



Moving Forward

2023

Message from James Bonner



News for Customers, Employees & Friends of the New York & Atlantic Railway



As happy as we are to see traffic continue growing on our railroad, we are focused on maintaining our excellent safety record and customer service while efficiently handling more business.

To that end, we are recruiting and training highly qualified operating personnel and continuing to make NYA an attractive long-term career opportunity. As everyone knows, competition for good talent has never been greater and that's why we've developed a comprehensive wage and incentive package. Additionally, we've accelerated training opportunities for employee advancements to help our staff achieve their career goals faster.

Changes in our operating force can create customer service challenges, and we've been transparent with our customers through open discussions. These have helped develop solutions to keep shipments moving on realistic schedules that allow for uninterrupted

Continued on Page 2



Photos courtesy of Astro Aggregates

The Astro Aggregates facility in Maspeth is one of three strategically sited on Long Island that is keeping heavy trucks off the road. Company founders Marc Furman and Anthony Giaquinto (inset) credit their excellent relationship with NYA as a factor in their company's rapid growth.

Zero to Over 2,500 in 15 Months

When Astro Aggregates received the company's first railcar at one of its newly opened locations on Long Island, they planned a soft opening.

"As a new business, we wanted to perfect service and communication before going full steam ahead," says founder Marc Furman.

That was September 2021. Things went smoothly and the company received a couple hundred cars during those last three months of the year. Then volumes really took off and, last year, over 2,500 railcars were received at the three Astro Aggregates terminals in Hicksville, Deer Park, and Maspeth.

"This year, with proper communication and reliability, we plan—conservatively—to double that," Furman says. "We have already moved hundreds of

thousands of tons of aggregate by rail and kept thousands of trucks off the area's congested roads and bridges."

Founder Anthony Giaquinto feels though this expansion has happened quickly, Astro Aggregates is in this for the long haul. It has an exclusive agreement with Rawson Materials in Connecticut to supply New York's major infrastructure projects for decades to come. Rawson's quarries include millions of tons of material that meet the DOT specifications for the aggregates required in highway, ready mix, building, and other major area projects.

Astro Aggregates has three strategic locations on Long Island, each of which is 17 miles apart—allowing them to be

Continued on Page 3

Inside this issue...

- P2 • Ready to Help Meet ESG Goals
- P3 • Rely on Rail for Safety
- P4 • Investing for Growth
 - Two Team Members Welcomed
- P5 • NY&A in the Community
- P6 • Employee Milestones

Message from James Bonner

Continued from Page 1

operations at plants and distribution facilities.

We greatly appreciate the willingness of our valued customers to work through any temporary issues that arise.

One of the reasons we've been able to handle the ongoing surge in business is the excellent physical condition of NYA track, structures, and rolling stock. Seeing how our history of investment has benefitted current operations makes us even more committed to continued improvements.

Following the recent upgrade of four locomotives, we are planning additional work to maintain reliability. And as always, our crews will be out maintaining and improving our railroad during this year's work season.

If there is anything you think we could be doing better, please reach out to me. We are ready and more than willing to listen to every good idea.

James Bonner
President
New York & Atlantic Railway

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NYA Recognized for Commitment to North Brooklyn

In October, the Evergreen Brooklyn Business Exchange's 40th anniversary event honored 40 recipients who have influenced the trajectory of North Brooklyn. NYA was among the honorees.

Evergreen champions manufacturing, creative production, and industrial-service businesses in North Brooklyn and beyond. It connects businesses with resources and opportunities to help create and maintain high-quality jobs at all skill levels.

To celebrate the anniversary, the organization created the Evergreen

40/40—a list of notable local leaders, individuals, companies, funders, and others that have supported and led North Brooklyn.

According to the nomination: "They (NYA) belong in the 40 for 40 because of their extensive community involvement and their commitment to moving inbound commodities by rail, reducing truck trips in our residential and industrial business communities." ♦



EVERGREEN
Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange

Anacostia: Ready to Help You Meet ESG Goals

by Eric Jakubowski

Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer, Anacostia Rail Holdings



An expanding economy doesn't have to result in ever-rising CO2 emissions.

Rail freight is the lowest-emission surface transportation mode, and ARH is dedicated to helping shippers shift to the safest, most efficient, and sustainable alternative. Converting supply chain operations from truck to rail offers the largest immediate surface transportation opportunity for meeting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals.

Moving freight by train instead of trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75%.

Anacostia Rail Holdings (ARH) and its railroads are dedicated to leveraging the sustainable advantages of rail. We handle more than 2 million carloads and container equivalents annually. Combined with the operational excellence of our railroads, every shipment we convert from highway to rail slashes CO2 emissions.

The Anacostia railroads naturally provide dramatic emissions reductions compared with highway transportation. More than that, ARH railroads lead the way in making rail operations ever more sustainable.

Most recently, ARH and Pacific Harbor Line proudly accepted the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) Environmental Award and Employee Engagement Award.

As a provider of rail, transload, terminal, and intermodal logistics solutions, we quickly navigate the seemingly complex task of initiating rail service.

Whether you need a rail-served site, transloading operations near your plants and distribution centers, or a plan to bring rail to existing facilities, we have the knowledge, capabilities, and dedication to put your company on the right track. We are ready to support supply chain managers as they strive to meet corporate ESG goals. ♦

Rely on Rail for Safety

Railroads excel at safety. When measured on a ton-mile basis, railroads have a fatality rate that is less than one-seventh the rate for large trucks. Hazardous materials are much safer moving by train than they are on truck, which has an incident rate 13 times higher than rail.

At NYA, we understand the importance of safety for our employees, our customers, and our community. We are committed to being a safety leader in our industry.

We are proud to be a partner with the New York first responder community. On May 2, the New York Fire Department Special Operations Command Division used three East New York tunnels—which together measure 9,000 feet—for realistic training. First responders experienced smoky, dark, and hazardous conditions that would be encountered in New York’s extensive subway tunnels and other underground locations during a catastrophic event.

The Rail Safety Train is another major training initiative sponsored by NYA. It allows first responders a hands-on opportunity with locomotives, tank cars, and a flat car with a variety of fittings that mirror those which would be encountered during an emergency.

“We have been planning this year’s cycle for almost six months, and it will feature both a tabletop exercise and a hands-on field scenario,” said NYA Operations Support Manager James Nunes. “The tabletop simulation will allow for key members of the emergency response team to meet and verify that response procedures and communications channels are current and reflect industry best practices.”

Federal regulations require certain commodities to be transported by rail and NYA transports a limited amount. Most hazmat NYA shipments are for home heating.

Safety from Day 1

NYA’s strong safety performance starts with our crews. From their first day on the job, safety is their number one task.

To keep up with growing customer demand, we’ve had new hires enter classes last fall and again in late February. Those who pass the challenging classes enter our transportation department as assistant conductors. By then, the assistant conductors have the knowledge



First responders train in an East New York subway tunnel.

to keep themselves, their co-workers and the general public safe on the railroad.

In today’s competitive labor market, we know it’s important that we retain our experienced crew members. That’s why we’ve restructured internal training programs to give current employees the opportunity to make career advancements more predictably and quickly.

By keeping great people with us, we all benefit from better customer service and, more importantly, safe operations. ♦

Astro Aggregates, Continued from Page 1

no farther than 15 miles from any customer. This makes it possible to keep final truck deliveries short, with the bulk of the company’s material coming into its facilities by rail.

A new and—for now—final terminal is being discussed that will add barge transport to the logistics mix.

“All of this brings a tremendous benefit in the form of a reduced carbon footprint for these essential single-source quarry shipments,” says Furman.

He credits the collaborative relation-

ship between Astro Aggregates, Rawson Materials, and the two area railroads that move shipments from the Connecticut quarries to locations on NYA.

“To successfully manage our growth, we have weekly calls in which we all participate, and quarterly meetings that bring together C-suite management,” Furman says.

Astro Aggregates General Manager Tom Kennelly is in daily contact with NYA.

“Transparency is key,” he says. “NYA is in constant contact with me and my team, and they are great at keeping us informed about shipment deliveries

so we can make any necessary adjustments on our end. Together we are always looking to create efficiencies and save time. Above all, we appreciate that the railroad puts safety ahead of everything else.”

As Astro Aggregates looks toward its future, rail will continue to be its provider of virtually all inbound transportation services.

“I can’t emphasize enough how communication and transparency with New York & Atlantic has made Astro Aggregates a successful venture and want to say thank you,” Furman concluded. ♦



Investing for Growth

Continuous investment in our physical plant and equipment keeps NYA in great shape to handle the growing volumes of freight we move.

This year we'll invest in another round of improvements to our motive power and track.

"Keeping our operations safe, our service standards high, and our railroad a great place to work requires that we maintain our assets in top shape," says Vice President Marlon Taylor. "That's why we have scheduled new improvement projects this year."

Following the upgrade of four MP15AC 1,500 horsepower locomotives, the focus is turning to our GP units. During 2023, we will be undertaking a significant in-house rebuild of the cabs on two units.

The cabs will be rebuilt with the addition of air conditioning, upgraded heating, new seating and flooring,

elimination of all rust, and any other needed work.

"Greater crew comfort and safety, operating efficiency, and reliability will all result from this program," Taylor says.

Out on our right-of-way, we'll be working on the railroad to build a new lead track at our interchange with CSX. Made possible by a New York State 80% grant, this project will significantly increase the efficiency for moving trains between CSX and NYA. When complete, we'll have the capacity to hold a 10,000-foot train while conducting other movements at this critical location.

Additionally, we will rebuild two turnouts at our main Fresh Pond yard to protect the reliability of those operations.

"The need for projects like these never ends," says Taylor. "Neither does our commitment to keep freight moving safely and reliably." ♦

John Gleeson Joins the NYA Team



Veteran transportation manager John Gleeson joined NYA last fall as Director of Sales and Marketing. He succeeded Chuck Samul, who retired from the railroad earlier this year.

Gleeson comes to NYA with nearly 20 years of experience working on the customer and supplier side of the railroad industry. Most recently, he developed rail facilities at Arizona Beverages USA and led the inception of rail shipments out of the company's Edison, N.J. production and distribution center.

In previous positions, Gleeson managed the tank-car fleet for Illinois-based chemical and automotive fluids producer Old World Industries and later supervised

transportation services for railcar lessor GATX Corp.

A native of Chicago, Gleeson has a B.A. in communications from Loyola University, Chicago.

"I was thrilled to join such a talented and dynamic team," said Gleeson. "Everyone at NYA is highly motivated and pulling in the same direction. It is impossible not to get excited about working in this environment."

Anacostia Rail Holdings Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Eric Jakubowski said Gleeson understands supply chains and the critical steps necessary to initiate rail service. It is a sentiment echoed by NYA President James Bonner.

"We're pleased John is part of our team," says Bonner. "As we continue to grow traffic and positively impact this region, his efforts will complement the momentum and success Chuck delivered over the past eight years." ♦

Crosson Commands Top Safety Position



Oversight for safety training at NYA—and all Anacostia railroads—is now under the command of Herman E. Crosson, the new Anacostia Chief Safety and Compliance Officer.

After Herman Crosson's arrival at Anacostia in 2022, he worked closely with Thomas Leopold—an industry leader who led a wide variety of safety initiatives over his 16 years with the company—before Leopold retired at the end of 2022.

Crosson is focused on improving individual safety performance, safety action plans, regulatory compliance, training and education standards, and environmental performance.

He has 25 years of industry experience, most recently as a VP with Patriot Rail Company. Additionally, he will continue as the South Carolina National Guard's 59th Troop Command, Brigade Commander. ♦



Ready to Ride!

Last fall, NYA was happy to host a select group of rail fans for a tour of our system. The riders were (mostly) retired executives from local transportation, government, and community agencies—many with insider insights on freight rail operations. Stops along the tour included our Fresh Pond Yard, a NYNJ Rail yard, the East New York Tunnel, and the Long Island City Freight Terminal. It was a great day on the railroad for all. ♦

NYA Supports the Community

Our railroad has a long history of supporting the residents and businesses in the boroughs we serve in the Metropolitan New York area.

"We believe in being a good neighbor," says NYA President James Bonner. "We want the communities we serve to be great places to live, work, and do business." Over the past year, we have donated funds and, in some cases, contributed our time and talents to helping the following groups:

- Boys Scout Troop 604
- Breaking Ground homeless outreach
- Breast Cancer Research Foundation
- Cancer.org with Paraco
- Evergreen Brooklyn Business Exchange
- Fisher House
- Hospice of Northwest Ohio
- Island Harvest–Taste of Harvest
- Island Harvest veterans group
- Kiwanis Club of Glendale
- Myrtle Avenue Street Fair
- Operation Lifesaver
- Pronto of Long Island
- PTA of PSIS 119
- Ridgewood Local Development Corp.
- Stony Brook Foundation/Evan Liblit Memorial Scholarship
- United Veterans Beacon House–Bay Shore
- Veteran of Foreign Wars of NY #123–Glendale
- Winters Center for Autism



Volunteers Spread the Word About Safety Near Railroads

Operation Lifesaver volunteers from NYA enjoyed meeting with the community at the Myrtle Avenue Street Fair on April 23. The fair is sponsored by the Queens County Chamber of Commerce and the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District.

More than 1,000 people visited the railroad safety table. Crowds of people, both young and old, tried out their skill tossing corn bags and winning prizes with the Operation Lifesaver message that were donated by the railroad.

Our volunteers thank NYA and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLET) for their continued support of Operation Lifesaver and its ongoing mission of safety awareness.

The street fair with the Ridgewood, Queens community was our first major event of the second quarter. We look forward next to participating in the National Night Out for Crime in the Nassau County area. ♦

Coast Guard Service Prepped Gonzalez for Just About Anything



You can call NYA Track Inspector Mike Gonzalez a bred-in-the-bone New Yorker—born in Brooklyn, raised on Staten Island, and now living in Queens. That's only a snapshot of this Coast Guard veteran with a passion for learning.

"When I was younger, I was afraid to try new things, and I would tell myself 'I can't do that,'" said Gonzalez.

Through traveling, meeting people, and self-taught skills, Gonzalez is now a dedicated life-long learner.

In his early 20s, he started traveling

to broaden his life experience. He had a career in the production side of the fashion industry, and scuba diving became a hobby.

Then, the 9/11 disaster happened about the same time he lost his job. Being Mike Gonzalez, he jumped into something new and joined the Coast Guard.

"I was a little older than most recruits when I joined up," he said. "They immediately sent me across the country to the coast of Northern California, and I was assigned to a search-and-rescue boat."

The Pacific Ocean is turbulent along the Mendocino Coast, and Gonzalez saw his share of dangerous rescues—including some involving shark attacks.

Duties were varied, but each assignment required sharp focus, quick mental and physical responses, a calm approach, and the ability to learn quickly.

After three years, Gonzalez returned to civilian life and eventually found his way to NYA—his first railroad job. He started on the Maintenance of Way crew and was recently promoted to Track Inspector.

"The Coast Guard taught me to be very detailed and meticulous with my work," said Gonzalez. "I think that's what makes me good at the railroad. I have an ability to look at the same thing every day and know quickly when something doesn't look right." ♦



Employees of the Quarter

NYA congratulates and thanks our Employees of the Quarter over the past year for their accomplishments and teamwork.



2nd Quarter 2022
Robert Savino



3rd Quarter 2022
Lyeovyen Ward



4th Quarter 2022
Jade Thompson



1st Quarter 2023
Moises Cespedes-Urena

Appreciating Our Great Employees

In the past year, NYA has hosted several employee appreciation events. We had a summer barbeque at our Fresh Pond Yard in the mechanical shop to celebrate 300 injury-free days. President James Bonner served as one of the grillmasters.

In September, we hosted fun and games at Dave & Buster's. We recognized promotions, new hires, and other milestones. Boy Scout Troop 604 saluted James Bonner and the company for contributions, and honored Operations Support Manager James Nunes for his time and contribution as a railroad merit badge counselor.

Our holiday gathering was in December and was combined with a retirement party for former Director of Sales and Marketing Chuck Samul.

"These events are a great way to bring people together in a relaxed setting, but we can never do enough to thank our employees for their hard work throughout the year to keep us rolling," said Bonner. ♦



Milestones

NYA employees celebrated the following milestones through May 2023. We thank you for your service.

Retirements

Chuck Samul, Director of Sales and Marketing
Ubaldo Ortiz, Jr., Locomotive Technician

Anniversaries

25 years Thomas Caliendo Douglas Hahnel	15 years Frank Knauf Christopher Quarlena Robert Wullschleger	1 year Moises Cespedes-Urena Christopher Nardone Christopher Nostramo
20 years John Whalen	10 years James Bonner	

Promotions

LIRR AC Test Richard Chintamani Ilan Ehimua Rashad Graham Lamar McGibboney Christopher Nostramo Sekhem Patterson Chavez Reece Jose Arias Suero Jonathan Tarnowski Urgyen Tashi Jade Thompson Andre Weir	Yard Qualified Engineer Jerich Gabriel Tyler Gomes Rashad Graham Fabian Grant Benjamin Lederer Christopher Nostramo Jose Arias Suero Jade Thompson	Track Inspector Mike Gonzalez
CDL License Christopher Nardone	LIRR BOR Moises Cespedes-Urena Tyler Gomes Trae Pierre	Trainmaster Alan Acevedo Alex Formanek
		Director of Transportation Raul Sanchez

New Hires

Richard Chintamani Assistant Conductor Trainee	John Gleeson Director—Sales and Marketing	Chavez Reece Assistant Conductor Trainee
Fatoumata Diallo Office Manager	Darrel Koger Track Laborer	Andy Rosario Locomotive Technician
Jovan Dzikic Locomotive Technician	Vladimir Lesnik Yardmaster	Jonathan Tarnowski Assistant Conductor Trainee
Ilan Ehimua Assistant Conductor Trainee	Lamar McGibboney Assistant Conductor Trainee	Urgyen Tashi Assistant Conductor Trainee
Terrance Fields Assistant Conductor Trainee	Sekhem Patterson Assistant Conductor Trainee	Andre Weir Assistant Conductor Trainee
Lamar Fisher Track Laborer	Kadeem Pierre Track Laborer	