An important planning session will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 AM to noon at Trinity Bible Church, Blandon. Attendance by committee chairs or a representative of your committee is important. All RCT&HS members interested in participating are welcome. The meeting will help to prioritize the many needs and directions of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in order to maximize our efforts and resources.

Ballots for the RCT&HS Board of Directors must be received by March 31st. Please be sure to send in your ballot in time as directed on the ballot sheet.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Association has installed a trial-head sign officially marking the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum as an interest point along the Schuylkill River Trail system. The photo was taken by Dale Woodland.

If you have a camera and attend an RCT&HS event or are able to document news items related to the Reading Railroad, I am looking for you. Please feel free to send photos along with a small description of the event or interesting news item. Photos not used in the Crusader may be used on our web site. Thank you.

Jeff Smith
reths.jsmith@dejazzd.com
717-665-9311
February 22nd General Meeting

President Duane Engle called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. there were 4 officers and 29 members in attendance. A motion to accept the January 2011 minutes as printed was made by Larry Mundell and seconded by Pete Urbaitis. The motion passed.

Executive Board
Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rths.dengle@juno.com

The February meeting of the BOD was held at 7PM on February 8th at the Adams residence in Mohnton, PA. Topics of discussion and motions carried are as follows:

- **Financial** – sales report, new exhibit costs, and museum needs. A motion was passed approving $6000 for the creation of the P&R/Civil War exhibit.
- **Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad Passenger Operations** - a motion was passed to continue discussions with the EBGRR to develop a business plan for passenger operations on the Colebrookdale Branch.
- **Miscellaneous** – various topics

The next general meeting of the Executive Board will be held at 7PM at the Adams residence in Mohnton, PA on Tuesday, March 15th.

Treasurer’s Report
Jim Adams 610-777-3764 adamsjimca@comcast.net

A motion to refer the Treasurer’s Report to the Finance Committee for audit and vote was made by Dale Woodland, seconded by Jay Zimmerman. The motion passed.

Budget & Finance / Fund Raising Committee
John Brown 717-426-2238 jwbrown929@aol.com

The audit of the 4th Quarter 2010 financial records was completed by Tom Brown. All Society records are in order, accurate and complete. The records for the entire year 2010 have been submitted to our accounting firm for review and tax preparation. During 2010 approximately 220 Society members donated almost $39,000 to the Society. An additional $9,000 was donated via coal bucket donations, matching funds from employers, donations at modular RR displays, donations from museum visitors and a few other sources. Thank you to all our financial supporters.

Museum Operations
Dale Woodland 215-723-5848 dwwrpdg@verizon.net

The Knox Box has been installed (thank you Duane). Docents have been mailed copies of the Display Tour Evaluation Form and have been asked to do a self evaluation before being evaluated. The Ops Committee has established a protocol that future exhibit costs need to be approved by the committee before the exhibit is created. The committee has...
prioritized the needs of our museum for submission to the Board of Directors: Creation of passenger train exhibit ($300), LEMTU rehab, creation of typical prototype freight train in display yard, computer and Past Perfect software program. Storage cars are coming off the R&N so it may be possible to have a Bee Line Festival in late summer. A track laying demonstration was suggested as an activity. There will be a Girl Scout Tour Wednesday March 23rd at 6:30PM. John Brown will represent the Ops Committee at the RCT&HS planning session March 26th. We voted to take out advertisements in the Hamburg HS Camelot Program booklet $40 and Little League booklet $45. We have joined the Blue Star Museum Program which entitles active military personnel free admission to participating museums between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2011. We will be listed in their literature. We will offer space in the gift shop for the sale of duplicate artifacts and RCT&HS member’s donations of books, magazines, models etc. Also, docents may have a table in the gift shop the day of our annual train meet so they can volunteer a sell at the same time. Lori Mengel has volunteered to help with local advertising for the museum (newspapers and merchants). We need to target our audience more in regards to our overall advertising. Next Meeting date Wednesday March 16, 2011 at 7PM

CURATORS REPORT
Paul Troutman 610-926-4919 ptrout@epix.net

We have secured a donation of 13 show cases and three display stands which are stored currently at the business across the street from the museum. We are also getting a quantity of document stands, five more cases, some portable room dividers, and a book case. This assortment of cases will enable us to select the best style case for each exhibit. Since new cases cost about $2000 each, this represents a substantial donation to our museum. I will send thank you letters to all donors. Special thanks to John Stoudt for making trips to evaluate cases.

The next exhibit, Railroad Safety on and around the Rails, will run between November 2011 and August 2012. In the future all loans to other museums (currently the RRMPA) will be managed and signed by the curator in concert with the Museum Operations Committee. This is consistent with standard museum practice.

Steve Gilbert is developing a new exhibit for the large 1-inch scale passenger car models along the North wall. Steve has some great ideas and is building the cases for the cars and engine. The rest of the work will be done by our outstanding volunteers. This is a major project which we can prebuild and install with very little disruption of the museum. In this same North area the Modular Group plans to rebuild the layout with many improvements. Keep watching this area.

Donations acknowledged are: David Bolton, Conductor’s uniform; John Nettleton, Stroudsburg Station sign; Janet Roth, Rdg. Co. letter; William Bubek, many tools, stove poker, brass items, brass sight glass lamp; John Didyoung, conductor’s seat; Patrick Stran, can and lamp; Larry Mundell, crossbuck, lanterns, controller; Donald Davis, Berks Co. RR voucher; Fred Wertz, Bridge Stanchions; Richard Frey, MANY neat items too numerous to mention; Mr. Calveressi, the 1” scale baggage car.

MUSEUM BUILDING COMMITTEE
John Corbit 610-781-1939
No report.

LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE
Carol Adams 610-777-3764 adamsjimca@comcast.net

An important planning session will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 AM to noon at Trinity Bible Church, Blandon. Attendance by committee chairs or a representative of your committee is important. All RCT&HS members interested in participating are welcome. The meeting will help to prioritize the many needs and directions of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in order to maximize our efforts and resources. Planning sessions for Schuylkill River Heritage Towns and Tours have begun. The plan will result in new tourism efforts for the borough of Hamburg. The RRHM will be designated as a partner in the project.

Discussions continue with the Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad, operators of the “Colebrookdale spur”. Future periodic cooperative passenger excursions on the line could result.

Met Ed has installed its new power poles near Museum property and begun installation of the wires.

TRACK & GROUNDS
Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rchs.dengle@juno.com

This past month, just like the previous, we worked on clearing snow numerous times again. I want to thank John Stoudt, John Corbit, Bill Bubeck and Rebecca Engle for helping me with snow removal this month. If anyone can help with snow removal over the winter please let me know. Hope to work on some more grounds work in the near future.

Paul Troutman reported that he has had contact with UGI and they will be getting back to us on possible rail donation.

MODULAR
Jonathan Barket 570-366-1533 jono1920@aol.com

We had a fantastic time at Timonium Md. We ended up being 96’ long and had the layout up and running in 3 hours. We were known as the layout with the operating signal system. Everyone complemented us on what a fabulous job we have done. I hope everyone who has contributed to the modules and who helps out can take that compliment and feel really good about themselves and about our display. Again, I would like to thank everyone who helped out at this show.

We are currently working on Dana. We have stripped all the scenery off of these modules. They are basically blank and are ready for new scenery. We also will be fixing some track work in this area to get ready for new rolling stock. The Dana buildings are also getting rehabbed. We plan on having this entire section finished and ready for our Pottsville Show. After this we plan on having a few work sessions to begin construction on several new scenes.

Belt is also getting work done to it. Duane has taken those sections and is replacing the defective switches and
getting it ready for computer control. Scenery upgrades will also be taking place.

We have also received a letter about a donation that is going to be given to us. His name is Richard and he is donating several buildings and rolling stock including a detailed model of the station at Schuylkill Haven. With this donation, we have planned a scene for the modular layout to include the station and freight house. This should be a very nice scene once completed.

As always, work sessions are usually held each weekend in Hamburg. If anyone is not on the email list and they would like to be please let me know.

**Passenger Operations**

Mike Stehman will work with our RDC’s for the proposed Eastern Berks County Gateway Railroad tourist train operations.

**Motive Power and Rolling Equipment**

John Stoudt R.E. 610-775-1197 / Tim Weidner M.P. 610-780-0497

No report.

**Wood Car:** Still looking for ideas and help in stabilizing the roofs of the wood passenger cars that were brought to Hamburg last year. Please contact Rick Bates.

**Acquisitions**

Steve Schwartz 610-434-1289 schwartzsj@juno.com

No report.

**Archives / Publications / Calendar**

Rick Bates 610-647-9399 rbates@voicenet.com

- **Archives**
  
  Thanks to the following for donations: ten photo albums of Reading RR-related locations and activities from Mike Piersa; a 1954 issue of the Railway Official Guide from Robert Bernstel; and a set of Reading Division dispatcher sheets for July 1963 from Paul Kutta. Also, thanks very much to the following for recent help in sorting our archives: Andrew Dietz, Randy Mengel, Mike Smith, Bill Stafford and Rick Bates. With spring approaching, archives work sessions will be held only on certain Saturdays when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor projects. Contact me ahead of time before journeying to Hamburg to help on archives sorting.

- **Publications**
  
  The next Bee Line will be a double issue for year 2009, hoping it goes to the printer in March. Working on additional articles for the next Bee Lines.

- **Calendar**
  
  We have decided the Year 2012 calendar theme will be “Steam and Diesel on the Reading Railroad,” and we invite members to submit photos for consideration. What we are looking for are photos that have some aspect of the usage of both steam and diesel in the same picture (not necessarily in locomotives) or photos showing the transition from steam to diesel locomotive power. For example, a picture of a diesel locomotive hauling steam-heated coaches would qualify for the calendar. Put your thinking caps on and let’s see what other ways we can find where both steam and diesel power were used. Photos should be sharp, properly exposed 8x10 color or black & white prints, or original color slides. We could also work from extra-sharp 5x7 black and white prints (look at them under a magnifier to see if they are REALLY sharp), but please do NOT send 5x7 or smaller color prints, duplicate color slides, or digital pictures printed at home on a laser or inkjet printer. These formats do not reproduce well when published at full-page size as in our calendar. High quality digital scans may be acceptable, but please contact us for more details if you want to submit in this format. Please have your photo submissions to us by March 31. If you haven’t gotten one already, please contact the Sales Committee to purchase a copy of our 2011 calendar featuring the photography of George W. Gerhart II, who grew up in Robesonia and took many excellent pictures in the very early 1950s of the Reading’s steam and diesel locomotives, trains, and structures.

**Mailing**

Ken Riegel 610-777-4555 RCTHS214@comcast.net

The mailing committee met on February 10th.

**Membership**

Melanie Zimmerman 717-445-6301 rdhs.membership@juno.com

As of February 22 we have 17 new members and 679 renewals for a total of 696 members for 2011. The breakdown of members is 469 Individual, 66 Family, 93 Contributing, 47 Sustaining, 14 Corporate and 7 Student. We had 31 new members and 676 renewals for a total of 707 members at this time last year. We currently have 1007 members for 2010.

**Notice to 2010 members who have not renewed:** The February newsletter will be the last newsletter that you will receive, so send your renewal shortly to avoid a lapse in membership. Just a reminder membership dues are $35 for Individual ($45 outside the U.S.), $43 for Family ($53 outside the U.S.), $15 for Student (Please provide name of Full-time school), $55 for Contributing, $100 for Sustaining and $150 for Corporate. If you misplaced the renewal form that came in your October Crusader newsletter, just write your name and address on a piece of paper. Mail your information with your check or money order made payable to R.C.T.& H.S. Membership Committee, PO Box 15143, Reading, PA 19612-5143.

If you receive the Crusader by the US Postal Service, check your most recent newsletter address label to find your current membership year. Please allow several weeks for us to process your membership if it still shows 2010 and you’ve already mailed your payment.

**Public Relations**

Andrew Dietz 914-886-3459 Andrew.dietz11@albright.edu

No report.
Sales
Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rcths.dengle@juno.com (for mail order questions contact Dave Heffner at 717-290-1493 dav relent@verizon.net)

We have some new O and HO models for sale. We also have some new books on the way. The HO F-7’s from InterMountain have arrived. The HO C630’s from Bowser and the SW1500’s from PCM are expected to be released soon.

The Timonium show went well. We did $1340.00 in sales. The following helped with sales at Timonium: Duane Engle, Greg and Barb Goodridge, Jim and Carol Adams, Dick Lush, Gary Saggio and Sue Funk. Thank you to everyone that helped.

Next show is the Allentown Train Meet Feb. 26 and 27, following show is our Train Meet at Leesport April 3rd. We need help for this show.

Modeling: John Greene 215-721-3006 greene@netcarrier.com

No report.

Train Meet
Dale Miller 610-372-3759

Our Spring train meet will be Sunday, April 3rd.

Convention Committee
John Greene 215-721-3006 jgreene@netcarrier.com

Our annual convention will be held on Saturday, April 2nd. Please see the flyer in the January Crusader for details and ticket information.

Website and Correspondence
Norman O. Mueller 610-446-6651 rcths/questions@verizon.net Mike Sakal 610-777-3268 msakal@comcast.net

No report.

Entertainment
Dale Woodland (215) 723-5848 dwwrdf@verizon.net


Old Business
None.

New Business

• Dale Woodland reports that the latest Railpace magazine published two photos of our museum.

• Dale Woodland announced a day of railroad presentations to raise money for the CNJ 113 Project. This event will take place on February 26th in Minersville, PA from 9-4.

• Dale Woodland reported that SEPTA Silverliner V cars went into regular service this week.

• Rick Bates raised the issue of bus tours as fundraisers for us, with the Museum as a destination for tours originating from elsewhere, and the Museum as an origin for Society-organized trips. Gettysburg was mentioned as one possible destination for a Society trip.

• Tonight’s coal bucket contained $29 and 10 pay down the loan envelopes.

Closing

A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Mundell and seconded by Dale Woodland. President Duane Engle adjourned the meeting at 8:42PM.

Pay Down the Loan Program

Receipts
Current Month: February, 2011 = $2,337.72
Total: Nov, 2010 thru February, 2011 = $6,699.72

Payments
Current Month: February, 2011 = $2,500.00
Total: Nov, 2010 thru February, 2011 = $6,500.00
Outstanding Balance = $90,500.00

Hamburg Museum Track Fund

Receipts
Current Month: February, 2011 = $1,687.00
Total: May 2007 thru February, 2011 = $27,863.00

Payments
Current Month: February, 2011 = $0.00
Total: May 2007 thru February, 2011 = $20,997.15
Current Fund Balance = $6,865.85

Car Hosts Wanted: Al Seabold, manager of Stourbridge Line Rail Excursions, is need of car hosts for the 2011 operating season. Pay is $40 per day and NORAC training will be provided. The train operated out of Honesdale, PA. If interested in an application please contact Al Seabold at 570-251-7770. The 2011 schedule is available at www.waynecco.com.
Mark Your Calendars

- March 22nd: General Meeting of the RCT&HS at Trinity Bible Fellowship Church, Rt. 73, Blandon, PA

- March 26th: RRHM Planning Session at Trinity Bible Fellowship Church, Rt. 73, Blandon, PA

- April 2nd: RCT&HS Convention at the American Legion BINGO Hall in Hamburg, PA

- April 3rd: RCT&HS Train Meet in Leesport, PA

- April 12 - 17: Modular and Sales at the Fairlane Village Mall in Pottsville, PA

www.readingrailroad.org
2010 Financial Contributors to RCT&HS

Anonymous
James & Carol Adams
Robert Adams
Thomas Ambler
Richard Angstadt
David Armbruster
Ronald Baile
Richard Bates
Donald Behney
John Belfiore
John Bergei
Raymond P Bilger
James Blake
Donald Bloch, Sr.
Lewis Bollinger
Sam Bolton, Jr.
Ethan Bond
Craig Bowman
Ronald Boyer
George Bradbury
Thomas E Bradley
Robert Briegel
Peter Brill
Richard J Brodecki, Jr.
James & Joan Bross, Sr.
John Brown & Carol Strausser
Thomas & Mary Jo Brown
Michael & Lynn Bursthtn
Roger Calhoon
Charles & Karen Confer
John Corbit
Terry & Linda Cosentino
Theodore Daniels
Donald & Nancy Davis
Benjamin H. Deebler, Jr.
Mark Delestass
Jurgen Dietrich
Edward J Donahue III
Kate Dunlap
David Durr
Robert L Eastwood, Jr.
Robert Ehnhart
Duane, Lynn & Rebecca Engle
Lance Erickson
Robert Even
Morris S Fabian
Gerald W Farrell
Robert Favcett
Kenneth R Feather
Edward Feathers
Donald Fenstermacher
Dennis Fitzgerald
William Fluck
Richard Foley
Robert Francis
Joseph Frank, Jr.
Glenn Fresch
James C Frickmann
John & Suzanne Funk
Edward Galley, Jr.
Thomas Geesaman
Jeffrey R Godsey
James Goldman
Guarin Goldsmith
Greg & Barb Goodridge
Elizabeth Goos
Matthew, Jim & Steph Gordon
John Greene
Clair E Gross
Joseph Gudisaskas
Charles Hallman
Carolyn Hamilton
Wilson Harkins III
David Heffner
John M Helduser
Thomas Hendricks
Kent Herzer
Fritz Hessemer
Frederick Hessler
William Hessler
O. Warren Higgins
Larry Hilgendorf
Walter Hilsenbeck
Daniel L Hitchcock
Mark W Hoffman
Harold B Holtzman
Eugene Holub
Dennis Hornberger
David Huber
Amos Hurst, Jr.
Ira G. Mohler & Son, Inc.
C Bruce Irvin
Robert R Jackson
Tom Jacobs
Vincent Jakubowski
Walter Jones
Woodrow & Laven Kamp
J Scott Kennedy
Bernard R Kern
Herbert Ketcham
Doug Kisala
Milton F Koble
Ned D Krack
Charles & Jacqueline Krauth
William Krug, Jr.
F Paul Kutta
Kuzan's True Value Hardware
Lynwood & Eileen Lamm
George Landes
Howard Landis
Richard A Lash
David Latshaw
James E Lauback
William Laudenslayer, Jr.
David & Joann Lawrence
William R Lehman
William Lewars
J Scott Lied
Peter Longo
Jeffrey Loose
David Lord
Bob Lossy, Jr.
John Lukas
Richard M Lush, Jr.
Edward MacDowell
John Malnait
Manheim Central School District
John R Marple
Barton L Marquette
Paul Marynowych
Ken McCorry
Doug McDowell
David McGuire
Stephen McLeod
Richard McNabb
Robert Meashey
Frank C Mellott
Ronald Mengel
Grant Midlestead
Robert C Miller
Vincent S Minarik
George Morton
Harold R Moyer
Robert E Moyer
Philip J Mulligan
Charles Myers
Jan A Nagle
Richard & Michael Nagy
John Nevin III
Stanley Noelker, Jr.
David Nye
Cutten County Chrysler
Kevin Painter
C Davis Palmer
Carl E Person
George Petrie
Joseph M Pietrobon
Thomas Poserina
David B Propert
Charles E Provencher, Jr.
Eric Quimby
John & Caroline Reese
Robert Reid
Richard Reilly
Larry Rentschler
John O Rex
J E Richards
Richard C Roden
Ruth Rosenstock
Mathew Roulin
David C Saalfalk, Sr.
James Salmons
Robert L Schaeffer
Larry A Schaffer
Myles R Schlosser
Barry Schofer
Richard Schroeter
Lee Schultz
Richard Schuster
Steve Schwatz
Jonathan W Shaffer
Ruth M Shaffer
Jonathan L Shalter III
Donald E Shappell
Marilyn Sheldon
Thomas Shirk
Bob Slavinski
Jeffrey J Smith
Kevin K Smith
Michael C Smith
SMS Rail Lines
Thomas J Sopko
Taras W Sowirka, Jr.
Nick Spock, Jr.
Mike Stehman
Denton Stoudt
Jeffrey Stoudt
John F Stoudt, Jr.
William Stouffer
Lee & Frances Swartz
J Howard Thompson, Jr.
Ronald Tobias
Richard Tobin
John Tomko, Jr.
John C Tomlin, Jr.
Paul Troutman
Anthony Verbyla
Richard Wachtman
Robert J Walton IV
William Warner
Donald Way, Jr.
Kurt Wegelius
Dorsey D Weikert, Jr.
Harold E Weinhold
Robert W Wentz
John Weidner, Jr.
Walter E Williams
Robert Wilson
Ronald & Joan Wolfe
Dale Woodland
Russell Yallas
Richard Yoder
Donald Stuart Young
John M Young
James H Zeyn