

# Rails through History Tour

Do you have an interest in the exciting history of railroads? Did you ever wonder what it was like to inspect a railroad at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and how the railroads kept the trains moving safely?

If you are a rail-fan, historian, or someone who just likes to get outdoors and see scenery that you normally wouldn't see from the highway, you would certainly enjoy a rare opportunity to go behind-the-scenes of railroading – firsthand! Come along for a ride on an antique “speeder” car hosted by the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society (BHRS)! Enjoy the beautiful summertime in a unique way and discover a part of history along the way! Each ride departs from the historic granary and coal sheds (built in 1885 for the newly built RR) located in Lemont, PA (133 Mount Nittany Road) and is a two mile round trip traversing tracks that were once part of the Bellefonte, Nittany, and Lemont Railroad over 130 years ago! Great fun awaits for young and old alike!



NEW: Pump car rides are available for \$1/each!



Lemont, PA

Rides will be available during the following times at popular events in historic Lemont:

Strawberry Festival: June 11, 2016 – 3PM - 7PM

Lemont Arts Fest: July 16, 2016 – 10AM - 4PM

Lemont Arts Fest: July 17, 2016 – 12PM - 4PM

\$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12.

(Note: No tickets are pre-sold. You pay per ride the day of.)

Pump car rides are also available for \$1/each!



BHRS also welcomes those who would like to contribute by volunteering at these special events. Visit us at [BellefonteTrain.org](http://BellefonteTrain.org) or like us on Facebook for more info on volunteering and for more great family friendly events! See you out on the rails!



You're probably wondering; what is a “speeder!?”

To answer that, it is a small vehicle that was once built for use by railroads on their tracks in the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century; with some being made as recent as the 1980s. They earned the “speeder” nickname because they could carry a track crew much faster than a non-motorized hand car. With the invention of retractable wheels that could enable a standard car or truck to ride on the tracks, the railroads began to sell off the “speeders” for scrap prices. Many were bought by some who just wanted a piece of memorabilia or saw some potential in them. Shortly after most were sold off, some were restored to operating condition. Most of the people who bought them helped form the North American Railcar Operator's Association (NARCOA) – an organization founded to promote safe and legal operation of the “speeders.” The speeder hobby has grown significantly since then and is very popular throughout the United States and Canada.

For more info about the “speeder” hobby, visit [NARCOA.org](http://NARCOA.org).

