

On this page I will list all the picnics, bazaars, festivals, & fairs that I attended during the 2014 picnic season. Also some comments about the event, and my rating of the event.

Queen City Days

June 7, 2014

Small picnic, rather boring, fair to poor bands, fair to decent food, It took them 1 and 1/2 hours to set up for a 8 minute fireworks show. The highlight of the whole show was the large fireball as the 1st fireworks shell misfired. Lucky nothing caught fire.

Rating ** (and that is being generous)

Jefferson Township Fire Co. June 14, 2014

Large picnic, decent to good bands, cold beer, decent to good food, most food reasonably priced, decent fireworks, parking lot isn't the best. Many rides. This picnic would be great for families with children because the ride and game area is larger than the area that would appeal to adults.

Rating ***

Mary Mother of God Parish

June 19, 20, & 21, 2014

Excellent picnic, great food, fantastic bands all three nights. Fun and games for all. Thank you, everyone who attended our annual block party. Especially those who stopped by to play a game of Irish Poker or Beat the House in my area in the back of the grounds. This picnic gets better every year. See you next summer.

Rating *****

**Elmhurst Roaring Brook Fire Company
2014**

June 27,

Good Picnic, Good Bands, Good food, Good friends, Good games. Very enjoyable picnic except for that annoying siren at the wing stand. This year it went off less than last year (about every 10 minutes, still too much). Get rid of the siren and this picnic would get a 5**** rating. With the siren the best I can do is 4**** and 1/2 stars.

Rating **** and 1/2 *

Blakely Peckville Junefest 2014

June 28, 2014

This picnic reminds me of what the Muppets say in the Toyota commercial, when they are looking at family going to Old Faithful. The Muppets say "boring". This picnic was boring. When I went to this picnic there were only about 50 people there and that included the volunteers. Its really a shame because the band was decent and the food stands for the most part were run by area restaurants. The prices were a little too high for a picnic which was begging for people.

Rating * and 1/2 *

Throop Booster Club Annual Cow Flop

June 28, 2014

This picnic is neither good nor bad. I would say its typical. The food is decent, the bands were decent, the grounds were decent. Plenty of parking. Unfortunately I didn't get to see the cow flop or hear Daddy O and the Sax maniacs and fireworks, all of which were on Sunday. Possibly if I went Sunday I may have given it a higher rating.

Rating ***

Scrantastic 4th (5th) of July Celebration

July 5, 2014

Last year I gave this 4 and 1/2 stars. This year without the Philharmonic. They did have a "big band" but that style of music doesn't do anything for me. There were no porta lavs (if

there were I couldn't find them even after going around 4 times). The vendors were ok but not really exciting. The highlights of the night were definately the fireworks. They were GREAT !!!!!. All in all it was an ok night this year, but not Scrantastic.

Rating *** (this year only)

Queen City Nights, Queen City Hose #8 and Olyphant Hose # 2

July 10, 2014

First year I went to this picnic. The band was good. The food was unusual. They did not have typical picnic food such as hamburgers, hotdogs, and fries. They had more gourmet food which looked good except kind of expensive. The pizza was boxed and reheated. The parking was easy and a decent crowd. Unfortunately I have been to better picnics.

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 *

**Covington Fire Company
2014**

July 12,

This picnic is always one of the best of the season. The crowds were big. The food was good. The entertainment (DJ) on Saturday was very good. He played a lot of classic rock which I like. The fireworks were very late they didn't shoot them until 10:50 pm. The ride operators were scarey. Lucky I don't ride the rides. My only complaint was the mens room was horrible. The smell was awful. Other than that it was a very enjoyable picnic.

Rating ****

Nativity of Our Lord

Duryea, PA

July 13, 2014

This picnic was good as usual. The food was good. The parking was easy. The band was good. The crowd was nice. What I cannot understand is why they do not make more potato pancake batter. Their pancakes are great and two years in a row they were sold out of pancakes by 6:30pm. They ran out while I was in line. I would have stayed longer but it started to rain at 8pm and I didn't care to stay in the rain.

Rating *** and 1/2 *

Parish of St. Barbara

Exeter, PA

July 18, 2014

This was my first time going to this picnic and it was quite a happy surprise. The food was good, the grounds were huge. The band was good. The volunteers were helpful and friendly. Plenty of close by parking. My only complaint is those damn food tickets. This was an excellent picnic which would have got a 4 and 1/2 star rating, with the food tickets the best I can do is 3 and 1/2 stars.

Rating *** and 1/2 *

William Walker Hose Company Corn and Clam Slam

July 19, 2014

This is usually a very good picnic and this year was no exception. The food was good, eventhough many items were sold out on Saturday. The band was great. The beer tent was huge, eventhough a little bit hot inside. Many people that I know were here. New this year they had laser tag for the kiddies, but no rides. I found a great parking spot at the baseball field. I will be back again next year.

Rating ****

Germania Hose Company

Duryea, PA

July 20, 2014

The food was good. The band was decent. No baskets this year, Didn't seem to be as many rides. But most annoying they started using "stupid" food tickets this year. I saw something here that I never seen before, in the many picnics that I attend every year. Most picnics that use food tickets will rip them up and throw them in the garbage after you turn them in to purchase food. Germania puts the food tickets in a locked box at each stand. That is paranoid. If you don't trust your volunteers that much don't even have the picnic next year. Who ever was in charge this year ruined what used to be one of the best of the season.

Rating ** and 1/2 *

Clifford Hose Company

Clifford, PA

July 25, 2014

The Clifford picnic was always good. This year it was better. No food tickets. They had a wood carver. The fireworks and fire show was the best that I have seen in many years. All shot remotely, no technicians lighting fuses with highway flares. The food was excellent. It is a little bit of a drive but it is well worth it. Hope it is this good next year too.

Rating *****

**Christ the King
PA**

Eynon,

July 26, 2014

Food was very good. The band was very good eventhough I never heard of them before. Parking was easy. This is always a nice picnic and this year was no exception. It is worth a yearly visit.

Rating **** and 1/2 *

St. Joseph's Center

July 27, 2014

This is always a great picnic for a great cause. New parking options this year. Food is great, huge variety. Many stands, games, and sales. This picnic should not be missed. Go Joe!!!!

Rating *****

St. Benedicts/ Our Lady of the Snows

Newton Ransom, PA

August 1, 2014

This is always is a very enjoyable picnic. The food is good. Plenty of games and stands with things to buy. At least 40 or more stands. No alcohol. Easy parking at Red Barn Village and shuttle bus service. This year was not quite as good as other years, probably because they did not have the Poets playing and the crowd left early.

Rating ****

Dickson City Days

Elm St. Park Dickson City, PA

August 2, 2014

This was a small "Norman Rockwell esque" picnic. Very family oriented. There was the typical food stands. Food was decent. Typical fireworks show, however much louder than other shows I saw this year. Large beer cage. A mother and son musical duo who was quite fitting for this picnic. This is a picnic that I would usually consider boring but something about this one I found very relaxing and enjoyable.

Rating ***

St. Rocco's, St. Anthony's

Dunmore, PA

August 8, 2014

This was a very nice picnic as it is every year. The food is good. The pizza changed style but was still good. The entertainment is always good. Plenty of seating. Plenty of games. Ice cold beer and no beer cage. This is a picnic that is a must visit every year. Usually their Sunday night fireworks are great. Unfortunately I missed them this year.

Rating ****

Triton Hose Company

Tunkhannock, PA

August 9, 2014

Triton Pizza is one of the best pizzas out of the many picnics that have it. The roast beef was little off this year. The fireworks were typical. The beer in the firehouse was ice cold and reasonably priced (only \$2.00 a can). The band was ok (Tommy Gunns) but I am really not a big fan of country. It was enjoyable watching them fly their drone while members of the band performed on top of the picnic tables. This is a great picnic, but since it is so far away it is a 3 beer limit. I can't wait until next years picnic.

Rating ** and 1/2 ***

St. Judes Parish

Mountaintop, PA

August 10, 2014

This is a huge picnic on beautiful grounds. They have plenty of food and game choices. Plenty of seating. Ice cold beer and no beer cage. The bands that I heard were ok but not great. I took a chance on winning \$10,000. Obviously I didn't win. They used to chance off a car, but they don't do that any more. They use food tickets which are annoying but this

parish always did. Since the picnic is so big and the food is so good I can overlook those very annoying food tickets. They have a chicken BBQ on Sunday which looked and smelled delicious.

Rating ****

Dunmore Summer Festival

Sherwood Park Dunmore

August 14, 2014

What a difference a band makes. Last year Picture Perfect was playing and the picnic was great. This year The Fortunes were playing and the picnic was eeh at best. There was very few people at the picnic. Even the beer tent was empty. Also they had quite a few less stands than last year. This year was rather boring.

Rating **

St. John Newman (Nativity)

Scranton, PA

August 14 and August 15, 2014

Like I said above, what a difference a band makes. On Thursday they had Daddy O and the Sax Maniacs. The band was great the crowd was good, ALMOST as good as the Nativity picnic used to be. On Friday they had the Nathyn Knott band which were fair at best. The crowd was small, lucky if there were 30 people in the beer tent. Its a shame because the food is very good and reasonably priced. The atmosphere is nice. It used to be one of the best picnics of the year. Now it is not a bad picnic, but it's just an average picnic. Hopefully next year it will be back the way it used to be.

Rating ***

St. Mary's Byzantine Slavic Festival

Downtown Scranton

August 15, 2014

I like this picnic but there is not a crowd. Even less than last year. The food is good. The staff is friendly. I got there about 8:30pm and there were only about 15 people there. The band was decent but they stopped playing at 9pm. The only thing is possibly this picnic has an early crowd. Possibly by the time I got there it was slow.

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 *

Springbrook Township Cow Flop

Springbrook Township, PA

August 16, 2014

This is always one of the better picnics of the year. The food is good and reasonably priced. The band was good. I missed the fireworks this year. I met the cows in the cow flop. I didn't get a ticket for the flop event though I should have. I usually know a lot of people at this picnic, but this year was different. All in all it is an enjoyable picnic. You don't have to stay in the cage with your ice cold beer.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 *

Blessed Sacrement Parish

Throop, PA

August 17, 2014

I went to this picnic Sunday at 6pm and everything was ripped down and nobody was there, eventhough there was a sign by the church that it was going on Sunday. Possibly they only ran it in the day Sunday. I am not sure.

Rating ? * ?

St. Stanislaus Parish

Scranton, PA

August 22, 2014

This is a small picnic. This year the entertainment was a lot better than last years. The food is good just like last year. A nice touch is they give you a bag of chips and pickles with your sandwich. This is the first time I experienced this, and is a very nice touch. Keep up the good work. I will definately be back next year.

Rating ***

Throop Hose Company # 2

Throop, PA

August 23, 2014

I am batting 1000 on picnics in Throop. It was right on the Throop Boro. website that Hose Company # 2 was having it's picnic on August 23 & 23. This is where I got my information. I went there Saturday and no picnic. There was a firefighter sitting out front at the station. He told me that they weren't having the picnic this year. Oh well, why did the Throop boro. website say they were having the picnic.

Rating ? * ?

Pittston Tomato Festival

Downtown Pittston, PA

August 24, 2014

This is always one of the best picnics of the season and this year is no exception. The Poets played Sunday and they were excellent as always. The food was good as always. This is always a good prelude to La Festa. My only complaints are you have to park far away (3 blocks this year) and the food is a little expensive. But none the less a great picnic.

Rating *****

La Festa Italiana

Downtown Scranton, PA

August 31 and September 1, 2014

This is always a 5 star event. The food is great. The entertainment is great. The Poets were excellent eventhough they were 45 minutes late. Good friends and fun. But I do have several pet peeves.1. Why do people bring their pet dog when it says in the paper, on the web, and on tv no pets allowed except for service animals. But some people insist on bringing their dogs. Unsanitary around all the food. What if one of the dogs bites sombody's child. 2. The cell phone zombies, mostly teenage girls and millenials who can't take their eyes off their precious cell phones and pay no attention where they are walking and walk right into you and don't even say excuse me. 3. Why can't they decide where they are shooting the fireworks from. This year on the old Globe Store garage, the 4th of July was on the Adams Ave. garage. By the time people figured out where the bangs were coming from the show was half over. 4. Why can't they decide where they are going to put the tents. One year on the sidewalk, next year on the street, never the same two years in a row. That being said I love the Festa and will go at least 2 nights or some years all 3 nights. I really liked the many new vendors this year.

Rating *****

Our Lady of the Abingtons

Dalton, PA

September 7, 2014

What a difference a band makes. What a difference a year makes. Last year this picnic had the Poets on Saturday night. This year they had a DJ. Unfortunately it rained on Saturday and I didn't go, Sunday they featured "The Quietmen". This band probably played well if you like their style of music. When they sang the theme from Gilligans Island I had enough and had to get out of there. One of the featured items on their silent auction was a 6 hour VCR tape, last year they had many good items. Last year this picnic was nice, band was great, food was good. This year the food was good, and the car show was sort of cool. But

everything else changed. What happened who knows, hopefully this picnic next year will be like the way it was last year and years before that.

Rating **

St. Paul's Parish

Scranton, PA

September 12, 2014

Like I said this is a nice medium size picnic. The food is very good. The beer is ice cold and you can watch TV in the beer tent. The entertainment was ok this year but not spectacular. The grounds are spacious. BUT they have to do something about the uncontrolled teenagers. Possibly more police or security. Only one teen on a skateboard this year, I thought wow this is great. BUT I got hit by at least 2 errantly thrown basketballs. They should not allow the teens to have basketballs or skateboards on the picnic grounds. Control the teens and this picnic would get a much higher rating.

Rating ***

Felittese Festival

Old Forge, PA

September 13, 2014

The food at this picnic is always very good to excellent. The meatball hoagies and potato pancakes were especially good. The Poets did not play this year, but the Fuzzy Park band played on Saturday and they were very good. A special treat was that Revello's ran the pizza stand this year. This picnic is small but very nice. My only minor complaint is the lack of close by parking, but it is still worth a visit every year.

Rating *** and 1/2 *

Bloomsburg Fair

Bloomsburg, PA

Sunday September 21, 2014

The fair is always exciting to me. You get to try foods that you only get to try once a year. This year was no exception. The food was good. I probably gained a few pounds. The displays and stands were interesting. I almost bought some new pruning loopers for my yard, but I resisted. My only complaint is the prices went way up this year. Top of the beef was \$8.00, last year \$6.50. Most pizza slices were \$2.50 or higher. Last year around \$2.00. None the less it is the Bloomsburg Fair, one of my favorites of the year.

Rating *****