



## Laurel Run Station Gets an EXTREME Makeover

by Bill Leth,

Photos by Frank Oese and Spencer Watts



Frank Oese's article in the last newsletter mentioned the renovations taking place at the RSME station. Frank and his wife Wanda set things in motion by undertaking a major cleanout of junk and other items stored there. Frank supplied both interior and exterior paint and green shades for the windows, while Wanda sewed the green curtains. Gene and Phyllis Pyle donated exterior vents, paint, moldings, trim, laminate flooring, a new door and endless hours of sweat and labor to bring the renovations to life. John Spinka put his power nailer to good use by installing the crown molding and the baseboard. Iggy Sakasitz spent many hours painting, helping with the floor installation, and is still engaged in painting the exterior of the station. With the interior and exterior of the station house looking so good, earlier work smoothing the grade and replacing rotting timbers was given renewed inspiration. Bill Ingham and Doug Waltman had previously contributed timbers and many hours of labor to begin the replacement process. These efforts were put on hold so the work would not interfere with the spring, summer and fall open houses, as the process is very labor intensive. Anxious to match the platform to the fine look of the station house, the balance of timbers were removed and replaced with the new ones. Unfortunately, this developed a life of its own, as the removal took with it much of the asphalt and platform surface, much like the "weekend plumber" who

starts off to fix a running toilet and ends up having to replace the whole plumbing system. Plans were revised, additional help was called in, and fixes have proceeded. Over the last several weekends, Lite Rail members Matt Jeffrey, Eric Peffel, Richard and Dave Bortz, Bruce Daddi, along with Iggy Sakasitz, Bill Ingham, Frank Oese, Jay Searle, Nate Kline, Daulph Kline, Kyle Sanders, Steve Ingham and Mike Schafer have labored many hours to get the platform completed in time for the summer open house. Matt Jeffrey's skill as a bricklayer will be the crowning touch to the platform's appearance. As you can see in the photo on page three, the work is still in progress as of this writing and the train is coming down the tracks. Many thanks go out to all the extraordinary efforts these members have made to give our station its "Makeover".

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Any submissions, comments, or corrections can be emailed to the editor at phyllispyle@msn.com or see me directly at a club function. You may also mail the submission to the club address:

C/O Newsletter Submission  
RSME

P.O. Box 13011  
Reading, PA 19612

## RSME CALENDAR for 2008

Monthly Meeting	Second Saturday of each month (2:00 p.m.)
Annual Meeting / Elections	October Monthly Meeting
Spring Open House	<i>Held Successfully Rained Out</i>
Summer Open House	Aug. 2nd and 3rd, 2008 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Fall Open House	Oct. 18th and 19th, 2008 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
Laurel Run Operating Days	First Sunday of Month 12 p.m.- 5 p.m. (June – November)
2nd Floor Meeting	Monday Evenings (7:30 p.m.)
HO Venture Crew Meeting	First and Third Mondays (7:30 p.m.)

Clubhouse Phone: 610 - 929-5444



The 425 was last seen by our Venture Crew and several of our members inside the repair shops at Reading and Northern Railroad's facilities at Port Clinton, PA undergoing repairs and repainting. Here it is at a dinner stop in Tamaqua, during its return trip from Mountain Top, for a private family outing for Andy Muller and his mom on Mothers Day. Photo Rev. Phillip Smith



# From the Stationmaster's Desk

July/August 2008

President Frank Oese

Last month in this space I wrote about the RSME's 60th Anniversary, which occurs next year. I also wrote about the numerous projects that are under way, or are being planned, in order to get the RSME ready for our 60th year. In this issue of the Timetable, you will find articles about some of these projects, and also about the activities of some of the groups within the RSME. All of these articles have a common theme: RSME members are donating their time in order to maintain and improve the Society.

The Society's assets include 25 acres of land, five major buildings, several smaller buildings, two outdoor railroads and three indoor train layouts. We sponsor an Explorer Post with its own train layout. We pay all of our taxes, heat, electric, and other operating expenses, and we work to maintain and improve all of the Society's assets and activities, with an annual budget well less than \$25,000! This could never be accomplished without the dedication of Society members who donate their time (and money!). A good example of this dedication is the rehabilitation of the Laurel Run Station which you can read about in this edition of the Timetable.

In addition to specific projects like the Laurel Run Station work, there is a core group of RSME members who regularly come to the property to do work. A good example is the Lite Rail Group, who work every Saturday, year round, to build and maintain the Lite Rail railroad. They are among the most dedicated groups within the Society. Other RSME members also regularly come to the property, to mow the grass, clean brush, maintain railroad equipment and right of way, clean the club house, rake leaves, etc., etc., etc. These folks can be found up at the club almost any day of the week, and almost any time of day, as their personal schedules permit.

If you would like to become involved in helping maintain and improve the Society property, railroads and train layouts, every Saturday (usually starting about 9:30 AM) is a work session. Members of the train layouts on the second floor of the club house meet almost every Monday evening at about 7 to 7:30 PM to work on the layouts and run trains. Or, if you would like to help on any of the many projects we are working on, you can contact me, or any member of the Board of Directors. Our contact information can be found in each newsletter.

## Other News

Summer Open House is August 2nd and 3rd, from noon until 5 PM. It takes about 20 people to staff one of our open house events. If you would like to help out at open house, please contact me, and I can put you in touch with those who organize these events.

On Thursday morning, July 3rd, the RSME hosted 64 children from local playgrounds to provide train rides and to show them our train layouts. Snacks were also provided. Approximately 10 RSME members volunteered to host the visit.

Also on July 3rd, I represented the RSME at a Board meeting for the Giggleworks. The Giggleworks is a new Children's Museum that is being planned for a location in West Reading. The RSME was been contacted to determine if we could provide any assistance in developing a train/model railroad exhibit for the proposed museum. The Giggleworks is a 501-C3 non-profit organization that has just begun developing plans for the museum. If any RSME member has any suggestions as to how we could help out in this effort, please contact me. The RSME Board will be discussing what we can do to help the Giggleworks. Or, if you would personally like to become involved in helping out the Giggleworks directly, contact me and I can provide you with contact information.

Frank Oese  
President

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The Picture on the left shows the new ties and brickwork going on at the Laurel Run station house. It will be a nice welcome for our visitors.

# Short Line **NEWz**

**Second Floor Groups are Growing** - - The membership of the second floor groups is growing due to the fact that new active members are interested in trying to start some operational meets. Below is the current list of the members of the 3 sub-groups.

## **3-RAIL**

1. DARRYL CONNER 610 921-3089
2. PAUL FETT 610 374-8522
3. KEN GORDON 610 944-8472  
traptables@aol.com
4. JON NESTLERODE 484 213-3996  
jon.nestlerode@dejazzd.com
5. FRANK OESE 610 944-7195  
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6. EUGENE PYLE 610 944-9663  
phyllispyle@msn.com
7. DOUG WALTMAN 610 775-9919
8. SPENCER WATTS 610 488-7186  
srmawatts@verizon.net

## **2-RAIL**

1. BILL INGHAM 610 944-7113  
william\_r\_ingham@yahoo.com
2. BILL LETH 610 929-4803  
weleth@comcast.net
3. EUGENE PYLE 610 944-9663  
phyllispyle@msn.com
4. IGGY SAKASITZ 484 707-3016  
iggysaksr@netzero.net
5. JAY SEARLE 610 927-3556  
tweetiebird94@yahoo.com
6. ED WISWESSER 610 779-6301

## **ON3**

1. STEVE GILBERT 610 781-2100  
sgrdg179@aol.com
2. BILL INGHAM 610 944-7113  
william\_r\_ingham@yahoo.com
3. JOHN SPINKA 610 207-7274  
johns@fwind.com
4. DICK WISWESSER 610 779-4095  
rewhazmat@aol.com
5. ED WISWESSER 610 779-6301

Others interested in joining are invited to the Monday night meetings at 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\* **Still Showing** \*\*\*

**Historical Society of Berks County Reading Railroad Exhibit** - - The Historical Society (Center Avenue, Reading) is holding an exhibit dedicated to the Reading Railroad. The exhibit opened on April 12th of this year and will run through the end of 2008.

## REPORTS FROM THE RAILS

### Lite Rail Update from Eric Peffel

Welcome to the latest Lite Rail update. It has been quite some time since we have given an update in the newsletter, however, I can assure you that things have been progressing the entire time. Over the winter, we were indoors building track panels. Matt Jeffrey, Bruce Daddi, Rich Bortz, Daulph Kline, and I have now constructed enough track panels to lay track over Nan's bridge and reach the upper entrance of "the cut." Track panel construction was so productive that we ran out of the various supplies and needed to procure additional material. Bob McDonough helped in finding and cutting the wood needed for the next 200 feet of track to be built. Rich Bortz and I have also helped (and donated) portions of the tie plates and, nails/screws for continued track building. As of this writing, we have approximately 300 feet of track to build to complete the loop.

Once the weather broke, we were again outdoors continuing excavation work – primarily in the cut. Matt Jeffrey and Rich Bortz spent several days sloping banks and adding additional drainage. We are now at a point where the tunnel portion of the cut can start to be addressed. Dave Bortz (and Dave Jr.), Bruce, Daulph, and I helped with tree removal and disposal. We had a successful (given the weather) spring open house and look forward to a rain-free summer open house. George and Barbara Peffel once again did an excellent job taking tickets, "giving the safe riding speech" and throwing the switch. Rich Bortz has also installed new steps near the clubhouse to provide easier and safer access for public riders during open houses to reach the loading/unloading area of the Lite Rail.

Recently, the Lite Rail Group has been providing significant help with the construction of the new 15" gauge station platform and will continue to do so until the project is complete. Future projects include a new hydraulic lift/transfer table for improved loading/unloading of Lite Rail equipment (Dave Bortz has donated the first pieces for this project), continued excavation, and the start of installing the "third rail" for making the existing serviceable track 1" scale capable. As you can see, we have been busy and will be for the foreseeable future.

One last point of interest, if you have noticed, the list of names above has not only started to grow but also includes some new members as well as some "old" familiar members who have returned. I personally think this is positive as the amount of work getting done has steadily increased and shows that we are moving in the right direction. Additional help is needed, however, so consider this a personal invitation to any member or potential member to come and join us.

**Until next time, see you on the tracks.**

# Clickity - Clack in the Club Car

## From the Editors' Desks

Phyllis Pyle & Bill Leth

### Thoughts from the Co-Editor Bill

As Phyllis and I continue down this path of being "Co-Editors", it is now my turn to compose the editors' thoughts for our newsletter. First, I want to thank everyone who complimented us on our "Premiere Edition". I also appreciate all of the thoughts and contributions for additions to the newsletter and to the website, which I would like to continue to grow for all our benefit.

I would like to publish in both, fresh information that we all come across in our daily pursuit of our "hobby" or, in some trains of thought, obsession. I see the newsletter and website as working hand in hand, one complimenting the other. I hope to add more images to our Photo Gallery on the website, but I would like to include captions (like who, what, and when) with them to give the site more "content". The same goes for the newsletter. As you have seen, I like using images to tell our stories whenever possible. I would also like to include little tricks and tips on all sorts of things that relate to our hobby, like scenery tips or articles you found useful etc etc., basically anything you find interesting that you would like to share with other society members.

The newsletter and the website, at their best, should be the voice of its members and not just the thoughts and opinions of the editors and office holders. While we have some voice and discretion in what fills the columns, we still need the input and knowledge of the membership in order to make our efforts worthy of the content of its pages. The older members need to hand down some of their interests to some of the new "kids playing on the tracks". --- *Bill Leth*

### HELP US ADVERTISE AGAIN

If you received THE RSME TIMETABLE by mail, you have noticed that a copy of our flyer listing the open houses and run days is included but not stapled in with the other pages. We ask that you post this flyer in a prominent place in your area such as a convenience store, restaurant, market, school, etc. If you received an electronic version, you can print out the flyer to display. With this extra advertising, we hope to attract more people to attend our events. Thanks for your help.

## Membership News 2

Thanks to all the members who have renewed and/or upgraded their memberships. If you have not yet paid your 2008 dues, you can still do so by mailing them to RSME or you can pay at the August open house. Give your check to me or anyone at the station for your free ticket to ride on the Laurel Run Railroad. Make sure that you specify that you are paying your dues so we can keep our records updated.

If, for some reason, you have lost interest in continuing your membership in the RSME, please inform me so I can remove your name from our membership and mailing list. This means that you will no longer be receiving either the hard copy or electronic version of our newsletter. Even if you do cancel your membership, you are still welcome at all of our events, but you will be expected to give a donation for any train ride. You can also check our website at [www.rsme.org](http://www.rsme.org) for information about happenings at the club.

Remember that all dues and donations are tax deductible.

Eugene Pyle – Membership Chairman

## Seconds on News from the Kitchen

Our spring open house had a very successful Saturday in the kitchen. We sold 100 plus of our delicious hot dogs and lots of other goodies. Many of the "Take Me Home" perennial plants on our plant table and those serving as centerpieces in the kitchen went to new homes. On Sunday, however, the rains came, and only a few brave souls drifted in so our sales were mostly limited to club members who had no choice but to hang out in the clubhouse. We are hoping that nature will be kinder for our summer open house so we can do well on both days.

We are again asking for donations of baked goods or snack foods and for volunteers to help out with our food sales since kitchen income is a sizable portion of open house profits.

**Please call or email Phyllis Pyle at 610 944-9663 or [phyllispyle@msn.com](mailto:phyllispyle@msn.com) with questions or offers to donate or volunteer.**



# Extreme Makeover Comes to the Laurel Run Station



Before



After

July / August 2008 Edition  
RSME Timetable

Stamp

Reading Society  
MODEL ENGINEERS  
RSME  
P.O. Box 13011  
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