



Marker Lights

The Newsletter of the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society

SUMMER 2013 EDITION | WWW.BELLEFONTETRAIN.ORG

2013 BHRS TRAIN RIDES

The 2013 BHRS train ride schedule was posted to our website at the end of May. We are very excited to offer a variety of rides that will appeal to different groups such as families, serious railfans and those looking to enjoy some lovely scenery!

New this year is the Halloween Train on Friday, October 18. This kid-friendly ride will be a one hour, round trip from the Bellefonte Train Station to Axemann Road. Tickets are \$10 and costumes are

encouraged! The traditional Fall Foliage trips will be held on Saturday and Sunday. The ticket prices for these round trip rides are \$15 to Lemont, \$20 to Sayers Dam and \$30 to Tyrone.

The ever popular Santa Express will again return December 20-22 with a one hour, round trip ticket price of \$10.

See the table below for the 2013 Train Ride Schedule and visit bellefontetrain.org for more details.

2013 TRAIN RIDE SCHEDULE

Halloween Train

October 18 - 6:00 & 8:00 PM

Fall Foliage Train

October 19 to Lemont - 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

October 19 to Sayers Dam - 4:00 PM

October 20 to Tyrone - 1:00 PM

Santa Express

December 20 - 6:00 & 8:00 PM

December 21 - 10:00 AM & 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 PM

December 22 - 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 PM

FALL FOLIAGE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

BHRS will be holding a photography contest as part of the Fall Foliage rides!

Passengers on the October 19 - 20 Fall Foliage excursions are invited to submit their best photos of the rides to BHRS for entry into the contest.

Photos will be judged in several different categories with prizes given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category.

More information on the categories, prizes, contest rules and deadlines will be posted on our website in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24, 2013

Online sale date for October Train rides

September 2, 2013 - 7:00 pm

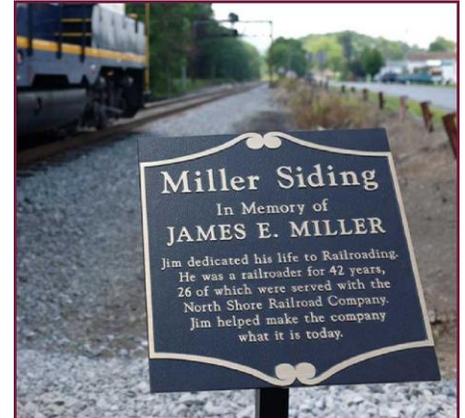
General Membership Mtg.,
Train Station - 320 W. High
Street in Bellefonte

NEWS FROM THE NITTANY & BALD EAGLE RAILROAD

Miller Siding Dedication

On July 18, 2013, the Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad honored Jim Miller a dedicated railroad worker of 42 years. A 5,000 foot length of siding in Milesburg has been named in his memory and a special excursion from Bellefonte to Milesburg carrying members of the Miller family, NBER employees and JRA board members commemorated the dedication ceremony.

Mr. Miller began his career with the now defunct Bellefonte Central Railroad, became the NBER's first General Manager in 1984 and later worked in a similar capacity for the Juniata Valley Railroad. Those attending the ceremony spoke of his pride in the railroad and his commitment to providing quality service to local industries.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

BHRS is always in need of volunteers to help further our mission to preserve and foster a public appreciation of our rich railroading history!

Some of the more urgent projects and events that we could use an extra hand with include:

- Replacement and repair of the Caboose #103 roof and siding

- Track improvements and brush clearing
- Professional/Photography Student for rides and events
- Removal, rebuilding and salvaging of parts of several defunct Pennsylvania Railroad sheds along the Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad

- Preparation of the RDC bid document

Our ongoing volunteer needs include:

- Restoration of the BFC gang car (speeder) to operational condition
- Historical research

Please send an email to info@bellefontetrain.org if you would like to help!

UPDATE ON CABOOSE & SNOWPLOW RESTORATION

Two work parties were held this summer in May and June to continue efforts on the Caboose and Snowplow restoration project. Between the two dates, various jobs including removing damaged siding and the cupola of the

Caboose and roof repairs and painting of the Snowplow were completed.

But there is still a long way to go! In order to maintain compliance for a grant from the National Railway Historical

Society, the Caboose roof must be repaired and new roofing materials installed by the end of 2013.

We are always looking for volunteers willing to spend a weekend morning/early

afternoon performing tasks such as light carpentry, painting, and clean up. Please

contact bellefontecoc@aol.com if you are interested in lending a

helping hand toward this project.



RDC TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS FUNDS

The RDC Subcommittee has been working with Trish Meek, Transportation Planner for the Centre Regional Planning Agency, to move the RDC Restoration Project through the various stages of state and federal approvals and BHRS is now very close to seeing the project to fruition.

Subcommittee members have been working with PennDOT District 2-0 staff on the scope of work and bid specifications for the RDC rehabilitation. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised in late October and bids will be due in late November. PennDOT will oversee the bidding process and the award of the



contract. Work is likely to begin on the RDC as early as February 2014!

Simultaneously, they have also been working on securing environmental clearance for the project, which will likely be issued by the end of August. In

early July, documentation was submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission who has determined the proposed construction to the RDC will not have an adverse effect on it as a historic resource. Both

steps were critical in order to obligate funds for the project.

If you have questions about the status of the project or want to become more involved please contact Tom

Canich who is overseeing the project for the BHRS via email at tom@canich.net.

2013 CENTRE GIVES RESULTS!

Recently, the Centre Foundation held its second annual Centre Gives campaign. Centre Gives is a 36-hour online donation event for Centre County non-profit organizations. This year's campaign was a phenomenal success for the BHRS Caboose and Snowplow Fund! The total amount raised by the generous donations of 30 of our members and friends was \$2,225. Coupled with the

matching grant from the Centre Foundation, the total contribution to BHRS was \$2,561.

By comparison, the 2012 campaign raised \$685 from 15 donors, for a total of \$809 including the matching grant.

Additional thanks are extended to Chris Rosenblum of the Centre Daily Times for running a front page story

about our Caboose & Snowplow Restoration project on day two of the Centre Gives campaign.

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to BHRS during the Centre Gives campaign (and throughout the year!) for making our historic restoration efforts possible!

LEMONT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Thank you to George Baney for operating his Speeder car during the Lemont Strawberry Festival. BHRS offered Speeder rides from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm during the festival. It was a

popular, well attended attraction and proceeds from the ride sales totaled \$800, \$200 of which was donated to the Lemont Village Association.



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.