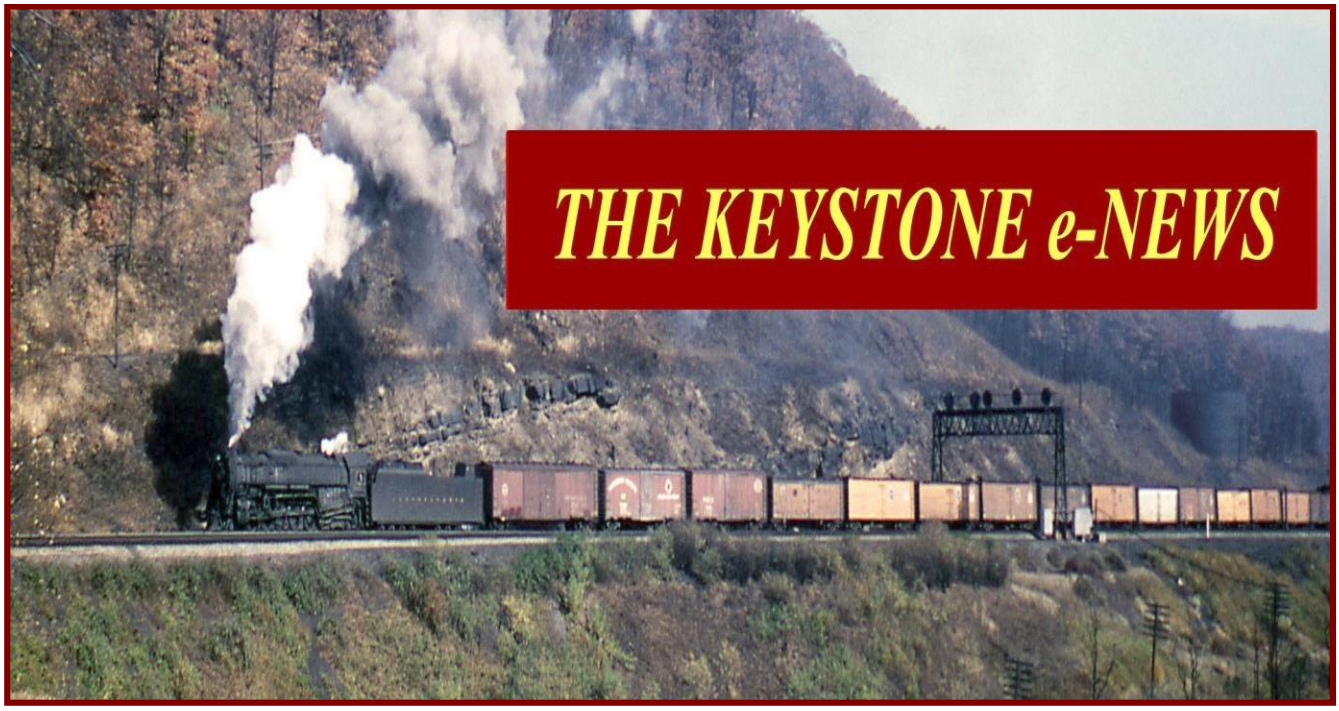

Number 173 **March 2015**

A monthly electronic official newsletter of the PRRT&HS published for the purpose of disseminating information on current issues and events pertaining to the Society's and Chapter's operations and administration as well as other information of interest about the PRR.

Editor – Ed Swain

Please send comments and corrections to the Editor at: edwardswain@aol.com

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2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Web Site is now up at http://2015.pennsyrr.com . The registration package will be out in the mail soon. In the meantime, a registration form is below which you can use.

REGISTRATION FORM

47th ANNUAL MEETING: APRIL 29 - MAY 3, 2015

THE PENN STATER CONFERENCE CENTER HOTEL

215 Innovation Boulevard, State College, PA 16803

Event	Price	Quantity	Total Amount
Member registration (per family)	**$40.00**		
Non-member registration (per family) Includes one-year PRRT&HS membership	**$75.00**		
Banquet			
• Pot Roast with Savory Pan Gravy	**$37.00**		
• Seared Boneless Breast of Chicken	**$37.00**		
• Vegetable Ravioli with Basil Pasta	**$37.00**		
Vendor Table			
Six Foot Table(s) - Cost is per table	**$40.00 each**		
Keystone Member rebate (50% off of one table)	**($20.00)**		(-)
Electricity for Vendor Space (additional $30.00)	**$30.00**		
Tours			
Standard Steel (Separate Check)	**$40.00**		
NS Juniata Shop (Separate Check)	**$50.00**		
The Arboretum at Penn State (Separate Check)	**$25.00**		
GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Full payment must accompany registration form and be in U.S. funds. No Cash. Checks or money orders must be made out to: *Middle Division Chapter, PRRT&HS*.

Mail Registration and Payment to:

PRRT&HS 2015 Annual Meeting
c/o Richard Ader, Registrar
1214 West Sugar Mountain Road
Bushkill, PA 18324-8769

Make Hotel Reservations Directly with:

The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
Tel: 814-863-5000 or toll free at 800-233-7505
Web: www.pshs.psu.edu
The PRRT&HS Group Code No. is "PARD15E".
Reservations must be made by Sunday, March 29, 2015 to qualify for the Special Event Rate of $119.00/night.

List your name(s) below as you would like them to appear on your badge(s). Note that you must wear your badge to get into PRRT&HS events. Please print legibly.

NAME		CHAPTER (IF ANY)	PRRT&HS MEMBER NO.
STREET ADDRESS		TITLE (IF ANY) - Specify NATIONAL and CHAPTER	
CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE
(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS		
IF SPOUSE AND/OR CHILDREN WILL ATTEND, PLEASE LIST THEIR NAMES FOR THEIR BADGES			

I will volunteer one hour or more at the Registration Table. ☐ Yes ☐ No
I will volunteer one hour or more in the Model Room. ☐ Yes ☐ No
Vendors - I am willing to donate a door prize. ☐ Yes ☐ No

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET WITH YOUR PAYMENT

You will receive a post card with your registration number on it. PLEASE bring the card with you to receive your Annual Meeting Packet. This packet will contain a complete schedule of events.

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Winter (1st Quarter) meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society was held Saturday, October 4, 2014 via teleconference. The following participated: Joe Acri (Director), Chuck Blardone (Editor), Jack Consoli (Director), Andy Hart (Membership Chairman), Rich McCarty (Treasurer), Frank Napoleon (Director), Dave Scott (Director), Bruce Smith (President and Director), James Trope (General Counsel), Ralph Weischedel (Corporate Secretary and Director).

1. The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 9:05 a.m. The minutes of the 3rd Quarter BoD meeting, October 4, 2014 were unanimously approved with corrections.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Membership

a. 2014 Renewal Status – The final membership total for 2014 was 2,809, which included 132 new members. As of February 19, 2015, membership is at 2,432, with a renewal rate of 83.5% and 79 new members. President Smith commented that the email reminder of the late renewal date had a positive effect on timely renewals. Mr. Hart reminded us that our publicity needs to show that the renewal cost is now $40, and suggested keeping new members at $35 for the initial year. All responses were positive. The web site must be updated; President Smith volunteered to address simplifying the web page for membership and renewal. Additionally, Mr. Hart asked if we should increase the production of *The Keystone*, since issue #2 of 2014 is down to 14 copies; 26 for issue #3; 48 for issue #4. It was agreed to keep the production run at 3100.

3. Financial

a. Treasurer's Report – Mr. McCarty reported accounts as of 1.1, 2015 as follows:

General Accounts:	$275,183.16
Station & Archives Accounts:	$256,154.50

The account balances at January 1, 2016 are estimated to be:

General Accounts:	$229,483.16
Station & Archives Accounts:	$145,454.50

The estimated cost for the Erie and Pittsburgh book of $20,000 is for production up through layout, but not printing. Mr. Blardone reported that his estimated costs for volume 2 of the Florida Service Book are $90,000.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

4. Publications

a. Discussion of publication costs and opportunities – President Smith opened discussion of the possibility of moving publication, distribution, and storage of Society publications to Jostens, a publisher of yearbooks. Mr. Blardone shared his history of positive experience with Kutztown Publishing Company (KPC). Regarding costs of publishing volume 2 of the Florida Service book, KPC estimated $27,225 for 1000; $29,435 for 1250; $31,685 for 1500. The estimate using Jostens is roughly $20000 for 1000; roughly $23000 for 1500. Given Mr. Trope's analysis of Jostens and KPC, the geographical proximity of KPC compared to Jostens, and the positive relationship with KPC, Mr. Scott recommended sticking with KPC. Mr. Blardone reported that our layout costs in the current arrangement are competitive and that proofing the publications with KPC has worked very well. Handling inventory with the Jostens offer was judged a significant risk. We do not have an estimate of moving *The Keystone* to Jostens. Mr. McCarty suggested that the Society consider a backup plan should a problem arise in the future with KPC. A motion to maintain our relationship with KPC for publications was unanimously accepted.

b. *Keystone* update – Mr. Blardone. Mr. Blardone reported that *The Keystone* needs articles on locomotives and rolling stock, particularly freight cars. An oversees member has inquired whether electronic distribution would be possible. Mr. Blardone reported that pdf files have been produced in the current process since 2004, and thus could offer an electronic version. President Smith suggested that overseas members could elect to receive an electronic copy at the regular rate, not the overseas rate. The additional cost for mailing to overseas members is $25. Since there is concern about re-distribution of electronic copies, it was agreed not to make electronic copies available.

C. *e-NEWS* and TKM update. Nothing to report.

d. CD and DVD Project – President Smith asked if there would be someone who could work with the provider to retrieve all of the Society's property. A new CD would start with issues from 2003. Though the 2003 issues would have to be scanned, issues of *The Keystone* from 2004 onward are available as pdf files. No one volunteered.

e. New books

1) Equipment Series

o Panza, TTX Flat Cars – in progress. Mr. Scott raised the question of how many sales there would be. This may be of greater interest to the young. President Smith suggested that this book illustrates the value there would be in appointing a person responsible for marketing books in general.

o Boxcars XA to XNN - Mr. Consoli reported that progress is being made.

2) Blardone, Chicago-Florida Passenger Svc –

o Volume 2 publication decisions needed. Mr. Blardone asked for guidance on the price and size of the press run. Our cost to produce these is $60 apiece with a production run of 1250. Mr. Blardone recommended we market it ourselves. Mr. Scott recommended offering a discount to members. President Smith recommended a price for purchasing both volumes as an incentive and stated that marketing is needed since member sales are expected to be low. It was agreed to set the press run at 1250. A bundled price would be available only through retail sales with the Society. The Board unanimously approved printing 1250 copies of volume 2; a cost for members of $80 for volume 2 for direct sale only. The Board unanimously approved discounting Volume 1 to $82.50 for direct sales only and Volumes 1 and 2 bundles for $150.

President Smith proposed a 20% discount on direct sales on the current selling price on all other books in inventory. The Board unanimously approved a motion for 20% discount on direct sales on the current selling price on all books in inventory except the Florida Service books and a 25% discount on direct sales of Volume 1 of the Florida Service book.

3) Buchan, Erie and Pittsburgh book. Mr. Blardone reported that Mr. Buchan is adding additional material; the volume is about 80% complete for publication. He added that it is a good history book, but seems to have a narrow audience. $6000 has been invested.

4) Ed DeRouin, PRR in Chicago – opportunity. President Smith reported the books are on sale at 20% off list price on the web site and that those are selling on the web site.

5. Annual Meeting

a. 2015 Penn State – Middle Division & Pittsburgh Chapter – Penn State. Mr. Napoleon reported that roughly 6 layouts will be available for layout tours; tours will include Standard Steel in Burnham and Juniata Shops; Albert Churella will be the banquet speaker. Hotel reservations can be made online now. Mr. Napoleon will let Mr. Trope know regarding whether there will be a raffle and details of the location. Donations for the raffle cannot be above $600.

b. 2016 Camp Hill – New England Chapter.

c. 2017 No location – No Host. President Smith reported that he has not sent out the request for proposals yet.

d. 2018 – A host is needed.

6. Marketing and Sales

a. PR Report – Ed Swain. Interest in using the booth has increased. President Smith's impression is that the cost of shipping the booth is about the same as the income from new members, but that visibility of the Society is increasing.

b. Web site – web master. Steve Agostini passed away suddenly in the last month. President Smith has access to the domain name and web site. President Smith contacted Jerry Britton, who has tentatively agreed to head a committee for the web site.

7. Committee Reports

a. Long Range Planning – Don Harper. Mr. Harper and President Smith would like to re-constitute the committee.

b. Paint – Carl Izzo. A paint committee meeting will be held at the Annual Meeting regarding adding new paints. Jack Consoli is interested in looking into how to distribute the results of the Paint Committee by some cost-effective means, even if slightly less accurate.

c. Modeling – Elden Gatwood.

o Model Manufacturer Project Teams. President Smith reported that many projects are underway.

8. Station and Archives Operations – Rich Ader.
   a. Quarterly Report.
   b. Fire Suppression Project – Bids were received, but are approximately double our estimates. Mr. Calhoun is contacting the bidders about more affordable alternatives.
   c. Relocation of publication inventory to KPC. This will move ahead now that we have decided to continue our relationship with KPC.

9. Legal. Nothing to report.

10. Chapters.
   A Long Island chapter is being proposed.

11. Succession Planning
   a. Potential future directors – President Smith. Mr. Consoli will reach his term limit this year. Mr. Acri is considering serving again. President Smith has contacted Rich Ader, Dave Evans and Steve Staffieri, all of whom are willing to be nominated. The Board unanimously approved nominating Mr. Acri, Rich Ader, Dave Evans, and Steve Staffieri.
   b. Officers. President Smith has announced he plans to resign as President as of the Annual Meeting, but will remain on the Board.

12. General

13. New Business.
   A question was raised regarding authors preparing articles for *The Keystone* and the costs of drawings from the Archive for that purpose. It was agreed that requests for drawings for *The Keystone* come through Mr. Blardone, and the funds be transferred from the General Account to the Stations & Archive Account.

14. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. The time and location of the next Board of Directors Meeting will be determined.

SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

The Society has been on *Facebook* since June 2010, we post interesting tidbits there from time to time. Check it out: http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pennsylvania-Railroad-Technical-Historical-Society/136126329733054

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society is to bring together persons interested in the history and modeling of the Pennsylvania Railroad, its subsidiaries and its predecessor companies. Our goals are to promote the preservation and recording of all information regarding the organization, operation, facilities and equipment of the PRR.

The Society's quarterly illustrated journal, *The Keystone*, has been published continuously since 1968. Each issue of 84 or more pages contains illustrated original authoritative articles, about locomotives, cars, other equipment, facilities and operating practices of the PRR. The Society also publishes its own thoroughly researched books and other materials concerning Pennsy history. *The Keystone Modeler* is also a quarterly special 30-plus page online publication of the Society. These publications are for sale on our website.

The Society meets annually, usually during the first weekend in May, providing an opportunity for its members to get together and learn more about the PRR. Local chapters around the country also provide members and guests with regular meetings that feature PRR related programs, see listing below for chapter events. The 2015 Annual National Meeting will take place between April 30 and May 3, in State College hosted by the Middle Division. We hope to see you there.

Information about our Society may be found on our website http://www.prrths.com. To join the Society you may use the e-Store http://www.prrths.com/estore/index_estore.html#membership or send $35.00 to: PRRT&HS, PO Box 54, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-0054. All memberships are for a calendar year, renewals after February 15th are $40.00. The additional late dues fee pays to ship any Keystones that missed the normal mailing.

Drawings from Microfilm

Copies of PRR equipment drawings are available from the Society's microfilm collection. To order drawings, you must know the drawing number and title. Ordering information and lists of arrangement drawings are available on the Society's website, www.prrths.com, under National Society, The Interchange. If you require a printed copy of this information, please send your address and a check for $2.00 made out to PRRT&HS to: Richard C. Price, 779 Irvin Hill Road, McVeytown, PA 17051.

JOIN THE SOCIETY, MAKE DONATIONS, BUY BOOKS AND PAST ISSUES OF *THE KEYSTONE* AT OUR e-STORE

Visit us and shop at

http://www.prrths.com/estore/index_estore.html

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Support your local chapter - become a member.

ARIZONA CHAPTER
Contact: Sec/Treas. Phil Anderson 480-756-4359 ma393@aol.com

MEETINGS
TBA

LINES WEST – BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER
Contact: Al Doddroe at: adoddroe@earthlink.net

MEETINGS
TBA

CAMDEN & AMBOY CHAPTER
Contact John Kilbride JKTRR@msn.com
Website: www.trainweb.org/camdenandamboyrrhistoricalgroup

MEETINGS
TBA

CHICAGO TERMINAL CHAPTER
Contact: President Marv Caldwell at: ld_mlc43@comcast.net

MEETINGS
TBA

GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA
Contact Jim Winslow at: G5s472@aol.com

MEETINGS
TBA

MIDDLE DIVISION
Contact Rich Ader at: richie0745@yahoo.com

MEETINGS
TBA

NEW ENGLAND
Contact, Tim Garner at: t.a.garner@verizon.net or write to New England Chapter PRRT&HS, c/o Tim Garner, Secretary, PO Box 624, Marlborough, MA 01752-0624

MEETINGS
Saturday, March 21, 2015 – Spring Chapter Meeting
Worcester Model Railroaders Operating Session – Dudley, Mass.
Details are being finalized for our first visit to this large operating layout. We anticipate going there around 11:00 am, having our chapter meeting on site around noon over lunch, and operating HO-scale PRR trains we bring in the afternoon. The railroad operates on a Digitrax DCC system. Make sure any multiple-unit locomotives you bring are de-consited before you arrive. Visit the club's web site at www.wmrr.org for more information on their operation and directions. Watch our web site for more information on the event. Dudley is in Central Massachusetts along the Connecticut line.

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER
Contact President Jerry Britton at: jerry@pennsyrr.com
Chapter web site: http://ncchapter.pennsyrr.com

MEETINGS
TBA

PENN-TEXAS CHAPTER
Contact Secretary Walt Van Arsdale at: varsdale@verizon.net

MEETINGS

TBA

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Contact: President Steve Staffieri at: interceptor92@verizon.net
Philadelphia Chapter website is: http://www.philaprrths.com

MEETINGS
Next meeting will be April 11.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Contact: Newsletter Editor Don Coulter 412-372-4221 donald.coulter3@verizon.net

MEETINGS
TBA

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Contact: Paul Schulz at: paulschulz@verizon.net

MEETINGS
TBA

WEBSITE www.prrths.com

SOCIETY SERVICES
See our website http://www.prrths.com/newprr_files/newPRRSocietyServices.htm

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