



# THE DIGEST

VOLUNTEER RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION

*"So close, only the paycheck is missing!"*

Volume 16, Number 2

## Hawthorne Station

*By KC Smith*



*Part of the Hawthorne Station restoration crew takes a break*

For 117 years, Hawthorne station has stood at the corner of Royal and Diamond Bridge Avenues. Although it now stands seventy-five feet north (railroad west) of where it spent 116 of those years, it is now safe from turning trucks and certain destruction.

Over the last eleven months we have not only moved the building, we have also added a new basement, put in a new floor, put on a new platform, added landscaping, new paint, fencing, retaining wall and repaired or replaced the damaged or rotting wood seven feet up the side of the structure. And while we will still have some finishing touches to complete, the station will once again be able to welcome visitors.

Thus, on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at one PM we will celebrate the station's next chapter when we hold a grand re-opening. The public will be invited in to see what we have done over the last eleven months and meet the people who made it all possible, so please plan on coming out to be part of the day. We will be arriving at the station in a very appropriate way for the VRA, on the rails, for this is the second day of our NYS&W Southern Division motorcar trip. In addition to the motorcars, the day will feature a ribbon cutting, an open house, railroad displays, pictures and videos along with a few words from some very key people who made the preservation

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**MAY, 2011**

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## SPECIAL MEETING:

Thursday, May 19th, 2011  
**At Hawthorne Station (NOT St. Clement's)**  
Meeting and work session  
start at 7:00 PM

*Railroad iron is a magician's rod, in its power to evoke the sleeping energies of land and water.*

*-- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Order your Hawthorne Station paver today! These bricks will make up part of the landscaping of the new grounds of the station. You can find the order form at the end of this newsletter.

and restoration possible.

Many will be pleasantly surprised to see that we have chosen the colors that the station wore for over thirty years of its life, when the NYS&W was controlled by the Erie RR. The two-tone green color is not only very attractive it is also very fitting for the station to wear. This is because Hawthorne has been a two railroad town for all of its history, and even before when it was part of Paterson. Choosing a color that represents the two roads seemed only right.

Please invite your friends and relatives to come down and take part in this historic day and to show off the work a small but dedicated group of people can do when they put their minds to it. ☒



*Now safe from the threat of countless trucks, the northeast corner of the station's roof undergoes repair for, hopefully, the last time.*

supplies at Radburn and we headed for Glen Rock. We had the same characters as the day before, and an equally competent Platform Crew lead by John Kroll. With sunny skies and temperatures in the seventies, we had a perfect day. As with

## Easter Bunny Train Report

*By Carolyn Hoffman*

The VRA has completed yet another successful Easter Bunny Train Ride. We had a bit of a slow start this year, partially due to the economy being what it is, and with a week to go we were nowhere near sold out. In previous years we were selling out two weeks or more before the trips. Things picked up however, and we ended up overbooked! It seems there was a glitch with Ticket Turtle and several cars ended up with over ninety tickets sold. As the coaches New Jersey Transit provides actually hold over 100 passengers apiece, no one was left without a seat, but it was a tighter fit than we would have liked. Saturday, April 16th, we ran three trains out of the Wayne Route 23 Transit Center. The car hosts made sure the cars all looked great. A few last-minute character



*Frank Ball and Elmo (Jennifer Ball) work the crowd*

Saturday, there were very few snags and the vast majority of our passengers were thrilled. Crew chiefs on Sunday were KC Smith, assisted by Matt Phalon, for cars 1 - 4, and Carolyn Hoffman, assisted by Justin Kerstner for cars 5 - 8. A huge thank-you goes out to Matt Phalon for coordinating costumed characters, and to Betsy Newbury for taking up crew caller duties on short notice. Of course, thank you to all the volunteers who helped fill car host boxes, put out signs and fliers, manned phones, and filled duties as characters, car hosts, platform crew and the numerous other tasks that go into making these trips the success that they are. ☒

and crew changes were made, and then we were off. Rule V was in effect again! Everyone on the crew adapted beautifully and things went smoothly. By afternoon the weather turned, and the rain poured down in buckets. KC Smith led a very capable, if extremely soggy, platform crew. They did a stellar job keeping the passengers informed, and boarding and de-boarding each trip went without issue. In addition to our four Easter Bunnies, this season we also had Elmo, Ernie, Cookie

Monster and Spider Man to entertain the passengers. Elmo is nearly as exciting for the kids as the Easter Bunny, and Spider Man was a huge hit. Crew chiefs on Saturday were John Kroll, assisted by Matt Phalon, for cars 1 - 4, and Carolyn Hoffman, assisted by Justin Kerstner for cars 5 - 8. Sunday, April 17th, we ran three more trains - this time out of Glen Rock Boro Hall station. The train was already decorated, so the crew loaded

### VOLUNTEER RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION

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# Motorcar Report – NARCOA Trips

By Chris Vitz

Our first motorcar trip of the year is fast approaching, on the weekend of May 21st and 22nd. Last year some attendees asked for a spring run. The trip this year is as early as we could get, as the NARCOA schedule filled up quickly with competing trips. This year we start with something old and something new. This year marks, I believe, the eleventh year in a row we have run over the NYS&W Southern Division. That's "something old;" now for the "something new." This year we are starting from Sparta, NJ and heading west to Warwick. In years past we had to stop a few miles east of Warwick due to the track being under the control of Norfolk Southern west of that point. Last year that changed, and the railroad was leased to the Middletown & New Jersey. Even more advantageous is that Frank Eichenlaub, one of the pilots on our trips over the NYS&W, became General Manager of the M&NJ. Frank was gracious enough to ask his boss if we could run over the rail and they agreed. Thank you Frank!



This year we will be starting from Sparta, NJ on Saturday, and running railroad west through Warwick up to Sugar Loaf, NY. The Town of Sugar Loaf is having their spring festival that weekend and our group will be one of the attractions. Our attendees will be having lunch in Sugar Loaf. After our lunch break we will head north to Hudson Junction, the point at which the NYS&W and M&NJ meet Metro North's Port Jervis Branch, the former Erie Graham

Line. We will turn at that point and return south getting to Sparta by the end of the day. On Sunday we will run from Sparta to Hawthorne, where the dedication ceremony for the completed NYS&W Hawthorne station will be held. A barbecue lunch is planned for all attendees and the station will be open for tours and photos. After lunch we will again return to Sparta where we will go home tired but happy from such a great weekend.

As in years past, we are looking for flaggers to lead our group and stop traffic at crossings along the way. If you volunteer

one day, you get to ride the other. So come on out and run your car or go for a ride! If you would like to help with flagging one or both days please email me at [cvitz@hotmail.com](mailto:cvitz@hotmail.com).

Also coming up are our annual trip over the NYS&W Syracuse Branch on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> starting from Cortland, NY both days. Later in the fall, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be running over the Stourbridge Railroad out of Honesdale, PA. Finally, on October 16<sup>th</sup> we will be running on new track again – the Middletown & New Jersey's Walden and Montgomery Branches out of Campbell Hall, NY. These branch lines have never been open to us before so this should be another fun and new experience. ☒

## VRA EVENTS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER OF 2011

By Paul Trabert

Mon Jan 3 - NARCOA insurance carrier change  
Wed Jan 5 - Fanwood, NJ - URHS Meeting  
Sat Jan 8 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday  
Mon Jan 10 - Solicitation for

candidates for election of VRA officers  
Tue Jan 18 - Membership list being verified  
Thu Jan 20 - Hawthorne, NJ - 10 stack chairs put in station  
Fri Jan 21 - Hawthorne, NJ - VRA Board meeting  
Sat Jan 22 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday

Sun Jan 23 - Charlie Roselius died  
Wed Jan 26 - Funeral for Charlie Roselius,  
Outstanding service award presented to Charlie's wife  
Wed Jan 26 - Request for VRA Digest articles  
Thu Jan 27 - Publicity request for station pavers  
Sat Jan 29 -

Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday  
Tue Feb 1 - Deadline for Digest submissions  
Fri Feb 3 - Ballots for VRA officers mailed  
Sat Feb 5 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday: interior painting & temporary steps  
Sat Feb 12 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday

Sun Feb 13 - VRA Digest newsletter published  
Thu Feb 17 - Ballots for VRA officers due  
Thu Feb 17 - Hawthorne, NJ - Membership meeting  
Sat Feb 19 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday  
Sat Feb 26 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday

Tue Mar 1 - Press releases for Easter Bunny train  
Wed Mar 2 - Hawthorne, NJ - Flooring installed  
Wed Mar 2 - Hawthorne, NJ - Easter Bunny train meeting  
Thu Mar 3 - Changes to EB information request site

Continued on page 5

## Magazine Index Coverage for the Joseph K. Weber Memorial Library

By Paul Trabert

NAME	LIB	LOC	TRAINS	COMB
CTC Board	10	0	10	10
Diesel Era	11	0	11	11
Extra 2200 South	27	10	0	10
Model Railroader	18	16	18	18
Model Railroading	0	0	0	0
Pacific Rail News	10	4	0	4
Railfan & Railroad	22	10	7	10
Railpace	25	25	0	25
Railroad Explorer	6	6	0	6
Railroad Model Craftsman	9	9	9	9
The Railroad Press	8	5	0	5
Railway Quarterly	1	0	0	0
The Short Line	6	0	0	0
Trains	31	25	31	31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>139</b>
		<b>59.2%</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>

### Key:

- Column 1 (NAME) is the name of each magazine.
- Column 2 (LIB) is the number of years for each magazine in the library. Yes, we have 184 years of magazines.
- Column 3 (LOC) is the number of years for which we have indexes. This information has been gathered from various public sites on the Internet.
- Column 4 (TRAINS) refers to indexes found on a special site maintained by Trains magazine (<http://trc.trains.com/magazineindex/>). To access these indexes you must register with your e-mail address. Registration is free.
- Column 5 (COMB) shows the combined results of using our local indexes and the indexes found at Trains.com. Our local indexes cover about 59% of our library. The Trains magazine indexes cover about 42% of our library. Together this gives us about 76% index coverage.

## United Railroad Historical Society Highlights

By Joe Mele

The URHS has been busy this past winter and early spring with a couple of different projects. Even though there haven't been any work sessions due to the winter season, I would like to update the VRA members on the URHS activity.

Star Trak is continuing to work on our equipment at Boonton yard.

New Jersey Transit will be donating a Comet 1 ex-Erie Lackawanna cab car to the URHS. We will be receiving #5120. The M&E will be picking up the cab car for the URHS.

The URHS will be leasing Erie Railroad locomotive #436 to the Morristown & Erie Railway. The M&E plans on using this locomotive on the Lackawaxen and Stourbridge railroad.

The URHS purchased a steel shop building from a manufacturer in Southern New Jersey. The company delivered the building to Tuckahoe this past March. The building was delivered in pieces, and the next step is to erect this building on the CMSL in Tuckahoe, NJ at the wye location. The URHS and CMSL are currently working out the details for this building. The plan is to use the building for maintenance on the URHS/CMSL equipment and also for trolley storage. Stay tuned for more details.

Listed below are the Spring 2011 URHS member groups' model train/railroad shows:

Tri-State is sponsoring caboose hops on the Dover and Rockaway branch on June 12, 2011.

Friends Group: Phillipsburg 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: May 30, 2011

### Editor's Note:

The results of the 2011 VRA elections are reflected in the page two credits. The editors would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners.

# President's Report

- KC Smith

I need a rest! That is what I feel like after the last three months. I am not sure how we have found the time to do all we have done - or better yet how we get so much done with such a small group of dedicated people. The fact that our group has been able to do the things we have done over the years is because of the dedication of our members. Some can give just a bit of time while others give an extraordinary amount of time and together we all do some incredible work.. To everyone who has helped in any way I say Thank You. To those people who have gone above and beyond I give my deepest gratitude and respect, for without you the rest of the group would never have the opportunity to do what we love.

I would like to point out two people who deserve all of our thanks for always being there making things happen. First and foremost is Charles Smith. Without his efforts the Easter Train could not have happened and the station still need lots of work. Charles is someone we can all look towards to help lead this group, and I am proud to call him my friend. Second is Frank Ball. Frank and I have spent many, many days and nights together working on the station, and he has spent even more days there with contractors

making sure the work needed to get the station ready was done. He gave a lot of time before and after the Easter Train making sure everything was set and then put away. Frank has only been a member since September but he has put in what seems like years worth of work. I know that if we need something done both of these members will answer the call.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the next very important day for us, because that is the day we will reopen Hawthorne Station, which is very fitting because it was May 22, 1993 that our group held the last reopening of the station. That was the first day we served as car and station hosts for the short lived #142 steam program. Eighteen years later we will pull into the station with this year's NYS&W southern division motorcar trip and open up a new chapter in the 117-year history of the



VRA President KC Smith works on the new curbing along Royal Avenue.

little station on Royal Ave, a place we can be proud to say we not only saved - but also made better.

I look forward to many more years of working with you all and to seeing what other new and exciting things we can accomplish. ☒

<i>Continued from p. 3</i>	Bunny ad made available for email	Sat Mar 12 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday & Easter Bunny train signs available	Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday - retaining wall	train write up at <i>MommyPoppins.com</i>	express meeting
Sat Mar 5 - Hawthorne, NJ - EB train signs ready	Wed Mar 9 - Fanwood NJ - URHS Meeting	Thu Mar 15 - Operation Lifesaver coloring books with stickers donated by Mountain Lakes Train Station for Easter Bunny train	Sat Mar 19 - Boonton, NJ - URHS yard opened to allow visit by Al McCormick & family	Tue Mar 22 - Hawthorne, NJ - Fencing work	Sat Mar 26 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday plumbing
Sat Mar 5 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday	Thu Mar 10 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station work - heating	Sat Mar 19 - Hawthorne, NJ - LP Day Express meeting	Sat Mar 19 - 1999 to 2002 data recovered for VRA website	Tue Mar 22 - Easter Bunny giveaways ordered	Mon Mar 26 - VRA speeder trips for 2011 announced
Sun Mar 6 - Clark, NJ - JCRHS train show	Thu Mar 10 - Proposal for Lincoln Park Day Express	Sat Mar 19 - Hawthorne, NJ - LP Day Express meeting	Sun Mar 20 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday	Thu Mar 24 - Sample letter for grant application to replace roof & windows proposed	Wed Mar 30 - Hawthorne, NJ - Fencing installed
Sun Mar 6 - Scranton, Pa. - Railroadiansa show	Fri Mar 11 - Designs for VRA drum head proposed	Sat Mar 19 - Hawthorne, NJ - LP Day Express meeting	Sun Mar 20 - Hawthorne, NJ - Station workday	Fri Mar 25 - Lincoln Park, NJ - LP Day	Thu Mar 31 - Grant application for roof & window replacement submitted
Mon Mar 7 - Easter					

# Hawthorne Station Photo Special

In honor of the grand re-opening of Hawthorne Station this month, we present to you a selection of photographs chronicling the station.



HAWTHORNE'S BUSY CORNER, HAWTHORNE, N. J.

*Hawthorne Station circa 1915.  
Note the lack of automated crossing protection!*



*The station as it stood for all its life before 2010.*



*The move begins, and the station  
nears its new home.*



*The new foundation gives the station a  
brand new feature – a basement.*

*See you next  
time...*



*May, 2011 – after years of dedication (and some blood, sweat  
and tears), it's all about to conclude.*



**Volunteer Railroaders Association**

# **Hawthorne Station**

# **Restoration Project**

80 Royal Ave, Hawthorne NJ 07506

Personalized Paver Bricks

Order Form

**4" x 8" Engraved Brick – Grey \$75.00 (1 – 3 Lines, 18 Characters and Spaces)**


**8" x 8" Engraved Brick – Red \$150.00 (1 – 5 Lines, 18 Characters and Spaces)**


**Add a logo for \$25.00: Please Circle One**

**\*Hawthorne Fire Dept. / \*Hawthorne Ambulance Corps. / \*Hawthorne Bears**

**\*Hawthorne Police / VRA Logo / Cross / Train / Heart**

\*\$5.00 will be donated to the corresponding organization if you chose their logo for your brick!

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

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Visit [www.VRATrips.org](http://www.VRATrips.org) for more information and on-line ordering options.