



# ALL ABOARD

The Official Newsletter of ORHS

Winter 2013-4

## Orrville Autumn Express

By Eric Schlentner



*The Orrville Autumn Express passes by the old feed mill in Hartville on a beautiful October day.*

(Eric Schlentner)

Once again, the weather was great for our Orrville Autumn Express. The day started with clear skies and balmy temperatures - not what you'd expect for Northeast Ohio in October. After a slightly late departure, we quickly made up lost time on our circular route through Brewster, Canton, and Akron to our mid-trip stop in Medina. Thanks goes to A.I. Root Candle Company for hosting our lunch and shopping.

This year's trip featured entertainment on board with a cappella trio "Keepsake" with Kim Beckler, Shirley Wharton, and LaDeane Knapp taking passengers back to yesterday while strolling through the train harmonizing to songs from music legends.



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

After leaving Medina on time, we had a bit of a delay at Spencer due to a balky switch which would allow us to head south towards home. Although we were a bit late in returning to Orrville, this allowed our passengers to view a beautiful fall sunset.



*The Orrville Autumn Express nearing track speed soon after departure from Orrville after clearing the Route 57 crossing.*

(Eric Schlentner)

## Riding with Santa on the Wheeling

By Richard Jacobs

Each year, starting on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Orrville Railroad Heritage Society (ORHS) offers "Riding with Santa" trains. They are operated on the Wheeling's Brewster subdivision from Orrville. Santa and his helpful elves were onboard visiting with the youngsters to chat and obtain their Christmas wish list. Each child received a gift bag of goodies from Santa.



*Santa greets one of the children on a Riding with Santa Excursion.*

(Richard Jacobs)

This year, ORHS also offered onboard entertainment for the delight of all to enhance the Christmas season. Don and Emily Curie read Christmas stories over the train's PA. Harry Arble and "The Voices of Canton" provided Christmas music to enrich the festive atmosphere.

The holiday excursion traveled west past Smithville and Creston toward Lodi and return. This year, the trains had Wheeling & Lake Erie locomotives, one on each end to allow easy return to Orrville without switching.

The passenger car consist was the same for all the weekend's trains; Friday and Sunday for the Wheeling and Saturday for ORHS. This allowed the train to travel to and from Brewster and Orrville and then to Martins Ferry on the Ohio River from Brewster on Sunday without switching any cars.

The train's consist was six ORHS coaches and two first class cars plus car #105, the concession car. ORHS attendants and a mechanical crew were onboard, as well as car 105's crew. ORHS car 105 is a converted Amtrak baggage car that has a food counter and gift shop inside. Popcorn, hot dogs, soda, and other treats were available. Railroad souvenir items such as shirts, calendars, puzzles, books and other gift items were also offered.

## Upcoming Events

- **Spring Excursion: April 26, 8:30 AM to 6:30PM**
- **National Train Day Celebration: May 10, Noon to 4pm**
- **Orrville Railroad Day: August 16, Noon to 4pm**

For more information, see page 6 or call (330) 683-2426 or check our web site Schedule and Calendar pages at [www.orrwillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrwillerrailroad.com)

## Jumpin' Pumpkin

By Eric Schlentner

ORHS held its annual Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree on Saturday, October 26. Though the weather was chilly and breezy, plenty of enthusiasts turned out all day long to ride the train and track cars to Orrville Junction and back and to visit the Depot museum. Warm beverages sold well at the Concession Car which was parked next to the McGill Street boarding area.



*Young riders warm up in the 103 as they take a ride to Orrville Junction.*  
(Eric Schlentner)

## Home for the Holidays

By Richard Jacobs

ORHS has participated for fourteen years in Orrville's annual "Home for the Holidays" celebration on Thanksgiving weekend. Friday, November 29, the former 1868 Pennsylvania Railroad depot was open from 5 to 9 PM. The depot had a Christmas greeting outside and the Christmas spirit inside with a tree and holiday trimmings.

Visitors were treated to cookies, popcorn and hot chocolate. Kids of all ages were thrilled by the model train layout. Visitors gazed at the many Orrville and Ohio railroad displays. The Gift Shop was open for selected Christmas presents and railroad souvenirs. ORHS members and friends provided greetings along with information about the many historical railroad items displayed.

ORHS has been presenting local celebrations since 1981. The society was formed in 1978 and obtained the 1868 Orrville Union Depot from Conrail in 1982. It was scheduled for demolition by Conrail at that time. It no longer saw passenger trains; the last one stopped in Orrville in 1968. Penn Central, Conrail's predecessor, operated the former Pennsylvania mainline from Pittsburgh to Chicago at that time.

Today trains still operate from Orrville! The ORHS operates several excursions each year from their passenger loading site at 245 McGill Street. The first ORHS passenger train excursion was held in 1982 when a train was operated to Bellevue for the Cherry Blossom Festival. ORHS also presents several local railroad activities at the McGill Street location, such as Na-

tional Train Day, Railroad Day and Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree. Train and track car rides are offered.

The Orrville Union Depot Museum was listed in 2011 on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Orrville Downtown Historic District.



*Visitors stop to enjoy a few snacks while visiting the Depot during Home for the Holidays.*  
(Richard Jacobs)

## Membership Dinner

By Eric Schlentner

Our 2013 Membership dinner was held on the evening of December 3 and was well attended. Delicious food was provided by Old Schoolhouse catering. Our guest speaker, Bill Snyder, author of *The Rattlesnake* and *the Ramsey - the Story of the Lorain, Ashland & Southern* provided us with an interesting overview of a little known and short lived local railroad. Regular business was discussed with inclusion of voting for the 2014 officers, results of which are: Lee Fitzsimmons, Chairman; John Harding, President; Anna Davidson, Vice President; Sandy Engel Secretary; and Bill Engel, Treasurer. The 2013 Member of the year award went to Eric Schlentner for his role in updating our internet presence and overall marketing of ORHS.



*The elected 2014 Executive Committee (left to right): Lee Fitzsimmons, Chairman; Sandy Engel, Secretary; Bill Engel, Treasurer; John Harding, President; Anna Davidson, Vice President.*  
(Richard Jacobs)

## Treasurer's Report

By Bill Engel

2013 was a better year financially for the ORHS than 2012. All current bills are paid, and we have repaid the \$12,000, plus interest, owed to founding member Howard Wade on the loan he made to the ORHS so we could complete the purchase of Larry Marshall's #3850 car in a timely manner. Altogether we ended the year with a surplus of income over expenses, and had slightly over \$6,000 more in our checking account on December 31, 2013 than in 2012! 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 2013. Please note these percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Excursions*	72%	Excursions	44%
Coach lease	15%	Insurance	14%
Contributions**	4%	Rail Equipment	10%
Food & Gift Sales	5%	Rail Siding	2%
Dues	2%	Food & Gift Mdse.	3%
All other	2%	Depot Related	2%
		Utilities	4%
		Audit & Tax prep.	1%
		Membership	1%
		All other	19%

\* The Excursions category includes short train and track car rides on our festival days.

\*\* Contributions includes donations to our Save the 3850 Campaign.

The "All other" category may seem high at 19% 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 19% 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 November.

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 replenish the \$12,000 we took from the treasury to repay the loan from Howard Wade.

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.

## Passenger Rail Update

By Bill Engel

Amtrak will begin taking delivery of new single level passenger cars during 2014. There are 130 cars on order of four types, 55 baggage cars, 25 baggage-dormitory cars, 25 dining cars, and 25 sleeping cars. Exteriors are similar to the Viewliner Sleeping cars now in service. This writer had a chance to ride and eat a meal in the prototype of the dining car and it was really sharp! The new baggage cars will see service system wide. The remaining cars are for the long distance trains serving New York City.

A new national Amtrak timetable went into effect on January 13. Locally, one can obtain a copy at the Cleveland Amtrak Station. But be aware-hours at the station have changed! The station is only open during the day on Friday and Saturday, and closes at 3:30 PM. It remains open at night for train arrivals and departures. There are no changes to times at Cleveland for either the Capitol Limited or Lake Shore Limited. May 1 will mark the 43rd 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 a downtown loop streetcar system in Cincinnati. Various delays to the construction schedule means service may not start until 2016.

## Spring Excursion Coming Up

By Eric Schlentner

Our first public event, the annual spring excursion, will be run on April 26, 2014. As with our Riding with Santa trains, we'll be doing something a little different. It will still be the grand circle as previous trips but we'll be running in the opposite direction. We'll travel through woods, farms, urban and industrial areas so there will be something interesting to see for everyone.

The trip will depart from Orrville and then proceed northwest through Smithville, Creston, Lodi and Spencer. At Spencer, we'll reverse our direction of travel and proceed east through Medina and Cop-



Crossing the River Styx trestle, spring of 2013. (Richard Jacobs)

ley to our afternoon stop at Akron-Northside for an approximate 3 hour layover. Departing Akron, we'll travel through Mogadore, Hartsville, Canton, Navarre and Brewster returning to Orrville.

During the layover, lunch will be provided by local favorite, Luigi's Restaurant consisting of two slices of pizza, salad and a soft drink. We're also working with some of the nearby shops and attractions to accommodate our travelers. Watch our website for more details to be added as they become available.

## Presidents Peal

By John Harding

So one more year has flown by to who knows where. It was my privilege to serve as your President for the year 2013. I would like to thank each and every member for taking the time to keep this organization running on an even keel. I also wish to thank all of the Officers and members of the Executive Committee for taking time out of their busy schedules to guide us in our time on the rails and at the depot as well as on the siding.

We hope everyone will enjoy the new format for the ORHS Annual Meeting and look forward to a spirited election process. Hopefully a new voice or two is willing to do more than say how they think things should be done and are willing to come forward and lead the organization to another outstanding year or even more.

Our excursions and siding events keep us going and it is our enthusiasm for these events that people pick up on and which keeps them coming back. On the siding events in particular we find ourselves in need of people willing to go through the training needed to safely operate the #471. Lynn Butts will be offering training classes for this in March of 2014 so keep your eyes open for that.

On that note I bid you all a Blessed New Year and I look forward to helping run the rust off the rails in 2014. Thanks again for all of your hard work and dedication to making the ORHS an organization to be proud of.

## Operation Lifesaver News

By Bill Engel

Spring 2014 will be the seventeenth year of ORHS participation in Operation Lifesaver student safety trains. This year the trains are tentatively scheduled to run during the week of May 12<sup>th</sup> which is the week following our National Train Day Celebration at the Depot. This will be a busy time since the trains that had to be cancelled in the fall of 2013 will run as well as our usual spring schedule. 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 2014 following our fall excursion.

A great big thank you goes out to all who assisted with our safety trains in 2013. It was disappointing that the fall trains in October had to be rescheduled. We should be able to fit most



of the fall districts into the spring schedule. At the state level there is a new State Coordinator. Her name is Gena Shelton. We look forward to meeting her sometime during 2014 and possibly having her ride one of our safety trains.

For info on Ohio Operation Lifesaver, check the website: [www.ohol.org](http://www.ohol.org). For more info about Operation Lifesaver nationally their website is [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org).

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

## Departures

By Roger Scott

The following ORHS members have passed away since our last newsletter.

Al Moss of Wooster, Al used to staff our switch block control tower during our open houses. Al was a tower operator with Penn Central and Conrail.

Life member Helen Runion, during our early years Virgil & Helen Runion donated the chairs for our museum.

Wooster resident Ross Schoolroy was a member for a short time.

Ralph Shaffer of Homerville died Sat. Nov. 9th. Ralph participated in most of our events, always a willing helper. He also took the time to clip newspaper & magazine articles on railroad events and mailed them to our office for our bulletin boards. Ralph was also a member of the Lodi Railroad museum & helped with our Santa train promotions in the Lodi area. He will be missed by ORHS

Life member Genevieve Smith of Akron

William Bloss of Ashland

Ralph McCormick of North Canton passed away in August, his wife Jane has contacted us to inform us of his death, Ralph liked to ride in our first class car 3850.

Dorothea Ralston, long time life member, Dorothea and her husband Walter were probably H.E. Wade's first recruits. Dorothea held the position of treasurer for a good many years in the mid 1980's.



## Food for Thought from the 105

By Anna Davidson

Many “Thank You’s!” all around for the help during 2013, especially during the Fall Trip/Events, the WLE Employee trips, and the Santa Trains. It takes lots of hands to get everything planned, bought, picked up, loaded, cooked, and sold. Special Thank You’s to:

- Barb Cormell – my right-hand partner for more than 35 years
- Kathy Green – my First Class, first class coordinator and Christmas Banquet Chief
- Russ Davidson – for all the Sams runs and support
- Luella Miller – for your willingness and readiness to work with a smile
- Delores Myers – our fastest hot dog cooker
- Charity Myers – for helping with food and gift sales
- Ross Robart – for helping me load the car in the dark, in the rain, in the frozen tundra....
- Roger Scott – for brewing all the coffee and making the HOT water for us

We look forward to 2014 with a new spring trip destination.



The 105 is prepared for departure on the W&LE employee special on November 29. (Eric Schlentner)

## Ohio Rail Tourism News

By Bill Engel

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Rail Tourism Association will be hosted by the ORHS on Saturday, April 5. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other groups like ours from around Ohio. Watch the ORTA website at [www.ohiorailtourism.org](http://www.ohiorailtourism.org) or see Bill Engel for details.



## From the Siding

by Lynn Butts

Winter is upon us and every thing has been put to bed but soon things will begin to buzz. Now is the time we begin to plan for our up coming events and one thing will be training. We want to be at our very best and conduct ourselves in a very professional and safe way. Safety is our #1 priority followed by training as we can not let ourselves get lax in our duties or responsibilities. We hold a high rating with the railroads that we work with as they know we hold ourselves to a high standard through training and planning. They even use us as an example to others on how to operate in a safe and professional way.

On Saturday, March 22 at 9AM at the depot we will be holding a training class. The Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway has been invited to help out with the book of rules and anything that they feel is important. We will be going over our book of rules, engine operating, switching, air brakes and safety rules.

We are looking for people that are interested in operating our locomotive. When it is back in service this spring, we will have a hands-on class for switching cars, engine maintenance and track inspection. You must be at least 21 years of age, a member in good standing, attended safety and operating rules training and be approved by the committee. If you are interested in learning please contact us at the depot and leave your name and phone number.

Anyone that works on the siding and is involved with our cars is also requested to attend the training class. Please call the depot at (330) 683-2426 and make a reservation so we know how many will attend.



The control stand in the 471. (Doc Higgins)



## Orrville Group Shoots Music Video

By Eric Schlentner

Christian contemporary rock group Shine Bright Baby filmed part of their latest upcoming music video "Love Restores" on our coach 104 in mid January in support their debut album *Dreamers*. The group, based out of Orrville, consists of Emily Fertig, Nathan Fertig, Joshua Fink and Karl Wendel. Their music is a mix of pop, rock and modern worship. Their first national tour runs from January through May. For more information on Shine Bright Baby, visit their website at [www.shinebrightbaby.com](http://www.shinebrightbaby.com).



Videographer Grant Smucker of Columbus films lead singer Emily Fertig for Shine Bright Baby's Love Restores video.

(Eric Schlentner)

## Recent Donations

by Roger Scott

Howard E. Wade has donated a complete set of dining car dishes, over 100 pieces. At first we thought we would use them in the 3850, but they are too nice for that as they are museum pieces. Howard also donated a hard cover book titled *Trail of Iron* it is a history of the Canadian Pacific Railway, by McKee & Klassen, historians, written in 1983.

Orrville area resident Dean Sommers donated a series of photos taken in the Orr railroad yards during major renovations to the turntable in the mid 1940's. Dean also donated 15 railfan books for our library. These are large coffee table books with lots of large rail related photos. Dean has donated items of interest in the past, and has given us permission to sell any duplicates thru our gift shop. Member Kaye Cutting has been able to keep up with the book index for our library.

Long time member Dennis Deeser has donated a large lamp reported to be used on the front of a locomotive. This lamp has been completely restored, it appears to be designed as a multi purpose lamp, as it can stand or hang on hooks. A look in one

of our showcases shows a much smaller version of this lamp. It is a coal oil lamp with a mirror behind the flame. My guess is it is at least 130 years old. We always appreciate items for our museum, to enlarge our displays.

Mrs. Tom Fowler of Brecksville has donated 5 or 6 large cartons of all types of railroad items, mostly lanterns pieces & parts. A lot of globes. Kaye Cutting is still doing an inventory of the parts. Tom Fowler passed away some years ago and had donated items in the past.

Member Richard Conrad has donated a copy of railroad script laminated in plastic, this is a copy of the original, but still interesting to look at.

*Thank You Everyone For Your Donations!*

## Coming Events

**Spring Excursion.** Saturday, April 26, 2014, 8:30AM to 6:30PM. This excursion will depart from Orrville in Wayne County, stop in Akron for lunch, and return to Orrville.

**National Train Day Celebration.** Saturday, May 10, 2014, 10 AM to 4 PM. 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.

**Orrville Railroad Day.** Saturday, August 16, 2014, 10 AM to 4 PM. 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.

**Orrville Autumn Express.** Saturday, October 11, 2014, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. This excursion will depart from Orrville in Wayne County, stop in Medina for lunch, and return to Orrville.

**Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree.** Saturday October 26, 2014. 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.

**Riding with Santa.** Saturday, November 29 and Saturday, December 6, 2014. 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. On-board entertainment included.

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

[www.orrvillerrailroad.com](http://www.orrvillerrailroad.com)

### 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@orrville railroad.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

Debbie Murry of Martins Ferry, OH  
Michael Graora, Sr, Newburgh Heights, OH  
Michael Graora family, Newburgh Heights, OH  
Tamara Warren, Wooster, OH  
Walt Heeney, Stow, OH

*Welcome aboard!*

### Orrville Railroad Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 11  
145 Depot Street  
Orrville, Ohio 44667-0011  
Phone: 330.683.2426  
Email: questions@orrville railroad.com  
Web: www.orrville railroad.com  
Find us on Facebook

#### 2014 Executive Committee

##### **Chairman**

Lee Fitzsimmons

##### **President**

John Harding

##### **Vice President**

Anna Davidson

##### **Secretary**

Sandy Engel

##### **Treasurer**

Bill Engel

##### **Chairman Emeritus**

Howard Wade

##### **Board Members**

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



#### **2014 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



**Awaiting Departure.** *ORHS member Steve Magier takes a short break before the departure of the Orrville Autumn Express. As our excursion Trainmaster, Steve is responsible for ensuring everything onboard runs smoothly.*

(Eric Schlentner)

2013-4

Place  
Stamp  
Here

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