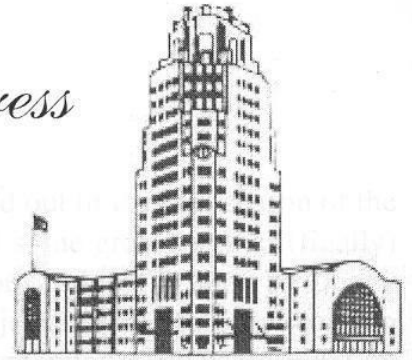


# Empire State Express



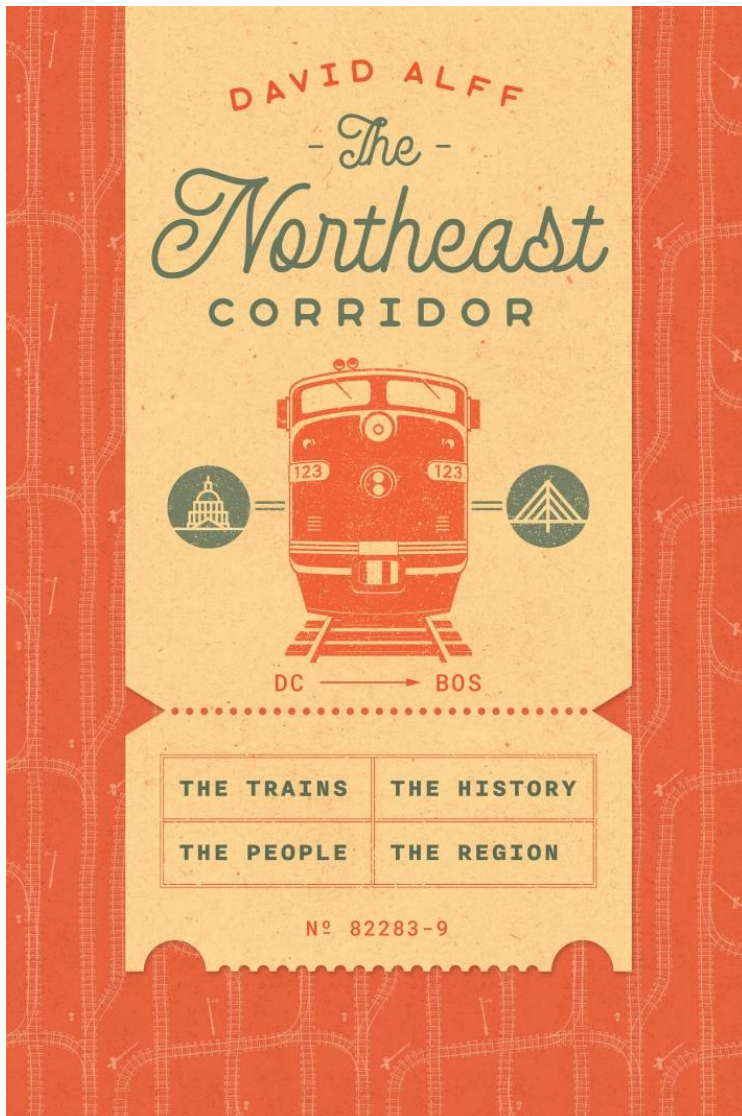
**FEBRUARY 2025**

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, February 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Town of Wheatfield Community / Senior Center, 2790 Church Road, North Tonawanda NY. Follow Rt 62 north to Ward Rd, turn left onto Ward Road and turn right onto Church Road.

## THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR



University at Buffalo professor David Alff will present a look at what we now call the Northeast Corridor, the area of the United States most densely travelled by passenger trains.

David's new book offers the first comprehensive history of America's most important inter-city passenger railroad, and the region it built. It shows how a fistful of train tracks transformed America's Atlantic shoreline into a political capital, a global financial hub, and home to fifty million people. *The Northeast Corridor* reveals how freight trains, commuter rail, and Amtrak influenced—and in turn were shaped by—centuries of American industrial expansion, metropolitan growth, downtown decline, and revitalization. In this talk, I will discuss how I came to research the corridor, what I learned while writing the book, and how I hope it can spark conversations within and beyond the rail heritage community.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First off, thanks to Bruce Becker for running the January meeting. I still have not managed to master the art of being in two places at one time. It's good to have such talented backup in the group.

Congratulations to Neil Keirn on his retirement from The Falls Road Railroad. Details of his last run appeared on Facebook and in the Lockport Sun newspaper.

Restoration wise, the plumbing crew installed hot (and cold) water pipes to the area under the "utility room" in the south end. We have had the sink standing around in the basement for many years. Once the project is finished, it will give us easier cleaning in the station and access to water outside around the east side of the building. In the past that had meant

dragging a hundred feet of hose out (and putting it away) every time we wanted to do something.

Planning for the near and not so near future, we have submitted a grant request to National for money to purchase the items needed to restore the 25-ton GE locomotive. Hopefully they will see fit to fund that.

Something that I'll bet few have thought of; we have received over 500 used ties from CSX over the last year. If we value these at half the price of new ties (new ones are \$60.00 each) that works out to be \$21,000 in materials that we didn't have to pay for. We will, however, be buying some more ballast and hardware. We have already received the order of spikes that we purchased. The track crew can't wait for grass and the trees to go green again.

The annual Chapter Banquet will be held Saturday, March 22. The Program will be spectacular; I have had a sneak preview! If you have items for the raffle, please get them to Nancy Andrycha. Somewhere in the spring we will hold another Historic Marker Unveiling, this one for our station. You are all invited to the unveiling ceremony. We will let you know as soon as the date is selected.

If you have not already done so, please send in your renewals as soon as you can; we don't want to lose anyone.

The Calendar Committee is again accepting images for consideration for the 2026 Chapter Calendar. Bob Andrycha and Greg Gerstung will be glad to see what you might submit and will be glad to guide you as to what makes a great Calendar shot. As always, if your photo is selected for use in the Calendar, you will receive a free Calendar. I am advised that there are still 2025 Calendars available if you didn't get one.

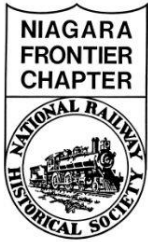
I hope that you are all inside where it is warm and safe as you read this. Now that we have actual winter, there exists the possibility that we might need to cancel the meeting. We have contracted a plow service to have the Museum open on Saturdays. So far that is proving to be a good deal. We publish that the Museum is open on the first Saturday of the month after the regular season is over. If the need to cancel the Monthly Meeting should arise, please look to Channel 2 on your TV. On the radio listen in to WGR 550AM, Oldies 104.1FM or WYRK 106.5FM. We will try to make the decision early enough to make the 5pm broadcasts. When in doubt, err on the side of caution.

See you at the meeting or at the Museum.

*Jim Ball*

# NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Invites You To Their*



## 85th ANNUAL BANQUET Saturday, March 22, 2025



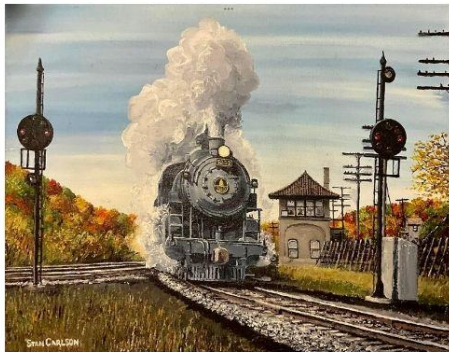
**Unitarian Church Of Amherst Social Hall  
6320 Main Street - Williamsville, NY 14221**



**11:30 am Beverages/Snacks - Silent Auction/50-50 - 12:15 pm Luncheon  
Presentations & Program Following Lunch**

### **Buffet Style Luncheon**

**Featuring Sliced Ham, Chicken Marsala, Baked Ziti, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Coffee/Tea & Dessert  
\$25.00 per person**



### **Banquet Program**

## **The B&O Films Of James VanBrocklin**

*Enjoy newly digitized & remastered films taken by  
noted area rail enthusiast James VanBrocklin*

*Prepared & Presented by Aaron Heverin*

**Reservations must be received with full remittance no later than Saturday, March 15, 2025**

Note: No tickets/confirmations will be mailed. You pick up your tickets at the door!

For more information contact Nancy Andrycha at 716-442-5222



**Reservations By Credit/Debit Card  
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**Reservation Coupon - Niagara Frontier Chapter Annual Banquet March 22, 2025**

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## SCENE ON THE LINE



*Photo: Anton Schwarzmuller.*

Chapter Membership Secretary and former Chapter President Neil Keirn retired from the Falls Road Railroad this past January. Now more than a decade ago, we look back on October 23, 2010 he's on duty in the locomotive cab at Medina for an excursion operation. The two boys out train watching with their dad on that autumn day are Thomas and Zachary Schwarzmuller.



**SCENE ON THE LINE – continued**

***Buffalo Snowstorms - “Lake Effect - 2025 Edition – by Larry Gustina”***



*Both Photos: Larry Gustina.*



Above: Larry writes: “While passing under the Belt Line bridge over the Rt 33/Rt 198 interchange - there was a train stopped on track 1, so I backtracked to Urban St - and here is what I found! Not positive, BUT this “might” be the very late running daily CP Montreal to Chicago stack train! It has three wide cabs; the third locomotive is an NS unit. Looks pretty neat in the falling snow next to the Milk Bone Plant.”  
January 16, 2025

Left: “This afternoon (January 21, 2025) looking south from the Porter Ave overpass - waiting for # 63 in a blizzard.”

## Sam Herrington, John Prophet, Charlie Erler, Henry Schrieber and the "Boulder Park" Railroad – Submitted by Bob Andrycha

### Railroader's Dream Line

Story by Margaret Fess

Photos by Art Melgier

Samuel E. Herrington, a New York Central signalman, always dreamed of owning his own railroad line and now he does. It is the Boulder Park R. R. which snorts and puffs along its scenic route right past Boulder Dam. However, this Boulder Dam is not in Colorado but on Route 77 near Indian Falls. In partnership with Herrington are three other New York Central men, Joseph Prophet, III, a station clerk, 55 Meadow Rd.; Charles Erler, 179 Coronation Dr., Eggertsville, and Henry Schrieber, 187 Mill St., Williamsville. The crew of four serve as engineers, firemen, engine wipers, repairmen, hustlers and track laborers. Other railroad men, from as far away as Rochester, hang around the repair shop eagerly awaiting a chance to donate their services at the throttle. All are live-steam fans who can't bear to see the soot, smoke and cinders

disappear from the scene. Although the men built and designed the 14-gauge railroad for children, more than half of the passengers are young-of-heart adults who whoop with delight as the steam whistle shrieks while the train makes a sharp curve. Originally the line was set up in a field next to Herrington's home in S. Newstead Rd., Town of Newstead. This spring the railroaders moved it to the more scenic spot at Boulder Park. This is reached by turning north off Main St. into Route 77, which is just west of E. Pembroke. Passengers are charged a small fare to pay actual operating expenses and build up a reserve to make Herrington's next dream come true. It is his hope to some day have a whole railroad city with an adjacent railroad museum. This photo series shows the Herrington miniature rail line in action.

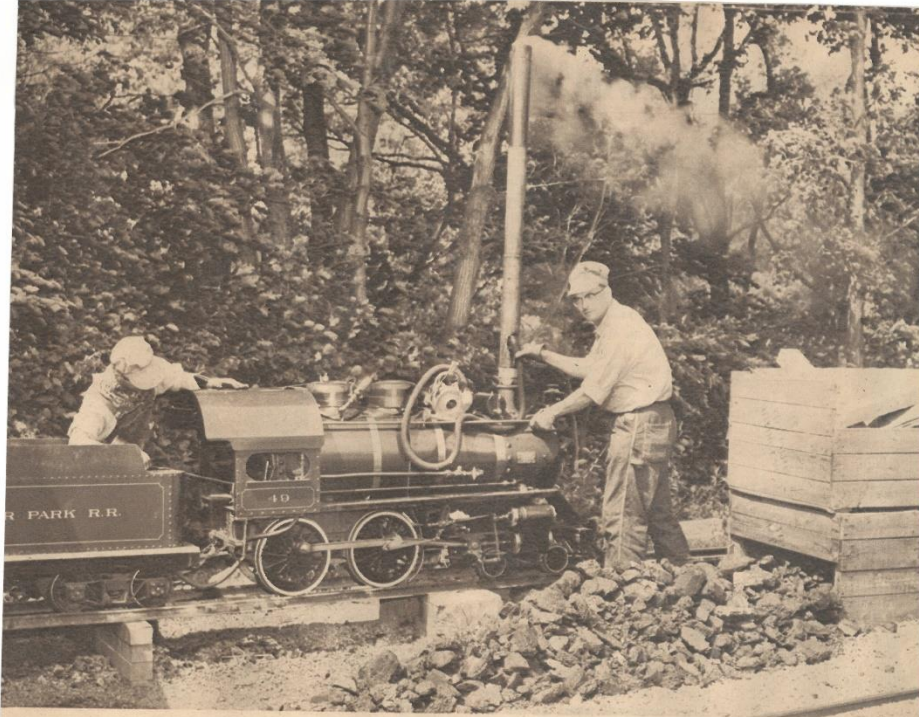


**BASEMENT WORKSHOP** in Herrington's home is a fairyland of tiny trains. On the board, which extends all around the room, there is 2,000 feet of track, with space to enlarge to 6,000 feet. Herrington builds and operates all types of miniatures. Here, in the rear, is a New York Central Niagara type 4-8-4, and in front, an Erie 0-8-0 switcher. **CONTINUED**



**HERRINGTON FIRES UP** a treasured antique, a 1916 monster of a tractor, to blow his collection of antique locomotive whistles. Neighbors say the whistles can be heard three or four miles away. **CONTINUED**

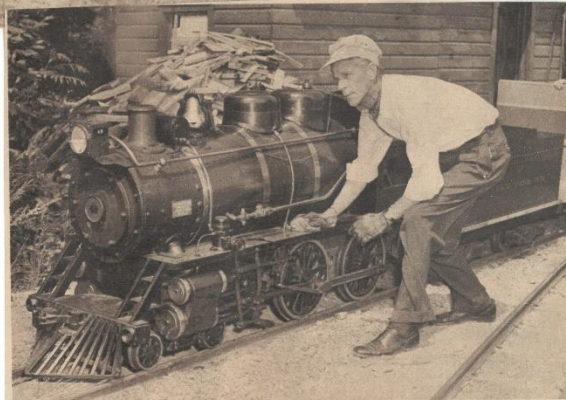
# “Boulder Park” Railroad – continued



**IT TAKES INGENUITY** to get up a head of steam fast on the little locomotive. A piece of old pipe and a cast-off vacuum cleaner create a draft. Prophet manipulates the vacuum while Erier stirs the fire.



**ENGINEER PROPHET** pulls the throttle for the around-the-loop take off. The bell clangs, the whistle shrieks and cinders fly as the train forges on, full steam ahead. Capacity of cars is four adults, and as many children as can be crowded in together. It took the railroad hobbyists one month to build the road bed and lay the mile of track through the woods.



**A GOOD ENGINEER** wants a spotless engine. Here, Hank Schreiber serves his turn as an engine wiper. Brand new, a steam locomotive of this type costs around \$8,000.

## “Boulder Park” Railroad – continued



Editor note: The above article appeared in a local newspaper (we’re not sure which one) many decades ago. Unfortunately the date and source was omitted. It was found in an old clipping file by Bob Andrycha. If anyone can fill in more details about the one time live-steam railroad operated by these gentlemen, all of which were well known members of our organization, please send them to the editor and we will print an update. There were additional photos but unfortunately, we do not have space to reprint in ESX.

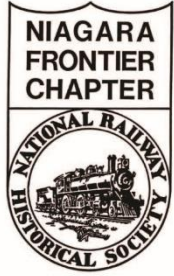
## **2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW UNDERWAY**

**Have you renewed? Please renew as soon as possible! The Chapter NEEDS YOU!**

## **ON THE TRACK AHEAD**

March’s program will be presented by your editor. “Wanderings of a Railfan” is what I’m calling it. I will show some historically interesting railroad things around Buffalo that we all know and love, but mainly it will consist of my own photography of the last 20 years since being forced by technology to “go digital”. Please join us in March at the meeting.





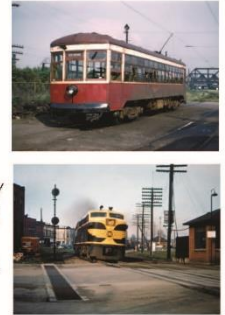
# 2025 Western New York Railroad Calendar

53rd Edition

Another Fine Publication Of The Niagara Frontier Chapter - National Railway Historical Society

Outstanding Color And Black & White Photographs Are Featured In A Limited Edition Printing Of The Chapter's Annual Railroad Wall Calendar. This High Quality Publication, A Tradition Since 1972, Contains 12 Photographs of Steam, Diesel And Electric Railroad Action. All Scenes Were Recorded In And Around Western New York, Northwest Pennsylvania And Nearby Southern Ontario. The 2025 Photographs Were Carefully Selected From The Chapter Archives And From The Collections Of Chapter Members.

- **Rochester Transit Corporation** - #66 (Cincinnati Car Company 1916) a former Utica & Mohawk Valley Railway car
- **New York Central** - 4-8-2 class L2c Mohawk #2836 (American Locomotive Company, 1929) near Tower #47 in Buffalo, NY
- **Erie Railroad** - A set of FA-1 locomotives (American Locomotive Company, 1947-1949) lead a freight train in Corry, PA
- **Canadian National Railway** - HR-412 #2587 (Bombardier, November 1981) leads two other locomotives passing Dundas, Ont
- **International Railway Company** - Car #2002 (Kuhlman Car Company, 1916), a Niagara Falls High-Speed car, in Buffalo, NY
- **CSX Transportation** - ES44AH #911 & #1976 (General Electric, July 2008 & May 2012) are both wearing special paint schemes
- **Lehigh Valley Railroad** - GP-9 #300 (Electro Motive Division, September 1959) is at the Tiffit Street diesel locomotive service track
- **New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad** - Nickel Plate 2-8-4 S-3 Berkshire #776 (Lima Locomotive Works, May 1949) in Pomfret, NY
- **Chessie System** - Sperry Rail Service car #136 (J.G. Brill Company, 1928) was built for the New York Central RR as Doodlebug car M-1
- **Conrail** - U33-B #2909 (General Electric, September-1968 built for Penn Central) is westbound on train HB-1 in in Alden, NY
- **Baltimore & Ohio** - 2-8-0 class E-60 #3140 (Alco-Brooks Locomotive Works, 1908, ex-Buffalo & Susquehanna #166) at Westfield, PA
- **Arcade & Attica Railroad** - 4-6-0 #14 (Baldwin Locomotive Works, February 1917) is passing the depot in Arcade, NY



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## CHAPTER CALENDAR

- FEB 14**            **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by noted author David Alff. David will discuss his new book “The Northeast Corridor”.**
  
- FEB 15-16**        **WNYRHS Train Show, Hamburg Fairgrounds. Chapter will be present with exhibit and sales tables.**
  
- MAR 14**            **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by John Dahl, “Wanderings of a Railfan”.**
  
- MAR 22**            **Annual Chapter banquet. See flyer this issue ESX for reservation details.**

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.

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