

READING SOCIETY  
MODEL ENGINEERS

# THE RSME TIMETABLE

The News Bulletin of the Reading Society of Model Engineers  
May 2008

Volume 59.1



## Day Tripping ..... at the Reading and Northern R.R.

by Richard Wiswesser

On February 2, 2008, Venture Crew 902 took a tour of the Reading and Northern Railroad's facilities at Port Clinton, PA. This was coordinated by Sr. Venture Crew member Kyle Sanders. This event was attended by eight club members and one guest.

At 9:30 a.m., we were met by tour guides Steve Gilbert and Tyler Glass. Steve Gilbert is an engineer for the Reading and Northern and has recently become a member of RSME. Tyler Glass is the Vice President of Operations for the Reading and Northern.

The first stop on our tour was the railroad's main office building which is where the dispatcher's office is located. We were given an explanation of the dispatching center which controls the railroad's operations on two computer screens. ( It is really pretty amazing, isn't it? )

After the dispatching center, we moved on to the locomotive shop. We saw numerous locomotives under repair or receiving service. One of these locomotives was the steam engine 425. The engine had recently been rebuilt and had performed a test run on December 29th. The locomotive is currently receiving a new coat of paint. It is hoped to be used on many passenger excursions in the future.

The last part of the tour included a look at the former Reading Company 2102 steam engine. This engine is a Northern type locomotive with a 4-8-4 wheel arrangement. The engine was in great cosmetic condition, but would be a costly restoration project if it were to receive one.

It was a very interesting and educational tour. The Reading and Northern Railroad was very glad to have us and would welcome us again in the future.

## Board of Directors of the RSME

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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  
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## RSME CALENDAR for 2008

Monthly Meeting	Second Saturday of each month (2:00 p.m.)
Annual Meeting / Elections	October Monthly Meeting
Spring Open House	May 17th and 18th, 2008 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
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 former Reading Company 2102 steam engine. A Northern type locomotive with a 4-8-4 wheel arrangement.

# From the Stationmaster's Desk

April/May 2008

President Frank Oese

*April 3, 1949.....*

*April 3, 1949.....*

*April 3, 1949!!!*

For many of the present members of the RSME, April 3, 1949, has no particular significance. However, April 3, 1949, is the date that the Reading Society of Model Engineers was legally incorporated, in the State of Pennsylvania, in the Court of Common Pleas, in the City of Reading. October 3, 2008, will mark the beginning of the 60th year of the RSME as a legally chartered non-profit organization. In order to recognize the RSME's 60th Anniversary, and also to recognize the many members of the Society who have contributed their time and work throughout the years, the Board of Directors has begun discussing how we should celebrate the Society's birthday. To that end, at the April General Membership meeting, I asked for volunteers to serve on a special Anniversary Celebration Committee. The Committee will develop ideas and plans for one or more 60th Anniversary Events, which will be held sometime during 2009. If there are any members out there who would like to volunteer to serve on this Committee, please contact me directly. My phone number and e-mail address are at the end of this article.

Continuing with the 60th Anniversary theme, I would like to tell you about several initiatives that the RSME is undertaking that relate directly to preparing for our Anniversary year. It is my and the Board of Directors' opinion that we should "put our best foot forward" for our anniversary. The following projects are either already in progress, approved by the Membership, or in the planning stages. These projects will help prepare us to "put our best foot forward" for our Anniversary.

**Laurel Run Station** - - we are sprucing up the station so that open house visitors get a good impression when they first arrive at the club property. The interior walls have been painted (Thank You, Iggy) a hole in the floor has been repaired and ventilation vents have been installed below the floor, (Thank You, Gene and Phyllis) extensions and window trim are in place, and new steps were installed on the upper side. (Again, Thank You, Gene and Phyllis). The Engineering Committee is finalizing plans to replace the large timbers track-side at the passenger loading area.

**Spring Cleanup** - - we held Spring Cleaning sessions every Saturday in April. The sessions went beyond a good cleaning. We began the process of reviewing, sorting and evaluating the condition of the many items of historical material at the clubhouse. We also uncovered many old and obsolete supplies, and other items that have no historical value or beneficial use to the Society. Some of these items (for example, old deteriorated lumber) were disposed of. Other items have been turned over for sale at a local auction site.

**Painting of the Clubhouse** - - at the April General Meeting, the Membership approved a plan to paint the exterior of the clubhouse. The cost of the project will be funded by member donations (passing the hat) in order that we do not put an undue burden on the General Fund. So far we have collected enough money to buy paint for one end of the building. Under the plan, the building will be painted to resemble Reading Railroad station colors. The plan will proceed in stages (one wall at a time) until the entire building is painted. If anyone wishes to donate toward the purchase of paint, please contact: Phyllis Pyle, RSME Treasurer.

**Laurel Run Water Tower Renovation** - - This project is in the planning stages. We first intend to repair and stain the water tower. When that is complete, then we intend to make the water tower operational for watering live steam engine #20.

**Clubhouse Meeting Room Exhibits** - - this project is in the preliminary discussion stage. The Society owns many railroad photos, artifacts, paperwork, and memorabilia. The clubhouse meeting room is the largest indoor space available to display many of these items. We are considering how we can make the meeting room more suitable to display some of our collection while at the same time making the room friendlier for open house visitors.

Frank Oese  
President  
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E-mail: ese01@ptd.net



# Short Line **NEWz**

**Safety Committee** - - - Russel Hottenstein has accepted a position on this Committee to bring it to full strength.

**Engineering Committee** - - - Bill Leth and Russel Hottenstein have both accepted positions on this Committee to bring it to full strength.

**Web Site** - - - we are working to improve the Society's web site. Bill Leth is leading this effort as the new Webmaster.

**Newsletter** - - - we have begun the process to review the present Timetable format, content and publication schedule to determine how we can make improvements. This issue of the newsletter incorporates some of the changes that will be made. Phyllis Pyle & Bill Leth are Co-editors in this effort.

**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. Historical items have been collected from many sources for use in the exhibit. Of particular note is that the Reading #111 has been obtained and placed on exhibit. #111 is a large live steam locomotive model of a Reading Pacific type engine that was built in the Reading RR locomotive shops by shop apprentices. The engine had been on display for many years in the Franklin Street Station in Reading. The RSME has placed on loan to the Historical Society, several photos and other items from our collection for use in the exhibit.



A Plaque from the Board Room at the R&N.

## REPORTS FROM THE RAILS

Report from Nate Kline,  
**Safety Committee and MOW Committee.**

**Safety Committee:** The safety committee has held two meetings so far. We are presently looking into boiler safety and testing procedures for the Lite Rail and the 15" gauge Laurel Run Railroad as well. Our other focus at the moment is safety rules and proper qualification procedures for train and engine crews on the Laurel Run Railroad. We will continue to meet regularly and keep everyone posted.

**L.R.M.O.W:** At present there is no major work occurring on the Laurel Run right of way. A check of the entire R.O.W. should be made prior to open house and there is plenty of drainage work to be done. i.e cleaning out drainage ditches and clearing the R.O.W of leaves so it can drain properly. Hopeful projects for the year include the re-opening of the run around at Sleeps, this is dependent upon availability of track crew members willing to come out and help. Please let me know if you are interested in being on the track crew.

**Laurel Run:** Preparation for the Spring Open House on May 17th and 18th is underway. Bill Ingham and Gene Pyle will be taking care of scheduling for this event since I will be out of town for the weekend. If you are available to help, please be sure to let either Bill or Gene know your availability for the weekend.

Don't forget to visit  
**WWW.RSME.ORG**  
for more information  
and additional content!

Bill Leth-Webmaster: [weleth@comcast.net](mailto:weleth@comcast.net)

# Clickity - Clack in the Club Car

## From the Editors' Desks

Phyllis Pyle & Bill Leth

Due to his work schedule and educational commitments, the Timetable's previous editor, Jay Searle, has decided that he cannot continue in that capacity. The RSME Board of Directors and the Membership wish to thank him for his efforts in 2007 to keep you informed on what is happening.

The task of editing this newsletter has been passed to the two of us: to me probably because I am a retired teacher whose primary focus has been English and I have had numerous short stories and articles published and have experience as an advisor to several school newspapers. Bill Leth will be completely responsible for the layout of each issue since he has taught Graphic Design and Layout for 20 plus years and also was a newsletter editor and publisher for other organizations.

Between the two of us, we will attempt to keep the membership informed and, hopefully, entertained. We plan to keep you updated on what is happening with each interest group of the RSME, to include as many good photographs as possible, and to make your receipt of each electronic or mailed version something that you are eager to read. We welcome feedback and suggestions as to what you would like to see included, since, after all, this is a newsletter for each and every RSME member.

Front cover photo by Steve Gilbert, all other photos in this issue by Frank Oese

### HELP US ADVERTISE

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

We have a number of members who haven't as yet paid their 2008 dues. Please mail them to RSME or bring your check or cash to the May 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 in order that we can keep our records updated and you will continue to receive our newsletters.

Remember that showing your 2008 Membership Card entitles you to ride the Laurel Run train. We would ask for donations for any family members or friends who may accompany you on the ride. We look forward to seeing you at our three open houses.

**Remember that all dues and donations are tax deductible.**

Eugene Pyle - Membership Chairman

## Kitchen News

With the upcoming May 17th and 18th Open Houses, the kitchen staff is again asking for member donations of baked goods. Income from food sales is a major source of open house profit, and the baked goods table figures in as a large portion of that profit. We need any type of baked goods and snack foods. We would also appreciate any volunteers who can help out with our food sales on those two days.

**Call or email Phyllis Pyle at 610 944-9663 or [phyllispyle@msn.com](mailto:phyllispyle@msn.com) with any questions.**

### WHAT IS A "TAKE ME HOME"?

You will find them on our plant table or serving as centerpieces on the tables in our kitchen. For a donation, the amount of which is at your discretion, you can take home perennial plants for your garden. You will find a variety of plants from which to choose. So, after feasting on our famous hot dogs and all the other kitchen goodies, take home a plant or two and help us pay the bills! A donation box will be provided on the plant table.

RSME  
&  
Venture Crew  
on Tour



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Stamp

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MODEL ENGINEERS  
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