



# ALL ABOARD

The Official Newsletter of ORHS

Summer 2013-3

## Railroad Day in Orrville

By Richard Jacobs



ORHS has a very successful Railroad Day event.

(Richard Jacobs)

The Orrville Railroad Heritage Society (ORHS) sponsored its annual *Railroad Day* in conjunction with the *Orrville Rib and Music Fest* on Saturday, August 10. Train rides on the ORHS coach train and track car rides were operated from the railroad siding at McGill Street from Noon to 4:20 pm.

The train and a dozen track cars ran on the W&LE Orrville branch line from the McGill Street crossing to Orrville Junction and back. The train ran on the hour while the track cars ran between trains. Over 900 passengers enjoyed the train rides while over 380 enjoyed the track car rides. A hand pump car



A young railfan tries his hand at the handcar with ORHS member Dean Mark

(Eric Schlentner)

running on a siding added to the festivities. Hot dogs, soft drinks and water were available from ORHS at trackside.

The 4:00 PM train was a special for four year old Landon Skidmore of Wadsworth, Ohio. He rode with his parents, brothers and sister in the cab of ORHS locomotive 471. Landon even got to run the train with guidance from Adrian Eskew, the ORHS engineer. Friends from the Sacred Heart Church of Wadsworth filled the coaches to share the festive occasion with

Landon who is afflicted with Kidney cancer. Another train was run at 4:20 PM after Landon's special returned to McGill Street to accommodate additional passengers who had tickets for the 4:00 PM train.

The ORHS depot was open for visitors all afternoon on Saturday as well as on Friday evening. The depot was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1868 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been the home of the ORHS since 1982, when it was obtained from Conrail. Galen Hoover had his Santa train running in the former waiting room for the enjoyment of the youngsters. The ORHS gift shop was open for T-shirts, books and other railroad gifts.

The weather was great for the outdoor activities even though ominous looking clouds often passed by. By 5:00 PM, the ORHS train was returning to the Orrville coach yard, and the track cars were loaded onto their highway trailers thus closing the 2013 Railroad Day. Railroad Day and its predecessor Depot Days has been an annual ORHS event for the last 33 years.



A potential future railroader talks with ORHS Engineer, Adrian Eskew.

(Richard Jacobs)

## Upcoming Events

- **Orrville Autumn Express: October 12, 8:30am to 6pm**
- **Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree: October 26, Noon to 4pm**
- **Riding with Santa: Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, various times.**
- **Holidays at the Depot: Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, Noon to 4pm.**

For more information, see page 7 or call (330) 683-2426 or check our web site Schedule and Calendar pages at [www.orrwillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrwillerrailroad.com)

## Presidents Peal

By John Harding

Here we are at the tail end of yet another summer. We had a very good turnout as well and a great time with our Railroad Days event on the siding and at the depot. These siding events keep growing and we are seeing families come back time and time again. We need to keep in mind the hard working people who pull this event off each season. We also want to thank the members and others who bring their equipment out to help us.

As you may be aware by now we brought in an extra car for our Fall Excursion and sold out already. We are starting to see some positive results from our hard work on the internet. Eric Schlentner and Anna Davidson have been but two of the key people in this endeavor on our behalf. This is something that builds slowly but reaps large dividends when one sticks with it. Patience and diligence are important.

Now is the time to start spreading the word about our Santa train rides the Saturday after Thanksgiving as well as the next Saturday. As promised the Excursion Committee has really pulled out all of the stops and we will really have some interesting entertainment to offer our riders. Heck, how long has it been since you rode with us? Come out and enjoy yourselves. Get your church group or club together and take advantage of our group discounts. How about the folks you work for? We can offer some interesting things in the way of sponsorships and advertising as well as group rates. Run it up the old flag pole and see what the boss has to say.

Lastly I ask that each and every one of you give some thought to our coming elections. December is just over the horizon kids. We may be fortunate enough to have a qualified individual to take Mr. Engels' place but we need to get some other people involved in the governing of this organization too. It's important to participate and help keep the ORHS on strong footing. Don't hang in the background and wonder what is going on, come out and help steer it in the right direction.

## Ohio Rail Tourism News

By Bill Engel

The Ohio Rail Tourism Association (ORTA) held their quarterly Trustees meeting in Orrville on July 13. The 2014 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the ORHS in Orrville! The next quarterly Trustees meeting will take place early in November. The date and location will be announced when it is determined.



## Treasurer's Report

By Bill Engel

The late Spring and early Summer is always a busy time for your Treasurer. Our Federal Tax Return on Form 990 is due May 15 as well as an annual report to the Ohio Attorney General Charitable Law Section. Then in early July we file the Ohio Sales Tax report on Food Service and Gift Shop sales for the first half of the year. All three of these reports were filed timely, although we did have to request an extension for the IRS 990 and Ohio Attorney General reports. In 2013 there are the additional tasks of keeping track of expenditures from the Rowland Fund for approved restoration work on the Depot, locomotive and passenger cars, as well as tracking donations to the "Save the 3850 Campaign". Here is the status of those funds. As of August 30, we had \$ 42,596.89 left in the Rowland account. As of September 18 we had received \$ 27,016.62 toward purchasing car #3850. We still owe Howard Wade \$12,000 on the loan he made us to complete the timely purchase of car #3850.

Excursion ticket sales are an important source of income for the ORHS. As I write this on September 18 the October 12 Fall Foliage trip has been sold out for two weeks! We have started a waiting list which has requests for over 30 seats on it! We have leased an extra coach for October 12. November 30 and December 7 "Riding with Santa" tickets are also on sale. We also had a super turnout at the train and track car rides on Railroad Day, August 10 with over 900 passengers on the train.

Finally, here is my usual gentle reminder that the ORHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. While the ORHS now owns car 3850, we are still \$23,000 short of replacing the money spent for the purchase. It would be great to finally have the full \$50,000 purchase price in hand. A reminder that it is now possible to donate to the "Save the 3850 Fund" using Paypal! Just go the website and click on Save the 3850. Also, keep bringing in your aluminum cans for Bob Cutting and Roger Scott to recycle.

## Mock Disaster

By John Harding

On Wednesday, August 10, 2013 the Solon City Schools Transportation Department in conjunction with Operation Lifesaver Ohio and the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway staged a mock bus crash on Camp Industrial Road in Solon, Ohio. This was staged on a grade crossing with the Wheeling & Lake Erie siding. When I arrived at about 9 AM, a W&LE locomotive was parked with its nose almost touching a school bus that was parked across the siding about 20 feet east of the street just as though there had been a collision between the two vehicles.

Clothing, book bags, and other school gear was strewn in a realistic manner to the east of the badly damaged school bus. Bleachers were set up south of the staged crash and soon



**First responders look over a school bus versus train mock disaster in Solon, Ohio.**

(John Harding)

enough they were filled with Solon Schools bus drivers who were on an in-service training day. Classroom work was done prior to bringing the drivers to the crash site. In short order a dozen students from the Solon High School Drama Club were positioned strategically within the damaged bus. They showed obvious signs of injuries including, but not limited to, a young man with about three feet of aluminum post protruding from his chest.

Now that the stage was fully set the W&LE engineer gave that fateful blast on the locomotive horn and the scenario started to unfold. We were able to hear all of the radio transmissions between the Solon Police dispatcher as well as the responding units and the actors. With the audio hookups we heard a student in the crash call the Solon Police Department. In short order two cruisers were on the scene and started assessing the situation and called for additional units. We witnessed Police procedures for determining the severity and number of injuries. The local accident scene squad did the scale replica of the crash site just as would have happened in a real accident.

Once the school bus drivers and all other parties involved were returned to the High School Auditorium, a review and critique of the morning took place. Everyone praised the student actors for their ability to make the entire exercise realistic. Even the students were overcome emotionally after looking up and seeing that huge and noisy locomotive up close and personal. One of the first responding Police Officers from Glenwillow admitted that even after all of his previous training he had not been fully prepared to properly assess what needed to be done first to insure the best results.

Vickie Gliha, the Solon City Schools Transportation Manager, had contacted Steve Friday, Ohio Operation Lifesaver Coordinator for assistance. It took Gliha over a year to get everything coordinated. I apologize if I miss anyone but the responding municipalities were Solon, Aurora, Glenwillow, Bedford, and Bedford Heights. The bus drivers were truly given an "in-service" day to think about.

## Passenger Rail Update

By Bill Engel

Amtrak rolled out a new National timetable in July. The only train with a time change in Northeast Ohio was the eastbound Capitol Limited. It now departs Cleveland at 1:54 AM instead of 1:08 AM.

Amtrak has announced plans to once again operate their last remaining Heritage Fleet full-length dome car on the Adirondack train during the fall foliage season. The dome will operate between Albany-Rensselaer, NY and Montreal, PQ, Canada in September and October. Check with Amtrak at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) for details.

The final bit of Amtrak news this time is that they have begun testing the new ACS-64 electric locomotives, both on the Northeast Corridor and at the test center in Pueblo, CO. The ACS-64 units will replace aging AEM-7 and newer HHP-8 electric locomotives on the Northeast Corridor between Boston and Washington, DC.

In Ohio, contracts have been signed which allow full construction of a roughly 3.5 mile downtown loop streetcar line in Cincinnati. Originally scheduled to be in service for the MLB All-Star game in July of 2015, the schedule now delays the start-up until sometime in 2016.

## A Day Out with Landon

by Eric Schlentner

Approximately 300 friends showed up in support of 4-year old kidney cancer patient Landon Skidmore to ride the train during our Railroad Days celebration for a "Day Out with Landon".

Landon, the son of Paul and Courtney Skidmore, is a budding railfan with a fascination for trains. The Skidmore family rode in the cab of locomotive 471 for the leisurely trip to Orrville Junction and back.



**Landon and his Mom in the cab of the 471.**

(Richard Jacobs)

Enough supporters, most wearing Landon's "Orange Power" T-shirts came out for the ride that we added a second train to accommodate them all.

We are happy to report Landon's last scan performed the following week came back clear of the cancer that he had battled all year.

## Riding to Kent in an ORHS Coach

by Richard Jacobs

Barbara Cornell and I rode as passengers in an ORHS train car instead of working as typical. The Midwest Railway Preservation Society sponsored a round trip train ride on the Wheeling & Lake Erie's Cleveland subdivision on Saturday, July 6. The train left the Falls Junction Depot in Glenwillow and travelled to the former Erie Depot on Franklin Street in Kent. Kent was celebrating its annual Kent Heritage Festival, so there was much to do and see close by the depot.

The train was operated and crewed by Cleveland Commercial Railroad (CCRL) with able assistance from MRPS car hosts and trainmaster. Four coaches were leased from the Orrville Railroad Historical Society (ORHS). An ORHS mechanical crew of Russell Jaite, Doc Higgins and Denny Deeser were on board to keep things running smoothly.

The ORHS air-conditioned cars provided a comfortable trip on the hot day. Car host boss Kurt Korfhage was a passenger with his wife Diane. ORHS member Dave Mangold was a car attendant in our car, the ORHS #103.



The MRPS excursion arrives in Kent.  
(Richard Jacobs)

## Food for Thought from the 105

By Anna Davidson

Since my last report the food service volunteers have been busy. Barb manned the popcorn machine for both the Fireman's Festival Parade and Friday Night of the Rib Fest. She was back at it all day on Saturday of the Rib Fest. With help from Luella Miller and Kathy Green we also provided cold drinks and hot dogs to the crew and visitors. We ran out of about everything that day as the weather was fantastic and the event was well attended. I would like to thank everyone who helped move supplies to the spots where we set up, helped pitch in where we needed help, and sold food. We would not be successful without the efforts of many.

We are putting the final pieces together for the Autumn Ex-

press (10/12) and the Annual Members Dinner (12/3). For the Autumn Express, Kathy Green is working out the details with Old Schoolhouse Catering for the meal at A.I. Root. Although we will have the same menu as last year that everyone enjoys, Kathy has to make sure the correct numbers are communicated to the caterer. Kathy plans and prepares the First Class food for the journey to and from Medina and coordinates the serving of First Class passengers on the train for those who purchase the buffet-style meal, with our caterer. She is working on assembling her crew, as well as, seeking small items from local merchants to give to her passengers as take-aways. If any member would be interested in working to help serve our First Class passengers on the Autumn Express, please let me know. Some of our regular First Class volunteers are assuming other duties or have personal commitments and will not be available for this trip. Kathy could use the help. Remember - all food service volunteers must meet the safety training requirement!

The Autumn Express will also have entertainment on board. Wayne County's own "Keepsake" will take passengers back to those memorable days of yesterday when they stroll through the train harmonizing to songs from yesterday to music from legends. Whether it's gospel, a little bit country, the Fabulous 50's, show tunes, patriotic, or a trip-down-memory-lane songs, our passengers will enjoy this female trio made up of Kim Beckler, Shirley Wharton, and LaDeane Knapp. I have heard and seen these ladies perform several times at different events. They do a beautiful version of the Star Spangled Banner. If you are on this trip, you will hear them singing throughout the train.



Keepsake members (l to r):  
Kim Beckler, LaDeane Knapp and  
Shirley Wharton

### "KEEPSAKE"

Performing Musical Treasures of the Past  
(330) 698-2554

## Operation Lifesaver News

By Bill Engel

Summer time when school is out of session is a slow time for our OL program. When school resumes at the end of August/early September Sandy Engel will be confirming the fall schedule of Operation Lifesaver safety trains. At present they are scheduled for the week of October 21. If you are interested in being a host on one of these trips please save the date(s) of October 22-25 on your calendar and let Sandy know you want to help.

The June meeting of the Ohio Operation Lifesaver Council was held in Fostoria, Ohio, at the Fostoria Rail Preservation



Society. State Coordinator Steve Friday conducted the meeting. Steve brought council members up to date on the latest developments in the OL volunteer training program. He stated he would like to hold the Council meetings at different venues around Ohio instead of always having them in Columbus so more people can participate. ORHS President John Harding told Steve the ORHS would like to host a meeting at our Depot in Orrville at some future date. In addition to John, ORHS OL Presenters Bill Engel and Kurt Korfhage attended the meeting.

So far this year the ORHS has assisted the W&LE with two Operation Lifesaver Enforcement Trains in Akron. The most recent one was September 10. Look for more news about the enforcement trains on our website.

Please remember to always “Look, Listen, and Live” when you come to the railroad grade crossings

## Departures

By Roger Scott

Richard Huebner of Marshallville passed away on August 26 after a long illness. Richard was a long-time member of ORHS who had a reputation of being able to fix most anything. He will be missed.

## 2014 Excursions & Siding Events

By Bill Engel

Here is the 2014 schedule of Excursions and Siding Events as approved by the Executive Committee. The excursions have been submitted to the W&LE for approval but we are still waiting for their formal OK.

### Excursions

**Saturday, April 12:** Orrville-Spencer-Akron-Canton-Orrville. Depart Orrville 8:30 AM. Arrive Akron 12:00 Noon near Luigi's. Option to have pizza lunch at Luigi's. Depart Akron 3:00 PM, Arrive Orrville 6:00 PM.

**Saturday, October 11:** Orrville-Brewster-Akron-Medina-Orrville. Depart Orrville 8:30 AM, Arrive Medina 1:30 PM, back in at A.I. Root. Depart Medina 4:30 PM, Arrive Orrville 6:00 PM.

**Saturday, November 29 and Saturday December 6:** “Riding with Santa”. Four identical trips each day between Orrville and Lodi. Trips Depart Orrville at 10 AM, Noon, 2 PM and 4 PM. This is subject to W&LE approval and possible time changes due to operating conditions on the railroad.

### Siding Events

**Saturday, May 10:** National Train Day Celebration

**Saturday, August 16:** Orrville Railroad Day

**Saturday, October 25:** Jumpin' Pumpkin Festival

## Member Charity Myers - Soap Box Derby Queen

by Anna Davidson

There is a celebrity among the volunteers in our concession car! Charity Myers, daughter of member Delores Myers and granddaughter of Kaye and Bob Cutting, was chosen as the Wayne - Holmes County Soap Box Derby Queen for this year's competition. A very reliable source told me that Charity was picked because she made the effort to talk to each of the competitors and wish them luck. Charity appeared in the Orrville Fireman's Festival Parade and ORHS member Russell Davidson had the distinct honor of driving Charity in the Fredricksburg July 4th Parade. If you are on the train this fall, stop by and congratulate Charity. We are all very proud of you, Charity!



Charity Meyers, Wayne - Holmes County Soap Box Derby Queen.

## Akron Enforces Grade Crossings

By Eric Schlentner

In June and again in September this summer, the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway ran grade crossing enforcement operations with the City of Akron Police Department. Railroad crews had noted a significant number of vehicles not stopping at crossings in the area when the lights are flashing or the gates were down in order to beat the train through the crossing. Approximately 49 citations were issued to drivers as a result of the operations. This risky maneuver by commuters, delivery drivers and soccer moms is an accident waiting to happen which can have a deadly outcome.

ORHS provided car 103 and video equipment to document the evidence.



Can you spot the police car? He could be waiting for you if you ignore the crossing signals in Akron.  
(Eric Schlentner)

## Recent Donations

### by Roger Scott

Founding member Howard E. Wade has donated a small collectable crystal steam locomotive about three inches long, in a velvet lined storage container. Thanks to Howard for this item, it will go into one of our showcases.

Anna M. Davidson has donated a book, Appetite For America, written by Stephen Fried to our library. It is the story of Fred Harvey and his Harvey House Hotels & Dining Rooms, the first opened in 1875. Over 150 hotels were opened all along the rail routes, with 44 on the Santa Fe railroad alone. The book goes into great detail with dates and times of the opening of each hotel and also the closings. According to the book, there are still four open today, with one at the Grand Canyon. The one in Cleveland opened in 1930 and closed in 1968. The women who staffed the hotels were called Harvey Girls and were held to high standards. A picture shows them posing for inspection. The book has recipes and preparation instructions that may be of interest to our food service crews. Many thanks to Anna for the book.

Jay Lehman of Lehman's Hardware of Kidron has donated some bills of lading for items shipped by rail on the W&LE Railroad to Orrville in 1891 to a Mr. John Willaman & Sons: 14 sacks of flour weighing 600 pounds shipped for 23 cents, and another billing for shipping 2000 pounds of flour for 80 cents. This is interesting, at the time a day's labor may have only been 75 cents.

I don't normally list people who contribute money, however we recently received money for the 3850 from a lady who called several months ago asking how we were doing on that fund raiser, and then started to ask about taxes. I turned her name over to Anna Davidson and indeed she sent a check in memory of her late husband who rode on the 3850, and was on our mailing list. We still have a long way to go to cover the cost of the 3850. Thanks to Renee for getting his name from our files, and to Anna for doing the call backs for this donation. Mr. Engel will send a letter of thanks.

*Thank You Everyone For Your Donations!*

## Coming Events

**October 12: Orrville Autumn Express. 8:30am - 6pm.** In cooperation with the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, we are pleased to offer our 120 mile, five-county circular "Orrville Autumn Express".

The trip will depart Orrville and head southeast through Brewster, Navarre, Canton, Hartville, Mogadore, Akron, Copley and prior to our arrival in Medina we will cross the impressive River Styx Trestle. You will disembark for a three-hour stop-over at The A.I. Root Candle Co. & West Liberty Commons where many passengers enjoy shopping.

Leaving Medina, we'll head west to Spencer, turn south and proceed through Lodi, Creston, Smithville and return to Orrville.

An optional buffet style lunch consisting of two pieces of roasted chicken, red skin potatoes, green beans, roll with butter, cake and beverage.

**October 26: Jumplin' Pumpkin Jamboree. Noon - 4pm.** The ORHS will be hosting our annual "Jumplin' Pumpkin Jamboree". Join us for one mile round trip train and track car rides on the ORHS siding to Orrville Junction and back. Train and track car rides will begin at 12:00 noon with the last ride at 4:00 PM. The train and track cars will be leaving from and returning to the McGill Street boarding area. The Depot and Gift Shop will also be open.

**November 30 & December 7: Riding With Santa.** Our 1-1/2 hour "Riding with Santa" round-trips from Orrville are in conjunction with our Annual Holidays at the Depot. The train departs from 245 McGill Street and return there. During this 40 mile round trip Santa will move through the train to visit with each child and collect their Christmas list. Each child receives a gift bag. Our concession car will be available for light snacks and gift items. Groups who wish to be seated together must purchase their tickets at the same time with one payment. There are no group rates for these trips.

**November 30 & December 7: Holidays at the Depot. 10am - 6pm.** The Depot will be open and decorated for the holidays. There will be refreshments, depot displays, raffle items, and a working train layout. The Depot Gift Shop will be open.

Visit [www.orrwillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrwillerrailroad.com) for more information.

## Volunteers, Anyone?

ORHS is always looking for member volunteers to help us with all kinds of things such as:

- Depot, tower and caboose restoration
- Equipment maintenance
- Concessions
- Excursion hosts
- Fundraising
- Safety
- Special activities
- Marketing
- Education
- General office work

If you have some spare time, like to work with others and talk trains, this could be your ticket. Talk to us at a meeting, call the depot at (330) 683-2426, or send an email to: [request@orrwillerrailroad.com](mailto:request@orrwillerrailroad.com) and let us know what your interests are.

### 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**

Doug Hudson, Niles, OH

*Welcome aboard!*

#### **Save the 3850 Campaign**

##### **\$0 to \$50**

Julie Ziegman Hood: In memory of Richard Huebner  
Audrey Hose  
Betty Jewel

##### **\$1,000+**

Barbara Mulcahy: In memory of Tim Mulcahy

### December Membership Meeting

We are planning to do something a little different for this years membership dinner meeting on December 3. Under consideration are: Entertainment and snacks during the meet and greet, a guest speaker, and catered buffet dinner. There may be a modest charge to cover the cost of the above and reservations will be required.

Regular membership business will be conducted after the dinner including the election of officers for 2014 so please plan to attend.

Watch our website for more information as it becomes available.

Visit our website for a full calendar of events and meeting dates.  
[www.orrvillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrvillerrailroad.com)

### Orrville Railroad Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 11  
145 Depot Street  
Orrville, Ohio 44667-0011  
Phone: 330.683.2426  
Email: [questions@orrvillerrailroad.com](mailto:questions@orrvillerrailroad.com)  
Web: [www.orrvillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrvillerrailroad.com)  
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#### **2013 Executive Committee**

##### **Chairman**

Adrian Eskew

##### **President**

John Harding

##### **Vice President**

Anna Davidson

##### **Secretary**

Tom Jaite

##### **Treasurer**

Bill Engel

##### **Chairman Emeritus**

Howard Wade

##### **Board Members**

Glenn Bowman, Lynn Butts, Bob Cutting, Sandy Engel,  
Lee Fitzsimmons, Ed Hershey, Russell Jaite, Kurt Korfhage,  
Eric Schlentner, Roger Scott



#### **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 Loneliest Outpost:** *ORHS member Mike Miller mans the west siding switch during the Orrville Railroad Days event. Though away from the festivities, this crucial job allows the train and track cars to run up to Orrville Junction.* (Eric Schlentner)

2013-3

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Orrville Railroad Heritage Society, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 11  
145 Depot Street  
Orrville, Ohio 44667-0011