

# Whistle Stop



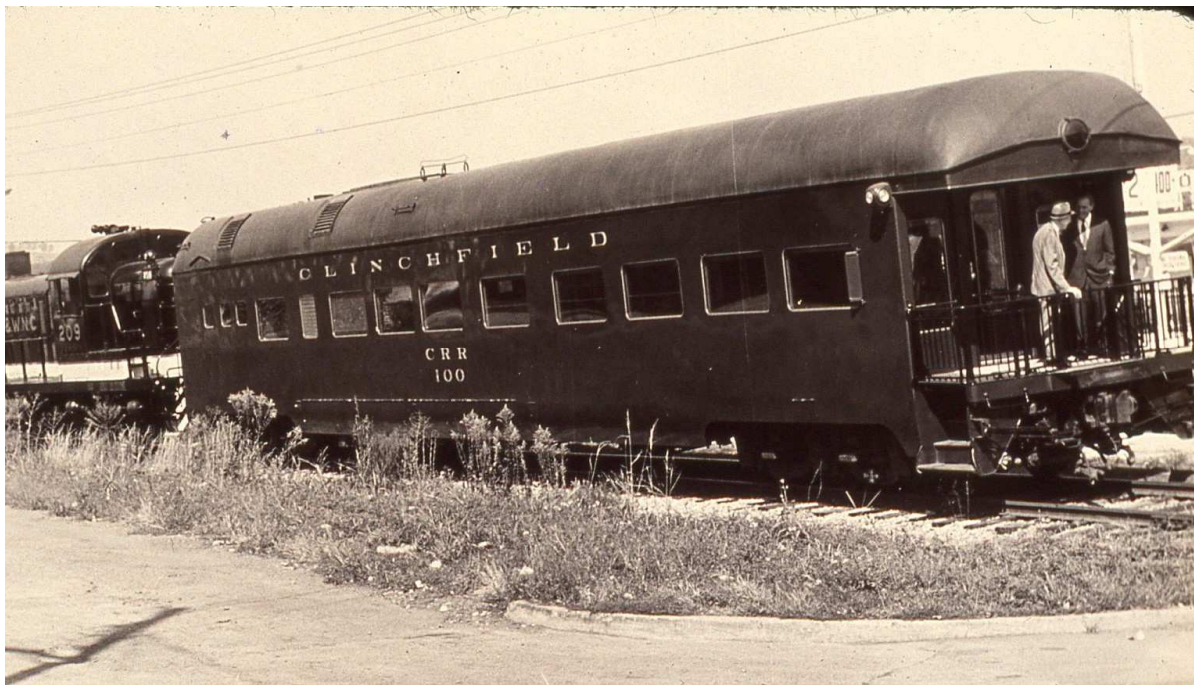
Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432  
(423) 753-5797  
[www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org](http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org)



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 39 No. 5

May 2019



Mike Tilley was given this picture by his good friend Mike Dowdy whose dad, James T. Dowdy, took of CRR 100 serving on an East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Directors Special back in the late 1960's. With ET passenger equipment long gone, CRR General Manager Mr. T. D. Moore and Supt. Jim Lonon permitted the ET to borrow Car 100 once a year for the special train to Elizabethton. On this day, ET&WNC ALCO RS-3 #209 had the honors pulling the train. It appears that this photo was taken at the crossing at Holly Lane in Elizabethton (which is across the street from where Pals Sudden Service Restaurant is now located). Thanks to Mike Dowdy for saving all the photos that his father took over the years.

## *April 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership Meeting*

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will conduct our monthly General Membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St. For this month's program, we have a special guest speaker: Bill Haskins, president of the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum, will entertain us with his railroad stories! A special evening you're sure to enjoy!

## *Member Notes*

*by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson*

Please keep the family of Bob Douglas in your thoughts and prayers. Bob passed away recently and was a member of the club, worked as EMT on our excursions and volunteered at the Chuckey Depot. Bob will be greatly missed. Keep all the others that lost loved ones in your prayers.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with various health concerns. They are Nancy Jewel, Gary Price, Sharon Slagle, George Ritchie, George Holley, Gary Street, Bob Mushet, Bob Hand and Paul Haynes. 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 number is 423-753-5797 or call Edna Carter at 423-571-4612.

We have no new members for this month. Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful spring weather.

## *WVRHS&M News*

### **MEETING DATE CHANGED FOR MAY**

Due to the Johnson City Public Library meeting room not being available on Memorial Day, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the meeting date will be changed to Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

### **MUSEUM HOST TRAINING SESSION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

In response to the demand by Watauga Valley members wanting to be host at the Chuckey Depot/Museum, we are offering training on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Depot, 110 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Jonesborough from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. If you're interested in hosting at the museum, please call (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@embarqmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@embarqmail.com).

## *WVRHS&M Rail Excursions*

### **GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRIPS**

Sold out Train! Wonderful bunch of passengers, making the March 30 GSMR Excursion Trips great trips. It was an excellent day to ride a train down by the river; everyone had a great time and viewed some beautiful spring scenery through the mountains of Western North Carolina. Thanks to all Watauga Valley volunteers for helping make it such a successful trip.

Well, with the so many wanting to go on the May 19<sup>th</sup> GSMR trip, we have added trips on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. For those wanting tickets, please watch for an email and also our web site at <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/>.

### **EXCURSION HOSTS NEEDED ON SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER GSMR TRIPS**

The volunteer list for the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> excursions will be handed out at the Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership meeting. Attendees will be given the chance to sign up first; sign-up will then be open via email.

## *Chuckey Depot and Rail Museum*

We see days of 50-plus visitors at the Chuckey Depot/Museum. With the warm weather, it brings more people out to see our beautiful Depot / Museum. We have nearly 75 Watauga Valley RHS&M volunteers that host at the museum each month. If you want to Host at the depot and take the host training class on April 20th, please call the WVRHS office at (423) 753-5797.

### **CLASSIC CARS & MUSIC AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT EVERY THIRD SATURDAY**

We are happy to announce that on every third Saturday from May through October, there will be a Classic Car Show / Music at the Chuckey Depot in Jonesborough. The first event will be Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 8 p.m., at the Depot parking lot, 110 South 2nd St., Jonesborough. Make plans to attend this special event with all kinds of classic cars and good music. Our first music group will be our own Scott & Becky Wise with the State Street String Band.

## *Mechanical Department Report*

*by Jim Magill*

The weather has been good to the Watauga Valley Mechanical Team. Looks like spring is knocking on our door and we can finally get some work done as there has been a lot of good working days at the yard over the last several weeks. If you would like to help out at the Jonesborough Coach Yard on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon, please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).

### **ROLLING STOCK**

**“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539):** is in service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Recently had a new paint job due to the car’s recent accident.

**“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500):** is in service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

**“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400) and “Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351):** both cars are enroute back to the Jonesborough Spring St. Coach Yard.



**“Clinchfield 100” office car (WATX 100):** undergoing a major restoration. At left, Gary Lombardi and Art Devoe put the finishing touches on a replacement window. For more photos and to follow the car’s progress, go to our Facebook page.

## *In the News ...*

### *Additional Dates Added for N&W 611 at Strasburg RR*

Strasburg Rail Road Company and the Virginia Museum of Transportation have expanded opportunities to enjoy the Norfolk & Western Class J 611 and the Norfolk & Western Class M #475 after unprecedented ticket sales. The once-in-a-never opportunities allow Norfolk & Western steam fans to experience the locomotives as passengers, engineers, firemen, and photographers. The expanded opportunities include:

- Friday, September 27: Ride behind the 611, Behind-the-Scenes tours, Cab Tours, and the Whistle Blows
- Monday, September 30: Ride behind the 611, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, Cab Tours, and the Whistle Blows
- Friday, October 4: Ride behind the 611, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, Cab Tours, and Whistle Blows
- Monday, October 7: Railfan Photography Extravaganza (morning and afternoon sessions available)
- Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27: At the Throttle of Norfolk & Western Steam (engineer, fireman, or sit in the jump seat.)

Tickets are available at <https://www.strasburgrailroad.com/>.

### *USPS to Commemorate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Golden Spike*



Three new stamps in a pane of 18 mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, a massive engineering feat that reduced travel time across the country from as many as six months to about one week and made the American West an integral part of the nation. Two different stamps feature the Jupiter and the No. 119 locomotives that powered the trains carrying the officers and guests of the two railroad companies engaged in the work (Central Pacific and the Union Pacific) to the Golden Spike Ceremony, held when the two rail lines were joined at Promontory Summit in Utah. A third stamp portrays the famous golden spike that was a prominent part of the ceremony. [USPS.com]

[ED. NOTE: The Spring 2019 issue of *Class Trains* magazine contains an article entitled "UNdriving of the Golden Spike" which details a 1942 ceremony marking the completion of the abandonment and scrapping of this original, historic line. On May 10-12 there will be a 3-day celebration commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Golden Spike National Historic Site.]

## *CSX Closes Russell, KY Locomotive Shop*

["The Daily Independent", Ashland, KY, April 5] CSX Corp. is closing its Russell Locomotive Shop, eliminating 113 jobs, according to a notice the company issued Friday [April 5]. The closure takes effect immediately and layoffs are effective 60 days from Friday, according to the notice. The company expects the closure to be permanent.

The volume of work at the shop has declined over the past three years, leaving it without enough work to keep it open, according to the notice, which the company issued under requirements of the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. Of the 113 jobs, 108 are held by union workers. The workers will receive pay and benefits for the 60-day period. Unions affected include 46 in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 31 in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 16 in the National Conference of Firemen and Oilers and 15 in the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.

*Check out our Facebook page for up-to-the-moment news.*

## Upcoming Railfan Events



**APRIL 20:** "Summerville Steam Specials", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN. See <https://tinyurl.com/y5gaxffk>



**APRIL 27 – MAY 9:** UP 4-8-4 #844 and 4-8-8-4 #4014 will operate over their system celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Transcontinental Railroad Anniversary. See <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>



**MAY 4:** "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN. See <https://tinyurl.com/y5gaxffk>



**MAY 7-11:** 2019 NRHS convention, "Golden Spike Rails", Salt Lake City, Utah. Complete details on the event may be found on the NRHS website <http://nrhs.com/content/2019-convention>. Included there are links to the registration booklet, mail-in registration forms, and the on-line registration form.



**MAY 18:** National Train Day.



**MAY 19:** GSMR excursion sponsored by WVRHS&M.

## For Your Viewing Pleasure ...

Our good friend Norris Deyerle of the Blue Ridge NRHS chapter forwarded the following link to a copy of the VHS version of Blackhawk Films' release, "The Thunder of Steam in the Blue Ridge". Shot on color sound film in 1958 by Fred MacLeod on his Auricon 16mm camera, it shows Norfolk & Western's three great steam locomotive classes - the 4-8-4 J's, the 2-6-6-4 A's, and the 2-8-8-2 Y's - at work on the grades of the Blue Ridge. To view, go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGdrAk\\_7F8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGdrAk_7F8). Is it possible our #539 "Powhatan Arrow" coach is in one of those scenes?

# Megan's Manifest

by Megan Kegley



To start off this month's "Manifest", I am sharing a classic shot at left of the Copper Creek Trestle in perfect evening sunlight. I decided to go out and railfan Sunday evening with Dave Hammonds. This is the first time we have been out railfanning together in a while! It was quite nice to get back to our old shenanigans! Dave had called to give me a heads up that this grain train was at St. Paul and had clear signals down the Clinchfield all the way to Kingsport. To begin the chase of train G691-05, we started at one of our

favorite spots, which is Hill Station, and then proceeded to Copper Creek. Even though we do go to some of the same places to railfan often, it just never gets old! Overall, I'm really pleased with how this shot turned out - I couldn't have asked for better light!

This is the first place we went to catch G691-05 south [right], which is on the Keyhole side of Hill Station. I had been wanting to shoot pictures from this angle, but hadn't got the chance until Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. I ended up standing in the back of Dave's truck and on top of his tool box to get this shot. Call me crazy, but sometimes just being a little higher than



normal helps with getting photos!!



Earlier that day, I was out and about and was able to catch train T722-07 [left] at Gate City. This was only half of the train though; they lost an engine (meaning it tore up) while still over on the Cumberland Valley, so they had to bring part of it over first. It had just started raining when the train arrived in Gate City, so the timing couldn't have been better! I got back in the car just in time before the downpour! LOL!



Now we are going to throw it back a bit to 2014. As most of you know, the Streamliners at Spencer event took place in 2014 at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. I ended up going and getting a pass to one of the night photo shoots. This black & white photo of the EMD FT #103 at the Bob Julian Roundhouse was taken at the night photo shoot. This was way before I entered the DSLR camera world or had any idea about photography, but I feel like I didn't do too awfully bad on the photos back then. This was a railroad event I will never

forget! It was so much fun!!!! Anyone else that went knows what I'm talking about!

To finish this month's "Manifest", here is another photo from the Streamliners at Spencer event in 2014. This is the New Haven EMD FL9 pulling a passenger train around the grounds of the North Carolina Transportation Museum. This photo is a great example of taking a step back in time! Once again, this was before I entered the DSLR Camera world. I love this photo nonetheless!



## Whistle Truck



Our Whistle Truck will be on the road in Old Fort, NC on April 27<sup>nd</sup> and in Spartanburg, SC on May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in renting or know someone who is, we are taking reservations for the Whistle Truck now; call (423) 783-5797.

***Whistle Stop***

Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432  
[whistlestop.editor@gmail.com](mailto:whistlestop.editor@gmail.com)

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.



**Watauga Valley RHS & Museum  
P.O. Box 432  
Johnson City, TN 37605-0432**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**