



Marker Lights

The Newsletter of the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society

SPRING 2013 EDITION | WWW.BELLEFONTETRAIN.ORG

CENTRE GIVES CAMPAIGN

Save the Dates – May 22 & 23

BHRS will be participating in the 2013 Centre Gives 36-Hour online donation campaign on May 22 – May 23, 2013.

Again, all donations will be designated toward the Caboose and Snowplow Restoration Fund.

Starting at 6:00 am on May 22 until 6:00 pm

on May 23, you can donate to BHRS by visiting

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT
WWW.CENTREGIVES.ORG
BETWEEN 5/22 AND 5/23

www.centregives.org.

Donations will be matched with \$100,000 from the Centre Foundation and each donation makes BHRS eligible for cash prizes, as well!

This year, the minimum

donation amount is \$25 which is tax deductible. Please

consider participating in the event to help us continue our efforts in preserving these important pieces of Bellefonte railroad history.

In 2012, we raised \$685 in online donations, but the total funds received were \$809 including the match from the Centre Foundation!



NEWS FROM THE NITTANY & BALD EAGLE RAILROAD

New NBER Customer

NBER has another new customer!
NBER has worked with Blazer

Enterprises at Wingate to develop a new transload facility

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

You should have received your membership renewal application in the mail last month. We encourage you to rejoin this year! We are in the beginning stages of some major renovation projects to our historic rolling stock which could help increase membership and community engagement and further our mission to promote, preserve, and foster a public appreciation of our railroading heritage. Please renew your membership and continue to be a part of this growing organization!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm
General Membership Mtg.

May dates TBD
Caboose work party

All events will be held at the Train Station, 320 W. High Street in Bellefonte.

on the railroad. The picture – which was supplied by Blazer Enterprises – shows one of the first inbound cars unloaded the week of April 1, 2013. NBER welcomes the partnership with Blazer Enterprises and looks forward to additional opportunities and finding creative solutions for local customers.



NARCOA Run

On Sunday, April 14, 2013, Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad hosted the annual North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) run on the NBER from the former Corning Glass plant to Tyrone

and returning back to the Corning plant.

The event is organized by NARCOA Event Coordinator Larry Maynard of White Deer, PA who has run these trips on the North Shore Railroad operated lines for over 20 years. This year boasted 48 motor cars from PA, OH, NJ, NY, MD, WV, VA, IL, RI, DE, and NH. Mr. Maynard attributed much of the run's success to Mr. Dan Hawbaker for allowing his organization to use the former Corning facility which provided sufficient space for loading and unloading and close access to the railroad.

The members in attendance commented on the scenic beauty of Happy Valley and the great condition of the Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad. They also enjoyed seeing the BHRS crew

working on the RDC's as they passed by the Bellefonte Train Station.

Incidentally, the organization estimated they spent \$18,000 - \$20,000 in supplies, meals and lodging in Centre County!

Visit www.narcoa.org for more information on these fascinating motor cars!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As we grow as an organization, our need for additional help is becoming greater. Please consider volunteering your time to some of these projects:

- Track improvements and brush clearing
- Removal of several defunct Pennsylvania Railroad sheds along the Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad, and salvaging parts to rebuild and preserve a functional

shed to be used as storage (see picture)

- Replacement and repair of the Caboose #103 roof and siding
- Preparation of the RDC repairs bid document
- Restoration of the BFC gang car (speeder) to operational condition
- Historical research

If you would like more information or are interested in helping out on any of these projects, please

email info@bellefontetrain.org.

For more information about these and other projects, visit our website at www.bellefontetrain.org.



West Julian Shed

CABOOSE & SNOWPLOW RESTORATION - HELP NEEDED URGENTLY!

In May 2012, the National Railway Historical Society as part of the 2012 Railway Heritage Grant program awarded \$2,000 to BHRS toward exterior restoration of the Caboose.

The grant requires that the exterior restorations listed in the application be completed by December 31, 2013.

Currently, the lumber for siding has been milled. New rafters

and roof decking need to be milled and installed as part of this project. Also, a major structural beam needs to be repaired or replaced due to rot near the edge of cupola. After the roof repairs are completed, the car will receive new siding, and repairs to the corner posts, and steps.

Now that the weather is warming up, help is needed to begin the restoration work. We are in danger of losing this

funding so it is very important the project is completed before the weather becomes cold and our attention once again returns to our Fall and Winter excursions.

Please contact, the chairman of the Caboose committee, Gary Hoover, at BellefonteCOC@aol.com if you can lend a helping hand.



RDC TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS FUNDS

In 2011, BHRS was awarded \$295,000 from PennDOT's Transportation Enhancements (TE) program to restore RDC 9167 to operational condition. As cuts to the state transportation budget became necessary, the certainty of the TE program was tenuous. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Ms. Trish Meek, Transportation Planner for the Centre Region Planning Office, she has remained in

contact with PennDOT to ensure this pool of funds remains available for BHRS.

A subcommittee was recently formed to identify the project details and specifications in preparation for creating the bid document for the repairs. Since the RDC is now eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, Ms. Meek is working with the Pennsylvania Historical and

Museum Commission to ensure that improvements do not adversely affect its historical nature.

Several meetings between Ms. Meek, PennDOT and BHRS have already been held to scope out the project plans. Additional meetings will be held in May to move this project forward through PennDOT.



The Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society is an all-volunteer historical society dedicated to promoting, preserving, and fostering a public appreciation of the railroading heritage of Bellefonte and Centre County, Pennsylvania.