



The Crusader

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

March 2011



Museum Planning Meeting Sets Short Term Goals

On March 26, 2011, the Long-Range Planning Committee met with RCT&HS Board members, committee chairs, and other interested members to discuss and reach a consensus on short-term and long-term needs for the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum (RRHM). Approximately 25 people attended. Several potential projects were identified and participants agreed that we need to look into funding and fund raising options as well. The top seven projects are (1) electricity/power issues, (2) roof repair and assessment, (3) site safety and security, (4) rolling stock stabilization and work shop, (5) track building, (6) secure windows and façade (Foundry Building), and (7) plan for museum expansion.

Eight work groups were established to further explore and define the 7 projects and to explore options for funding and fund raising. The following members agreed to serve on the eight work groups:

1. Electricity/power issues: Rich Tobin (chair), John Corbett, Jonathan Barket, John Stoudt, Mike Stehman
2. Roof repair and assessment: John Corbett, Duane Engle
3. Site safety and security: Don Crabtree (chair), Jim Adams, Tom Brown, Mike Stehman, Duane Briscoe
4. Rolling stock stabilization and work shop: Rich Tobin, John Corbett, Jonathan Barket, John Stoudt, Mike Stehman
5. Build track: Duane Engle and the track gang
6. Secure windows and façade: Steve Gilbert (additional volunteers are needed)
7. Plan for museum expansion: Carol Adams, Tom Brown
Fund raising: Jim Blake, Paul Troutman, John Brown, Mike Stehman, Duane Briscoe, Jonathan Barket

Each of the work groups will meet to define its project, including assessing what needs to be done and identifying potential problems/obstacles, permits/approvals needed, need for consultants, work to be done by contractors/work to be done by volunteers, estimate volunteer labor hours and project costs, and identify potential funding sources. The fund raising group will explore funding and fund raising options for the Society. Each work group will prepare a written report to the Board of Directors for further consideration.



Master Calendar Announcement

The Board of Directors has designated the calendar hanging in the museum lunch room as the RCT&HS master calendar. All members are asked to mark all scheduled events, work sessions, and activities on this calendar. Members are also advised to contact our web master, Mike Sakal, in addition to marking the calendar to make sure that the web site is updated. If you are unable to get to the museum to mark the calendar please call during operating hours and ask a docent to mark the calendar for you.

The purpose of this calendar is to avoid scheduling conflicts. We thank you for your cooperation in keeping the calendar up to date and helping our growing society to operate smoothly.

- Jeff Smith, Secretary of the Board



Lititz Caboose Ready for the Easter Holiday

The Lititz Caboose Museum, RDG 92954, is all decked out in Easter attire. The caboose is actually CNJ 91530 in disguise with its heritage being given away by the large orange dots on the cupola ends. Located in Lititz Springs Park (owner), this caboose is looked after by member Kent Herzer. The caboose sits along the old Reading and Columbia Branch and is open to the public on Saturdays in the spring and fall and most days during the summer. Photo by Jeff Smith.



MARCH 22nd GENERAL MEETING

President Duane Engle called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. there were 6 officers and 35 members in attendance. Randy Mengel introduced new member Carl Rettstadt. Duane welcomed visitor Milton Nuss. A correction was made to the February Crusader. Bill Bubeck's name was misspelled on the 2010 donation list. There was a question on the February coal bucket amount. The amount of \$29 is correct. A motion to accept the February 2011 minutes as printed was made by Larry Mundell and seconded by Pete Urbaitis. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rcths.dengle@juno.com

The March meeting of the BOD was held at 7PM on March 15th at the Adams residence in Mohnton, PA. Topics of discussion and motions carried are as follows:

- **Financial** - Car 15 rental fees
- **Museum** - Planning Committee's report and site development.
- **Car 1189** – We have been given a deadline of September 15, 2011 to move the car from the RRM of PA. The board discussed how to proceed with this project.
- **Miscellaneous**

The next general meeting of the Executive Board will be held at 7PM at the Adams residence in Mohnton, PA on April 5th.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Adams 610-777-3764 adamsjimca@comcast.net

RCT&HS FUND BALANCE REPORT 2011	
	2/28/2011
General Fund	\$10,658.47
Gen Fd Encumb BeeLine, Operation, Sales,Tax	\$48,483.69
SUB-TOTAL	\$59,142.16
<u>Restricted Funds*</u>	
Acquisition	\$3,562.12
Transportation Museum	\$57,531.30
Modular Railroad	\$660.77
Endowment	\$1,569.10
Transit Bus	\$399.78
Coach 863	\$1,463.75
Comm. Economic Develop. Grant 32094	\$0.00
Comm. Economic Develop. Grant 31317	\$235.62
Comm. Economic Develop. Grant 34501	\$1,286.62
Comm. Economic Develop. Grant 37442	\$5,359.13
SUB-TOTAL	\$72,068.19
TOTAL CASH ALL FUNDS	\$131,210.35
CASH CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	\$7,338.22
TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS	\$102,450.00

*Funds that can only be used for stated purpose

Reading Company Technical & Historical Society Profit & Loss February 2011

	Total
Income	
Admissions	350.00
Donations	5,124.22
Membership Dues	10,628.00
Sales of Product Income	6,546.41
Special Events Income	624.00
Total Income	\$ 23,272.63
Cost of Goods Sold	
Inventory purchased for resale - COGS	2,815.44
Sales Expense - COGS	399.17
Shipping Expense - COGS	68.30
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 3,282.91
Gross Profit	\$ 19,989.72
Expenses	
Member Services	451.00
Museum	7,555.71
Operations/Administration	2,086.17
Special Events	140.00
Total Expenses	\$ 10,232.88
Net Operating Income	\$ 9,756.84
Other Income	
Interest Earned	6.58
Sales Tax Discount	1.56
Total Other Income	\$ 8.14
Net Other Income	\$ 8.14
Net Income	\$ 9,764.98

A motion to refer the Treasurer's Report to the Finance Committee for audit and vote was made by Don Davis and seconded by Dale Woodland. The motion Passed.

BUDGET & FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

John Brown 717-426-2238 JWBROWN929@AOL.COM

The list of financial contributors published last month included those donors who made contributions that were recorded in our accounting records. We realize that some members made "off-the-books" contributions and we want to thank them for their donations also. As an example, an "off-the-books" donation occurs when a member personally purchases lumber, and then takes the lumber to the museum to build an exhibit. Because there is no record of the purchase, the member does not get credit for donating the lumber. However, both the member and the Society would benefit if this type of donation would be recorded. There is a simple way to do it – just give the receipts to Jim Adams. Jim will make the appropriate accounting entries to record the donation. There are three benefits:

1. We try to maximize donations to the Society because this is a factor that is reviewed when we apply for loans and grants.

2. The member gets to claim the donation as a tax deduction to a non-profit organization.
3. Your name will be included on the annual list of financial contributors.

MUSEUM OPERATIONS

Dale Woodland 215-723-5848 dwwrdg@verizon.net

We continue to urge the RCT&HS to develop a master calendar. There will be a Girl Scout Tour Wednesday March 23rd at 6:30PM. Dale and Tom Brown will host. John Brown will represent the Ops Committee at the RCT&HS planning session March 28th. Mike Stehman will install a closed circuit TV surveillance system. After much discussion about the condition of our HO scale modular layout we came to the conclusion that it be retained as a modular set up and fixed up. Two sections may be removed to allow more exhibit space. It was mentioned that the inside space could be used for a narrow display board with photos or other visual displays. A suggestion for an O scale layout was dismissed as it would take up too much space. We have a church group tour Tuesday April 5, 2011 at 10AM. We have been contacted regarding a tour for 65 kindergarten children from the Hamburg School District. We welcome Tom Poserina as a new docent. We discussed construction work being done at the museum while visitors are present. We recognize the dilemma since our workers are volunteers weekends may be the only time they can work at the museum. After having received some complaints from visitors the committee decided that all future construction not be done during the hours the museum I open to the public. If this means the project will take longer to complete, so be it. In relation to that we placed getting electricity to the finishing building first on our list of priorities to the board. This will allow museum work to be done there. Dale has been giving out our rack cards at presentations he has done in Audubon (Road Scholars), Reading (Berks Genealogical Society) and Trooper (Lower Providence Presbyterian Church) resulting in groups signing up to visit the museum. The Reading Specialist for The Muhlenberg School District Elementary Center has contacted us about working with the school using our theme of Reading on the Reading. More information will be presented as we get into this project. Dale is looking into whether we should join the Association of Railroad Museums. We can have a table at Hamburg's Hamburger Festival September 3rd if we can get volunteers (same day as Scranton Railfest) We discussed covering the Penn Steel sign over the entrance door with a sign that says Entrance.

CURATORS REPORT

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

Our newly acquired cases are now on site. Five have been refurbished and two are on casters. The new wall next to the train exhibit is now painted. This will become our Reading Railroad freight exhibit with trains on shelves within the wall. We now have a Pennsylvania State flag compliments of Senator Pat Browne. Look for it underneath the new American flag donated by the POS of A. Thanks to both for these donations.

Berks Fire Water has made their initial visit in developing a disaster plan. This will eventually result in meeting requirements such as evacuation route postings, staff training, and a guide book to follow in the event of disasters within our museum. This is being done at no charge. We appreciate their donation of professional services. Other donations acknowledged are: Elvin Adams- Tools, car movers, stone & coke forks. Gerald Fabiani- Shipping crate for Victor Talking Machine. David Overman- P&R shovel. Don Davis- Rdg. Co. 1940 World's Fair Ad Schedule Pottsville. Scott Spohn- O&R Railway 5 day trip ad. Larry Mundell- 2 Alum. Rdg.Co plaques, controller, lenses. James Eden- Builder's plate Rdg. GP7 #664. Gene Griffith- Tools, electronics, file cab. Richard Foley- Painting of banner box cars and a Reading Lines light box. Rick Bates- Smoking/no-smoking flip sign. Richard Frey- a LONG LIST of varied treasures including signage, thermometer, etc..

MUSEUM BUILDING COMMITTEE

John Corbit 610-781-1939

We have been working with Paul Troutman on new museum displays. The auxiliary gas heating project will be complete by the end of the month. It was determined that the ductwork needed to be adjusted in the archive area of the museum.

LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

Carol Adams 610-777-3764 adamsjimca@comcast.net

The close-out report for the DCED grant for \$20,000 for track materials and site development was submitted and approved. The RCT&HS appreciates the help of PA Sen. Pat Browne in facilitating this grant.

A meeting was held with engineers of Stackhouse Bensingler to address the drainage problems resulting from grade changes on the north end of the property. They will recommend the necessary adjustments to Barwis Construction.

The RCT&HS planning session will be held Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 AM to noon at Trinity Bible Church, Blandon. All members are welcome. The purpose of the meeting is to set priorities for the next Museum projects.

Rick Bates mentioned that there are some drainage issues with the site development in the yard of the museum. Duane Engle and Carol Adams took note and will look in to this. Carol mentioned that the project is not complete and some of the drainage system is not yet operational.

TRACK & GROUNDS

Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rcths.dengle@juno.com

This past month very little was done in the way of grounds work. We did do some sweeping up of the cinders and debris on the sidewalks in front of the museum buildings. We are planning to do some more brush and tree clearing on the site. We need to do a good walk over of the areas that have been graded to look for rebar and other pieces of metal that are sticking out of the graded material. Track construction will wait till the ground dries out and stone can be spread. We also have quite a bit of blown straw and sand to clean up from all of the wind we had this winter. Hope to work on some of these grounds issues in the near future.

MODULAR

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

We have been working on Dana sections and a new Schuylkill Haven section thanks to donations received. Our next show is at Pottsville set up will be Tuesday, April 12th at 6:00PM.

PASSENGER OPERATIONS

The R&N has turned down our request to operate excursions between the museum and Shoemakersville on account of poor track conditions. – Dale Woodland

MOTIVE POWER AND ROLLING EQUIPMENT

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

Work has been done on the FP7s to prepare them for service in 2011. Tuesday work sessions at the museum will start in mid April. First on the project list are the steam locomotive tender, the 863, and the 50 ton hopper cars.

ACQUISITIONS

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

We are working on obtaining the #9001, a Silverliner MU car form SEPTA.

ARCHIVES / PUBLICATIONS / CALENDAR

Rick Bates 610-647-9359 rbates@voicenet.com

◆ Archives

Thanks to the following for donations to the Archives in the past month: Reading RR track plans, booklets and manuals from Rich Frey; a 1934 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas from Paul Kutta; some RDG timetables and other paperwork from Dennis Kavanagh; some photos and paperwork from Bill Cauff, Jr.; some 1970s-era RDG General Orders from Roland Baile; and some microfiche copies of RDG track maps, plus some railroad magazines and framed photos from Larry Mundell. Using funding from the \$2,500 NRHS grant obtained last year, we purchased a substantial quantity of archival-quality map folders to house a portion of our drawings collection. We are now placing drawings in these folders, which gets them into proper protective storage conditions for the first time in the history of the RCT&HS. This grant covers only a small portion of our needs, so additional donations will allow the purchase of more map folders to get more drawings into proper storage.

◆ Publications

A double-issue Bee Line for calendar year 2009 has been finished and should be in the mail shortly.

◆ Calendar

Work is progressing on the Year 2012 Calendar.

MAILING

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

No report.

MEMBERSHIP

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

No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Don Crabtree reported that the A5a parade engine has dates set up in April, June and July.

SALES

Duane Engle 610-929-5661 rcths.dengle@juno.com (for mail order questions contact Dave Heffner at 717-290-1493 daverj1@verizon.net)

We have several new books available. The HO F-7's from InterMountain are still available. The HO C630's from Bowser and the SW1500's from PCM have been pushed back to a Spring 2011 release.

The Allentown show went very well. We did over \$4100.00 in sales. The following helped with sales at Allentown: Duane Engle, Greg Goodridge, Gary and Linda Saggio, Ken Riegel and Dick Diehm. Thank you to everyone that helped.

Our next show is our Leesport Train Meet April 3rd, following show is at Fairlane Mall in Pottsville April 13th to 17th. We need help for both of these shows.

SAFETY

Duane Briscoe 610-777-4196

Recent accomplishments to the museum include fire extinguisher recertification, building fire inspection by the Hamburg Fire Chief, and Knox box installation. Future goals for the committee include the following:

- Installation of all property keys inside the Knox box along with "responder" contact information in case of emergency.
- Obtain Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED's) for the museum.
- Assemble and install trauma kits at the museum.
- Obtain resuscitation supplies (oxygen bottles, bag masks, etc.).
- Update the emergency contact list in conjunction with the disaster plan.
- Work with local fire, ambulance, and police to familiarize them with our property.
- Create short safety presentations for general meetings.
- Obtain more volunteers for the Safety Committee. If interested please contact Duane Briscoe.
- Work on decreasing property insurance costs by improving the safety of our property.
- Offer first aid and CPR classes to members if interested.

MODELING -John Greene 215-721-3006 greene@netcarrier.com

A sample of the HO scale model of the 16th street tower is being built for display. We are still waiting for parts to complete the HO scale Southampton Station kit. Reading CVM cars will be available soon in two numbers. More

Reading kits are in the pipe line – a wood/steel baggage car and a modernized PBr passenger car. All HO scale.

TRAIN MEET

Dale Miller 610-372-3759

The RCT&HS Spring train meet is on Sunday, April 3rd. Set up is at 6AM and the doors open at 9AM. Please let us know if you can help.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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

The RCT&HS annual convention will be held on Saturday, April 2nd at the BINGO hall in Hamburg. The doors open at 8:30AM with programs starting at 9AM. Please see the flyer in the last Crusader for details.

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 dwwrdg@verizon.net

Tonight Dale will present a digital program on Vintage EMD Advertisements. April- Jersey Central Lines – Paul Kutta (slides), May- RDG Stations and the PG&N – Tom Poserina (slides), June- Amtrak 1971 to Present – Paul Kutta (slides), July- The Quakertown & Eastern – Kurt Bell (digital), October- The New Hope Branch – Kurt Bell (digital), November- Minority Builder Ads – Dale Woodland (digital), December- TBA Rich Frey.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Davis reported dropping off the latest bundle of Redners tapes which provided \$46 worth of revenue for the RCT&HS. Keep those tapes coming!

NEW BUSINESS

- The 2010 Service Award Winners are as follows: modular - John Messersmith, track and grounds - Don Crabtree, museum ops Paul Skavarla, MP&RE - Rich and Mike Nagy, museum property - John Corbit, and members-at-large - Randy Mengel and Don Davis. Congratulations!
- Dale Woodland reported that the Southampton railroad Station Society is hosting an Armed Forces Day Railfest on May 21st. We have been invited to have a sales table and need volunteers so that we can attend. If interested please contact Duane Engle of the Sales Committee.
- Dale Woodland reported that the West Chester RR will operate a West Chester to Lansdale trip on June 4th for Lansdale Days. Equipment includes former Reading MU cars used as coaches and ALCO diesels for power.

- Carol Adams is looking for vintage post cards featuring the Reading Company.
- Tonight's coal bucket contained \$191 plus 14 envelopes.

CLOSING

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Urbaitis and seconded by John Brown. The motion passed and President Duane Engle adjourned the meeting at 8:51PM.

Pay Down the Loan Program

Receipts

Current Month: March, 2011 = \$841.00

Total: Nov, 2010 thru March, 2011 = \$7,541.72

Payments

Current Month: March, 2011 = \$1,000.00

Total: Nov, 2010 thru March, 2011 = \$7,500.00

Outstanding Balance = \$89,500.00

Hamburg Museum Track Fund

Receipts

Current Month: March, 2011 = \$525.00

Total: May 2007 thru March, 2011 = \$28,388.00

Payments

Current Month: March, 2011 = \$0.00

Total: May 2007 thru March, 2011 = \$20,997.15

Current Fund Balance = \$7,390.85



Items Wanted

THE MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP - Our shop is in need of the following: table saw, radial arm saw, router, jig saw, work-mate, 2x4 lumber, plywood, foam insulation board (any color EXCEPT WHITE).

We are also in need of a computer with at least a 1 GHz processor, a 17" monitor, 5 gig memory, 320 gig drive, Microsoft office with Word 2007, Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 and a 1 TB external hard drive.

Finally, we are in need of Past Perfect Museum Software.

Contact Paul Troutman at 610-926-4919 or ptrout@epix.net if you can assist in any way. All donations are tax deductible.

MODULAR - The modular group is looking for powered computer speakers in order to add sound effects to the layout. Contact Gary Saggio at 610-926-6923 or gwsaggio@ptd.net to make a tax deductible donation.

Meet Andrew Dietz:



Andrew is 21 year old and a Senior at Albright College and will be receiving a Bachelors of Arts in History in May. He is also enrolled in the 4+1 program and will receive a Masters of Science in Education in May 2012 along with a Teacher Certification in Secondary Education and Social Studies. He began volunteering at the museum through an Internship at Albright his sophomore year.

In September 2009 the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum began offering the Railroading Merit Badge to all Boy Scouts Ages 11 to 17. This class is taught by Museum Docent (and Eagle Scout) Andrew Dietz. As of April over 100 scouts will have earned the Merit Badge. The Merit Badge Class focuses on various aspects of Railroading from Railroad Safety to the mechanics of how a train functions. The scouts can also elect to build a HO model boxcar or complete an additional requirement to complete the badge. The class dates will be posted at

<http://www.readingrailroad.org/meritbadge.shtml>. Any questions or comments can be sent to andrew.dietz11@albright.edu.

BCMC Bus Trip

The Berks County Museum Council is offering a one-day bus trip to Winterthur Museum, near Wilmington, Delaware, on June 16, 2011. The program will include a Special Curatorial Tour of its current exhibit, "Print, Pattern, & People." A tram tour of the grounds and private group lecture are also included. Price is \$65 per person. Please contact Carol Adams (610-777-3764) for complete

RCT&HS Corporate Members

Russell & Julia Angstadt; Bethlehem Car Works, John Greene, CEO, Telford, PA (215) 721-3006; **Centralia Coal Sales Co.**, Wilkes-Barre, PA (570) 822-4135; **Municipal & Financial Services Group**, Annapolis, MD (410) 226-910; **G&K Hobbies**, Bill Krug CEO, Reading, PA (610) 374-8598; **Health Insurance Solutions, Inc.**, **Tom and Nanette Poserina**, Health Brokers (215) 721-2220; **"It's All the Rage" Hair Designs**, In memory of Charles W. Moyer, Jr., 1213 Penn Ave., Wyomissing, PA (610) 375-0816; **Jonathan L. Shalter III**, Conservationist-Naturalist-Historian, Temple, PA; **Lancaster Chapter, NRHS**, Christiana, PA (610) 593-4968; **Outer Station Project**, Benjamin Bernhart, historian, author, publisher; **PENNVIA Private Railcars, Inc.**, Passenger Dome car charters in the US and Canada, West Lawn, PA (610) 678-3604; **R. Harris Russo, MD, Neurological Surgery**, Kalamazoo, MI (269) 343-3939; **Rabenold, Koestel, and Scheidt, Attorneys at Law**, Wyomissing, PA (610) 374-2103; **Reading and Northern Railroad, Co.**, Andy Muller Jr., CEO, Port Clinton, PA (610) 562-2100; **Rich Yoder Models**, Richard Yoder, O-Scale Brass Importer, Wyomissing, PA (610) 678-2834; **Security First Inc.**, Security, access control, surveillance systems, 107 W. Lancaster Ave., Shillington PA (610) 777-8890; **SMS Rail Lines**, Bridgeport, NJ; **Town & Country Newspaper**, Pennsburg PA, (215) 679-5060

Pottstown & Reading Chapter, NRHS
Lehigh Valley Chapter, NRHS
Reading technical & Historical Society
Anthracite Railway Historical Society
Conrail Historical Society
PRESENT

PICNICRAIL' 11

SATURDAY MAY 28, 2011

1 P.M. UNTIL ?

MAIER'S GROVE BLANDON, PA

EVENING SHOW BY STEVE BARRY – RAILFAN CHIEF EDITOR
AND FRANK ETZEL

The hosting groups will have some of their fundraising items for sale during the afternoon prior to the show.

Arrive early and enjoy the action on the Norfolk Southern's busy East Penn Main, adjacent to the grove.

Included are snacks and beverages during the afternoon and a buffet meal with BBQ chicken served promptly at 5 PM.

The grove is located on Grove Drive in Blandon diagonally across from Stonet Creek Rentals (the old Agway), you've shot trains from here before now get out and enjoy the action along the East Penn under the grove's trees or in case of inclement weather we'll have a good time under the pavilion. (Picnic is rain or shine.)

Prices: Adults \$13.00

Children 3-12 \$6.00

Under 3 free, but let us know how many

For tickets send SASE and check payable to: P&R Chapter

c/o Philip Reppert

17 Adele Ave

Blandon, Pa. 19510

Directions and a map will gladly be sent with the tickets(if requested) order deadline is May 21st, after that date we'll hold your tickets for pick-up at the grove.

Mark Your Calendars

- April 12 - 17: Modular and Sales at the Fairlane Village Mall in Pottsville, PA
- April 22nd: General Meeting of the RCT&HS at Trinity Bible Fellowship Church, Rt. 73, Blandon, PA
- May 28th: Picnic Rail in Blandon, PA

Save your Redner's Tapes

www.readingrailroad.org

