



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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March 2016

No. 3

Transcontinental



Trip #4



Don Wells

Rivanna Chapter NRHS



A presentation to
Blue Ridge Chapter NRHS
March 09, 2016



Don Wells of the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS, in Charlottesville brings us the March program for the Blue Chapter, NRHS. Entitled "Transcontinental Amtrak Trip #4" he will describe his fourth roundtrip to the West Coast on Amtrak long-distance trains, made in May-June 2015. He will discuss/demonstrate Guest Rewards, ticket procedures, first-class lounges, red-caps, Amtrak car numbering, Scenicliner roomette features, wi-fi on Amtrak, dining car menus, beer and movies every evening on the trip, wrap-around-window lounge cars, scanners on Amtrak trains, the new Lincoln Service in Illinois, crossing the Mississippi River on the MacArthur Bridge, Tower 55 in Fort Worth, the famous Pecos River High Bridge in West Texas, Paisano Pass (highest point on the Sunset Route), the Border Patrol opposite Ciudad Juarez, Southern Pacific's wonderful Coast Division, magnificent Donner Pass, Price Canyon in Utah, Ruby Canyon in Colorado, the Colorado River at flood stage, young eagles ready to fly in Byers Canyon, Denver's renovated Union Station, "community seating" in dining cars, and a midnight race to catch up with the *Cardinal* in Indiana. His presentation will be a Powerpoint talk with embedded videos and photos, first presented at the July 2015 meeting of Rivanna Chapter.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016. 6:00 p.m.
Charley's Restaurant 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg, VA.



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



Minutes of Meeting February 19, 2016

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at Charley's Restaurant at 7.29 p.m. Rick welcomed 17 members and 2 guests for a total of 19 in attendance. Guests were Dona Duvall, and Matt Bell. Note that Matt Bell paid his local dues and joined the Blue Ridge Chapter at this meeting. Rick asked that the reading of the minutes of the January 2016 meeting be dispensed. No corrections to the January minutes. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the "Blue Ridge Dispatcher".

Treasurer's Report: John Tanner

Old Business: President Rick Johnson thanked Lloyd and Elizabeth Lipscomb for their show of their trip to Canada. It was a wonderful show and was attended by 16 people. This is an impressive turnout for a BRC "Fun Meeting". BRC Secretary's Note: Rick Johnson also had a beautiful railroad digital photography show that he presented. Rick reported that 7 previous BRC members had not paid their 2016 local BRC membership dues. Dues were due at the end of 2015.

New Business: Newest BRC member Matt Bell works for the Danville Register & Bee Newspaper in Danville, Va. He brought a batch of SOVA magazines that featured the 2015 NS Excursions of the N&W Class J-611 to sell. Cover price is \$3.00 each. Matt offered them to BRC members for \$2.00 each. Fred Mayer signed up to present our July 13, 2016 show. Topic TBD.

Derek Wimberly reported that the VMT Train Lover's Day was postponed from February 13, 2106 until the weekend of February 20, 2016 due to severe cold temperatures in Roanoke, Va.

Vice President's Report: Gale McKinley absent – No Report

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners: Norris Deyerle - Norris thanked Garland for his hard work as Editor. Thanks to Skip Hansberry and Lee Hawkins for their recent newsletter submissions. Norris asked for volunteers to help man a BRC sales table at the upcoming C&OHS train show in Clifton Forge, VA, on the weekend of February 20 & 21, 2016. He and his wife Peggy are going to man the BRC table on Saturday, February 20th. No volunteers were willing to help.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS National Representative: Bob Leslie - No Report

Webmaster Report: John Siegle absent – No Report

Editor's Report: Garland Harper absent – No Report

Closing Remarks: Rick invited everyone to stay for Derek Wimberly's DVD presentation produced by Trains Magazine about the 2015 N&W J-611 restoration and excursions. He invited everyone to attend our March 9, 2016, regular monthly meeting. Don Wells of the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS, will have a digital presentation titled "Transcontinental Amtrak Guest Rewards Trip #4". Rick also reminded everyone about Steve Hutchison providing our "Fun Meeting" program on March 23, 2016.

50/50 Raffle: Money won by Lloyd Lipscomb.

Respectfully submitted,
Norris Deyerle

**BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER – INFORMATION
MARCH 2016**

WELCOME NEW BRC MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Blue Ridge Chapter: Gene Patzsch and Matt Bell.
Welcome aboard guys!!!
-Rick

2016 PROGRAMS NEEDED

Presently the meetings of August 10th, September 14th and December 14th are open and need to be filled for our entertainment this year! If you would like to present a program, know someone who would, or have any suggestions, please contact me. Thanks!
-Rick

The Lynchburg Museum opens a railroad-themed exhibit

A Great Change in the Situation of Man:

Lynchburg's Railroads

Exhibit Opening

Saturday, March 12, 2016. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Lynchburg Museum

901 Court St.

Lynchburg, VA 24504

434-455-6226

Admission is FREE!

Bill Arnold will present a talk on the work of O. Winston Link.

Many of Link's photographs will be on site for this event.



ALSO!!!

Wreck of the Old 97 Program Presented by Howard Gregory

Friday, August 12, 2016. 3:00pm – 5:00pm.

Presented in conjunction with the Lynchburg Museum's exhibit, A Great Change in the Situation of Man: Lynchburg's Railroads, speaker Howard Gregory will deliver a presentation on the 1903 derailment of Southern Railway's fast mail train "Old 97".

WEATHER DISASTER AT EVERGREEN, VA



Total destruction is viewed looking east down Norfolk Southern's (former N&W) mainline through the sleepy little community of Evergreen, Va. (Virginia Division's Blue Ridge District milepost N175.6) after a devastating EF3 tornado tore a 17 mile scar through Appomattox Co. Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 3:30 pm. The railroad rides high above this once beautiful little village on a large fill...the south side fill embankment serving to catch the mementoes of people's lives. -Rick Johnson



Norfolk Southern train 236 glides eastbound high above the ravaged community of Evergreen, VA after an EF3 tornado destroyed everything in its path. A young lady and her 2 year old daughter rode the storm out under a mattress in the basement of the house that once stood in the upper left hand side of the photo. The house was torn completely off its foundation in the 165 MPH winds February 26, 2016. -Rick Johnson - II

Norfolk Southern combines railway operating regions to streamline operations, drive profitability, and support quality service

NORFOLK, Va., March 1, 2016 – Norfolk Southern today announced it is consolidating its three operating regions into two, effective March 15. The decision to further streamline railroad operations is part of the company's ongoing execution of its five-year strategic plan, announced in December 2015, to enhance operating efficiencies, reduce costs, drive profitability, and accelerate growth. As previously announced, NS is targeting annual expense savings of \$650 million by 2020.

"We are committed to aggressively controlling costs while delivering the high levels of superior service that our customers value," said Mike Wheeler, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"Consolidating our operating regions will generate productivity savings, not only through right-sizing, but also by leveraging advancements in train dispatch technologies that support more fluid and efficient movement of freight across the network. As we continue to execute on our five-year strategic plan, we are confident that these steps will make Norfolk Southern a faster, lower-cost, and more profitable railroad."

Earlier this year, Norfolk Southern streamlined division operations by combining the former Virginia and Pocahontas divisions into a larger Pocahontas Division. This became effective Feb. 1, and followed other key strategic initiatives including the reduction from three corporate office locations to two, restructuring of the Triple Crown Services subsidiary, integration of the D&H South Line to increase options for shippers, and idling of certain parts of the 'West Virginia Secondary' line.

Norfolk Southern's network spans 22 states in the eastern U.S. The railroad presently manages train operations across 10 operating divisions that are part of three larger operating regions – the Eastern, Western, and Northern regions.

Under the new structure, effective March 15, Norfolk Southern's network will be divided into Northern and Southern regions only. The Northern Region will include the Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Dearborn, Lake, and Illinois divisions. Greg Comstock, a 41-year veteran of Norfolk Southern operations, will be the region's general manager. The region's chief engineers will be Eddie Otey, maintenance of way and structures, and Mick Ireton, communications and signals. The Southern Region will include the Piedmont, Alabama, Georgia, Central, and Pocahontas divisions. Todd Reynolds, a 22-year veteran of Norfolk Southern operations, will be the region's general manager. The region's chief engineers will be Lucious Bobbitt, maintenance of way and structures, and Randall Smith, communications and signals.

Each of the two consolidated regions will support approximately 1,000 daily crew starts for long-haul train operations, connecting customers and communities to global markets with freight rail that moves consumer goods, automobiles, coal, grain, and products essential to U.S. households, businesses, and industries.

Cass Scenic to have a railfan weekend in July

March 4, 2016 - *Trains* News Wire. contributed by Ed Mayover

CASS, W.Va. — The Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association will be hosting a new photography venue in 2016. The association's "Railfan Express" will appeal to association members, but also those with an interest in steam railroading and photography.

The photography event will take place on the Cass Scenic Railroad on July 16-17, 2016 in conjunction with the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad's "Great Train Race" weekend. Featuring a "turned" Shay locomotive, the event will include multiple runby locations and an authentic freight consist.

The 2016 event will operate in place of the annual Railfan Weekend in May which will not be held in 2016 due to "relatively low attendance in 2014 and 2015 and the likelihood of multiple railfan events competing for railfan attendance in 2016," according to the association's website.

The National Transportation Safety Board releases its report on the April, 2014, Lynchburg oil train derailment

Railroad Accident Brief:
CSXT Petroleum Crude Oil Train Derailment and Hazardous Materials Release
<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Pages/RAB1601.aspx>

Executive Summary

On April 30, 2014, at 1:54 p.m. eastern daylight time, 17 CSX Transportation (CSXT) tank cars on petroleum crude oil unit train K08227 derailed in Lynchburg, Virginia. Three of the derailed cars were partially submerged in the James River. One was breached and released about 29,868 gallons of crude oil into the river, some of which caught fire. (See figure 1.)

No injuries to the public or crew were reported. At the time of the accident, it was cloudy and raining lightly; the temperature was 53°F. The CSXT estimated the damages at \$1.2 million, not including environmental remediation.



Figure 1. Accident scene. (NTSB)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of this accident was a broken rail caused by a reverse detail fracture with evidence of rolling contact fatigue.

For more details about this accident, visit www.nts.gov/investigations/dms.html and search for NTSB accident ID DCA14FR001.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2016 Calendar of Events
58th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Chapter
A Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partner
Compiled By Norris Deyerle

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners
Newly updated or added events since last month printed in "Bold Italics".

N&W Class J 611 2016 Excursion Schedule Info & Tickets: www.nctrans.org and www.FireUp611.org {VMT}. Note a partial listing of the 2016 excursion schedule in this "Calendar of Events"!

Notice: I urge our friends with the other railway historical groups and museums to take advantage of these two websites to promote your train show: <http://trc.trains.com/events.aspx> or <http://modelshopsusa.com/other/raillinks.php>. There is no cost to promote your train show on these websites. It's simple to add your event to their websites and your event approval is fast and efficient. These are websites that will help us all get the word out about our events!

MARCH 2016

03-09-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting, Don Wells {Rivanna Chapter, NRHS member}, "Transcontinental Amtrak Guest Rewards Trip #4", Digital Presentation

03-12-16: {Saturday} Harrisburg Railroad Show, Middletown {PA} First Church of God, Info: <http://harrisburgnrhs.org>. Listed in Key, Lock & Lantern's Railroad Event Calendar.

03-12-16: {Saturday} Lynchburg Museum's railroad exhibit opens. A Great Change in the Situation of Man: Lynchburg's Railroads. Details on page 3.

03-20-16: {Sunday} Virginia Train Collectors Spring Train Show, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Bishop Ireton Center, Knights of Columbus Lodge, 3300 Old Courthouse Road, Chesterfield County, Va. 23236. Admission \$6.00 at the door, Children under 12 admitted free. Vendor Tables are still available. For information call Russell Youens at 804-342-6023. Info courtesy of Tom Riddle

03-23-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting" Steve Hutchison presentation of digital photos taken in Nevada, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina covering main line action, museums and a short line run entitled "Three Years of Here and There". Garland has more details regarding Steve's presentation in this newsletter. Steve's programs are always top notch or "Notch 8" should I say? Ha!

APRIL 2016

04-09-16: {Saturday} N&W Class J 611 "The Virginian" Excursion, Spencer, NC to Lynchburg, VA. Info & tickets: www.nctrans.org

04-13-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting – Wayland Moore Presentation

MAY 2016

05-01-16: {Sunday} Augusta County Railroad Museum and Model Railroad Club's 30th. Annual Shenandoah Valley Model Train and Railroading Show, 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm., Augusta Expoland, Fishersville, Va. For further information email Annual-Train-Show@acmrrc.org

05-07 & 08-16: {Saturday & Sunday} N&W Class J 611 "The Powhatan Arrow" Excursion, Roanoke, VA to Lynchburg, VA Info & Tickets: www.FireUp611.org

05-07 & 08-16: {Saturday & Sunday} N&W Class J 611 "The Pelican" Excursion, Roanoke, VA to Walton {Radford}, VA Info & Tickets: www.FireUp611.org

05-11-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting – Kurt Reisweber Presentation

05-19 thru 22-16: {Thursday – Sunday} Norfolk & Western Historical Society 2016 Convention, "Return to the Appalachian Coalfields", Wonderful coal field photo opportunities, Hilton Garden Inn, Pikeville, KY. Info: www.nrhs.org

05-25-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

JUNE 2016

06-8-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting, Robin Shavers Slide Presentation, "Railroading Across America, Back In The Years"

06-25-16: {Saturday} 13th North Carolina Rail Fair, Metrolina Expo Center, Building 1, Charlotte, NC.
Info: www.gserr.com/shows.htm

06-26 thru 07-02-16: {Sunday – Saturday} NRHS RailCamp "East", Newark, DE

JULY 2016

07-13-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting, Fred Mayer Presentation TBD.

07-16&17-16: {Saturday & Sunday} Cass Scenic Railfan Weekend, The Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association will be hosting a new photography venue in conjunction with a Durbin & Greenbrier Valley event. Courtesy of Ed Mayover via the "Trains News Wire". Info:

www.msrlha.org

07-19 thru 24-16: {Tuesday – Sunday} NRHS National Convention, Denver, CO.

07-27-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

07-27-31-16: {Wednesday – Sunday} C&OHS 2016 Conference, In connection with the refurbishing of C&O H-6 No. 1309 for service on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad out of Cumberland, Md. Ramada Inn in downtown Cumberland, Md. Room Reservations: 301-724-8800, C&OHS special room rate of \$99.00. Info: www.cohs.org

07-31 thru 08-07-16: {Sunday – Sunday} NRHS RailCamp "Northwest", Tacoma, WA.

AUGUST 2016

08-10-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting

08-12-16: {Friday} Wreck of the Old 97 Program Presented by Howard Gregory. 3:00pm – 5:00pm at the Lynchburg Museum.

08-13-16: {Saturday} 38th. Annual Lynchburg Rail Day 2016 presented by the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, Air conditioned Boonsboro Ruritan Club, 1065 Coffee Road, Lynchburg, Va. 24503. For train show details or to rent a Vendor Table please contact LRD 2016 Chairman Barry Moorefield, rockdalefarm@live.com, LRD 2016 Table Registrar John Tanner, {434} 525-1318 or flytrains@yahoo.com, Or LRD 2016 Train Show Coordinator Norris Deyerle {434} 237-4912 or railcow@msn.com, View past Lynchburg Rail Day train shows at www.blueridgenrhs.org. The longest running model train show in Central Virginia. Each year has truly become a "family reunion" for area model train lovers! Enjoy operating layouts in different scales and more! Handicapped accessible facility!

SEPTEMBER 2016

09-14-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting

09-28-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

OCTOBER 2016

10-12-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting – Kurt Reisweber Presentation

NOVEMBER 2016

11-09-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting – Wayland Moore Presentation

11-23-16: {Wednesday} ALERT! NO BRC, NRHS "FUN MEETING" DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 2016

12-03-16: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet

12-14-16: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Regular Monthly Meeting

12-17-16: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Kemper Street Station Holiday Gathering

“Lynchburg Rail Day 2016”, Saturday, August 13, 2016.
Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Website: www.blueridgenrhs.org

Rails to Trails: High Bridge Trail State Park:

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hig.shtml>

<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/OutdoorsAndSports/HighBridgeTrailStatePark/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/friendsofhighbridgetrail/>

Historical USGS Topographical Maps: A great research tool for locating abandoned railroad lines, etc.

<http://nationalmap.gov/historical/>

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation – Free Official State of Virginia Railroad Map, Write: 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Va. 23219

Phone: 804-786-4440 Website: www.drpt.virginia.gov

Rail Cam Suggested Viewing by Lee Hawkins: www.railserve.com has been on my suggested list for some time but BRC member Lee Hawkins noticed that a new location has been added. Log on to <http://www.railserve.com/RailCams/> You will see the Thomasville, NC rail cam located in downtown Thomasville, NC right on the Southern {NS} mainline.

Model Railroading:

High Bridge Railroad Club, Farmville, Va. Info: www.sites.google.com/site/hbrrclub

Modern Day Railroading:

Norfolk Southern and CSX Locomotives – The Diesel Shop, NS and CSX Loco rosters with professional quality photographs. The NS site includes NS Heritage locomotives.

<http://www.thedieselshop.us/NS.HTML> & <http://www.thedieselshop.us/CSX.HTML>

“Fallen Flag” railroad of local interest:

Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad, The old “fast and perfect” railroad that ran between Gretna and Rocky Mount, Va.: <http://www.fandprailroad.org>

Locomotive Search Tool And Railroad Photos Link: www.railbaron.rrpicturearchives.net

Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: www.varailheritage.org, www.vmt.org,

www.linkmuseum.org, www.nctrans.org, www.RoanokeNRHS.org,

<http://nrhsrivanna.blogspot.com>, www.dcnrhs.org, www.odcnrhs.org www.nwhs.org,

www.cohs.org, www.csxthsociety.org, www.thecrhs.org, www.theruralretreatdepot.com,

www.srha.org, www.rfandp.org www.vatraincollectors.com, www.traincollectors.org,

www.railroadcollectors.org, www.nhvry.org, www.norfolksouthernhs.org,

www.RailServe.com, www.gsmr.com, www.trains.com, www.TrainFinder.com, www.gserr.com,

www.wghshow.com, www.drpt.virginia.gov, www.crewerailroadmuseum.org

Norfolk Southern/TVRM Steam Excursion Website: <http://www.21stcenturysteam.com> OR

<http://www.tvrail.com/pages/21st-century-steam>

Steam Train Events in the United States and Canada: www.diary.svsfilm.com

Steam Locomotive Locations: www.steamlocomotive.com

Railroad Historical Information and Related Photos: www.hawkinsrails.net

Railroad Photos: www.railsinvirginia.com, www.railfirephotography.com

Key Lock & Lantern Railroad History and Preservation Organization, www.klnl.org

***Railrodiana Collectors Association, Inc. {RCAI}*, www.railroadcollectors.org**

Danville & Western Ry. Website: Railway operated in Southwestern Virginia between Danville and Stuart. <http://southern-railway.railfan.net/dw/>

Trains & Travel International: www.traintrips.biz

Additional links to other NRHS Chapters, Railroad Historical Societies and Museums available at www.blueridgenrhs.org

Virginia Museum Of Transportation Rail Cam: <http://www.nwhs.org/cam/vmt>

Roanoke, Va. Rail Cam: <http://128.173.197.94:443/RRCmov>

SIGHTINGS

Rick Johnson – II had the good fortune to catch Norfolk Southern's first DC to AC traction locomotives, which sport a highly distinctive paint scheme, in action on the Winston-Salem line recently. He shares two photos with us here.



NS train Q56 southbound south of Boones Mill, VA. Friend of the Blue Ridge Chapter Chad Jordan is the engineer. Feb. 20, 2016.



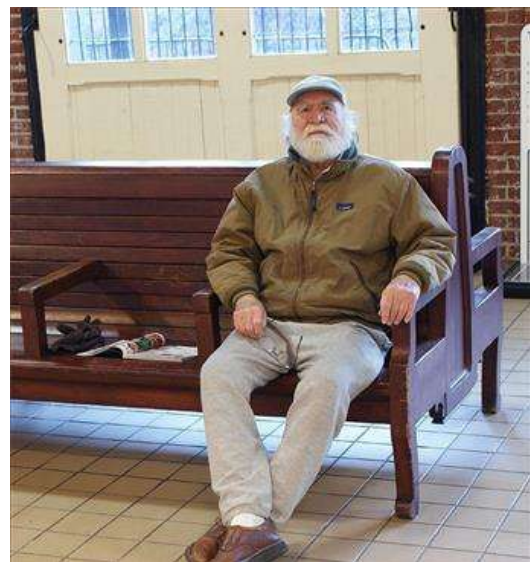
Train Q56 seen earlier near Starkey, VA.

March Fun Meeting Details (and quiz) - As mentioned in Norris's Calendar of Events the March 2016 BRC, NRHS, "Fun Meeting" features a Steve Hutchison presentation of digital photos taken in Nevada, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina covering main line action, museums and a short line run. It's entitled "Three Years of Here and There". Below is a mystery photo from his show. Can you identify the location? Can't right now? Then be sure to attend the March Fun meeting. Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at our usual meeting location, Charley's Restaurant. We'll get started around 7:00 p.m.



Former BRC member, Garland Gay, Sr. dies – Garland M. Gay, Sr., A well-known architect for many years in the Lynchburg area and a former Blue Ridge Chapter died February 16, 2016, at the age of 91, or as he preferred to say "100 minus 9!". He was born in Lynchburg January 24, 1925, to Samuel Rufus and Beatrice Mason Gay. He was a graduate of E.C. Glass High School, the University of Virginia and the UVa School of Architecture. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a pilot. In 1947 he married the love of his life, Margaret Douglas Meriwether. Garland was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Peggy and his two brothers, Samuel R. Gay, Jr and Henry Hamner Gay.

Garland was fond of wildlife and of trains. Your Editor, also named Garland with a wife also named Peggy, recalls spending time with Garland trackside at two notable Lynchburg locations: the power plant at Reusens and Kemper Street Station, as pictured below. You'll be missed.



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The BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER is published by the Blue Ridge Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Blue Ridge Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society unless otherwise stated.

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Lynchburg Rail Day 2016. Saturday, August 13, 2016.