At Norristown we transferred to a SEPTA train running over the old Reading RR to the Transportation Center station located under the former Reading train shed, now a convention center.

Most of the group went to the Reading Terminal Market for a quick lunch (including Shoo Fly Pie!). Then, we again used SEPTA to ride the former Reading Doylestown branch to Chalfont and back to 30th Street Station. Late in the day we rode the Keystone Service back to Lancaster.

The R&LHS Annual Meeting was on Sunday and was hosted by R&LHS President, J. Parker Lamb. It included a presentation of the R&LHS Photography Award to James Brown. Jerry Angier talked about the 2009 convention which will be held in Portland, Maine from June 18th-thru-21st. A tentative schedule calls for registration on Thursday the 18th, a steam trip (FL-9 back-up) on the Maine Eastern RR on the 19th, visits to the Seashore Trolley Museum & Maine Narrow Gauge RR along with the Annual Banquet featuring a LOBSTER or steak dinner on Saturday the 20th and the Annual Breakfast meeting on Sunday, June 21st. Further details will be forthcoming, but plan now to attend.



Left, PRR #460 (of Lucky Lindbergh fame) and #7688 bask in the warm Strasburg sun at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Right, Norfolk & Western No. 475 is being readied for the day's work.



Southeast Chapter - Meeting Minutes Recap:

The **May 8th** meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the R&LHS was chaired by Chairman Bill Howes. There were 7 members present. The minutes for the April meeting were approved. The treasurer's report, indicating a balance of \$9,518.27 was also approved. Ed Mueller made a motion to place \$7000 of the treasurer's balance into a higher interest bearing account. John Leynes seconded the motion and it was approved. John Leynes/Jim Smith advised that the June newsletter would feature the R&LHS Convention. Old Business included discussion about the Henry Plant video and the continued preservation of ACL 1504. The program was given by John Leynes. He used special 3-D stereo viewers that he custom designed and built to illustrate his slide show of a motor car trip in Ontario. It was excellent!

Submitted by W. Reid Adams

N&W #475 heads for Strasburg after leaving Paradise.

