

The Anthracite EXTRA



Issue 109

Anthracite Railroads Historical Society, Inc.

July 2020

President's Message

By John M. Gabriel

Welcome to the Summer of 2020; hard to believe half of the year has already passed into the history books. Despite the restrictions we have all endured with COVID-19, ARHS as an organization continues to thrive. In this version of the Extra you will read about many of the varied activities we are engaged in.

As your President, my goal is to continue to lead us forward to make ARHS as inclusive as possible for its members and to tap the tremendous resources we have across nearly 1,000 members. Top of list in this regard is identifying the means to restart monthly membership meetings.

We are appreciative of the continued level of members stepping forward to volunteer to serve ARHS – and we will not turn away anyone looking to participate. The Board is working on procedures to allow for more remote volunteerism to take place with scanning of archives, deaccession, and representing the group at train shows.

We will also continue to share recommendations on how to preserve and care for your collections – Look for some helpful tips in this issue – and next issue we will provide a more detailed set of guidelines for the preservation and future management of your life-long work.

In closing, please continue to take care and I look forward to the second half of 2020 – and the promise it brings for our continued success.

Flash Report on 7/11/20 Book Sale

The Society's July 11, 2020 book sale was a huge success. Many members and guests obtained great books at bargain prices, and are now busy reading them. Some have been inspired to add new modeling projects to their plans.

Thanks to all who participated for honoring COVID-19 precautions and social distancing recommendations.



ARHS photo



Monthly Meetings **May** Resume in September -- Subject to COVID-19 Restrictions

As efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus make headway in Pennsylvania, our location for membership meetings moved to “green” status. While this includes loosening of mandated restrictions, we remind everyone that the virus is still spreading, and reasonable efforts to reduce contagion are still required.

The board is looking at options to resume monthly meetings while helping members be safe. Factors under consideration include:

- Green status of appropriate county.
- Meeting at a larger venue, to maintain more distance between seats
- Requiring all participants to wear masks
- Or migration of meetings to on-line computer format using group conference call technology

We will make a decision by August 12, 2020, regarding the planned meeting scheduled for September 11, 2020.

Upcoming Events

Reading Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet VIII Will Move to Online Format

The Planning Team, in association with the RCT&HS Board and the ARHS Board have all agreed that an in-person event would not be in the best interest and safety of our members, presenters and participants. But... holding **a virtual event** is possible and many events are going this route for 2020. We are working very hard on what the event will look like. There are many details to work out, but the promise is to have a great event for you to attend online. There will be lots of great modeling and historical information and yes... even some layout tours! More announcements will be made and the event website will be updated soon. Please

stay tuned and get ready for a great Railroad Prototype Modelers meet

See details and registration form online at:

<http://www.readingrrmm.com>



Photo by Rich Jahn

Upcoming Train Shows

All dates subject to COVID-19 restrictions

The ARHS plans to have a sales table at the following events:

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Lehigh Valley Regional Train Show, Chrin Community Center, 4100 Green Pond Road (Palmer Township), Easton, PA

<https://www.lehighlines.org/chrin-flyer.html>

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Carbon Model Railroad Society, Diamond Fire Co. Bingo Hall, 120 Main St., Walnutport PA

<http://cmrs.info/events/>

November 14-15, 2020

First Frost Train Show, Allentown Fair Grounds, 1025 W, Chew St. Allentown, PA

<https://allentowntrainmeet.com/>

January 30-31, 2021

Amherst Railway Society, Eastern States Exposition
Fairground, 1305 Memorial Av., West Springfield,
MA

<http://railroadhobbyshow.com/>

Help Wanted – Overview

As you know, the Society functions because members give their time and effort to support routine operations and special projects.

Help Wanted - Train Show Volunteers (ARHS Retail Tables)

Attend a train show for free. We really need the help. Volunteers staff sales tables at train shows, tell people about the Society, and help them buy models, books, posters, etc. Sale proceeds support ARHS projects and help in keeping dues reasonable. No special skills are needed. Please contact Kermit Geary (kgjr1554@earthlink.net) if you are able to help with any of these shows.

Restoration Report – How to Transplant an EMD Prime Mover

As reported in the May issue, quick action by the ARHS Board secured a prime mover for our B-unit at a very reasonable cost.

The newly-acquired 567C is currently in a gondola, under a tarp, pending re-opening of the shop at Steamtown.

Steamtown NHS was completely closed until the week of June 15 when a few maintenance employees restarted essential functions. Shop employees came back the week of June 22. However, volunteers are not yet permitted. Rich Jahn was allowed in to check the status of ARHS equipment; this allowed him to better position the tarp covering the 567C prime mover. The time frame for any future work is unknown at this time.



Photo by Rich Jahn

Modeling Report

By Charles Liggett

LV RS-11

The society's inventory of HO scale bright Cornell Red LV RS-11s by Rapido are selling quickly. At this time only models with road number 7643 are available. The models are sound equipped with ESU LokSound decoders for DC/DCC. See our web page for current availability and to order:

<https://www.anthracerailroads.org/product/lv-rs-11s-by-rapido-ho-scale>

. \$300.00 plus shipping.

AHRS LV SW-8 Detail Parts

The detail parts for the dynamic brake equipped Lehigh Valley "pups" are listed on in the society's web page at

<https://www.anthracerailroads.org/product/mdlc-ho-dbkkit/>

They are \$22.00 for the package.

ARHS CNJ Baldwin "Babyface" Diesels

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic interrupted production of the metal detail parts for the Baldwin DR-4-4-15 kit. Our order is waiting resumption of work at the supplier's factory. They have indicated that they will inform us of the production date in mid-July 2020.

Other Modeling News

Lehigh Valley Combine Car Kit in HO

Bethlehem Car Works is releasing a new kit with 3D printed sides for the Valley's combine cars Nrs. 1080-1081. Nr. 1080 was retired in 1954 and Nr. 1081 was converted into coach Nr. 1493 in 1943. Society member Andrew Koniers did the computer design. Kit will be \$59.95. BCW's website is at: <http://bethlehemcarworks.com/>



Photo of #1082 by David Marcham

55-Ton "Fishbelly" Hoppers, Flat Cars, and Alco Locomotives in HO

Bowser Trains has LV and D&H (2 versions) twin hoppers in stock. They also have LV F30a flat cars. Bowser also is producing HO models of the Lehigh Valley C-628 and Reading C-630 Alco diesels. See: <https://www.bowser-trains.com>

1937 AAR 40' Boxcar

Intermountain Railways has released this model decorated for the DL&W with Dreadnought ends in six road numbers for both HO and N-scale. See: <https://www.intermountain-railway.com/ho/hoboxcars.htm>

Alco RS-3 Diesels

Atlas Model Railroad Company has released the Alco RS-3 in Lackawanna and Reading color schemes. The models are available from dealers in both DC and DCC versions in two numbers each. See <https://www.atlasrr.com>

Rapido Trains

Rapido Trains will be producing an HO model of the LV PA-1 Nrs. 601, 603, and 610 in both DCC with sound and DC versions. Also, from Rapido will be a HO model of a USRA 40' double-sheathed, wood- box car for the DL&W in a four-number pack. See: <https://rapidotrains.com/>

Future Project Ideas

If you have ideas for future modeling projects, in any scale, contact us through the web site at: <http://www.anthracerailroads.org/contact-us/>

Additional volunteers for the modeling committee are welcome.

New Publications of Interest

Bloomsburg Branch Anthracite Carrier by Peter Brill is focused on the anthracite operations of the Bloomsburg Branch, and its predecessors, and the dozens of collieries, DL&W as well as independently owned, which were served over the decades. Topics include DL&W's evolving system to handle anthracite traffic in the Scranton region; DL&W's purchase of coal cars from online supplier American Car & Foundry at Berwick; locations in the anthracite district along the Bloomsburg Branch from Scranton through Shickshinny and virtually every colliery along the "Bloom" and "H&N" branches. This is not a book of train images. There are far more colliery photographs than the few train photographs.

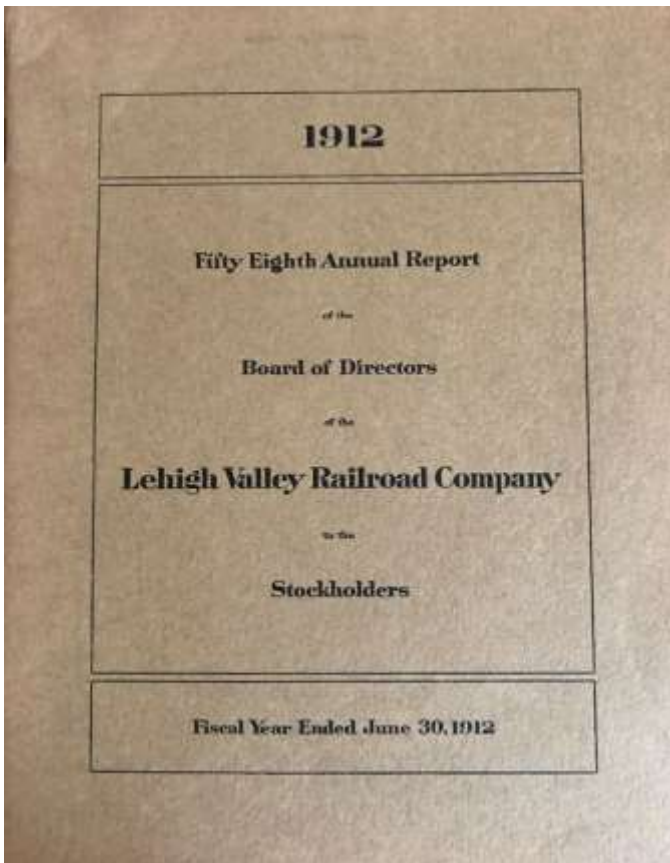
<https://www.anthracerailroads.org/product/bk-lack-bloomac>

The society's Olev Taremae has authored the book **Conrail in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley** covering the changes to the anthracite roads in the Allentown and Bethlehem areas during the Conrail era. Scheduled publication is this fall. Pre-orders through July 31, 2020 at: <https://shop.whiteriverproductions.com/products/crlv>

From the Archives

By Bob Wise

The ARHS recently received an e-mail from a member who asked where he could donate a few Jersey Central and Lehigh Valley Annual Reports from the mid-1920's. The member was downsizing his collection and wanted to be sure the Society could use the material. The concern was if he did not do this now his heirs, who have no interest in railroading and therefore no interest in the research value of the reports, would consider this material as just more items to throw in the dumpster. Of course, we accepted the Reports!



Here was a case where an individual was being realistic and thinking ahead at the same time. Unless you have family members or friends who are very well acquainted with your collection of photographs and memorabilia, it is quite likely all you have accumulated could wind up in the trash as well. Even better than this would be to have family or friends who have your directives in place to

KNOW what to do with your lifetime's work and enjoyment.

And even better yet (it just keeps getting better and better), a collection of railroad photographs and memorabilia is immensely more appreciated and meaningful if you've made the effort to organize it. So what we now have for you to consider is first, organize your collection, and second, make plans to preserve it. Let's look at the organization element first.

Three Society members attended a May, 2020 online presentation given by the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the preservation of potentially huge collections of photographs, and to the organization of this material so it can be shared with others. One of the most basic items reviewed was the need for rail enthusiasts to record the subject matter, date and location of photos they have taken. Prints have surfaces on the back where this information can be noted with a light #2 pencil. Negative holders can be written on. And slides have cardboard mounts ready made for recording information. Let me add one more item to record, and that is YOUR name as photographer. The photo resulted from your talents and work. No need to be humble here!

Maybe you don't record information because it's either a pain to do the extra organization work or you believe you'll remember where and when you took your pictures. I can't deny organization means extra work, but it's worth the effort for both you and the organizations (like the ARHS) who could someday use your material. However, if you feel you can trust your memory, I'll throw out a challenge. Go pick out a box of slides you took in the early 1980's and have not looked at for some time. The subject matter should be easy but try pinpointing the date and location for each slide. See what I mean?

Save the Date – April 24, 2021 – ARHS Seminar



Photo by Mark Charles

The society will hold an educational event in Binghamton, NY in April, 2021. This will be our new “seminar” format, featuring the Lehigh Valley and DL&W railroads in New York State. Speakers and topics will be announced.

Model spotlight:

Guerin Goldsmith’s CNJ RSD-4 in HO

CNJ’s Alco’s six-axle road switchers moved a lot of coal and cement traffic from the 1950s through the early 1970s. They were numbered from 1601 to 1614 (1615 was a visually-similar RSD-5). This brass import was detailed and painted by Guerin Goldsmith.



Photo by Guerin Goldsmith

Share your favorite model! Send a high-res photo and description to extra@anthraciterailroads.org
Models in all scales are welcome

Suggestions, Feedback, and New Ideas Wanted

The Society officers and the Extra editor are eager for your input and assistance. Please use the contact form or send via USPS to the PO Box on the web site.

<https://www.anthraciterailroads.org/contact-us>