

Rail-Trail News

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania is dedicated to renewing Northeast Pennsylvania's historic pathways as recreational trails for all to enjoy.

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Trail Ambassadors—"How can we help?"

Trail Ambassador Program Renewal

This spring we will meet with current and new trail ambassadors to start up the program again. We are looking for trail users who frequent the D&H Rail-Trail and are willing to share their knowledge of the trail system and our organization with others. We need more eyes, ears and voices on the trail to cover our 38-mile trail. Would you be willing to share info such as trail access points, trail conditions, events & updates, directions, and nearby amenities? When you see something that needs to be addressed, you would call or email the office. Would you help with a trail survey? Our intent is to provide a positive experience for trail users.

We will have a 2-hour seminar to educate all potential ambassadors with two times available, one daytime and one evening, around mid-April. We will schedule the date based on interest and availability. Please check the box on your renewal form or call the office to get on the contact list.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 22

RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

MARCH 28

RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

APRIL 25

RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM

MAY 23

RTC Meeting. Cables Café, 6 PM



Jefferson Junction Tower JN looking north as an Erie train came down off the Erie.

Jefferson Junction Today

On the Northern D&H between Brandt and Lanesboro, we use the “upper D&H” to get around an extensive washout of the “lower D&H.” Yes, there are two railroads here! We own both, as the lower is improved trail heading north, while the upper is unimproved, but in good condition for a hike or bike.

The lower right-of-way follows the Starrucca Creek, heading to Lanesboro, goes under the Starrucca Viaduct, and then follows the mighty Susquehanna River towards Windsor and Ninevah, NY. This was an important section in D&H and Erie Railroad’s expansion histories.

As you travel the rail-trail north of Brandt and cross the bridge over Starrucca Creek, you’ll travel along a wide section of trail that was formerly Jefferson Junction, where two railroads joined. The upper trail is the Jefferson Branch of the Erie Railroad, opened in 1870 to move coal out of the Lackawanna Valley to upstate New York. This railroad connected to the mainline of the Erie Railroad just west of the Starrucca Viaduct. From there it went to Susquehanna Depot and on to Binghamton, then north to Albany along the A&S (Albany & Susquehanna). Note the Jefferson Branch was built under an Erie charter but labor and capital were furnished by the D&H, who received trackage rights.

On October 28, 1870, the first loads of coal rolled north out of Carbondale on the newly completed “Jeff” and on to Binghamton where they switched to the A&S, under lease to the D&H. The D&H would haul coal from the Carbondale yard to the Erie yard in Susquehanna. There they would hand the train off to the Erie who would then run the train to



D&H train headed up the “Jeff” to connect to Erie Mainline.

Binghamton. At Bingo, the Erie would hand the train back over to the D&H, who would run it to Albany on the A&S. While this arrangement worked, D&H managers were not satisfied.

The D&H managers began working on an “easy line” of their own from Lanesboro to Ninevah, where it would meet the A&S. This would eliminate the need for going west over the Erie and through Binghamton to reach the A&S. A direct connection up the Susquehanna River Valley to Ninevah would cut 27 miles off the route and eliminate the heavy grade on the A&S north out of Binghamton over Belden Hill.

This new “easy line” was to be the Lackawanna & Susquehanna Railroad (L&S). It would branch off the Jefferson line at Jefferson Junction, go under the Starrucca Viaduct, and run along the Susquehanna River 20 miles to Ninevah where it connected to the A&S (note this is the lower trail). It was projected to be completed on October 1, 1871, at a cost of \$625,000. The building of the line was delayed, but some trains did run over the line in early December, with a formal opening in June 1872.

Planning for Spring

Planning for Spring, as I quietly wish for more snow. Winter has been a temperamental time of the year. When we get snow, we like to take full advantage of the perks it can bring. That being said, we continue to snowshoe and xc ski on the trail, so watch Facebook for pop-up activities that get posted every Friday, for a Saturday and/or Sunday outdoor experience.

Did you know? "When you exercise, your brain gets more oxygen, but even more important, it causes your body to produce valuable chemicals and hormones that impact energy, mood, and health. Exercise can also help relieve and prevent anxiety, creating a calming effect that lasts for about four hours after exercising."—*Happy for No Reason*, Marci Shimoff.

You can transform your life by making some form of exercise or movement a regular habit! We have the perfect opportunity right here on 38 miles of trail. You can walk, hike, run, ride your bike, xc ski, snowshoe, practice yoga, and meditation, and if you need a partner or want to join a group, you can give us a call at 570-679-9300 or email cindy.nepatrails@gmail.com

Walking Mondays, 10 am, meeting at the Union Dale office.

Full Moon Walks, February 24, Snow Moon; March 25, Worm Moon; April 23, Pink Moon. Check the events calendar for the times, and there must be 5 people registered.

XC Skiing and Snowshoeing, daily and Sundays at noon from the Union Dale office.



Pop-up events announced on Friday, watch our Facebook page.

Montrose Area Adult School. (April 25th, hike with Jon Burdick in Lanesboro; May 23rd, Gravity Railroad Tour; June 20th, Summer Solstice Walk in Starrucca.) You must register online www.montroseadultschool.org/class-directory

Tree Hike and Bird Watching are in the works for Spring.

If you want to receive our announcements, please include neparailtrailcouncil@gmail.com in your contacts, if not our emails go to spam.

Please pre-register for any/all events by calling 570-679-9300 or emailing cindy.nepatrails@gmail.com

Please call or email the office if you no longer want to receive our newsletter.

Membership Renewal Form

Please renew! The date on the mailing label on the reverse indicates when your membership expires.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime/Founding \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available for trail cleanups. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Sponsor \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me to discuss a corporate donation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Organization \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in the Trail Ambassador Program. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a brochure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a donation to be used towards the D&H Caboose restoration project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a donation for the wishlist to be used for _____ |

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	
STREET ADDRESS	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE	ZIP

Please update your address here if necessary. Make checks payable to **Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA**
P.O. Box 32, Union Dale PA 18470 / Phone: 570-679-9300 / E mail: nepatrails@gmail.com

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