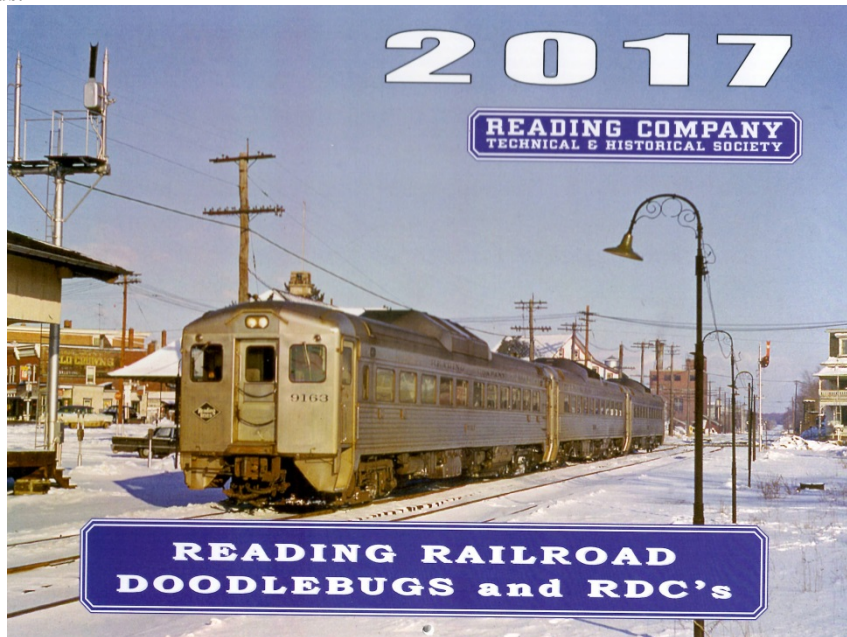


RCT&HS Year 2017

Reading Railroad Calendar

The RCT&HS Year 2017 railroad calendar is now available featuring the Gas-Electric Cars (Doodlebugs) and Budd Rail Diesel Cars (RDCs) of the Reading Company. Between 1923 and 1930 the Reading acquired a total of 17 gas-electric cars and 10 trailer coaches, most of which operated through the 1930s and 1940s. Nicknamed Doodlebugs these cars operated on a wide variety of branch lines and some main lines of the Reading Railroad. All cars handled baggage and express, and most had RPO compartments. The RDC was a considerable improvement over the earlier heavy all-steel doodlebugs. The RDC had sufficient power, with each car having two 275 or 300 horsepower diesel engines, for higher maximum speeds and, due to its lighter weight, rapid acceleration. Having two engines gave the RDC more reliability and the capability to continue moving should one of its engines fail. Each Reading RDC was a model RDC-1, Budd's designation for an RDC with passenger capacity of 103 people. The Reading later purchased four more second-hand RDCs from the Lehigh Valley and the Boston & Maine railroads.



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