

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum and Chuckey Depot Museum dedication event for Clinchfield 676 50th Anniversary event. Story/photos on page 3.

September 23th General Membership Meeting

The next WVRHS&M meeting will be held Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Chuckey Depot Museum, 110 South 2nd St, Jonesborough, TN (at the railroad crossing). Mark your calendar so you will not miss this meeting; Our program this month will be about the Dedication Event for the Clinchfield 676 sign event. Come out, bring a friend, and enjoy a great night of railroading with your fellow railfans.

Member Notes

Please keep Gary Price, Lois Tilley, Tony King, Art Devoe, Fred Phofl and Claire Salvail in your thoughts and prayers for various reasons.

If anyone knows of a member that needs a card, thoughts for various concerns, or to request that one of our members or family be reported for various concerns in the Whistle Stop, email a request to wataugavalley@gmail.com or wataugavalley.membership.com.

Welcome Aboard! Please welcome our newest members: Anthony Morrison—Jonesborough, Kurt Pomrenke—Abingdon, VA, and Peter & Carla Hughes III—Johnson City. See you around the Depot!

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

If you know of someone interested in railroads, hand them a New Membership Brochure; Brochures are available at the General Membership meetings.

Watauga Valley Christmas Event - Mark your calendars for December 14th, 11:30 am—2:00 pm at the Food City in Kingsport. More detail to follow next month.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We will soon be taking nominations for WVRHS&M elected officials (officers and Board members) from the floor at the October meeting. If you would like to run for a position, please make sure you submit your name. Requirements are few but the Nominating Committee does ask that if you run and are elected that you will attend the Board meetings held each month.

Historical Jonesborough Train Show



Historic Jonesborough Train Show Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Held in Jonesborough, Tennessee's oldest town!

Sponsored by Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum/Chuckey Depot/Museum

Come for the train show, stay to enjoy the beautiful town and don't forget to visit the displays at the Chuckey Depot. You might see a Norfolk Southern train while there!

Event Information

Held in the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center

Directions: [117 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659](https://www.google.com/maps/place/117+Boone+Street,+Jonesborough,+TN+37659)

Phone for information: 423-753-5797 Email: wataugavalley@gmail.com

Wheelchair accessible.

Admission: \$5.00. Kids 10 and under FREE when accompanied by an adult.

Purchase a Vendor Table

Order vendors table, go

to www.wataugavalleynrhs.org.

PURCHASE NOW! \$25 Each 8 ft table

We'll contact you with details to confirm everything and communicate any remaining details.

Set up for vendors is 11:30am to 5:30pm on Friday, November 1st, 2024.

Mechanical Department Report

by Art DeVoe

If you would like to volunteer at the Spring St. Coach Yard on Tuesdays or Saturdays, please call (423) 753-5797 or email wataugavalley@embarqmail.com. There are projects for everyone; hope to hear from you.

ROLLING STOCK and EQUIPMENT

"Moultrie" diner (WATX 400): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

"St Augustine" coach (WATX 500): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

"Powhatan Arrow" coach (WATX 539): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

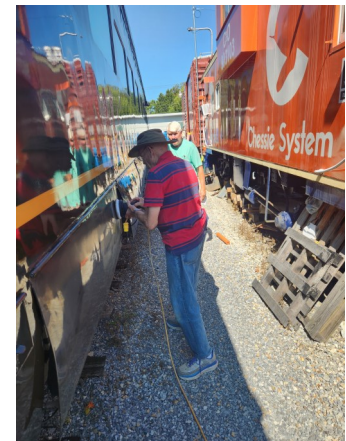
"Crescent Harbor" (WATX 2351) sleeper/lounge: at the Watauga Valley Coach yard being prepared for an overnight stay for the National Storytelling Event in October.

"Clinchfield 100" office car: Being prepared for a mainline trip.

A big thanks goes out to all of the Mechanical team and all who work on the coaches to get them ready for their duties.



Buffing of the CRR Car 100 by Jan Edwards and Howard Berry, so it will be nice and shiny for its service shortly.



Clinchfield Motor Car

The motor car donation for the Clinchfield motor car is going great, Terry Worley is preparing the car to run. We are hoping that we will be able to give rides on the car in the near future.



Chuckey Depot / Museum

The Chuckey Depot Museum and the WVRHS&M hosted an event on Saturday August 24th to celebrate the donation of a sign from the DeVault family, used on the 1992 Clinchfield Santa Train during its 50th anniversary. The dedication event brought over 125 people. Speakers included Ron Flanary, Scott Jessee, Charlie Morris, and Don Royston. It was a great time.



Things are very busy at the Chuckey Depot with record attendance during the month of August. Please come by and enjoy the new exhibit "The Art of the Railroad". We appreciate all the WVRHS&M volunteers that host and make the museum happen.

TRAINING FOR HOST AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT IN JONESBOROUGH

We getting ready to schedule host training sessions for anyone in the WVRHS&M that is interested in hosting at the Chuckey Depot .If you would like to attend one of the host training, please call the WVRHS&M office at 423 753 5797 or e mail wataugavalley@gmail.com.

New Exhibit

The Chuckey Depot Museum will be presenting a new exhibit entitled "The Art of the Railroad".

It will open on Saturday, September 28th, with a reception and light refreshments from 1:00-3:00pm. The exhibit features railroad related artwork of all styles, including the fine work of local and noted regional artists, as well as the nationally recognized traveling exhibit "Passing Freight" by New York photographic artist Stephen Mallon.

Come and see the many ways in which the railroad influenced artwork and design, from "Santa Fe" style southwestern art to the Art Deco design of railroad stations to modern works in oils, acrylics and photography. This exhibit will run through the end of February 2025.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT COACH YARD

With our equipment getting ready to depart for the season, we need volunteers to help at the coach yard in various ways including cleaning. Please call the chapter office at 423-753-5797 leave message and we will call you back.

In the News



ROANOKE CHAPTER NRHS MOVING

Last year the Roanoke Chapter NRHS was notified that they had to move to make way for condo to be built. They are moving to Omni source old property in Roanoke. They have some major work of putting up a new cover to work in and lay track. We hope the best for our friends in the Roanoke Chapter. They have moved their equipment out to interchange to Norfolk Southern at press time.



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

ROANOKE, Va. (WDBJ) - Two weeks after six members of the Virginia Museum of Transportation Board of Directors resigned, we're learning more about their reasons for leaving. At the same time, the museum's current leadership says it has acted in the best interests of the organization. Six members announced their departure from the board during the museum's annual meeting in June. The resignations came as a surprise to many supporters of the museum, but the board members who stepped aside say their concerns had been growing for months. Former Board President Will Harris cited health concerns and stress as major motivators for him. But in their letters of resignation and in the comments they delivered at the museum's annual meeting, several board members cited a variety of reasons for leaving. Among the most serious issues are questions about how the museum spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in state grant funds, how it's managing its money to make sure there are proper fiscal controls, and how the museum is developing a sustainable plan for the future.



Issues with the operation and management of the J Class #611 steam locomotive and accounting of recent steam excursions also played a role, the

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (WCYB) — The Santa Train has announced that its 110-mile journey this year from Pikeville, Kentucky, to Kingsport, Tennessee, will take place on November 23. This will be the 82nd run of the Santa Train “We are honored to once again bring the Santa Train to life and share in the joy of the holiday season,” president and chief executive officer of CSX Joe Hinrichs said. “I had the privilege of riding last year’s Santa Train and was able to see firsthand how beloved this tradition is by CSX employees, community members and volunteers alike, and we are looking forward to another year of serving the Appalachia area.” (More details of route in the next “Whistle Stop”



September 2024 WVRHS&M Excursion

Great Smoky Mtn Train Excursion on September 14 was a big success with over 700 PASSENGERS on the train. A good time for all. (Photos by Bob Hand/Mike Tilley)



Local Interest

[Below] Circa - mid to late 60's - Aerial photo looking west across what was Tennessee Street (presently University Parkway). Bottom right was Gordon's Furniture before you cross the Southern RR Tracks. Going left of the photo from there you cross the CSX and ET&WNC RR, (presently State of Franklin Road) on the right after you cross the CSX RR. is the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works, to the left is a lot for storing telephone poles, (presently a McDonalds). The building on the left corner after you cross West Walnut is currently still there, what used to be Poor Richards Deli and etc. Upper mid portion of the photo you can see the old entrance to ET-SU, looks like a horseshoe where two streets meet and come out on Lake Street, (currently Gilbreath Drive), to the right of that is University High. Source: Photo by Eddie LeSueur, Retrieved from negative by Ted Bowers, negative courtesy of Tony Morton and Ron Burns.



Posted on The Johnson City Times News on 7-23-20 by Ted Bowers. Photo by Eddie LeSueur. Retrieved from negative by TB, negative courtesy of Tony Morton and Ron Burns.

[Right] 1969 - Photo looking south at the Southern Railroad Station in downtown Johnson City. The walkway ran from North Roan to West Market. Razed during the 70's. There is interesting history during the late 50's when a rumor got out that *Elvis Presley* was on board a train making a stop in Johnson City, when a group of teenagers gathered at the station hoping to get a glimpse of the rock star, he came out and signed autographs for them. Source of photo: The Johnson City Press.



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[Left] Clinchfield Railroad - 1959 employee excursion, picture at the station on Buffalo street in downtown Johnson City. Clinchfield's # 801 on point, an EMD F7A built in 1948.

Display in the Block

by Les Billings

Happy Fall!! This is one of the best times of the year. With the Fall foliage and cooler temps, make it the finest season for getting out and about to watch and photograph trains. Although this month I will be displaying some of my *Jonesborough* Black and White images. Color will return next month. So get out and watch trains and enjoy the season.



[Above] Westbound NS 127 rounding the Salt House on a rainy Friday afternoon. A little rain never stops getting a good image.



[Left] This could be a familiar sight to some. This is looking out from the WVRHS&M coach yard as NS 16T motors past. I was waiting for the Greeneville Switcher to pick up our coaches.



[Right] At MP 31.7 we have a NS Double Stack as it will be rounding some curves and making it's way into the downtown area. You can always hear the conductor calling out this signal.



[Left] No visit to Jonesborough would be complete without a shot of a train coming by the Chuckkey Depot. This appears to be an Intermodal train heading west.

[Right] A westbound as it makes it's final curve into Jonesborough. I thought this was very appropriate for a B&W with the old residential house in the background.



[Left] A zoomed in shot down the tracks toward the Chuckkey Depot from a closed 1st street crossing. One might hope that a train will emerge from around the bend.

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL