



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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SOU 722 Jonesboro, GA. June 12, 1975.



Georgia RR. Camak, GA. May 1973.

RAILFANNING ATLANTA, GEORGIA - 1970s

Our December program will be presented by special guest, Felix Freeman of Roanoke. (see profile on page 3) This program will feature the Atlanta area in the 1970's and covers a broad range of interests!!! SOU passenger, freight, roster and depots along with a fair amount of SCL, L&N and Georgia Railroad. There will also be coverage of the Georgia Railroad mixed trains, too!!! "My presentation is a good representation of my efforts during the period that I lived and worked in Atlanta."

Wednesday, December 14, 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



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS
Minutes of Meeting – November 9, 2016

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at Charley's Restaurant at 7:30 pm. Rick welcomed 28 members and 2 guest for a total of 30 in attendance. Our guests for the evening were Deborah & Dona Duvall. Rick also welcomed new BRC member Wiley Wright. Rick announced that Norris had been moved to room 122 at the Summit Rehab on Enterprise Dr. for physical therapy. Earl Guthrow and Fred Mayer updated us on Norris' improving condition. Rick recognized Tom Ledford back in attendance after a recent hospitalization. Lou Revelle asked if BRC members, individually or as a group, would have any suggestions or items to contribute to the Campbell Co. museum for a railroad display. There was no response.

Rick asked that the reading of the October 2016 minutes be dispensed. The minutes were approved as published in the "Blue Ridge Dispatcher" with no additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report: John Tanner reported

Old Business: Rick reminded everyone that money for our upcoming Christmas Banquet in Altavista on Saturday, December 3 was being collected with a deadline of Friday, November 18. The cost will again be \$15.00 per person and guest are welcome. Norris is providing a new 611 video for our evening's program and Derek will provide the music.

Officer elections, delayed from October due to attendance meeting quorum requirements, were held. Nominations were closed after no further nominations were received from the floor. John Siegle motioned that the following nominations be accepted, Rick Johnson (President), Gale McKinley (Vice President), John Tanner (Treasurer) and Bob Leslie (National Representative), it was seconded by Earl Guthrow and Derek Wimberly. The vote for the nominees was unanimous. There was no nominee for Secretary thus leaving this position vacant.

John Tanner informed everyone that the Boonsboro Ruritan Club had been rented for August 12, 2017 for Lynchburg Rail Day.

Rick informed everyone that Liberty University declined to participate any further with hosting the BRC Railcam Project. LU was considering providing a site and networking for the project. Rick noted that, although approved, no BRC funds had been spent on this project.

Rick asked that anyone considering presenting a program next year, let him know, as the schedule is about half full.

New Business: Rick stated that he was accepting payment for "local" BRC dues which are \$13.00. He also stated that everyone was responsible for paying their National dues directly to NRHS, not the BRC.

John Tanner discussed making annual BRC donations with funds generated by Railday. Tom Ledford made a motion to accept those suggested donations, with the exception of paint for a private owner's C&O caboose project due to the private ownership of same. Earl Guthrow seconded. Passed by vote.

Skip Hansberry discussed the status of the VBR caboose project which was in need of funds.

Vice President's Report: Gale McKinley – Reported that National dues were due and asked that members pay their dues in a timely manner. Gale also stressed the importance of National and asked that everyone renew their National membership.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners: Norris Deyerle - absent due to illness

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS National Representative: Bob Leslie – Updated us on the NRHS directors meeting in Portland.

Webmaster Report: John Siegle - No report

Editor's Report: Garland Harper - Absent, but Rick thanked Garland for getting the newsletter out.

Programs: There will be NO "Fun Meeting" in November. December will bring in a special guest speaker/presenter, Felix Freeman, to provide our program.

Wayland Moore presented the evening's program consisting of a many faceted transportation trip overseas.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Jean Raas won with special thanks to Lee Hawkins for volunteering to run the raffle tonight!

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Johnson, acting BRC Secretary

DECEMBER PRESENTER PROFILE

"I received a BSME (Mechanical Engineering) degree from the University of Kentucky and went to work for Southern Railway in May of 1970 as a Management Trainee in the Mechanical Department. From 1971 until 1978 I worked as a General Foreman at the Pegram locomotive shop in Atlanta. This was a good time to be there as we maintained Alcos, E units and a lot of the F units. In 1978 I was transferred to North Carolina and spent most of my time there working in Greensboro and Winston Salem as a General Foreman. My duties at Winston Salem included Mechanical Department responsibilities on the Winston Salem Southbound and High Point, Thomasville and Denton. In 1995 I was transferred to Roanoke to work as a Facility Engineer. I retired in 2001 and have lived in Roanoke since. I have been a long time railfan and enjoy photography. Also I am a long time NRHS member and have been in the Louisville and Atlanta chapters and am now in the Greensboro Chapter."



Photo By: Rick Johnson

SIGHTINGS

Nov. 12 - (right) NS 7333, former CEFX 121, seen leading NS train 290 across the James River.
(G. Harper)



Nov. 27 - (above) Passenger train traffic in and out of Lynchburg was quite heavy over the Thanksgiving weekend. Seen here is the crowd waiting to board #156 as it backs into the station on the Sunday morning after Thanksgiving. (G. Harper)

Dec. 1 - (right) Unusual power spent some time in Lynchburg in December. Normally confined to yard operations CSXT SW1500 #1103 seen stretching its "legs" on the main line returning from the mill at Big Island on local train H74401.
(G. Harper)



Dec. 10 - (left) NS 1069, the Virginian unit, led train 12R out of Lynchburg. Seen from the 5th St. bridge. (G. Harper)



Christmas Open House
with the
Shenandoah Southern Model Railroad



Saturday, December 17, 2016. 1:00 pm – 4:00pm
At the home of John & Mary Siegle, 1225 Krise Circle (corner of Rugby and Krise)
Lynchburg, VA. 434-384-6951

Children age 9 and under must be accompanied by a parent in the train room!
RR visits at other times welcomed by appointment.



Charlottesville contractor chosen to build Roanoke's passenger train platform

By Jeff Sturgeon jeff.sturgeon@roanoke.com 540-981-3251



Courtesy of Roanoke

This is a rendering of the Amtrak platform that is slated to be built in downtown Roanoke.

Rail officials have chosen Falconer Construction Co. to build the future Amtrak boarding platform in downtown Roanoke, according to Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation spokesman Chris Smith. The agency erroneously said earlier this week that a contractor had yet to be chosen. Falconer, a Charlottesville-based contractor, has assigned the project to the company's Elliston area office.

Crews will begin early next year to build a raised waiting and boarding area near Norfolk Avenue for a contracted price of \$10.9 million.

An artist's concept drawing released by Roanoke officials Thursday depicts a pitched roof canopy with room underneath for people to stand. City officials said the finished platform may differ slightly from the rendering.

Amtrak will operate the train on Norfolk Southern tracks. Its Northeast Regional train service, which connects Lynchburg to a variety of Mid-Atlantic and New England destinations, will be extended to Roanoke by late 2017, under current plans.

The state has agreed to furnish \$101.6 million to Norfolk Southern for capital projects necessary for Roanoke to join Amtrak's network.

Earlier this year, neither of two bidders for the platform job said they could finish in time for a late 2017 launch, at which point Norfolk Southern repeated the call for bids. In the subsequent round, Falconer said it could meet the late 2017 goal and was chosen by the railroad to build the platform, Smith said. He offered the information when asked why platform construction had not started this fall as the agency had predicted more than six months ago.

Staff writer Matt Chittum contributed to this report.

Portion of new double track placed into service.

Work for the past year or so has been underway restoring a section of double track on the former Southern Ry. south of Altavista, VA. between current control points ("plants" as they were once called) Green, MP 202.1, and Smothers, MP 212.0. On November 21 approximately five miles of the new track was placed into service. The control point at Green was eliminated, and a new control point, named Elba, MP 207.2, was established. Once all work is completed the control point at Smothers will be eliminated. This will give NS a 32-mile stretch of double track from Deal, MP 190.0, to White, MP 222.0, and will help eliminate a traffic bottleneck south of the Hurt Connection. Below are some pictures taken that day. Signals compliant with Positive Train Control mandates were placed into service as well. (All photos. G. Harper)



Above: Old signal bridge at Hurt comes down.



Above: Sycamore Creek Road. Aug. 8, 2016.
Below: Nov. 21, 2016. ~ MP 204.



Left: NS 214 northbound next to new track to be placed into service later in the day. Taken from Rockford School Rd., north of Gretna.



Right: Control Point at Smothers being prepped for elimination.



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER – INFORMATION DECEMBER 2016

WELCOME NEW BRC MEMBER

The Blue Ridge Chapter would like to welcome Wiley Wright to its membership!!!

NORRIS DEYERLE UPDATE

Norris has been hospitalized since August 29th but we're very happy to report that he is doing much better. Norris is now undergoing physical therapy at the Summit Rehab (Room 122) located at 1300 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, Va. 24502. His direct phone is 434-455-0935. Please give him a call, stop by to see him and continue to keep him and his family in your prayers. At right: Norris takes a break from reading his Blue Ridge Dispatcher to enjoy one of his favorite TV personalities bringing the weather.]



CONGRATULATIONS



The Blue Ridge Chapter would like to congratulate Rail Day chairman, Barry Moorefield, upon his recent engagement and marriage to Susan Brooks on November 10th! Barry, preparing for Rail Day 2017 ought to be a lot easier now that you have a "co-chair" to assist. We wish you both the best!!!

Photo By: Rick Johnson

2017 BRC DUES

BRC dues are now being collected with many members already paid. BRC yearly dues are again \$13.00. We hope that you will also continue your National membership, however, National dues must be paid directly to NRHS. National dues will not be accepted by the BRC.

ANNUAL KEMPER ST. CHRISTMAS GATHERING

This year's get-together is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016. We try to get started soon after the Northeast Regional train has arrived, which, if on time, is 8:14 p.m., and begin to wind up after the southbound Crescent has departed, which is about 10:00 p.m. Please bring a snack and/or Rule G compliant beverage to share. Please, too, try to park in an out-of-the-way (not lower level) spot to leave room for the paying passengers. Hoping you can be there.

Scenes from the annual BRC Christmas Banquet held December 3, 2016.



Mrs. Rowland, her granddaughter and daughter. Three generations of caterers!
Many thanks for a superb meal! (G. Harper)



John Tanner from the rear giving instructions. (G. Harper)



John Tanner from the front giving instructions. (R. Johnson)



The scene at the banquet. (G. Harper)



Another fine meal is ready for us to enjoy. (R. Johnson)



Youngest attendee, Avery Johnson, with mom and dad, Tayler and Rick - II. (Rick Johnson - I)

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