



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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No. 12



Rick Johnson-2 brings the December program for the regular Chapter meeting. He'll have us follow the tumbling waters of the Arkansas River along the rails of the former Rio Grande as he pays "Tribute to Tennessee Pass". Pictured above is an intermediate signal in the ghost town of Granite, CO, just east of Leadville.

Come on out for a great show and an all-around good time.

**Wednesday, December 11, 2013. 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 13, 2013**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 21 members and 3 guests, including Cynthia Moore, Edie Tanner and Tex Carter. Rick welcomed member Garland Harper after a long absence. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed with thanks to Lloyd Lipscomb who stood in for Tom Ledford. Treasurer John Tanner then reported.

Under old business the annual election of officers was held. BRC officers for 2104 are

- Rick Johnson, President;
- Ed Fielding, Vice President;
- Tom Ledford, Secretary
- John Tanner, Treasurer
- Bob Leslie, National Representative

Thanks were extended to Lee Hawkins and Reggie Akers who composed the Nominating Committee this year.

Discussed was a request for a donation to the South Boston-Halifax County Museum to continue the restoration of their N&W caboose. The issue was tabled until after Rail Day 2014 when such requests are normally considered. There was no new information about the Amherst Station restoration, Skip Hansberry will report in December.

Under new business Rick requested programs for 2014. Ed Fielding volunteered for January, Wayland Moore for April. Members were reminded about the Christmas Banquet on Saturday, December 7 at 6 p.m. in the Southern Railway Station in Altavista. Cost is \$15/person and reservation is by check due by November 20. Charlie Long and his wife Judy will be guests of the chapter.

Norris Deyerle, Virginia Rail Heritage Region Director, reported the passing of Charles Venable, long-time supporter of Rail Day from Bluefield, WV. Newsletter Editor Garland Harper thanked members for getting material in early and for the photographs. There were no other reports. Garland Harper reminded members about the Christmas celebration at Kemper Street Station on Saturday, December 21 after the arrival of the Regional. Rick reminded members that there will be no Fun Meeting in November. Rick "Dash-2" Johnson will present the program at the December meeting and this meeting's program, entitled "Highlights of 2013", was presented by Wayland Moore.

Norris Deyerle won the 50/50 and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

**Annual Christmas banquet held** – About 25 Chapter members, friends and guests gathered at the Altavista Community Center, formerly the Southern Railway's Altavista depot, on December 7 for the annual Chapter Christmas Banquet. As usual, the fare was excellent and all who attended had a wonderful time. Following the meal Rick Johnson-2, whose head is silhouetted to the right, presented a visual presentation with musical accompaniment of railroad images he captured in and around Tehachapi Loop in while on a business trip to Bakersfield, CA



Below are two scenes of those assembled at the banquet.



**The Virginia Museum of Transportation thanks  
Norfolk Southern for generous \$1.5 million donation towards returning  
the Class J 611 steam locomotive to excursion service**

Nov. 22, 2013 - ROANOKE, VIRGINIA - The Virginia Museum of Transportation today recognized and thanked Norfolk Southern for its generous donation to Fire Up 611! of \$1.5 million that has effectively boosted the fundraising campaign to a new level. With this incredible gift to the 611, this campaign has reached over 50 percent of its fundraising goal.

"Our goal has always been to have the Class J 611 in excursion service in 2014," said Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., executive director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation. "We are proud that Norfolk Southern believes in the Virginia Museum of Transportation and the importance of an American treasure - the Class J No. 611 steam passenger locomotive."

Ultimately, the long-term goal is to raise \$5 million to create an endowment for the 611 that will keep her operational and accessible for future generations in the decades to come.

The Fire Up 611! Capital Campaign has inspired worldwide support from people of all ages. "It's a great compliment to the Roanoke community that a Roanoke-born, Roanoke-built and Roanoke-proud locomotive is beloved around the world," said Preston Claytor, Chairman of the Fire Up 611! Committee. "We are determined to keep up the momentum. We won't disappoint the fans of the Class J 611."

The Fire Up 611! Campaign have come from all 50 states within the United States and 16 countries around the world. "It's an incredible testament to the Class J 611's design, engineering and mechanical prowess. She is the last of her kind," Claytor said. "It's important that we restore this important piece of American history so future generations can understand what makes an awesome piece of machinery like the Class J 611 so special."

Class J 611's fans are invited to visit [fireup611.org](http://fireup611.org) to learn more and to donate to the Fire Up 611 Capital Campaign. They can also visit the Fire Up 611 Facebook page, YouTube and Twitter feed (#fireup611).

**Let's get the job done! Donate today!**

- ANY donation made directly to Fire Up 611! gets your name on the Wall of Honor.
- A donation of \$611 or more allows you to purchase excursion tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

Donations can be made online at [fireup611.org](http://fireup611.org), or by mail to Virginia Museum of Transportation, Fire Up 611! 303 Norfolk Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24016.

## SIGHTINGS

Nov. 15 - (far right) NS train 234 seen with the Veterans Unit leading at Abilene, VA (Rick Johnson-2)



Nov. 19 – (right) As the moon shines through thin cirrus clouds with millions of tiny ice crystals that have formed about 20,000 feet above us it, shows what wonders the night time sky has to offer by this Lunar Halo as seen over Amtrak "14" with engine 139. (Rick Johnson-2)



Dec. 6 - A first for train watchers in the Lynchburg area! The initial run of a crude oil train bound for the new unloading facility in Yorktown, VA, operated by Plains All American Pipeline passed through town on the former C&O about 4:00 p.m. The train consisted of three units, 104 loads and a buffer car on either end. Very impressive and very symmetrical, indeed. It has been reported that the Yorktown facility could receive as many as 800 trains a year.

Pictured below are two images of the train along Hydro St. next to the Reusens Dam.

(G. Harper)



Dec. 6 – A shipment of meter-gauged, GE-built units (BB40-9WM) was spotted behind Kemper Street Station. Engines are bound for Brazil for use by the mining concern VLI, Valor da Logística Integrad, and are en route to the Port Of Norfolk for shipment.

(G. Harper)



**Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, 2013 Calendar of Events**  
**55<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.trainfinder.com) or [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.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.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](http://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.

**December 2013:**

December: Through The Second Sunday In January 2014} Bevell's Hardware spectacular Christmas Holiday Train Display, Monday-Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sunday's Noon – 3:00 pm. Admission Free! Holiday Closings: Christmas Day and New Years Day. Blackstone, Va. Info: 434-292-7208,

<http://www.bevellshardware.com/TrainDisplay.aspx>

12-11-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Rick "Dash 2" Johnson Program

12-14-13 & 12-21-13: {Saturdays} High Bridge Railroad Club Holiday Season Open House, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. 106 4<sup>th</sup> Street beneath The Krute Stage, Farmville, Va. Submitted by Robin Shavers

12-14-13: {Saturday} "The Santa Claus Train", Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS, Trips leave from Dillwyn, Va. Info:

[www.odcnrhs.org](http://www.odcnrhs.org)

***12-21-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual "Kemper Street Station Holiday Gathering" This gathering is free and open to anyone that would like to attend! Please bring munchies and/or beverages to share with others. RULE G compliant! No alcohol allowed. Please wait until the Amtrak regional train has arrived before you arrive, about 8:45 – 9:00 p.m.. Parking is limited. Please park in the upper level parking lot across from the station or along Kemper St.***

**NEW ADDITIONS! CHECK THESE OUT! Railroad Photos: [www.railsinvirginia.com](http://www.railsinvirginia.com),**

**[www.railfirephotography.com](http://www.railfirephotography.com)**

Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: [www.varailheritage.org](http://www.varailheritage.org), [www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org), [www.linkmuseum.org](http://www.linkmuseum.org),

[www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org), [www.roanokenrhs.org](http://www.roanokenrhs.org), [www.dcnrhs.org](http://www.dcnrhs.org), [www.odcnrhs.org](http://www.odcnrhs.org) [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org),

[www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org), [www.csxthsociety.org](http://www.csxthsociety.org), [www.thecrhs.org](http://www.thecrhs.org), [www.theruralretreatdepot.com](http://www.theruralretreatdepot.com), [www.srha.org](http://www.srha.org),

[www.rfandp.org](http://www.rfandp.org) [www.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com), [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org), [www.railroadcollectors.org](http://www.railroadcollectors.org),

[www.nhvry.org](http://www.nhvry.org), [www.norfolksouthernhs.org](http://www.norfolksouthernhs.org), [www.RailServe.com](http://www.RailServe.com), [www.gsmr.com](http://www.gsmr.com), [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com),

[www.TrainFinder.com](http://www.TrainFinder.com), [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com), [www.wghshow.com](http://www.wghshow.com), [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Website: [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://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](http://www.diary.svsfilm.com)

Steam Locomotive Locations: [www.steamlocomotive.com](http://www.steamlocomotive.com)

Railroad Historical Information and Related Photos: [www.hawkinsrails.net](http://www.hawkinsrails.net)

Key Lock & Lantern Railroad History and Preservation Organization, [www.klnl.org](http://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](http://www.traintrips.biz)

Additional links to other NRHS Chapters, Railroad Historical Societies and Museums available at

[www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://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>

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