

**George Elston's Slightly Shaky Productions**  
**BLHS Caboose Restoration Project Video Tape / Fall 1995**

***Lotsa Lightning Stripes***

This tape was made possible through the kind assistance of several BLHS members who donated footage to the effort. We would like to thank John Boardman, Jay Winn and Joe Petacchio for contributing to this effort, and hope you enjoy it.

Former D&H employee John Boardman was out with his movie camera as far back as the early 1950's, and has contributed some nice silent footage of the D&H of another era.

**Subjects**

We begin with two quick run-bys from the early 1950's when diesels were just pushing the last steam off the railroad. From there we jump to the early 1970's as we ride south along Lake Champlain on a passenger train pulled by an RS3 in lightning stripes. Next we find ourselves at Mechanicville, where the action is heavy with D&H Alco Centuries, PA's, NYC FA's and a B&M "geep". A quick side trip from the D&H gives us a glimpse of Erie Lackawanna power at both Starrucca and Nicholson viaducts, followed by a short segment of the ill-fated Delaware-Otsego steam excursion operation out of Oneonta. This trackage originally belonged to the Ulster & Delaware.

Back on the D&H, we see a lashup of GE "U-boats" somewhere on the Susquehanna Division. Returning north to Whitehall, we spot the PA's doing their passenger duties, after which we see them in snow along the southern reaches of Lake Champlain. Through the magic of video we are next transported to Belden Hill, where we observe a lashup of three RS3's exiting the tunnel. Heading to Schenectady, we see another U-boat lashup crossing the Mohawk River, southbound from Mohawk Yard, followed by action at Schenectady station. Afterward we follow the PA's northbound.

Suddenly it's two decades later, and we find ourselves in the Hillcrest area just north of Binghamton for a Guilford runby. After stopping for a look at D&H #5022 switching at Oneonta, we proceed northward, spotting a northbound at Schenevus. A little while later, we find ourselves at Richmondville Hill for the passing of a northbound, followed by an interesting lashup headed south. Unfortunately for the railroad but fortunately for us, the train stalls on the hill and we observe the power of the northbound returning for the rescue. After these maneuvers we head north to catch the northbound again at both Howes Cave and Delanson. Then it's off to Cohoes, where we catch local SC-1 trundling down the Colonie main. Our good fortune holds as we catch the Kenwood-Saratoga transfer job on the Cohoes Mohawk River bridge.

Back down in Binghamton, we catch trains at Bevier Street and rolling in from the Southern Tier line. We head north again and catch the action on Belden Hill and a power transfer at Afton. Another day finds us at the end of the North Creek branch and also near the end of operations at the National Lead (now NL Industries) facility in Tahawus. Moonscape in the mountains!!

Back in Oneonta we catch NYS&W power heading north and south. Heading south to the Hillcrest area, we see run-bys of both north and southbounds. We chase the northbound to Belden Hill tunnel, where we watch the pusher cut off. Returning to Richmondville summit, we spot a work extra doing a runaround move, followed by a late evening shot of a southbound at Delanson.

During the early CP days, the intermodals were not too impressive, as a trip to Saratoga illustrates. We follow this monster stack train through Ushers and on to Mechanicville, where it takes to B&M rails for a meet with a pair of Geep lightning stripes at XO Tower. We catch our intermodal for a last shot south of "Mickeyville". D&H Alco #5022 gives us a bit of a show at Oneonta, after which it clears for a northbound.

Then it's off to Utica for a look at NYS&W engine #74. We return to Oneonta on a rainy day to watch 5022 spinning its wheels at the crossing, followed by Suzy-Q action at BD cabin in Binghamton, as well as in Utica. Back on the D&H, we find the Corinth local heading past Saratoga station.

Returning to Bingo, we catch two trains at Terrace Drive, one of which sports some Norfolk Southern power. We spend some time at BD again to catch several trains. Then we slide down to East Bingo for numerous Alcos.

Between bouts with restoring the caboose and long modeling sessions in the cellar, the Slightly Shaky crew still does (occasionally) get to trackside. Come along as we follow the Corinth job out of Saratoga through Greenfield and out to Corinth station. Down at the Glens Falls cement plant we catch a pair of GP lightning strippers and follow them back to the Fort Edward yard.

North of there, at Whitehall, we catch the southbound *Adirondack*, then follow northbound train #555 for shots at Dresden station, Ticonderoga, south of Port Henry, Port Henry station and Westport before the light fails.

A brief return visit to the Southern Tier line gives us a chance to see a pair of Soo Line SD60's near Lowman, as well as at Wellsburg and Big Flats.

Another day in Ft. Edward finds the power sandwiched in the middle of the train as it works the grade out of the yard. We follow along through Hudson Falls and into Glens Falls. Then we head north to catch the southbound *Adirondack* near Port Henry. Still farther north, we have the good luck to catch a track geometry train heading south, so its off we go chasing south again. It's rolling right along, but we manage to grab shots in Wadhams, Port Henry, Crown Point, Wrights, Dresden station and South Bay.

On June 8, 1995 we witnessed what may be the last hurrah of the Albany main as we follow #7305 in its dual-flags scheme, pulling D&O cars on a businessman's special. Out of the Normanskill gorge and on to Slingerlands, across the Conrail diamond at Voorheesville and through Black Bear Swamp, we meet a big crowd at the Altamont station. Departing Altamont, we get roll-bys just south of the village at Nudist Camp crossing, under the I88 bridge near Duanesburg, and heading south through Delanson.

Thank you for purchasing this tape, the proceeds of which are dedicated to equipment restoration.

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