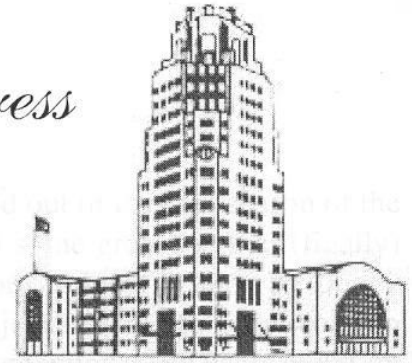


Empire State Express

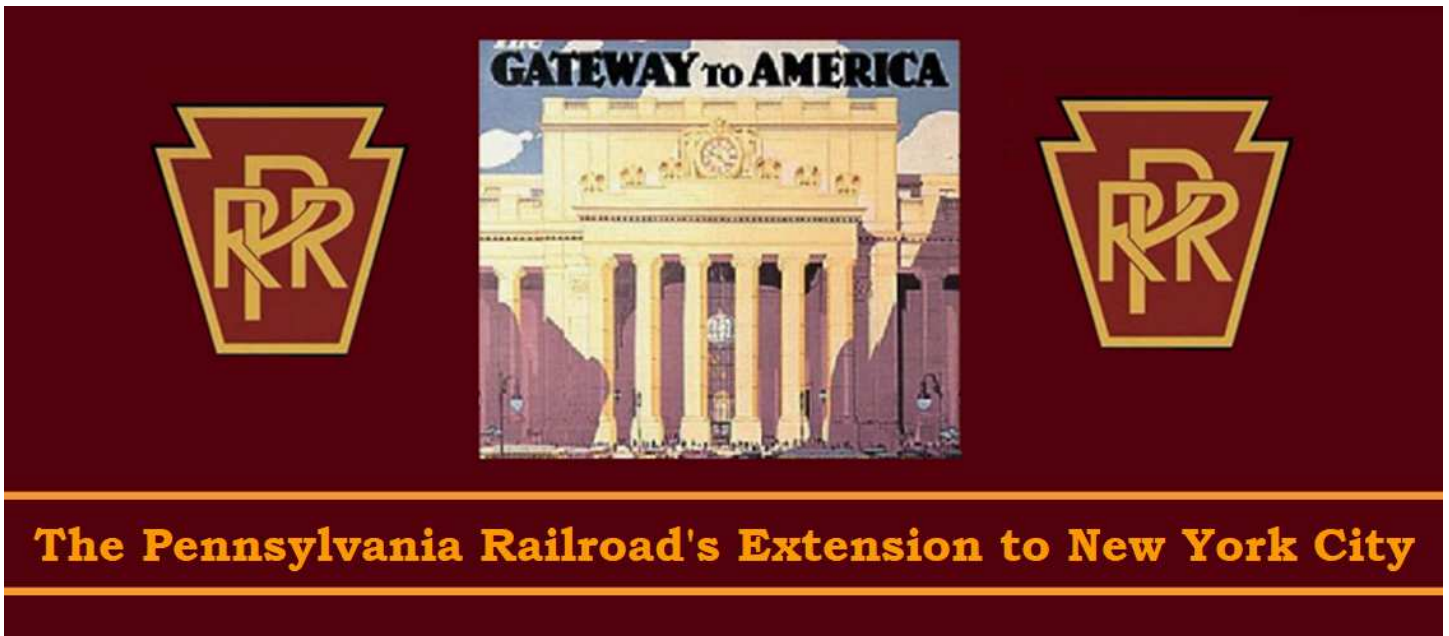


April 2021

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

Editor: John C. Dahl Email nfcnrhs@gmail.com

The meeting of the Chapter is scheduled for Friday April 9, 2021. Social distancing and masks are required as we follow NY State mandated safety protocols due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



It is 1899, and Alexander J. Cassatt has become the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He decides to extend the Pennsylvania into Manhattan, effectively undertaking an invasion of the capital of arch-rival New York Central. Over the next decade Cassatt and his successor, Samuel Rea, create and direct one of the greatest and most costly railroad construction projects in American history, including the building of what was arguably the finest railroad station in the world. Tonight's program will cover the old terminal in Jersey City; the new electrified line through New York City, including its six underwater tunnels; the largest passenger train yard in the world at Sunnyside on Long Island; and of course the late, great Pennsylvania Station itself.

All aboard with your presenter, Tony Schill.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello again! Spring is here! I feel like we have waited an extra twelve months for it to come this time. We are having monthly meetings again. There is beginning to be some continuity to the flow of Life. The big topic seems to be vaccinations, who got them and from where. This months meeting will feature a Tony Schill program that was scheduled last year. The May program is still being finalized. We will do Members Night for June. If you were going to present back in December, dust off your stuff and let's see it!

There are some neat things in the works for fall, more about those later. Due to the ongoing work at Central Terminal, we will not be meeting there in June. The meeting will be at the De Graff Community Center, our usual place. Depending on how the work goes, maybe we can meet at the Terminal in September or October.

We will just have to wait and see.

We have our Chiavettas Chicken BBQ coming up on Saturday, May 15th. Please support this fund raising activity, we have lost so many other opportunities to the Covid Pandemic.

The tentative opening date for the Museum is Saturday, June 5th. This depends on a number of things, some of them out of our control. One can only hope that the State of New York will relax their restrictions enough by then. We have had several inquiries about visits to the Museum. We need to do some cleaning in the building and some display work. The usual Saturday work sessions have been going on for many weeks now. We are very fortunate in that our members have been very generous with their donations during this trying time.

The ADA compliance project has made some progress. We have chosen a contractor to build the deck that will be next to the lift outside door number one. Once that is complete, perhaps later this month, we can call Sheridan Surgical to come and install the lift. Then the only thing left to do would be the upgrade to the bathroom.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Don't forget your mask. Thanks to Bruce who will supervise the necessary protocols, temperature check, distance between seats, masks on, etc. Thanks also to the others who just show up and make it happen; Lonn Wilson with the sound system, Al LeTeste who picks up and returns the key and opens the building, Greg Gerstung who arranges for the projection equipment.

Jim Ball

“SCENE” ON THE LINE - some scenes near Buffalo’s Parkside Avenue overpass on the Belt line – all photos and information by Larry Gustina



A somewhat grungy Canadian Pacific train heads east, March 18, 2020.



Daily Canadian National transfer is framed on the viaduct - heading to either Frontier or Babcock Street. April 7, 2020.

“SCENE” ON THE LINE - continued



A “rare” sighting: CP Military Heritage unit heading to Frontier Yard, April 15, 2020.



Norfolk Southern’s afternoon transfer to Ft. Erie is heading west to the International Bridge. This scene is near the Parkside Ave. viaduct. These NS transfers usually run left handed on the Belt line. October 5, 2018.



ABOUT PHOTOS AND ARTICLES FOR THE EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS

The Empire State Express is always in need of material to fill its pages, **but quality counts**, and as your Editor I cannot print just ‘any old stuff’ that may come our way. Photos must not be copyrighted. Photos must be at least in a 300 DPI (dots per inch) format to be able to be printed in a viewable size greater than a “thumbnail preview”. JPG or TIFF format is preferred. Please **DO NOT** send me stuff you lifted or copied off Internet web sites or “Xeroxed” copies. We do not want to violate copyright laws and the low resolution of web page or Xerox-copy pictures is a killer when trying to render decent looking print.

Original articles are always welcome, but please, do not expect your editor to be your “ghost writer”, “fact finder”, “fact checker” and free “re-write” resource. I welcome all articles, but please ‘*do your homework*’ before submitting material.

We now live mainly in an age where online media dominates. The ESX is perhaps an ‘old school’ publication and we will have to adapt to changing times. Without your help in providing material there will be no ESX.

Artwork: from a WWII era dining car menu of the Empire State Express. “V” for Victory! Collection JCD

CHICKEN BBQ IN MAY

The Chapter is sponsoring a Chiavetta Chicken BBQ on Saturday, May 15. As always this is a drive thru, take out operation. Volunteers to help are needed. These events are important fun raisers to keep your Chapter and museum above water. Dinners ready at 11:30 AM until sold out.



ON THE TRACK AHEAD

We need programs for both May & June 2021, as well as the Fall 2021 season. As Covid conditions permit, we hope to be able to hold meetings and need programs to offer. Obviously, conditions are still very unsettled and subject to last minute change. Please continue to review the Chapter web site pages for latest information.

Left: Pennsylvania Railroad 4-6-2 (possibly #3738) with the Buffalo to Washington Day Express drifts into Arcade NY circa 1940. Photo by: William Modinger; Brian Angevine Collection

CHAPTER CALENDAR

- APR 9** Regular meeting. Program by Tony Schill, The Pennsylvania RR's Extension to New York City.
- MAY 14** Regular meeting. Program to be announced.
- MAY 15** Chiavetta Chicken BBQ fundraiser at the Station, Drive in, Take Out.
- JUN 11** Regular meeting. Program to be announced.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) publicly supported organization. Contributions may be deductible for income tax purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service.

***** IMPORTANT REMINDERS ***** If you receive hardcopy of the ESX and your mailing address changes, please send to the attention of Neal Kerin so that your Empire State Express can be addressed properly. Likewise, if your email address changes for any reason, please let Tony Schill know by sending it to the nfcrhs@gmail.com THANK YOU

The Empire State Express is mailed free to all members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. Anyone who is not a Chapter / NRHS member may receive *The Empire State Express* by mail at a subscription rate of \$35.00 a year postpaid, e-mail rate \$25.00. Please contact the Chapter at PO Box 1043, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for details.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

The Empire State Express
 NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.
 POST OFFICE BOX 1043
 NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120