

# 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

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Passengers and WVRHS&M crew eagerly await the arrival of the train carrying all on our September 8<sup>th</sup> GSMR excursion. [Photo courtesy Megan Kegley.]

## *September 24<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting*

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will conduct our monthly General Membership meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St. This month's program comes in two parts. The first 10-11 minutes of the program will be presented by Brad McCroskey showing film footage he put together of our September 8<sup>th</sup> GSMR trip.

The second part will be presented by Megan Kegley and is called "Trains in the U.S.", starting at disc one of a set entitled "America By Rail: Winter Wonderland". We'll travel on AMTRAK's "Cardinal" from Chicago to Washington D.C.

in the midst of heavy snowfall, visit the overlook at Hawks Nest in West Virginia, and explore Kentucky. An evening of scenic rail tours not to be missed!

## Member Notes

by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson

Please remember George Holley and family in the recent death of Margaret Holley and to the others who have lost loved ones in the past months 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 Fred Phoff's wife. 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 is 423-753-5797 or call Edna Carter at 423-571-4612.

Summer is almost gone and we will shortly be seeing the beautiful fall colors to enjoy.

## WVRHS&M News

### GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRAIN EXCURSIONS

Our remaining two Great Smoky Mountain Train Excursions on September 23 and November 4 have sold out. We're still in need of volunteer hosts. This is your chance to experience a great train ride and have an enjoyable day. Please call Mike Tilley at (423) 335-1100 if you can help out on either trip. There's also a sign-up form at the end of this newsletter that you can bring to the September General Membership Meeting.

### 2018 WVRHS&M-SPONSORED "STAR CITY RAILROAD TOUR"

Seats are still available for the October 6<sup>th</sup> Roanoke Tour – get your reservations in now! For complete information, see the flyer accompanying this newsletter.

## Important 2018 Dates ...



**SEPTEMBER 23:** GSMR Excursion #3.



**SEPTEMBER 21-23:** N&W 611 at NCTM. Info: <https://www.nctrans.org/Events/J.aspx>



**OCTOBER 6:** "Star City Railroad Tour".



**OCTOBER 20, 21, 27, 28:** "New River Train Excursions". See <https://www.newrivertrain.com/nrt.shtml>



**OCTOBER (various dates):** "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga. Info: <https://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special>



**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.

## *Mechanical Team Report*

*By Jim Magill*

### GENERAL

We're in need of volunteers at the Coach Yard; please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797 if you're interested in working with the mechanical guys. We will also have a car cleaning session during the first of October - call this number if you can help out.

All cars just went through their AMTRAK inspection and will be leaving the yard the first of October for several fall AMTRAK trips.

### ROLLING STOCK

**"Powhatan Arrow" coach (WATX 539):** a new air conditioning unit is being installed.

**"St Augustine" coach (WATX 500):** at the coach yard undergoing upgrades. A10-year AMTRAK inspection was performed at the Washington County Farmers Co-op.

**"Moultrie" diner (WATX 400):** receiving new convection and holding ovens.

**"Crescent Harbor" sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351):** in service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

**"Clinchfield" office car (WATX 100):** is next in line for interior upgrades.

## *Chuckey Depot & Rail Museum*

Things are very busy at the Chuckey Depot with good attendance during the month of August. We appreciate all the volunteers who host and make the museum happen.

### HOST TRAINING AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT IN JONESBOROUGH

We will have training on Saturday, September 5 at 9 am for any WVRHS&M member who is interested in hosting at the Chuckey Depot. The training session should last around 75 minutes. If you're interested in hosting, you must attend this session to receive training. Please call the office at (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming.

## *Whistle Machine*

### WATAUGA VALLEY WHISTLE MACHINE ON THE MOVE

Our Whistle Machine has been on the move this month in Duffield, VA. What a great time the crew had in taking the Whistle Machine down the street during the Duffield Labor Day parade. Anyone interested in leasing the Machine for future events should call (423) 753-5797.

## *In the News ...*

### *NS Orders Four High-horsepower Locomotives*



[NS Press Release] Progress Rail Services Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Caterpillar Inc., and NORFOLK SOUTHERN have announced the order of additional EPA Tier 2 compliant, high-horsepower repower locomotives - designated the PR43C.

In 2008, NORFOLK SOUTHERN and Progress Rail began a cooperative effort to develop the PR43C locomotive. Since then, two PR43C prototype locomotives have been built and placed in service on the NORFOLK SOUTHERN system. These locomotives have been closely monitored during a series of developmental and operational testing. With the testing of the first two prototypes coming to a close, Progress Rail is pleased to announce NORFOLK SOUTHERN has ordered four additional PR43C locomotives, scheduled for delivery later this year.

The PR43C locomotives are unique in the industry. Remanufactured from reusable locomotive cores, the PR43C locomotives have a dual-engine configuration. The primary engine, a Caterpillar C-175 rated at 3,600 horsepower, and a secondary engine, a Caterpillar C-18 rated at 700 horsepower, work in tandem to power the locomotive. By rebuilding the PR43C from a reusable locomotive core and providing 4,300 total horsepower, the PR43C locomotive serves as an environmentally-friendly solution for the rail industry.

The four new PR43C locomotives will feature upgraded traction systems, control systems, and modernized cabs.

Nick White passed along this photo of AMTRAK #80, "The Carolinian", stopping at Raleigh on its way to Charlotte. NCDOT's Rail Division sent a short train consist up to Pueblo for PTC testing. Pictured are AMTRAK's Cascades and Surfliner locomotives being used while the other equipment was out for testing. [Steven Riley photo]



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

## *Megan's Manifest*

*by Megan Kegley*



**Hosts Bob and Norma Hand**

September 8, 2018 marked our third out of five trips on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad this year. We had a very weird trip this go around - I really have no other way to describe it. But we all still managed to have a great time riding through the Smoky Mountains by train. I hope everyone enjoys these various photos I am sharing for this month. If you have never rode the GSMR I highly suggest it; it is a beautiful ride through the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.



**Hosts Wayne and Lisa Davis**



On August 28<sup>th</sup> I was heading home from a funeral for a change of clothing and my camera equipment. I was planning to meet my good friend and fellow railroad enthusiast Pete Aistrop at Tito on the Appalachia District for train KT24 to come through heading to Kingsport with a load of coal. I had to do something to get my mind off the sadness. By this point I had already caught NST74 with a nice SD60 and

SD40-2 as the power on its way back to Frisco as well. Anyway, as the KT24 approached Tito we came to realize our friend Lee was up front as conductor, so you know what that meant ... we chased it quite a way before going back towards Norton to get food and continue to work on finishing our model railroad club move to our new location.

On August 30<sup>th</sup> before I went into work, I went after NS 912 work train coming down the Appalachia District from Andover to tie down at Boone. It was cloudy and a little rainy; thank the Lord the rain held off long enough for me to get a few pictures before going to work, although clouds and rain don't stop me from taking photos LOL. Anyway, here is the NS 912 rounding the curve at Speers Ferry with all the MOW Equipment on flat cars. It was totally worth going to see because it is something of interest besides a coal train.



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**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**

# 2018 Star City Railroad Tour

## Roanoke, Virginia

### October 6, 2018

Catch the bus for a spectacular railroad themed adventure that will take us to the heart of Norfolk and Western country: ROANOKE, VIRGINIA!

Widely known to many as the “Star City of the South” Roanoke was, for a hundred years, the home and headquarters for the N&W, boasting office buildings, locomotive erecting shops, maintenance facilities, railyards, passenger depots and thousands of dedicated employees. Roanoke Shops built what many experts consider to be the best steam locomotives in the world. Roanoke is still the hub for five mainlines that connect the city to Norfolk, Hagerstown, Winston-Salem, Bluefield, and Bristol. Many trains can be seen daily rolling through Roanoke, carrying all sorts of cargo destined for all over the United States. Passenger Service, in the form of AMTRAK, has just recently returned to the downtown area, although NORFOLK SOUTHERN has moved most all their administrative and operating offices to either Norfolk or Atlanta, there is still a strong railroad presence and pride in the city of Roanoke, and several historical sites preserved to enjoy and connect the past with the present. We are positive that you will enjoy this trip to one of our favorite destinations.

Our journey will once again begin at the Chuckey Depot, 110 S 2<sup>ND</sup> Ave, Jonesborough, TN. (Please park in spaces closest to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) Bus will depart promptly at 7 a.m. Trip runs rain or shine.

First Stop: Virginia Transportation Museum.

Home to the largest collection of automotive and railroad history in the state, this museum has something to please everybody as the displays themselves tell the story of transportation from many steam, electric and early diesel locomotives, to restored classic cars and trucks, as well as many transportation related artifacts to explain how America once moved. The highlight of this tour will be the chance to see the Norfolk and Western “Big Three”, J-class 611, A-class 1218, and Y6a 2156. These locomotives were considered the best built, and they were built in Roanoke! As you leave, there is a wonderful gift shop with many rail related shirts, hats and other goodies.

Second Stop: O. Winston Link Museum.

During the late 1950’s Mr. Link traveled several times to Virginia and West Virginia, inspired to document the last days of steam railroading in America. His specialty was trains at night, but his recordings of the steam train sound are just as famous. This museum, housed in the beautifully restored passenger depot, features hundreds of Link’s original prints in both black and white and color. Interactive displays tell about Link’s life, journeys and techniques. Many of his personal items are on display, even his very own N&W caboose outside. There is a gift shop on site that sells Link prints, books and other merchandise.

Lunch Stop: 611 Steakhouse.

We will stop for lunch at one of our favorite places to eat in the area, the rail-themed 611 Steakhouse (food will be paid by each individual). You can order from the menu or choose to eat from the seventy-item buffet bar.

Third Stop: The Virginian Railway Depot.

Until 1959, Roanoke was home to the Virginian Railway. After the merger with the N&W, most structures were torn down and several miles of tracks were abandoned. This station is one of very few that made it through and has been lovingly restored. A guide will be on hand from the Roanoke Chapter NRHS to discuss the history of the depot and the restoration process.

Fourth Stop: The Star of Roanoke Overlook.

Erected in 1949, this 88-foot neon star has been a shining icon overlooking the entire Roanoke Valley. From the overlook, you can get an up-close look at the majestic star as well as a beautiful panoramic view of the city of Roanoke and the different rail lines that crisscross the city. We will gather for a group photo at this point before heading back to Jonesborough.

Ticket Price: \$60 per person (includes all transportation fees and museum admissions).

- 1). This will be an all-day trip, please dress accordingly, there will be a lot of walking.
- 2). Due to special arrangements, all payments must be made in advance, and received no later than October 1, 2018. NO REFUNDS, NO EXCEPTIONS. If you decide that you cannot make the trip, you have the option to send someone in your place. Passengers that are a no-show on the date of the trip shall forfeit their payment in full.
- 3). Please send your check or money order to:

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