

# Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432  
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[www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org](http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org)



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 35 No. 12

December 2015



Photographer Ed Rode found Santa greeting excited youngsters as his namesake train rolled over the rails of the old CLINCHFIELD and through the coal fields of Virginia, a 73-year tradition kept alive by CSX this past November.

*There will not be a General Membership Meeting in December*

Please note that there will not be a General Membership Meeting in December due to the holidays.

*See you at our next meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016!!!*

## *Member Notes*

*By Nancy Jewel*

Our December holiday luncheon meeting was held at the Jonesborough McKinney Center on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup>. A very good number of members were present (approximately 70) including some of our usual newsletter "keep in your thoughts" folks: George and Margaret Holley, Jim Calhoun, Tony King, and JoAn and Coy Edwards. Please continue to remember these folks and also Gary Price, Sidney Blankenbeckler, and Bob Yaple. We want to thank all the ladies who worked so hard in putting together a gala Christmas Event.

As always, let us know of any members, friends 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.

With 2016 just a few days away, hopes for the New Year are in mind - a year filled with love of family and friends, peace the world over, and strength to make each day a little bit better.

### *2016 OFFICER and BoD ELECTION*

We welcome the following who were elected as 2016 Officers and Director:

PRESIDENT - MIKE TILLEY

TREASURER - JEANIE WALKER

VICE PRESIDENT - BOB SCHUBEL

HISTORIAN - GARY PRICE

SECRETARY- JIM SMALLWOOD

BOARD MEMBER – ART DEVOE

### *WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M MEMBERSHIP DUES*

2016 dues notices were mailed out and sent electronically via e-mail recently. Please get your dues and check back into the Membership Chairman Edna Carter ASAP at Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605. You can join the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum for \$20.00 individual, adding family members at \$5.00 each. For questions, e-mail [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com). **CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### *ELECTRONIC VERSION OF NEWSLETTER*

We are still asking members receiving paper copies to switch over to the electronic version of the Whistle Stop. The electronic version is in living color and the quality is so much better than the printed copy. It also has active links to referenced web sites. Please try it! Call the office (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) and give us your e-mail address so you can start receiving this improved version.



*WVRHS&M wishes you and yours  
a very Merry Christmas (or however  
you chose to celebrate this  
wonderful holiday season) and a  
Happy New Year!*



## *Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report*

### **ROLLING STOCK.**

“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATV 539): In Spencer at the North Carolina Transportation Museum for the Christmas Poplar Express trains.

“St Augustine” coach (WATV 500): In Spencer at the North Carolina Transportation Museum for the Christmas Poplar Express trains.

“Moultrie” diner (WATV 400): In Spencer at the North Carolina Transportation Museum for the Christmas Poplar Express trains.

“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATV 2351): In winter storage in Jonesborough, TN

“Clinchfield” business car (WATV 100): Is being rewired by the mechanical crew. She’s seen a lot of visitors in the month of December, including the “Santa Car” and the following special event.

### *Car 100 Is a Movie Star!*



Tuesday, December 15, 2015 was a big day for the Watauga Valley RHS&M and Car 100. Over 32 film crew and actors showed up for the 13-hour filming of the “Bristol Sessions” documentary, jointly commissioned by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and Virginia Tourism Corporation, and directed by Chusy Haney-Jardine. Car 100 was used in

scenes when Ralph Peer, one of country music’s founders, arrived in Bristol via rail in 1927. Sometimes described as the “Big Bang of Country Music,” (country music was founded in Bristol, TN/VA. not Nashville), these “Bristol Sessions” refer to the two occasions in which Mr. Peer visited Bristol in the 1920s to demonstrate his employer’s new cylinder recording equipment, and to capture the music of regional artists who might prove popular for sale in rural markets. Peer was savvy enough to recognize the quality of music he might find coming down from the Tennessee and Virginia Mountains, but probably had not expected to make the first commercial country records for future legends like Jimmie Rogers, The Carter Family, and The Stoneman Family along the way.

We are very proud that Clinchfield 100 was selected to be part of this historically-significant film.

## *In the News*



### *Speaking of Movie Stars ...*



Check out WVRHS&M Mechanical Crew members Don Findley, David Denny, and Jim Calhoun cast as trainmen in the filming of the upcoming documentary on the Bristol Sessions. Isn't there some sort of town ordinance prohibiting placing a heavy tool in the hands of a lawyer? [Claire Salvail photograph]

The 1927 Bristol Sessions was a special recording session that many historians and artists consider to be the beginning of modern country music.

For more pictures of the filming, go to our facebook page.



### *N&W #611 to be Absent from VMT*

Ex-N&W Class J 611 is anticipated to leave the Virginia Museum of Transportation sometime in January 2016 for engine truck wheel set replacement, which is required before the next excursion season, and will not be available for viewing at the Museum in Roanoke, VA. Special thanks are due to NORFOLK SOUTHERN for assistance in this engine truck project, and to Brenco Bearings of Petersburg, VA, a Division of Amsted Rail, for the donation of new bearings. The exact date of 611's departure and return will be posted when known. [VMT Newsletter]



### *Reasoning behind NS Rejection of CP Offer*

In a public statement dated December 4<sup>th</sup> of this year citing CANADIAN PACIFIC's unsolicited indication of interest to purchase NORFOLK SOUTHERN as grossly inadequate, the NS Board of Directors offered the following reasons for rejection: (1) The bid is not in the best interests of NORFOLK SOUTHERN and its shareholders; (2) The CANADIAN PACIFIC indication of interest substantially undervalues NORFOLK SOUTHERN; (3) NORFOLK SOUTHERN is successfully executing on its strategy; (4) The transaction would face substantial regulatory risks and uncertainties that are highly unlikely to be overcome; (5) There is no certainty that the Surface Transportation Board would approve a voting trust - the voting trust structure proposed by CANADIAN PACIFIC is unprecedented and likely would not be approved; (6) The proposed transaction would be detrimental to NORFOLK SOUTHERN's customer base and communities; (7) CANADIAN PACIFIC's synergy targets are overstated and imply significant reduction in investment to maintain service; and (8) The transaction would not help Chicago congestion issues.

[ED. NOTE] To keep things interesting, a Bloomberg article stated on December 10 that BNSF Railway Executive Chairman Matt Rose is open to making a competing offer for NS and that CSX Corp. also would be "very much in play." Stay tuned for more musical railroads.

# Santa Car

Claire Salvail posted several fine photographs on our facebook page capturing the fun and excitement in Jonesborough when Santa visited WVRHS&M's Car 100. Here's just a sampling. (Did that little guy, Lois, and Jack get their Christmas wishes granted?)



# Photo Gallery

At left below is the CSX Santa Train posed at Shelby, KY, ready to spread Christmas joy. [Everett Young photo] The poster at below right heralded the event.



WVRH&M members enjoyed great food and fellowship while celebrating the end of a highly successful year for the Museum at our December 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas gathering. The two shots below are but a few photos found on our facebook page of the event but serve as evidence to the preceding proclamation.



# Upcoming Events



WVRH&M will be announcing our 2016 excursion schedule in the next few months.

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Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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