

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432
(423) 753-5797
www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 34 No. 12

December 2014



*From Santa Claus and all of his WVRHS&M helpers:
Here's wishing you and yours a most joyous Holiday
Season and prosperous New Year!*

No December General Membership Meeting

Don't forget there will not be a General Membership Meeting in December. We'll see you at our next meeting on January 26, 2015.

Member Notes

By Nancy Jewel

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Raymond Bernhardt in his recent death. Mr. Bernhardt was a long time member, having joined in the late 1990's.

Please keep the following folks in you thoughts as they deal with various concerns: Bob May (recovering/organ transplant), Jim Magill (surgery), the James Smallwoods, Bob Yaple, Sidney Blankenbeckler, and Carrie Denny. As always, let us know of any member, friend or family to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office phone number is 423-753-5797 or call Nancy Jewell at 423-282-0918. Your help is appreciated.

Just looked at "Notes" for December 2013 and found hopes are still the same for this coming year---wonderful Christmas and sincere wishes to each of you for a New Year filled with love of family and friends, peace of mind and strength to make each day just a little bit better.

2015 WATAUGA VALLEY OFFICERS and BOARD ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee reports that the following were elected as 2015 Officers and Directors:

President: Mike Tilley

Vice President: Bob Schubel

Secretary: James Smallwood

Treasurer: Jeanie Walker

Historian: Gary Price

Board of Directors:

- Tony King
- Cline Knowles
- Scott Wise

DUES NOTICES FOR 2015

2015 Dues Notices have been mailed out and sent electronically via e-mail. Please get your dues and check back into the membership chairman Suzie Price if you haven't already done so at Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605. You have several options to consider in renewing: (1) joining the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum for \$20.00 individual, adding family members at \$5.00 each; (2) joining the National Railway Historical Society, which raised individual dues by \$11.00 to \$70.00, adding family members at \$5.00 each; (3) joining the Railroad Heritage Alliance for \$35.00 individual plus \$5.00 per additional family member; or joining all three organizations for \$85.00 individual, adding family members at \$5.00 each; For questions, e-mail wataugavalley@embarqmail.com.

SANTA TRAIN CAR EVENT

The Santa Train Car event was a big hit for the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum and the Town of Jonesborough for 12/6 & 13th. We had over 350 parents and children attending the event. We want to thank all 36 WVRHS&M members who volunteered to help with this event. A special thank you goes out to Don Royston who was Santa Claus each week. (Don is the official Santa on the CSX Santa Train.) Jonesborough has asked us to do it again next year. Photos on page 5.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

CLINCHFIELD CAR 100: WVRHS&M's newest car, Clinchfield 100, is being rewired by the Mechanical Crew. She's received a lot of visitors during the month of December.

ST. AUGUSTINE COACH (WATX 500): Sent to the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer, NC for their Christmas Polar Express trains.

MOULTRIE DINING CAR (WATX 400): Sent to the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer, NC for their Christmas Polar Express trains.

POWHATAN ARROW COACH (WATX 539): Sent to the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer, NC for their Christmas Polar Express trains.

CRESCENT HAROBR LOUNGE/SLEEPER: Is in winter storage in Spencer NC.

WATAUGA VALLEY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Great food, fun and fellowship were had by all at the Watauga Valley Annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 6th at the Jonesborough Visitors Center. There were approximately 80 attendees packing the house. President Mike Tilley conducted a short business meeting. We want to thank all our ladies for the hard work in putting together this gala Christmas Event.

PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

We are still asking members to help us save time and money by switching over to the electronic version of the Whistle Stop. The electronic version (PDF) is in living color and the quality is so much better than the printed copy. You also can take advantage of quick links to referenced material. Please try it! Call the office (423) 753-5797 and provide us with your e-mail address so you can get your next copy on line. You'll be glad you did.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

Bring your railroad book donations to any membership meeting or call our office at (423) 753-5797. Our Railroad Section at the Jonesborough Library is growing every day. If you are finished reading or just want to donate, put your books to good use. We have plenty of room to add more books. NO MAGAZINES PLEASE.



Limited edition hats with official cloth CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD logo and CRR 100 emblem are available for purchase at a special price of \$13.00 for "walk-in" orders. If mailed, postage will be an additional \$5.00. All proceeds from the sale of these beautiful hats will go towards the restoration of Car 100.

Get yours while they last!

In the News



611 UPDATE [From the FireUp611! Web site; photos by Cheri George]

With the new flue sheet installed, the crew from the Age of Steam Roundhouse came to Spencer to lend their hands and skills in preparing for the flue and tube installation.




[Lower left] Tool Car 4967 is being prepared for a new coat of Tuscan Red. [Lower right] The Age of Steam crew is also servicing and testing the lubricators for the 611.



For Your Viewing Pleasure

 A fun 8-minute presentation on the 50-year growth of a family's Christmas train layout can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/gqk4dh6>. [Thanks to Kati Phelps for sending this in.]

 A fantastic 1928 film showcasing the manufacture of a steam locomotive: <http://tinyurl.com/lj7yy6f>

***** CORRECTION *****

Your Editor had a brain cramp when crafting the caption describing the photo of our excursion train crossing the James River in last month's newsletter. That is not the abandoned C&O branch line to Lexington, VA to the right in the photo as noted. It is the CSX main line from Richmond to Clifton Forge, VA.

WV RRS&M's Santa Car

There was plenty of Christmas fun to be had at Christmas festivities at the Spring Street Coach Yard early this December. Pictured clockwise starting at the upper left: Mr. and Mrs. Claus (aka Tom and Kati Phelps) pose on the real platform of the "Clinchfield"; Miss Historic Jonesborough, Hannah Everhart and a smiling Jim Rhein; folk lined up to give their Christmas wish list to Santa; not sure which reindeer but Santa knew her; volunteers Edna Carter, Lois Tilley, Bob Yapple and Jeanie Walker taking a much needed break; and Tony King, Megan Kegley and Jack Maloney providing support.





NCTM Santa Train



Our cars as you've seldom seen them: all decked in festive holiday decorations for NCTM's "Christmas Polar Express" trains. From left to right: "Powhatan Arrow", "St. Augustine" and "Moultrie". [Photo credits: Misty Stach, Brett Miller]



One More Ornament?

Is your Christmas tree lacking that one special ornament? The Washington County (VA) Chamber of Commerce has an answer: one that commemorates the Norfolk And Western Railway C-32P Caboose at Depot Square in Abingdon. For more information including how to order, go to <http://www.washingtonvachamber.org/node/1336>

Upcoming Events



2015 WATAUGA VALLEY EXCURSION TRIPS: WVRHS&M will be announcing our 2015 excursion schedule in the next couple of months.



DECEMBER 31, 2014: New Year's Eve Dinner Train, TVRM. For details, go to <http://tvrail.com/pages/new-years-dinner-train>



FEBRUARY 6, 7, 13, 14 & 15, 2015: Valentine Special Dinner Trains, TVRM. For details, go to <http://tvrail.com/pages/valentine-dinner-train>

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

We are in need of help in all areas of our organization! No matter your skill level or work experience we have an opportunity for you to get involved. Please fill out the form below telling us about yourself: Work experience, skills, and what you are interested in doing to help our organization. We want everyone to be a bigger part of the group! Examples Include:

Office Support:

Clerical
Computer/ Tech. Support
Courier- Checking the mailbox
Newsletter Printing & Distribution
Ticket Sales
Organizer

Yard Crew:

Yard Clean-up & Maintenance
Car Washers
Car Interior Cleaners

Mechanical:

Heating & Air Conditioning
Plumbers
Welders
Fabricators
Electrical
Painters
Woodworkers
General Labor

Membership & Public Events:

Organizers for Membership and Public Events such as Dinners, Parties, Community Relations, Yard Tours, etc.

Please print and fill out the following form and return to Nick White by one of the following means.

Mail: Nick White, 328 West Main Street , Marion, Virginia 24354

Email: nickwhite@hotmail.com

Cell: 1-276-685-2386

Fax: 1-276-783-1461

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Education:

Vocational or Trade Training:

Work History / Positions Held:

Special Skills:

What are you interested in doing to help Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum?

_____ (continue on back if needed)

THANK YOU

Whistle Stop

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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TIME VALUE MATERIAL