

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Night Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## Areas of Interest

- Railroad Equipment Restoration
- Acquiring/planning/building facilities for equipment restoration, storage & maintenance
- Museum Planning and Development
- Fund Raising, Grants, etc.
- Oral/video historical research
- Railroad Historical/Roster/Photographic Research and/or Archiving
- Writing historical, news, or other items for the Society journal, *Rip Van Winkle Flyer*.
- Railroad show committees to help sell artifacts and promote the Society
- Model Railroading
- Organizational/Administrative
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment

- \$20 Society membership
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to UDRRHS
- \$33 National Railway Historical Society (optional)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to NRHS (optional)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Mail application with check or money order to  
Treasurer, UDRRHS  
101 Bridge Street  
Roxbury, NY 12474

## Our Mission

To research, preserve, interpret, and foster understanding of the history of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad and associated railroads, and of related institutions and enterprises, and their place within the larger culture and economy of the Catskill and Hudson Valley regions of New York State.

## Affiliation and Non-Profit Status

The Ulster & Delaware Railroad Historical Society is an affiliated chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, and is provisionally chartered as a historical society by the Regents of the University of the State of New York. We are recognized as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



101 Bridge Street  
Roxbury, NY 12474  
Phone: 607-326-7135

# Preserving the railroad heritage of The Catskills

# Ulster & Delaware Railroad Historical Society

## Railroads in the Catskill Mountains

A land of legends. Flesh and blood legends and the literary and artistic legends that fired the imaginations of 19th century America. Thomas Cole, Natty Bumppo, Rip Van Winkle, Jay Gould, John Burroughs and gritty early American pioneers to the West all trod the splendid Catskill Mountains, one of America's early "forever wild" regions.



The railroads that conquered the Catskills also took on legendary proportions. The Ulster & Delaware was the railroad that finally 'conquered' the Catskills in the 1870's, but the region's railroad history began far earlier. During the Jacksonian era, the Canajoharie & Catskill earned its place in history as the first railroad to fail because of lack of public funding. The Catskill Mountain Railroad, one of New York State's few narrow gauge lines, was an early multi-modal carrier, interconnecting a network of steamboat and ferry lines, a trunk-line railroad, a trolley line, stagecoaches and the Otis funicular in Palenville. The Otis Elevating, the railroad into the sky, added a new dimension to East Coast tourism and the lore of the Mountain House, the Republic's first grand hotel.

During the 1870's, the Ulster & Delaware Railroad, for which our Society is named, reached the lofty heart of the Catskills through means of a remarkable double horseshoe curve and developed the region into a great resort area. The U&D played a central role, too, in creating the Catskills' thriving dairy industry, and in building the great New York City reservoirs at Ashokan and Schoharie.



We invite you to explore with us these railroads and the peoples, places and industries that made the legends of the Catskill Mountains.

## The Society

The Ulster & Delaware Railroad Historical Society is a chapter of the NRHS (National Railway Historical Society), focusing on the history of the railroads and related social, economic, and cultural institutions of the Catskill and Hudson Valley regions. That history, which began with the charter of the Catskill & Ithaca Railroad in 1828, encompasses numerous proposed and built railroads and trolley lines within

Ulster, Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Albany and Otsego counties. The railroad companies in our area of concentration include:

- Ulster & Delaware
- Rondout & Oswego
- New York, Kingston & Syracuse
- Stony Clove & Catskill Mountain
- Kaaterskill
- Hobart Branch Railroad
- Catskill Mountain Branch of the New York Central and of Penn Central
- Delaware & Otsego
- Delaware & Eastern/Delaware & Northern
- Canajoharie & Catskill
- Catskill Mountain
- Cairo Railroad
- Catskill & Tannersville
- Otis Elevating
- Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley
- Middleburgh & Schoharie
- Schoharie Valley
- Rhinebeck & Connecticut
- Wallkill Valley
- New York Central/West Shore at Kingston
- Delaware & Hudson at and around Oneonta

Society members come from diverse walks of life but all share a passion for the railroads and the history, industry and natural beauty of the Catskills. Besides railroad enthusiasts and historians, we number amongst our members lawyers, professional engineers, a Pulitzer Prize winning author,aturalists, an archivist and active and retired railroaders.

## Preservation

Society preservation efforts have a multi-tiered focus: our depot and future headquarters at Roxbury, equipment restoration and preservation at Arkville/Roxbury and the conservation of railroad artifacts and documents.

The cornerstone of our efforts is **Roxbury Depot**, named in 2003 to the National Register of Historic Places. Since the end of common carrier rail operations by the Penn Central in 1976, Roxbury Depot slumbered under a shroud that hid and protected from deterioration its 1872 Rondout & Oswego depot and 1890's improvements. The Society is raising money to fund a full restoration. The *Roxbury Depot Museum* is open to visitors on summer and fall weekends Memorial Day through Columbus Day when the Delaware & Ulster Rail Ride operates. Society volunteers serve as docents to explain the history and functions of this historic structure.



At Arkville, we have restored to operational condition a four-wheel caboose, built in 1906 by the New York, Ontario & Western Railroad, a N.Y. State carrier that went out of business in 1957. The Society also owns an NYO&W diesel locomotive which is used on occasional trips on the Delaware & Ulster Railroad. A small steam locomotive (formerly Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal #14, retired in 1962), is a static exhibit at Arkville. This locomotive is similar in type to those used to help build the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County.

Individual members preserve thousands of documents, photographs and regional railroad ephemera with the goal of creating a permanent archive and research center at *Roxbury Depot Museum*. The Society itself occasionally acquires significant timetables, postcards and regional reference books for inclusion in the archive. Contributions of Catskill Mountain and railroad-related materials are always welcomed.



## Educational Activities

We offer speakers to other historical societies and groups interested in the history of the U&D, and we sponsor our own shows on U&D and related historical topics; we maintain a traveling model diorama of parts of the U&D as it appeared at the height of its prosperity around World War I; we have worked with community and other railroad historical local groups to present exhibits to support their shows and outreach programs; we sponsor frequent train rides, hikes, bike rides, and other explorations of remaining parts of the Ulster & Delaware and other nearby railroads; and we assist nearby tourist rail rides with historical research and information to help render their rides authentic and historically accurate.



The *Rip Van Winkle Flyer* is our historical periodical publication, focusing on original research into Catskill and Hudson Valley railroads. The Society has a website at

<http://www.udrrhs.org>

and a Yahoo discussion group at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UDRRHS/>