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Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway Reached Record Ridership in 2014 Additional Trips Launched Along Railroad System

Port Clinton – January 7, 2015 - The Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway broke ridership records for 2014 and added several additions to their regularly scheduled operations. Bike trains from Jim Thorpe to White Haven as well as new community events were added over the course of 2014. New communities were involved in Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway trips including: Tunkhannock, Pottsville, Minersville, Schuylkill Haven, Duryea, and White Haven.

Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway is excited to announce that it had over 72,295 passengers experience the various train rides in 2014. Ridership expanded in 2014 due to high volumes of requests for additional train trips. Regularly scheduled trips demanded schedule additions due to fast sellouts.

Expansions of the Santa Claus Specials to reach many new communities along the railroad were a major part in this ridership increase. Trips ran in Pottsville, Minersville, Tunkhannock, Schuylkill Haven, Tamaqua, and Jim Thorpe. In total, 19,821 passengers visited with Santa through the holiday season this year making this a record ridership year for the Santa Claus Specials.

Community fundraiser train rides were developed through 2014. The Mountain Top Rotary Club, Anthracite Express Trip, and Annville Methodist Church all added local community rides to benefit various community organizations.

The City of Pottsville arranged its first train with Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway consisting of two trips from the Union station. The train left from Pottsville, headed south to North Reading, and returned to Pottsville. Two trips on September 21 and November 15 were both sold out and were the start of a great partnership. The LGSRY hopes to have train specials running this route on a routine schedule throughout the upcoming year.

In spring, the new and overwhelmingly popular Bike Trains began running this spring, which ran from Jim Thorpe to White Haven where passengers were left off the train for a leisurely bike ride back to Jim Thorpe. After two sold out trains in June, there were additional trains added over the summer and in the fall per popular demand.

Fall Foliage trips were as popular as ever this past October. In fact, they sold out so fast this year an additional two trips were added by mid September.

Andy Muller, CEO, stated, "We are overwhelmed by the tremendous support from the communities we worked with this season. We are thrilled to announce we are gearing up for another busy schedule in 2015!"

For more information regarding these trips, please contact Matt Fisher, Marketing Administrator at 610-562-2102 or via email at mfisher@readingnorthern.com

Reading & Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving major businesses in nine eastern Pennsylvania counties (Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Wyoming). It has expanded its operations over the last 20+ years and has grown into one of the premier railroads in Pennsylvania, with both freight services and passenger excursion operations. Reading and Northern continues to grow and is having its most successful year in 2014. Reading & Northern currently employs over 180 Pennsylvania residents.

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