



Whistle Stop

Watauga Valley NRHS
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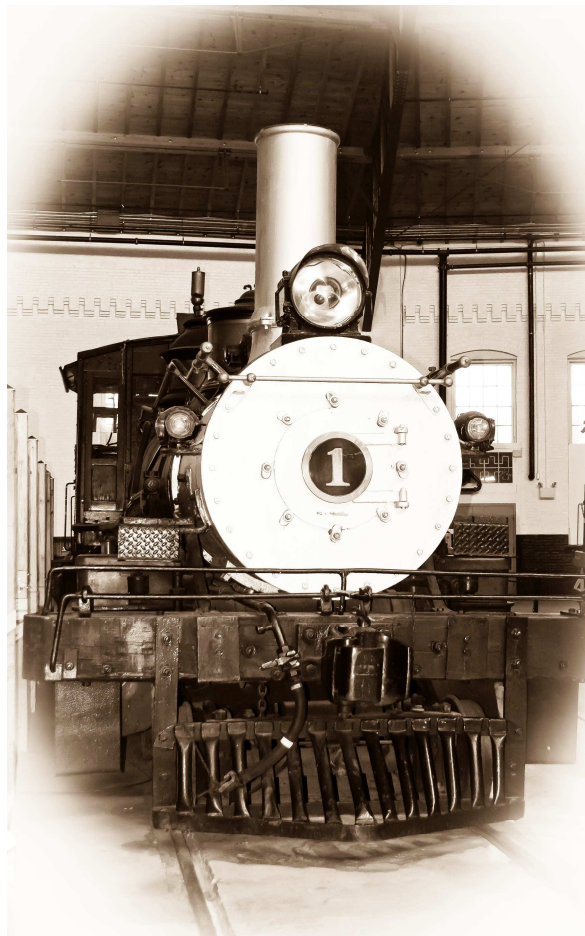


Railroading – Past, Present and Future

Volume 31 No. 7

July 2011

Robert Douglas sent in photo of CLINCHFIELD the B&O Railroad tones easily lead the imagining the locomotive roundhouse stall in Erwin



this artfully composed No. 1 on display at Museum. The sepia viewer to nostalgia, resting in a and not Baltimore.

July Chapter Meeting Date Changed !!!

The July General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Railway Historical Society & Museum WILL BE MOVED UP ONE WEEK on account of remodeling at the Johnson City Library. The new date is Monday, July 18, 2011. Time and venue is unchanged: 6:30 pm at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St. Johnson City, TN. The program, by Ralph and Brandon Teaster, will feature the NORFOLK SOUTHERN Office Car train powered by NS F-units running up the S-line from Salisbury, NC to Asheville and through the Old Fort Loops. Part of this program will cover the same route that our 2010 fall excursion travelled over the Loops. If you an older diesel locomotive and passenger car aficionado, you will enjoy this program. Bring a friend and share the good time.

Member Notes

by Nancy Jewell

Please keep Chapter Vice-President Bob Schubel in your thoughts as he recovers from July 8th surgery. We hope he is soon back to feeling well. Also remember Elaine Moore (Randy's mother) and Jane DeVoe as they deal with health concerns.

It was great to have a good number of 25 and 30 year members, and others, at the 30th Anniversary Banquet on July 9.

Help us keep in touch by calling the Chapter phone, (423) 753-5797 or Nancy Jewell at (423) 282-0918 when you know of someone who could use a card or call to brighten their day.

A happy and safe summer to everyone!!

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Bob Yaple

General. Yard Track #2 (nearest NS Main) has settled again. It was regraded just three years ago. We are going to have a railroad contractor prepare a proposal for regrading and replacing ties.

Crescent Harbor. Some of the things that are going on include: HEP fine tuning; window gaskets; new brake hoses; rehab brake hose racks; hanging main brake valve pipe bracket; painting bedrooms; installing new stainless steel trim; polishing existing bright work; concrete floor; carpet and vinyl floor preparation; marker lights and power supply; emergency light in electric closet; insulation overhead panels and doors near the air handler; rehab of galley fridge; and more.

Arby's Restaurant in Jonesborough

Thanks to Art Devoe, we will have our new license plate (with the museum on it) installed in the newly renovated Arby's dining room in Jonesborough. Our mechanical crew has lunch at Arby's nearly every day they have a work session and the manager of Arby's wanted to recognize the crew for their support. Please go by Arby's in Jonesborough and let the manager know we appreciate Arby's support.

Fall Excursions

Please turn in your Fall Excursion Workers' Form at the July Chapter Meeting or mail it to the Chapter at WATV EXCURSION, P. O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN 37605-0432. Also, the Super 8 Motel in Salisbury is filling up fast! Don't forget to make your reservations. Call the motel at (704) 738-8888 and ask for the WATAUGA VALLEY RESERVATIONS to receive a discount.

Chapter Notices

RAILS & SAILS SUMMER 30th ANNIVERSARY FIELD TRIP

Messrs. Nick White, Mike Tilley and Gary Price are proud to announce Watauga Valley's 2011 "Rails & Sails Summer 30th Anniversary Field Trip", scheduled for Saturday, August 6th. Again leave the driving to us for another fun-filled trip to Knoxville, TN. We will be cruising down the Tennessee River aboard the paddle boat "Knoxville Star". On the 1-1/2 hour cruise, we will enjoy an all you can eat lunch buffet. (Cash bar on your own will be available.) After cruising down the Tennessee River, we will board the "Three Rivers Rambler" pulled by ex-WASHINGTON & LINCOLNTON Consolidation type (2-8-0) steam locomotive #203. We will end our day with a diesel/steam shop tour of the KNOXVILLE & HOLSTON RAILROAD. Come join our fun-filled day for \$65 per person. Cost includes transportation from Jonesborough (PARSONS TABLE PARKING LOT) to Knoxville and return; lunch cruise w/ gratuity; train ride ticket; and shop tour. LIMITED SEATING - SO SIGN UP EARLY.

To reserve a seat and arrange payment, contact Nick White on his cell phone at (276) 759-4498 or send an email to him at nickwhite_@hotmail.com. Make checks payable to Nick White. ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS! ALL PAYMENTS DUE NO LATER THAN THE JULY 25th MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

30th ANNIVERSARY WATAUGA VALLEY CELEBRATION

If you didn't attend the 30th Anniversary banquet, you missed some good food, fellowship and programs. We had over 80 people in attendance and it went off with a bang. Members were treated with excellent food and a great program highlighted by our guest speaker, Mr. Bev Fitzpatrick from the Virginia Transportation Museum. A 30 year slide presentation along with 25 year certificates were presented along with door prizes for everyone.

JONESBOROUGH DAYS

The board of directors of the Watauga Valley RSHM would like to thank all members who worked the Jonesborough Days event. Even though we had two very hot days to deal with, the Moultrie Dining car kept on turning out cool air. We had over 200 people tour the car along with some potential new members. Many local residents had no idea that the Watauga Valley's yard even existed in Jonesborough! Thanks to Jim & Helen Calhoun; Coy & Jo Ann Edwards; Terry & Anita Worley; Nick White; Penny May; Randy Moore; Jack Maloney; Frank Roher; Richard Baker; Mike Tilley; Lois Tilley; Steven Clarke; George Ritchie; Jeanie Walker; Jim Smallwood; Bob Yapple and Bob Schubel.

HIWASSEE GORGE EXCURSION

The Hiwassee Gorge Excursion to Etowah, TN has sold out with the Chapter chartering the entire train. We appreciate all Watauga Valley RSHM members who volunteered to serve host on this train.

Big Shanty, Georgia

by Gary Price

Ever wonder what a true railroader does while on vacation? Visit other trains, of course! During the planning of our family vacation to Atlanta GA, I insisted on a side trip to Kennesaw GA to visit the world famous Civil War "General" steam locomotive. Luckily, I have a good friend who lives in Marietta GA that volunteered to take me on a sight seeing tour, and knew exactly where to find the "General" and other historical sites.

Now growing up in the middle of Civil War historic sites, such as Marion and Saltville, the last thing I wanted to do was to go see more rusty cannons or musky old mannequins dressed in period uniforms, but I was pleasantly pleased with the overall railroad feel and setup of the historic downtown district located in Kennesaw GA.

Originally known as Big Shanty, GA, this was a favorite stop for crews operating trains on the former WESTERN AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD, as they would eat their meals at the Lacy Hotel while the passengers and freight were being loaded onto their train. This was an excellent strategic point for James Andrew and his men [Union raiders] to begin their mission to steal a locomotive and sabotage the rail and telegraph lines. After the Civil War, the town was re-named Kennesaw, and the WESTERN AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD became the LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE, followed by the FAMILY LINES and today is part of the CSX system.

After crossing the busy CSX mainline, we arrived at The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History housed in a handsomely designed brick structure. Just by pure luck, we visited the museum on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. After paying a reasonable \$7.50 admission, we entered the building and were surprised at how well organized and first class all the display are. The museum is set up like a maze in five unique viewing areas.

Area One, "Railroads: Lifelines of the Civil War", is a diverse mixture of artifacts from both military and railroad life of the late 1800s and how the two were intertwined during the conflicts that arose during the Civil War.



Area Two, "The Glover Machine Works: Casting a New South". This was a big surprise to me, as they have reconstructed a locomotive assembly line including two Glover 0-4-0 locomotives in different stages of assembly. All the machines, belts and office fixtures came from the actual Glover Machine Works, and recorded sounds of metal being forged into shape gave one the actual feeling of what it was like to be standing in the original factory.

Area Three, "Jolley Educational Center". This section was more of a hands-on interactive section for the children, but tucked away in the very back was a complete surprise to me – [continued on next page]

the Georgia French Gratitude Boxcar, one of 50 cars that were sent to the USA by the French people in gratitude to our assistance during and after the war. A locomotive simulator and a working telegraph round out the displays located here.

Area Four, "The General Theater". Here you can set down and enjoy a thirty minute excerpt from the Disney movie "The Great Locomotive Chase" and see on the big screen the exploits of Andrews' Raiders as they pose as Confederate soldiers and commandeer the "General" and the ensuing chase by Conductor William Fuller as he chases them down with the steam locomotive the "Texas". After leaving the theater, you walk down a mock railroad track painted on the floor and view photos and artifacts of the Raiders and the men who captured them, and finally you walk through a short corridor made to look like a tunnel and step into the final area.



Area 5, "The GENERAL". Restored in all its glory, the 1855 Rogers built 4-4-0, all decked out in red paint and polished brass with gold WESTERN AND ATLANTIC lettering, is easily one of the best looking steam locomotives that I have ever seen up close. The General sits proudly on a section of track in the middle of the room, bathed in lights, with a load of wood in the tender, and looks like it is ready for service at any time. There is an upstairs viewing platform so one can view the topside of the locomotive and tender.

We exited out through the gift shop and talked briefly with the friendly staff before leaving the museum.

Adjacent to the museum parking lot is the former Big Shanty depot, and a historic walkway that leads you underneath the CSX double mainline. This historic walkway has an interpretive display with a time line relating to the Great Locomotive Chase, with historic photos and paintings that were done in 1930 by Wilbur Kurtz. While walking through the 115 foot long underpass, two CSX trains passed by overhead. I was told that as many as 100 CSX trains pass by each day, and that is why the pedestrian tunnel was built to connect the museums with the historic downtown shops.

After a trip to the top of Kennesaw Mountain to view the battlefield and visit the scenic overlook, it was back to Atlanta to continue my family vacation. if you would like more info on The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, you can visit www.southernmuseum.org.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

Please bring your railroad book donations to any membership meeting or call the chapter office at (423) 753-5797. Our Railroad Section at the Jonesborough Library is growing everyday. If you are finished reading or just want to donate, put your books to good work. We have plenty of room to add more books!

In the News - Region

Clinchfield Railroad Museum

On June 4, the *Clinchfield Railroad Museum* in Erwin, TN, opened its doors to everyone interested in the history and heritage of the CLINCHFIELD railroad. Located on the grounds of the National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, curator Martha Erwin cites the goal of the museum as follows. "Our museum will tell the history of the economic growth of the entire Northeast Tennessee region through the eyes of the CLINCHFIELD." Housed in a building built to resemble an early 20th century railroad depot (complete with baggage platform), the museum offers historical artifacts as well as rail- and area-related pictures, paintings and models. The idea of developing the museum stemmed from interest generated from the local production "Hear That Whistle Blow ... Erwin Train 'a Comin'". The museum was built entirely with private funding and donations and with labor provided by the Unicoi County Sheriff's Department.

Craggy Mountain Line

Work is nearing completion on a new tourist railroad near Asheville, NC. The Craggy Mountain Line, a 3 1/2-mile jaunt along the ex-SOUTHERN right-of-way following Beaverdam Creek in Woodfin Township, is the brainchild and labor of love conceived by founder Rocky Hollifield, an engineer with the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad. The line will offer a two-hour ride in restored cabooses and eventually trolley cars. The major obstacle to completion currently confronting CML is motive power and money. Over \$100,000 is needed by the non-profit to get its engine up to FRA standards. If approval is achieved in a timely manner, the line could be running by next spring. Other plans call for the formation of a model railroad club; the creation of a railroad museum; and construction of a depot complete with restaurant and a retail shop. The several box cars at the CML yard will be offered as storage to community non-profit organizations. For more information, go to <http://craggymountainline.com/>.

Roanoke NRHS Fall Excursions

Roanoke NRHS has announced that, pending AMTRAK and NORFOLK SOUTHERN approval, it will again sponsor fall excursions over ex-N&W trackage. On Saturday, November 5th, the train will treat passengers to views of rolling hills and farmland over the Bristol Line from Roanoke to Abingdon, VA. On Sunday, November 6th, the scenery will change dramatically to the coal fields of the New River Valley with a planned Roanoke to Bluefield, WV ride. A preliminary flyer can be found at http://www.roanokenrhs.org/Save_date_2011.pdf

Chuckey Depot Report

The Chuckey Depot relocation project is moving at a very fast rate since the Town of Jonesborough took ownership of the station. Plans are in place to move the building from its current location in Chuckey to Jonesborough within 30 days. Photos of the removal operation will be available in upcoming issues of Whistle Stop.



Photo Section



Don Finley passed along these snapshots of our 30th Anniversary celebration – proof positive of the good time had by all! It's simply phenomenal when thinking of all that has been accomplished over these three decades. The excursions, the equipment, and now the museum. This Chapter epitomizes the American “can-do” spirit.



PROGRAMS FOR 2011

Programs are needed for our General Membership meetings. If you have any program material, including railroad slides, a video, a DVD, or know of a possible speaker, see Nick White, the Program Director, at any meeting; call the Chapter at (423) 753-5797; or e-mail wataugavalley@embarqmail.com

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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