

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 39 No. 6

June 2019



Last month *Whistle Stop* published images of postage stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the “Golden Spike” ceremony celebrating completion of the transcontinental railroad. Above we see the stamp issued in 1944 by the USPO in honor of the 75th anniversary. What?!? 3 cents to mail a letter?

May 20th 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, May 20th**, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St. This month's program will be provided by Jerry Harris, who will take us on a rail journey over the mainlines in the Marion, Ohio area. Be sure and join us for a fun evening.

Member Notes

by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson

Please continue to keep our members who have lost loved ones in your thoughts and prayers and those who deal with various concerns. They are Nancy Jewel, Gary Price, George Ritchie, Sharon Eaton, Gary Street, Bob Mushet, Don Findley and Fred Phofl. 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 at this time. I hope everyone will enjoy the upcoming summer activities.

WVRHS&M News

MEETING DATE CHANGED TO MAY 20TH

Due to the Johnson City Public Library meeting room's unavailability on Memorial Day, this month's meeting date has been moved up to Monday, May 20th.

WVRHS&M Rail Excursions

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRIPS

Both the May 19th and September 15th GSMR trips have **SOLD OUT!**

EXCURSION HOSTS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER GSMR TRIPS

The volunteer list for the Sept 15th and Nov 3rd excursions will be handed out at the Monday, May 20th General Membership meeting. Attendees will be given the chance to sign up first; sign-up will then be open via email.

Mechanical Department Report

by Jim Magill

ROLLING STOCK



“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539) and Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): both cars will return home in June

“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500) and “Moultrie” diner (WATX 400): both coaches remain in service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. At left WATX 539 sports a beautiful post-accident

paint job. The work was performed by Willetts Rail Car Shop in Spencer, NC.

“Clinchfield 100” office car (WATX 100): Intense restoration work continues.

Chuckey Depot and Rail Museum



A Classic Car Show is planned at the Depot parking lot next Saturday, May 18th. Entertainment will also be provided. Come join us for a fun evening out for the whole family.

Visitations to the museum remained string through April.

Mike Tilley received a special Easter Sunday treat when he caught NS SOUTHERN Heritage unit #8099 with train NS 165 flying past the Depot.



In the News ...

CSX Honors Military and First Responders

[CSX Press Release] A new spirit of service and gratitude is rolling across the CSX rail network in the form of two GE locomotives that have been repainted and renamed in honor of our nation’s military and first responders.

The one-of-a-kind locomotives — The Spirit of our Armed Forces and The Spirit of our First Responders — are helping promote the CSX Pride in Service program, a signature community investment initiative with a goal of positively impacting 100,000 military service members, veterans, first responders and their families by 2020.

The Spirit of our Armed Forces has been renumbered CSXT 1776, and The Spirit of our First Responders is designated CSXT 911. Both locomotives are GE Model ES44ACs that we repainted in CSX’s Huntington, W.Va., Locomotive Shop. [Continued on next page.]



CSXT 1776 combines the CSX dark blue and yellow colors on the front of the locomotive with gray camouflage on the sides and top. The paint scheme celebrates the five main branches of military service and features the CSX Pride in Service logo along with the logos of the program partners — Wounded Warriors, Blue Star Families, Operation Homefront and Operation Gratitude.

CSXT 911 is painted in vibrant red with white and gold striped accents along with the logo of program partners First Responders Children's Foundation and Operation Homefront. It also features generic police, fire and emergency medical services logos.

As they travel the CSX system pulling customer freight, the locomotives will remind everyone who sees them of the daily sacrifices made by the individuals who serve our nation and our communities, along with their families. When not in regular service, the two locomotives will attend various special events across the CSX system.

NS Executive Train Strikes Vehicle in Deadly Crash

A 65-year-old woman was killed May 1st in Appomattox, VA after an NS Executive Train, traveling west from Norfolk to Roanoke, slammed into her car. The driver apparently ignored a crossing gate and drove into the train's path. The driver then attempted to turn around in the middle of the crossing; the train struck the vehicle in the rear, forcing the car down, then off, the tracks. The driver died at the scene; no one else was injured. The train did not derail and was largely undamaged in the collision; it left the scene about an hour after the crash. The entire grisly sequence of events was captured on a trackside video recording.

Transcontinental Railroad 150th Anniversary Celebration

[PROMONTORY, Utah, Brady McCombs, AP] Music, bells and cannon fire rang out Friday [May 10th] at a remote spot in the Utah desert where the final spikes of the Transcontinental Railroad were hammered 150 years ago, uniting a nation long separated by vast expanses of desert, mountains and forests and fresh off the Civil War.

An estimated 20,000 people swarmed to the celebration at Golden Spike National Historic Park northwest of Salt Lake City — the signature event of several days of festivities marking the railroad's anniversary. Visitors came from as far as China, many decked out in old-fashioned dresses, top hats, bonnets and scarves. To read more go to <https://tinyurl.com/y65wmsue>

Upcoming Railfan Events



MAY 18: National Train Day.



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



JUNE 1: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN.



JUNE 1: C&O Railway Festival, Clifton Forge, VA. See <https://tinyurl.com/yyq9fzyb>



JULY 6, 20: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN.



AUG 24-25: Tweetsie Railroad's "Railroad Heritage Weekend"



SEPT 15: GSMR excursion sponsored by WVRHS&M. **SOLD OUT!**



SEPT, OCT various dates: N&W 611 visits Strasburg Railroad. See <https://tinyurl.com/y4ba6nxj>

C&O #1309 Inaugural Run Schedule



There's conflicting information on the web regarding when the inaugural run of WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD's ex-C&O class H-6 2-6-6-2 #1309 will occur. Legitimate railfan resources are reporting that the inaugural run has been moved back to July 19th. In just the past few days all #1309-related activity has been removed from the WMSR schedule of events. *Whistle Stop* will keep you posted when a definite date can be determined; you can check for yourself at <https://www.wmsr.com/schedule/>. #1309-powered trips have been designated as the "Allegheny Mountain Express".

For Your Viewing Pleasure ...

Follow this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n0VuljeSM0>, to a short YouTube video exploring N&W's steam turbine locomotive, the "Jawn Henry". The site progresses to other videos highlighting N&W steam.

For more "big steam", check out this digitized UP-produced film on their 4-8-8-4 "Big Boy": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXcD6ZdPR9k>. Included are highly informative segments on the invention of the articulated locomotive and engine maintenance. While on the subject, UP #4014 was recently refurbished (see <https://tinyurl.com/y2glv4yu>) and participated in "Golden Spike" ceremonies (see <https://tinyurl.com/y6l7hkzg>).

Check out our Facebook page for more photos and videos.

Megan's Manifest
by Megan Kegley

[ED. NOTE: Megan had asked me to add an apology for the shortness of her article this month. I think we'll all agree that no apology is necessary. The "boots-on-the-ground", local railfan reports and photos she provides have greatly improved the quality and interest in the *Whistle Stop*. It is my hope that more members will step up and contribute.]



To kick off this month's *Manifest*, here is a photo of the Norfolk Southern Safety Train in the CSX Carter yard in Kingsport, TN. This special train is used to teach classes to first responders on railroad related accidents, etc. It is definitely an eye catcher – that's for

sure! It is not every day that you see a train painted up like this! The Safety Train is pulled by a GP38-2 which is rare to see nowadays on a mainline railroad. This is one of the only decent photos I was able to get of the Safety Train while it was in the area. This is for sure on my list of favorite catches for the year.

At right is a rushed freight move to a customer in Williamson, WV, and also a power move for NS. This was NS 926 on the Appalachia District. I had been down to my friend Dave's house in Duffield and we heard this NS 926 call a clear signal west bound by Marceum (which is over near Gate City). We both looked at each other kinda funny [continued]



and was like “NS 926??? Maybe a research train? Or a power move?” The only reason we didn’t rule out it being a research train is because they usually run those with a 900 ID number. We went to a family member’s house nearby to see what it was. Then we reached this location, which is also a family member’s property, I was able to get this shot of the very short NS 926 pulling out of a curve. Very pleased with this photo nonetheless!

Now onto sharing one of my favorite types of photos - a time exposure! I took this time



exposure of a westbound NS 201 passing by the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum. Even though it was sprinkling rain, I love how this turned out! I had my friend AJ Gray with me that night, and I was showing him how to take time exposures like this with his camera. I am not a professional by any means, but I am

all for showing my friends how I take my photos!

To finish up this up this month’s *Manifest*, here is a photo of a westbound NS 22A by the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum! This 22A came by a few hours before the 201 that is pictured above. Once again, I was taking photos with my friend and fellow railfan AJ Gray; Chester



Haskins had come outside to join us! It’s always a great time down at the Bulls Gap RR Museum! I am lucky to have been able to get this photo, because it came during a small break in the thunderstorms that were moving across the area. I am happy the weather held off long enough for me to get pics of this 22A.

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

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