



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 37 No. 11

November 2017



Pictured above is the ribbon cutting ceremony for the dedication of the Chuckey Museum / Depot and W. C. Rowe Park that took place in Jonesborough on October 2nd. Complete story of this magnificent achievement is on page 4.

[Photo: Jonesborough Herald & Tribune.]

October 23rd General Membership Meeting

WVRHS&M will conduct our regular meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 23rd, 2017 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Bob Douglas will have a program on the beautiful ALASKA RAILROAD. This will be a great program you do not want to miss. Bring a friend out and enjoy an evening of railroading.

Member Notes
by Edna Kay Carter

Our sympathy is extended to Gary, Suzie, Emily and Casey Price on the recent death of Gary’s mother. Sympathy is also extended to Patty Street in the death of her father. Let’s keep these folk in our prayers and thoughts as they deal with their loss.

Please keep the following in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns. They are Bob Yaple, Kati Phelps, George Ritchie, Nancy Jewell, Gary Price, Coy and Joan Edwards, Ed Klinger, Gail Zimmerman, Cline Knowles and Art Devoe. 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 (423) 753-5797 or call Edna Carter at (423) 571-3226.

As we look around we can see the signs of fall around us. Enjoy the beauty of this autumn season.

2018 OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Nominating Committee will present the follow slate of candidates for the upcoming election. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the October meeting. The Officers and Board of Directors positions are as follows:

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Historian	Board of Directors (2 Positions)		

BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED OUT VERY SOON.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues Statements for 2018 will be e-mailed or by US mail in November.

WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM dues:

Individual Membership \$20.00
 Family Membership. \$ 5.00 per family member

Benefits:

- Member of the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum.
- Participation in all WVRHS&M functions.
- 12 issues of “Whistle Stop”, Watauga Valley’s newsletter.

WVRHS&M UNIFORMS – PRICE INCREASE

Due to production issues there has been a slight increase in the cost of uniforms. A new order form is attached to this newsletter. If you need a uniform or name badge, please look at the last page. 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.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Jim Magill

GENERAL

Ongoing projects at the Spring Street Coach yard are as follows:

1. Painting the Chessie caboose back to its safety orange colors.
2. Painting the CLINCHFIELD Box Car (WVRHS Shop) back in CLINCHFIELD colors.
3. Painting our NORFOLK & WESTERN signal and restoring it to operate.
4. Painting our storage containers.

If you would like to volunteer at the Jonesborough Coach yard, please call the WVRHS&M office at 423-753-5797 and leave message; we will call you back.

ROLLING STOCK

"Crescent Harbor" sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): Recently had a major cleaning by Watauga Valley members including carpet cleaning, windows and overall wiping down. Car is in Huntington, WV on the *"New River Train"*, operating Oct 21-22 and 28-29.

"Moultrie" diner (WATX 400): The mechanical crew has been working on refrigeration along with some electrical issues. A new brake system was installed on car. Car is in Huntington, WV on the *"New River Train"*, operating Oct 21-22 and 28-29.

"Powhatan Arrow" coach (WATX 539),

"St Augustine" coach (WATX 500): Both cars received some TLC with members interior cleaning and exterior washing. Cars are in Huntington, WV on the *"New River Train"*, operating Oct 21-22 and 28-29.

Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 21, 22, 28, 29: Tennessee Valley Railway Museum trips to Summerville GA with steam. For details - <http://www.tvrail.com/>



OCTOBER 21, 22, 28, 29: *"New River Train"*. For info: <http://www.newrivertrain.com/nrt.shtml>



OCTOBER: The GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD is planning on running steam-powered trips most days except Mondays in October. For their schedule: <http://www.gsmr.com/steam#schedule>



NOVEMBER 4, 11, 12: Tennessee Valley Railway Museum trips to Summerville GA with steam. For details - <http://www.tvrail.com/>



2018: The 2018 NRHS Convention will be held at Cumberland, Maryland. No firm dates have been set at this time. Details will be announced as they become available.

In the News



CHUCKEY DEPOT RIBBON CUTTING

[By JOHN KIENER, Jonesborough Herald & Tribune]



The ribbon cutting for the dedication of the Chuckey Depot and W. C. Rowe Park took place in a 45-minute ceremony Monday [October 2nd] on-site at 110 South Second Ave. While the dedication had an official program, the gathering had the atmosphere of a family reunion.

More than 200 people gathered to hear speakers from the Babb family who donated the

depot, while friends and relatives of W. C. Rowe remembered his contributions to Jonesborough and Washington County. Town Mayor Kelly Wolfe set the stage for the event when he said, "This depot served a very important role in the community it served. W. C. Rowe personified the spirit of the community." He hailed the cooperative spirit that made both the park and depot a reality.

Town Operations Manager Craig Ford said the depot was his first major project. The town staff with the assistance of inmates from the Northeast Correctional Complex in Mountain City and the Carter County Work Camp both took apart and, six years later, reassembled the depot. Ford told of two major obstacles in the process: the original inmates were not the ones that reassembled the depot. In addition, the depot now standing in Jonesborough is on the opposite side of the tracks as it was situated in Chuckey.

Former County Mayor George Jaynes said of Rowe, "We were real close. His work for Jonesborough was unbelievable. There were not many issues (in county government) in which he was not involved." Jaynes served as county executive or county mayor from 1986 until 2010 during which time Rowe was elected to four terms as a county commissioner beginning in 1990 and continuing with his re-election in 2002.

Present at the ceremony was W. C.'s daughter, Jill Garcia, who thanked the audience for remembering her father. "He loved the town so much," she said. "He never met a stranger." Garcia brought with her a statement from her brother William C. Rowe, Jr., now a professor in Astana, Kazakhstan. Garcia drove to the [continued on next page]

ceremony from St. Augustine, Florida where the city experienced flooding from recent hurricanes. In his statement, William wrote, "My father loved to talk to anyone about anything for any length of time. He knew most of the people in Washington County. We, all of you who were involved (with the park), thank-you"

Elaine Rowe said "I cannot express our appreciation enough. This would have been the one time in his life that he was silent." She told of the couple's courtship, and then told the audience, "This is beautiful. You have revived the memories of a loving man."

A portion of the program distributed at the Ribbon Cutting talked about the future of the park. The text read, "With increased use of W.C. Rowe Park, including the walkway and visitors at Chuckey Depot, we anticipate the need for public restrooms, outdoor seating, and additional storage space for museum artifacts. The property to the west of the Depot is a potential location for expanding the park in order to meet these needs."

Contributions made by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum were outlined by Jimmy Rhein, chairman of the Chuckey Depot Committee and a member of the group. He said, "What a day for Jonesborough. What a day for the region." Rhein pointed to the X450 caboose on the premises that was restored by members of the WVRHSM. In a tribute to W. C. Rowe, he talked about how he had served with him on the Town's Planning Commission before Rowe was elected a county commissioner.

A compelling and historical presentation was given by Travis McIntosh, a member of the Depot's donor family. Currently serving as a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army, the West Point graduate recounted working at the depot while a youngster. The depot, which was in the family for 70 years, was used as a storage place for fertilizer and other materials sold at the family's hardware store nearby.

"Dinner in the Diner" in the 1980s was part of the family's efforts to keep the depot in repair before being told it must be removed from the railroad right-of-way to make room for double tracking by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Lifting 50 pound bags of fertilizer at the site during his youth, McIntosh also learned that blacks were separated from whites in society. He said he came to realize that the separation of the races was wrong.

"It feels great to be in East Tennessee," said McIntosh, who pilots a Blackhawk helicopter in the Army. He mentioned that he graduated from David Crockett High School and said growing up in this area he enjoyed "a culture of kindness and patriotism." He said to the crowd, "Thank-you. You all have made a dream become a reality."

Bill Babb, another relative, remembered driving the fertilizer truck at the depot. A graduate of East Tennessee State University, he said "I would never have dreamed that the depot would look like this today."

A number of depot donor family members were present at the ceremony and they were acknowledged in the Ribbon-Cutting Program. The group members said that they were pleased that the depot still carries the "Chuckey" station name. [Continued on next page.]

President Mike Tilley said the Watauga Valley Historical Railroad Society would maintain the following schedule on opening the depot during Jonesborough Days: on Thursday, Friday and Saturday – noon until 7 p.m. and on Sunday noon until 5 p.m. The regular schedule of volunteer assistance by the group will be on Wednesday through Saturday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Volunteers Needs to Host the Chuckey Depot / Museum

There has been three training sessions conducted for host positions at the Chuckey Depot / Museum; every one of our members have enjoyed the class which is conducted by Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and by Mike Tilley, WVRHS&M President. You'll meet some great people while promoting our railroad history. We are planning training sessions in the coming weeks - sure would like to have more volunteers to help out at the museum for a day or so a month. If interested, please call Mike Tilley (423) 335-1100 to sign up for a class.



Grand Opening of the Rural Retreat Depot



Gary Price at the controls of our Whistle Machine. Do you think he's enjoying himself?

WVRHS&M was honored on October 14th to participate in the grand opening of the Rural Retreat VA ex-N&W depot. Our Whistle Machine was doing the grand honors of the recreation of the J Class engine coming into town while the bell sounds played on an organ by Michael Snavely of Grace Lutheran. We wish to thank Watauga Valley members Gary and Emily Price, Jim Sutterlin, and Megan Kegely for all their help in pulling this event off with the Whistle Machine. We all enjoyed every minute of bringing the sounds of the J Engine into town.

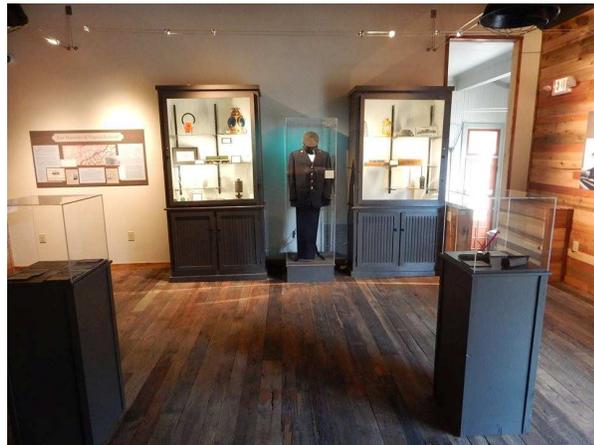


CRAMPED SEATING ON AMTRAK?

One of AMTRAK's few advantages over airlines is the comparative spaciousness of its passenger seating. But AMTRAK is considering creating a new economy class with more cramped seats, similar to that found on aircraft, reports Reuters. "We are looking at doing some creative things in terms of creating an economy class," said Wick Moorman, AMTRAK's departing Co-Chairman, in a speech at the National Press Club. "There will be some other things that just don't make it quite as comfortable," he added, like reduced seat pitch — the distance between rows of seats. Moorman said that while the proposal to create a new economy class is under discussion at AMTRAK, no decisions have been made. Richard Anderson, formerly of Delta Air Lines, became president and co-CEO of AMTRAK this week; he and Moorman will share duties until Moorman departs in September 2017. [www.businessstraveller.com via "Potomac Rail News", Potomac NRHS]



Photo Gallery



A few photos are included here to give you a taste of the highly professional design and work performed in putting together a first-class museum at the Chuckey Depot in Jonesborough. Your editor has visited some railroad museums that more closely resembled a flea market. I'll match ours with anything I've seen; it is certainly worthy of the many hours of hard work that went into this preservation effort. [Mike Tilley photos posted on facebook]

Important Dates ...



WVRHSM Fall Field Trip, Saturday, November 4, 2017 touring the existing stations along the former NORFOLK AND WESTERN's Radford Division!
SEE FLYER AT END OF NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS!



The 2017 CSX Santa Train will operate on Saturday, November 18th. A schedule of train stops will be in the next *Whistle Stop*.



The 2017 Watauga Valley Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at the Jonesborough Visitors Center. Please mark the date on your calendar.

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Opinions or viewpoints are those of the writer and may not necessarily reflect those of the organization members, officers or directors. Items of interest are welcome and will be credited to the author; however, because of space constraints, all submissions are subject to editing. Permission to reprint *Whistle Stop* articles with the exception of photographs is granted if proper credit is given. Reuse of photographs must receive permission by the editor and the photographer.

Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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Johnson City, TN 37605-0432

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

CHAPTER 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 - \$10.00 _____
(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



WVRHS&M Fall field trip, Saturday, November 4, 2017

Fall is in the air! The leaves are falling, opening up a better view of the NS mainline. So what better time to gather together on our trusty bus and tour the existing stations along the former Norfolk and Western's Radford Division from Bristol to Radford!

Station stops will include:

Bristol
Abingdon
Meadowview
Emory
Seven Mile Ford
Marion
Rural Retreat
Pulaski
Dublin
Radford.

This will be a unique time to gather together for fellowship and fun and to have a chance to enjoy some excellent station architecture, some that dates back to before the Civil War. Saturday is normally a busy day along the line and we hope to see many trains along our journey. Chapter Historian Gary Price will be on hand to discuss the history of the depots and point out sights of interest along the way.

There will only be 31 seats available for this unique guided tour. Price per ticket will be \$40.00; you can reserve your seat by mailing your check/money order to:

Nick White
3404 Spring Heather Court
Willow Spring NC 27592

276 685-2386

Deadline for reservations is October 30, 2017.

We will meet and depart from the Chuckey Museum / Depot museum on 2nd Street in downtown Jonesborough, TN.

Come enjoy the sights and leave the driving to member Nick White.

10/17/2017