

Guidelines For CONTRIBUTIONS TO RAILPACE NEWSMAGAZINE

THANKS for your interest in Railpace Newsmagazine! Your contribution of photos, railroad news and feature articles is always welcome! Although we are proud to have several long-time contributing editors on staff, our strength comes from "field reporters" and photojournalists like you, who blanket the region. Let's take this opportunity to get acquainted and review some helpful suggestions.

OUR SCOPE & COVERAGE AREA

Since 1982, Railpace has been **The Northeast's Own Rail Newsmagazine**, focusing primarily on Northeastern prototype railroading, an area which includes all of New England and eastern Canada (Ontario and east); southward through Virginia, and westward through West Virginia and Ohio.

NEWS REPORTS & FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS

- **NEWS REPORTS**– Short, concise reports of railroad industry news, acquisitions, abandonments, motive power, color scheme changes, new services, shortline news, etc.
We cover freight and passenger railroading, shortlines, commuter/transit, trolleys/Light Rail, and tourist/museum operations. Clippings from newspapers are useful to complement your field news reports.
You can contribute news electronically via e-mail!
Please check our **CONTACT US** page on this website to submit your news to the appropriate News Editor electronically.
- **PHOTO FEATURES**– Contemporary and historical feature articles are always welcome. Photo features use pictures to tell the story, with good, detailed photo captions.
- **FEATURE ARTICLES**– Contemporary and historical features are welcome. Feature articles include a good selection of photos, but they also include well-researched text and maps. Topographical maps and railroad employee timetable information adds depth to the story.
- **TRAIN CHASER GUIDES**– Railpace Train Chaser Guides are one of our most popular features, and can cover an entire railroad, railroad line, or locale. Guides include topographical maps, driving directions to photo vantage points, train operation information and schedules, radio frequencies, etc. If you are interested in preparing a Railpace Train Chaser Guide, please contact us to determine suitability and to verify that someone else isn't already working on the same topic.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Color photo contributions are the "meat" of Railpace Newsmagazine.

You are our "field reporter" and we rely on your photojournalism to cover the Northeastern railroad scene.

Quality color slides and Digital photos of newsworthy rail events are always needed.

Before sending in a news photo, ask yourself if it is really **newsworthy and current**. If it's news, send it in right away– we pride ourselves on having the fastest news and photo "turnaround." To avoid being "scooped," you've got to be quick!

- **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY** is the fastest way to get a photo image to us— Take the shot, then Upload your hi-resolution file using our FREE FTP Photo Upload site. For more information, check our **DIGITAL PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS** page on this website.
- **35mm COLOR SLIDES** are the preferred film medium for publishing.
Avoid budget or "brand-X" processing.
Do not use Type 5247 negative film to produce slides, as the color balance and contrast is not consistent, and the sharpness and grain is unacceptable.

Color Prints, enlargements, "110" film, Polaroid prints and color negatives do not produce satisfactory enlargement and reproduction quality, and are **not suitable for publication**.

When selecting color slides for publication, choose those with maximum sharpness, good color balance and contrast, and excellent exposure. Exposure should be "right on," as there is no exposure "compensation" required for magazine publication. Avoid dark, underexposed slides, especially on gray, heavily overcast days. News events happen in all types of weather, but since color space is limited, we pick the best... and brightest!

Black & White contributions can be used. Although Railpace is primarily a color publication, we do occasionally use some black and white, especially to illustrate historical items. Some contributions of 35mm color slides may, at our discretion, be published in black & white.

ALL PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RETURNED, whether or not they are published, within a reasonable period of time, provided your materials are legibly marked with the owner's name and address, and accompanied with a stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing sufficient return postage.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

MANUSCRIPTS should be submitted electronically, and proofread/spell-checked for accuracy. Microsoft WORD is the preferred application for submitting typed manuscripts and photo caption information. Send your files either as an e-mail attachment or on a floppy disk or CD. E-mail: railpace@ptd.net Alternatively, you can send text in the body of an e-mail.

Snail Mail Address for Editorial Office: **Railpace Newsmagazine, Editorial Office, P.O. Box 229, Greentown, PA 18426-0229**

If using a courier (FedEX, UPS, DHL, etc) **Railpace Newsmagazine, Editorial Office, 130 Beechwood Cove Road, Greentown, PA 18426**

News items and very brief reports may be handwritten, provided they are legible. Illegible chicken-scratch will be ripped to shreds.

- **LABEL** all of your materials with your full name and address. Mark EVERY slide, print, caption page and letter, so that you can see your credit line in print, and so that we can return your materials to you. Please understand that your slides get separated from your caption sheet, cover letter, and SSAE when the slides are sent out to the color separator to be scanned. When they return to us, if they are unmarked, it is difficult if not impossible to match them up. We receive hundreds of slides each month... don't let your valuable photos become orphans!
We are not responsible for the return of unmarked materials.
- **ENCLOSE AN SSAE!** Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each contribution. Affix sufficient postage for the return of your materials. Railpace policy is to return newsphotos within a reasonable time period, whether they are used or not. If you need your slides returned by a certain date, please state so in your letter.
- **PUBLISHED PHOTOS** will be returned to you quickly, usually before the appropriate issue of Railpace is printed. Sometimes we may retain some of your work for potential future publication. When you have a photo(s) published, you will receive a complimentary copy of the appropriate issue of Railpace by First Class Mail. If you are currently a Railpace subscriber, you will also subsequently receive your second class mail subscription copy.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES FOR GETTING PUBLISHED

Ever wonder why some bylines and photo credits appear so frequently in railfan publications? It's not because these people are "famous" or know the editor—. It's just that they have learned how to contribute the *right shot*, the *right way*, at the *right time*. Here's their no-longer-secret plan!

- **DO IT A.S.A.P.** – Hey! We're a News Magazine. Send in news photos promptly. Don't wait for the next sunny weekend to finish off that roll of film. Here in the Northeast, that could be a long wait. Whenever possible, use fast-turnaround processing, then get the slide to us pronto! Generally, the first top quality shot received gets published! **If you're shooting Digital**, you're first out of the gate— use our FREE FTP Upload Service to Upload your hi-resolution JPEG digital shots to us— check our **DIGITAL PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS** page on this website!
- **DO IT WITH QUALITY!** Use quality Kodak or Fuji slide film for consistent top quality results. Have your film processed by a reputable lab. Avoid budget or "brand-X" processing. Avoid negative film (5247 type) to produce slides; the results are horrible. The old timers who shot on Kodachrome back in the '40's and '50's will tell you that cutting corners on film and processing is just wasting your time and effort.
- **TELL A STORY!** Try to photograph your subject in a recognizable location, or with a scenic or well-known "prop" such as a station, bridge, city-scape, sign, etc. A photo of a Susquehanna unit in Canada, for example, is of little news impact if it's a tight "roster" view, or taken "somewhere in the woods."
- **LABEL** every slide, print, caption sheet and letter with your name and address. You may find it helpful to purchase a small rubber stamp with your name and address at your local printer or stationer. Give them an unneeded slide mount to help them properly size the stamp, so you can use it to mark your slides. Unmarked slides can become orphans!
- **DO IT WITH STYLE!** Strive for well-lit photos, with good contrast and composition. **News events happen in all types of weather, but since we receive many more photos each month than we can possibly use, we pick the best -- and brightest!** Color slides taken on bright sunny days provide the best quality photo reproduction.

NOW! Get that great news photo and send it in!

RAILPACE NEWSMAGAZINE Editorial Address

RAILPACE NEWSMAGAZINE
EDITORIAL OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

The Railpace Editorial Office moved to the Poconos in 2004!

Railpace Newsmagazine Editorial Office
P.O. Box 229
Greentown, PA 18426

(for FedEx, UPS, DHL couriers, use:

Railpace Newsmagazine Editorial Office
130 Beechwood Cove Road
Greentown, PA 18426

Phone/FAX (570) 857-5144
E-mail: railpace@ptd.net

Due to our tight editorial deadlines, it is difficult for us to take phone calls, or respond to railroad informational inquiries.

By far, the best way to get a quick response is to communicate by e-mail at: railpace@ptd.net

Your assistance enables us to continue to bring you Railpace on time each month!