

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 37 No. 8

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Frequent photographic contributor Mike Pierry, Jr. captured eastbound NS train 16T passing Abingdon's freight depot on a July 14th evening. His somewhat elevated viewpoint was achieved by climbing up onto the deck of the town caboose.

July 24th General Membership Meeting

WVRHS&M will conduct our regular meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 24th, 2017 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Mark your calendar so you will not miss this meeting. The program will be presented by Lou Myrtle on the N&W's Shenandoah Valley Division. Come out, bring a friend, and enjoy a great night of railroading with your fellow railfans.

Member Notes

by Edna Kay Carter

Please keep the following folks in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns. They are Suzie Tilley, Bob Yapple, Gary Price, Nancy Jewell, George Ritchie, Jim Stump, Ed Klinger and Kati Phelps. As always, let me 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 me at (423)571-3226.

Hope each of you will continue to enjoy the summer months and have safe travels.

SUMMER EXCURSION ON THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD

WVRHS&M has enjoyed a tremendous response to our August 12th Summer 2017 excursion on the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD; tickets should be sold out by the time you read this newsletter. We'll have 10 bus loads going down this year. All car hosts who volunteered to help on the train will need to attend the GSMR Safety Meeting on July 24th at 5:45 pm at the Johnson City Public Library. (Note this will occur prior to our regular membership meeting.)

BALTIMORE EXCURSION A GREAT SUCCESS

The Baltimore excursion to Washington DC and Baltimore, MD on July 13th through the 16th was a great success with good weather and a sell out train. WATX 2351 *Crescent Harbor* and WATX 539 *Powhatan Arrow* provided a pleasurable traveling experience for the trip; we had a lot of very happy passengers on the train.

FIELD TRIP to the BIG SOUTH FORK RAILROAD in STEARNS, KY

Nick White and Gary Price organized a very successful and fun-filled field trip on June 24th to the BIG SOUTH FORK RAILROAD in Stearns KY. Nick drove the bus and Gary was the tour director. We had over 24 members and guests that went on the trip.

WVRHS&M Uniforms

A new supplier has been found and now WVRHS&M gear (shirts, hats, jackets and name tags) are now available. There's an order form included with this newsletter.

2017 PROGRAMS REQUESTED

The WVRHS&M Program Committee is still looking for General Membership Meeting programs for 2017. Please call the office at (423) 753-5797 if you have an interest in presenting a program this year. We are looking for member speakers or if you know someone that would come and present a railroad related program. And as always we're looking for DVD and slide programs.

In the News

CHUCKEY DEPOT / MUSEUM AT JONESBOROUGH

Doors will open in August although grand opening date and special events will be announced at a later date.

C&O 2-6-6-2 #1309 EVENTS PLANNED

[ED. NOTE: CAUTION! THESE DATES ARE TENTATIVE!]



[Copied from WMSR web site] Join *Trains Magazine* and the WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD for three exciting days in September **[26-28]** or November **[7-9]** out on the Main Line with WM 2-6-6-2 No.1309 with a photo freight, a well-equipped chase train, and a dozen classic (and new) photo locations.

This will be the first photo freights with the newly-rebuilt former C&O 1309 to cover the entire "New" WMSR, all the way from Maryland Junction on the East to the Turntable at Frostburg on the West.

The landslides are fixed, brush is cut and we anticipate an extraordinary time out on a classic Appalachian main line railroad.

Additional Opportunities

There will be Locomotive 1309 Cab Ride and Caboose 1813 Ride opportunities throughout the three days. Those programs are being finalized, but WMSR expects to have up to three seats available in the 1309's cab, and ten spots available aboard caboose 1813, for two-to-four hour intervals.

WMSR will post updates as new information becomes available.

Buying Tickets and Details

[ED. NOTE: THE SEPTEMBER EVENT IS CURRENTLY SOLD OUT]

Tickets for the *Trains Magazine* / Western Maryland Railroad Photo Freights are \$495 each for the three-day railroad experience. They may be purchased online through the Western Maryland Railroad website at wmsr.com (a handling fee will be added).

Phone orders also may be made by calling 800-TRAIN50 (800-872-4650) and speaking directly with a Western Maryland Railroad reservation specialist.

Participants are responsible for their own lodging arrangements, the first day's breakfast and lunch, and the final day's dinner.

[Continued on next page.]

The Proposed Schedule is:

Day 1

- The shops at Ridgeley are open to participants Mid-Day
- The Photo Charter departs Cumberland Mid-Afternoon
- Various runbys along the route. Last light runbys at Sunnyside/Lap/Mountain View
- Dinner on train enroute from Mountain View (Lap, Sunnyside) to Frostburg.
- Night session at depot/turntable. Sunset approximately 8 PM, dark by 8:30 PM. Return to Cumberland by 9:30 PM.

Day 2

- Depart Cumberland 8:00 AM
- Eastbound and westbound runbys throughout the day, exploring traditional and new photo opportunities
- Return to Cumberland for Banquet at depot by 8:00 PM
- Night session at depot and Ridgeley Shop, concluding by 10:00 PM

Day 3

- Depart Cumberland 8:00 AM, Engine facing east
- Eastbound runbys in morning
- Turn in Frostburg
- Westbound runbys in afternoon
- Return to Cumberland between 5:00 and 6:00 PM, with subsequent photo opportunities at Ridgeley Shop
- Formal activities conclude when the locomotive and train are put to bed at the end of the day.



ANDERSON, FORMER AIRLINE CEO, to SUCCEED MOORMAN at AMTRAK

[Stuart Chirls, *Railway Age*, June 26] Anderson, 62, former chief executive officer of both Delta and Northwest Airlines, will serve in a co-CEO capacity with current CEO Wick Moorman through Dec. 31, 2017, at which time Moorman will become an advisor to the company. Moorman joined AMTRAK in September 2016 as a transitional CEO tasked with improving the company's operations, streamlining the organizational structure, and helping recruit his successor.

"Richard brings to AMTRAK his experience running one of the largest global commercial air carriers," said AMTRAK Chairman of the Board Tony Coscia. "The board believes he is the right leader at the right time to drive the quality of customer service that our passengers, partners and stakeholders expect and deserve while continuing our path towards operational and financial excellence. The board also appreciates all that Wick continues to do to improve AMTRAK's safety culture and strengthen our operating performance, including the important renewal work at New York Penn Station."

Anderson most recently was executive chairman of the Delta Air Lines board of directors after serving as the airline's CEO from 2007-16. He was executive vice president at United Healthcare from 2004-07 and CEO of Northwest Airlines from 2001-04, which later merged with Delta. Anderson, an attorney, also served in the legal division at Continental Airlines and was a former county prosecutor. [Continued on next page]

"It is an honor to join AMTRAK at a time when passenger rail service is growing in importance in America. I look forward to working alongside AMTRAK's dedicated employees to continue the improvements begun by Wick," said Anderson. "AMTRAK is a great company today, and I'm excited about using my experience and working with the board to make it even better. I'm passionate about building strong businesses that create the best travel experience possible for customers."

Moorman said, "Richard is a best-in-class industry leader and isn't afraid to face challenges head-on. He has helped companies navigate bankruptcy, a recession, mergers and acquisitions, and 9/11. He's a leader with the strategic vision and tactical experience necessary to run a railroad that benefits our customers, partners and stakeholders nationwide."

Anderson is a native of Galveston, Texas, where his father worked for the ATCHISON TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY, according to a statement from AMTRAK.



CSX CREW MEMBERS KILLED on AMTRAK ROUTE near DC

[*Progressive Railroading*, June 28 via *High Green*, Chesapeake Railway Assoc.] The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Railroad Administration are investigating an accident in which two CSX crew members died after being struck last night (6/27) by an AMTRAK train near Washington, DC. The incident occurred as the AMTRAK train was approaching Union Station in Washington.

In a statement, CSX confirmed the people on the track were CSX workers. "CSX is deeply saddened to report that at approximately 11:50 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday, June 27, two CSX employees tragically lost their lives when they were struck by an AMTRAK train on the railroad tracks near the intersection of 9th Street and New York Avenue, N.E., in Washington, DC," CSX officials said. "Our thoughts are with the families and friends of our employees." CSX management representatives responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. The company is withholding the employees' names at this time, CSX officials said. AMTRAK reported none of the train's passengers or crew were injured, according to local news media.

The accident led to major delays of AMTRAK and Maryland Transit Administration MARC Camden and Penn Line trains last night. Delays and/or slower trains will continue today, according to AMTRAK and MARC service alerts.

[Additional information compiled by *High Green* from the rail industry] The fatalities were a conductor and trainee on the Q137 between Cumberland and Baltimore. Their train stopped just past D Tower about at about 10:30 p.m. The crewmembers were walking the tracks to check for a defective wheel bearing after tripping a defect detector at Laurel. The train had been moving from one track to another and had both tracks fouled. They were walking back to the head end when the AMTRAK train struck them from behind. The NTSB stated it's looking into the possibility that CSX may have not notified AMTRAK that the crew was on the ground.



NEW AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN?

There has been chatter over the net about the resurgence of the American Freedom Train. Your editor is diligently trying to track down accurate, up-to-date information. Stay tuned.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Jim Magill

ROLLING STOCK

“*Clinchfield*” business car (WATX 100): Is at the North Carolina Transportation Museum on display in the round house.



“*Crescent Harbor*” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): Had a new air conditioning unit installed recently (photo at left).

“*Moultrie*” diner (WATX 400): Is at the North Carolina Transportation Museum and will be returning to Jonesborough in the near future.

“*Powhatan Arrow*” coach (WATX 539): Is on the Baltimore Special AMTRAK Train.

“*St Augustine*” coach (WATX 500): Is at the

Jonesborough Coach Yard.

From the Vault



Last month *Whistle Stop* published a photo of past member Jim Goforth serving as unofficial conductor on our April 1984 CLINCHFIELD excursion trains. This month we offer a view of the April 15th train traversing the Nolichucky River Gorge, powered by ex-CRR F5A #800 (renumbered #116 by SBD) and ex-CRR FP7A #200 (renumbered #118 by SBD). Both engines had just received an overhaul in South Louisville and provided flawless service. While there's always hope we may someday again thrill to traveling through the gorge by rail, there will never quite be a sight like that pictured above.

Upcoming Events



AUGUST 5, 19: "Summerville Steam Special" at TVRM. For more information, see <http://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special>.



AUGUST 12: WVRHS&M's 2017 "Summer Train Excursion" on the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD. For more information, see <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/excursions.php>.



AUGUST 26-27: "Railroad Heritage Weekend" at TWEETSIE RAILROAD. For more information, see <https://tweetsie.com/special-events/railroad-heritage-weekend/>

AUGUST 5. All Watauga Valley members have been invited to attend the RHA Annual Picnic in Asheville. We're asked to bring a side or a salad; RHA will provide the rest. Your invitation includes motor car rides.



AUGUST 5, 2017
10 A.M.—3 P.M.
PICNIC

RHA provides the plates and flatware, ice and drinks
Members bring food to share
Potluck at 12 noon

Craggy Mountain Line

Historic Section Of Railroad Located In Buncombe County, North Carolina

Craggy Mountain Line

111 North Woodfin Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

From Johnson City, TN it's approximately 1 hour: Take I-26E towards Asheville. Take Exit 24 (Elk Mountain Road/Woodfin) and follow signs.

From Knoxville, TN it's approximately 2 hours: Take I-40E towards Asheville. Take I-240W to I-26W to Exit 24 (Elk Mountain Road/Woodfin) and follow signs.

From Greenville, SC it's approximately 1.25 hours: Take I-26W towards Asheville. Take I-240W to I-26W to Exit 24 (Elk Mountain Road/Woodfin) and follow signs.

From Hickory, NC it's approximately 1.5 hours: Take I-40W towards Asheville. Take I-240W to I-26W to Exit 24 (Elk Mountain Road/Woodfin) and follow signs.

Those with speeders welcome to bring them.
Any questions, contact Rocky Hollifield, President—Craggy Mountain Line
828-808-4877 rocky@craggymountainline.com
Or Kati Phelps, Secretary—Railroad Heritage Alliance
828-670-7709 rha.kati@charter.net

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

WVRHS&M UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Email/Phone: _____

SHIRTS:

Royal Blue – Port Authority Sport POLO Shirts (with new Chapter Patch)

Mens - No: K500

Ladies – No: L500

Small \$17 _____
Medium \$17 _____
Large \$17 _____
X-Large \$18 _____
2 XL \$19 _____
3 XL \$20 _____
4 XL \$21 _____
5 XL \$23 _____

Small \$17 _____
Medium \$17 _____
Large \$17 _____
X Large \$18 _____
2 XL \$19 _____
3 XL \$20 _____
4 XL \$21 _____
5 XL \$23 _____

Royal Blue – Port Authority Easy Care BUTTON UP Shirt (with new Chapter Patch)

Please specify MENS Long sleeve – No: S608 or MENS Short sleeve – No: S508

Small \$18 _____
Medium \$18 _____
Large \$18 _____
X Large \$19 _____

2 XL \$19 _____
3 XL \$21 _____
4 XL \$22 _____
5 XL \$24 _____

Royal Blue – Port Authority Easy Care BUTTON UP Shirt (with new Chapter Patch)

Please specify LADIES Long Sleeve – No: L608 or LADIES Short Sleeve – No: L508

Small \$18 _____
Medium \$18 _____
Large \$18 _____
X Large \$19 _____

2 XL \$19 _____
3 XL \$21 _____
4 XL \$22 _____
5 XL \$24 _____

HATS:

Athletic Gold Port & Company Six-Panel Twill Cap – No: CP80 - \$7.50 _____
(with new Chapter Patch)

WINDBREAKER:

Blue Sport-Trek Sideline Jacket with flannel lining – No: (with new Chapter Patch) Adult
Small to 6 XL - \$25 – Size Needed: _____

NAME TAGS - \$10 each - _____ List names below to be added to name tags

Mail your completed form and check (no cash, please) to
WVRHS&M, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432 or bring
to a General Membership meeting.