



# The Steamtown Timetable

## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLANS TAKE SHAPE

Because we work at the Park year-round, we sometimes fail to recognize all of the work happening with Steamtown's ambitious infrastructure and outdoor exhibits improvement plans. Most employees began to take note when they arrived for work one day and realized that 4 display locomotives alongside the visitor parking area went missing! Relax, they aren't missing – they have been moved to other locations on the property in order for contractors to safely perform work away from the general visitation areas!

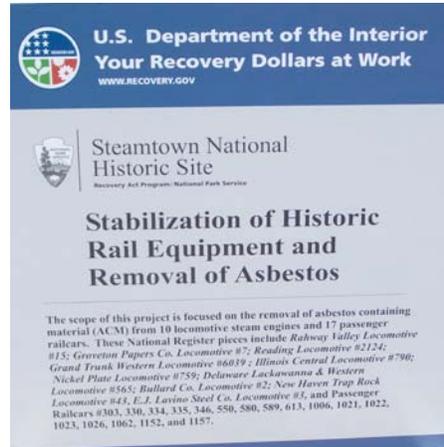
With that noted, we recently compiled a listing of some of the projects, along with their major funding source.

### "Fee Demo" Projects (Majority of \$6 dollar Entrance Fee)

- Replace Sand Tower Roof
- Repair masonry on exterior of Roundhouse.
- Repair 1902 Roundhouse Remnant (repair roof joist, stain and paint interior walls and floor decking)
- Refinish interior of the Mattes Street Tower
- Replace Museum Complex Public Address System
- Upgrade Theater System Components, projector and sound system.

### Cyclic Maintenance Projects

- Repair and maintain locomotives (Canadian National #3254 and Baldwin #26)
- Replace Fire and Intrusion Alarm System components in Core Complex, Museum Store, Locomotive Shop, Penn Drive Storage and Headquarters Buildings.
- Replace HVAC Chiller #2
- Replace Cooling Tower Pump at the Gas House



**America Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Stimulus Funding) Project Signs**, like the one above, are in place near several in-progress projects in the Park. This sign reads, *"The scope of this project is focused on the removal of asbestos containing material (ACM) from 10 locomotive steam engines and 17 passenger railcars. These National Register pieces include Rahway Valley Locomotive #15; Groveton Papers Co. Locomotive #7; Reading Locomotive #2124; Grand Trunk Western Locomotive #6039; Illinois Central Locomotive #790; Nickel Plate Locomotive #759; Delaware Lackawanna & Western Locomotive #565; Bullard Co. Locomotive #2; New Haven Trap Rock Locomotive #43; E.J. Lavino Steel Co. Locomotive #3; and Passenger Railcars #303, 330, 334, 335, 346, 550, 580, 589, 613, 1006, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1026, 1062, 1152, and 1157."*

- Repaint the Exterior of 3 passenger coaches: DL&W #550, 580 and 589
- Repair/Rehab Project (FY10)
- Repair exterior of DL&W Coach #346

### America Reinvestment and Recovery Act (Stimulus Funding) Projects

- Railroad Equipment Stabilization and Asbestos Removal (10 locomotives and 17 rolling stock)
- Replace Overhead Cranes in Locomotive Shops
- Repair and maintain locomotives

Superintendent Hagen notes that these projects were in the planning and competition for funds for 2 to 3 years prior to receiving the go-ahead. The

Asbestos Abatement Project has been awaiting funding approval for 12 years! These projects are funded from limited special program funds set aside annually to perform maintenance and repair work that otherwise would not be accomplished with normal annual appropriation funding that a park receives to operate. Each park competes fiercely for these limited funds with all National Parks in the NPS System. On a national basis, for the size and operation of Steamtown NHS, our park competes very well for these funds, and the results show. Currently, we've identified a \$32 million dollar backlog of maintenance and repair work for the park's asset portfolio.

### Other Projects in-progress using Base Operating funds

- Repair, service and/or make operational stationary shop machinery
- Miscellaneous track repair throughout the rail yard
- Repair sunken catch basins and storm drainage system in visitor parking lot
- Install security fencing around the Mine Stores Building
- Install electronic security gate at entrance to the Park

### Major Project requests for future funding include:

- Repairs to the entire exterior building envelope of the Locomotive Shop; this work would entail a new roof, repairs to the clerestory structure, repair exterior masonry walls, repair historic wood sash windows, and installation of a new rainfall gutter system.
- Restoration of the Mine Stores Building, the oldest documented building located in the rail yard, for adaptive use as a car barn for covered storage of up to 15 pieces of historic rolling stock and locomotives in our collection.

# Park News

## 2010 Excursion Season is Here!



The 2010 Rail Operations season at Steamtown NHS began on April 18 with the popular *Scranton Limited* short train rides Wednesdays – Sundays! This year, the *Scranton Limited* will also run daily during July and August.

Our 2010 excursion season began on Saturday, June 26 at 9 a.m. with an excursion trip to the Delaware Water Gap “Founder’s Day” event! Additionally, seasonal excursions are planned as follows:

- ✚ *Moscow departures, all at 1 p.m.: July 3, 10, 17 and 31, August 7, 14 and 21, September 4 and 5, and October 9, 16, 17, 24 and 30. On October 2, two trips are scheduled as children’s “Pumpkin Express” excursions departing at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.*
- ✚ *Tobyhanna departures, all at 11 a.m.: July 24, August 28, and October 3, 10 and 23. Additionally, the July 24 and October 23 trips will include a brief stop at the Gouldsboro Station.*
- ✚ *“Holiday Express” departures, all at 11 a.m.: November 26 and 27, and December 4.*

## EMPLOYEE’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Steamtown Employee’s Association (SEA) was reactivated in October 2006, with a renewed effort to “foster employee morale and recognition” by, and for, all Steamtown NHS staff members.

Summer events include:

- ❖ July 15 – Farewell luncheon for John Casey, MOW lunchroom, 11:30 a.m. \$5/person
- ❖ July 21 – Retirement luncheon for Carol Wasalinko, MOW lunchroom, 11:30 a.m. \$6/person.
- ❖ July 27 – Bake Sale, OSB Conference Room, 9 a.m.
- ❖ Aug 11 – Pot Luck Luncheon, MOW Lunch Room, 11 a.m.

Watch your area bulletin boards for future postings! To make reservations, or share ideas, speak with any member of the SEA!

## Moving ON!



With almost 28 years of federal service, Carol Wasalinko, Steamtown NHS Procurement Technician, (below) retired from the National Park Service effective July 31st, 2010.

After more than 28 years of service, Chris Bilski, Steamtown NHS Agreements Specialist, (above) retired from the National Park Service effective February 1st, 2010.



Steamtown National Historic Site was established in 1986 to interpret the role that steam railroading played in the development of the United States.

**Steamtown National Historic Site**  
150 South Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-2018  
[www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea)



Open Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Phone**  
570.340.5200  
888.693.9391  
**Group/School Reservations**  
570.340.5339  
**Excursion Reservations**  
570.340.5204

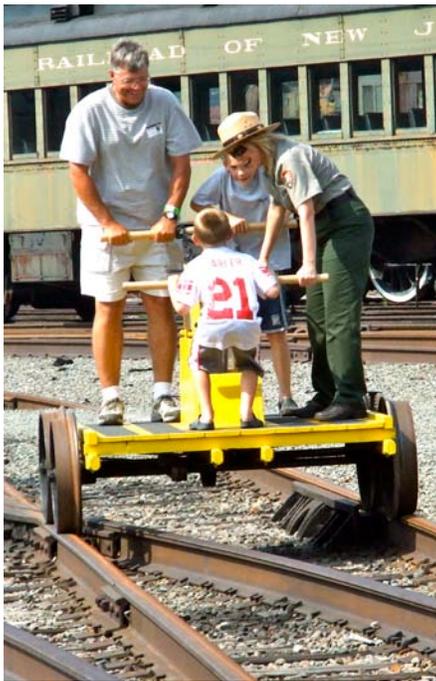
**Editor**  
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## Teacher-Ranger-Teacher

*Ann Kisthart, Scranton School District*

I began my Teacher-Ranger-Teacher experience on June 21st. At the time I was a bit nervous about my lack of knowledge when it came to Steamtown. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to work with Ranger Sue Rozdilski. She has been with me every step of the way and is very knowledgeable about every aspect of the park. With her help and the help of the other staff and volunteers I have greatly expanded my knowledge not only of Steamtown, but also of the beginnings of the Scranton community.



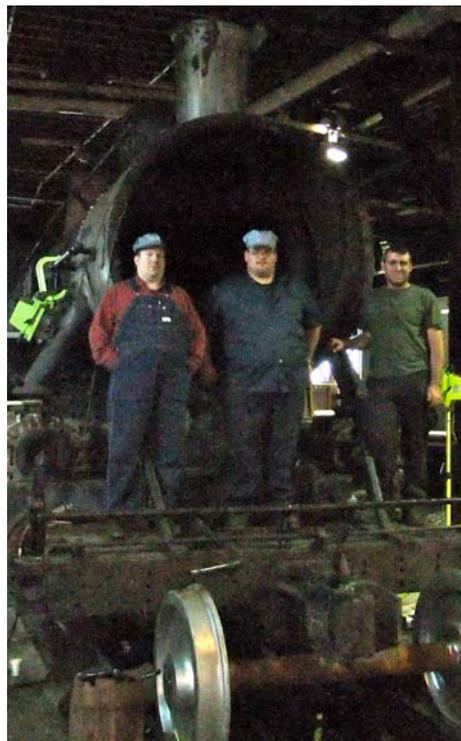
*TRT Ann Kisthart performs a "hands-on" demonstration of the handcar with visitors.*

During my eight weeks at Steamtown I assisted in developing programs for educators, created a list of helpful websites for teachers, staffed the visitor center desk, asked visitors to complete National Park System questionnaires, entered books into the library system, assisted with the children in the "Imagination Station," and worked on the handcar. I also accompanied fellow rangers on "The Scranton Limited" train rides, shop tours, guided museum tours, and technology tours.

My favorite assignment would have to be the handcar. It just brings so much joy and excitement not only to the children, but also to the parents – or for that matter any adult watching and just waiting to be asked if they too would like to give it a try. The delight in their faces says it all. Such a simple thing that creates amazing good will for the park and much happiness for the visitors.

I also learned quite a bit about the National Park System and was able to take a day to visit another park, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Ranger Kathleen Sandt was in charge of our day there and it was great to see all that that site has to offer.

During the next school year I will be integrating Steamtown into my lessons throughout the year. I have developed a yearlong schedule of lessons that will be incorporated into my social studies unit on communities. The students will learn about many aspects of Steamtown, the steam engine, and the role railroading played in the development of our community. After my students learn about the whistle signals and hand signals they will teach the signals to a first grade class. In addition, for National Park Week my students will be completing a poster project that will be displayed at Steamtown in the history museum. We will end our lessons with a visit to Steamtown sometime in late April. I know they will be very excited about this part of our curriculum! My experience at Steamtown not only met, but exceeded my expectations. I cannot thank the staff members enough for their warm welcome and continuous support in my effort to learn about this truly amazing site.



*VIPs working on the cosmetic restoration of DL&W #565, one of only two remaining Lackawanna steam locomotives that missed the scrapper's torch.*

## Rail Operations

VIP Dick Roden

The 2010 operating season began by welcoming nine new Park VIPs. New trainmen include Frank Coye, Jr. of Piscataway, NJ; Glen Crossley of Nutley, NJ; Jeff Knoop of Easton, PA; Thomas McNamara of Hallstead, PA; Desiree Ranella of Dunmore, PA; Michael Rinkunas of Hellertown, PA; Nicole Sturdevant of Dalton, PA; Casey Quenzel of Hatboro, PA; and Tim Weidner of Temple, PA.

Steam Mechanic Mike Oprisko was promoted to Yard Engineer, and is qualified on steam operations. VIPs promoted include Don Young to Yard Engineer and Tom Wyatt to Yard Conductor.

VIP Hondo Nobel, who is a certified Incident Command Instructor (ICS), gave a class on emergency procedures on April 10. This class will be mandatory for all Train and Engine crews in 2011.

Think you might like to become a VIP in our Rail Operations Branch? Trainee Orientation for the 2011 season is scheduled for Saturday, November 6; take that first step to a rewarding volunteer opportunity by contacting Will Sturdevant, Rail Operations Chief, at (570) 340-5185 to reserve your spot!

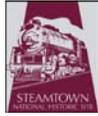


Steamtown National Historic Site was established October 30th, 1986 to further public understanding and appreciation of the role steam railroading played in the development of the United States. It is the only place in the National Park System where the story of Steam Railroading, and the people who made it possible, is told. Here, locomotives and other rolling stock, artifacts, and historic buildings and structures, as well as the skills of that era, are all preserved and protected for the enjoyment and education of our visitors.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Steamtown National Historic Site  
150 South Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-2018



**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

**“Steamtown  
Ramblers”**

*Bill Clark, Park Ranger*



*Trio Performs Living History programs*

In the late spring of 2009, a new volunteer showed up here looking for a way to combine his talents with Steamtown’s mission. Duncan Perry’s special talent? Playing guitar and banjo, and singing folk songs. He met with Mark Brennan, Chief, Visitor Services and Public Affairs, who steered him to an Interpretive Park Ranger with the same talent and interests – ME! Duncan and I sat down together and realized that our playing styles (not that there is all that much style involved) meshed nicely and we began planning a musical program focusing on the tunes from railroading and the hoboes. About a month later, Peter Rozdilski (husband of Interpretive Park Ranger Suzanne Rozdilski)

joined the band and we became “The Steamtown Ramblers.”

This band, with two VIPs and one paid member, gave about a dozen mini-concerts last year. The Ramblers sang and played many times up at Moscow, adding another attraction to the short layover at the station during that excursion. With Peter on 12-string, Duncan on banjo, and me on 6-string guitar, the group plays standbys such as *This Land Is Your Land*, *Hoboes Lullabye*, and *King of the Road*, children’s songs such as *Working on the Railroad*, and other historic songs of railroading and wandering. In March, I received an unusual email.

Professor Bill Kushatus, a history instructor at Luzerne County Community College, contacted me to invite the Steamtown Ramblers to play at the annual Northeast Pennsylvania History Conference in October. The theme for this year’s conference is Ethnic Music in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We will be playing Irish music; Stanky and the Coal Miners will be playing Polish music.

Folk music is challenging. The songs tend to be simple, the chord structure is not too complicated, but it is still a challenge. I may

know three versions of a song. Duncan may know three versions. Pete may know three versions. The chances all of us know the same version is close to zero. So for every song, we have to hash out lyrics, melody, and key – and with one tenor and two baritones, the key can be quite problematic. As we continue to expand our repertoire, expect to see The Steamtown Ramblers up in Moscow and, occasionally, in the Turntable Plaza of the Park’s Museum Complex. The broadened opportunities for interpretation of the artistic side of railroading more than makes up for the challenges of live performances. We look forward to seeing you at our programs.

The Steamtown Timetable is a semi-annual publication of Steamtown National Historic Site.

**Comments? Write to:**  
Superintendent  
Steamtown National Historic Site  
150 South Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-2018



[www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea)