



In 1991 a small group of railroad enthusiasts, employees, and hobbyists started the Beaver Valley Junction with the idea of preserving railway history, memorabilia, artifacts, and historical items in the Beaver Valley area. The group became a chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

In 1999 we acquired the “UN” switch tower from the CSX Railroad. Built in 1899, UN Tower stood for many years at the entrance to the Baltimore & Ohio (later, the CSX) rail yards in West Pittsburg, Pa. UN Tower was moved to its present location on Cherry St. in Mahoningtown, PA and underwent a badly needed restoration.

The BVJC was now beginning to fulfill its mission, membership was growing, and we were becoming known in the railroad and rail fan community. We have developed a strong presence in Lawrence County!

We now own and are restoring the 101 year old P&LE RR station in West Pittsburg Pa., a 100 year old railroad crossing watchman’s shanty from Ellwood City Pa., a Brookville diesel powered rail bus that was built for the U.S. Army in 1940, and a Pennsylvania Railroad, steel, porthole window cabooses built by the PRR in 1942. We also own three other cabooses that are in operating condition, a Fairmont “speeder” section gang car, a battery powered “locomotive mover” donated by the Conrail Corp., baggage wagons, and numerous other railroad related items.

With such a strong presence in Lawrence County, we decided a name change was appropriate. On May 1st 2008 we officially became the “BEAVER-LAWRENCE RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY” and ended our relationship with the NRHS. It is no longer a requirement for our members to join the NRHS. Anyone wishing to do so may do this on their own. Our members felt this change would help us to better focus on our mission: the preservation of railroad history in the Beaver Valley and Lawrence County area.

We are a “friendly bunch”, always looking for new members. Our membership is made up of men, women, husbands and wives, children of members and individuals over 18 years of age. We are not a “men only” group! The cost of a primary membership is \$30.00 per year plus \$5.00 for each additional family member. We do not have monthly dues, but many members, if they choose, buy or sell monthly raffle tickets. We hold a number of fundraising activities during the year which, along with donations and grants, helps provide funds for our restoration and preservation projects.

We need people with varied skills and interests. We have something for anyone not afraid to get his or her hands dirty and take pride in the results. Some of our members are involved in all of our projects while others focus on just one project.

Our goal is to one day open the West Pittsburg Station to the residents of Beaver and Lawrence Counties as a museum and meeting place for community events and social functions.

The BLRHS is registered as a Non-Profit Corp. under Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (3). Gifts and donations are welcome and may be tax deductible. For more information on how to apply for a membership and where to attend one of our meetings, please visit our web site: www.blrhs.org