

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. 11

November 2019



If you thought dining elegance has disappeared from the rails you are sadly mistaken, my friend, as evidenced by the photo above of the interior of our ex-CLINCHFIELD business car 100.

October 28th 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, October 28th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St. This month's program will be provided by our very own Rick Chinouth. He will be sharing his railroad photos from a recent train trip he took across Canada! This will be a great program you do not want to miss. Bring a friend out and enjoy an evening of railroading.

Member Notes

by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson

Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with various health concerns. They are Nancy Jewel, George Ritchie, Gary Price, Sharon Eaton, Gary Street, Claudia Banner, Fred Phofl and wife, Ralph Clarke, Sharon Slagle, Connie Hunt, Jerry Harris, Jim Bishop, Wayne Davis and Lester Duncan. 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 welcome new member Robert Hoss.

Fall is here; hope everyone will enjoy the colors that are around us.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

The date for our annual Christmas Get Together has been set for Saturday, December 7th, 2019 and will be held at the Food City Banquet Room on North State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN. Please save the date on your calendar. A reservation form is attached to this edition of the *Whistle Stop*.

2019 WVRHS&M OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Nominating Committee presented the follow slate of candidates at the September meeting in addition to nominations taken from the floor. The following will be on the ballot for the 2019 election:

President: Mike Tilley	Vice President: Bob Schubel	Secretary: Jim Smallwood
Treasurer: Jeanie Walker	Historian: Gary Price	

Board of Directors (vote for 3) Edna Carter, Jim Calhoun, Rick Chinouth, Gary Street

Please note: Because Mr. Chinouth and Mr. Street may not be known to all members, their bios have been attached to the end of this newsletter.

WVRHS&M Rail Excursions

HIWASSEE GORGE TRIP

The Watauga Valley Railroad Museum sponsored our October trip through the Hiwassee Gorge in Delano, TN on October 13th. We had a full train full of happy passengers and enjoyed beautiful weather. Excellent Trip!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRAIN FALL EXCURSION

The last of several trips this year on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad will be held on November 3rd. We will have a full house on the train this date with help from 20 of our WVRHS&M members serving as hosts. Thanks to everyone who help pull these trips off.

Mechanical Department Report

by Jim Magill

Thanks to all the mechanical and cleaning committee crew for their excellent work performed over the past year on our passenger cars: 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 & Norma Hand, Edna Carter, Gloria Sims Jim Smallwood, Megan Kegley, Rick Chinouth, Norma Hand, Mike Dowdy, Dan Freeman, and Robert Hoss. (We sincerely hope no one was forgotten but, if so, apologies.) If you would like to volunteer at the Jonesborough Coach Yard, please call our office at 423-753-5797 and leave a message; we will call you back.

ROLLING STOCK

“*Powhatan Arrow*” coach (WATX 539), “*St Augustine*” coach (WATX 500), and “*Moultrie*” diner (WATX 400): all in service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

“*Crescent Harbor*” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): out on lease in Florida.

“*Clinchfield 100*” office car (WATX 100): out on tour.

In the News ...

AMTRAK Expands “Share Fares” Deals on More Routes

[AMTRAK Press Release] Amtrak announced its new and improved Share Fares deal, offering up to 45% off Amtrak travel (up to 45% on six tickets). Inspiring customers to travel together with friends and loved ones, Amtrak now offers discounts for up to six passengers as part of its Share Fares deal. The deal was previously available for four passengers and provided up to a 35% discount.

The Share Fares discount was valid for purchase on August 12 for travel after August 14 and requires a reservation two days in advance. The more the merrier on Amtrak with customers saving up to 45% on six tickets when traveling with up to six companions.

Share Fares is valid for travel on the Amtrak *Northeast Regional* and on the national network on some of the most popular trains, including the *California Zephyr*, *Capitol Limited*, *City of New Orleans*, *Cardinal*, *Empire Builder*, *Southwest Chief*, *Texas Eagle*, *Coast Starlight*, *Lake Shore Limited*, *Palmetto*, *Silver Star*, *Silver Meteor*, *Auto Train* and *Crescent*. Discount is not valid on *Acela*. Share Fares is available with promo code V291. The fare structure:

Customer one – full price
Customer four – 70% off

Customer two – 15% off
Customer five – 70% off

Customer three – 60% off
Customer six – 70% off

The offer is available for up to six customers traveling together on the same itinerary and is available at Amtrak.com. Reservations are required a minimum of two days prior to travel. This offer is not valid on the 7000-8999 Thruways. The companion and full fare passengers must travel together on the same itinerary and have tickets issued together. This offer is valid for coach seats only; no upgrades allowed. This offer is not combinable with any other discount offer. Sale prices are not available at all times and on all routes. This offer is also subject to any restrictions, blackouts and refund rules that apply to the type of fare purchased; a 25 percent cancellation fee may apply.

Chuckey Depot and Rail Museum

Chuckey Depot Artifact Sub Committee (Rick Chinouth, Chairman)

As you may remember being announced at our last WVRHS&M meeting in September, the next Chuckey Depot Museum themed exhibit will be a "Curated Exhibit" featuring WVRHS members' favorite railroad artifacts and memorabilia. We are asking members to tell us a story surrounding their artifact, describing why it's their favorite, where they obtained it, etc.

Since the new exhibit is scheduled for February 1st, 2020, and we need time to arrange collecting both your artifacts and stories, we are asking you to let us know now what you would like to offer for the upcoming exhibit. You can contact Rick Chinouth at 423-612-7647 (mobile) or let him know at the upcoming October 28th General Membership Meeting.

Thank all of you for helping make this next Chuckey Depot Museum exhibit an interesting, personal look at railroading!

Volunteers Needed to Host the Chuckey Depot/Museum

There has been six training sessions conducted for host positions at the Chuckey Depot/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 will meet some great people while promoting our railroad history. We are planning training sessions in the coming weeks - sure would like to have more volunteers helping out at the museum one a day or so a month. If interested, please call Mike Tilley 423-335-1100 to sign up for a class.

Photo Gallery



A recent trip to Cass Scenic Railroad gave your Editor a chance to view the new, terrific railfan opportunities being offered. At left is the DURBIN & GREENBRIER VALLEY's "*Cheat Mountain Salamander*" meeting the CSRR Bald Knob trip at Old Spruce on the mountain. Passengers are offered the opportunity to transfer between trains; an overnight stay in Cass or in Elkins, WV is required. Motive power on this chilly, fall day was ex-WESTERN MARYLAND BL-2 #62 and ex-B&O GP9 #6530. The scene at right shows ex-BUFFALO CREEK & GAULEY 2-8-0 #4 under restoration in the Cass shops. Plans are to offer a steam-powered trip from Cass to Durbin, WV along the Greenbrier River next year.

Megan's Manifest

by Megan Kegley



Since I did not write a *Manifest* for last month, I am going to start this one off with something that EVERYONE loves! STEAM! On October 5th, Jarrett Prince and myself decided to make a day trip to North Carolina to visit the Craggy Mountain line and chase the GSMR 1702 from Bryson City to the Nantahala Outdoor Center. I had not been able to see the 1702 under steam since they restored it recently, so this was a treat for me for sure! Yeah, shooting modern diesel power is fun, but nothing can beat being able to shoot a running steam locomotive!

It's always a great day when I get to visit my friends at the Craggy Mountain Line in Woodfin, NC. It does not matter how many times I visit the Craggy, it never fails to amaze me! We stopped here

first to visit before going on to GSMR to chase 1702. They recently painted their Alco S3 to Southern Railway scheme instead of the former Alexander Railroad paint. The guys at the Craggy have done a beautiful job on painting their Alco! On October 19, 2019 I had the pleasure of going to the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum for the **(what we hope to become an annual event)** Cars, Trucks, Tractors, and Trains show! This was



also a meet up day for a Railroad Enthusiasts group I am a part of. With both events going on around the grounds of the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum, of course I and MANY others that were there had to take some photos of passing trains. Pictured below is NS 15T going westbound by the museum with 4 ponies on point in the early morning hours. **(Sometimes we railfans will refer**



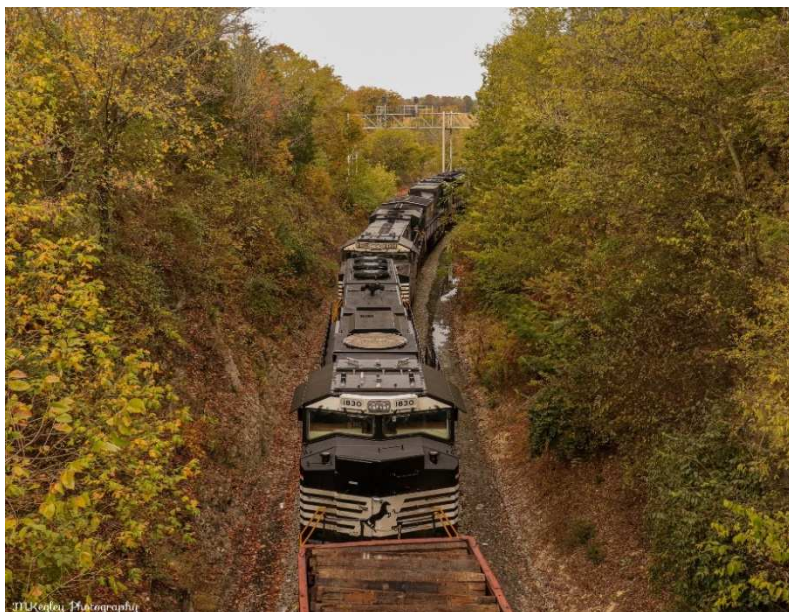
to NS locomotives as ponies since they do have the horse head logo)

No matter how many photos I take off this platform that is out by the museum, it never gets old! It is great framing for trains going either east- or westbound. I had such a great time at the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum (as I always do) being able to meet with old railroad friends, as well as making new ones, is what it is all about when it comes to the hobby of railfanning! There were railfans of all ages that came for our group meet up / transportation show from all across the states of Virginia,

Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina! All-in-all it was a fun day and I am very blessed to have been able to help setup the Cars, Trucks, Tractors, and Trains show with Bill Haskins and Wade White!

At right is a photo I took where I tried to incorporate everything in one photo! Trains, Tractors, and Automobiles!!!!

Also on October 19, 2019 NS 125 came by the Bulls Gap Railroad Museum to sit off cars in the yard at Bulls Gap. NS 125 also had 4 ponies on the lead but only three were running. The unit that is closest to me in this photo is one of the newest NS rebuilds known as the SD70ACC. This unit has been painted and rebuilt fairly recently because the paint was VERY shiny and clean,



however... this unit was not running. Although this was reversing towards me I am still thrilled to have a shot like this! Yes, I have taken many photos here but once again this spot never gets old!!! I mean how often can you stand on a bridge that is basically on top of a train?

Railfan Event Calendar

	OCT 25-27: N&W 611 visits Strasburg Railroad. See https://tinyurl.com/y4ba6nxj
	OCT 26, 27: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN. See https://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special
	NOV 3: GSMR excursion sponsored by WVRHS&M. SOLD OUT!
	NOV 2, 9, 10: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, Chattanooga, TN. See https://www.tvrail.com/events-exhibits/rides/summerville-steam-special

2019 "Autumn Colors Express"

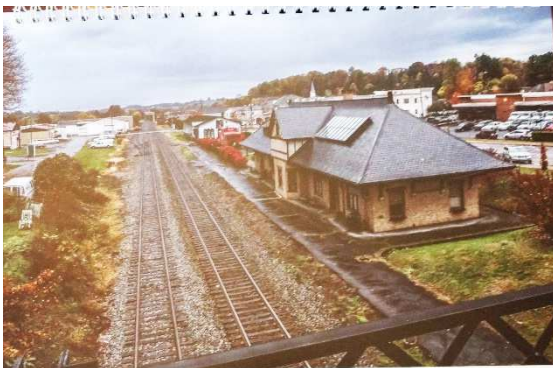
Tickets are still available for the "Autumn Colors Express" train trip taking place October 25, 26, and 27, 2019 between Huntington and Hinton, WV. Successor to the "New River Train", the excursion offers travel on luxurious vintage railcars through the beautiful New River Gorge in amazing fall foliage. To browse classes of service available and to take a look at the cars on the train, go to <https://www.autumncolorexpresswv.com>. You can also call (844) 724-5399 for ticket orders.

CSX Santa Train

The 2019 CSX Santa Train will operate November 23rd, 2019 from Pikeville, KY to Kingsport, TN. The complete schedule will be published in either next month's *Whistle Stop* or by email.

Whistle Truck

We are now taking reservations for the 2020 schedule of the WVRHS&M Whistle Truck. If you're interested in leasing, call (423) 753 5797.



Southwest Virginia Railway Depots
Brad N. McCroskey Photography

Brad McCroskey will be offering a limited number (about 20) of 8.5 x 11 spiral bound glossy calendars featuring his photography of rail depots in Southwest Virginia at the October General Membership Meeting. Cost is \$20 each. These will make great Christmas gifts for railfans. At left is a photo of the calendar's cover.

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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.



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P.O. Box 432
Johnson City, TN 37605-0432

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

DR. RICHARD W. CHINOUTH

ADDRESS: 428 MATTHEWS MILL ROAD, TELFORD, TN 37690
423-612-7647 (MOBILE) 423-257-6420 (HOME)

EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL: SCIENCE HILL HIGH SCHOOL, JOHNSON CITY, TN; PRESIDENT OF CHOIR;
SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF STUDENT COUNCIL; LETTERED, TENNIS TEAM; FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES.

COLLEGE: EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, JOHNSON CITY, TN;
B.S. CHEMISTRY, 1975; VARSITY TENNIS TEAM.

GRADUATE: UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, MEMPHIS, TN;
B.S. PHARMACY, 1978.

POST-GRADUATE: UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, MEMPHIS, TN;
DOCTOR OF PHARMACY, 1980; BOARD CERTIFICATION IN PSYCHIATRY AND
NEUROLOGY.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017 – PRESENT: RETIRED.

2000 – 2017: LILLY, USA; EXECUTIVE SALES SPECIALIST.

1985 – 2000: WOODRIDGE HOSPITAL AND FRONTIER HEALTH (JOHNSON CITY, TN);
DIRECTOR OF PHARMACY.

1984 – 1985: ALLEN TAYLOR PHARMACY (ELIZABETHTON, TN); CHIEF PHARMACIST

1983 – 1984: GREENE VALLEY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (GREENEVILLE, TN); CLINICAL
PHARMACIST.

1980 – 1983: BURGIE DRUGS (ELIZABETHTON, TN); STAFF PHARMACIST.

1978 – 1980: SOUTHERN POISON CENTER (MEMPHIS, TN); POISON INFORMATION
SPECIALIST.

GARY STREET

GARY D. STREET IS A RETIRED ELECTRONICS INSTRUCTOR / TECHNICIAN FOR THE BUCHANAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR 45 YEARS. HE IS ALSO A CERTIFIED ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN, VIRGINIA LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN, A FCC FEDERAL LICENSED BROADCAST TECHNICIAN, AND AN INDUSTRIAL ARTS MAJOR FROM EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. GARY IS AN ACTIVE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR AND HAS TWO LARGE AREA COVERAGE AMATEUR RADIO 2 METER REPEATERS IN SWVA. HE WAS CHIEF ENGINEER FOR MANY COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AND EAST KENTUCKY.

GARY HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM FOR 20+ YEARS FROM BACK IN THE 1990S. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AN AVID NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COLLECTOR FOR MANY YEARS. HE HAS RODE, CHASED, VIDEO TAPED RAILROAD EXCURSIONS AS WELL SERVED AS A HOST ON EXCURSIONS. HE HAS ALSO WORKED WITH THE MAINTENANCE CREW AT THE WVRHS&M RAIL YARD IN JONESBORO ON THEIR EQUIPMENT.

GARY AND HIS WIFE LIVE IN GRUNDY, VIRGINIA



**WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING AND MEAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2019**



IT'S TIME FOR THE WVRHS&M ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL. THIS YEAR'S GATHERING & MEAL WILL BE LIKE LAST YEAR. THE FOOD WILL BE PREPARED BY FOOD CITY, AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ENJOY A GREAT MEAL. WE WILL GATHER AT THE DEPOT AT FRANKLIN COMMONS (FOOD CITY), 920 NORTH STATE OF FRANKLIN ROAD, JOHNSON CITY, TN 37604. THE MENU WILL CONSIST OF OVEN FRIED CHICKEN, APPLE GLAZED PORK TENDERLOIN, TWICE BAKED POTATOES, MIXED VEGETABLES WITH CITRUS BUTTER, ALONG WITH SALAD, ROLLS, DESSERT, AND CHOICE OF DRINK – ALL FOR \$10.00 PER PERSON. WHAT A DEAL!!!

THE PROGRAM WILL BE A POWER POINT PRESENTATION ON THE RESTORATION OF WATAUGA VALLEY'S CLINCHFIELD 100, THE GENERAL MANAGER'S CAR FOR THE CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS. THE PROGRAM STARTS OUT WITH THE HISTORY OF CAR 100 AND SHOWS PICTURES ALL THE WAY UP 'TIL RESTROATION COMPLETION BY WATAUGA VALLEY MEMBERS THIS YEAR. SEE MANY OF OUR MEMBERS WORKING ON THE CAR AND PICTURES OF THE CAR ON ITS RECENT TOUR BACK OUT ON THE TRACKS AGAIN. THIS IS THE FIRST SHOWING OF THIS PROGRAM - YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS IT!

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, MAIL THE FORM BELOW TO WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL, P.O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN 37605-0432, ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT. THERE WILL BE GOOD FOOD AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP! DON'T MISS IT!

To make reservations, please mail the form below along with your payment to:

Watauga Valley RHS&M Annual Christmas Meal
P.O. Box 432
Johnson City, TN 37605-0432

Reservations must be received by Saturday, December 1st, 2019.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ X \$10.00 PER PERSON = Total Enclosed \$ _____