

Whistle Stop



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

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Our fleet of beautiful rail cars, shiny and all spiffed-up, ready to hit the road: destination West Virginia's "The New River Train". [Photo: Mike Tilley]

October 22nd General Membership Meeting

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will conduct our monthly

General Membership meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 22nd, 2018 at the Johnson City Public Library, 100

West Millard St. This month's program offers a film, provided by Gloria Sims, called "Working on the Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad". CSRR, in New Hampshire's White Mountains, is one of the country's most recognized heritage railroads. Join us as we take a look at behind the scenes operations at the iconic railroad, featuring interviews with staff and crew members, historic photos, and an

overview of what has gone into building this company since it opened in 1974.



Member Notes

by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson

Please remember the family of Doug Zimmerman in his recent death and continue to remember the Holley family. There have been several members who have lost loved ones during the past months; let us continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Keep the following in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns. They are Nancy Jewel, Gary Price, George Ritchie, Bob Schubel, Gail Zimmerman and Tom Phelps. As always, let us know of any member, friend or family member to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office phone number is 423-753-5797 or call Edna Carter at 423-571-4612.

We would like to welcome the following new members. They are: Carol Higgins, Jeremy Miller, Lester Duncan, Judy Duncan, Katie Doyle and Hobie Hyder. We look forward to have each of you on board with us.

Autumn is now with us and we can see the beautiful colors as the season changes.

WVRHS&M News

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRAIN FALL EXCURSION

The last of several trips on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad will be held on November 4. We will have a full house on the train this date with help from 20 of our WVRHS&M members as car hosts. Thanks to everyone that help pull these trips off.

ROANOKE VA RAIL TOUR

Thanks to Nick White (at right at the wheel of our tour bus) and Gary Price for promoting the Roanoke Tour on Saturday October 6. We visited the Virginia Transportation Museum, Winston Link Museum, Virginian Railway Station, Great 611 Steak House and the Star on Mill Spring Mountain. What a great day we had and everyone enjoyed the trip. More trips are in the planning stages this year. Please watch your e mails for more information.



2019 OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Nominating Committee will be presenting a list of candidates for the following slate of positions for the upcoming 2019 election of WVRHS&M officers and Board member. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the October meeting. The positions up for election are as follows:

President
Treasurer

Vice President
Historian

Secretary
Board of Directors (One Position)

BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED OUT VERY SOON AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

2019 WVRHS&M membership dues are as follows:

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

Membership benefits include: full membership and privileges in the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum; 12 issues of the "Whistle Stop", the WVRHS&M newsletter; and participation in all WVRHS&M functions.

2019 Membership Dues Statements will be sent via email or USPS in November.

Important 2018 Dates ...

	OCTOBER 20, 21, 27, 28: "New River Train Excursions". See https://www.newrivertrain.com/nrt.shtml
	OCTOBER 20, 21, 27, 28: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga. Info: https://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special
	NOVEMBER 3, 10, 11: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga. Info: https://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special
	NOVEMBER 4: GSMR Excursion.
	NOVEMBER 17: CSX "Santa Train". Pikeville, KY – Kingsport, TN.
	DECEMBER 8: Annual WVRHS&M Christmas Get-together, Food City Banquet Room, Johnson City. Details to follow.

Chuckey Depot & Rail Museum

Volunteers Needed to Host the Chuckey Depot & Rail Museum



Museum hosts Norma and Bob Hand

There have been three training sessions conducted for host positions at the Chuckey Depot and Rail Museum; every one of our members have enjoyed the class which is conducted by Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and by Mike Tilley, President, Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum. You meet some great people while

learning to promote our railroad history. The next training session is planned for Saturday, November 17th. This will be the last training session of the year. If interested, please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797 and leave a message to get signed up for the class. We sure would like to have more volunteers to help out at the museum for a day or so a month.

Mechanical Team Report

by Jim Magill

GENERAL

Thanks to all the Mechanical and Cleaning Committee: Jim Magill, Art Devoe, Richard Freeman, Don Findley, Jim Sutterlin, Cline Knowles, Jim Smallwood, Mike Tilley, David Denny, Jan Edwards, Gary Street, Jack Maloney, Bob Hand, Ralph Clarke, Edna Carter, Gloria Sims Jim Smallwood, Wayne Manning, Megan Kegley, Rick Chinouth, Judy & Lester Duncan, Bob & Norma Hand and Revce Jones. (Hope I did not forget someone) If you would like to volunteer at the Jonesborough Coach Yard, please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797 and leave a message; we will call you back.

We read in these reports about car inspections, but words alone don't convey the effort that goes into inspecting and certifying a railroad car. It's not like driving into the shop of your local auto mechanic for a quick look under the car, as the photos below of our Mechanical Team hard at work testify.



ROLLING STOCK

“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539) and **“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500)**: Got some TLC with members cleaning cars and washing the exteriors. Both at Huntington, WV for service on the *New River Train*.

“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400): New sign boards have been installed on the car along with major work on items throughout the car to meet Amtrak requirements. The car is in Huntington, WV for service on the *New River Train*.

“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): Is at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in service.

In the News ...

Erwin Yard Remembered

It's hard to believe that it has been three years since CSX closed the busy Erwin Yard but since then several more trains are starting to run on the ole Clinchfield again. There are four freights that travel on the rail line now: 692 Waycross, GA to Russell, KY; 693 Russell, KY to Waycross, GA; and Brice coal trains and empty trains back to mine. A few grain trains have also been running.

Scanner Frequencies:

161.100 CSX Road

161.520 CSX Dispatcher



November 2016 photo

1309 Restoration Update



The contractor rebuilding Chesapeake & Ohio 2-6-6-2 No. 1309 recently issued a detailed status report on its work, but did not say when the locomotive would be ready for service. The restoration is being undertaken at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad where the locomotive is based. Diversified Rail Services said the top row of 36 superheaters have been installed, the cab floor, stoker elevator tube, and grate

shaker levels have been installed. The grate structure and ash pan have been attached. The steam and water pipes for the injectors are being fitted, the steam lines for the blower and air pumps have been attached, and workers have been grinding and cleaning up washout seats. Locomotive 1309 is closing in on having a test fire. Diversified Rail Services said the checklist of appliances and parts, including boiler fittings and key portions of the stoker/firing equipment, that have been rehabilitated, becomes shorter each week. No time frame has been given for when the locomotive will begin making test runs or enter revenue service. Built in 1949, the 1309 was the last steam locomotive built by Baldwin for domestic use. [Akron Railroad Club]

Colorado Residents Sue D&SN&G Railroad

Durango and Silverton, CO residents have filed a civil lawsuit against the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Company claiming one of the company's vintage coal-fired steam trains ignited the 416 Fire, causing devastating property and business damages. The lawsuit filed in La Plata County District Court on behalf of more than a dozen business and homeowners seeks unspecified damages against the train company and its primary owner Al Harper. "We know the train is beloved in the Durango and Silverton area. It is not our intent to put them out of business. However, we believe the management of the train should be held accountable for the damage they caused, which could have easily been avoided had they acted sensibly," plaintiff attorney Bobby Duthie of Durango wrote in an email to the "Denver Post". The 416 Fire started June 1 near the train's narrow gauge tracks north of Durango. It grew to more than 50,000 acres in size. Duthie said that, while he loves the train company, he decided to take legal action because it carelessly ran its coal fired steam train in an extreme drought despite starting numerous previous fires. "As a result of the fire, Durango residents have suffered severe property damage and many were forced to evacuate their homes. Property values have been significantly and negatively impacted, and many local Durango and Silverton businesses were forced to either close or they suffered huge losses in business and profits." Duthie said. Duthie was moved to act so his fellow La Plata and San Juan County citizens and businesses could recover their losses from the responsible parties. [*Denver Post.com*]





November 2018 CSX "Santa Train"

November 17th of this year marks the 76th running of CSX's "Santa Train". As the train will run prior to publishing the next issue of this newsletter, your editor wanted to get its schedule out this month. However, a search of the "Santa Train" facebook page didn't reveal a current schedule. (It appears that even the celebrity guest has yet to be announced.) As it is understood that this year's schedule will be the same as last year's, that former schedule is being published below for your convenience. Should anything change, WVRHS&M members will receive an email with an up-to-date schedule.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE 75TH RUNNING OF



5:45 a.m.	Shelby	10:08 a.m.	Dante
6:20 a.m.	Marrowbone	10:53 a.m.	St. Paul
7:05 a.m.	Elkhorn City	12:03 p.m.	Dungannon
7:45 a.m.	Toms Bottom	12:48 p.m.	Ft. Blackmore
8:07 a.m.	Haysi	1:48 p.m.	Kermit
8:40 a.m.	Clinchco	2:20 p.m.	Waycross
9:08 a.m.	Fremont	3 p.m.	Kingsport

#SantaTrainIs75    

BEYONDORRAILS.ORG/EVENTS/SANTA-TRAIN

Sponsored by CSX, Food City, Appalachian Power, Soles4Souls and the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

Megan's Manifest

by Megan Kegley



On October 8th I had intentions of catching the CSX OCS Train on the Clinchfield, but they stopped in Kingsport and took it back south that evening. That didn't stop me from catching some other trains, I was off work and determined to get photos of something. I had my buddy David Hammonds with me again, so we decided to head toward Kermit after we left Ft. Blackmore for the first time that day. Here we caught the Q692 heading North at the South end of Kermit where it met the South Bound Q693 that was in the siding already.

We decided to catch the Q693 that was rolling south at Ft. Blackmore first on October 8th. So we hopped in the truck and left from Duffield to go after it. As we were coming up the river through Rye Cove we kept trying to guess if it was the Q693 or a NS train, because usually the Q693 runs a lot earlier in the morning. Finally, we heard them calling the signal above where we were, "CSX Q693-07 south clear Wood" then I got out of the truck and got ready for my shot, and this is how it turned out. I am pleased to say the least!



On September 30th my friend Anna and I were out and about and going back to Weber City from Wise County and I heard the KT25 coming up the Appy on the scanner, so I told her we were going after it and I popped a U turn in Gate City and went back towards Copper Creek. She had never been railfanning with me despite all the years we have been friends, she was quite excited. She had also never been under the Copper Creek Trestle before, needless to say she was speechless when we pulled up to it. We

got out of the car just in time because the KT25 was on us. She came over to me, left of where I shot this photo, and watched it coming over the trestle. When we got back in the car and went to the next spot, she looked at me and was like "Okay, I see why you like doing this now, that was AWESOME!" [Continued on next page.]

The next place we caught the KT25 on NS was at Glenita, once again somewhere Anna had never been to. I showed her where the Fault line is a few minutes before the KT25 showed up. When the KT25 rounded the curve, the engineer gave me a heck of a horn show! Thanks Lee LOL! Anna asked me why they were blowing the horn because she knew that they blow for crossings, I told her "Because they know me." Once again, she thought it was pretty cool. After the KT25 came by us at Glenita we went back to Weber City for the evening. After a stressful day of moving, we had a great ending to the day!



On October 8th after catching all the CSX trains, a NS Z series coal train came south on the Clinchfield. By this point Mike Sullivan met up with us and he was on the Keyhole side of the tunnels taking drone shots. I went for one of my favorite places to shoot, and that is Hill Station. I love getting trains as they pop out of the tunnel. This was the last train I caught that day. At this point it was about 15:30 and I had to get back to Wise County for dinner. I had a great time railfanning with David Hammonds and Mike Sullivan; nothing

beats getting to railfan with great friends in my opinion!

Train Numbers on Norfolk Southern's Bristol Line

- 15T Allentown, PA to Birmingham, AL Freight
- 16T Birmingham, Al to Allentown, Pa Freight
- 22A Norfolk, VA to Louisville, KY Intermodal
- 23 G Louisville, KY to Norfolk VA Intermodal
- 25M Norfolk VA to Louisville, KY Empty Intermodal Train
- 27V Winston Salem NC to Louisville, KY Auto Rack Train
- 165 Linwood, NC to Chattanooga, TN Freight
- 201 New Jersey to Memphis, TN Intermodal
- 202 Memphis, TN to New Jersey
- 817 Empty Hoppers train various destinations.
- 819 Coal Train
- T23 Greeneville Switcher limits Greeneville. Tn to Russellville Local Train
- T24 Greeneville Switcher limits Greeneville, TN to Piney Flats Local Train
- V19 Bristol Switcher Limits to Bluff City, TN

Scanner Frequencies: 160.560 Road Channel 161.040 Track Authority Channel

Photo Gallery ...

A few snapshots from our recent Roanoke Tour. Think these folk had a good time? (Hint: look at their faces.)



Visit us on our Facebook page for more great photos and videos.

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