

SEVEN-POINT-FOUR

The newsletter of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc. A Pennsylvania non-stock not-for-profit Organization, tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



RULES CLASS WILL BREAK NEW GROUND IN TRAINING AND SAFETY

The rules class scheduled for April 24, 2021 will be the most thorough ever given in the 138 year history of the Stewartstown Railroad. Developed and extensively researched by Owen Stedding, and presented by Owen and Rues Examiner Ken Bitten, the class will use a combination of Power Point presentations, videos, discussions and hands on training to bring understanding to the sometimes arcane world of railroad rules.

Ken is known for his anecdotal style of teaching, and says “after 43 years of railroading, I have a story for almost every rule in the book.” Owen and Ken both will be explaining the rules rather than forcing memorization or learning by ‘rote.’ “We want our crews to understand the rules and be confident and comfortable with them, not just to memorize them” says Ken.

The class is mandatory for those operating trains or motor cars, but is OPEN TO EVERYONE. It is highly recommended for volunteers including maintenance of way (track), restoration, passenger services. There is no age limit on attending and all are encouraged to attend, but be aware there are age restrictions for operating positions.

The class will also cover safety rules for personnel that don’t operate trains, and is a great opportunity to learn about the railroad and meet many of the people involved in bringing it to life. The railroad will provide lunch, so to ensure that we have enough food and space, please be sure to let Owen know if you will be attending at owen.stedding@gmail.com. PLEASE NOTE: the class will also be available virtually for those people who are unable to attend or don’t feel comfortable attending in person.

The class will also focus on certain areas where issues and concerns have been noted in the past, so even the “old heads” on the railroad will learn new things and get to improve their skills. The class is also a good starting point for new volunteers to learn about the railroad and volunteer opportunities and to begin the journey to becoming a part of the train crew.

The class will start at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 24 at the railroad’s headquarters building across from the passenger station in Stewartstown. As you can see, it will be a full day of training.

Classroom and hands-on, 9:00 am – 1200 pm. Lunch Break, 12:00-1:00 pm

Classroom and hands-on 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Rules Test, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you!

The Stewartstown Railroad has safety in mind and is extending the training as noted above to give everyone a better understanding of the rules and how they relate to practical use.

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org

Gift Shop News

Good Bye 2020~~~ Welcome 2021!

We are so happy to be able to get the trains running and the gift shop open after last year! There were a lot of changes made to the gift shop last year, in anticipation for the upcoming season. Unfortunately, only a few got to see the new set up.

This year, we were anxious to open the doors to an exciting season and lots of new changes!

- + New displays were added, and the shop rearranged.
- + Lots of new items! There is a little of something for everyone. Train toys, whistles, books and puzzles for the kids. The new Bubble Train Whistle has been a big hit!!
- + Embroidered shirts & hats, mostly men sizes but working on getting some T-shirts for kids!
- + New to the gift shop are some jewelry items: earrings, bracelets, charms. Even some Train "Mood Rings" for the girls!! A key ring for the guys.
- + And new for this year, a video digest of the Stewartstown Railroad, produced by Big Jim Videos. This is available in BluRay and DVD.
- + The gift shop is now accepting credit cards. We recently updated our system to take most card types, including chip cards and Apple Pay!!

We had a great 1st weekend (1st weekend for the Easter Bunny Run) and met lots of great people!

Respectfully,

Donna Kuhlman

Gift Shop Manager



Photos from the Bunny Train, courtesy of Earl Long

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Owen Stedding, Director-at-Large

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Donna Kuhlman, Gift Shop Manager

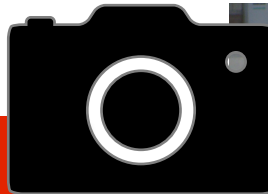
Nancy Ruane, Newsletter Editor

Madeline McCabe, Newsletter Fulfillment



How did we do this?

This was an actual moment caught on film following a train derailment 2 years ago. Thank you Larry Morgan for this amusing photo.



Hi Earl!

This is our long time Rail Road Friend Earl Long who has been known to chase down the train to get just the right picture. He has shared too many photos to count. Next time you see him , give him a shout out.



You can buy train ride tickets, in advance, with your credit card through WhistleTix on the Railroad company's website:
www.stewartstownrailroadco.com

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Volunteers from the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc. began working on coach 1158 in the Spring of 2018 upon purchase from the Stewartstown Railroad Company. A preliminary assessment was taken to develop a project plan, budget, and timeline. Shortly thereafter, we learned that we were recipients of a generous \$10,000 grant from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust!



*Left: Newly
painted
Windows Laid
Out to Dry,
Right: Newly
Installed
Windows*



Many decades of water leaks left damage yet to be discovered. Our first priority was to find and seal all roof leaks. Volunteers quickly went to work, inside and out, looking for pinholes. They removed the inside ceiling panels anywhere water damage was present, horse-hair insulation, and any other flammable materials. It was quickly discovered that the roof had leaking patches from 10 previously removed air vents that had been removed during a refurbishment at the Reading Company Shops.

A contract welder was hired to weld flush patches over the 10 former roof vents. Additional leaks were found at various locations along the roof edge all around the car. Volunteers once again removed rivets and ensured that flammable materials had been removed from around the worksite where the contract welder was patching holes. Nearly 70 holes were patched around the roof edge of the car. Volunteers followed behind replacing rivets that had to be removed with replacement button-head fasteners. Additional leaks were found around the 6 remaining roof vents in the ceiling. At this point, it was decided to remove the remainder of the ceiling to ensure no more holes existed. A contractor was hired for \$500 to remove any potentially remaining harmful materials used for insulating the roof. So far, two roof vents have been replaced, another is currently being made by a contractor, with the remaining 3 planned for replacement by summer 2021. Each vent is fabricated and installed for a fixed price of \$250.

Articles and news items to be considered for publication in 7.4 need to be submitted by the first of each month to allow time for editing, fact checking and possible consolidation with other submitted items. When submitting photos, please submit as .jpg files and identify the photographer. Email submissions to: friendsofstrrt@hotmail.com

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Coach 1158 Project Update-January 2021

Submitted by Dave Watson



Left: Contract Welder on the roof, Middle: Completed Patch Repairs, Right: Reproduction Roof Vent Installed

Bottom Left: Interior of Coach after horse-hair insulation removal, Bottom Right: Volunteer installing rivet substitutes

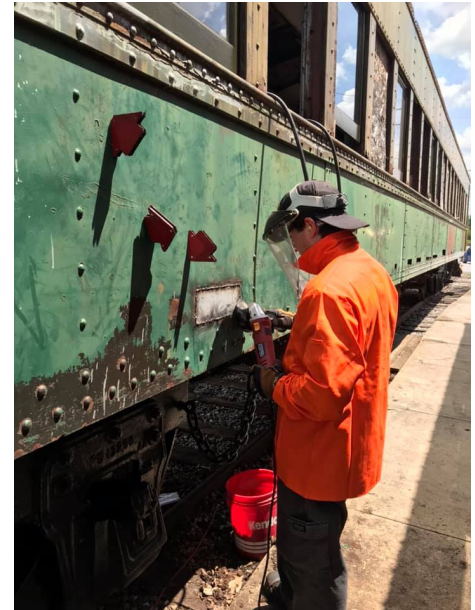


Volunteers have worked steadily since 2018 to repair bad spots in the side-sheets of the car. A refurbished MIG welding machine and plasma cutter were obtained from Eastwood to permit volunteers to perform our own welding work (when and where we can). Nearly the entire length of the south side of the passenger car lower side sheets have required extensive replacement. To date, nearly 3/4 of the damage has been repaired by our volunteers. The northside of the car side sheets are minor, only requiring modest repairs in 3 places.

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*Left: Volunteer cutting out bad spots in the side sheets,
Right: Volunteer grinding down welds
Bottom: Volunteers Welding in Patches & Blending freshly*

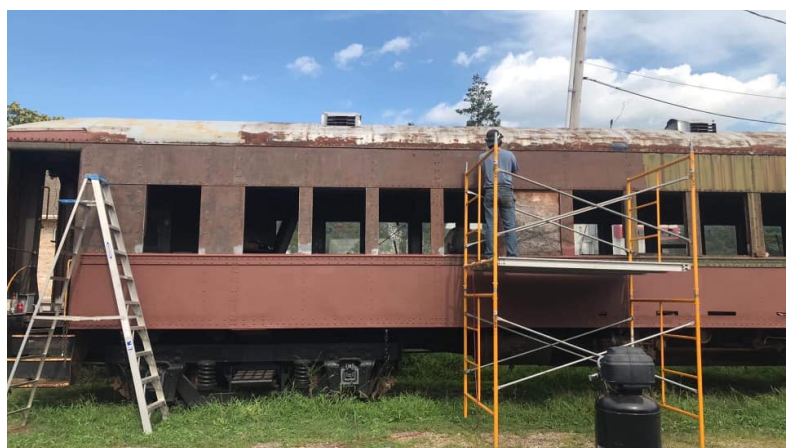


Patches were found and uncovered exposing extensive sheet metal damage to the windowsills during the Spring of 2019. Volunteers have carefully cut off the lower frames plus sill/jam pieces and welded in new pieces of steel to re-create proper windowsills and jams. So far, seven windows have been repaired with just a little over 20 remaining. A contract metal worker has recently created a single replacement piece (eliminating 7 pieces) with the appropriate bends for the window track. These prefabricated pieces will save valuable time, allowing our volunteers to complete the remaining 20 windowsill repairs within the next few months.



***Volunteer cutting out bad bottom window tracks, Sill Repairs,
Structural Repairs to coach underframe, Finished Window Track Repair***

A great deal of progress was made over Summer 2020 to prepare surfaces for primer and paint. An Eastwood Contour tool was purchased to remove rust or paint on large sections of steel, along with a few small, powered abrasive hand-tools. All inside surfaces were needle-scaled, sanded, primed, and painted in several spots. The outside length of the car on both sides was needle-scaled and primed, leaving just the ends to receive the same treatment. We have decided to hire a contractor to wet blast the roof, prime and paint it, in part due to safety concerns of volunteers working on the project.



***Top Left: First Side of Coach being Needle Scaled,
Sanded, and primed, Top Right: Second side
completely primed
Bottom: Inside Walls freshly painted Grey***

A group of volunteers has been working for the past 2 years on replacement windows for the passenger coach. 27 reproduction window frames were purchased from a carpenter to replace severely rotted ones. All replacement window frames have been primed and painted. They are being installed as welding repairs are completed to the windowsills and jams. Window glass has been salvaged from several windows.



Left: Newly painted Windows Laid Out to Dry, Right: Newly Installed Windows

Three volunteers removed outdated copper electrical wiring from the conduits inside the coach during Fall 2020. The existing wiring was found to be brittle. New wiring, a breaker panel, electrical outlets, and PA system will be installed.

Extensive floor damage was found in summer 2020. Approximately one half of the floor will require demolition and reconstruction. Volunteers will remove the hardware and a contractor will be hired to remove potentially toxic or dangerous materials used to initially build the floor.

Fundraising efforts to generate interest and monetary donations toward this project have been successful. However, donations are needed to keep this project moving on schedule – our goal for this year is to finish the outside. To do this we need primer, paint, and some minor body work. All in all, a great deal of progress has been made on this project. The Friends have demonstrated the ability to be good stewards of the money they have raised and stretch it as far as possible using volunteer labor. With an additional donations, we will be able to afford the necessary supplies and services to get this project done with professional results. Thank you!

Note from the Editor:

Sorry for the delay! I'm excited to work on the newsletter. I have had a rocky road trying to find a new software that would work on my computer. I found one, but have had to learn a lot. Teaching this old dog new tricks has been slow, but I'm getting the knack of it. You'll see some design changes over the next few issues. Please keep submitting those great photos and stories. Thanks! Nancy



Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.
P.O., Box 456
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania 17363-0456

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TIME VALUE MATERIAL

PLEASE DELIVER BY: Month Day, Year

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



Membership Classifications & Dues (Full-year, Jan.-Dec.)

- ☐ **Individual Membership** \$ 20.00
(Show your membership card and receive a \$2.00 discount on one regular Stewartstown Railroad train ticket, courtesy of the Stewartstown Railroad Company.)
- ☐ **Family Membership** (all members at same address) \$ 100.00
(Show your membership card and receive a \$2.00 discount on up to four (4) regular Stewartstown Railroad train tickets, courtesy of the Stewartstown Railroad Company.)
- ☐ **Corporate Membership** (business/organizational) \$ 300.00
Corporate members receive five (5) complimentary Stewartstown Railroad ticket coupons from the Friends organization.
- ☐ **Optional: general fund donation** \$ _____
- ☐ **Optional: endowment fund donation** \$ _____
- ☐ **Optional: equipment fund donation** \$ _____
- ☐ **Optional: right-of-way/track fund donation** \$ _____
- ☐ **Optional: Other donation please specify:** \$ _____

(You may specify a specific project on the line above for your optional donation if you wish)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

The Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc., invites all who are interested in preserving the Stewartstown Railroad to join the Friends organization. The railroad was founded in 1884 and opened in 1885

One of the goals of the organization is to support our members as they perform their volunteer work on the railroad upgrading and maintaining the railroad's properties. Our volunteers' efforts help the railroad continue its operations over its 7.4 miles of tracks between Stewartstown and New Freedom, Pennsylvania via the Deer Creek Valley.

The Friends organization is a Pennsylvania non-stock not-for-profit membership organization. The Friends organization is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Friends organization owns a minority equity interest in the Stewartstown Railroad Company.

We're on the web at:

www.stewartstownfriends.org

Please send completed application and check to

Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc
P.O. Box 456,
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania 17363-0456

OR

Join on line at:

<http://www.stewartstownfriends.org/join/>