

# The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society

October 2019

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The October 2019 edition of "The Black Diamond" features full details about all Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society events during the year. Please send any Society news and/or historical articles about the Lehigh Valley Railroad 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/Trustee

## FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN EXCURSIONS REPORT

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Railway, sponsored fall foliage train excursions over the former New York Central Railroad "Auburn Road" branch line between Shortsville, New York, and Geneva, New York, on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Three passenger train excursions were operated from Shortsville to Geneva and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and three passenger coaches. Each train ride lasted two hours and was a 30 mile round trip. Departure times were 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

A total of 380 passengers rode the trains. Thank you to all of the passengers who rode our train excursions. We appreciate your patronage!

Paid ads were placed in the Daily Messenger, the Finger Lakes Times, and the Genesee Valley Pennysaver. News releases were published in the Daily Messenger, the Finger Lakes Times, and on various websites. The excursions were featured on the John Kucko Digital Facebook page.

The Society freight station museum was open to passengers during the excursions. Sales at the gift shop were very good. The food concession operated by Boy Scout Troop # 39 did a brisk business before and after each of the three trips. Special thanks to Joe Dickson and Jack Tuttle for cleaning the station before the excursions.

Thank you to all of the Society members who assisted with the excursions in one way or another. Thanks to Deb Halderman for arranging newspaper ads and handling tickets at the museum. Thanks to Bev Halderman for handling the advance ticket sales, phone messages, and volunteering in the gift shop. Thanks to Ken May for handling the social media promotion of the event. Thanks to Dick Coffey, Joe Colasacco, Joe Dickson, and Jack Tuttle for volunteering as parking lot attendants. Thanks to Dave Halderman and Tom Monnat for volunteering as guest conductors.

## DANNY ARMITAGE RAILROAD HISTORY PROGRAM

A railroad history program was presented by Danny Armitage of Marathon at the LVRRHS station museum open house on Sunday, October 20, 2019. The free program was titled "The Kid from Freeville - Growing Up on the Railroad." His program of lecture and slides covered the people and operations of the Lehigh Valley Railroad from a very unique perspective.

Danny grew up in Freeville where two branch lines of the Lehigh Valley Railroad crossed. From the age of 5, he hung out at the freight station behind his house getting to know all of the trainmen. This led to an unusual childhood of literally growing up on the railroad. From 1963 until

the mid-1980s, he rode the locomotives and cabooses over 400 times and was accepted by the crews as one of their own.

Danny resided in the Ovid area for 26 years and worked at the Willard Psychiatric Center and Willard Drug Treatment Center for 30 years. This afforded him time to study both the Willard Asylum and Seneca Army Depot railroads. He now resides in Marathon with his wife Joan Portzline.

Thank you to Bev and Deb Halderman for providing refreshments for the event.

## **2019 STATION MUSEUM OPEN HOUSES**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society Station Museum was open to the public one Sunday afternoon a month from May to October this year. Open house dates were May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, and October 20. Attendance at all of the open houses was good. Thanks to the LVRRHS members who volunteered at the open houses.

## **LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD MEMORIAL NIGHT**

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society hosted the 43rd annual Lehigh Valley Railroad Memorial Night at our station museum on the evening of Saturday, April 13, 2019. The free event was a celebration of the history of the Lehigh Valley Railroad with a program of slides, movies, photographs, and discussions. Around 50 people attended the event.

Devan Lawton showed two Super 8 movies that he filmed at various locations along the LV main line from Buffalo to Sayre between 1974 and 1976. Richard Pearson gave a slide presentation about the LV Naples Branch. Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's special event.

Dick Coffey arranged donations of two sheet pizzas from Mark's Pizzeria; a sub tray, a wrap tray, and bottled water from Wegmans; and a cookie tray from Bliss' Market. Deb and Bev Halderman donated coffee and potato chips.

Lehigh Valley Railroad Memorial Night was hosted by Guil Mack of Phelps at his home from 1977 to 2016. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society was pleased to continue the tradition. Guil Mack gave tours of his HO scale model railroad layout at his home on the afternoon of Saturday, April 13.

## **LVERRHS FACEBOOK PAGE**

The LVRRHS established a Facebook page in August. Trustee Ken May has posted news about our station museum open houses, fall foliage train excursions, and photographs taken by Guil Mack and Guy Wicksall of LV diesel locomotives. Contact Ken to contribute material for our Facebook page.

## **2020 LVRRHS ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

The annual meeting of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., at the Society's Station Museum at 8 East High Street in Shortsville, New York. Election results for officers and trustees will be announced, 2019 activities will be reviewed, and 2020 activities will be discussed at the meeting. The monthly meeting will be held after the annual meeting. All Society members are invited to attend as well as the public.

## **DONATIONS**

Thanks to Joe Colasacco and his landscape business, Kingdom Proprietors, for mowing the station museum lawn during 2019. Also for the beautiful landscaping job around the sign!

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2019, we hope that you will consider renewing for 2019. Memberships received after September 30 will be considered good through 2020. We thank all of our members for their continued support of the Society.

## **LVERRHS MEETINGS**

Society meetings are held as needed on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the LVERRHS Station Museum, 8 East High Street, Shortsville, New York. All members are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Visit the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society website at [www.lverrhs.org](http://www.lverrhs.org) for the latest information about Society activities.

"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 the museum at 585-289-9149 and leave a message for a return call.

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

<b>President:</b>	<b>David Halderman</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Richard Coffey</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Deborah Halderman</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Joe Colasacco</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Gary Congdon</b>
	<b>Joseph Dickson</b>
	<b>Rita Gurewitch</b>
	<b>Beverly Halderman</b>
	<b>Kenneth May</b>
	<b>Jack Tuttle</b>

## FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN EXCURSIONS PHOTOGRAPHS



Finger Lakes Railway engine number 2201, a General Electric model U23B diesel locomotive painted in the Lehigh Valley Railroad color scheme of the 1950's, is seen on the fall foliage excursion train at the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society station museum in Shortsville, New York, on October 12, 2019. Photographs and landscaping by Joe Colasacco.