



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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The program to be presented at the September meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, will be Dale Diacont's "2015 Year in Review." Topics will include the SEPTA Super Saturday photo charter; NRHS 2015 Convention in Rutland, VT; MBTA's Mattapan Line; Railfan Weekend at the Illinois Railroad Museum and what was probably the last Clinchfield Santa Claus train. Dale promises to have you "out the door" by 9:10p.m. All aboard!

Pictured above is SOU 4501 at Glade Spring, VA.

Wednesday September 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 - August 11, 2016

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at Charley's Restaurant at 7:32 p.m. Rick welcomed 2 guests, Fred Terry and Dona Duvall, and 21 members for a total of 23 in attendance. Fred is a member of the Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS out of Richmond, Va. and the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS in Charlottesville, Va. He was Trainmaster at Monroe, Va. and retired from Norfolk Southern. Fred handed out fliers on the upcoming Buckingham Branch Railroad excursions. In October there will be "The Autumn Leaf Rambler" trips and in December "The Santa Claus Train". Car hosts are needed. He invited the BRC members to sign up to be a host on any of these trips. Rick asked that the reading of the minutes be dispensed. Rick pointed out that there needs to be a correction to the July 2016 minutes. I had incorrectly listed Robin Shavers as having the evening presentation when it was actually Fred Mayer. Ed Fielding seconded the correction and the July minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: John Tanner – John had the July and August Treasurer's Reports since he was absent at our July meeting.

Old Business: Rick Johnson reported that at our July 27, 2016 BRC "Fun Meeting" we had four different presenters and sixteen attendees. He thanked everyone for the impressive turnout for a "Fun Meeting".

New Business: Rick Johnson passed around two sympathy cards for the members to sign. Both Lee Herbert and Dale Diacont lost their wives during the month of July. Rick asked that we keep Lee, his son David and Dale in our thoughts and prayers.

Rick went over the end of the year BRC, NRHS events. Our annual BRC Christmas Banquet in Altavista, Va is on December 3, 2016. The 9-14-16 regular meeting will feature Dale Diacont's "2015 Year in Review". We have a fun meeting on 9-28-16. Kurt Reisweber has our 10-12-16 show. Wayland Moore has our 11-09-16 show. Felix Freeman, President of the "original" Norfolk & Southern Historical Society, will present our 12-14-16 show. Reaching out into 2017 Rick announced that Bob Kaplan will present our 3-08-17 show. Bob, who is a friend of Dale Diacont's is known as a "Professional Railfan". Rick is inviting these guests due to request of members to have outside presenters to come in and share their photos with us.

Lynchburg Rail Day 2016: John Tanner – John sent sign-up sheets around for different areas for members to sign up to work at during our upcoming Lynchburg Rail Day 2016 taking place on Saturday August 13, 2016. John said that Barry Moorefield requested that workers be available between 11:00 and 11:30 p.m. on Friday August 12, 2016 to help him and Garland Harper set up the vendor tables at the Boonsboro Ruritan Club. John requested that workers also help take down the tables at the end of the train show. Barry needs workers to go with him to return the extra table to the two churches that lent them to us. John said that the Ruritan Club Air Conditioning was turned on tonight. Norris Deyerle requested that members wear their BRC, NRHS name tags. He also requested that members take turns manning a BRC member recruitment table that will be set up during the train show. The purpose of the recruitment table is to attract new and younger members to the NRHS.

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

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

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners: Norris Deyerle – No Report

Webmaster's Report: John Siegle reported that our newly updated website was up and running as of today, August 11, 2016. John thanked his son for his hard work in updating our website.

Editor's Report: Garland Harper – Absent – No Report

Closing Remarks: Rick Johnson thanked Garland for getting the newsletter out. Rick invited everyone to stay and watch tonight's presentation by Ed Fielding. Ed reached back into the old railroad vaults of time and put together a much anticipated slide show on the "original" Norfolk Southern Railway. The slides were taken by NYS&W conductor John Treen during the last three years of the NS before the Southern acquired it.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Mr. Jean Raas.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norris Deyerle, BRC, NRHS Secretary

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".

Renew your NRHS membership on www.NRHS.com today! Good things are happening with the new and improved NRHS! Also log on to www.NRHS.com to see what the future holds for today's railroad preservation historical society! It's alive!

Vote "Yes" for a future Amtrak stop in the Town of Bedford, Va. also serving the Smith Mountain Lake area riders. It's easy and free! Go to www.thebedfordstation.com/petition

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!

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

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

OCTOBER 2016

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

NOVEMBER 2016

11-06-16: {Sunday} 39th. Annual Gaithersburg Railroad – Steamship – Transportation Artifact Show and Sale and it's 11th. Annual Gaithersburg Model Train Show and Sale, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Info: www.gserr.com

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, Prior reservations required, social hour starts at 6:00 pm. with no alcoholic beverages, Buffet meal following. Slide or PowerPoint railroading presentation rounds out the evening. Former Southern Railway Station, the current Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce, 414 Washington Street, Altavista, Va. 24517
Directions: www.altavistachamber.org/directions

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

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

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" railroads of local interest: NEWEST ADDITION: Nelson & Albemarle Railway Historical Society, www.nelson-albemarle-railway-org 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.rpicturearchives.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.norfolksouthernrhs.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 Keep track of Amtrak trains: <http://asm.transitdocs.com>

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

Roanoke, Va. Rail Cam: <http://www.roanokerailcam.com> {New 2016 Updated Address}



NS Research train ties up at Lynchburg - NS train 904 spent the night in the Amtrak yard just north of Kemper Street Station Sep. 7. It left for point north the next morning. Seen at left is train on one of the storage tracks. Below Left: NS research slug #34. Below right: Research train below Bedford Ave. Sep. 8.
(G. Harper)



Timeline info on NS 34 at http://www.altoonaworks.info/rebuilds/detail/ns_research.pdf

"Norris News" by Peggy Deyerle

Greetings Blue Ridge Chapter members and friends.

In case you haven't heard, Norris has been a very sick man. On or about Monday, August 22nd, Norris was having flu-like symptoms. Wednesday, the 24th, we went to the doctor and was diagnosed with cellulitis and given an antibiotic. His fever went away but the redness from cellulitis continued to spread. He was due for a recheck at the doctor on Monday, August 29th. We went to the ER instead. It was very serious. He had surgery that day and the next three days as well. He was in critical condition. He had another surgery including a colostomy on Tuesday, September 6th. He was sedated and on a ventilator for about 12 days.

This past weekend he came off of those and has begun talking again. He is extremely weak and exhausted. Today as I write this (9/12/16) is day 15 in ICU. His doctors are pleased with his improvement and say he will go to a regular room soon if they find one with a big bed and other necessities needed for his condition.

We have gone from three dressing changes per day to two. He has begun physical therapy and will have other doctors come make recommendations. This will be a long road for healing. Before coming home he will spend some time in a rehab facility. I don't think at this writing he his aware of a lot of what has happened to him and how long the road to recovery will be. He can carry on a conversation when awake. We are so grateful for all the love, support, thoughts and prayers sent up for us. Thanks to Rick, John and Lee for helping to keep the folks informed. The support of friends, family and our faith community has been amazing.

The Lord be with you.

Love and peace, Peggy Deyerle.



Norris with son, Adam, at a family reunion.



Norris on the job at Lynchburg Rail Day 2016



Scenes from Lynchburg Rail Day 2016

Top two: Vendors fill up the floor.

Bottom left: Lynchburg N-scalers layout.

Bottom right: WSET reporter greets LRD 2016 Chairman Barry Moorefield prior to an interview.

(G. Harper)

Carnival in town... sort of - The James E. Strates carnival train spent the night in Lynchburg at Kemper Street Saturday, Sep. 10. The train, NS 047, was en route from an engagement in Vermont to Danville, VA, and arrived about 11:15pm. It left Kemper Street about 8:15 a.m. Sunday, was turned on the wye at Montview and then proceeded south toward Danville. (G. Harper)





Now here's a view from 20 years ago. Lee Hawkins provided this cover of a former employer's magazine showing pictures of the Nine Mile Bridges, old and new, on the former C&O near Mt. Athos. The caption states the original bridge was built in 1900. To the left is a picture your Editor snapped while he was passing through the old Nine Mile bridge on Oct. 24, 1971. He was aboard one of the Autumn Leaf Specials operated by the Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS. We're looking west in the snapshot. The cover photo is looking east. Can you imagine what the risk management people would have to say about main line open-air car operation today?



Intermodal trains return to the old C&O, for a while. Because of a maintenance of way curfew on its normal RF&P/B&O routing, CSX has been sending intermodal trains Q135 and Q136 over the old C&O. They operate between Portsmouth, VA, and the recently opened container terminal in North Baltimore, OH. These trains were a regular fixture on the River for about two years while tunnel enlargement work was under way on the former B&O. Q13508 is seen here passing by the Reusens Hydro plant, which, by the way, has been sold by Appalachian Power to a New Jersey firm. See <https://aepretirees.com/2016/08/24/appalachian-power-agrees-to-sell-historic-reusens-hydroelectric-plant/>

Amtrak-to-Roanoke News from WSLs 10 in Roanoke

ROANOKE (WSLS 10) – Construction of the new Amtrak train station in Roanoke is set to begin in the next several months. As of now, Amtrak is in the bidding phase of the project to select a contractor for the depot.

The station will be built off of Norfolk Avenue at the corner of Jefferson Street near the Martin Luther King Bridge in downtown Roanoke.

Roanoke City Council unanimously approved the plan back in March. Roanoke City Council has approved a plan for a new train station in Downtown Roanoke.

Council unanimously passed a plan for the city to vacate a 985 foot area along Norfolk Avenue adjacent to the railroad, selling it to Norfolk Southern for 10 dollars.

Once ownership transfers to Norfolk Southern, construction on the new boarding platform can begin.

“A lot of the Millennials don’t own automobiles anymore and our car-centric community that we have right now, our culture here is rapidly changing to walking and bicycling as means of transportation, and having bicycles on the train coming to Roanoke is a fantastic opportunity for the Roanoke Valley,” said Barbara Duerek, who commented at the meeting.

Council first announced it was working on a deal to bring Amtrak to Roanoke in 2014.

The new platform will support a nine-car Amtrak train that will run between Roanoke and Lynchburg.

Service is expected to begin in 2017.

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