



RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Real Trains. Real History. Real Excitement.

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 15, PA Route 741, 300 Gap Road, Strasburg, PA 17579

717/687-8628 • Fax: 717/687-0876

info@rrmuseumpa.org • www.rrmuseumpa.org

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania non profit organization.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 23, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBORAH REDDIG (EXT 3007; dreddig@rrmuseumpa.org)

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL CONRAIL DAYS

Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA—The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania will highlight the equipment, history, spirit and people of Conrail, a railroad which disappeared eleven years ago, at an event on Friday, May 21 through Sunday, May 23, 2010. This event is presented in partnership with the Conrail Historical Society.

“Many of our visitors will recognize the signature big blue engines of Conrail, like the GP-30 No. 2233 prominently exhibited in our Rolling Stock Hall,” says Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania director Charles Fox. “Railroading in the northeast in the early 1970s was facing extinction. Conrail arose from the wreckage of six failed railroads to become a profitable and successful private enterprise.”

Conrail started its life with a colorful mix of interesting equipment, a mishmash of aging, classic locomotives. Eventually, as it became profitable, the railroad utilized modern and innovative cars and engines, like the legendary behemoth SD80MACs and the unique Coilshield cars. Conrail operated through the heavily populated northeast and served many of the nation’s largest cities, from New York and Philadelphia to Chicago. The demise of the railroad was a result of a merger between Norfolk Southern and CSX. However, during its 23 years in business, Conrail transformed northeastern railroading from bankruptcy to blue chip status.

-more-

(2) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS
SECOND ANNUAL CONRAIL DAYS

A night photo shoot will be held at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania on the Friday evening of Conrail Days. This is a rare opportunity for photography and railroad enthusiasts to capture Conrail equipment, like the Museum's GP-30 engine, on film, both inside the Museum's vast Rolling Stock Hall and in the outdoor restoration yard. The photo shoot will begin at 8:00 p.m. and advance registration is required.

Visitors to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania during Conrail Days may take advantage of a number of interesting presentations including:

- "The Last Month of Conrail" by Jeremy Plant; Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Plant will also be available to sign any of his books on railroading.
- "The Conrail Office Car Special" by Brock Kerchner; Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
- "An Insider's View of Conrail, 1979 to 1994" by Larry DeYoung; Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Mr. DeYoung will also be available to sign his book, "Conrail Color Guide To Freight Equipment, Volume 1, 1976-1987."
- Book Signing by Brian Saul, author of "Conrail Quality in the Lebanon Valley;" Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- "Conrail Architecture" by John Stevenson; Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
- "History of the H43" by Ryan Kunkle; Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Featured static displays during Conrail Days will concentrate on subjects such as the history of Conrail, the SD80MAC, the railroad's 20th anniversary, high value shipments, the Office Car Special, safety awards, temporary block stations and the Idea Express. The Capital PenNscalers group also will present an operating, modular N scale layout.

Admission to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is \$10.00 for adults ages 12 to 64, \$9.00 for seniors ages 65 and over, \$8.00 for youth ages 3 to 11 and free of charge for children ages 2 and under.

(3) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS
SECOND ANNUAL CONRAIL DAYS

Railroad Museum hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Conrail Days activities may be subject to change without notice.

Proceeds from Conrail Days benefit important Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania preservation, education and interpretive programs.

The more than 100 historic locomotives and vintage railroad cars in the collection of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania chronicle the heritage of a society on the move, from classic woodburners and mammoth steam locomotives to sleek, electric-powered and diesel engines. You can take the throttle on a simulated run in a real freight locomotive cab, sit in an engineer's seat, climb aboard a caboose, explore an early 20th century replica passenger station, inspect a 62-ton locomotive from underneath, view restoration activities in real time via closed circuit TV, enjoy interactive and fun educational exhibits and browse the Whistle Stop Shop museum store. A number of historic engines and railroad cars will be open for exploration.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is located on PA Route 741, Strasburg, ten miles east of historic downtown Lancaster. For information on area lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment and other attractions, go on line at www.strasburgpa.com, www.padutchcountry.com or www.visitpa.com.

The official railroad museum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the non-profit Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.rrmuseumpa.org or call (717)687-8628. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania may also be found on Facebook.

###