



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 22

February 2014

No. 2 1/2

Supplement to the February 2014 BRD

February program presenter Ed Fielding received this information from the videographer of the DVDs he will present and asked that it be shared with members and friend of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS.



Louis Lokuta is a life-long rail-fan originally from Butler, NJ. Since the age of three, he has shown a profound interest in all aspects of trains. He grew up along the New York, Susquehanna, & Western railway, at its western terminus since the early 1970's, when the line was severed by Hurricane Agnes at Smoke Rise (Kinnelon, NJ). Train movements were scant and unpredictable at best, but would occur about once a month at the Butler yard. Therefore, most of his early rail-fanning, occurred along the D&H Sunbury Line (Now the CP Sunbury Line) through northeastern Pennsylvania while visiting his grandmother's house. It was here, where he first started audio recording passing trains on cassette tape, so that he could play them back while falling asleep at night.

In the mid 1980's, when the New York, Susquehanna, & Western railway reactivated its Southern Division mainline for SeaLand double stack service, Louis' rail-fanning opportunities grew! Louis' late father, Bernard, would take him out almost every night of the week and sit by the tracks in Butler, waiting for the evening's parade of westbound stack trains. Louis continued his audio recording endeavors and began to dabble in editing the recordings to make them "better". It wasn't until the early 2000's when Louis decided to start video documenting NYS&W train movements, since the future of the line was in question due to the loss of all intermodal traffic to CSX because of the Conrail breakup. The stack trains were already gone, but "regular" detours would traverse the NYS&W, and CSX still ran its daily empty auto-rack train, Q-271, up the NYS&W to alleviate traffic congestion along the CSX River Line (former Conrail "Water Level" route). He started compiling hours and hours of video footage and decided to dabble into DVD movie editing. After many long hours of trial and error, Louis produced his first NYS&W DVD "Susquehanna 2003: The Chase is ON!!!" (his famous tag line), really at a "whim" to see if he could do it. After many people expressed interest, and sales flourished on E-bay, Louis began regularly creating new DVD's as the years went by. Louis has sold DVDs across the country to buyers in states such as Virginia, Texas, Washington, and Illinois.

Louis currently has 7 DVD's available for purchase on his website, [www.TheChaselsOn.biz](http://www.TheChaselsOn.biz). Feel free to browse and purchase from his expansive selection! Most of his DVD's are based on themes such as Detour movements or operations post severe weather events such as Hurricane Irene. He also maintains a YouTube.com channel at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheChaselsOnDVDs> and posts additional bonus footage on there from time to time. You can also see a short preview of each of his DVD's on his YouTube channel. Subscribe today!

Louis is 37 years old, and is married to his lovely wife Bethanne. He currently resides along the former Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad (now NYS&W Southern Division mainline) at milepost 76 in Vernon, NJ - where the railroad bisects an 18 hole golf course at the 9th hole. Louis affectionately calls this location "the ninth hole" when reporting train movements to the NYS&W YahooGroups.