

# The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society

SEPTEMBER 2005

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The September 2005 edition of "The Black Diamond" features full details about all upcoming Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society events during the fall and winter. Our group will be sponsoring fall foliage train excursions in October and Santa train excursions in November. This issue also includes news about the dinner and train ride in May and the Finger Lakes Railway tenth anniversary train excursions and open house in July as well as other past and future events. 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

## STATION MORTGAGE TO BE PAID OFF IN OCTOBER!

The LVRRHS will be marking a major milestone in October 2005 when the final mortgage payment will be made on our station building in Shortsville. Thanks to the profits from our train excursions on the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway since the Fall of 2002, we have been able to pay off the mortgage. All members are invited to attend a celebration of this occasion at the station on Sunday, October 16, 2005, after the Board of Trustees meeting. Refreshments will be served.

## CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Society members who are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees in 2006 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 President (two year term), Secretary (one 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 Sunday, November 20, 2005, Society meeting.

## SHELDEN KING SPEAKS AT JUNE 4 OPEN HOUSE

Local rail historian Shelden King of Lyons was the guest speaker at our open house on Saturday, June 4, 2005. An audience of twenty members and visitors were present for a slide presentation by Mr. King about Lehigh Valley Railroad passenger trains. Shelden also showed slides of the LVRR taken in the 1960's and 1970's around Manchester. Thanks to Shelden King for giving an excellent slide show. We hope to have him back sometime next year for another program. Thanks to Joe Dickson for making the arrangements.

## STATION MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 1

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society Station Museum at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to the public on Saturday, October 1, 2005, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A large collection of historical artifacts from area railroads is on display at the museum. Tickets for our fall foliage train excursions will be on sale during the open house. 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 8 AND 9**

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 8, 2005, and Sunday, October 9, 2005. 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 LVRHRS 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.lvrhhs.org](http://www.lvrhhs.org). Tickets may be purchased in person at the following merchants: 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 LVRHRS 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.

## **TRACK SPEEDERS GROUP TO RALLY AT STATION ON OCTOBER 23**

On Sunday, October 23, 2005, the Society will host an open house for a group of owners and operators of railroad work cars ("track speeders") from the Northeast Rail Car Association as they journey from Geneva to Canandaigua and back over the Finger Lakes Railway. The September 2003 event drew a lot of attention from bystanders along the route and generated many visitors to our museum in Shortsville. The 12 noon lunch stop at the Shortsville station museum will feature great fellowship and a chance for viewing a different side of railroading.

## **SANTA TRAIN EXCURSIONS TO RUN BETWEEN SHORTSVILLE AND CLIFTON SPRINGS ON NOVEMBER 26**

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 Clifton Springs on Saturday, November 26, 2005. Five passenger train excursions will be operated over the weekend from Shortsville to Clifton Springs 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 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. All trains will load and unload at the LVRHRS

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.lvrrhs.org](http://www.lvrrhs.org). Tickets may be purchased in person at the following merchants: 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 20, 2005, 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.

#### **LVRR MANCHESTER ROUNDHOUSE CLEAN-UP PROJECT UPDATE**

Phase I of the LVRR Manchester Roundhouse Clean-up Project has been completed. In early May, a crew from Rochester Gas and Electric cut down the remaining trees and brush on the northwest side of the roundhouse along Merrick Circle. The entire exterior area of the roundhouse is now completely free of trees and brush! Thanks to RG&E and the Village of Manchester DPW for their assistance with the project.

Phase II of the roundhouse clean-up project will begin in October. Our plans are to cut down the trees and brush in the interior area (turntable site). Our goal is to clear the turntable pit area so it can be viewed again. Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact Ken May.

#### **DINNER AND TRAIN RIDE RUNS AGAIN**

The LVRRHS, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, sponsored a special train excursion from Shortsville to Clifton Springs and back on Sunday, May 22, 2005, with dinner at the Depot Restaurant after the one hour, 12 mile train ride. A total of 76 passengers purchased tickets for the dinner and train ride. Special thanks to the Depot Restaurant for selling tickets for us and providing delicious food.

#### **FINGER LAKES RAILWAY TENTH ANNIVERSARY TRAIN EXCURSIONS AND OPEN HOUSE REPORT**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway, sponsored train excursions over the former New York Central "Auburn Road" railroad line between Geneva and Cayuga on Saturday, July 30, 2005, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Finger Lakes Railway. Three passenger train excursions were operated from Geneva to Cayuga and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and two passenger coaches. Each train ride lasted two hours and was a 26 mile round trip.

A public open house was held at the Finger Lakes Railway Offices and Shops in Geneva during the excursions. Railroad equipment was on display for visitors to view and photograph. Operation Lifesaver set up a railroad safety information booth at the open house.

A total of 292 paid passengers rode the trains. One out of the three round trips were sold out. The average paid passenger count per train was 97.

Paid ads were placed in the Auburn Citizen, the Daily Messenger, and the Finger Lakes Times. Press releases were published in the Auburn Citizen, the Courier-Gazette, the Daily Messenger, the Democrat and Chronicle, the Finger Lakes Times, the Post-Standard, and on various Internet web sites. The FGLK 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary train excursions and open house event was listed in the Railpace Newsmagazine Calendar in the May, June, and July issues. A news article about the event appeared in the "Empire State Limited" column in the June 2005 issue of Railpace. WENY-TV Channel 36 in Elmira sent a crew to tape a news story about our excursions.

Thanks to Deb Halderman for handling all of the telephone inquiries along with mail order sales. The Finger Lakes Railway sold tickets for the excursions at their offices in Geneva from July 11 to July 29. Special thanks to the FGLK office staff (Holly, Janet, and Kathy) for their help with ticket sales.

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

Thank you to all of the Society members who assisted with the excursions in one way or another. Thanks to Joe Dickson, Dave Halderman, and Roger Halderman for volunteering as parking lot attendants. Thanks to Deb Halderman for handling ticket sales at trackside. Thanks to Bill Young and Dave Fleenor for volunteering as car hosts. I appreciate the Society's support of this fund-raising project.

Ken May, Excursion Coordinator

## **DONATIONS REPORT**

The Society is grateful for the following donations:

- Snow removal and lawn mowing services from P&J Lawn Care, Shortsville
- Two model train cars and two books from Jan Perry
- Timetables, railroad guides, and railroad magazines from Joe Dickson
- Framed railroad needlepoint from Cindy Landowsky
- Two wooden boxes and three cardboard boxes of LVRR paperwork from Geneva station from Rich Hulme (more to follow)
- 1943 Nickle Plate Road rulebook from Unknown
- 1950 LVRR timetable from Charles Duran
- Slides of LVRR ambulance from John Perry
- 1938 LVRR timetable from Mrs. Edward Flanigan
- LVRR and NYC blueprints, rulebooks, and misc. paperwork from George Johnson
- Timetables, rack, first aid box, and LVRR paperwork from Sandra Pearce
- Metal whistle sign from Unknown

## **UPCOMING LVRRHS EVENTS**

October 1, 2005 – Station Museum Open House, 1-3 p.m.

October 8, 2005 – Fall Foliage Train Excursions

October 9, 2005 – Fall Foliage Train Excursions

October 16, 2005 – LVRRHS Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

October 23, 2005 – Open House for Track Speeders Group, 12 noon

November 20, 2005 – LVRRHS Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

November 26, 2005 – Santa Train Excursions

January 15, 2006 – Annual Meeting, 2 p.m.

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.

#### **OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Kenneth May</b>	<b>12/31/2005</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Roger Halderman</b>	<b>12/31/2006</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Rita Gurewitch</b>	<b>12/31/2005</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Deborah Halderman</b>	<b>12/31/2007</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>David Fleenor</b>	<b>12/31/2005</b>
	<b>Jack Tuttle</b>	<b>12/31/2005</b>
	<b>Randy Darrow</b>	<b>12/31/2006</b>
	<b>David Halderman</b>	<b>12/31/2006</b>
	<b>Joseph Dickson</b>	<b>12/31/2007</b>
	<b>Emma Halderman</b>	<b>12/31/2007</b>

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

**Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site: [www.lvrrhs.org](http://www.lvrrhs.org)**