

Whistle Stop



**Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society &
Museum**

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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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With so much of the once-vibrant CRR yards in Erwin disappearing (see page 5), this 1960s-era shot of the MOW Section Shed – and coal hoppers in the background – takes us back to a time when Erwin was a beehive of activity and a railfan's delight.

[Gilbert Family collection.]

June 27th General Membership Meeting

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Monday, June 27th, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Chuckey Depot / Railroad Museum, 110 South Second St., Jonesborough, TN (at the railroad crossing). Our program this month will be on 100 years of railroading in the United States. Bring a friend out and enjoy a great night of railroading.

Member Notes

Please remember the following members who have experienced death in their family and also those who are on the prayer list due to sickness: Bob Hand, Fred Phofl, Jim Bishop, Gary Price, Lois Tilley, Claire Salvail, Frank Gricus and Jack Maloney. If you know of a member that has a loss or been sick, please email wataugavalley@gmail.com.

Welcome Aboard New Members!!!! Patrick Jackson and Chuck Lewis.

2022 WVRHS&M Rail Events

DINNER ON THE DINERS. The date for this year's "Dinner on the Diners" event has been scheduled for Saturday evening, June 25th, 2022, in Jonesborough, TN. The highlight of the



evening will be an elegant meal in one of WVRHS&M's vintage dining cars, followed by stories from an authentic railroad storyteller. This unique opportunity allows young and old alike to relive a dining experience of a bygone era. Tickets are \$55.00 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available at the Jonesborough Visitors' Center, located at 117 Boone St., or by calling (423) 753-1010 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased online at <http://www.jonesboroughtn.org>. Refunds are not available.

Please note: these dining cars will be in the rail yard on static display and will not move. Both cars were built before the Americans with Disabilities Act, and due to their historic significance and age, are exempt from ADA compliance requirements. Please consider suitability when ordering tickets.

Proceeds from ticket sales will help fund the restoration program of Watauga Valley's historic rail passenger cars, and to fund new exhibits and educational experiences at the Chuckey Depot Museum. The museum is housed in the former Southern Railway train depot, which Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, the town of Jonesborough, and the Heritage Alliance partnered to relocate and preserve.

HIWASSEE LOOP. The next Hiwassee trip near Etowah, TN is scheduled for October 15th, 2022.

SEATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR TVRM COACH TOUR

A few seats are still available for the Watauga Valley members trip to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in Chattanooga, TN. The trip will start out with a bus ride to TVRM where we will be treated to an exhibit building tour followed by a train ride out of the station. Next, we will head to lunch and then down to the Chattanooga Choo Choo for a visit. This is a one-day trip; more information included with this newsletter.

GSMR. The next Great Smoky Mountains Railroad trip out of Bryson City, NC is scheduled for September 17th.

Mechanical Department Report

by Jim Magill

GENERAL



The weather has been good to the Watauga Valley Mechanical Team and there have been a lot of good working days at the yard over the last several weeks. Looks like summer is knocking on our door and we can finally get some work done. If you would like to help out at the Jonesborough Coach yard on Tuesdays between 9 am to 5 pm or Saturdays 9 am to 12 noon, please call the Office at 423-753-5797 or email wataugavalley@gmail.com.

ROLLING STOCK

“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400): back at the Spring St. Coach Yard receiving a good cleaning.

“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500): back at the Spring St. Coach Yard receiving some plumbing and window repairs.

“Clinchfield 100” office car (WATX 100): installed new fuel and water tanks along with working water in the kitchen. [Photo at right.]

“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): new carpet is being installed.

“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539): in Chattanooga at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum shops getting a new Tuscan Red paint job. [Photos below.]



Whistle Truck Rental

Add excitement, fun and education for the entire family at your next event or parade by renting Watauga Valley's "Whistle Truck". This truck is a self-contained trailer featuring a collection of unique, historically-significant whistles from the steam locomotive era and the means to blow them.

Steam locomotive whistles, more resonant and musical than modern, electronic horns, were audibly distinct. Also, engineers of that day had their own unique way of blowing whistles, providing an aural "signature" that identified the man at the throttle to anyone within hearing distance. The "Whistle Truck" offers an opportunity to everyone of all ages to thrill to this bygone, haunting sound and, perhaps, create their own "signature" whistle sound.

The whistles safely use air from a 185 CFM Sullair compressor and a 125-gallon surge tank. There is no steam involved in the operation. The rig - the Truck and trailer - is towed by a custom-built Ford F900 Diesel Truck.

The collection includes vintage steam whistles from railroads such as the N&W, SOUTHERN, CB&Q and WESTERN MARYLAND and an accurate replica of the famous "Casey Jones" whistle. Historically significant in the collection as well are air (diesel) horns from CSX, N&W and VIRGINIAN and various cabooses (signal) whistles.

For more information to have the Whistle Machine at your event, contact the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum at 423-753-5797 or email wataugavalley@gmail.com.

Chuckey Depot / Museum

We have been getting at times 50 plus visitors a day at the Chuckey Depot/Museum. With the warm weather more people are brought out to see our beautiful Depot/Museum. We are expecting a record month in July as we'll be involved with Jonesborough Days on July 2nd and 3rd. It has been announced that the next exhibit at the Chuckey Depot will be on the Norfolk & Western. We are all looking forward to this exhibit.

CHUCKEY DEPOT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The next training host session for the Chuckey Depot will be in July; get involved to volunteer at the depot/museum one day a month. Please call our Office at 423 753-5797 or email wataugavalley@gmail.com to get your name on the list. We are needing more hosts as the hours of the depot have been extended.

RAIL CAMERAS AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT

Our live rail cams at the Chuckey Depot have now been upgraded with lighting at night, allowing you to see night trains really well. You have two ways to access the cams: (1.) Go to our web site at <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org> and click on cams; (2.) Go to <http://youtube.com> and type "Jonesborough" in the search box. In the past WCYB-TV has included us on their weather cameras site. We also have a live NS/CSXT radio feed from Holston Mountain that you can visit from our web site.

In the News ...

End of the Line for CRR Safety Car?

CLINCHFIELD Safety Car 50 has been in storage at the CSX yard in West Jacksonville for nearly 40 years. Recently, CSX notified the owner of Car 50 that it has to be quickly moved to make room for a Trans Load Facility extension. The owner of Car 50 is trying to find someone to take the car or the railroad claims it will be cut up for scrap after the time limit has expired. The Watauga Valley Railroad Museum hopes a new owner can be found soon. The before and after photos below starkly portray the deterioration that the car has undergone.



Clinchfield Safety Car 50 was used for 30 years as a training car for its Operation Craft. It would travel all over the Clinchfield Railroad serving as a training center for its employees. When the car was not in use, it was parked close to the South car parking lot beside the Clinchfield General Office Building on Nolichucky Avenue in Erwin.

CSX (ex-CLINCHFIELD) Traffic Picking Up

CSX has added several grain, coal, ethanol and freight trains to the ex-CRR line. Coal trains are traveling to Terrell and Brice, NC. Several grain and ethanol trains have been seen on the ex-Clinchfield.

You can hear all the action courtesy of our new broadcast from Holston Mountain. Go to <https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/35435> to hear all the trains on CSX (and NS).

CSX Erwin Yard Getting Smaller

CSX Erwin Yard is getting smaller as CSX recently pulled up 13 tracks in the yard. All train crews report in Kingsport now instead of Erwin. There are still questions on what is going to happen to the old Clinchfield General Office Building. We understand that the diesel shop and some of the crew shacks will be torn down.

2nd ROANOKE AMTRAK TRAIN TO BEGIN IN JULY.

A second Amtrak passenger train will begin to operate from Roanoke, departing at 4:35 p.m. bound for Washington, DC, with an expected arrival time of 9:35 p.m. The early train will continue to depart at 6:32 a.m. and reach Washington at about 11:30 a.m.

Display in the Block *by Les Billings*

In this month's installment of **BULLS GAP** "Display in the Block" I am in and around the Bulls Gap, TN area. This is a favorite stopping point when I am returning from middle Tennessee after visiting my daughter. It is always fun to go in the museum, talk to Bill Haskins and see the model trains and see if there are any new T-Shirts or Hats. Most important is hoping to see a train come through.



This photo was taken on the way back from Pigeon Forge one Saturday in February. This is NS 101 leaving the Gap (Bulls Gap) on its way to Sargent Yard in Memphis working several more yards on its journey. As you can see, it is using UP units with UP 4975 up front. It is about to knock down C.P. Kite from the Main.



Last October I was not able to catch a full train, but was able to see the local switcher turning on the Y running in front of the Bulls Gap Train Museum.



To the left and below we see the switcher 9669 crossing over S. Main Street crossing. On the left up on the hill, looks to have been an old concrete water tank.

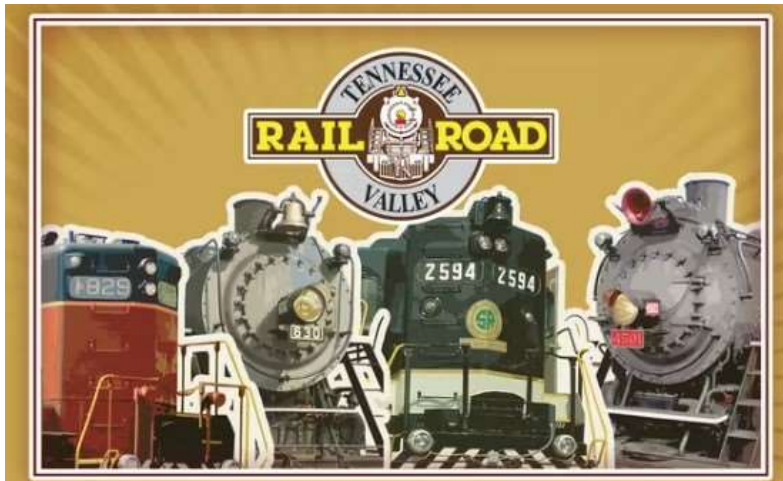


Standing on the S. Main Street bridge looking toward the Signals for C.P. Justice is another switcher 6932 taking some cars westbound. He is traveling Southern style, longnose first. This location is right above Archie Campbell's birthplace.



In railfanning, I have met a lot of interesting animals. Dogs, Horses, etc. This dog which lived beside the Museum wanted to make friends but just wasn't sure of me. I am sure if I had stayed longer, we could have become good buddies.

Details of WVRHS&M Member Trip to TVRM



The Watauga Valley Railroad Museum is sponsoring a Summer Motor Coach trip to Tennessee Valley Railroad in Chattanooga TN on Saturday, August 20, 2022. The cost is \$80 per person which includes the motor coach trip along with all tickets at Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and a tour of Chattanooga. The trip will include a luxury motor coach ride from Lowe's Parking lot in Jonesborough to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in Chattanooga. On arrival at Chattanooga, we will board the Missionary Ridge Steam Excursion (either 4501 or 630) at Grand Junction Station; the steam excursion will take passengers over four bridges and through the pre-Civil War Missionary Ridge Tunnel. The trip is 60-65 minutes long and includes a turntable demonstration and tour of the TVRM restoration shop in East Chattanooga. Breakdown of the 6-miles round trip experience on the Missionary Ridge Local includes a tour guide providing local history throughout the experience.

You will also have a chance to visit the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum exhibit building which includes the many passenger cars on the grounds, exhibit on the 2nd floor of the depot, and access to the new exhibit building on Turntable Drive. The special exhibits will be located in TVRM's new exhibit building and include "TVRM's First 60 Years," a Railroad Post Office car display, and two exhibits by sponsor Scale Trains. This is the first use for this important addition to the TVRM Cromwell Road Campus.

After we leave Tennessee Valley Railroad, we will go and have lunch then a drive-by tour of the famous NS Debutts Hump Yard. Next a visit to Chattanooga Choo Choo, then depart back home.

Depart Jonesborough Lowe's	7:00 am
Arrive TVRM	11:00 am
Tour the railroad exhibit building	11:15 am to 12:10 pm
Depart on Steam Excursion	12:30 pm
Depart to eat	1:40 pm
Tour Chattanooga	2:40 pm
Depart to Jonesborough	3:00 pm
Arrive Lowe's in Jonesborough	8:00 pm

With gas prices the way they are today, this trip is a deal. Please click on the following video showing the train you will ride: <https://youtu.be/ecA64e850rc>.

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL