

# Contributing to Railpace Newsmagazine

Updated December 20, 2010

**THANKS** for your interest in Railpace Newsmagazine! Your contribution of photos, railroad news and feature articles is most welcome! Let's take this opportunity to get acquainted and review some helpful suggestions.

## OUR SCOPE & COVERAGE AREA

RAILPACE is *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. We generally don't publish photos and news from outside this area, unless it is of *significant* interest to our readers, and directly related to Northeastern railroading.

## NEWS REPORTS & FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS

**NEWS REPORTS** include short, concise reports of railroad industry news, acquisitions, abandonments, motive power, color scheme changes, new services, shortline news, etc.

Railpace covers mainline freight and passenger railroading, shortlines, commuter/transit, tourist/museum operations, and historic preservation.

The best method of communication and for contributions is via **email**, directly to our regional editors. You can find their names and email addresses by clicking on the **CONTACT US** button, and also in the masthead of every issue of Railpace.

**PHOTO FEATURES** Photo features use pictures to tell the story, with good, detailed photo captions, often with well detailed maps. While our emphasis is on news **photo-journalism**, we do run "photo spreads" of good rail photography as space allows.

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**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 the editor-in-chief via email at [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net) to determine its suitability and to verify that someone else isn't already working on the same topic.

## PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Your color photo contributions are the "meat" of Railpace Newsmagazine. You are our "field reporter" and we rely on your **photo-journalism** to cover the Northeastern railroad scene.

Before sending 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 PHOTOS** are now the primary means of contributing to Railpace, as they are the most timely media (can be emailed or Uploaded right away— no wait for processing), and they provide the **highest quality** in terms of sharpness, color and contrast. By definition, a slide or print has to be scanned to be used in publication, thus you start out dealing with a second-generation image. Click our **Digital Contributions** button for much more info.

**35mm COLOR SLIDES** continue to be acceptable for publishing, particularly historical (pre-Digital Age) images. 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 generally select the best weather candidates!**

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**BLACK AND WHITE** contributions are welcome. Although Railpace is primarily a color publication, we do use some black and white, especially to illustrate historical items.

**Color Slide and paper (timetables, maps, etc.) contributions will be returned**, whether or not they are published, within a reasonable period of time, **provided the materials are legibly marked with the owner's name and address, and when accompanied with a stamped, self-addressed envelope bearing sufficient return postage.**

### **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**MANUSCRIPTS** should be typed, single-spaced, and **PROOFREAD** for accuracy. Then proofread again, or ask a friend to look it over. Avoid the frantic call to make corrections as the story is going to press. Microsoft **WORD** is the preferred format for manuscripts, however you may also send copy in the typed into body of an email.

You may email manuscripts to us at: [railpace@ptd.net](mailto:railpace@ptd.net)

Or "snail mail" to:

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

For UPS-FedEx couriers, use:

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

**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. *We are not responsible for the return of unmarked materials.*

**ENCLOSE AN SSAE!** Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each mailed 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 or materials returned by a certain date, please state so in your letter.

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### HOW TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES FOR GETTING PUBLISHED IN RAILPACE

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

**DO IT A.S.A.P.** Send news photos in immediately. You don't have to be famous or a buddy of the editor, just send us current news photos promptly. Generally, the first top quality shot received gets published!

**DO IT WITH QUALITY!** Photo composition, and technical quality are critical elements. For more info on getting great photos, and the type of photos we are looking for, click on our **Railpace-101** tutorials on the home page.

**Location! Location Location!** 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 New England or Ohio, for example, is of little news impact if it's a tight "roster" view, or taken "somewhere in the woods."

**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!*