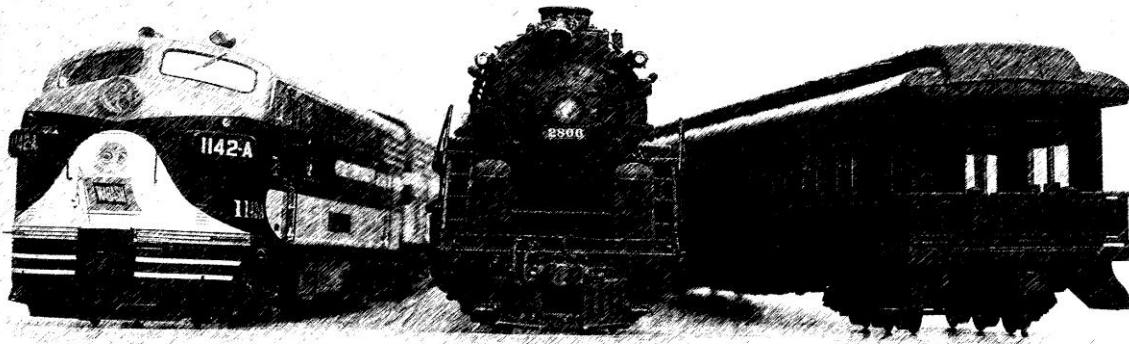


# MONTPELIER OHIO 2011 JULY 29-30



## WABASH RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

### Location

Our host facility and headquarters this year is the Bryan/Montpelier, (Holiday City), Ohio, Ramada Inn Conference Center, 13508 State Road 15, Exit 13 off the Ohio 80/90 Turnpike. The Ramada is an equidistance of 180 miles to Cleveland to the East and Chicago to the West, 120 miles from Detroit, and 60 miles from Toledo. Located in Northwest Ohio, it is a 160 room facility with all the amenities including a restaurant and indoor pool. The society has a block of 20 rooms reserved at a very competitive rate of \$64.00 per room. Block rate reservations can be made starting March 14, but ending July 15. Make your reservations as early as possible because this is a busy vacation time of the year. Book by calling the hotel directly at 1-800-851-8300 or 419-485-5555. The hotel's website for more information, online reservations and computer assisted directions is:

[http://www.ramada.com/Ramada/control/Booking/check\\_avail?&variant=&id=13194&propBrandId=RA&force\\_nostay=false&tab=tab4](http://www.ramada.com/Ramada/control/Booking/check_avail?&variant=&id=13194&propBrandId=RA&force_nostay=false&tab=tab4)

### **The Wabash Railroad Historical Society**

We hope to see many familiar and some new faces including fans, railroaders and modelers, plus perhaps those from Canada and overseas. Our annual meetings are always open to nonmembers, provided they pay the registration fee. But we encourage you to join and share our resources, feature magazines, calendar and fellowship. The historical society is a not-for-profit, IRS tax-exempt organization dedicated to the collection and preservation of historical artifacts, data, photos, and drawings on the history, operation and equipment of the Wabash Railroad Company, its predecessors and affiliates. For more information, including membership, please check out our website at: <http://www.wabashrhs.org> or speak with any of the officers at the annual meeting.

### **Amtrak Shuttle**

Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited, number 48/49, provides service to nearby Bryan, Ohio which is about 12 miles from the hotel. Scheduled **Westbound arrival and departure times are 7:05 AM. Eastbound arrival and departures are 1:40 AM.** For those of you that choose to arrive and depart by Amtrak, the WRHS will be providing a limited shuttle service between the hotel and the Bryan station on both Friday and Sunday morning times and the 1:40 AM ONLY for Saturday (**NOT the Saturday 7:05 AM time**). The Capitol Limited, number 29/30, provides more arrival and departure options to and from Toledo, but meeting participants are on their own for transportation to and from Toledo. Summer is a busy time for Amtrak, so book with them as early as possible. **The Amtrak shuttle option must be noted on your reservation form if you need a shuttle. Also, please contact the coordinator listed below by email or phone if you make changes or no longer need the shuttle.**

### **Contact:**

**Questions, problems, special needs?** Contact our coordinator, Victor Baird at [reporterllc@yahoo.com](mailto:reporterllc@yahoo.com) (Those are little "els" in his email address.) Or call him at (260) 745-5141 before July 29 and (260) 418-6194 July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> only.

# Itinerary

## *Friday, July 29*

**5:00 PM** The meeting room will be open for the customary informal meet-and-greet, impromptu slide shows, movies, show-and-tell, etc., until you drop or midnight, whichever comes first. Display tables will be available in a secure area for models to be entered in the Wabash modeling contest, Wabash displays and items to be auctioned off in our Saturday benefit auction. We will also start raffling off tickets for cab rides on the Saturday excursion train. Proceeds from that raffle and the auction will go toward the restoration of Wabash Mogul 573.

**6:00 to 9:00 PM** The Montpelier Trackside Modelers Model Railroad Club, located in a storefront in downtown Montpelier at 414 West Main Street, will be open for visitation especially for us. It is across the street from Fackler Monuments. The layout is large, of no particular prototype, but well done. (Another opportunity to visit will be from 3 to 5 PM on Saturday.) A map with directions from the hotel to the model railroad club is included with this itinerary. It is also noted on the Montpelier map.

## *Saturday, July 30*

**8:00 AM** The meeting room will be reopened. For those of you that need to make arrangements to car pool to and from the excursion train in Edon, Ohio, this is your opportunity if you haven't already done so. If you need directions, a map is provided with this itinerary. Edon is about 14.5 miles from the hotel, but we recommend leaving the hotel no later than 8:30 to be on the safe side of getting on the train for the 9:00 AM departure time. See the map for directions from the hotel and the Edon map for parking.

**9:00 AM** Our excursion train will leave Edon, Ohio for Ashley, Indiana. The train will be running on a small portion of the former Wabash 4<sup>th</sup> District, now the Indiana Northeastern Railroad. Our private train will run 16 miles to Ashley, Indiana and return. Total round-trip time should be about 2 hours. A pamphlet will be handed out to passengers with a capsule history of the line, photos and a description of sights along the way. The society has requested a car with handicap access. We should be back to Edon by about 11:00 AM. The Edon Depot has been moved to Walz Park, about a half mile north of downtown Edon. See the Edon map for directions.

**Lunch:** Members are on their own for lunch with the Cannon Ball restaurant in the hotel, the Four Seasons restaurant across the street plus McDonalds, Chinese and pizza spots in and towards Montpelier. Downtown Montpelier is 4.5 miles from the hotel. A list of restaurants with phone numbers in Montpelier and Edon is included with this itinerary. Some will do carry out.

**1:00-4:00 PM** The Williams County Museum, located at 619 East Main Street in Montpelier, will be open especially for us. There is a \$2 admission charge. The Williams County Historical Society has a wide variety of collections and displays. Included are Indian artifacts, Americana and some railroadians with a scaled down replica of a railroad passenger station and a Wabash "STOP" crossing signal. The location is shown on the Montpelier map included with this itinerary. The museum is about 4 miles from the Ramada on Route 107 and located on the edge of the Williams County Fairgrounds. See the Montpelier map for directions.

**2:00 PM** Railroad Historian and published author Craig Berndt will give a one hour PowerPoint presentation titled, "**Wabash Mainline Development, Detroit to St. Louis, 1879-1901**". This 20 some year period saw major changes for the Wabash mainline through the tri-state area including a new line built to Detroit that overshadowed Toledo in importance, eviction from the Eel River Railroad in Indiana and a newly constructed line between New Haven and Butler Indiana.

**Railfanning:** For those of you who want to check out contemporary railroading in the local area, here's the scoop. Most Norfolk Southern trains just pass through, but Montpelier is an interchange point for short line Indiana Northeastern. Be aware that Norfolk Southern is very intolerant of trespassers. They will log you in their system. A second violation may land you in jail and sometimes a first. The society does not condone trespassing and we are not responsible for your actions. However, the South Platt Street Bridge over the yards has pedestrian walkways. In addition to NS traffic here, Canadian Pacific crews run about 8 to 10 Detroit-Chicago trains in both directions with CP locomotives. Total number of trains on NS here in 24 hours is about 24. Norfolk Southern's former New York Central, "Water Level Route" through nearby Bryan and Edgerton, Ohio is bidirectional double track and very busy with perhaps 65 trains in 24 hours, including two Amtrak trains in each direction. The depot at Bryan is still standing but Amtrak has its own facility nearby (Page and Lynn Streets). CSX's former Baltimore & Ohio, Chicago-Pittsburgh mainline is also bidirectional double track and runs through nearby Hicksville and Defiance. It is also very busy, on par with the former New York Central line but no passenger trains. Butler, Indiana, about 25 road miles to the southwest, is the crossing of the former Wabash Railroad, Detroit-St. Louis mainline (the line through Montpelier) and the afore mentioned former New York Central mainline. A new connecting track was built here a few years ago for the CP trains to get access to Chicago. Traffic flow is almost 100 trains in 24 hours. Short line Indiana Northeastern has a network of lines in the tri-state area on former Wabash and New York Central trackage and runs trains as needed. Most INE traffic is grain but unit coal trains are operated to Litchfield, Michigan. Also, Little River Railroad runs excursions with their Pacific Steam Locomotive out of Coldwater, Michigan. Railfans are encouraged to access the following websites for more information:

Little River Railroad <http://www.littleriverrailroad.com/>

Fort Wayne Area Railfans <http://www.fwarailfan.net/>

The Bull Session at Indiana Railroads <http://indiana.railfan.net/>

Or join this Yahoo! Group at North and Central Indiana Railroads <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCIR/>

**3:00-5:00 PM** The Montpelier Trackage Modelers Model Railroad Club at 414 West Main Street, Montpelier, will be open again for visitation. See directions map and map of Montpelier.

**5:00 PM** Social Hour before the Banquet

**6:00 PM** Banquet, Buffet Dinner.

**7:30 PM** Victor Baird, railroad historian and published author, will do a one hour feature PowerPoint Presentation titled, "**Montpelier: A Railroad Town**". Montpelier was a major Wabash division point with classification yards, engine facilities and division offices. The Wabash was the only railroad in town but it had lines here radiating to Toledo, Detroit, Chicago and St. Louis. All the Detroit-St. Louis passenger trains stopped here including the famous Cannon Ball. Included will be plenty of photos and history. Hopefully, we will get some lively input from the locals and railroaders during the presentation.

**8:30 PM** Our traditional 573 Benefit Auction hosted by member John Bordner will begin. Included in the auction are donated Wabash memorabilia and model railroad equipment. Proceeds will be forwarded to the St. Louis Museum of Transport in St. Louis to help fund cosmetic restoration of old Wabash Mogul steam locomotive 573 built in 1899. The locomotive ran its remaining revenue miles on the Wabash Keokuk Branch in Iowa and was one of the last Wabash steam locomotives in service in 1955.

**9:15 PM** More socializing, impromptu slide shows, movies, show-and-tell, etc., until you drop or midnight, whichever comes first.

## A Sampling of Montpelier Area Eating Establishments with Distance from Ramada:

### Montpelier:

Cannon Ball--Located in the Ramada, modestly high to high price food, a popular dining spot for the locals

Four Seasons--Across the street from the Ramada, family style, burgers and Greek, popular, (419) 485-3261

McDonalds--1100 East Main Street, on Route 107, (419) 485-8461, 3.6 miles

Golden China--1424 Whittaker Way, on Route 107, Chinese buffet, (419) 485-1688, 3.3 miles

Subway--1426 Whitaker Way, next to the Chinese restaurant, (419) 485-8765, 3.3 miles

Tano's Pizza--111 North Jonesville Street, downtown Montpelier, (419) 485-8765, 4.5 miles

Pop's Pizza--216 West Main Street, downtown Montpelier, pizza, subs, salad, wifi (419) 485-4200, 4.4 miles

Pizza Oven--317 West Main Street, downtown Montpelier, (419) 485-5506, 4.5 miles

### Edon (Train ride location):

Feed Mill--104 North Michigan Street, downtown Edon, family style, breakfast, lunch, wide selection, (419) 272-2452

Edon Dairy Treat--104 S. Michigan, downtown Edon, drive-up, ice cream and fast food (419) 272-2331

Edon Steakhouse--114 North Michigan Street, downtown Edon, small storefront bar & grill (419) 272-1100

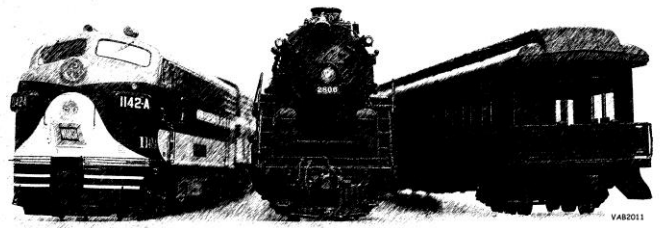
Burger King--14834 State Road 49, 5.3 miles north of Edon, north side of 80/90 (419) 459-4521

Subway--14896 State Road 49, next to Burger King (419) 459-4367



Registration Form--Type in fields on computer or print off and print in fields.

**MONTPELIER OHIO JULY 29-30**



WABASH RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The registration fee includes a buffet dinner, all scheduled activities and a round-trip train excursion. Attendees are responsible for their own transportation and hotel bookings. See Itinerary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Attending:	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Reg. before 6/30/2011</u>	<u>Reg. after 6/30/2011</u>	<u>Extension</u>
Self	_____	\$30	\$40	\$ _____
Spouse	_____	\$30	\$40	\$ _____
Children under 12**	_____	\$20	\$30	\$ _____
Totals	_____			\$\$\$ _____

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Will you require a shuttle to and from the Amtrak, Bryan, OH Station and the Ramada?  Yes  No  
 Amtrak times: Friday: Saturday: (1:40 AM Only) Sunday:

Time to be picked up:   Time to be dropped off:

**Make remittance payable to the Wabash Railroad Historical Society and mail to:  
 Victor A. Baird, 4702 Tacoma Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807-2630**

**\*\*\*\*Please note the increase in price for remittance post marked by the postal service after 6/30/2011**

**\*\*Children must be accompanied by an adult, paid registrant**

**\*The Amtrak shuttle is provided by the WRHS to and from the Bryan Amtrak Station and will operate Friday and Sunday both arrival and departure times but ONLY the 1:40 AM for Saturday**

**A confirmation can be emailed.**