Steam Whistle Exposition coming to Bellaire

By MIKE HUGHES
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BELLAIRE - The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society in Bellaire is constantly striving to preserve the viaduct, and in turn, the village of Bellaire’s rich history in rail.

Next month, the society plans the first of what figures to be an annual event, the 2013 Celebration and Steam Whistle Exposition.

It will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept 28-29, at both the Mellott Memorial Library and the grounds of Belmont Community Health Center.

“This will be a family-friendly event,” said Paul Cramer, a trustee with the society. “Come out and celebrate our history.”

The steam whistle expo portion of the two-day event will be held on Sept. 28 from 1-6 p.m. and Sept. 29 from noon until 3 p.m.

Whistles of all shapes and sizes will be available for viewing and will be joined by a traveling musical Horn Assemblage from Pittsburgh.

Both live and compressed air demonstrations will be featured.

Cramer noted Hank Marsilio of Eagle Mechanical LLC in Youngstown is bringing his coal and wood fired 1910 Reeves 150 psig steam boiler and manifold.

Inside, the lecture series and celebration will feature John Teichmoeller and James Dills.

Both are knowledgeable and familiar with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Two local scale train modelers will be on-hand to demonstrate their building techniques as well as show off some of their prior creations.

Lawrence “Yogi” Wallace of Bellaire and Wheeling’s John Bowman will feature their work.

While day one of the steam whistle expo gets under way at 1 p.m. on Saturday, later that evening, Music at the Arches will be held from 6-8 p.m. to close out the first day’s festivities. It will be conducted by the Shadyside Community Band.

Also on that Saturday, from 1-4 p.m. in the upper parking lots of Bellaire Community Health Center will be a car show.

Admission to both the celebration inside the library and the expo is free.

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