

High Iron Simulations

Realistic Contemporary and Historical Scenarios for Train Simulator

Horseshoe Curve Scenario Pack 01:

Pennsy Glory



About High Iron Simulations

We began serving the Train Simulator community in October 2012 by developing and publishing free Train Simulator scenarios to Steam Workshop — and we're pleased that our series of Steam Workshop free scenarios have, through 2017, been downloaded by Train Simulator enthusiasts more than 750,000 times. As a Train Simulator Partner Programme member, we collaborate with Dovetail Games to produce realistic scenario packs for Train Simulator routes. This is the tenth in our series of scenario packs for Train Simulator routes.

The Horseshoe Curve Route

Horseshoe Curve. In all of American railroading, there are few places that evoke more history and drama. Horseshoe Curve was J. Edgar Thompson's engineering marvel and the signature achievement of the Pennsylvania Railroad's 1850s crossing of the Allegheny Mountains. Located at Kittanning Point, west of the PRR's great shop town of Altoona, Pennsylvania, Horseshoe Curve stretched 2,375 feet in length, and with a gradient of 1.8 percent, lifted the Pennsy's four-track mainline from an elevation of 1,954 feet on its lower (eastern) end to 1,716 feet on its upper (western) end.

As part of the Pennsylvania's Pittsburgh Division, Horseshoe Curve and the Allegheny crossing from Altoona on the east to Johnstown, Pennsylvania on the west was one of America's busiest and most critical railroad arteries, home to a seemingly endless passage of tonnage and passenger trains. Today, the line remains a busy mainline of Norfolk Southern and also serves as an Amtrak route.

Train Simulator's Horseshoe Curve route extends 45 miles from Altoona to Johnstown and, along with famed Horseshoe Curve, captures the great locations and verve of Allegheny railroading, including Gallitzin, Allegheny, and New Portage Tunnels, renowned MG Tower, the eastbound Slide, key coal feeder lines at Cresson and South Fork, and the sprawling yards at Altoona and Conemaugh (Johnstown). The route represents the line as it existed in the late 1940s and early to mid-1950s and as such is a recollection of the great Pennsylvania Railroad in the twilight of its glory days.

The Scenarios

This pack includes 10 career scenarios based on actual operations along the Pennsylvania Railroad's Altoona-Johnstown (Pa.) Horseshoe Curve route from the late 1940s through mid-1950s. Featured are PRR freight and passenger operations during the late steam and first-generation diesel eras. All scenarios require Dovetail Games' Train Simulator and the Horseshoe Curve route. Individual scenarios require additional DLC (downloadable content) as detailed in the individual scenario descriptions (pages 3-6).

Train Simulator and all required products are available at the Steam Store: <http://store.steampowered.com>

Our additional scenario packs are also available at the Steam Store: <http://store.steampowered.com>

For Train Simulator and scenario product support, visit: <http://dovetailgames.kayako.com/>

Operational Notes

To fully enjoy operations on the Horseshoe Curve route, it is important to understand the Pennsylvania Railroad's lineside color light signaling system and signal indications related both to clearance to proceed and speed limit restrictions. In some cases, lineside signals will limit acceptable speeds below that which is indicated in the Train Simulator in-game HUD display. Various online resources fully detail PRR signals and signal indications.

It should also be noted that the Horseshoe Curve route was released in 2011 and reflects that earlier period of Train Simulator development in some technical limitations and peculiarities. From an operational standpoint, this is most apparent in an occasional need to seek permission [TAB] to pass signals that are erroneously displaying a full-stop indication. Such instances are most commonly experienced westbound in and around Gallitzin and eastbound at MG Tower. Known instances are addressed through operating Instructions included in the individual scenarios when appropriate, but you may encounter addition signaling irregularities on occasion.

NOTE: Effective with this scenario pack, scoring for all freight (mainline, local, and switching) operations are based upon a starting score of 1,000 with deductions made for operating errors (versus time of completion). Passenger-service scenario scoring continues to be based upon points achieved for meeting timetable expectations.

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[HSC 1.01] Pennsylvania Limited!



The PRR's Pennsylvania Limited was one of the railroad's premier trains, operating between Chicago and New York City. On a bright winter morning at Johnstown, you have just climbed aboard the lead unit of a set of Baldwin Centipede diesels powering Train 54, the eastbound Pennsylvania Limited. You'll momentarily receive the "Highball" to make the run over the wintry Alleghenies to Altoona.

Featured equipment: PRR Baldwin Centipede.

Scenario duration: Approximately 60 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR Baldwin Centipede Loco Add-On (Reppo); PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

[HSC 1.02] Sharks on the Mountain



Arrival of westbound trains in Altoona meant the rugged crossing of the Allegheny Mountains stood ahead. You are the engineer of a Pennsylvania Railroad westbound manifest freight that is stopped at Altoona for crew change and addition of rear helper diesels, and you'll soon be making the run over the mountains with an A-B-A set of PRR Baldwin RF-16 "Sharknose" diesels on the point.

Featured equipment: Pennsylvania Baldwin RF-16 Sharknose.

Scenario duration: Approximately 65 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

[HSC 1.03] Coal for Bethlehem Steel



South Fork, Pennsylvania was infamous as the site of the dam break which caused the tragic Johnstown Flood of 1889, but it was also the point at which a busy PRR coal branch connected with the Pittsburgh Division main line. On a snowy day, you are the engineer of a coal job that will be gathering loads at South Fork, then making the run down to Woodvale Yard in Johnstown with coal destined for the nearby Bethlehem Steel plant. Your power is a trio of PRR Electro-Motive F7s.

Featured equipment: PRR Electro-Motive F7.

Scenario duration: Approximately 40 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route.

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[HSC 1.04] Portage Coal East



Among the sources of coal along the Pennsylvania Railroad's Pittsburgh Division were the mines of Cambria County, Pennsylvania. On a wintry winter afternoon, you are working a PRR mine job with a trio of EMD GP7s and will first be pulling together coal tonnage at Wilmore and Portage, then making a tough eastbound climb toward the summit at Cresson and Gallitzin.

Featured equipment: PRR Electro-Motive GP7.

Scenario duration: Approximately 40 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route.

[HSC 1.05] PRR Mail Train 18



During the 1950s, railroads such as the PRR operated dedicated mail and express trains with perhaps one rider coach provided for the occasional passenger. You are the engineer of PRR Train 18, an eastbound mail and express train making its stop at Johnstown and ready to cross the Alleghenies to Altoona. As often as not, such trains were assigned secondary power, and thus it is, late in the steam era, that a venerable Pennsy K4 steam locomotive is your power.

Featured equipment: PRR K4 4-6-2 steam locomotive.

Scenario duration: Approximately 65 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR K4 Loco Add-On; PRR Baldwin Centipede Loco Add-On (Reppo).

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[HSC 1.06] East Slope Local



Flagship trains such as the PRR's Broadway Limited gained the fame, but railroading in the 1950s was also host to a myriad of nameless secondary and local passenger trains that served small communities across the nation. At dawn on a spring morning, you have been called as engineer of PRR Train 641, which is due to depart Altoona, then climb the east slope of the Alleghenies with stops scheduled at Gallitzin and Cresson. Your power is an A-B set of PRR EMD F7s.

Featured equipment: PRR Electro-Motive F7.

Scenario duration: Approximately 40 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR Baldwin Centipede Loco Add-On (Reppo); PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

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[HSC 1.07] Woodvale Yard Duty



Johnstown, Pennsylvania was home to a sprawling Pennsylvania Railroad terminal complex, part of which was Woodvale Yard, which primarily served the nearby Bethlehem Steel plant and interchange with the Conemaugh & Black Lick steel road and the Baltimore & Ohio's S&C branch. You are the engineer of a PRR morning switch job at Woodvale and, with an EMD GP9 as power, have considerable switching to do at the yard and the Bethlehem Steel plant.

Featured equipment: PRR Electro-Motive GP7.

Scenario duration: Approximately 60 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

[HSC 1.08] Cresson Coal



Cresson, Pennsylvania, near the summit of the Pennsy's main line over the Alleghenies, was a major coal gathering point on the Pittsburgh Division. On a spring afternoon in the 1950s, you have been called as engineer of an extra that will pull together coal tonnage at Cresson, then make the descent of the Allegheny west slope to Conemaugh Yard in Johnstown. As power, you have an A-B-A set of classic Pennsylvania Baldwin RF-16 "Sharknose" diesels.

Featured equipment: Pennsylvania Baldwin RF-16 Sharknose.

Scenario duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

[HSC 1.09] Diesels from Eddystone



Over the decades, the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baldwin Locomotive Works had a special relationship that brought steam, electric, and diesel locomotives constructed at Baldwin's great Eddystone (Pa.), shops to PRR rails. On a mid-1950s autumn afternoon, you are the engineer of a pair of classic PRR Baldwin Centipede diesels ready to lug hopper empties from Altoona to Cresson, and on the rear of the train as helpers are a set of Baldwin's famed RF-16 Sharknose diesels.

Featured equipment: PRR Baldwin Centipede.

Scenario duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR Baldwin Centipede Add-On (Reppo); PRR RF-16 Sharknose Loco Add-On (DTM).

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[HSC 1.10] Pennsy K4 Farewell

In 1957, the Pennsylvania Railroad retired its last steam locomotives and in this semi-fictional scenario you are the engineer of a PRR “Farewell to Steam” excursion. The special will make a loop trip from Altoona to the Allegheny summit at Gallitzin, then return, first climbing, then descending famed Horseshoe Curve. Power for the excursion is Pennsy K4 4-6-2 1361, which, as it turned out, would have quite a long and fascinating life yet to live.

Featured equipment: PRR K4 4-6-2 steam locomotive.

Scenario duration: Approximately 60 minutes.

Scenario requirements: Horseshoe Curve route; PRR K4 Loco Add-On.

Acknowledgements and Credits

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Gary Dolzall authored the scenarios included in this pack.

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