

The OARP Member's Journal

September 1994

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

Issue #1

Welcome to Your Newsletter!

We are very proud to present this premiere issue of *The OARP Member's Journal*, the new bi-monthly newsletter exclusively for dues-paying members of the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers. You may not have realized it, but OARP's other official newsletter, *the 6:53/Ohio Rail Passenger News*, is sent not only to members, but also to a variety of government officials and agencies, the news media, other rail groups, etc... *The OARP Member's Journal* will go only to members.

Why A New Newsletter?

There are three main reasons for this new members only newsletter. The first is that because *the 6:53* goes out to all those other folks, the OARP Board has not felt comfortable allowing things of a potentially controversial nature or in any way critical of Amtrak to be published. Their fear has been that someone could point to an article or quote something in an effort to show division within our group or try to attempt to prove that certain comments somehow show support of anti-rail ideas. Yet, we should have a forum in which we can air differences and inform one another about current travel conditions...

To provide that forum, we have developed this limited distribution newsletter, which we ask you to be careful with, so that nobody does attempt to use our words against us. We believe that most of the diversity within our group revolves around the details of how exactly to provide the best passenger rail service, and not whether or not we should have passenger rail service.

What's In A Name?

The second main reason for this new newsletter is to be able to include more of the material that we receive from our members. Many times *the 6:53* has been so filled with news and organizational necessities that there hasn't been room to include such things as trip reports, travel tips, etc. By having two newsletters, we will be able to include these things, and perhaps even some new features, such as excursion announcements and advertising. The hope is that you will feel welcome to contribute your thoughts and insight, hence the name *The OARP Member's Journal*.

Increased Contact = Increased Participation?

The third main reason for this new newsletter is to establish more regular contact among OARP's members. We hope to get into a routine in which the arrival of your newsletter will become more predictable. With a monthly opportunity to promote activities, we're also hopeful that participation and membership will increase.

As more passenger rail service starts to come on line here in Ohio, OARP would like to be able to offer more practical support for passengers. The introduction of *The OARP Member's Journal* is the first step in that direction. It will take us a little while to work out the bugs, but we hope that you like where we're going, and will not only stick with us, but participate in the journey!

Ken Wilt,

OARP Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Talgo Tilting Trainset To Visit Ohio

The Spanish built Talgo tilt-train may make a whirlwind tour across Ohio in late October. The Talgo has been in service all summer long in the Pacific Northwest's *Cascadia Corridor* and is now headed towards a service demonstration in Maine. The Talgo is **tentatively** scheduled to be on static display in Toledo on the morning of Monday, October 24th. It will then travel to Columbus for a mid-day display, and to Cleveland for an evening display. **Tentative** locations for the static displays are Toledo's Central Union Terminal, Arch Park in Columbus, and Cleveland's Lakefront Amtrak Station. **Plans are not yet finalized and could change.** Local papers may end up carrying stories about this, or hopefully we'll have the final word in time for the October 6:53/*Ohio Rail Passenger News*.

The Talgo is a modern, articulated passenger trainset from Spain. It's unique feature is a passive tilt mechanism which allows it to take curves fast. For a fancy European train, the Talgo is more modest than an active-tilt X2000 from Sweden or a luxurious ICE from Germany. But then, the Talgo is also less expensive, more versatile, very safe, well built, and nicer than anything Amtrak currently has. The cafe car/diner is a must see. The glass doors and sleek video monitors are sure to impress some, while others will be content to know only that it will one day get them where they want to go at 125mph or more - in safety and comfort!

Since the Talgo trainset can be pulled by a variety of locomotive types, it fits right in with the incremental approach to high speed rail that OARP has advocated for years. So, the Talgo is definitely worth a look. Come out and see the Talgo, and show your support for increased passenger rail services across Ohio!



Festival Of Stations On Track

Thanks to OARP's Central Ohio members, the Ohio Festival of Stations is ready to roll! Jeff Darbee has lined up an impressive program for the officials from Ohio communities which have rail depots with a potential for reuse. After a tour of the T&OC station, and lunch, the workshop will feature speakers from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), who will explain funding sources and procedures for obtaining ISTEA funding for station renovations. Wendy Zucal of the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum will then recount their renovation experience, and Greg Peiffer of Fostoria will describe his community's renovation.

Bill Hutchison sent out 192 workshop invitations to community officials. Ken Wilt turned out a handsome promotional flier. In addition to lining up the workshop program, Jeff Darbee will also be the principal speaker on historic stations at the Festival's public session.

David Petree has driven several hundred miles around the state, shooting pictures of old stations and collecting background information on them. A total of 45 stations have been recorded for developing the displays which will be set on tables in the lobby of the T&OC station on October 2nd. Larry and Meg Grey have been converting discarded egg cartons into attractive stands to mount the display boards. Some of the cartons were contributed by Bill Schuler. Besides setting up the displays, the Greys will staff a reception table at the public session - to handle admissions, distribute literature, and sell bumper stickers.

Mary Eckert's Amtrak banner will be on display, as well as a large wall map of Ohio showing communities numbered to correspond to numbers on the depot displays. Alex Heingartner is processing the station information into brief highlights for the display panels, with assistance from Bob Rietz and Ray Mihalsky.

Harold Zweifel and Karl Gelfer are working on marketing. They have distributed fliers and have contacted the media. Harold also distributed a large number of fliers at the Ohio State Fair. Jack Schoby sent festival fliers out to Columbus area members.

Larry Robertson has collected passenger rail video tapes, Dave Lebold is heading security and conducting station tours, and John Manning will be making audio tapes. Jim Shoemaker will also conduct tours.

Last, but certainly not least, Bob Boyce has spent countless hours managing this project. Thanks to All!

You are invited to attend the OHIO FESTIVAL OF STATIONS

*Sunday, October 2nd, 1994
drop in between 10am & 5pm
at the former T&OC Station
(now Volunteers of America)
379 West Broad Street in Columbus
\$3 adults * \$1 children under 12*

- > Talks & Displays on Historic Stations*
- > Tours of the historic T&OC Station*
- > Videos relating to passenger rail*
- > Various passenger rail literature*
- > Friends, Fun & More!*

Panhandle Short-line Revives ex-Mainline

Opinion by Walter Kussmaul

The Panhandle line connects Columbus with Pittsburgh via Newark, Coshocton, Dennison, and Mingo Junction. At one time this ex-Pennsylvania and ex-Conrail line was one of the busiest in the US, with 40 trains a day the norm. It's death was almost realized when Conrail petitioned the ICC in 1988 to abandon a 25-mile segment between Dennison and Cadiz Junction. The ICC denied the request, prompting Conrail to put the 160-mile line up for sale. As a result of the sale, the Columbus and Ohio River division of the Ohio Central System is currently bringing life back to a once dying line.

The last regular passenger service on the Panhandle line was provided by Amtrak's NATIONAL LIMITED. Prior to that, many may remember Pennsylvania's/Penn Central's SPIRIT OF SAINT LOUIS. The only current passenger service on the line is an occasional excursion put on by the Ohio Central System. For those interested, an October 9th steam excursion from Newark to Dennison is scheduled.

The signals and one of the two tracks are now gone. However, back in 1975 the line was actually upgraded by Conrail. New 135lb. rail was laid, and new signals installed. Then in 1980, shortly after the work was completed, Conrail changed it's routing and the line was no longer important or profitable to them. Crews removed one of the two recently laid tracks, and the new signals. Thereafter, Conrail did everything it could to dry up business on the Panhandle.

Denied permission to abandon a portion of the Panhandle, Conrail completed the sale of the line in April 1992. Initially asking \$18.6 million, a price of \$7.45 million was finally agreed upon. Through an innovative financing arrangement, the State of Ohio essentially owns the line, and the Columbus & Ohio River Railroad division of the Ohio Central System has an operating lease with the state. An investment corporation (Caprail) was formed through private investors to purchase the line. Caprail then leases the line to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for about \$700,000 a year for 20 years. The Columbus & Ohio River Railroad makes payments of about \$59,000 per month to the State of Ohio. If the Columbus & Ohio River Railroad is unable to make payments, or if the lease is terminated, ODOT must make payments to Caprail until it finds another railroad to operate the line. Upon expiration of the 20 year lease from Caprail, Ohio will own title to the line.

Headquartered in Coshocton, the Ohio Central System is attracting new shippers and moving to improve the Panhandle. They currently have 21 diesel-electrics and 3 steam locomotives. Connection service with Class I railroads includes Conrail at Columbus, Mingo Junction, Massillon, and New Lexington; CSXT at Newark, Youngstown, and Zanesville; and Norfolk Southern at Columbus. Shipments on the Panhandle consist primarily of coal, oil, paper, grain, and cement.

While the Ohio Central System works to increase business and make improvements, a plan to construct a bike trail along the right-of-way would stop everything, including any future plans for passenger service. In a letter from Michael J. Conner, Executive Vice-President of the Ohio Central System he states, "The Rails-to-Trails bike trail on our right-of-way is inconsistent with the best interest of our railroad. Should the Rails-to-Trails concept prevail, any discussion of the growth and development of the Columbus & Ohio River Railroad is academic, as the railroad as either a freight only or freight and passenger carrier will shut down due to the liability exposure and facilities constraints". Mr. Conners has asked OARP to oppose the bike trail proposal. The active rail line and bikes on the same right-of-way are completely incompatible.

As long as the Rails-to-Trails concept does not prevail, the future of the Panhandle looks good - expanded freight service now, and the possibility of passenger service in the future. If all goes well, the Panhandle will continue to be an important part of our rail system.

Editor's Note: OARP has an official position of neutrality on this issue. We have not taken sides as compelling arguments exist on both sides, and it is not necessary for us to become involved. OARP supports both the Ohio Central Railroad and Rails-to-Trails, and we hope that the two can come to a mutually acceptable agreement which helps offer Ohioans increased transportation options.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE AUTHORIZED TRAVEL AGENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS:

Akron	Parkside Travel U S A	(216) 724-1800	Joel Brown	
Alliance	Alliance AAA Travel	(216) 821-2323	(216) 456-6315	
Canal Fulton	Massillon AAA Travel	(216) 854-6616		
Cleveland	Ohio Motorists Assoc/AAA Travel	(216) 361-6080		
Cleveland	Randall Park Mall Travel Agency	(800) 999-2434	(216) 475-8747	Robert Beck
Columbus	Accessible Travel Agency	(800) 837-2822	(614) 792-3555	Jude Cuddy
Columbus	Ohio Automobile Club/AAA Travel	(614) 431-7823		
Elyria	Tours & Travel Service, Inc.	(800) 443-7789	(216) 323-5423	Mike McClister
Mansfield	Mansfield Travel Center	(419) 756-8747		Jay Gilbert
Massillon	Massillon AAA Travel	(216) 833-1034		Cheryl Anderson
Perrysburg	Hayes Travel Agency	(800) 234-8877	(419) 874-2271	
Piqua	Miami County Auto Club/AAA Travel	(513) 773-3753		
Sandusky	Sandusky Travel Service, Inc.	(419) 626-4633		Roberta Slyker
Solon	Astro Travel Service	(800) 759-7404	(216) 248-7740	Al Mladine
Troy	Miami County Auto Club/AAA Travel	(513) 339-0112		

Authorized Amtrak travel agents who wish to join OARP, maintain current membership status, and be listed in this DIRECTORY, should send a \$50 check, made payable to OARP, to Stephen Klipfel, Treasurer, 825 S. Tecumseh Rd, Springfield, OH 45506. The TRAM annual listing fee of \$40 entitles you to list your CITY, the NAME OF YOUR AGENCY, one LONG DISTANCE PHONE NUMBER, one LOCAL PHONE NUMBER, and the name of one salesperson at the agency. RENEWALS will be billed by the Treasurer.

Updated: June 1994

**OARP's Fall General Membership Meeting
Saturday, October 22nd, 1994 from 10am to 4pm
New London, Ohio**

OARP Regional Coordinator Steve LaConte has worked out the meeting details. The meeting will be held at the **New London Grange Hall, 2401 E. Main St.** We'll gather for coffee & donuts before 10am.

After the morning business meeting, a buffet lunch consisting of boneless chicken, ham, parsley potatoes, western salad, carrots and peas, coffee and cherry cheesecake will be served.

After lunch OARP will help shuttle the meeting attendees to a tour of Lake Erie Railcar Inc. (L.E.R.) -- a small, but active freight and passenger car maintenance facility. L.E.R. is owned by OARP member Bruce Hoffman of Cleveland. L.E.R. is only a 2 or 3 minute drive from Grange Hall. We'll need some vans to shuttle attendees between the hall and L.E.R. as there is limited parking space at L.E.R.

In addition to our featured speaker, OHSRA Chairman James Betts, we will also hear from Bill Fuehring, President and General Manager of Golden Age Railroad Equipment Company. Mr. Fuehring's company owns and leases locomotives and several passenger cars. He will have on display at Lake Erie Railcar his GP35 (ex-Wabash 2913) locomotive and a former CNW Bi-level coach car -- both fresh from the Lake Erie Railcar paint shop. Also on display at L.E.R. will be another former CNW Bi-level coach with cab controls that is destined for the paint shop. Mr. Fuehring will speak of his desire to use his equipment when passenger rail service is expanded in Ohio and will be onboard his consist for comments and to answer any questions..

Registration deadline for the October 22 meeting is October 15. Please send the registration form at the right & \$12.50/person to: Steve LaConte, 27 Welton Avenue, Norwalk, OH 44857.

Questions? Call Steve at 419/668-6225.

WE'RE WORKING TO KEEP COSTS DOWN! This MEETING, including lunch & THE LAKE ERIE RAILCAR TOUR, is only \$12.50/person!

Amtrak Offers Half Price Companion Fares

As part of a salute to the American Worker, Amtrak is offering 50% off a second fare when another adult or senior fare is purchased on the same itinerary. (Children ages 2 to 15 always get special discounts.) These special fares are available until October 31st for tickets on travel through December 11th, 1994. There are some restrictions. For details and reservations, please contact one of the Authorized Amtrak Travel Agents listed on this page, or call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL.

CAPITOL LIMITED Goes Superliner

Amtrak's Chicago - Washington DC CAPITOL LIMITED will soon begin operating with Superliner equipment. This new equipment will be on display at Toledo's Central Union Terminal from 2pm to 4pm on October 25th, and at Cleveland's Lakefront Amtrak Station from 9am to noon on October 26th. Whistle stops will also be made at the other two CAPITOL LIMITED stops in Ohio: Elyria and Alliance. OARP will have literature tables at these events. For more information, please contact Larry George (Toledo) at 419/698-2167 or Ken Prendergast at 216/891-6277.

Directions to New London:

From points North: Take I-80/90 to Rt.60 South. Take a left on Main Street in New London, and look for Grange Hall near the edge of town, on the left.
From points South: Take I-71 to Rt.60 North. Take a right on Main Street in New London, and look for Grange Hall near the edge of town, on the left.

Registration Form - October 22nd Meeting in New London

Please fill out the information below, clip this form, and mail it along with \$12.50 per person to: Steve LaConte, 27 Welton Ave, Norwalk, OH 44857.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Phone Number _____

in party _____ @ \$12.50/each =

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Checks & Money Orders payable to "OARP"



KENNETH PRENDERGAST
80 EMERSON AVENUE, #13005
BEREA, OH 44017

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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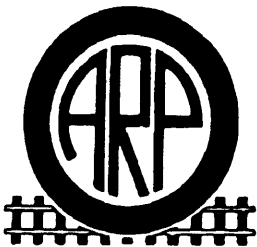
Please note that all signed articles represent the opinions of their authors, and not necessarily the views and positions of OARP and its officers.

**Membership Dues, Changes, and
Inquiries should now be sent to:
Stephen Klipfel
825 S Tecumseh Rd
Springfield, OH 45506
or call Steve @ 513/882-6521**

President Emeritus Ends Involvement
OARP's President Emeritus Tom Pulsifer, citing personal reasons, has chosen to end all active involvement with OARP, including serving as Membership Services Coordinator. His last official function for OARP was to serve as on-board host on the I&O inspection train chartered for OARP's Midsummer Meeting on August 6th.

OARP's October Calendar of Events

The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers



**"Dedicated to
Promoting and
Improving Rail
Passenger Service In
and Through Ohio"**

Sunday, October 2nd... 10am to 5pm... Ohio Festival of Stations at the former T&OC Station - 379 W. Broad Street, Columbus. \$3/adults & \$1/children. Contact: Bob Boyce at 614/486-7038.

Saturday, October 15th... 10am to Noon... Columbus Area Local Meeting at the Red Door Tavern - 1736 W. 5th Avenue, Columbus. 3rd Sat. this month only, then back to 2nd Sat. of each month.

Saturday, October 15th... 10am to 4pm... OARP Board Meeting at Bun's in Delaware.

Saturday, October 22nd... 10am to 4pm... OARP General Membership Meeting & Lake Erie Railcar Tour. Starts at Grange Hall - 2401 E. Main Street, New London. \$12.50/person. Details & registration enclosed. Contact: Steve LaConte at 419/668-6225.

Monday, October 24th... Talgo tilt-train train Static Displays in Toledo, Columbus, and Cleveland. Tentative/still in planning. See story on page 1 for more information...

Tuesday, October 25th... 2pm to 4pm... CAPITOL LIMITED new Superliner equipment display at Central Union Terminal in Toledo. OARP will have a table. Contact: Larry George at 419/698-2167.

Wednesday, October 26th... 9am to Noon... CAPITOL LIMITED Superliner equipment display at Cleveland's Lakefront Amtrak Station. OARP will have a table. Contact: Ken Prendergast at 216/891-6277.

*If your local OARP Chapter has listings for Calendar of Events, please send them to:
Ken Wilt, 5315 Stonemeadow Ave #E, Columbus, OH 43220-6209.*