

Berwick Riverfest

Berwick, PA

October 10, 2021

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

This was the third time that I was to the Berwick Riverfest. It is a nice event. They have many great food stands. They have arts and crafts. They have a big car show. They have an air boat ride. They have two stages but this year there was only a band on one stage. It was a 50's band. I am not a big fan of that music genre but I have to admit they did the 50's very well. I was having a great time and was all set to give Riverfest a 5 star rating. Till I walked past the last stand in the upper section. There it was, in full color, a large stand peddling propaganda and selling parafinalia from a disgraced one term politician who incited a riot on January 6. This is no place for this type of stand and I will be e mailing the Riverfest committee to complain. At least Scranton at La Festa prevented a local "businessman" from having his propaganda trucks at this years event. I really like the Riverfest but if they are going to allow this type of stand next year I doubt that I will be back. I festival is for food, music, and fun not to peddle propaganda for a disgraced politician.

Our Lady Of The Abingtons

Fall Festival

Dalton, PA

September 12, 2021

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

If you are looking for an exciting picnic. This is not the one. I found it rather relaxing for a Sunday afternoon with nothing else to do. The chicken BBQ was real good, although a little expensive \$14. The rest of the food was varied and good. The potato pancakes were excellent. The pizza was fair. I was able to park in the paved lot because of my foot. They had a large basket raffle and a rather boring silent auction. The car show only had two classic cars this year. The entertainment started off with a barbershop quartet. Not my type of music but I had the sudden urge to get a haircut. Then the Quietmen came on. They remind me of the Irish Balladeers. I am not a big fan of their style of music but they did everything from pop to country to polka and the singers all have good voices so the entertainment was actually somewhat enjoyable. Boy could they drink. The beer pitcher was filled several times. Speaking of beer, no beer cage which is nice in the country. Years ago this picnic used to be bigger and would get top bands like the Poets. Not an exciting picnic but relaxing in a beautiful coutry setting so I will be back next year.

Fleetville Volunteer Fire Company Fall Fair

Route 407 Fleetville, PA

September 11, 2021

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

I think this is the first time the Fleetville Fire company had this event or at least the first time I heard of it. I went with high expectations. Left somewhat disappointed. I am not saying this is a bad picnic. If you like arts and crafts it would be an excellent picnic. If you are looking for fun things for your children to do it would be an excellent picnic. If wanted to hear a good band (Mace in Dickson were excellent) this was an excellent picnic. For me it was disappointing because they only had four food trucks and the chicken BBQ. The pizza and hot dog I ate were good but expensive. When I go to a picnic I look for a large variety of food and potato pancakes and other specialties which was lacking here. They definately need more food options. The parking lot was sort of a mud hole. The fire company grounds are huge. If they have it again next year I will try going again. Was it a waste of time. No, actually it was a nice way to spend a few hours on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

Felittese Festival

3rd Street Old Forge, PA

September 10, 2021

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

This year the Felittese Festival was disappointing. Yes the food was very good. The prices were very high. \$5 for two slices of pizza. 12oz can of soda \$2. Three meatballs for \$6. Most of the other food was also more expensive than other years. Parking was close by on the street. The rest rooms were spotless. The best of any picnic this year. The entertainment was a Frank Sinatra impersonator with a karaoke machine. His show was painful at best. He talked for several minutes before each song and murdered most of them. His sound system had an annoying background sizzling sound. This picnic used to get quality bands. Don't know what happened this year. Many people left during his show. Normally I would wonder why they close so early at 9pm. This year they had a reason. Hopefully next year will be more the way it used to be.

LaFesta Italiana

Downtown Scranton

September 3, 2021

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

The LaFesta is a great time as expected. The food is great. The entertainment is great. Normally I would go two or three days but with my foot I was happy to be able to make two passes on Friday. Noticable was there were many missing stands. I think probably ten less than other years. Also the crowds were a little lighter than other years. Many people were wearing a mask which is a good thing. The prices were a little on the expensive side. One stand had 3 meatballs for \$10. WAY TOO EXPENSIVE! People obviously cannot read. On the LaFesta website it said DO NOT bring your pet dog. I saw at least 50 dogs. I love animals but with all the food and people that is no place to bring your pet dog. Also ABM parking who runs the garages in Scranton is either greedy or ignorant. On the LaFesta website it said parking is \$5 at city garages. I got socked \$6. It is only \$1 but ABM is a multi million dollar corporation. One great thing this year is the two propaganda trucks by Scranton "businessman" BB were no where to be seen. A very pleasant surprise. The LaFesta could have been better but still was a great time and I will be back again next year.

Pittston Tomato Festival

Downtown Pittston

August 21, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

The Tomato Festival does not disappoint. It is a great end of season event. The food was excellent and varied although some of it was somewhat expensive. I noticed a few new vendors this year. They had two bands. A Billy Joel tribute act (52nd St.) was on the main stage. I was surprised that they didn't have a much larger crowd watching. In the fire house you could drink beer while listening to the excellent local band (The Sperazza Band). Parking was a little tighter this year. Had to park two blocks away. The lines at the food stands were long. They had many tables to eat but most were being used. My only complaint is people bring their pet dogs. I love animals and own a cat. But a festival with all that food and that many people is no place to bring your pet dog. I will definately be back next year. This event is second best to LaFesta.

Sherwood Park Summer Festival

Sherwood and Bednar St. Dunmore, PA

August 20, 2021

Rating 3 * and 1/2 * out of 5 ***

This is a small picnic at a park in Dunmore. This year it was much smaller than other years. No pony rides or petting zoo. No rides for the children. The band was local. Not great but decent. They had two food trucks and a food stand. Normally this picnic is very crowded that you have to park at the ball field. This year plenty of on street parking. The food was decent and reasonably priced. They had a playground and bouncy house for the children. You can walk around with your beer. I never saw so many pitchers of beer on the tables. There were plenty of tables and seating. They had a small basket raffle. Not a bad way to spend an hour on Friday night.

St. Jude's Parish Picnic
Route 309 Mountaintop, PA
August 15, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

Breaking News! NO FOOD TICKETS! I will say that again. NO FOOD TICKETS! Finally after all these years St. Jude's finally got rid of those annoying food tickets. Also this is the first year I gave this picnic a five star rating. Why? They have a huge paved parking lot with plenty of parking. The picnic is in a beautiful wooded area with plenty of both picnic seating and natural seating. The food was good and reasonably priced. I had a delicious ziti and meatball dinner for \$6. Soda or water only \$1. New this year is a wood fired pizza shop. It was good but the crust was too thin. The chicken dinner was sold out by 2:30pm. I missed out again. They had a two man band which were better than the 4 man band last night. They had balloon artist Pat Ward making balloon snake animals and swords for the children. The building where the baskets was is gone, they now have the baskets when you walk in. They had an adult duck pond where you stand in the duck pond blindfolded and could win money. One thing that amazes me is they had no dogs and no pets signs all over but some people are so stupid that they have to bring their pet dog to the picnic. St. Jude's definitely gets the most improved picnic this year. I will definitely be back next year.

Springbrook Twp. Fire Company Picnic
Route 690 Springbrook Twp.
August 14, 2021

Rating 3 * and 1/2 * out of 5 ***

This is a decent picnic but used to be better. Gone are the rides for the children. Gone is the fireworks display. There were several less stands this year than other years. The food was good and very reasonably priced. Many of the items were sold out by 8:30pm. It has the biggest basket raffle that you ever seen. The band was eeh. They definitely needed a sound man because even though I liked the songs they did they did not perform them very well, too loud. A much better band was there on Friday. There was no firefighter parade this year which is why crowds were a little light. The parking lot was a mud hole as expected. Will I be back next year. Definitely.

St. Rocco's Parish Picnic
Bunker Hill Section Dunmore

August 13, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

After driving around through the narrow streets of Dunmore three times I finally got a parking place right outside the parish. Which was lucky. With the lack of parking I thought the picnic would be packed. But it wasn't. There were no lines for the food. The food was excellent. Picture Perfect was playing. They are one of the very best bands in Scranton. There was plenty of seating. The variety of food was amazing. You can walk around with your beer. They had a big 6 wheel. The entire picnic is under permanent buildings. No tents here. So the few sprinkles of rain weren't a problem. This is definately one of the best picnics of the season.

Triton Hose Company Carnival

Route 6 Tunkhannock, PA

August 7, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

The Triton Hose Company picnic was great as expected. We got lucky this year and found a close parking spot at the Donut Shop and they weren't charging for parking. They had rides for the children. Tons and tons of different good food. The roast beef is second best to Clifford. The pizza is the best carnival pizza of the year. They will also be selling it at the Wyoming County fair. The band Popstar drive was great. You can drink beer in the fire house. The big 6 wheel was missing this year. They had plenty of tables to eat your food. An indoor bingo game which I didn't have time to check out this year. No fireworks this year. Definately one of the best of the year. I will be back again next year.

St. Mary's Slavic Festival

Downtown Scranton, PA

August 6, 2021

Rating 3 * out of 5 ***

This year I can only describe this picnic in one word. Small. There were less baskets. There was no bake sale. There was no polka band. (who would believe that I would miss a polka band). There were few choices in food. I had a roast beef sandwich and potato pancakes both were excellent. All the food and bar were all in St. Mary's Center. There were plenty of outdoor tables to eat. There was not really a big crowd. Parking was close by right on the grounds. This picnic was not exciting but wasn't a bad way to spend an hour on a Friday night.

Clifford Hose Company

Route 106 Clifford, PA

July 30, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

The Clifford picnic does not disappoint. It is a longer drive from Scranton but it is worth it. The food is good and varied. What I noticed at all the picnics this year is the food lines are long. Clifford was no exception. The roast beef is excellent and was sold out a little after 8pm. The beer tent is huge and this year it had two cornhole courts. They had several rides for the children including the original Rocky Glen train. A boat, fire truck, and a different train ride too. The sawpiticians were there again. It is a father and daughter team that carves logs into beautiful art using chain saws, which they auction off at the end of the picnic. They are truly artists and it is amazing watch them make a log into art. The fireworks were good this year but not as good as other years. Other years they has a synchronized computer controlled display. This year four guys with torches. The display was about a half hour long but not nearly as good as other years. I can't wait to come back again next year.

Germania Hose Company

Foote Ave. Duryea, PA

July 24, 2021

Rating 4 ** out of 5 ***

If it wasn't for them using those very annoying food tickets. I would have gave Germania 5 stars this year. The parking lot attendants were great, they tried to get customers as close as possible. They had some rides for the children but less than other years. The food was good and reasonably priced. The food lines were long but moved pretty fast. I didn't get the pancakes this year but usually they are real good. New this year there was no beer cage. You could walk around with your beer. The Sperazza Band was excellent as expected. I had a really good time there this year. Get rid of the annoying food tickets and it will be a better time for all. At least this year they weren't putting the food tickets in a locked box like they did other years. I will be back next year.

Christ the King Parish

Archbald, PA

July 23, 2021

Rating 4 ** out of 5 ***

This is a decent picnic. The food was good and reasonably priced. The food tent was not very efficient. It took 20 minutes to get my order. They had many volunteers but they seemed like they were getting in each others way. Also several food items were sold out by 8pm on Friday. The potato pancakes were great. The band was excellent eventhough this year they had them in a small tent instead of a stage. Parked at the firehouse like usual which is a few blocks away. The beer tent was packed. The basket raffle is huge. They had a larger area this year to sit and eat your food. Definatly worth a yearly visit.

St. Eulalia's Parish

Elmhurst, PA

July 16, 2021

Rating 3 * and 1/2 * out of 5 ***

This is a decent picnic. The food is good. The food lines on Friday were very long. They have plenty of paved parking. They have indoor bathrooms. The indoor flea market is huge and has a little bit of everything. They didn't have any entertainment which is ok for a small picnic. They only had the smelly citronella candles in the bar. Now the downside. They started using those very annoying food tickets. This is first year they did. To make things worse you could only buy them in groups of \$5. Most parishes allow you to buy what you need. I ended up with \$3 extra which I gave away. Also you had to go to a special table in the food tent to pay with the tickets instead of the person giving you the food taking the tickets. Which made the lines even longer. Next year get rid of the food tickets, don't bring back the smelly citronella candles and it will be a great picnic again.

Nativity of Our Lord Parish Picnic

Duryea, PA

July 10, 2021

Rating 4 ** out of 5***

This used to be a five star picnic. This year they moved their location because the other church building closed. They did offer shuttle service, but the service only went two blocks from the picnic. So you still have to walk 2 blocks. Close by on street parking was nil. Most blocked with garbage cans and lawn chairs several blocks from the picnic. The new grounds are much larger which is nice. The food was good to excellent as expected. They eliminated the potato pancake express line for people who only wanted 3 pancakes. So if you wanted potato pancakes the line was over an hour and a half long. There was plenty of seating and you can walk around with your beer. I am not a fan of polka but John Stephens was very good for that type of music. He had his fans dancing. With a couple changes this picnic will be 5 star again. I will be back next year.

Elmhurst Roaring Brook Fire Fighter Picnic

Elmhurst, PA

June 26, 2021

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

I expected this picnic to be great as it usually is and I was right. This is definately one of the best of the season. This was also my first picnic in two years after my foot surgury and the covid shutdowns. It did not disappoint. The Sperazza Band was very entertaining. The food was great, fairly priced. You could walk around with your beer. Parking was free and close to the picnic. Plenty of room to walk around and tables to eat your food. Even that very annoying siren at the hot wing stand didn't seem that annoying this year. Great picnic.