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Society announces Model Trains program

The Lackawanna Historical Society announces the program "Model Trains through the Ages" in partnership with Steamtown National Historic Site. The program, which will focus on model railroading as a holiday tradition, was inspired last year when Steamtown Superintendent Kip Hagen visited the Society's headquarters, the Catlin House, for its Holiday Open House and reminisced about his childhood when he viewed the model railroad display under the Christmas Tree. He and Historical Society Director Mary Ann Moran Savakinus discussed how the tradition had influenced their holiday memories and realized that everyone they knew seemed to have a connection to model and/or toy trains. So this summer, representatives from Steamtown and the Historical Society came together to develop a program and invite local model train experts to be involved.

The program will officially begin Nov. 27 when Historical Society volunteer Pat Tobin and local M□rklin Digital Dealer Lee Nolan will set up a M□rklin winter display in Steamtown's Visitor Center Changing Exhibit Gallery. A photograph exhibit of the work of Angela Trotta Thomas will also be displayed in this space for the season. During the day, Nolan and Tobin will be available.

On the following weekend, Dec. 3 and 4, Clem O'Jevitch of Warrior Run Loco will set up a live steam garden railroad display in Steamtown's History Museum and be available to answer questions.

Then on Dec. 10 and 11, Steamtown will welcome local model train "doctor" Dan Emmick who will conduct an "Ask the Expert" session, Saturday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 - 2 p.m., at the site's History Museum. He will bring examples of challenging repairs, discuss common problems, and take questions from the audience.

On the final weekend, Dec. 17 and 18, a group of model railroad enthusiasts including Frank Gardner, Ron Moore, Ron Moskalczak, and Mike Passero will present a 1950's Lionel Christmas display at Steamtown's History Museum including a visit with Santa on both days between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

A free raffle for a "1/48th" scale (O Gauge) boxcar from "The Greater Scranton Train" sponsored by Penn Security Bank will be offered to all participants. "The Greater Scranton Train" project was introduced in 2010 by Penn Security to create a railroad car each year to recognize a longtime business from the greater Scranton area as a limited-edition numbered box car that reflects the business name and logo. These cars are ready to run and are manufactured in the United States and produced in Pa.

Steamtown and the Lackawanna Historical Society will schedule special showings of Model Train themed documentaries and films throughout the holiday season. For more

information, contact the Lackawanna
Historical Society at 344.3841.

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