



Vol. 55, No. 2

Visit our Library at 10 Village Square, Glendale, OH 45246

February 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone! Here are a few highlights of recent Chapter activities and news.

This month we catch up on Steam News on Pages 2 and 3. We are always looking for fresh material to provide news and information of interest to our readers. If you have taken a trip, read a book, or pursued any activity you would like to share, we encourage you to submit articles for future issues.

Due to the historic snowfall in the days leading up to our January Chapter meeting, accompanied by bitter cold temperatures, we made the difficult decision to cancel our meeting. We will kick off our year this month and should be beyond the worst of winter weather. With no January meeting Minutes or photos, our Newsletter is a little shorter than normal this month.

In National news, plans are underway for a Spring Conference in Ogden, UT, in May, and a Fall Conference/Convention in Central Ohio in September. Two sessions of RailCamp are planned for this summer

We are still accepting Chapter dues for 2026, and they are \$25 which includes all family members at the same address. At last report we are down to our last few members who have not yet renewed. Donations are always appreciated and form an important part of our annual budget. As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization, donations to the Chapter are tax deductible to the maximum extent permitted by law. National dues renewals are handled separately, and instructions were sent to all members on how to renew.

Please keep the articles and photographs coming – we can always use fresh material for *The Cincinnati*.

We still need help with our website and our social media. Please contact me or Frank Kammer if you can help.

This month, longtime Chapter Member, and noted rail photographer and historian, Dan Finfrock, will present our first program of the year (postponed from January). See the next column for details.

That's all for now. I'll see you at the meeting!

Scott Andes, President

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, February 24th, will be held at our Chapter Library, 10 Village Square, Glendale, Ohio, 45246, at 7:00 p.m. Due to cancellation of our January meeting, longtime Chapter Member Dan Finfrock will be presenting our February program. Dan's program will actually feature 2 fairly short programs focusing on Swiss Railroads photographed during his international travels. One portion of his program will cover one of his favorite railfan locations in Switzerland, while the other will cover 3 railroad towns in the non-Alpine region of Switzerland. Dan is one of our best storytellers and photographers, so you won't want to miss this program!!

Our Library is located at 10 Village Square, which is on the square at the south end of the oval and southwest of the Glendale Station. Parking is available along the streets near the Library and in a small lot behind the Library (accessible from the nearby alley). As always, guests are welcome so please spread the word and bring a friend. The business portion of the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with the program to follow. We hope you will make plans to join us!



STEAM NEWS By John Biehn

Grand Canyon Railway Steam...The Grand Canyon Railway announced last month that Alco-built 2-8-0 No. 29 had passed a Federal Railroad Administration hydrostatic test and inspection. With no boiler leaks found during the test, shop crews have been able to start reassembling the locomotive, and, if everything proceeds as planned, No. 29 will be in service in 2026. Locomotive No. 29 was built in 1906 for the Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad, an ore-hauling railroad in Michigan. After the locomotive was retired in the early 1960s, it was purchased along with other LS&I steam engines by a new tourist railroad, the Marquette & Huron Mountain. Eventually, No. 29 was sold to the Mid-Continent Railway Museum. In 1989, it was sold again to the Grand Canyon Railway. Locomotive 29 was put back into service in 1990 and became a mainstay of the railroad into the 21st century. No. 29 was later joined by former CB&Q 2-8-2 No. 4960. (Thanks to Justin Franz, Railfan & Railroad Magazine, via Alex Mayes)

Nevada Northern Steam...The Nevada Northern Railway, situated in Ely, Nevada, will be hosting two Winter Steam Spectacular weekends in February. The first weekend begins on Friday, February 13, and the second weekend begins on February 20. World-class photographic opportunities will be available with steam locomotives pulling vintage freight and passenger cars that are original to the railroad. Some trains are still made up with wooden cars whose origin dates back as far as 1872. The crews will be in period dress, adding to the experience. Most likely, Nevada Northern 2-8-0 No. 93 will be the featured steam locomotive. Locomotive No. 81, a 2-8-0, may also be available. For ticket information, go to https://nnry.vbotickets.com/event/winter_steam_spectacular/121275.

Steam in Pennsylvania...On Saturday February 14, the Iron Horse Ramble will traverse the Reading Division of the Reading Blue Mountain & Northern main line between Reading Outer Station and Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. This exciting roundtrip excursion will be powered by the mighty T-1 4-8-4 locomotive No. 2102. During the layover at Jim Thorpe, passengers will have almost four hours to explore the town, photograph the 2102, and maybe take a ride on the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway. Tickets are available for standard coach, Crown class coach, Vista Class Dome, and Pullman Rooms. For ticket information, go to <https://www.rbmnrr-passenger.com/rambles-jimthorpe>.

EBT Winter Spectacular...The Winter Spectacular is a longtime EBT tradition, allowing visitors the opportunity to watch the railroad come to life in an otherwise quiet season. Visitors can enjoy rare excursions with some of the railroad's one-of-a-kind equipment, exclusive tours, and more. The dates are February 12, 13, 14, and 15. February 12 & 13, a photo charter with steam locomotive No. 16 will depart at 7:00 a.m. each day. This charter is currently sold out. February 14 & 15, 2-8-2 No. 16 will power a morning freight run each day departing the EBT depot in Orbisonia at 8:00 a.m. February 14 & 15, No. 16 will power the Southbound Pogue Excursion. This one hour excursion will operate on the railroad's newly re-opened track heading south of Rockhill Furnace towards the community of Pogue. Train departs at 1:30 p.m. February 14 & 15, a train ride and guided tour combination will be available. This

will include a No. 16 powered train and guided tour of the machine shop. Times are 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. There are also other excursions with a diesel and the M-1 gasoline-electric self-propelled motorcar. For more information, go to <https://eastbroadtop.com/events/winter-spectacular/>.

PRR T-1 Update...The PRR T-1 Steam locomotive Trust is an ambitious and inspiring project to reignite the golden age of steam and celebrate American innovation. With the passion of dedicated volunteers, the ingenuity of skilled engineers and generosity of supporters, the Trust is bringing PRR T-1 No. 5550 to life. Featuring its iconic 4-4-4-4 wheel arrangement, No. 5550 promises to captivate the imagination of rail enthusiasts and rekindle the magic of mainline steam travel. Here is a 2025 year review: The year 2025 is called the year of the frame. In 2025 the frame, which is 64 feet long and weighs 71,000 pounds, has been fabricated. It is the foundation of the entire locomotive. As 2026 rolls along, workers will be adding parts to the frame. The final location of assembly of the locomotive was determined to be in a brand new restoration facility in Dennison, Ohio, which is right on the former Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. Hopefully the new building will be up by fall and, after new tracks are in place, the locomotive and parts will be moved inside. The trust will have an open house later this year, and hopefully every year after that, to allow everybody to come in, put your hands on it, and see pieces and parts that donated money has made possible. The trust has acquired two air compressors. They both were completely torn down all the way and fully rebuilt. These compressors will hopefully be meeting up with the frame sometime in 2026. We now move on to the injectors. An injector takes water from the tender and puts it into the boiler by speeding the water up and overcoming the boiler check and boiler pressure to get the water into the boiler. The T-1, with its huge boiler and 300 psi, really needs large injectors. Since nothing could be found on the market, 5550 personnel opted to just go ahead and build brand new injectors. Eleven injectors have been built. In 2025, crews took possession of the last driver wheels that give restorers a full set of eight box spoke drivers. They are being shipped to a machine shop. The outside tire, the fronts and backs of the wheel centers, will all get freshly machined and then made ready to take axles. This past year all the pieces of the cylinders have been cut out. Machining of these pieces is almost complete. Eventually these pieces will be put together and welded to the frame sometime this spring. A grant that was received to help build the restoration building also gave money to be used for the firebox of the boiler. Workers then began manufacturing the rear door sheets, side sheets, and a few of the internal sheets. This completed work will be shipped to St. Louis to match up with the boiler at Continental Fabricators. When this work has been completed, the boiler will be shipped back to Dennison. Possibly in late 2026, or early 2027, the boiler will be connected to the frame and wheels. The 5550 is still on track to be completed by 2030. Work is progressing at the speed of donations. To help with a donation, go to <https://prrt1steamlocomotivetrust.org>. (Thanks to Jason Johnson)

Future Washington State Steam...On New Year's Day, the Northern Pacific Railway Museum held the first steam-up of Northern Pacific No. 1364 in more (Continues on Page 3)

STEAM NEWS (Continued)

than seventy years! This historic moment was the result of years of restoration work and dedication by the museum's volunteers, bringing a Northern Pacific steam locomotive back to life in Toppenish, Washington. The steam-up allowed the restoration crew to see how systems performed under steam and helped identify what adjustments and fine-tuning are still needed. After the steam-up, here is a list of other several important projects on the both the locomotive and tender that were completed early this year. Work on the locomotive included installation of the valves and connection to the valve gear. This is an important step in reassembling the running gear and moving 1364 closer to operation. Inside the cab, the side windows were installed. Additional attention was also given to the hydrostatic lubricator. Inspection and disassembly showed the need for new seals. New insulating washers and brushes have been ordered for the locomotive's dynamo as part of the ongoing restoration of the electrical system. Work on the tender has the crew addressing the air brake system plumbing to locate and correct air leaks. NP No. 1364 is one of forty class S-4, 4-6-0 steam locomotives built in 1902 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Crews liked the S-4s because they were well-suited to branch line service. They were smooth-riding, powerful, and easy to fire. No. 1364 worked the Tacoma Division, the Seattle Division, and in the Yakima Valley at the eastern side of Washington. After 52 years of dependable service, No. 1364 was retired on January 1, 1954. The museum has stated that, right now, the plan is to operate No. 1364 in the museum yard once it's operational. (Thanks to the Northern Pacific Railway Museum)

Soo Line 730 News...Located along US Highway 2 in Gladstone, Michigan, the Soo Line steam locomotive No. 730 has stood as a proud historical landmark since 1960 when the Soo Line Railroad leased it to the Soo Line Retirees and union members for care and maintenance. For decades, these retirees faithfully preserved the engine, but as time passed, most have passed away and the responsibility could no longer be sustained. Under the leadership of John Pickard, current volunteers have established the Gladstone Michigan Soo Line Steam Engine 730 Authority. Their efforts brought the locomotive out of disrepair, restored its dignity, and secured its future through organized fundraising and community support. Recognizing the importance of this landmark, these dedicated volunteers stepped forward to ensure its survival. The Authority has created an endowment fund at the Delta Community Foundation to guarantee perpetual care of the locomotive long after the current generation of volunteers is gone. Through the commitment of volunteers, the leadership of Mr. Pickard, and the generosity of the community, the Soo Line steam locomotive No. 730 continues to stand as a symbol of Gladstone's history,

pride and future. The Soo Line 730 is a 4-6-2 "Pacific" type locomotive built by the American Locomotive Company at Schenectady, New York, in 1911. (Thanks to the Daly Gazette, via Tom Schultz)

American Freedom Train Unveiled...Following the completion of a year-long restoration, American Freedom Train No. 1 was unveiled to the public in a special ceremony at the B&O Railroad Museum on January 12. The engine pulled the American Freedom Train in the northeast during its 1975-76 tour commemorating the Declaration of Independence and the nation's bicentennial. For the ceremony, AFT No. 1 was positioned in bay no. 11 of the museum's Mount Clare Roundhouse. AFT No. 1, previously Reading Company T-1, 4-8-4 No. 2101, underwent a comprehensive cosmetic restoration to preserve its exterior appearance and cab interior for long-term public display. The restoration process stabilized, repaired, and accurately restored the locomotive's exterior and cab. It was in poor condition before restoration, with excessive paint loss, corrosion, and missing or damaged original components. The restoration involved careful disassembly, cleaning of exposed metal surfaces, and the use of original materials whenever possible. AFT No. 1 is now on public display. On specific dates, the cab will be opened for tours. For additional information, go to <https://www.borail.org>. (Thanks to Alex Mayes)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- Sat. Feb. 14 St. Andrew Model Train Show
St. Andrew Parish Center, Milford, Ohio
Hours 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- Tue. Feb. 24 Regular Chapter Meeting & Program 7:00 P.M.
Chapter Library, 10 Village Sq., Glendale, OH

MARCH

- Sun. Mar. 1 Model Railroad Swap Meet
Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH
Hours 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Sat. Mar. 7 NMRA Div. 7 Swap Meet & Flea Market
Lakota Freshman School., West Chester, OH
Hours 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Tue. Mar. 24 Regular Chapter Meeting & Program 7:00 P.M.
Chapter Library, 10 Village Sq., Glendale, OH
(Note: 4th Tuesday, Not Last Tuesday)

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES: JANUARY MEETING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW!



For the first time in years, our January meeting was cancelled due to historic snow and bitter cold. In this February 9 photo, snow still surrounds our Library but is slowly melting. Photo by Scott Andes.