



ALL ABOARD

The Official Newsletter of ORHS

Winter 2013-1

Excursion Tours Five Counties

By Eric Schlentner



Running through the junction at Spencer to return to Orrville.
(Richard Jacobs)

Fall Foliage Trip a perfect Run

The colors of fall were at their peak during our excursion on October 13. Orrville Railroad Heritage Society (ORHS) ran another comfortable and enjoyable trip.

We departed Orrville at 8:30 AM with the Wheeling & Lake Erie #104 in the lead and headed west through Brewster and Massillon and turned north at Canton, passing through Hartsville and then reversed on the wye at Mogadore to run east headed by ORHS #471. The train then ran through Akron and on to Medina where we stopped for a three hour layover for lunch and shopping at the A.I. Root Candle Company and West Liberty Commons.

Once everyone was back on board, we continued eastward to Spencer and then headed south from the junction back home to Orrville.



The view from the Fireman's seat on the Fall Foliage Trip. (Doc Higgins)

ORHS Hosts 2012 Membership Dinner

By Eric Schlentner



Food and conversation were the main topics at the Annual Membership Dinner. (Eric Schlentner)

ORHS held its Annual Membership Dinner on Tuesday, December 4 at the White's Maibach Ford Community Room in Orrville. Over 60 attendees enjoyed great food and camaraderie during the evening.

Board member Anna Davidson received Member of the Year award in recognition of her dedication and hard work for ORHS throughout 2012.

One of the major announcements that evening concerned the proposed purchase of the DABO, Inc. property on the south side of Orrville. The acquisition of the property would greatly expand our base of operations and be a valuable asset to ORHS. We'll release more information on this exciting new project as it becomes available.



Anna Davidson receives the Member of the Year award from ORHS President Dick Williams. (Eric Schlentner)

Upcoming Events

- **Locomotive Training Class: March 23, 9am**
- **DABO Brush Cleaning: March 30, 9am**
- **ORTA Annual Meeting: April 6, 8am to 1pm**
- **All Hands Coach Cleaning Day: April 13, 9am**
- **Medina Loop: April 27 - tickets available now.**
- **National Train Day Celebration: May 11**

For more information, call (330) 683-2426 or check our web site Schedule and Calendar pages at www.orrvilletrainroad.com

Letter From the President

This past year has been one of continuing progress for the ORHS. Although we still aren't able to include Pittsburgh as one of our destinations, we did have two successful loop trips through northeastern Ohio, plus two days of Santa trips for the public and our local Railroad Days and Jumpin' Pumpkin activities. Ridership was down somewhat on the Santa trips, perhaps due to the fact that Thanksgiving came earlier than usual this year and the weather prior to that was more like mid-September than late November. Another major event was the purchase of Larry Marshall's 3850 parlor car as an addition to the ORHS-owned fleet of equipment. All of our cars and our passenger-briefing activity have been brought up to the new FRA safety standards. We are currently in the process of updating our radio equipment to comply with the new 2013 FCC narrow-band communication requirements.

Another major project was to begin the process of responding to the opportunity to purchase the DABO portion of the Art Davis estate at an amount equal to about half of its appraised value. You will be hearing much about this at future ORHS meetings and in the newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed many hours of effort and/or many dollars in gifts to the ORHS during this past year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Dick Williams, 2012 ORHS President

32nd Annual Railroad Days by Roger Scott

We have held some type of railroad show every summer since 1981. It started out as Depot Day, and over the years grew in size and scope. Once in the late 80's it was a five day affair. I think that was the time we had the Michigan Art Train. Even though it got bigger, it was not raising any more funds. It was just too much work to handle, and 80% of the show was not rail related. When Main Street Orrville started "Motorin' on Market" in 2006, and asked us to partner, we jumped at the chance to have them take over the non-rail activities. One summer we had both Depot Days and Railroad Days. For us, Railroad Days had shrunk down to four hours on a Saturday afternoon, which seemed to be what our members wanted.

This year, to boost the show somewhat, I requested Orrville be added to the N/S Railroad Exhibit Car schedule. We would be the only Ohio stop this summer. The exhibit car has been to Orrville twice before. I want to thank everyone who helped with the exhibit car and the 32nd annual Railroad Days event. Special thanks to the track car people for all their help. They are half our rail spur show and always show up to help with the event.

I have coordinated Railroad Days for 28 years and always need help. We now have some newer, younger members who want to do something new and spectacular every year since Railroad Days was getting stale. However, it is tough to come up with new things to do that are low cost or no cost. If you have any ideas feel free to speak up. However, you may be asked to coordinate them...

Something that added to this years show was the author, Gene P. Schaffer, who came in Saturday afternoon, set up a booth and signed his new book, "Wheeling & Lake Erie, the East End". Anna Davidson along with Eric Schlentner coordinated that, including the promotions and public service announcements. Keep those ideas coming in.

"Riding With Santa" on the Orrville Trains by Richard Jacobs

The Orrville Railroad Heritage Society operated "Riding With Santa" trains on Saturday, November 24 and December 1 for the enjoyment of kids young and old. The "Riding With Santa" trains have been a yearly occurrence from Orrville since year 2000. They complement the Holiday festivities at the former Pennsylvania Railroad Union Depot in Orrville, built in 1868, and now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The festivities at the depot started with Orrville's "Home For The Holidays" celebration on Friday evening, November 23. Visitors enjoyed the Christmas cookies and hot chocolate along with the Holiday trimmings, model trains, and railroad displays. The depot Gift Shop offered many railroad gifts for early Christmas shoppers and railfans alike.

On Saturday, November 24, the ORHS "Riding With Santa" trains left from Orrville at the McGill Street crossing for their trip west toward Lodi via Smithville and Creston. At the outskirts of Lodi, the train stopped for a short while before returning to Orrville. Santa and his elves were on board to gather the children's Christmas lists and pass out gift bags to them. It was a very festive atmosphere. The kids big and small seemed to glow with the Christmas spirit!

Four trains were operated: 10am, Noon, 2pm and 4pm. The ORHS locomotive #471 led the train west on the mainline of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, while one of their locomotives led the train back to Orrville. Tickets were obtained via the ORHS website from WhistleTix, our ticket vendor, or via a special phone connection to them.

The Orrville depot was open for visitors both before and after their train ride. A model train layout was set up alongside the Christmas tree in the main waiting room. Along the room's wall was a long table with cookies, coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn for the visitors. The adjacent baggage room had sev-
(Please see "Santa", next page)

Santa

(Continued from previous page)



Santa arrives to greet the children in the 3125 during "Riding With Santa".
(Richard Jacobs)

eral displays of railroadians including train models and uniforms. The Gift Shop in the depot was open with railroad gifts for early Christmas shoppers.

The trains and depot festivities were repeated on Saturday December 1. Thanks to all who rode and the dedicated ORHS crew that made it all possible.

The Orrville Railroad heritage Society extends wishes for a *Very prosperous New Year* to all their friends in Orrville and the communities of Northeastern Ohio.

Treasurer's Report

By Bill Engel

2012 was a better year financially for the ORHS than 2011. All current bills are paid, but we still owe founding member Howard Wade \$12,000 on the \$22,000 loan he made so we could complete the purchase of Larry Marshall's #3850 car in a timely manner. Although we ended the year with a small surplus of income over expenses, we had slightly over \$5,000 less in our checking account on December 31, 2012 than in 2011. The fiscal year ended with all of our accounts in balance.

Here is a quick summary by percentages of our income versus expense for the year 2012. Please note these percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Excursions	59%	Excursions	37%
Coach lease	15%	Insurance	15%
Contributions*	17%	Rail Equipment	19%
Food & Gift Sale	5%	Rail Siding	2%
Dues	2%	Food & Gift Mdse.	4%
All other	2%	Depot Related	6%
		Utilities	3%
		Audit & Tax prep.	1%
		Membership	1%
		All other	12%

* The Contributions category includes donations to our Save the 3850 Campaign

The "All other" category may seem high at 12% but there are many expense items such as the Wayne County Fair booth, office expenses, etc. that by themselves are a low percentage but add up to 12% total. If any one has questions about our finances please feel free to speak to me after a meeting or give me a call.

I want to thank Jackie Fitzsimmons for her excellent work filling in for me as Interim Treasurer while I was away in late November and early December.

Also, thank you to everybody who has made a contribution to the Save the 3850 Campaign. We have reached slightly over the halfway point to our \$50,000 goal. Although the ORHS now owns Car #3850, we need to repay the \$12,000 balance due on the loan from Howard Wade and replenish the treasury.

This would be a good time for a gentle reminder that the ORHS is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Any donations we receive are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations toward the expense of maintaining the passenger car fleet are especially needed. If you wish your donation to be used toward a specific project, such as the Save the 3850 drive, please tell us. Also please remember to keep bringing aluminum cans for Roger and Bob Cutting to recycle.

Rail News

By Bill Engel

The Ohio Rail Tourism Association Board Meeting was held at the Depot Conference Center in Columbus, OH on Saturday, February 2, 2013. A date and location for the 2013 Annual Conference was an agenda item. Watch the ORTA website at www.ohiorailtourism.org for conference details.



Amtrak began service to Norfolk, VA on December 12. The service is supported by the Commonwealth of Virginia. This is an exciting step forward as Amtrak now serves both Newport News and Norfolk. The train is an extension of an existing Northeast Corridor Boston to Washington service. The train uses CSX tracks from Washington, DC to Petersburg, VA where it switches over to Norfolk Southern for the remainder of the trip to Norfolk. Amtrak continues to experience ever increasing ridership nationwide. They have just announced that their loss for FY2012 was only \$361 million, the lowest since 1975.

A new national Amtrak timetable goes into effect on January 14. Locally, one can obtain a copy at the Cleveland Amtrak Station. This writer is not aware of any major changes to times at Cleveland for either the Capitol Limited or Lake Shore Limited. May 1 will mark the 42nd anniversary of Amtrak taking over intercity passenger rail operations in the United States. Passenger trains are still a good way to move people which hopefully our elected leaders will come to realize.

Closer to home, construction continues on the downtown loop streetcar system in Cincinnati. Service could begin late this year or in early 2014.

Depot Renovations

by Roger Scott

This year marks my 30th year with the ORHS. Most of that time I have been involved in depot building renovations and activities. Many years ago we developed a plan to fund various projects. Wherever the money was earned, it went back there. Our best fund raiser has been our coaches, but as they need to be maintained and are very expensive to keep in service, they receive the biggest share of the funds raised. There was never enough extra to do everything to the depot. Two years ago we received the bequest from a deceased member and we now have some extra money to renovate. We split the money up and have been spending some on the depot, which had been hard to justify before. Late last year we hired a crew to remove a lot of the rotted wood on the gable ends and eaves of the east and north sides. This summer we hired a painter to paint the eaves and gable ends and clean the bricks. The next step will be to seal the bricks to protect them from the elements. The building now looks nice. I am now upgrading the exterior security lights. I hope to have this all done before next winter. Next will be the switch block tower.

As you may know, the ORHS is working on a target signal tower array. This will be a nice attraction to our outdoor displays when it is done. We have had two antique cast iron railroad crossing signs on the ground for the better part of 30 years. I decided it would be best to put them on poles since this spring scrap pickers came through during the night and stole a cast iron catch basin grate off our concrete stand pipe base. What were they thinking? The grate hole is probably 24 inches square, big enough for a man to fall into, and maybe eight feet to the bottom. It was a very dangerous thing for pickers to do. The Orrville street department was also having problems with missing grates. I asked the siding repair crew if they could put the iron signs on poles as sooner or later pickers would get them and smash them to bits so they could sell them. Not a nice thing to happen to a one hundred year old railroad sign. The last thing the guys said when the jobs were done was "I'd like to see someone steal them now" since they are eight feet off the ground. The bad part about what happened was that I was in such a hurry to get them mounted we didn't have time to clean & paint them.

Norfolk Southern has donated a target signal that needs to be wired, cleaned, and painted before we put it on the last concrete tower base. If anyone is interested in taking on that project call me.

We still have a grade crossing warning light post on the ground behind the station. The city gave it to us in 1995 during a streetscape project clean-up. It would be nice if someone would re-assemble, clean, and paint it. My goal is to put it inside the museum someday.

Special thanks to Barb Cornell, Kaye & Bob Cutting, and others for coming in and cleaning to get ready for the show. Thanks to Bob for changing some of the displays, and to Paul

Brenneman for painting the 4 wheel baggage cart, and the outdoor benches. Also, thanks to the people who mow the grounds. Thanks to Lee Fitzsimmons for cleaning the brick passenger loading platform this summer. All these things help make the place look nice for our events. I am sure there are some who do things around here that I don't know about, thanks to you too.



Orrville Union Depot awaits the coming of spring and the events planned for 2013. (Richard Jacobs)

A Cool Jumpin' Pumpkin

by Eric Schlentner

Thanks goes to all those hardy souls that braved the chill and drizzle to come out to our Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree held on October 27. This years celebration was a bit abbreviated due to hurricane Sandy and the inclement weather she brought with her.

We had to cancel the track cars, one of our big draws, but the crowds came anyway to ride the train to Orrville Junction and back and to take a tour of the 471's cab.

All in all, a good time was had by all.



A soggy switchman tends to his duties at the end of the day. (Roger Scott)

Operation Lifesaver News

By Bill Engel

Spring 2013 will be the sixteenth year of ORHS participation in Operation Lifesaver student safety trains. This year the trains are tentatively scheduled to run during the week of May 13 which is the week following our National Train Day Celebration at the Depot. As this article is being written in mid-January, the schedule details have yet to be determined. If you would like to serve as a car host on the trains please contact Sandy Engel. Operation Lifesaver student safety trains normally operate on weekday mornings. Trains are also being scheduled in mid to late October following our fall excursion.



A great big thank you goes out to all who assisted with our Safety Trains this past October. What with bad weather and the need to reschedule one school district, it was a hectic week. But all the trains ran well and safely. While grade crossing crash statistics can be depressing, tracking them helps us to learn where Operation Lifesaver needs to place emphasis on Education, Engineering and Enforcement. The most current statistics I could find showed Ohio had 77 grade crossing crashes in 2011, which was the 8th most in the United States. For the same year Ohio had dropped out of the top 15 states for fatal crashes at grade crossings. That is certainly a step in the right direction. Nevertheless, these numbers show that we have been constantly reminding the public to be alert at crossings.

For more info about Operation Lifesaver their website is www.oli.org.

Please remember to always "Look, Listen, and Live" when you are near railroad tracks whether you are driving or on foot.

Car Hosts Needed

If you're a friendly, outgoing person that just happens to like riding trains, consider becoming a Car Host with ORHS.

Car Hosts work in pairs on each car and duties include getting your car ready before boarding time, helping passengers on and off the train and throughout the trip, and cleaning up when the trip is over. Think of it as flight attendant on rails.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a Car Host, please contact the Depot at (330) 683-2426.

News From the 105

By Anna Davidson

Concession sales were brisk this year. We sold the usual several hundred cans of pop, bottled water, hot sandwiches, hot cups of coffee, nachos, and candy bars. Of course our biggest seller is our hot popcorn made using the Orr Theatre method. Due to the efforts of a new ORHS member, we offered instant Cappuccino this year and it went over well. We plan to offer this again in 2013, switching a flavor or two during the spring and fall excursions.

I would like to thank the food service crew and others from the ORHS who have helped over the year to not only buy items from us en route, but have been with us early in the morning and late into the day to clean, load, unload, cook, sell our wares, and run errands. Thank you for your dedication: Barb Cornell, Deloris & Charity Myers, Bob & Kaye Cutting, Richard Jacobs, Luella Miller, Ross & John Robart, and of course Roger Scott. I would also like to thank my husband, Russell Davidson for the support and for running errands to pick up stuff in Akron or Canton. Thank you also goes to Dwayne Miller and Ednae Wade for helping out when we were short handed. A special shout out to members of the ORHS Mechanical Crew is in order for Denny Deeser and Lynn Butts for making sure our generator works and for making sure we have electric in the 102. The entire crew of the ORHS 105 also wants to thank Russell Jaite for making sure we always had an open vestibule on at least one end of the concession car, plus he even went so far as to make sure ORHS 102 was immediately nearby so we did not have to run far for hot dogs. If you have worked with us, you know how important both these aspects are to the crew in this car.

Here's hoping we have continued success in 2013 and I wish everyone the best!



The 105 Concession Car crew serves its customers on ORHS excursions.
(Richard Jacobs)

Coming Events

March 23: Locomotive Training Class. 9am - 1pm. Open to members only. Learn how to operate and maintain our locomotive.

March 30: DABO Property Cleanup. 9am - 3pm. General cleanup and clearing of the DABO property rail yard. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Call the Depot to volunteer.

April 2: Safety Meeting. 7:30pm - 8:30pm. After the Membership meeting. Train service volunteers must attend at least two safety meetings per year.

April 6: Ohio Rail Tourism Association Annual Conference. Sugar Creek, OH.

April 27: Medina Loop. 9am - 5:30pm. In cooperation with the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, we are pleased to offer the all day, 155-mile "Medina Loop". This excursion will depart from Medina in Medina County and return to Medina.

The trip will depart from 623 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256 and then proceed west to Spencer and beyond toward New London on the former Akron, Canton and Youngstown line. Reversing direction, we will turn south at Spencer and continue on through Lodi, Creston, Smithville, Orrville, Brewster, Navarre, Canton, Hartville, Mogadore, Akron, Copley and back to Medina.

An optional box lunch will be offered to Premium Coach and Coach passengers for an additional \$7.00 charge. A meal is included with First Class Tickets. The ORHS concession car will also offer food and beverages. Your Box Lunch must be purchased with your ticket order. The deadline for purchasing tickets with lunch is 5pm, April 21, 2013. The deadline for purchasing excursion-only tickets is 5pm, April 26, 2013.

May 11: National Train Day Celebration. Noon - 4pm. There will be train and track car rides at 245 McGill St. The Depot and Gift Shop will also be open and other historic sites in Orrville may be open for tours.

Membership Meetings, which are open to the public, are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Find out what's going on at ORHS.

Visit our website for a full calendar of events and meeting dates.

www.orrwillerrailroad.com



Recent Donations by Roger Scott

Allen Pierson of Norfolk Southern Corp, formerly with Conrail, Pittsburgh Division has donated a field lineman's telephone, a safety railroad hat, five framed pictures said to come from the roundhouse office at Crestline, and a mechanical device used to measure the wear of the top of a railroad rail to determine if the rail should be taken out of service. This item looks to be at least 80 years old. He also gave us his first Penn Central employee hand book.

Steve Snyder of Orrville donated a Pennsylvania Railroad first aid kit that has tourniquets in it with instructions on how to use them and re-ordering numbers to replace used ones.

Terry Chellis of Wooster donated four railroad fan books and three LP records of sounds of steam trains. The books belonged to his father, John D. Chellis. John had worked for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. These are nice books and will go into our library. Of special interest is a album of B & O railroad engines, listing many engines and if they were rebuilt and re-numbered. We have many books in the Depot library to be checked out and in, Kaye Cutting has recently updated our files.

Long time member Edward R. Devlin has donated his H.O. scale model train set. Thanks to Bob Cutting for taking time from his busy schedule to pick up the set. We plan to add it to the layout we store in the back room and use it when we have events at the Depot.

Howard E. Wade, one of our founding charter members, has donated a video titled "From Redwoods to Boardwalk". A description along with the video explains about the "roaring camp", I guess that is some place in California. I remember in the mid 1980's we rented a rail car named Roaring Camp, no matter how much the car owners promised that the air conditioner worked, it never did. It seemed like one of our members, Penny Bowers, always got stuck hosting this railcar and soon nick-named it "Roaring Inferno". Howard also donated a 1913 B & O employee's passenger pass allowing travel to anywhere on the Wheeling Division of the B & O Railroad. I counted 13 divisions on the back of the card. Russell Jaite, our new rail car chief mechanical chair works for CSX Transportation into which the B&O was merged.

Russell Jaite, thru his wife, has donated a case of copy paper. Office supplies are very expensive and this will help out a lot. We are always open to donations to our office. It is unbelievable how much paper we go through in a years time.

Mr. Dave Seckel donated his dad's personal railroad employee paper work, mostly rail passenger train passes and safety handbook collections. Dave has donated rail articles to us in the past. Dave told me his grandfather died of a massive heart attack while on the locomotive. He was a Cleveland Akron & Columbus Railway employee, part of the great Pennsylvania

Railroad system, at one time the standard of the world. We are always interested in donations of railroad artifacts. Bob Cutting has made this collection into a nice display in one of our show-cases. Thanks Bob.

Thank You Everyone For Your Donations!



Thank You for Your Support

The functions and programs provided by ORHS are made possible by the generous support of our members and donors.

New Members

- Suzanne Allen
- David Boyd
- Mark Hrusovsky
- Dave Mangold

Corporate Membership

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society
www.greatstoneviaduct.org

Glad to have you aboard!

Save the 3850 Campaign

We still need to raise almost \$25,000 to own the 3850 free and clear. Your generous support can make this happen. Please donate today.

Orrville Railroad Heritage Society, Inc.

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 Email: questions@orrvillerrailroad.com
 Web: www.orrvillerrailroad.com
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2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular: \$15 Family: \$25 Senior: \$10 Student: \$7.50

Date: _____ Name: _____

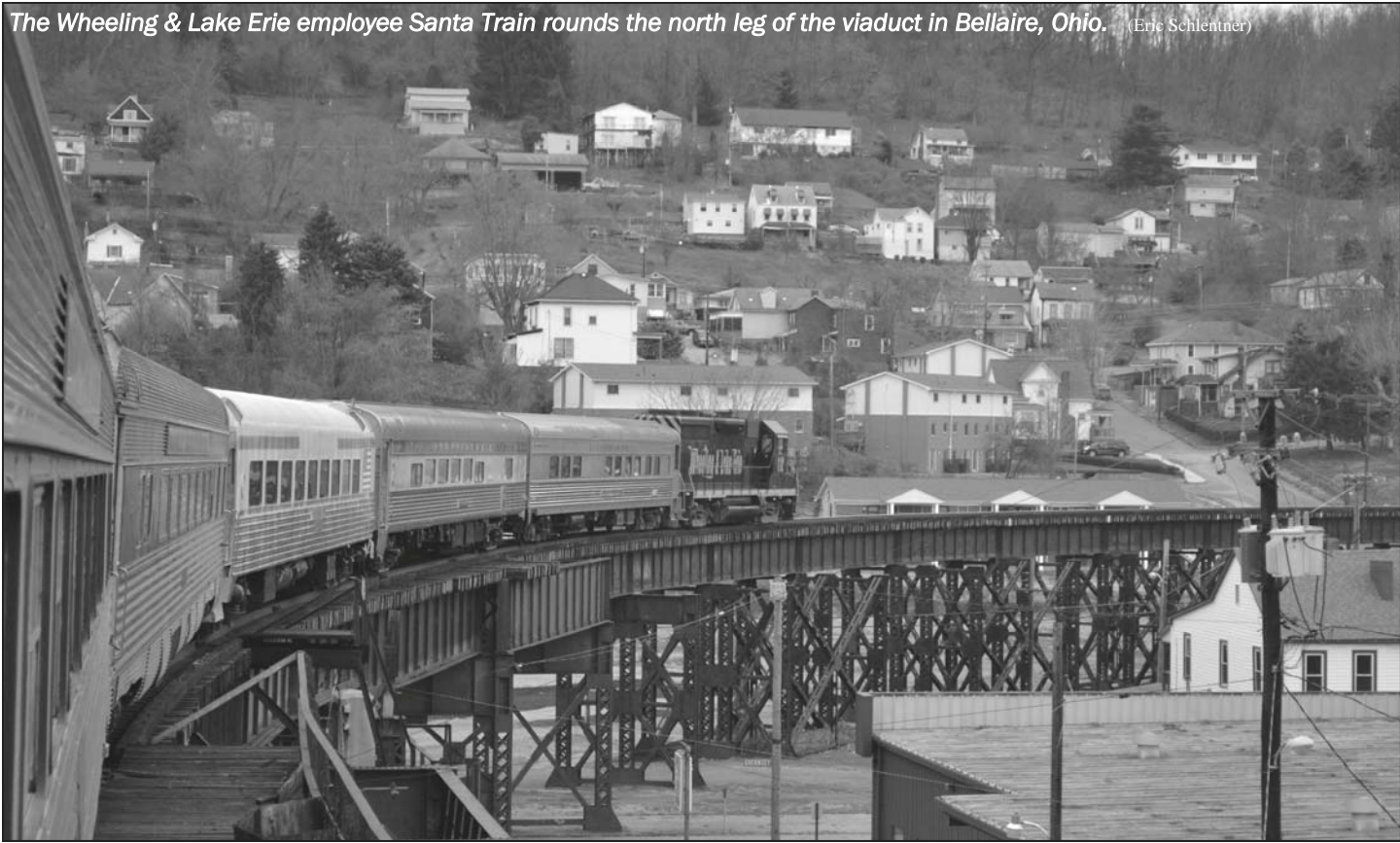
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Cut out and bring this form to the next ORHS meeting or mail with a check or money order to:
 ORHS Membership, P.O. Box 11, Orrville, OH 44667-0011
 Make checks payable to **ORHS**. Do not mail cash

The Wheeling & Lake Erie employee Santa Train rounds the north leg of the viaduct in Bellaire, Ohio. (Eric Schlentner)



Place
Stamp
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