



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, enjoy photos from the Cheviot 250 celebration on Page 4, and recap the March meeting on Page 5. 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.

As part of a year-long celebration of our nation's 250th birthday, Cheviot has a different themed program each month. The April program focused on railroads and their connection to Cheviot. The centerpiece of the displays in the Cheviot Fieldhouse was the large modular 3-rail O-gauge layout presented by the Queen City HiRailers. Our Chapter participated by manning a booth featuring historic photos of American railroads.

In National news, the Spring Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, May 28-30, and a Fall Conference/Convention in Cleveland in September. This year is also an election year, and voting begins shortly for NRHS President and 9 Board Members. The Vice President position is a 4 year term and not up for election until 2028.

We are still accepting Chapter dues for 2026, and they are \$25 which includes all family members at the same address. Our 2026 Roster will be sent out in May. 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.

The office of Secretary is still vacant. If you are interested, or know of someone to recommend, please contact one of the Chapter Officers or Trustees so that we can discuss the role and duties with them.

Thanks to longtime Chapter Member, and noted rail photographer and historian, Dan Finrock, for presenting our March program. This month, the Legend Returns! Father Dale Peterka will present our program. See the next column for details.

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

Scott Andes, President

APRIL MEETING

Our Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, April 28th, will be held at our Chapter Library, 10 Village Square, Glendale, Ohio, 45246, at 7:00 p.m. This month, our good friend Father Dale Peterka will be presenting our program. Father Dale will present his best slides from a collection of several thousand encompassing "Colorado Railroading". Father Dale has made 6 or 7 trips to Colorado, capturing many shots of Colorado scenery and railroad operations from Denver to Chama and including both standard and narrow gauge operations. 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!

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

This month we send our thoughts and prayers to longtime Chapter Members Greg Molloy, who is navigating some health challenges, and Ken Lakes, who is recovering from a recent illness. Ken is now doing better and available for phone calls.

Please report the passing or serious illness of any member to Frank Kammer.

Scott Andes, Chapter President



STEAM NEWS By John Biehn

Steam in Kansas...The Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad's quest to finish the restoration of its iconic steam locomotive, Santa Fe 3415, has entered the final phases, and railroad officials have set Labor Day 2027 as the time when the 4-6-2 "Pacific" type locomotive returns to the rails. According to the organization, as the project begins to demand a highly skilled technical point of workmanship, they are adding a staff of trained steam specialists to work alongside volunteers to maintain consistent progress on fulfilling the Federal Railroad Administration's mandated 15-year rebuild. The engine was taken out of service in 2023 and cannot run pending complete restoration. The A&SV's Board of Directors has opted to hire trained steam engine crew members from the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in Colorado, who will make planned trips to Abilene to assist local volunteers in the process of making the engine operational by the new targeted completion date. To date, A&SV volunteers have already used ultrasound technology to determine thickness of the steel in different parts of the boiler, the firebox, and other places as a means of ensuring the proper strength of those components. A series of related tasks has been established for the fortified workforce to keep the project on schedule. "Santa Fe 3415 is an important icon for Abilene, the State of Kansas, and the storied history of the steam power that built our nation's agricultural and manufacturing infrastructure," said A&SV President and General manager Ross Boelling. Boelling pointed to the fact that the A&SV's steam powered trains have been especially popular as a tourist draw. In 2023, for example, steam powered trains accounted for roughly 75 percent of the railroad's excursion ticket sales. The antique locomotive worked for the Santa Fe Railroad from the time of its birth in 1919 to 1953, when ATSF converted to diesel power. No. 3415 came to Abilene in 1955 and was initially an exhibit in Eisenhower Park before it was reanimated in 2009, the year it began powering excursion and dinner trains. The additional crews from the Durango & Silverton will allow for speedier completion of the rebuild, Boelling said. The bulk of the work on the construction tasks will be done this year and should be completed by January 1, 2027. The remainder of the rebuild tasks, which will include testing the engine and making adjustments, will be completed before Labor Day 2027, the anticipated date of the engine's return. The A&SV has already secured nearly \$225,000 toward the restoration and return of Santa Fe 3415, thanks to early supporters and pledges. Completing the restoration will acquire additional philanthropic support to fund specialized labor, restoration materials, and critical components needed to bring Santa Fe 3415 safely back into operation. Contributions may be made by visiting www.ASVRR.org, selecting the "Donate Now" button, and choosing the "Santa Fe 3415" option. (Thanks to Todd Pittenger, KSAL.com, via Tom Schultz)

Steam in Ohio...The Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum at Sugarcreek, Ohio, is preparing to celebrate the christening of engine No. 19. The three-day event runs from April 9-11 and features train rides, tours, photo opportunities, and more. Built in 1915 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, the 2-8-2 steam locomotive, originally known as No. 4 for an Arkansas logging railroad, went on to serve in Mexico and California under multiple owners and numbers. No. 19 also made appearances in major films such as "Emperor of the North Pole" and "Stand

By Me." The celebration kicks off on April 9 with engine No. 19's arrival at the Sugarcreek Depot at 5 p.m. The official christening ceremony will then take place, followed by a public viewing until 7 p.m. The engine will then return to the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum. On April 10, visitors can enjoy train rides behind No. 19 at various times throughout the day starting at 10:30 a.m., and concluding at 3:30 p.m. The event concludes on April 11 with additional train rides and tours. That evening, photographers will have the opportunity to participate in an exclusive photo shoot of No. 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. The museum will stage the locomotive in various scenes around the yard offering premium access for photography enthusiasts. Tickets for train rides and other events are available on the museum's website at <https://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.org/blog/no-19-grand-christening>.

Future Alaska Steam...The restoration of Alaska Railroad No. 557 is nearing completion with the project currently at 95 percent. The S-160 class 2-8-0 was successfully test fired on November 8, 2025, after nearly 60 years, running for five hours and consuming 140 gallons of fuel. As of January, 2026, the restoration team has rebuilt the brake rigging. It is ready for installation. New bearing bronze is being prepared for the crosshead guides. Fabrication of the new boiler jacket is upcoming. The restoration team is preparing for FRA inspections after the second burner test. Upcoming steps include: A road test on approximately 300 feet of track at the engine house is planned. The exact timeline for completion is uncertain, but the restoration team is working diligently to finish the project. Engine 557 Restoration Company is in the 8th year of a total overhaul on the last steam engine operated by the Alaska Railroad. As a non-profit corporation, their labor force is all volunteers supported by contract engineering services. The group has raised nearly \$1,000,000 from private individuals and institutional grants but it needs to raise an additional \$200,000 to complete the job. Please help with a donation by going to <http://www.557.alaskarails.org>.

Nevada Northern Steam...Recently, locomotive No. 81 has returned to service. After three days of extensive testing, she passed all of her steam tests with flying colors. After final assembly and test runs, the locomotive was officially signed off for service and returned to operation. No 81 is a 2-8-0 "Consolidation" type steam locomotive built in 1917 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works. It was designed for mixed service, capable of hauling both freight and passenger trains on the Nevada Northern. The Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, Nevada, is a National Historic Landmark. Its original steam locomotives are repaired and maintained in the 1907 machine shop. These locomotives operate on the original right of way and track. (Thanks to the Nevada Northern Railway)

Michigan Steam...The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has awarded the grant funds to the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission to cover the cost of restoring steam engine No. 464 on the Huckleberry Railroad at Crossroads Village in Flint. The vintage locomotive is one of three used on the railroad, which carries passengers on 40-45 minute rides from the Huckleberry train station during its

(Continues on Page 3)

STEAM NEWS (Continued)

regular season and special events. “Luckily, 464 is in pretty good shape,” said Parks Director Patrick Linihan. “We’re doing some discretionary things, including new boiler tubes and minor boiler repairs,” he said. Steam engine No. 464 is a narrow-gauge, K-27 class 2-8-2 “Mikado” type locomotive built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1903 for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The upcoming assessment of No. 464 will involve the disassembly and inspection of the steam engine and thickness testing of the boiler. These are steps required every fifteen years or 1,492 days of operation. Linihan said the restoration work will take place during the next two to three years, using both staff and outside labor and expertise. The Parks Director also said that the Huckleberry Railroad remains a big draw at Crossroads, which was developed as the country’s Bicentennial project back in 1976. Crossroads is marking its 50th year of operation and is expected to host the country’s America 250 Celebration later this year. (Thanks to Ron Fonger, Mlive.com, via Tom Schultz)

Possible Future Pennsylvania Steam...Back in 2023, Pennsylvania’s Colebrookdale Railroad acquired a former Canadian National 4-6-2 that had spent the last two decades at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum at Chattanooga. That locomotive, CN 5288, then joined two other steam locomotives: Grand Truck 4-6-2 No. 5030 and Lake Superior & Ishpeming 2-8-0 No. 18. It is the hope of the railroad one day of having all these locomotives restored to operation. On February 18, the railroad’s team proudly transported historic steam locomotive No. 5288 from the Glasgow restoration facilities to the Colebrookdale Railroad station at Boyertown for public display at least for a while. The railroad is thrilled to share this magnificent piece of railroad history with the thousands of riders who visit them each year. Built in June, 1919, by the Montreal Locomotive Works for the Canadian Government Railways as No. 516, the locomotive was later renumbered 5288 under the Canadian National Railway. This locomotive was designed for speed and elegance, representing the height of early 20th century passenger steam power. (Thanks to the Colebrookdale Railroad)

More Ohio Steam news...American Steam Railroad Preservation Association has completed a two-day steam test on American Freedom Train No. 250, with a Federal Railroad Administration inspector. No issues were noted that took place February 26-27. The satisfactory test will allow ASR to complete the \$2 million restoration to operation for the locomotive built by the Reading Company as its 4-8-4 No. 2100. The test involved steaming the boiler to its maximum allowable working pressure of 240 PSI, and this allowed contractors to test the boiler, piping, water delivery systems, and throttle under full

steam pressure. The next step in the restoration process include running gear work, final plumbing and gauge installation, installation and jacketing of the boiler, and painting the locomotive and tender into American Freedom Train colors. The running gear is the focus of the organization’s ongoing, “Making Moves” campaign, which includes rod brass replacement and machining, rod straightening, and roller bearing inspections, among other work. To make a donation or obtain more information, please go to ASR’s website at <https://www.americansteamrailroad.org> . (Thanks to trains.com via Alex Mayes)

Northern Pacific 1364 News...On February 21, 2026, the Northern Pacific Railway Museum at Toppenish, Washington, reached a historic milestone as Northern Pacific steam locomotive No. 1364 moved under its own power for the first time in 73 years. Built for the Northern Pacific Railway, this S-4 class 4-6-0 once hauled passengers and freight trains across the Pacific Northwest. After decades on static display and years of dedicated restoration work, 1364’s wheels turned and its whistle echoed through the Yakima Valley once again. “This movement of the locomotive represents years of hard work by museum volunteers, staff, supporters, and community partners,” the museum stated in its Facebook post. Locomotive 1364 was built in 1902 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works and was one of 40 class S-4s. After later improvements and modifications, the S-4s became well liked locomotives that worked on branch lines on the NP’s west end. Most of this class logged more than 50 years of service until displaced by diesel power. In the future, the museum indicates that No. 1364 will operate on its tracks for events. An operational schedule will be announced shortly via its Facebook page. (Thanks to the Northern Pacific Railway Museum, via Alex Mayes)

Union Pacific Steam News...Union Pacific will join the nation in celebrating 250 years of American independence and innovation this year with its first-ever coast to coast steam tour led by the legendary Big Boy No. 4014. The first leg of the tour starts Sunday, March 29, with the Big Boy and several historical passenger cars from Union Pacific’s Heritage Fleet traveling west to California from Cheyenne, Wyoming. The first leg of the tour ends April 24 in Cheyenne. For detailed information and times that have been announced, go to <https://www.up.com/about-us/history/steam/schedule> .

DUES ARE DUE!

We are still accepting Chapter dues for 2026. We are down to our last few members needing to renew, and we will be sending out the 2026 Roster in May. 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.

We look forward to having you on board this year!

Please contact Frank Kammer with any questions about membership.



NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY



CINCINNATI CHAPTER DISPLAY AT CHEVIOT 250 CELEBRATION

April 10-12, 2026—Photos By Scott Andes

Model Train Display



Fri. April 10 5-9pm
Sat. April 11 10-5pm
Sun. April 12 12-5pm

by the
QUEEN CITY HiRailers



AMERICA 250 OHIO
1776 2026

In honor of the 250th Birthday of our nation America 250 Ohio Cheviot celebrates the impact the railroad has played in the growth & success of the U.S.A. since 1826.

Cheviot Fieldhouse 3729 Robb
Special Presentation Sat. 10 am
The Story of The Summit-Cheviot Hill
CC&L and C&O Railroads

Sponsors : Cheviot Elks Lodge 5 LaRosa's
Tony & Roberta Michel
J. Owens Wealth Management Kevin Leidecker



The size of the Fieldhouse enabled the HiRailers to use all but one of their layout modules in a giant E-shaped arrangement, and was popular with visitors of all ages.



One of the more popular locomotives was a UP Big Boy, shown here under a coaling tower among many active tracks.

As part of a year-long celebration of our nation's 250th birthday, Cheviot has a different themed program each month. The April program focused on railroads and their connection to Cheviot. The centerpiece of the displays in the Cheviot Fieldhouse was the large modular 3-rail O-gauge layout presented by the Queen City HiRailers. Our Chapter participated by manning a booth featuring historic photos of American railroads.



Frank Kammer and I manned the booth on Sunday afternoon.



Dave and Deb Price manned the booth on Saturday afternoon.

MARCH 24 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: By Mr. Andes, President, at 7:02 p.m.

QUORUM: Mr. Andes determined a quorum was present with 11 members present.

GUESTS: There were 2 guests present, Larry and Rich, Bill Mense's neighbor.

FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES:

Mr. Andes asked for a motion to approve said Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Kammer and seconded by Mr. Carter. The motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: Mr. Andes noted that the February meeting did not have a quorum, and asked for a motion to ratify the votes taken at the February meeting. Motion made by Mr. Kammer and seconded by Mr. Carter. The motion was approved unanimously.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. Neal had no report.

SECRETARY: Vacant.

TREASURER: Mr. Price reported that our Checking and Investment accounts were in good shape, and our Budget approved in February reflected modest draws on our reserves to cover rent and operating expenses.

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE TO NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Mr. King, Chapter Representative to the National Railway Historical Society, reported that the Spring Conference would be May 27-29 in Salt Lake City, UT.

LIBRARIAN: Mr. King, Librarian, reported that the book cases were now labelled and the large CUT photograph had been relocated to the Library.

TRUSTEE: Mr. Hindt reported on the Easter Bunny trips on the LM&M starting March 28.

TRUSTEE: Mr. Edwards reported on Ohio Rail Experience spring trips and the April 12 Springfield Train Show.

TRUSTEE: Mr. Kammer had no report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Mense reported on Cinder Sniffer upcoming runs on the 2nd Saturday in May, with the 4th Saturday being a work day.

ADJOURNMENT: Absent any further business, Mr. Andes called for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Mense.

Adjourned at 7:14pm.

POST MEETING:

Dan Finrock began his program at 7:25pm and recounted impressive figures on trains per day (120) on a mountain railroad with up to 2.5% grades. Blessed to have made 12 visits to Switzerland, Dan explained that no person was more than 1 km from public transportation there. Many rail lines are electrified and some locomotives were rated at up to 12,000 hp and some up to 140 km/hour. Some lines used loops to keep the grades manageable and trains would cross over themselves during the climb. Famous sites included the William Tell statue and station and Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in the Alps at 15,766 feet. Many thanks to Dan for taking us on a Swiss journey to see precision railroading combined with breathtaking scenery and fascinating small towns. Program concluded about 9:16pm.

Submitted:

/s/ Mr. Andes, Acting Secretary



THE CINCINNATIAN STAFF

Editor:

Scott Andes
3585 Miller Road
Springfield, OH 45502
(937) 325-5363
wandes@msn.com



Staff:

Report Member Frank Kammer
Illness to: 1706 Marilyn Lane
 Cincinnati, OH 45231
 (513) 729-1919
 fpk3rd@gmail.com

Report address changes to: Frank Kammer
 1706 Marilyn Lane
 Cincinnati, OH 45231
 (513) 729-1919
 fpk3rd@gmail.com

Chapter Website: www.cincinnatichapternrhs.com

The Cincinnati Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio and is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the Chapter are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY



Cincinnati Chapter
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 62023
Cincinnati, OH 45262-0023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- Sat. Apr. 25 Buckeye Train Show
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH
Hours 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Tue. Apr. 28 Regular Chapter Meeting & Program 7:00 P.M.
Chapter Library, 10 Village Sq., Glendale, OH

MAY

- Sat. May 9 National Train Day! Saturday Closest to May 10
Visit www.nationaltrainday.com
- Tue. May 26 Regular Chapter Meeting & Program 7:00 P.M.
Chapter Library, 10 Village Sq., Glendale, OH
- Thu. May 28 NRHS Conference - Salt Lake City, UT
through Tickets Still Available
- Sat. May 30 See www.nrhs.com

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

March Meeting Program: Railroading in Switzerland!



Chapter President Scott Andes (lef) and Chapter Member Dan Finrock (right) pose for a photo after Dan's program of photos taken during his trips to beautiful Switzerland. Photo by Richard King.