



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 21

October 2013

No. 10



Kurt Reisweber will present the show at the October meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. He'll be bringing us images from his latest trip to California. Above is a photo of a westbound double stack train at Pisgah in the Mojave Desert on the former Santa Fe main line in March 2012. It covers nearly a mile and has distributed power pushing on the rear. This, and many more amazing railroad captures are yours for the viewing by attending this month's meeting.

**Wednesday, October 9, 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 - September 11, 2013**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 19 members and 3 guests, including Tex Carter, Audrey Diacont and Edie Tanner. Rick announced that Charlie Long's son, who suffered a serious motorcycle accident, has been moved to a rehab facility in South Boston, VA, but he remains unresponsive. Hopefully he can be moved back to Lynchburg soon. Member Lou Revelle asked for help in researching the work of Lane Brothers Construction, particularly any railroad construction they did in the Buena Vista area. August minutes were approved as distributed. Treasurer John Tanner then reported.

Under old business, Rick reminded members about the upcoming chapter picnic in Altavista on Sunday, September 15. A sign up sheet was circulated. The program announced for the next Fun Meeting is cancelled and Rick will bring digital equipment for that meeting. Norris Deyerle thanked Barry Moorefield again for his extraordinary effort in making Lynchburg Rail Day a success and he read a letter of thanks from the Virginia Museum of Transportation for the chapter's donation of \$1,500 for the 611 project. There were no other reports.

Rick announced that Kurt Reisweber had the October 9<sup>th</sup> program and that tonight's program, originally announced to be Rick Dash-2 was actually Gary Quale, since Rick had been called away for work. Gary showed an assortment of the late Ralph Yoder's photography taken in the Lynchburg area in the 1980s and 90s.

Congratulations were then offered to member Dale Diacont on his retirement as an engineer on CSX, a career spanning 43 years! Best wishes for a happy retirement were offered by all!

Derek Wimberly won the 50/50 and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

-Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

**Virginian Railway activities at the O. Winston Link Museum** - The O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke is hosting two activities next weekend related to the old Virginian Railway.

Friday, Oct. 11 – 7:00 pm: Power Point - Slide show on the Virginian Railway Heritage Trail.

This newly-created trail recognizes the remaining facilities of the Virginian Railway to help preserve the history of the railroad, its people and the communities it served, including Roanoke where the railroad played an important part in the life and development of the city. Today, the old Virginian tracks are part of the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The Virginian Heritage Trail consists of three dozen locations available to the public where surviving structures, facilities and equipment may be found, reaching over 600 miles from Norfolk to West Virginia's coalfields.

Saturday, Oct. 12 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Meet the author of the newest book on the VIRGINIAN RAILWAY, Aubrey Wiley, discuss this interesting railroad and have your copy signed and numbered.

This hardback book brings a unique "*then and now*" approach to learning about the old Virginian Railway. The railroad's character is revealed with 175 pictures, both vintage and contemporary, historical information and personal stories from railroad employees. The book is arranged to follow the Virginian Heritage Trail through the cities, towns, countryside and coalfields that the railroad served. If interested, it is suggested you contact the Link Museum, 540-982-5465.

**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 And 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.

**October 2013:**

10-09-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber's program titled "Westward the Amfleet" featuring Kurt's March, 2012 trip out west.

**10-12 & 19-13: {Saturdays} "The Autumn Leaf Rambler", Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS, Trips leave from Dillwyn, Va.**

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

**10-13-13: {Sunday} BRC, NRHS member Dale Diacont's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Old Dominion Railfans picnic at "Red Dog Manor". BRC, NRHS members are invited. See complete details elsewhere in this newsletter. Covered dish picnic, RSVP required. Feel free to call Dale at 540-910-1529 for more info and directions.**

10-17-19-13: {Thursday – Saturday} Eastern Division Train Collectors Association York Fall Meet, York, Pa. Info:

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

**10-19-13: {Saturday} Railroadiana Auction, Includes N&W items and a VGN spittoon as well as Lionel signs and pillows, etc. Preview begins at 8:00 am, auction begins at 10:00 am, Presbyterian Childrens Home, Wytheville, Va. Info: Yontz Auctions: 276-724-0309**

**November 2013:**

11-03-13 {Sunday} 36<sup>th</sup> Gaithersburg Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

**11-03-13: {Sunday} Virginia Train Collectors, Inc. Fall Richmond Train Meet, Hanover Academy, Ashland, Va. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Guests \$5.00, Info: Russell Youens, 804-342-6023, email [jryouens@verizon.net](mailto:jryouens@verizon.net) Submitted by Tom Riddle**

11-9 & 10-13: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual '13 Railfest Model Train Show, Pocahontas Chapter, NRHS, Bluefield Youth Center, 1780 Stadium Drive, Next To Mitchell Stadium, Bluefield, WV. Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday: 12:00 Noon – 5:00 pm, Admission: \$5.00 Per Person, \$10.00 Per Family, Info: {304} 431-2593 or {304} 327-0026. Facebook: Pocahontas NR HS

11-9 & 10-13: {Saturday & Sunday} First Frost Train Show, Allentown Fairgrounds Ag Hall, Allentown, Pa. Info:

[www.allentowntrainmeet.com](http://www.allentowntrainmeet.com)

11-13-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore program

11-27-13: {Wednesday} Attention! No "Fun Meeting" due to Thanksgiving Holiday

**11-29-13: {Friday} 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: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Blackstone, Va. Info: 434-292-7208,**

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

**11-30-13, 12-07-13, 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**

**December 2013:**

**12-01-13: {Sunday} High Bridge Railroad Club, 10:00 am -4:00 pm. 106 4<sup>th</sup> Street beneath The Krute Stage, Farmville, Va. This is the same day as the Farmville Annual Christmas Parade. Submitted by Robin Shavers**



12-07-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet, Former Southern Railway Station, Altavista, Va. Prior reservations are required, \$15.00 per person, you do not need to be a Blue Ridge Chapter member to attend. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm. Contact Norris Deyerle for details. 434-237-4912 or [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com)

12-07 & 12-08-13 {Saturday & Sunday} VMT "Candy Cane Express", Train rides, Santa, crafts and more! Reduced admission. Activities for the entire family! Info: [www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org).

12-07 & 12-14-13: {Saturdays} "The Santa Claus Train", Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS, Trips leave from Dillwyn, Va. Info: [www.odcnrhs.org](http://www.odcnrhs.org)

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

12-21-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual "Kemper Street Station Holiday Gathering"

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.vatrainscollectors.com](http://www.vatrainscollectors.com), [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org), [www.railroadcollectors.org](http://www.railroadcollectors.org), [www.nhvry.org](http://www.nhvry.org), [www.norfolksouthernrhs.org](http://www.norfolksouthernrhs.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>

## SIGHTINGS

Oct. 6 - Amtrak heritage unit 822 was spotted on the Lynchburg Regional. (Rick-2 Johnson. G. Harper)



Oct. 7 - CSX track geometry car GMS2 spotted westbound at Reusens. (G. Harper)



Chapter friend Chad Jordan sent us this picture of his newly repainted caboose. It's a fine looking specimen, for sure. Thanks for letting us share it.

**Container trains no longer operating on the old C&O** - Since June 2011 CSX container trains had been operating up and down the James River between intermodal terminals in Portsmouth, VA, and North Baltimore, OH. These trains were routed our way while tunnel enlargement work was in progress on their usual route over the former B&O. Train symbols included were Q130, Q135, and Q136.



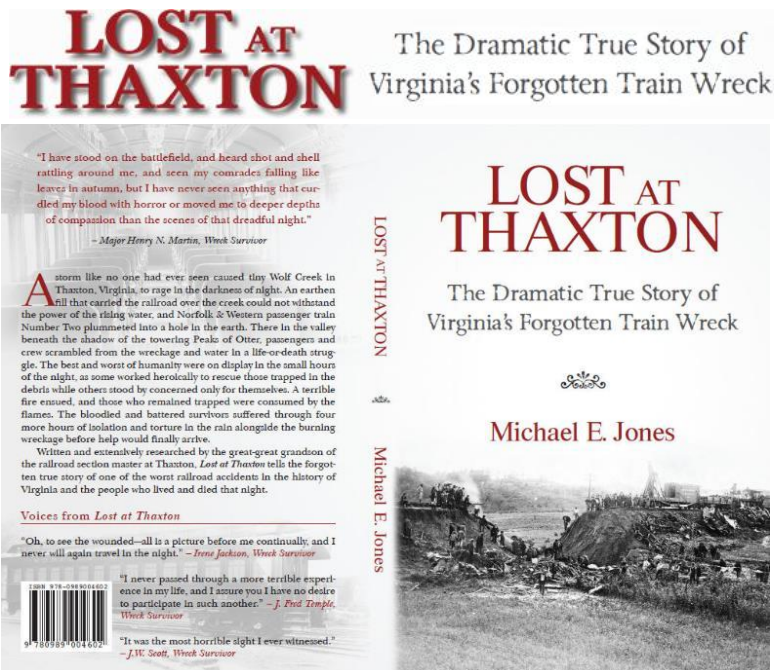
Their appearance was a pleasant and colorful change of pace from the usual units trains of coal and grain, and solid tank trains of anhydrous ammonia and molten sulphur seen along the James. Well, apparently work has progressed enough on the old B&O that they have been routed back to their former routing. The last one to be seen was an S135 that went west through Lynchburg early in the morning on September 22.

Pictured here is the last container train that your Editor photographed. Q135 westbound on Aug. 24, 2013.

**Chapter Member Dale Diacont to host cookout** - Dale Diacont announces his third annual cookout at his home in Waynesboro for his many railroad and railfan friends. The cookout is a covered dish, but Dale will be providing furnishing Bubba burgers, baked beans and beverages (no alcohol). The date is Sunday, October 13th from 2PM to 5PM. Please provide Dale with an RSVP so he'll have enough provisions for everyone. To RSVP or for more info and directions, call him at 540-910-1529. Thanks!

Oh, by the way, Dale lives right next to the Buckingham Branch in Waynesboro.

### New book available!



Lost at Thaxton is now available! The book is divided into two main sections. Part I, "Their Story" is written in the form of a story-based narrative. I want you to be able to feel as if you were riding along on the train that night and that you were an eyewitness to all of the events that took place. Even though the story is told in this manner, every detail that you read is directly related to information found through research.

Part II, "The Rest of the Story", takes a deeper look into the causes of the wreck, what happened in the months and years afterward, and some mysteries that were revealed during the research for the book. In the final chapter, you are introduced to each person on the train. Any photographs that were uncovered of the passengers and crew can be found there.

The book is 232 pages long and features over 30 pictures. Photographs of the wreck, passengers, train, grave markers, and modern-day photos of the wreck site can be found in the book along with other historical photographs related to the story.

The editor for the book felt that Lost at Thaxton "beautifully memorializes those lost and those who survived," and he also remarked, "attention to accuracy is a strength of this book."

The book is available on Amazon, and you can also purchase autographed copies at <http://www.lostatthaxton.com>. I'll keep you posted on any new locations and news related to the book. I thank you for your interest in the book and I hope you enjoy it! - Mike

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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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