



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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April 2014

No. 4



Wayland Moore presents the program at the April meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. This year will mark the 50th consecutive year that he has visited to Cass! His show will include slides of some of the earlier years before Cass became a West Virginia state park and will include special and off-line moves. OH! A little local history will be thrown in, too, for good measure. Come see this historic collection of images of a real American railroading treasure. "Be there or be square!"

**Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg, VA
Wednesday, April 9, 2014. 6:00 p.m.**



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



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Minutes of Meeting - March 12, 2014

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 24 members and 3 guests. Rick welcomed new member Ed DeBary and guests Rita Moorefield, Len Rogers and long-time member Roy Evans. Former National Representative Earl Guthrow presented NRHS 25-Year Membership pins to Garland Harper, Jeff Thaxton and Lloyd Lipscomb with accompanying certificates. December minutes were approved as distributed; there was no meeting in February due to bad weather. Treasurer John Tanner was welcomed back from his surgery, and then reported.

Rick announced the publication of a new book about the Blue Ridge Tunnel, part of Arcadia Press's American History Series. Ed Fielding's show, scheduled for February is re-scheduled for the May meeting. Rick noted that work is now underway at the Amherst Station. Under new business, a request for funding has been received from the Town of Boones Mill, Va. to save the old N&W station. NS Corporation is requiring the town to move the station away from the tracks and the cost is estimated at \$100,000. A \$50,000 matching pledge has been received and the chapter is being asked for a donation against that. It was moved by Earl Guthrow and seconded by Dale Diacont that the sum of \$1,000 be pledged immediately with the understanding that if the project was not successful, those funds would be returned. Motion passed without dissent.

Vice President Ed Fielding reported that the freight car repair facility near Keysville, Va. had been purchased by Patriot Rail. He noted that the facility was served by the Buckingham Branch RR. Rail Heritage Region Representative Norris Deyerle noted that donations to National's campaign had been made by members Bob Leslie, Bob Carpenter and Mosby Perrow; and he thanked them for their support. He noted that the Augusta Railroad Museum was taking over the old Harrisonburg Model Railroad Show and moving it to Expoland in Fishersville. Show date is May 4, a Sunday, from 10a to 4p. The C&OHS George Washington train show was cancelled by weather and is re-scheduled for June 6-8, 2014, in Clifton Forge to coincide with the Rail Heritage Days events. Lynchburg Rail Day Chairman Barry Moorefield needs someone to help Jean Raas with the model contest and help collecting prizes. National Representative Bob Leslie announced that he would attend the April Regional meeting and that National was considering going to on-line membership renewal. Newsletter Editor Garland Harper was congratulated for another great issue featuring plenty of photographs. There was no Webmaster's report.

Rick announced that the April program would be presented by Wayland Moore on the Cass Scenic Railroad. The 50/50 was won by Lloyd Lipscomb, who chose a puzzle; Norris took the money and other members won various railroad calendars donated by Gary Quale from the Ralph Yoder collection. Member Skip Hansberry announced that the old Virginia Blue Ridge scale house was to be restored as part of the trail project. Chapter member Dale Diacont presented the meeting program. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

Chapter Notes

- We would like to welcome Ed DeBary to the BRC! Ed is Vice President of the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS.
- Congratulations goes out to the following 25 Year Pin recipients: Jeff Thaxton, Garland Harper and Lloyd Lipscomb! Right: Garland pictured receiving his 25-year pin from past national representative Earl Guthrow
- Our condolences go out to BRC member Richard Shell upon the death of his father, L. David Shell on February 19, 2014.



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2014 Calendar of Events
56th 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".

Notice: I urge our friends with the other railway historical groups and museums to take advantage of www.trainfinder.com, www.trains.com or RHICalendar@nrhs.com. There is no cost to promote your train show on these websites. It's simple to add your event to their website and your event approval is fast and efficient. This is a website that will help us all get the word out about our events!

Are you interested in learning more about the historic Norfolk & Western Railway "High Bridge" in Farmville, Va.?

Please check out the following links for more info:

Friends of High Bridge Trail:

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

High Bridge Trail State Park:

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hig.shtml

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

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, 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Va. 23219

Phone: 804-786-4440

www.drpt.virginia.gov

Tennessee Valley Railroad/Norfolk Southern 21st Century Steam Train Excursion Schedule Info:

<http://www.tvrail.com/pages/21st-century-steam> Note: Find more railroad related info on other websites at the end of this Calendar Of Events.

April 2014

04-09-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore Presentation, Your guess is as good as mind what the subject matter will be! Come join us and find out together! I'm sure we will all have a blast!

May 2014

05-03-14: {Saturday} The Train Collectors Association Southeastern Division Toy Train Sale, Raleigh, NC. Info:

www.se-tca.org

05-04-14: {Sunday} 28th Annual Shenandoah Valley Model Train & Railroading Show, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sponsored by the Augusta County Model Railroad Club, Note new location: Augusta Expoland, Fishersville, Va.

Info: Walt Neubauer, lococrazy31@comcast.net

05-14-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Ed Fielding Presentation, This new date is to make up for the presentation that he planned to do for us in February that was cancelled due to ice and snow.

05-16-18-14: {Friday thru Sunday} Cass Railfan Weekend 2014

"Return to Spruce and Beyond Geared Steam Photo Spectacular", Cass, WV. Info: www.msrlha.org/rfw/index.html

05-28-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

05-29-06-1-14: {Thursday-Sunday} NCTM Historic Spencer Shops "Streamliners at Spencer", Spencer, NC. The N&W Class J #611 is scheduled to be there! There are going to be some other surprises that I'll report on next month! This is quickly turning into the railfan event of the Summer! Info: www.nctrans.org

June 2014

06-07 & 6-08-14: {Saturday & Sunday} C&OHS George Washington's Train Show, This is the makeup train show for the one in February that was cancelled due to snow. These new dates will be the same as the C&O Railway Heritage Festival. Location: Clifton Forge Armory, Clifton Forge, Va. Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sunday noon to 4:00 pm. Info, phone: 540-862-2210, www.cohs.org

06-10-14 Thru 06-14-14: {Tuesday Thru Saturday} NRHS 2014 Annual Convention, Springdale, Arkansas, Info, www.nrhs.com

06-11-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Norris Deyerle Slide Presentation

06-21-14: {Saturday} North Carolina Rail Fair 11th Annual Model Train & Railroad Artifact Show & Sale, Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC. Info: www.gserr.com

06-26-14 Thru 06-29-14: {Thursday Thru Sunday} N&WHS 2014 Annual Convention, Roanoke, Va. Info, www.nwhs.org

06-27 & 28-14: {Friday & Saturday} N Scale Enthusiast 22nd Annual 2014 National N Scale Convention Public Train Show, Roanoke, Va. Info: www.nationalscaleconvention.com

July 2014

07-09-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Derek Wimberly Presentation

07-23-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

07-28-14 Thru 08-01-14: {Monday Thru Friday} C&OHS 44th Annual Conference, Pipestem, WV, Info, www.cohs.org

August 2014

08-09-14: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Lynchburg Rail Day 2014" , New show times are 9:00 am till 3:00 pm, Info, LRD 2014 Chairman, Barry Moorefield, Phone: 434-821-2174 before 9:00 pm nightly or email rockdalefarm@live.com Note: LRD 2014 Vendor Registration Forms and White Elephant Table Guidelines are now available on our website, www.blueridgenrhs.org

08-13-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont Presentation

September 2014

09-10-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Brad Dobbins Slide Presentation

09-24-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

October 2014

10-08-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber Presentation

10-11&12-14: {Saturday & Sunday} Appomattox Railroad Festival, Appomattox, Va. Contact info: TBD

November 2014

11-02-14: {Sunday} 37th Annual Gaithersburg Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Info: www.gserr.com

11-08-14: {Saturday} 13th Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Trains & Railroadiana Show and Sale, Raleigh, NC. Info: www.nrvshow.org

11-12-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore Presentation

11-25-14: {Wednesday} NO BRC "FUN MEETING" DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

December 2014

12-06-14: {Saturday} BRC Annual Christmas Banquet, Altavista, Va.

12-10-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Presenter Slot Available

12-20-14: {Saturday} BRC Annual Kemper Street Station Holiday Gathering

Check Out This New Addition!

Norfolk Southern Locomotives – The Diesel Shop, NS Loco roster with professional quality photographs. NS Heritage Locos included. www.thedieselshop.us/NS.HTML

"Fallen Flag" railroad of local interest:

Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad, "The old fast and perfect" railroad that ran between Gretna and Rocky Mount, Va.: www.fandprailroad.org

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

Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: www.varailheritage.org, www.vmt.org, www.linkmuseum.org, www.nctrans.org, www.roanokenrhs.org, 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.norfolksouthernrhs.org, www.RailServe.com, www.gsmr.com, www.trains.com, www.TrainFinder.com, www.gserr.com, www.wghshow.com, www.drpt.virginia.gov

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Website: www.blueridgenrhs.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

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>

Temporary Challenges for Amtrak Patrons - Work is in the final stages of the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company's transfer station, being built across the street from Kemper St. Station. Wet weather conditions have delayed the facility's opening by many weeks. Part of the construction process will be the reinforcing of Kemper Street itself to withstand the weight of the many city busses that will soon be using the street. That will involve removing the Belgian Block stone, pouring a concrete base, then relaying the stone.

For a period of time, a very short period of time it is hoped, access to the lower lever at Kemper Street will be impossible while the street at the top of the incline leading down to the lower level is rehabbed. Pictured right is the sign warning of the closure and how passengers can get to trackside. Regrettably, it is April 7 today and the street is not yet back in service, and it is pouring down rain.



The News & Advance has a nice story on the progress of the transfer station at http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/gltc-s-transfer-center-delayed-expected-to-be-complete-in/article_cf285770-badc-11e3-9cb7-001a4bcf6878.html

SIGHTINGS

March 18 - Ringling Bros. Red Unit circus train seen passing through Lynchburg on CSX's James River SD. Train was en route from Cincinnati, OH, to Washington, DC, via Richmond, VA. Below are shots of the train at Reusens and on Mt. Athos Rd. (G. Harper)



March 24, 25 - Norfolk Southern's research car, #32, spent some time in Lynchburg on these days. Car was delivered to Kemper St. Station's Amtrak storage track on a beautiful, sunny March 24, and went north behind the Lynchburg Regional train on a cold, gloomy March 25.



A more complete photo album of NS 32's visit to Lynchburg can be found at <http://throbbingunits.rpicturearchives.net/archivethumbs.aspx?id=100122>

March 28-30 - Private car "Dover Harbor" spent the weekend in Lynchburg. It brought a group of tourists from the Washington, DC, area who visited Civil War sites in the area. Unfortunately, it was a very soggy weekend for them.

Visit <http://throbbingunits.rpicturearchives.net/archivethumbs.aspx?id=100222> for a more complete review of the car's stay here.



March 31 - Norfolk Southern research train, featuring research car #33, seen crossing the James River. (G. Harper)



March 31 - Two export units on flat cars for COLAS rail freight (<http://www.colasrail.co.uk/index.html>) were spotted at Kemper St. Station and later in the day in Kinney Yard. (G. Harper, Charlie Long)



April 2 - Bakken Field "CBR" traffic (Crude by Rail) continues to gain momentum on the CSX across Virginia. On this date TWO oil trains were spotted eastbound through town. Nearly all these trains feature foreign power, usually with BNSF units in charge. Several fans now refer to the ex-C&O as the C-oal & O-il Ry. Pictured next page are K08031 passing the Reusens defect detector and K08030 at the Langley Fountain and ND Cabin in downtown Lynchburg. (G. Harper)



Class J 611 rolls to restoration on May 24! POSTED BY FIRE UP 611! TEAM

Apr. 1, 2014 – ROANOKE, VIRGINIA – The Virginia Museum of Transportation today announced the Norfolk & Western Class J 611 Steam Passenger Locomotive—known affectionately as the Spirit of Roanoke—is ready to head to Spencer, N.C. for restoration. An “All Aboard” send-off party is scheduled for Saturday, May 24, from 10 am to 5 pm.

After leaving the Virginia Museum of Transportation on May 24, the Class J 611 will arrive at the North Carolina Transportation Museum on or about May 29, 2014. She will be the guest of honor at the museum’s Streamliners event, to be held May 29 through June 1. Restoration work will begin shortly after the event. The restoration will be open to the public, but with limited viewing. Planned work includes a complete overhaul to meet current Federal Railroad Administration and strict safety guidelines.

“We’re pleased to send the 611 on to our fellow train enthusiasts at the North Carolina Transportation Museum where this exciting restoration will get underway,” says Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., executive director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

“We’re grateful for the tremendous amount of support that allows us to reach this step of the program.”

The Fire Up 611 Committee of steam locomotive technology experts, business leaders and railroad consultants conducted a feasibility study in 2013. The study revealed that the Virginia Museum of Transportation would need \$3.5 million to restore, operate and preserve the Class J 611. An additional \$1.5 million will be raised as an endowment for the iconic locomotive.

Although the original plan called for raising approximately \$3.5 million prior to the start of restoration, the Fire Up 611! Committee and the Museum’s Board of Directors decided to move ahead with restoration now that \$2.3 million has been raised. Fitzpatrick cites a tight timeline to participate in Norfolk Southern’s 21st Century Steam Program in 2015, Amtrak’s return to Roanoke, the momentum of the fundraising efforts and strong results as reasons in support of the decision.

“The restoration will take approximately nine months and needs to begin this spring so we can participate in Norfolk Southern’s 21st Century Steam Program in 2015,” says Fitzpatrick. “As she travels the Norfolk Southern rail system, our 611 will draw the attention and interest of new donors and fans of the Class J 611 from the region and beyond.”

The Fire Up 611! Committee recommended that a preservation and education center be built at the Museum to keep the locomotive in top operating form.

“The goal from the very beginning was not only to get her running, but to keep her running for generations to come,” said J. Preston Claytor, chairman of the Fire Up 611! Committee. “The facility secures the investments rail fans have made in the Class J 611.”

Amtrak’s plans to extend passenger rail service into Roanoke will play a role in the location of the preservation and education center. “Amtrak may need land owned by Norfolk Southern and leased by the Museum at present,” he says. “We are looking at ideas for the preservation and education facility’s location in conjunction with Amtrak Service, the Class J 611’s restoration, and the overall planning of this facility.”

In recent months, the Fire Up 611! Campaign saw major momentum, and the Museum is confident the remaining funds will be raised.

“We’re going at full steam,” says Fitzpatrick. “Based on our success to date and projection for the campaign’s final stages, we decided we could send her to Spencer for restoration sooner rather than later.”

In nine short months, donations to the campaign have been received from nearly 3,000 donors from every state and the District of Columbia in the United States and 18 foreign countries.

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Lynchburg Rail Day 2014. Saturday, August 9, 2014.