

# The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society

SEPTEMBER 2004

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This fall will be a busy time for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society. The September 2004 edition of "The Black Diamond" features full details about all upcoming Society events. The LVRRHS will be sponsoring fall foliage train excursions in October and Santa train excursions in November. This issue also includes news about the Easter Bunny train excursions in April, the Finger Lakes Railway Railfan's Day in May, and the Dinner and Train Ride in August. This edition features a historical newspaper article from 1914 about the Gorham depot titled "Proud of the New Station" submitted by Richard Palmer. Please send any Society news and/or historical articles about Finger Lakes area railroads to me by U. S. Mail at P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504 or by e-mail at [kemay59@hotmail.com](mailto:kemay59@hotmail.com). Thank you for your contributions.

Ken May, Editor

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society is actively seeking new members for our group. The membership brochure was reprinted in the spring and is being distributed at hobby shops, museums, and train shows throughout Western and Central New York State. We need your help to recruit new members by handing out more brochures. Please stop by the station in Shortsville when it is open and pick up some brochures. Also, don't forget to renew your membership when the notices are mailed out later this year. Thank you for your support of the membership drive.

## CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Society members who are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees in 2005 should contact our Nominating Committee chairman, Joe Dickson, by telephone at (585) 223-4655 or by e-mail at [jvdickson@frontiernet.net](mailto:jvdickson@frontiernet.net). A slate is being prepared for the positions of Vice President (two year term), Secretary (one year term), Treasurer (three year term), and two trustees (three year term each).

The Board of Trustees meets monthly to conduct Society business. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the future growth and direction of our Society by volunteering for office. The slate of candidates will be finalized at the November 21 Society meeting.

## STATION MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 2

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society Station Museum at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to the public on Saturday, October 2, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A large collection of historical artifacts from area railroads is on display at the museum. The museum features a special exhibit about Lehigh Valley Railroad baseball teams by local educators Randy Darrow and Tim Munn. Admission is free; donations are welcome. All members are invited to stop in for a visit.

## FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN EXCURSIONS TO RUN BETWEEN SHORTSVILLE AND GENEVA ON OCTOBER 9 AND 10

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, will sponsor fall foliage train excursions over the former New York Central "Auburn Road" railroad line between Shortsville and Geneva on Saturday, October 9, 2004, and Sunday,

October 10, 2004. Six passenger train excursions will be operated over the weekend from Shortsville to Geneva and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and two passenger coaches. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society museum in the old New York Central freight station at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to passengers during the excursions.

Each train ride will last two hours and will be a 34 mile round trip. Departure times are 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. each day. All trains will load and unload at the LVRRHS station museum. The freight station is located one block south of Main St. in downtown Shortsville via Sheldon St. to E. High St. Free parking is available at this location.

Fares are \$15.00 per person for adults and children age 3 and over. Children under age 3 are free. The ticket price includes the train ride and admission to the museum. Ticket mail order forms can be obtained by calling 585-289-8022 or visiting the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site on the Internet at [www.lvrhrs.org](http://www.lvrhrs.org). Tickets may be purchased in person at the following merchants: Buffalo Bill's Restaurant, 19 W. Main St., Shortsville; Country Corner, 247 Main St., Phelps; Depot 25 Restaurant, 1 W. Main St., Shortsville; Electric Train Co., 2 W. Main St., Victor; Five Seasons Gifts, 1901 Rochester Rd., Canandaigua; and Petal Pusher Florist, 9 N. Main St., Manchester. If the rides are not sold out in advance, tickets will be available at the LVRRHS station museum at the time of the scheduled trip.

Snacks, beverages, and gift items will be sold at the station and onboard the trains. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. There are restrooms at the station and in each of the two passenger coaches. Passengers should dress appropriately for the weather because the coaches are not heated.

### **SANTA TRAIN EXCURSIONS TO RUN BETWEEN SHORTSVILLE AND CANANDAIGUA ON NOVEMBER 26 AND 27**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, will sponsor Santa train excursions over the former New York Central "Auburn Road" railroad line between Shortsville and Canandaigua on Friday, November 26, 2004, and Saturday, November 27, 2004. Ten passenger train excursions will be operated over the weekend from Shortsville to Canandaigua and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and two passenger coaches. Santa will be onboard the trains to visit with children. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society museum in the old New York Central freight station at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to passengers during the excursions. The station museum will be decorated for the holidays and will have operating model train displays.

Each train ride will last one hour and will be a 12 mile round trip. Departure times are 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. each day. All trains will load and unload at the LVRRHS station museum. The freight station is located one block south of Main St. in downtown Shortsville via Sheldon St. to E. High St. Free parking is available at this location.

Fares are \$10.00 per person for adults and children age 3 and over. Children under age 3 are free. The ticket price includes the train ride and admission to the museum. Ticket mail order forms can be obtained by calling 585-289-8022 or visiting the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site on the Internet at [www.lvrhrs.org](http://www.lvrhrs.org). Tickets may be purchased in person at the following merchants: Buffalo Bill's Restaurant, 19 W. Main St., Shortsville; Country Corner, 247 Main St., Phelps; Depot 25 Restaurant, 1 W. Main St., Shortsville; Electric Train Co., 2 W. Main St., Victor; Five Seasons Gifts, 1901 Rochester Rd., Canandaigua; and Petal Pusher Florist, 9 N. Main St., Manchester. If the rides are not sold out in advance, tickets will be available at the LVRRHS station museum at the time of the scheduled trip.

Snacks, beverages, and gift items will be sold at the station and onboard the trains. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. There are restrooms at the station and in each of the two passenger

coaches. Passengers should dress appropriately for the weather because the coaches are not heated.

A work party will be held at the museum on Sunday, November 21, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. to decorate the station for the Santa train excursions. All Society members are invited to attend and help out. Call Deb Halderman at (585) 289-8022 for more information.

### **EASTER BUNNY TRAIN EXCURSIONS REPORT**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, sponsored Easter Bunny train excursions over the former New York Central "Auburn Road" railroad line between Shortsville and Clifton Springs on Saturday, April 10, 2004. Five passenger train excursions were operated from Shortsville to east of Clifton Springs and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and two passenger coaches. Each train ride lasted one hour and was a 12 mile round trip.

A total of 559 passengers rode the trains. One out of the five round trips was sold out. The average passenger count per train was 112.

Paid ads were placed in the Daily Messenger, the Democrat and Chronicle, the Finger Lakes Times, and the Genesee Valley Pennysaver. Press releases were published in the Courier-Gazette, the Daily Messenger, the Democrat and Chronicle, the Finger Lakes Times, and on various Internet web sites. Thanks to Rita Gurewitch, we received free publicity in the town water bills.

Thanks to Deb Halderman for handling all of the telephone inquiries along with retail and mail order sales. A total of 444 tickets were sold in advance. Tickets were sold by Country Corner in Phelps, Depot 25 Restaurant in Shortsville, Electric Train Co. in Victor, Five Seasons Gifts in Canandaigua, and Petal Pusher Florist in Manchester. Special thanks to these merchants for their help with ticket sales.

The Society freight station museum was open to passengers during the excursions. Sales at the gift shop staffed by Deb and Emma Halderman were good. The food concession operated by the Shortsville Fire Dept. did a brisk business before and after each of the five trips. Thanks to George Whittaker for cleaning the station in the morning.

As always, we received outstanding service and cooperation from the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway train crew comprised of Kevin Buckland, Trainmaster; Ken Maines, Engineer; Bruce Habberfield, Conductor; Bonnie Buckland, Snack Bar; Judy Habberfield, Gift Shop; and Adam Buckland; Easter Bunny.

Thank you to all of the Society members who assisted with the excursions in one way or another. Thanks to Joe Dickson, Karl Hixson, and Jack Tuttle for volunteering as parking lot attendants. Thanks to Dave and Roger Halderman for volunteering as boarding assistants. Thanks to Dave Fleenor for volunteering as a car host. Also, thanks to Kristin Ward for making the balloon animals. I appreciate the Society's support of this fund-raising project.

Ken May, Excursion Coordinator

### **FINGER LAKES RAILWAY RAILFAN'S DAY REPORT**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, sponsored the first ever Railfan's Day on the Finger Lakes Railway on Saturday, May 15, 2004. An all-day special photographer's passenger train excursion was operated from Geneva to Solway and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and two passenger coaches. The train ride lasted ten hours and was a 100-mile round trip. A total of 98

passengers (93 paid, 5 free) rode the train. A night photo session was conducted at the FGLK enginehouse in Geneva. A total of five people participated in the session.

There were eight photo runbys during the train excursion. Thanks to Duncan Richards for leading the photo runbys. The night photo session was conducted by Tom Trencansky and Don Jilson. Thanks to Tom for donating the flash bulbs. Two station stops were made during the train trip at the Skaneateles Junction and Martisco depots for open houses. Thanks to the Central New York Model Railroad Club and the Central New York Chapter NRHS for their hospitality.

The Railfan's Day event was listed in the Railpace Newsmagazine Calendar as well as the "Empire State Limited" column in the March, April, and May issues. Press releases were published in the Auburn Citizen, the Daily Messenger, the Finger Lakes Times, and on various Internet web sites such as Trains and Railpace.

Thanks to Deb Halderman for handling all of the telephone inquiries along with mail order and walk-up sales. A total of 89 tickets were sold in advance. There were 4 walk-up ticket sales.

As always, we received outstanding service and cooperation from the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway train crew comprised of Kevin Buckland, Trainmaster; Mike Hall, Engineer; Bruce Habberfield, Conductor; Bonnie Buckland, Snack Bar; and Judy Habberfield, Gift Shop.

Thank you to all of the Society members who assisted with the excursion in one way or another. Thanks to Bill Young and Dave Fleenor for volunteering as car hosts. Thanks to Dave and Roger Halderman for volunteering as parking lot attendants. I appreciate the Society's support of this fund-raising project.

Ken May, Excursion Coordinator

#### **DINNER AND TRAIN RIDE SELLS OUT**

The LVRRHS, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, sponsored a special train excursion from Shortsville to Canandaigua and back on Sunday, August 15, 2004, with dinner at Buffalo Bill's Restaurant or the Depot Restaurant after the one hour, 12 mile train ride. A total of 144 passengers purchased tickets for the dinner and train ride. Special thanks to Buffalo Bill's and the Depot Restaurants for selling tickets for us and providing delicious food.

#### **WEB SITE BACK ONLINE!**

The LVRRHS web site at [www.lvrrhs.org](http://www.lvrrhs.org) is up and running again as of June. Thanks to the efforts of Ken May, Society web site coordinator, and Technical Services of New York, the web site has been fully redesigned and upgraded. Visit our web site today and see all the changes!

#### **UPCOMING LVRRHS EVENTS**

October 2, 2004 – Station Museum Open House, 1-3 p.m.

October 9, 2004 – Fall Foliage Train Excursions

October 10, 2004 – Fall Foliage Train Excursions

October 17, 2004 – LVRRHS meeting, 6:30 p.m.

November 21, 2004 – LVRRHS meeting, 6:30 p.m.

November 26, 2004 – Santa Train Excursions

November 27, 2004 – Santa Train Excursions

Society meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LVRRHS Station Museum, 8 E. High St., Shortsville, New York.

"The Black Diamond" is published by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504-0200. Displays and archives are located at 8 E. High St., Shortsville, NY. Hours by appointment. Contact Deb Halderman, Treasurer, at (585) 289-8022.

### **FEATURE ARTICLE – "PROUD OF THE NEW STATION"**

Submitted by Richard Palmer, Syracuse, New York

(Newspaper article about Gorham depot on Lehigh Valley Railroad Naples branch)

Ontario County Journal, Gorham, New York, May 29, 1914

#### **Proud of the New Station**

Much to the satisfaction of the community and the traveling public in general, the old car which had been doing duty as a "station" since the old station was destroyed by fire, a year ago last July, was vacated the latter part of last week and its contents moved into the fine new station which has been under construction since last fall. The last ticket sold in the old car was to C.N. Pettit, and the first ticket sold on the opening of the new station on Thursday morning was to Harold Fritz.

The building is modern in construction and equipment in every way and is conceded by everyone one to rival the best constructed depots in the country. The lower part of the exterior is of brick and the upper portion of hollow tile and stucco. Over the door of the waiting room on the north and south sides are hoods or coverings of glass, and gas lamps are placed on the front and west sides, which gives abundant light at night.

A broad cement walk reaches from the front to the track and continues around the east and south sides of the building and many carloads of grading have put the surrounding grounds in fine shape. A cement walk will be laid by the railroad company to the street, where the local gas company has placed a gas light, which the railroad company will keep in order.

The good sized waiting room is finished in dark wood with broad moldings, below which the walls are decorated in a rich brown color and above in a soft cream tint. The ceilings are white and the blending of the whole gives a soft and pleasing effect. The floor is of tile, which carries out the general tone of the room. In the front, east and south sides are large triple windows, which give a light and cheerful appearance within. To the west are the same as the waiting room. In the front is a large bay window, under which are drawers and pigeon holes for the convenience of the business.

Here also are the telephones and telegraph instruments with all wires underground. The ticket window has a brass wicket, similar to those with a steam heater similar to that recently placed in the new city hall at Geneva. Opening out of the office, to the west, is the freight and express room and continuing in the same direction is a concrete platform for the loading and unloading of freight.

The structure is said to have cost about \$8,000, and of such a station the people of Gorham are justly proud, and appreciate this effort of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company as a help to the town. The old station was erected about 25 years ago, when the Naples branch of the Lehigh Valley was opened.

## **Officers and Trustees of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society**

|                |                   |          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| President      | Kenneth May       | 12/31/05 |
| Vice President | Joseph Commisso   | 12/31/04 |
| Secretary      | Rita Gurewitch    | 12/31/04 |
| Treasurer      | Deborah Halderman | 12/31/04 |
| Trustees:      | Randy Darrow      | 12/31/06 |
|                | David Halderman   | 12/31/06 |
|                | William Young     | 12/31/04 |
|                | Joseph Dickson    | 12/31/04 |
|                | Jack Tuttle       | 12/31/05 |
|                | David Fleenor     | 12/31/05 |

These dates indicate the expiration date of the present trustee and officer terms.  
Nominees and a ballot will be mailed to all active members in November.