

SCHUYLKILL NAVIGATION SLACKWATER-CANAL SYSTEM ON THE SCHUYLKILL SOJOURN

Selected remains of 108-mile, 32-dam, 71-lock coal-carrying inland waterway, built 1816-1825, enlarged 1846.

• Water Trail Mile before or at site *Overnight or lunch stop. [NRHP] = National Register of Historic Places

DAY 1

118 • Just after Reading & Northern rail bridge, timbers of **Bowen's Dam** in river, and stone abutment RR.

115 • RL between road bridge and RBMN bridge at Landingville, stone remnants **Lock 19** and **Tunnel Dam**.

109 • RR below Auburn Trailhead, mouth of **Scotchman's Canal**, RL pile of stones from crossover mule bridge.

108 • RL just after The Chutes, look back up the bank to catch the outlet of the **Crosscut Canal** at **Lock 23**.

104 • RL spectacular **Rishel's Lock 25**, the outlet of **Lord's Canal**. Lift 14 feet, highest single-chamber lock in system. Worth pausing at this cove to take it in. (Private Property)

*103 • RL towpath continues. **Hummel's Outlet Lock 27** older and newer chambers visible on foot in woods just above landing, and site of Port Clinton loading docks approx 1830-1926, under ballfield.

DAY 2

101 • RL before crossing over to portage, don't miss **Blue Mountain Lock 28** and "**Big**" **Blue Mountain Dam** abutment. Was highest dam, 25 feet. Lower chamber, **Lock 29**, submerged under Kernsville Dam pool in 1950.

100 • RL after southward bend in river, **Hamburg Canal** towpath, now Etchberger Trail, below **Lock 30**.

89 • RL outlet of ten-mile **Hamburg Canal** is in Leesport below **Leesport Lock House** [NRHP], not visible.

88 • RR **Duncan Canal** starts at **Herbines Dam** and **Lock 38**, and SRT trailhead. Abutments both sides, lock maintained as a park by volunteer Edward Glausman.

85 • RR just below Peacock's Bridge, **Duncan Canal** outlet at **Peacock's Locks 39-40**, highest remaining two-chamber locks on the Navigation. At a grassy opening, look back upward, may see some stone ruins.

DAY 3

82 • RL **Felix Dam** and **Lock 42** at Upper Felix Dam Park. Mysteriously, Lock 41 is skipped on the SNC Profile.

81-76 • RL keep an eye out for land-side walls of **Locks 43-46**, Leize's/Kelly's, Shepp's, Kissinger's, Reese's Mill.

*76 • RL Kerper's, between **Franklin Street Lock 47** mural and **Jackson's Lock 48** park, no ruins but worth a look.

73 • RL excellent remaining twin locks **Poplar Neck Lock 49**, at site of Poplar Neck/Little Reading Dam.

70 • RR navigation switches sides again, inlet of 22-mile **Girard Canal** at **Lock 50**, **Lewis's/Big Reading Dam**. Large wall remaining up on the bank, but may not be visible in summer.

*68 • **Allegheny Aqueduct**, one of 16 aqueducts or culverts carrying the Girard Canal over streams. [NRHP]

DAY 4

57 and 52 • RR most of the **Girard Canal** runs inland through Berks/Chester Counties, but the towpath is just above you at two places, Laurel Locks Farm **Locks 52-53**, and Towpath Park.

DAY 5

46 • RR **Lock 57**, the outlet of the **Girard Canal**, excellent intact lock with 1835 datestone inside. Worth a stop.

45 • RL and RR, abutments of the **Vincent/Yankee Dam**, and RR the guard lock for the **Vincent Canal**.

38 • **Black Rock Dam** slackwater pool. Here at today's PA 113 bridge, a ferry, then a covered bridge, switched the towpath to RL. Schuylkill East Trail runs along historic towpath to **Lock 60** and the **Oakes Canal**. [NRHP]

*37 • RL **Lock 60**, the only restored working lock on the Navigation, and restored 1836-39 lock tender's house.

DAY 6

33 • RL before rail bridge, 1839 lock tender's house at buried **Brower's Lock 61**, outlet for the Oakes Canal.

32 • RR land side wall of **Pawling's Lock 62**, visible gate pockets. 1837 datestone on RL abutment visible by land.

28 • RR outstanding intact 1840-46 twin locks at **Catfish Lock 63**. Opposite Catfish Dam abutment visible RL.

24 • RR portage at **Norristown Dam** fishway, site of **Lock 64**, inlet for **Norristown Canal** (on Bridgeport side).

*21 • RR **Plymouth Dam** abutment with 1858 datestone, also visible on land by crossing Gulph Creek.

DAY 7

20 • RL Conshohocken Rowing Center approximate site of **Plymouth Canal Outlet Lock 65**, no remains, canal boats entered Flat Rock Dam pool.

16 • RR to portage, but look over to the Philadelphia side to view ongoing major project by the Philadelphia Water Department, building a new feeder (sluice) house at **Lock 68** and **Flat Rock Dam**, restoring river flow to **Manayunk Canal**.

14 • RL look back upwards under rail bridge to see **Locks 69-70**, the **Manayunk Canal** outlet. This canal is the only one in the Navigation with intact lock chambers surviving at both ends. [NRHP]

14-9 • RR towpath ran along west bank of the Schuylkill to **Fairmount Water Works and Dam** [NRHP] and **Locks 71-72** of the **Fairmount Canal**, which released boats to tidewater. From Port Carbon, a 4-5 day journey. A few timbers and stones are visible at low tide below the dam RR, with binoculars or a scramble from the west bank.

2023 Sandy Sorlien, author of *INLAND: The Abandoned Canals of the Schuylkill Navigation*

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