

The Liggie

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Friends of the LVRR

To date, fifty members have enlisted as charter members in the Friends of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road. The primary purpose of the "Friends" is to enhance the efforts of the LVRRRA in preserving the legacy of the LVRR. See our "To-do" list in a separate column for some of the items on the agenda.

Darlington Station

We continue to work with Idlewild management to determine if and how the LVRRRA can assume ownership of the station. The preservation of this grand vestige of the LVRR has to be one of our top priorities. Even though the platform roof and porch roof are on the verge of collapse, the primary building appears to be structurally sound. If we are successful, there will be ample opportunities to volunteer your time, labor and dollars toward the preservation of the Darlington Station.

Mini-Museum

We are targeting Fort Days 2005 for the grand opening of our mini-museum at 106 North St. Clair St. in Ligonier. The office will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. In the future, the public is invited to visit us 9 AM to noon, Saturday mornings. We are looking forward to sharing stories with visitors in an office full of local railroad memorabilia including many LVRR items. PS - An advance showing for Charter Friends is scheduled Monday evening, October 10th at 7 PM. PPS - Have I mentioned that we will need volunteers to help staff the museum? Call 724-537-2647 or 724-532-5564 with offers to help.

Fort Days 2005

"Exploring Our Heritage" is the theme of this year's festival. Toward that end, we will have a booth in the St. Clair Street parking lot. We will be offering tours of our mini-museum, distributing copies of the Liggie and selling our merchandise. Already four Friends have volunteered to help staff the booth. Can you help? Two hours, four hours or all day? The dates are October 14, 15 and 16th. The hours on Friday and Saturday are 8 AM to 5 PM. Sunday hours are noon to 5 PM. Give us a call at 724-537-2647 if you can help.

Check out our display in Zimmerman's window. We will be featuring the doodlebugs of the LVRR with photographs and an operating model. Last year, our window entry shared first place in the contest sponsored by the Fort Days Committee. If you have any photos of the doodlebugs, or if you would like to give us a hand setting up the window, call Bob at 724-537-2647.

Planning ahead - Can we build a float for next year's parade? Wouldn't it be fun to have a virtual train on the streets of Ligonier?

TO-DO List

- Research archives
- Record oral histories
- Staff our Fort Days booth
- Staff our Mini-Museum/Office
- Sort, catalogue and clean artifacts
- Organize and build a float for 2006 Fort Days Parade

Model Railroad Update

The sales of "O" gage models continue to generate the major portion of our operating revenue. The "O" gage enthusiasts have applied the sand to the rails to give us the traction to move our train forward. The second issue of rolling stock this year is an off-white tank car and carries the designation, **LVERR #1916**. Like all of our issues, it is commemorative rather prototypical. The price is \$50 and is available at the Chamber of Commerce and Zimmerman's in Ligonier and at PostNet in the Latrobe 30 Shopping Center.



Regarding the model of **Engine #19**, MTH recently assured us that we will have it by the end of September. You can be assured that we are as eager as you are to see the delivery of our first powered unit. You may be interested in knowing that we received 97 advance orders for the engine. We did order 13 additional engines, and these are for sale. Contact any member of the board if you would like to buy one.

LVERR #1917 is on the drawing boards and should be available for the 2005 holidays. It will be a boxcar sporting a portrayal of the Ligonier Station.

Tour the LVERR

While plans are incomplete at this time, we will be offering a tour the LVERR early next year. The tour will begin in Ligonier and follow the roadbed to Latrobe. After returning to Ligonier, we will head north on the Hanna's Run branch to Fort Palmer. You may be surprised at the number of remaining vestiges.

LVERR Board of Directors

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Tour the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad (PW&S) with John Vucina

How much do you know about this local railroad that was chartered in 1899? Didn't it have something to do with Byers-Allen Lumber Company at the east end of town? Why was it called the honeymooner's special? We plan to learn more about the PW&S on November 19, 2005 when John Vucina, a Friend of the LVERR, has volunteered to lead us on a tour of the old roadbed. John is Ranger One at Linn Run State Park and has spent years working on Laurel Mountain. Over time, he has been able to trace this railroad from Ligonier to the top of the mountain and is willing to share his knowledge. We will also have a fact sheet to distribute.

We will meet at **9 AM on Railroad Street** behind the old LVERR freight station. Since we will have multiple cars, bring your CB to stay in touch with our guide. If you have an extra CB, bring it along to share.

You might ask, "Why would we want to have a tour in the winter months?" The answer is rather simplistic...the roadbed will be more visible once the leaves are down and there is a chance for a trace of snow. On a good day, the snow really accents the roadbed.

Merchandise for sale

Selected photographs, pullovers, tees hats and wooden key fobs are available. Visit LVERRA.org or call 724-532-5564 for more information.