

Number 210

January 2021

A bi-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 – Pauletta Ader

Please send comments and corrections to the Editor at: [pauletta.ader@yahoo.com](mailto:pauletta.ader@yahoo.com)

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Not for sale.

If you have a submission for the March E-news PLEASE forward it to me by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. [pauletta.ader@yahoo.com](mailto:pauletta.ader@yahoo.com)

**NEW PRRT&HS Book on Altoona available in the new e-store starting Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. See Page 6!**

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

The total membership for 2020 was 2,604.

As of Jan. 14, 2021, the total membership for 2021 is 2,085.

- Regular members 1,917
- Keystone members 168
- 1,112 members have renewed online at the new website, [www.prrths.org](http://www.prrths.org)
- 973 members have renewed by sending in checks

I encourage members when the 2022 renewals come due to renew online to lighten the workload on the membership coordinator.

Submitted by Andy Hart

### **STATION AND ARCHIVE**

Nothing to report currently. Archives are closed until at least April 1st.

Submitted by Rich Ader, Director and Station Manager

### **NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

From the Directors

Greetings from all of us. We hope 2021 finds you all well and anxious to get back to normal. This past year has certainly challenged our abilities to keep the Society functioning. With the help from you, the members, we were able to fulfill our legal obligations to the state. A heart felt thank you goes out to all of you for returning your proxy vote cards in a timely manner. We directors also want to thank you all for your continued support, patience, and understanding in this time of uncertainty. Sadly the 2020 annual meeting was cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. However, thanks to Director Ralph Weischedel for thinking of an idea for a virtual meeting, allowing presenters, and members to participate online. An idea that surpassed the expectations of the directors. Most all the feedback has been positive. Although the Covid19 pandemic is far from over, the 2021 annual meeting is uncertain currently as far as an in-person gathering. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully in 2022 we can all safely get together again.

During some of our so called “down time” we have been working on various projects. Director Dave Evans is spearheading the updating and redoing of the Society website. President Steve Stafferi has been working with Keystone Editor Chuck Blardone with new publications that are in the pipeline – the first is announced further in this e-news! (Stay tuned for more) And our council Jim Trope is securing a new contract with Amtrak for continued use of the waiting room at the Lewistown Station.

We hope you all stay well in the new year. Good-Bye 2020

## **New PRRTHS.org Accounts and On-line Renewal Process is Working!**

### January PRRT&HS e-News IT Report by Dave Evans, Director and Web Master

The past two months have been quite challenging for our volunteer team, but it looks like we have the bugs ironed out for the renewal processes using our new system. We greatly appreciate your patience as we got the new system up and running. This fall’s meltdown of the USPS in Pennsylvania caused further disruptions, especially getting renewals paid by check into the new system. My apologies if you received letters and or e-mails suggesting you had not yet renewed, when in fact you had renewed. There was a considerable delay in both check collection in December, and the normal delays when mailing renewal letters using bulk mailing.

Fortunately, the society’s membership coordinator, Andy Hart, put in a Herculean effort to get all of the membership renewal checks posted by the end of January. The delay between check receipt and posting is now down to about a week. All of the notifications and discussions about the new system also resulted in a record renewal rate for the first six weeks of the renewal period – contributing to the challenges, but in a good way. As of January 15<sup>th</sup> we had reached an 80% renewal rate, which usually isn’t reached until four weeks later. We also had a record number of on-line renewals, which will save the society volunteer time and money in the future.

The other challenge is that we appear to have quite a few e-mail addresses for our members that were no longer in use, or had transcription errors. One of the benefits of the new system is having one consolidated, up-to-date e-mail list for our members so we can reliably contact as many members as possible via e-mail (the distribution list for the e-news has always been a different list from the old membership system’s e-mail list. We hope to convert over to the new list with the May issue of the e-news.)

If you are a member of PRRT&HS, but have not logged into your PRRTHS.ORG account, please do so we can attain a consolidated e-mail list for the society.

**NOTE! To buy the new Altoona book at the member price before late March, you will need to log into your PRRT&HS.org account. Mail order will start in late March.**

- If you have not yet activated your member account on our new web site:
  - As a member, you already have an account on the new website.
  - To activate it, you will need to log in using a temporary username and password:
    - If we had a valid e-mail for you in our old membership system, we sent you the temporary username and password via e-mail on December 1<sup>st</sup>
    - If we did not have a valid e-mail, or lacked an e-mail address in our old membership system, then on December 29<sup>th</sup> we mailed a letter to you with both the temporary username and password.
    - If we had what appeared to be a valid e-mail for you in our membership system, the letter mailed on December 29<sup>th</sup> included the e-mail we have on record for you and the temporary username. In this case when you are logging in you will need to request a new password – we do not have access to the temporary passwords generated back in early December – they have only been provided to members in the December 1<sup>st</sup> e-mail.
  - If you cannot locate your temporary credentials, please e-mail [membership@prrths.net](mailto:membership@prrths.net) with your name and member number, and we will provide you, via e-mail, the information you need to start the log-in process.
  - If you have found your temporary credential(s), please visit the [prrths.org](http://prrths.org) home page – member help is available for first time log-ins. Follow the steps on the web site.
- The company hosting our capability, ClubExpress, also offers a toll-free help line within the US for assistance when logging in and renewing your membership. (But their scope of support does not include providing information about the PRR ☺) Their number is posted on the new web site.
- If you are not a member of the PRRT&HS, but are receiving this e-news, the new system will soon be configured to collect non-member “contacts” that can be used to send e-mails to non-members. Eventually the independent e-mail lists used for the e-News and for The Keystone Modeler distribution will be shut down – only people registered on our new web site will be able receive the e-News and TKM via e-mail.

Note that the new system offers opt-in and opt-out features so people receive only the e-mails they want to receive. As the Internet tries to clamp down on spam, e-mail distribution systems like those currently used for the e-News and TKM, lacking a readily accessible opt-in and opt-out capability, are slowly being blocked by the e-mail service providers.

Our new web site’s service provider includes the tools that ensure opt-in and opt-out capabilities so that our e-mails will not end up on the spam blocker lists.

What is coming:

The new web site will have limited content to start, so we will leave the old web site up for the next six months or so until we have ported all content over to the new site (which includes

updating some of our out-of-date content on the old web site.) The new site should work well on tablets and cell phones from the start, not just on computer “desktop” interfaces.

Getting the member renewal process working smoothly took more time than we had planned, so the new e-store is running behind schedule. The new e-store will have our latest books available starting January 31st. Back issues of the Keystone will be added throughout February.

Once you have logged into your PRRTHS member account, you will be able to buy products in the new e-store at a member price that is lower than the price to the public.

**NOTE: An increase in credit card security has forced us to only accept credit cards on-line. You will not be able to include your credit card on mail orders, nor be able to phone-in a credit card order.**

Over the next six months we hope to enable many new capabilities on the new web site:

- Social media integration,
- Electronic newsletters,
- Access to the PRRT&HS YouTube channel,
- On-line calendar,
- Annual meeting registration,
- News feeds,
- Access to the members-only areas of our website,
- Member e-Store discounts, and even e-Store items that are available only to members,
- Possibly digital delivery of electronic documents (such as Val Map collections),

## **PRR Projects**

After taking a six month break for members to catch up on back projects, the PRR Projects internet group has started work on a new set of projects, PRR mail or RPO cars. Because of the broad nature of the projects, modelers are working on a number of different cars in different scales. For example, in two closely related projects, an N-scale modeler is working on creating an mBM62 from the available PBM70, while an HO scale modeler is working on creating an mPBM54 from the available mPB54 and mBM62. Other modelers are working on the Bethlehem Car Works M70B and BM70k.

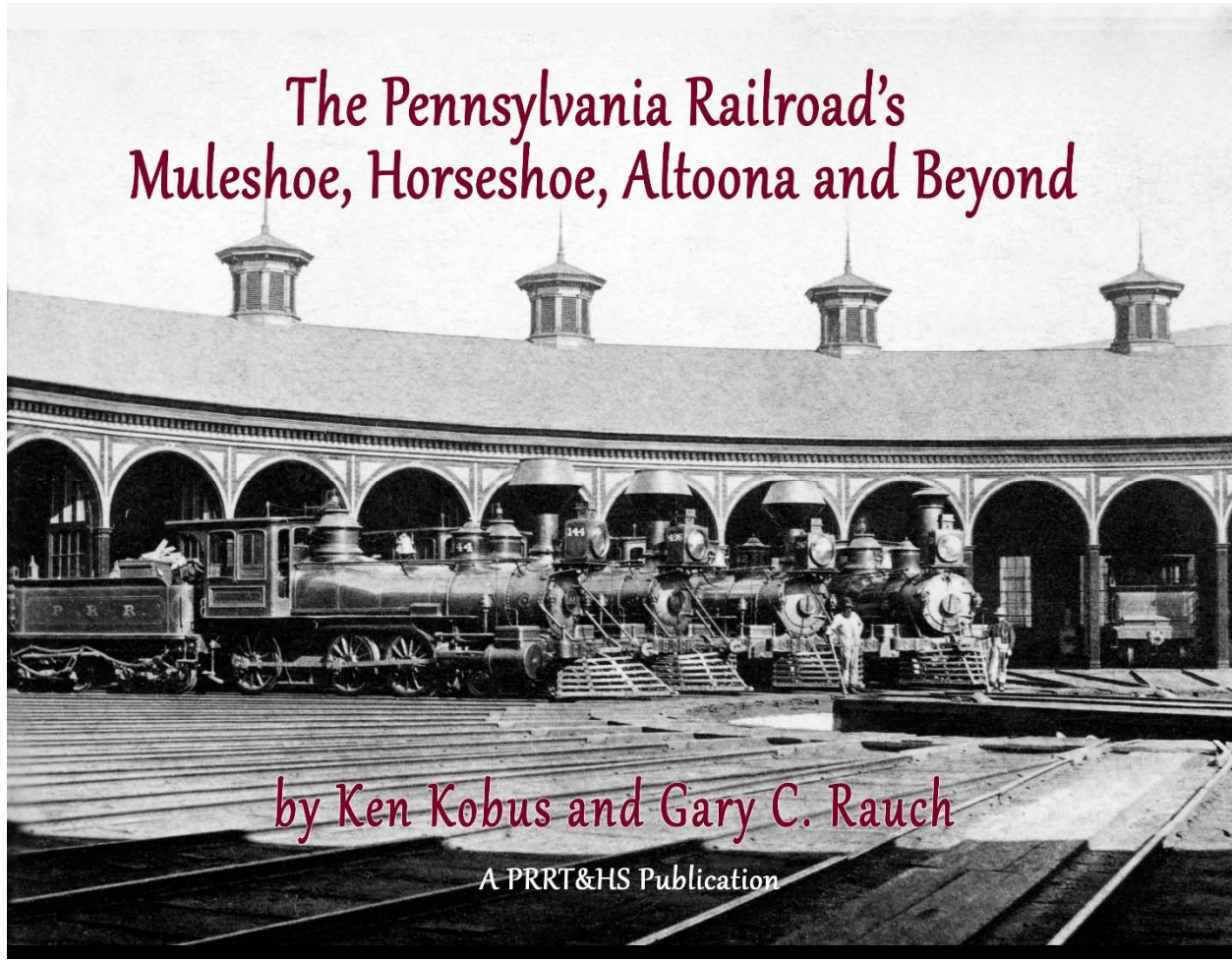
Modelers in all scales and of all abilities are welcome to join! The group works more as a CO-OP than a follow-the-leader approach. Modelers can attempt as much as they choose to. Whether that is detailing or painting and lettering an available model, kitbashing something interesting, or scratchbuilding. Modelers are encouraged to post their progress and problems.

To check out the latest, as well as past projects, see <https://groups.io/g/PRRPro>.

Submitted by Bruce Smith Director

New Book! Available for ordering January 31<sup>st</sup>

Will start shipping February 9<sup>th</sup>



This book features photographs and information about three areas of the PRR; The Altoona facilities from Slope tower west of the station to Bell tower east of the shop, yard, and engine facilities, the "east-slope" of the PRR's mainline from Altoona through Horseshoe Curve to Cresson, and the branch line that ran from Petersburg, through Hollidaysburg, and then up through Muleshoe curve to the tunnels at Gallitzin.

Photos from the 1860's to the early 1970's. 148 pages, stitched softcover, landscape format. Over 200 illustrations, some in color.

Member price - \$35 plus \$9 shipping and handling (see page 4 to log-in to your account)  
Non-Member price - \$49 plus \$9 shipping and handling

Can be ordered on line at [prrths.org](http://prrths.org) (NEW web site only). Mail order forms will be mailed with the next issue of the Keystone.

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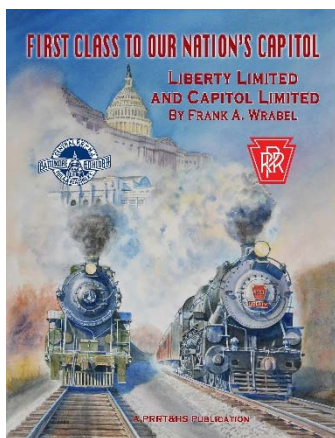
## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE PRRT&HS

These books can be purchased online from the e-Store located on the PRRT&HS website at [prrths.org](http://prrths.org)

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### FIRST CLASS TO OUR NATION'S CAPITOL - LIBERTY LIMITED and CAPITOL LIMITED

by Frank A. Wrabel



Beginning in 1925, PRR and B&O stepped up their train amenities to capture luxury service patrons travelling between Washington and Chicago. Their competition soon became a war that lasted 32 years, through the Depression, WWII, and the heady Postwar period. This book captures this story of the two railroads' optimism and final resignation to changing market demographics. Author Frank Wrabel tells the story of this glorious fight. *First Class to Our Nation's Capitol* is a 186-page hardbound book containing approximately 375 illustrations, many in color.

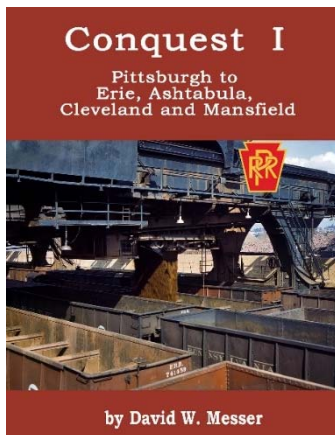
Member price is **\$50.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$75.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

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### CONQUEST 1 - PITTSBURGH TO ERIE, ASHTABULA, CLEVELAND & MANSFIELD

by David W. Messer



Continuing the rich tradition of his Triumph series books, celebrated author David W. Messer has teamed with the PRRT&HS to offer Conquest 1, documenting the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Lake Division physical plant. This includes the network of PRR lines radiating from Pittsburgh northwest to Erie, Ashtabula, Cleveland and Mansfield from 1848 to the present day.

Conquest 1, a 240-page hardbound book contains 500 illustrations, many in color, and includes 12 large maps located in a rear pocket.

Member price is **\$65.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$80.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

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## **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**Support your local chapter - become a member.  
Please contact Editor if any of the following information is incorrect.**

### **ARIZONA CHAPTER**

Contact: Sec/Treas. Phil Anderson 480-756-4359 [ma393@aol.com](mailto:ma393@aol.com)

### **LINES WEST – BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER**

Contact: Al Doddroe at: [adoddroe@earthlink.net](mailto:adoddroe@earthlink.net)

### **CHICAGO TERMINAL CHAPTER**

Contact: President Marv Cadwell at: [ld\\_mlc43@comcast.net](mailto:ld_mlc43@comcast.net)

### **GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA**

Contact Jim Winslow at: [G5s472@aol.com](mailto:G5s472@aol.com) 1872 Lakeview Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464

### **LONG ISLAND**

P.O. Box 5827 Bay Shore, NY 11706

See <https://www.facebook.com/licprrths/> for meeting information and other updates.

Secretary: Kelly Cotter

Meetings held at the Oyster Bay Museum

Contact: [PRRTHSLIC@gmail.com](mailto:PRRTHSLIC@gmail.com)

### **NEW ENGLAND**

Contact, Tim Garner at: [t.a.garner@verizon.net](mailto: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.

Website: <http://prrths-ne.org/>

### **NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER**

President: Joe Ioele

Chapter web site: <https://www.facebook.com/northerncentralchapterprrths/>

### **PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Contact President Jim Trunzo at: [jetrunzo@gmail.com](mailto:jetrunzo@gmail.com)

### **PENN-TEXAS CHAPTER**

Contact Brady McGuire at: [bradyprmla@cableone.net](mailto:bradyprmla@cableone.net)

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER**

Contact: President Gus Minardi, at [augustominardi@cs.com](mailto:augustominardi@cs.com)

Philadelphia Chapter website is: <http://www.philaprrths.com>

**PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

Contact: Newsletter Editor Don Coulter 412-372-4221 [donald.coulter3@verizon.net](mailto:donald.coulter3@verizon.net)

**WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER**

Contact: Paul Schulz at: [paulschulz@verizon.net](mailto:paulschulz@verizon.net)

**PLEASE CONTACT CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

**WEBSITE** [www.prrths.com](http://www.prrths.com)



**SOCIETY SERVICES**

See our website [http://www.prrths.com/newpr\\_files/newPRRSocietyServices.htm](http://www.prrths.com/newpr_files/newPRRSocietyServices.htm)

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