

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Reading and Northern steam locomotive to travel to Hickory Run Saturday**

**Port Clinton, Pa., May 8, 2008** – To help raise awareness about the importance of rail transportation, Reading and Northern Railroad will be participating in “National Train Day,” a coast-to-coast celebration for rail travel, on Saturday, May 10, with a private excursion of its newly refurbished 425 steam locomotive. The 425 steam locomotive is a 4-6-2 Light Pacific Locomotive built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. Weighing in at 220,000 pounds, the 1928 model originally was used by Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad. In 1984, Reading and Northern purchased the locomotive for use on its fleet and in 2007, completely refurbished it back to its original condition.

Train enthusiasts can witness the locomotive as it makes its voyage from Port Clinton to Hickory Run State Park over the weekend.

With today’s rising gas prices, rail travel is more important than ever,” said Andrew M. Muller Jr., CEO of Reading and Northern Railroad. “We wanted to take part in ‘National Train Day’ because this is an opportunity to show people that trains are a growing trend in the way people travel and the way businesses transport their products.”

Reading and Northern will be running six round-trip passenger steam locomotive excursions to various locations in Northeast Pennsylvania during the summer and fall months. These include Port Clinton to Jim Thorpe, June 21; Tunkhannock to Jim Thorpe, July 12 and 13; Jim Thorpe to Pittston, Sept. 6; and Port Clinton to Jim Thorpe, Oct. 11 and 18. Tickets for these excursions can be purchased by calling (610) 562-2102 or visiting [www.readingnorthern.com](http://www.readingnorthern.com).

One-hour passenger excursion trips into the Lehigh Gorge are also available on weekends beginning May 17 and operating through Dec. 21. These rides bring the passengers back into the 1920s with authentic passenger cars, complete with period-appropriate car hosts. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, Inc., ticket booth, located at the Old Mauch Chunk Train Station in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

For more information on Reading and Northern Railroad or for ticket prices for the passenger excursions, visit [www.readingnorthern.com](http://www.readingnorthern.com). For more information on Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, Inc. or its weekend operations, visit, [www.lgsry.com](http://www.lgsry.com).

Reading and Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving eight counties in Eastern Pennsylvania. It has expanded its operations over the last 25 years and has grown into one of the premier railroads in the state, with both freight services and passenger operations. Reading and Northern continues to grow and currently employs 100 dedicated employees.