



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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Kurt Reisweber presents the program at the October meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. His show will be a companion to the previous show he did about Western Pennsylvania, but will be with slides and will cover a wider area. We'll see slides of Penn Central, Conrail and Norfolk Southern on the former Pennsylvania Railroad between Conemaugh Narrows just west of Johnstown, PA, and Jeannette, PA, including a side trip over the Southwestern Pennsylvania Railroad between Radebaugh and Connellsville. There will be a tray of various Western Pennsylvania photos of older vintage including Penn Central in the Gallitzin area. The photo above shows a Norfolk Southern train behind an ex-Conrail unit at George's Station east of Greensburg, PA, in July 2004.

Make plans to attend!

Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg, VA.

Dinner: 6p -7p. Business: 7p - 7:30p. Program: 7:30p.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Lynchburg, Virginia



The minutes from the August and September meetings will be included in a future issue of the Blue Ridge Dispatcher.

Sincere condolences extended to Chapter President Rick Johnson and his family -

Freda Stevens Johnson, 88, of Lynchburg, died on Thursday, October 5, 2017, in Lynchburg after a short illness. She was predeceased by her late husband of 58 years, John "Johnny" Rosser Johnson in 2007. Freda was born March 29, 1929, in Lynchburg, the only child of the late Richard Houston Stevens and Emma Farmer Stevens. She is survived by her son, Ricky T. Johnson (Denise O. Mays); her grandson, Ricky T. Johnson Jr. (Tayler S. Johnson); and her precious great-granddaughter, Avery Lynne Johnson, all of Appomattox County, and all of whom she loved greatly and was so proud of. Freda also leaves behind her loving cat, Cali, and her many goldfish.



Freda graduated from Lynchburg's E.C. Glass High School in 1947, and shortly after, began working at H.E. DeWitt Lumber Co. In 1951 she began a long career in the Billing Dept. of Lynchburg Foundry Co. until her retirement in 1994. She attended Thomas Road Baptist Church. Freda was an entrepreneur, opening her own beauty salon, and later, a tropical fish shop.

As a young adult, Freda enjoyed riding horses and bicycles, bowling duck-pins and ten-pins in league and open play, roller skating at "The Merry Garden", going to cowboy/western movies, playing softball and fishing the James River. Later she enjoyed pier and surf fishing at Virginia Beach and North Carolina's Outer Banks, vegetable gardening, Hillcat baseball games, playing bingo, bus trips to play the slots in Atlantic City, NJ and Charles Town, WV, oil painting, stained glass design, chalk-painting furniture, and Saturday night dancing at New London Ruritan Club where she loved, and enjoyed socializing, with many dear friends.

Freda loved the out-of-doors, the natural world and all creatures great and small. Over the years, she has cared for, rehabilitated, and loved her horses, dogs, cats, birds, fish, ground hogs, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, foxes, and box turtles. One never knew "what" would greet you upon entering her home!

Freda also loved the holidays, especially Christmas, where numerous Christmas trees were decorated throughout her home and she entertained family and friends with delicious meals. A memorial service will be conducted on the evening of Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Tharp Funeral Home, Lynchburg, with the Rev. Lloyd Lipscomb officiating. A reception for family and friends will follow the service at the funeral home. Memorials, in Freda's memory, may be made to the Lynchburg Humane Society, 1211 Old Graves Mill Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502. Tharp Funeral Home & Crematory, Lynchburg, is assisting the family. www.tharfuneralhome.com

Annual Christmas Banquet Announcement - On Saturday December 2, 2017, the members and guests of the Blue Ridge Chapter will hold our annual Christmas Banquet. We have new caterers this year and new offerings on the buffet. As in year's past we will start our social hour at 6:00 pm. that includes steamed shrimp, sodas, iced tea and coffee. Fruit punch and munchies will also be available. At 7:00 pm. our home-style buffet dinner with a freshly prepared salad will start. Finishing up with a variety of pies for dessert. After dinner we will have a short railroad presentation to round out the evening.

Firm reservations are required. We would like for you to sign up starting with the September BRC regular meeting. Payments will be accepted starting at the September BRC meeting. Cost is \$20.00 per member or guest. Friends of the BRC, NRHS are most welcome. Please contact me if you have any questions. Your participation is strongly encouraged and will be appreciated. If we don't have twenty five or more attend this banquet it will most likely be our last catered Christmas Banquet. It will be held in the former Southern Railway Depot in Altavista, Va. currently the Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce, Washington Street, Altavista, Va. 24517.

Hope to see many of you there. It's always a fun evening and a way to thank our significant others for all they do for us.

Regards, Norris



Buckingham Branch business car happenings -

Wayland Moore sent these pictures of Buckingham Branch's business car "Arvonian". As you may recall, this car was spotted heading north on the rear of NS train 36Q on Feb. 13, 2017.

Top: Car sits in the BBR yard in Charlottesville.

Bottom: Car in use on an employee appreciation trip seen at Goshen, VA. Sep. 30, 2017.



Former NS excursion coaches in Lynchburg -

In August NS sold at auction five coach cars that had been used on recent 611 excursion trips. Two were purchased by the Adirondack Scenic Railroad in New York State. It is assumed these two cars that were interchanged from NS to CSX in early October are the two going to NY. Spotted from the John Lynch bridge in downtown Lynchburg. (G. Harper)



Seat upgrades - Amtrak announced recently that it was undertaking a seat replacement project in its Corridor Amfleet fleet. One business class coach, 81525, showed up on the Regional on October 4. They do look nice. (G. Harper)



NS research car 32 in town - NS 32 (left) arrived at Kemper Street station on Sunday, October 1 in a special move powered by NS SD40-2 3514. The car was added to the rear of the Regional train on Monday night (lower left, seen with Amtrak #19) and departed town Tuesday morning. It returned Friday night. The unit used (below right) remained at Kemper street to take the car back to Roanoke. (G. Harper)





Loram ballast cleaner was spotted at Reusens Sep. 22. It is, indeed, a monstrously large contraption and quite impressive when seen at work. The large wheels on either side dig up the ballast from the crosstie ends, remove the dirt and set down cleaned ballast, very important for good right-of-way drainage. (G. Harper)



Two Canadian Pacific units were seen on a westbound train of grain empties, V98704, at Reusens Oct. 6. While foreign power is rather common on Norfolk Southern trains passing through town, that is not the case on CSX. Sightings of foreign power are rather infrequent. (G. Harper)

Oil train empties pass thought town - It has been almost two years since the last crude oil trains operated through Lynchburg. One train of empty tank cars has been sitting at the transloading terminal in Yorktown since service ceased, but were finally moved on Sep. 22. The train, K08116, passed through town about 10:20 p.m.

Old Dominion Chapter BBRR Dillwyn trips scheduled - Autumn Leaf Rambler and Santa Train trips have been scheduled on the Dillwyn line of the Buckingham Branch RR in October and December, respectively. Tickets are available on a few trips. The popularity if these runs is evident, as many are already sold out. Brochure at http://www.odcnrhs.org/excursions_files/springtime_special.pdf
Ticket purchase at <https://odcnrhs.ticketleap.com/>

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Lynchburg Rail Day 2018. 40th year! Saturday, August 11, 2018.