

NEW LOOK DEBUTS FOR HOLIDAY EVENTS

RIDE TO ALTOFF SIDING IS PACKED WITH BRIGHT LIGHTS

The holiday events at the museum have become the largest special event the museum produces. It takes weeks of preparations plus the weeks the event is operating. Of course, all of this requires the dedication of our volunteers to adequately staff. Thank you to everyone that has helped make this possible.



Altoff Siding is ablaze with lights as York Railways 163 stands by waiting for a return trip back to Meadow Street

For 2012, the holiday events consisted of six evenings of Polar Bear Express trolley operations and one day of Santa's Trolley operations. We were very happy to carry 1724 riders over this period. This is much better than our ridership in 2011 where we carried 1059 riders.



Santa and Mrs. Claus know the best way to get around to see all of the children in Rockhill Furnace is on a trolley!

This year the holiday events were much different than previous years with permanent AC power now in place along the line to power the light displays. This made for a much more reliable operation for the volunteers responsible for the displays each night, and a much more enjoyable experience for our riders since the lights were always lit!

All trolleys stopped at Altoff Siding. Volunteers spent a great deal of time preparing the area with walkways clear of all obstacles. Many colorful displays were set up creating a winter wonderland environment. Cookies and hot chocolate were offered to

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LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE COMING TO ROCKHILL

The Museum to acquire a Model U2 Light Rail Vehicle from San Diego

The museum's collection is moving into a new generation with plans to acquire a 1981 vintage Light Rail Vehicle. This acquisition helps make the collection more relevant to younger generations.

The Rockhill Trolley Museum is proceeding with the acquisition of a model U2 Light Rail Vehicle formerly used in San Diego, California on a system popularly known as the San Diego Trolley. These vehicles were constructed by Siemens-Duewag of Düsseldorf, Germany in 1981 for the opening of the first new generation light rail system in the United States and have served well throughout their three decades of service. These vehicles have been maintained to a very high standard and are in excellent condition. Unlike many vehicles from colder climates, these vehicles have never been exposed to the damaging effects of operation on streets treated with deicing chemicals.

The museum's collection presently includes 22 electric railway vehicles dating from 1895 to 1947. The acquisition of a U2 Light Rail Vehicle enables the museum to completely tell the story of the electric trolley car from its earliest forms, through the eras of wooden equipment, steel equipment, lightweight and high-speed vehicles, PCC cars, and finally to the present day and the corresponding

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The Retriever is published four times per year for members and friends of Railways To Yesterday, Inc. to retrieve information on what is happening at the Rockhill Trolley Museum.

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Visit our website: RockhillTrolley.org

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PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM

It will be time for trolley season before you know it! - Joel Salomon, President

My mother always said that time would go by more quickly the older I got. Well, she was 100% right on that statement! It is hard to believe that the operating season will soon be upon us again. We will need your help to have another safe and trouble-free season of trolley operations. This year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our official opening for trolley rides in Rockhill Furnace! Come join us on July 6 this year and celebrate this historic milestone. We have been operating trolleys longer than some for-profit trolley systems back in the day.

Our trolley operation season begins on Sunday, May 26. Yes, a Sunday. Due to scheduling conflicts, we are having Members Day on the day before, Saturday, May 25.

The need for additional trolley operators is urgent. Many of our trolley operators are getting older, and this is a fact that cannot be changed. Over the years, we have lost a number of trolley operators due to this reason and, while we have gained a few new trolley operators, we definitely need more!

With the exception of our retired volunteers, most of our members have a full-time job and perhaps a side job to make ends meet. This just does not leave much time for volunteering. However, as with most non-profit volunteer museums, our museum and others like it would not exist without dedicated volunteers.

The trolley operators at our museum are the front line of contact that our visitors see and meet. It is a great time to be able to be in charge of the trolley by operating it to Blacklog Narrows and letting our visitors know about the history of various trolley cars and our museum. We have a unique collection of trolley cars acquired over the years and you can learn to operate many of them.

Please let us know when you would be available for a training session and we will work with you. We need your participation!

Due to the hectic schedules that we all have, the demands placed on us every day, and the distance to reach Rockhill, the time participating as a volunteer in any type of volunteer museum is one of the more demanding things you can ever do, but it is also one of the most rewarding. We look forward to seeing you as you find your rewards in volunteering!



Johnstown Traction Company 311 and 355 are both at the Moxham carhouse on October 3, 1959. Soon, both cars will be operating together again at the Museum.

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all riders at the siding while waiting for the return trip to the museum area. Making all these tasty treats really kept the Members Services volunteers busy as each Polar Bear Express rider received two cookies. Over the six evenings, we had two groups helping with caroling at Altoff siding. We had many favorable comments received from our riders regarding the new set up and operating procedure.

various shots were done around the museum area with PCC cars 6, 2743, open car 1875 and Oporto 249. After the regular operations were over at 9:00 PM and the final car returned, Johnstown 355 was posed at several locations along the line before calling it a night. It was a long day for many! Two pictures from the evening were later featured in the magazine.

We hope the ridership that we experienced this year will continue with

trolley line. Operating the event took trolley operators, ticket sellers, dispatchers, Altoff Siding staff and, of course, those preparing the thousands of cookies and gallons of hot chocolate. Like any event, there are many behind the scenes tasks that must be accomplished.

The following volunteers helped with these events. Many of these folks helped with multiple aspects of the events and on multiple days (some volunteers were there for every day), and we thank them and everyone for their dedication to the success of this event. Frank Shoop and Doug Weidman were the co-chairmen for the event and they were assisted by: Budd Blair, Dave Brightbill, Nicholas Brightbill, Nevin Byers, Jim Cohen, Dave Collins, Patti Collins, Jerry Deily, Harry Donahue, Calvin Gerhard, Steven Goehring, Ron Gross, Lorna Hyslop, Charles Kumpas, Stephen Lane, Al Mengel, Carl Merson, Bill Monaghan, Jack Mowbray, Judy Mullen, Lance Myers, Matt Nawn, Bub Neely, Bobbi Neely, Valerie Robbins-Rice, Ed Ruth, Deb Salomon, Carl Salomon, Joel Salomon, Phil Sauerlender, Lisa Schirato, Rachael Schirato, Mike Seguin, Frank Shoop, Jim Walsh, Deb Weidman, Doug Weidman, Charlie Wootton, Jessica Yost, Andrea Zilch, Larry Zilch, Pam Zilch. If we missed your participation, please let us know.



Johnstown Traction Company 355 heads out to Blacklog Narrows for a visit with Santa Claus

Santa's Trolley – Operating since 1985, Santa's Trolley continued as a one-day special event with trolleys going all the way to Blacklog Narrows. PCC 6 was used for the first time as a regular service car and, in fact, started the day of operation. Other cars included Johnstown 355, York 163, and Oporto 249. Philadelphia PCC car 2743 was a waiting room at Meadow Street platform. Members Services provided lunches to interested patrons and a tasty roast beef dinner to volunteers. The G scale trains were set up and operating in front of the museum store as in years past.

Night photographs – Late in the afternoon Steve Barry and Mike Burkhart from *Railfan and Railroad* magazine arrived and hosted a night photo session at various areas around the museum with different cars. Between Santa's Trolley and Polar Bear Express, a shot was done with Oporto 172 at Altoff siding. While Polar Bear Express was underway,

us into 2013 as it was wonderful to see the hard work that our volunteers devoted to this project pay off successfully with the huge number of riders. Of course, with the addition of the AC power, we made a large investment to have this installed, but the results for this event have been well worth it. We have also realized that if we are to continue carrying the number of riders that we did on some evenings, we will need additional volunteer participation to adequately staff this operation. One evening we carried 350 riders in 2½ hours. That is a lot of riders in a short time!

Our volunteers made this happen – Forty two volunteers teamed together to prepare and operate the holiday events for 2012. To have an event such as this, there is a lot of coordination and work that needs to happen. This included getting the new wire set up and installed to Altoff siding and decorating the property and

It was terrific to see the number of volunteers that helped with this event. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for making this event a success! Check out the pictures on the museum's website and Facebook page.

Holiday events cleanup – After the holiday events concluded, some of the decorations were immediately removed and stored away to get a start on this task. Numerous volunteers were helping to really make progress on the job. Using the aerial bucket car and diesel locomotive M-25, all decoration on poles and buildings were removed and stored away in Car barn Two at their storage locations. Working an entire weekend, the lights wrapped on the poles were removed and all decorations and lights cleaned up at Altoff siding and Blacklog Narrows. The new bucket truck has been a huge help in the set up and removal of these decorations at Meadow Street and other areas.

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resurgence of the trolley car across the United States in its modern form. Current plans are to present the U2 car as a display vehicle at first and then subsequently add it to the museum's fleet of operating equipment.

The acquisition of this vehicle would not be possible without the support of UTCRAS of Morton, Pennsylvania, including with regards to both logistics as well as through a substantial financial contribution. Even with this tremendous offer of assistance, the museum will need additional support from its members and

friends to cover the costs of moving such a large vehicle across the United States and preparing it for immediate display and eventual operation.

UTCRAS has provided support to the Rail Transit Industry since 1982. UTCRAS is an AAR Certified Wheel, Bearing, and Axle Shop and has performed high quality work for railroads, transit systems, and museums throughout North America. For more information, please visit www.utcras.com.

Current plans are for the car to be moved east from the San Diego area in what is known as a backhaul, meaning it

is combined with another move headed west beforehand thus we have no time schedule yet as to exactly when the car will arrive in Rockhill Furnace. However, with the arrival not imminent, this gives us time to raise the needed funds to move the car. Even with the generous support of UTCRAS, we are still in need of nearly \$10,000 to move the articulated car in two halves, each on an individual truck trailer. The car will be reassembled once both halves are at Rockhill Furnace.

Help us bring our collection into a new generation. Contributions are solicited and greatly appreciated.



A Light Rail Vehicle from the San Diego Trolley will be coming to the Rockhill Trolley Museum thanks to the generous support of UTC/RAS, Inc. and our faithful donors. This relatively modern-era railway vehicle will be more than 30 years newer than Philadelphia Transportation Co. PCC #2743, currently the newest vehicle in the collection.

TAKE ANOTHER POINT

Front cover attention - Our museum was featured on the cover of the winter issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine*, a statewide history magazine published in Camp Hill. We were actually in the magazine with several pictures in a story about trolleys still operating in Pennsylvania. The cover shot was a beautiful picture of Johnstown Traction Company 355 operating in the snow at Rockhill. Let's hope visitors remember this snowy scene this coming summer and take a ride on a warm summer day!

Overhead material donation from Preformed Line Products - The museum would like to thank the good folks at Preformed Line Products from Cleveland, OH. A week before Christmas, they were kind enough to send us two boxes, totaling 100 3/8 Preformed Guy Grip Dead-Ends, which we use in erecting our overhead trolley wire. Preformed Line Products has helped us before with a donation of these pieces and we are grateful for their continued support. Thank you Preformed Line Products!

New Year's Eve trip - The Friends of the Philadelphia Trolleys sponsored a fan trip on New Year's Eve aboard an LRV. While many chose to stay home and watch the ball drop (or fall asleep before midnight) thirty-five riders took part in ringing in the New Year at the Sugar House casino loop on the Route 15 aboard a decorated trolley car. Proceeds from this trip will be applied to the restoration of our Philadelphia PCC car 2743, returning the car to its 1959 colors.

Members building insulation - In an effort to save on our utility expenses, additional new insulation was installed in the ceiling of the Members Building to increase the energy efficiency of the building. This involved taking all the ceiling tiles down and replacing some of the framework and all ceiling tiles since some of them were very badly stained. A generous use of "Great Stuff" spray foam was used as well. Frank led the project and was assisted by Nevin, Stephen, Nicholas, Lance, Doug, and Jessica. There has been a noticeable improvement

in the work, with the furnace operating less frequently than before.

50th Anniversary of official opening - Saturday, July 6 – come join us as we celebrate the official opening of the museum, 50 years ago.

8th Annual San Francisco Trolley Charter - Sunday, August 18 – If you are able to travel a bit farther, you might enjoy a charter trip in the City by the Bay. The trip will cover MUNI routes not usually served by the historic cars. We have requested the use of either MUNI #1 or newly restored "torpedo" PCC#1009 in the Dallas colors. The fare is \$55.00.

To reserve a seat on the charter, or if you need additional information, please contact Harry Donahue at had2709@aol.com



We have come a long way! Take a look at Johnstown Traction Company 311 in the early 1960s



BUEHLER SHOP REPORT



Johnstown 311 - We had a very productive work session on Johnstown 311 in January. Two very deteriorated channel beams were removed from under the car for replacement. This involved lots of torch heating, cutting, heating, and hammering. In the area of the beam, on one end, the underfloor of the car was cleaned of years of dirt and crud. The wooden underside of the floor was primed with paint and the steel portions were treated with POR 15, a rust preventative treatment.

One beam had the holes drilled where the fasteners will attach it to the side frame of the car, making it ready for installation on the next work session. The second beam is marked, waiting to be drilled. Thanks to Rick Hoffmeister, Joel Salomon, Matt Nawn, Budd Blair, Phil Sauerlender, and Jim Cohen for getting this work done.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to the following members and friends of the museum for their financial support of the museum and the projects below. We could not be making the progress that we do without your generous financial support. Thank you all!

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Pete Patterson
Cynthia Peery
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William Toikka
Carl Urbanski



The Museum Store shows its holiday spirit and is a good place to warm up on a cold day



The Museum operating crew greets excited children as they board PCC 6 for the ride to Blacklog Narrows to see Santa Claus

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WE NEED YOU to help with various jobs at the trolley museum - As you read in the articles about the progress made at the museum, all of it is possible only with the dedication of many volunteers. We want this progress to continue and work is underway on various projects, but we need your help to keep things moving. Think about the fun that you would have helping to accomplish great things at the trolley museum. It is truly a special feeling of satisfaction that you can only get by volunteering! Contact Joel Salomon or any Department Head to see how you would be able to participate.

Wish List - Perhaps you have some of these items around your house or know where we might be able to acquire them. Please let us know if you do.

- **Digital projector** - We are looking for an LCD or DLP projector with a USB port. If you have an old unit and were thinking of upgrading or if you would like to outright contribute one, please contact us.
- **Step ladders** - Sturdy ladders of 2, 4, 6, or 8 feet are really needed.
- **Heavy duty jumper cables at least 25 feet long**
- **Hy-Rail for the rubber tired bucket truck** - And it would be great to have a volunteer to work with installing it.
- **3-wire extension cords of various lengths**
- **Miscellaneous hand tools** - We need a better selection of tools to outfit our bucket car with necessary tools for working out on the line.
- **Plastic skids** - Wooden skids just do not hold up well enough for long-term outdoor storage.
- **Bobcat loader** - Our bobcat loader will be in need of replacement someday (we hope not too soon), and perhaps you may know where we might be able to find a replacement at a reasonable cost or possibly better yet, as a donation.
- **High quality round or flat shovels with strong handles**
- **Aluminum track jacks** - It is much easier to jack up the track with additional track jacks.
- **Track lining bars** - More tools for the track gang is good.
- **Steel portable storage container** - We can never have enough indoor storage. One or two containers would be great!
- **Light bulbs** - Regular household bulbs just do not seem to find their way to Rockhill when we need them.

Next Issue: Buehler Shop is Bustling With Activity - Johnstown Traction Company 311 gets an extreme makeover.







THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT THE ROCKHILL TROLLEY MUSEUM.

General Fund – The General Fund is the most important of the financial accounts. It pays the routine expenses necessary to keep the museum in operation and supports various projects to improve and maintain the museum site. This year, projects include ongoing improvements to Car barn #1 and, if funding permits, repairs to the Brick Platform near the pavilion. Thank you for your generous support.

Johnstown 311 – Work is currently underway on this car in Buehler Shop. Significant progress has been made on the steel repairs and the floor. With everyone's support, these efforts will continue to complete the interior, exterior, canvas roof and the mechanical systems hopefully in 2013. Your donations will help meet the goal of returning this car to regular service as soon as possible.

CA&E 315 – Once the focus on Car 311 is complete, efforts will again shift to the museum's interurban from Illinois. Efforts to be undertaken include completing the repairs to the carbody including reinstalling the stained glass windows. Future phases to make the car ready for public service include repainting the exterior, new wiring for the lighting and heating circuits, reupholstering the seats, and completing the interior restoration started decades ago. All donations, including those made in memory of Jack Mowbray, will help make the materials needed for these efforts available.

San Diego U2 – Donations are still needed to help bring the museum's newest acquisition and first "Light Rail Vehicle" to Central Pennsylvania. Gifts of any size will help make its cross country journey possible.

Yes, I want to help the Rockhill Trolley Museum with a contribution to the following fund:

_____ **General Fund** _____ **CA&E 315 Fund**
_____ **Johnstown 311 Fund** _____ **San Diego U2 Fund**

I authorize the RTY Board of Directors to transfer remaining donations to the General Fund after a project is completed.

Name _____ Membership # _____

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Please make checks payable to Railways To Yesterday, Inc.

Mail to:

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P.O. Box 1601
Allentown, PA 18105

All contributions are fully tax deductible as permitted under current tax laws and regulations, and are acknowledged with a letter verifying your donation for income tax purposes.



York 163 and P&W 402 at Blacklog during Members' Day 2013

UPCOMING MUSEUM DATES

July 27 – PCC Car Day

August 17 – Community Homecoming

September 14 – “Steel Wheels meet Rubber Tires”

Antique Car Event

October 12 & 13 – Fall Spectacular

October 19 & 20 – Pumpkin Patch

November 29 & 30 – Polar Bear Express

December 7- Santa's Trolley

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