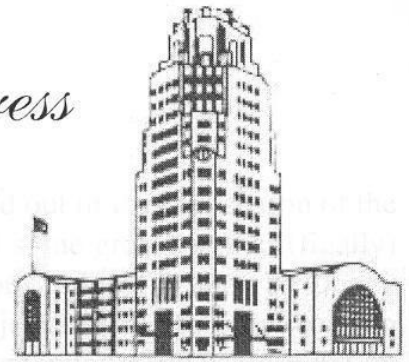


Empire State Express

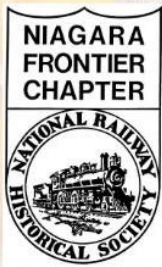


NOVEMBER 2025

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, November 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.

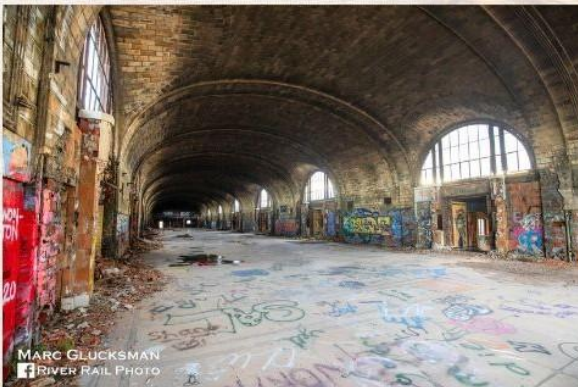


November 2025 Chapter Meeting & Program

Friday, November 14 - 7:00pm

Wheatfield Community Center

2790 Church Road,
North Tonawanda, NY



'Urban Exploring At Buffalo Central Terminal'

A Video Program Of What Once Was!

Presented By Richard Jordan III

FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Here we go again, about to turn another seasonal corner. By the time that you read this the trees will be more bare than bushy. Beyond that, we will bundle up and celebrate the holidays.

With the change of season we cease doing most of our outdoor work. Trackwork, painting and grounds keeping all stop. Inside, some of the display materials from the middle section will have to be stored for the winter. The Museum will be open on the first Saturday of the month through the winter.

We'll be gathering up things to go to the WNYRHS train show at the fairgrounds, November 22nd and 23rd. Help in loading, hauling and setting up and taking down is always appreciated. After the show, there are Holiday decorations to be put up for Winterwalk. We have asked to have the pony rides and have invited Mr. Claus to operate out of the Museum.

The long awaited art installation on the museum property is now ready to happen. The contractor has the site prepared. The artwork is still in fabrication and installation will come later, probably in the spring.

We have acquired a "milkhouse heater" to be installed in EL-2. This will mitigate the freeze and thaw cycle that is harmful to the brickwork.

In December, we will be participating in Winterwalk again. The hours are later this year, 11am and running till 7pm. This is to accommodate a tree lighting ceremony at 6 pm.

Looking farther ahead, Anton reports that there is another Historic Marker in the works. This one will be for the Erie station in Gowanda. The station is owned by Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Anton is working with the Gowanda Village Historian. More on that when we get closer.

The 2026 Chapter Calendar is out and is for sale. You can get it at the museum, by mail, at the monthly meeting or at select retail outlets and at the Hamburg WNYRHS Train Show at the Chapter's table. They make a great holiday gift!

From time-to-time opportunities present themselves to acquire things that we can use. Such an opportunity occurred this month. Steve and Ben found a crane. Sitting forlornly in the weeds, this 1980 vintage FMC Linkbelt rubber-tired machine was acquired by us. It's not pretty but it's mechanically sound. The crew borrowed the battery out of the Tonawanda Island engine and it started right up. Arrangements were made to transport it to the museum. When spring comes, it will greatly enhance the prime mover swap in the Tonawanda Island locomotive. When we get to constructing switches, it will be very handy again.

Soon you should see a dues renewal notice. Yes, it's that time again. Please be prompt with that and if you are mailing it, send it to the P.O. box. As always, we need your donations to continue our work. Please be as generous as you can.

So, with the thought of a snow cancellation in the back of our minds, here's the drill. Should we need to cancel the meeting because of the weather, watch Channel 2 on your TV or on your radio WGR 550 AM, Oldies 104.1FM, and WYRK 106.5 FM. We try to make the decision early enough to get the notice on the 5 pm broadcasts. We will continue this every month until it's not relevant anymore. Speaking of the white stuff, we have contracted with a service to plow the station parking lot should it be needed. The museum will be open the first Saturday of the month during the winter months. See you at the meeting, or at the museum.

Jim Ball



SCENE ON THE LINE - A STOP ON THE PEANUT A LONG TIME AGO



With its huge oil headlight, a link & pin coupler on the cowcatcher pilot and a balloon stack / spark arrestor suggesting a wood burning firebox, a vintage 4-4-0 American type engine has drifted to a stop at the Clarence Center, NY station on New York Central's bucolic Canandaigua & Niagara Falls branch, locally known as "the Peanut" probably in the early 1870s. The boxcar on the left is lettered NYC & HR RR, so that helps us to date the picture. (New York Central was merged with the Hudson River RR November 1, 1869.) The train is westbound so its likely termination point is Suspension Bridge in Niagara Falls. With the sunlight coming from the east, we can be certain this is a morning train. *Both photos: Bob Andrycha collection.*



Another view at the Clarence Center depot, and a wagon of the Herdegen's Meat company (of Clarence Center).

Two scenes at the old depot. (Above) Herdegen's meat wagon.

THE WEST SHORE RR IN CLARENCE & AKRON A LONG TIME AGO



Bob Andrycha also submitted the following interesting newsclip in the May 16, 1892 edition of the Buffalo Evening News, page 17.

"Clarence: The West Shore railway is laying pipe to convey water from Millpond, three-quarters of a mile west of Clarence Station, to supply water for passenger and freight trains. Water engines and tubs will be removed from Akron to Millpond and Clarence. The water will be forced from the pond by steam pumps."



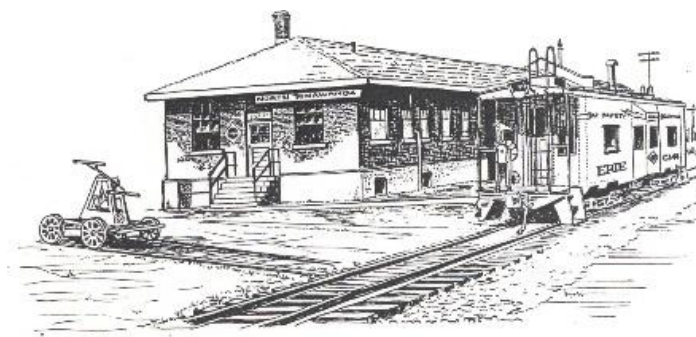
Does anyone have a photo of the pump house? The pumps would of necessity had to have an enclosure and would have been protected from winter freezes. This also means there would have been personnel assigned to stoke the boiler. Was it a round the clock operation?

Left: An ancestor of the now late Jon Rothenmeyer wrote this card in September 1906, noting "I was here for a look."

STATION NEWS



What's this? A modern stack train unloading site along the old Erie in North Tonawanda? Is that the local switch engine in the distance shuffling cars? OK, none of the above! The Chapter has acquired a storage bin to get some of our track work and maintenance equipment under cover for the winter, and it has been placed along the right of way. We're looking for a mural artist to render an image of an International Railway Company trolley car on the station facing side. The electrified IRC once upon a time leased one of the then two mainline tracks from the Erie RR for its Niagara Falls interurban. *Jim Ball photo.*



SCENE ON THE LINE

All photos pages 6 & 7 by Robert Sikorski



Northbound to Niagara Falls, crossing the landmark former New York Central lift bridge across the Erie Barge Canal, a pair of CSX locomotives is hauling the so called 'trash train'. The containers literally haul 'trash' to Niagara Falls waste handling facilities. October 18, 2025.



Beautiful early evening light illuminates the arrival at MP 25 in the Niagara Falls, NY yard. October 18, 2025.

SCENE – continued



Meeting CPKC 133 by MP 5 over Colvin Ave in Buffalo, on the Belt Line. October 18, 2025.

Her job completed for the moment, CSX locomotive 8887 rests at Niagara Falls. October 18, 2025.



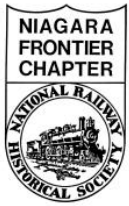
ON THE TRACK AHEAD



At the October meeting, Aaron Heverin demonstrated several original wire recordings and the classic instrument which made these incredible things. For those of us accustomed today to the ease of using our cell phones to capture excellent quality sound and video, the work that John M. Prophet some 70 plus years ago accomplished can now be fully appreciated for the technical difficulties he faced. Aaron has also digitized and cleaned up these sound recordings and paired them up with some photos by John and others of steam locomotives. The meeting program was an extraordinary evening of historic material. Thank you Aaron!
Nancy Andrycha photo.

Next month Aaron will return and present Part 2 of his history of 'Sound Recordings of Railroading'. If you missed Part 1, you still have an opportunity to come and see a visual and sound extravaganza. Recordings of more of our Chapter's historic sound archives by John Prophet and others such as Jim VanBrocklin have been digitized for preservation. Looking ahead, program arrangements for next year are open. Please let Jim Ball know if you can volunteer to take a month and assist with a meeting program.





2026 Western New York Railroad Calendar

54th Edition

Another Fine Publication Of The Niagara Frontier Chapter - National Railway Historical Society
& Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier



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 2026 Photographs Were Carefully Selected From The Chapter Archives And From The Collections Of Chapter Members.

- **Jamestown, Westfield & Northwestern Railroad** - Interurban car #302 (Cincinnati Car Company, 1914) at Westfield, NY
- **New York Central** - 4-6-2 K5b class Pacific #4915 (American Locomotive Company, 1926) at Buffalo Central Terminal
- **Delaware & Hudson Railroad** - U30C #705 (General Electric Company, February 3, 1967) at the North Yard in Buffalo, NY
- **Grand River Railway** - Interurban car #862 (Preston Car Company, 1921) stopped in front of the Preston, Ont Station
- **Chessie System** - GP40-2 #4301 (Electro Motive Division, January 2, 1978) pulling a freight train at Springville, NY
- **Amtrak** - P42 #100 (General Electric Company, June 9, 1997) painted for Amtrak's 50th anniversary east of Exchange Street Station
- **Buffalo Southern Railway** - RS-18u #1847 (Montreal Locomotive Works, March 1958, ex-Canadian Pacific #8752/1847) Hamburg
- **New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad** - Nickel Plate 2-8-2 #647 H6e class (Lima Locomotive Works, January 1924) at Silver Creek
- **Norfolk Southern** - 2-6-6-4 #1218 A class steam locomotive (Norfolk & Western Roanoke Shops, June 1943) at Erie, PA
- **Pennsylvania Railroad** - E-8 #6894 (Electro Motive Division, March 1951) with a passenger train at East Aurora, NY
- **Baltimore & Ohio** - SW900 #9411 (Electro Motive Division, May 1955) approaching the depot in Jewettville, PA
- **Consolidated Rail Corporation** - S-2 diesel #9705 (American Locomotive Company, November 1947, ex-NYC, PC) at Lockport



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CHAPTER CALENDAR

- NOV 14** **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by Richard Johnson, III 'Urban Exploring at Buffalo Central Terminal'.**
- DEC 6** **Winterwalk at the Station. 11 AM to 7 PM. Visit Santa Claus, operating Lionel layout, Pony rides for kids, hot chocolate and cookies and more in the museum. Public Christmas tree lighting at 6 PM on Webster Street.**
- DEC 12** **Regular meeting, Town of Wheatfield Senior Center, 7 PM. Program by Aaron Heverin, Part 2 of the History of Railroad Sound Recordings.**

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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