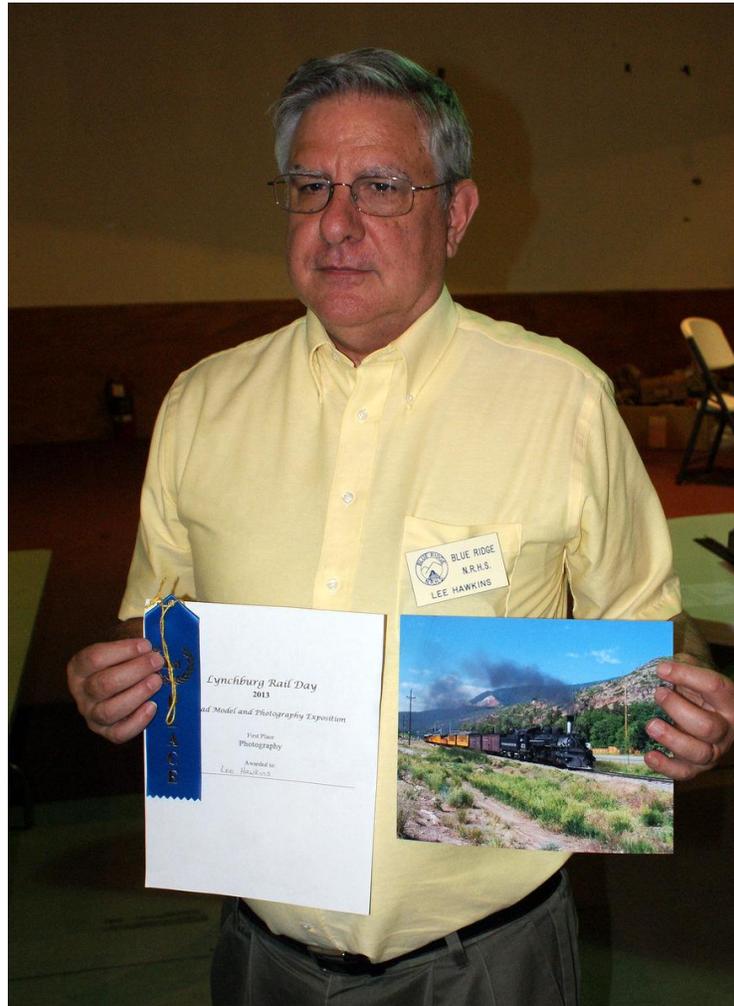


BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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The winner of the Lynchburg Rail Day 2013 photo contest, I. Lee Hawkins, proudly displays his winning photograph. The 35th edition of Rail Day was a big hit. More photos inside.

Dale Diacont will present the August show at our Regular meeting. He's entitled it "The Stuff Dash-2 Didn't Do In Colorado". Y'all come on out for an evening of great food, fellowship and photos.

Wednesday, August 14, 2013. 6:00 p.m.
Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mills Rd. Lynchburg, VA



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



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS - Minutes of Meeting July 10, 2013

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 18 members and 3 guests, including Tex Carter, Jim Talian, Jean Fielding and Steve Blanchard (who is a member but hasn't attended recently). Member Ed Fielding was welcomed back after his stay in the hospital. Minutes of the June meeting were approved as distributed with thanks to Charlie Long for taking them. There was no treasurer's report.

Under old business, Barry Moorefield updated arrangements for Lynchburg Rail Day and circulated a sign-up sheet. Fliers and posters were available for distribution. Barry is doing the table set-up plan and he announced that prizes would be available for the contests. Derek Wimberly offered to help with the Facebook advertisement. George Riley of Carstens Publications was thanked for his help with the fliers and posters.

Under new business Rick announced that the annual chapter picnic will be September 15 in the park in Altavista as in years past. Event will run from 12 noon until 4 pm. Tex Carter will lead another tour of the Franklin and Pittsylvania RR beginning in Gretna, Va. on October 26. A brochure about a watercolor done by Hunter H. George Jr. in honor of the 110th anniversary of the wreck of Old 97 was passed around. Prints are available from the artist. Skip Hansberry discussed the latest info about the Amherst station and Rick Johnson reported that the former Virginia Blue Ridge Railway depot in Piney River is being renovated to stabilize the building. Member Gail McKinley asked about alternatives to assigning proxy votes to the national officers. According to Chapter Representative Earl Guthrow, there were no alternatives since the regional directors were eliminated.

There were no officer reports. Rick announced that Charlottesville weatherman Travis Koshko, a member of the Rivanna Chapter, will present a program "Railroads & Weather" at the next fun meeting on July 24. The next regular meeting will be August 14 with member Dale Diacont presenting his program "What Rick-2 Didn't Do In Colorado". Earl Guthrow won the 50/50 and donated his winnings to the chapter. The evening's program was presented by member Derek Wimberly and featured a video of the July 2012 celebration of Norfolk Southern's new heritage units assembled at the North Carolina Museum of Transportation in Spencer, N.C.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

Union Pacific Railroad Acquires Big Boy Locomotive No. 4014 Railroad Plans to Restore One of the Largest Steam Locomotives Ever Built

Omaha, Neb., July 23, 2013 – Union Pacific Railroad today announced it reached an agreement with the Southern California Chapter - Railway & Locomotive Historical Society in Pomona, Calif., to transfer ownership of one of the world's largest steam locomotives, Big Boy No. 4014, back to Union Pacific.

Union Pacific plans to relocate No. 4014 to Cheyenne, Wyo., where Union Pacific's Heritage Fleet Operations team will work to restore it to operating condition. Details regarding those efforts will be made public at a later date.

Union Pacific donated No. 4014 to the historical society December 7, 1961. The locomotive arrived January 8, 1962, at its current display location at the Rail Giants Train Museum in Pomona.

No other railroad has retained its historical equipment or honored its American roots like Union Pacific.

"Our steam locomotive program is a source of great pride to Union Pacific employees past and present," said Ed Dickens, senior manager - Union Pacific Heritage Operations. "We are very excited about the opportunity to bring history to life by restoring No. 4014."

No Roanoke Amtrak excursions this year. :(

To all our excursion friends:

The Roanoke Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, will not be operating our fall excursions this November as we have the past four years. We thank you for riding with us in the past and for supporting our historical activities. However, due to financially disappointing revenues last year and poor scheduling opportunities this year, as well as other factors, we decided it was best to sit this year out. The Roanoke Chapter will evaluate the operation of future trips and will notify all of you on our excursion mailing list of any future trips as they develop. We are sorry that we could not provide trips for you this year, but intend to return for future excursions.

For your information, there are nearby fall excursions operated by other railroad historical societies in North Carolina and West Virginia this fall. If you would like more information on those trips, you may contact The North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation at www.NCTrans.org or call 704-636-2889, extension 237. You may also contact The Collis P. Huntington (WV) Railroad Historical Society at www.NewRiverTrain.com or phone 866-639-7487. Please tell them you got their information from us.

Our best wishes for you all and we hope to see you again in the not-too-distant future!

Roanoke Chapter, NRHS. July 31, 2013

Amtrak Reaches Cost-Sharing Agreement with VA

Office of Governor Bob McDonnell Press Release

Governor Bob McDonnell Announces Amtrak and Virginia Reach Agreement for New Era in Passenger Rail. Commonwealth is First State to Take Greater Control of Regional Intercity Passenger Service under Federal Law

RICHMOND – Governor Bob McDonnell announced August 6 that Virginia has stepped up in partnership with Amtrak to sign on as the first state to usher in a new era and take greater control of passenger rail service. Under the agreement Virginia will be assuming greater costs associated with making intercity passenger rail service available to communities between Washington, D.C., and Lynchburg, Newport News and Norfolk, including Richmond. This new operating and capital cost-sharing agreement with Amtrak, as required under federal law, needed to be in place no later than October 1, 2013, or all Virginia regional rail service would have ceased.

"Over 1.5 million people either board or disembark on a train in Virginia," said Governor McDonnell. "Stopping regional Amtrak service in the Commonwealth was not an option. With this agreement between Virginia and Amtrak, we can continue to provide for existing regional intercity passenger rail service and work toward extending new service from Lynchburg into Roanoke and extend more service to Norfolk. I'm pleased that Virginia was the first state able to sign this agreement."

"Under the leadership of Governor McDonnell, Virginia worked to ensure that a dedicated funding source was created to insure that state-supported regional intercity passenger rail continues to operate after October 1," said Transportation Secretary Sean T. Connaughton. "Many Virginians rely on this cost-effective, comfortable transportation option, and this administration has recognized how important this service is to citizens of the Commonwealth."

The agreement supports Virginia's ongoing commitment to offering the public transportation choices to driving on congested highway corridors like I-95, Route 29, Route 460, and I-81, expanding mobility and increasing connectivity for travel throughout the regions served and along the Northeast Corridor. Passenger rail service also supports economic development and job growth for long-term local investment along service routes.

"Virginia is a forward-thinking leader on this issue, developing the cost-sharing methodology with Amtrak and becoming the first state to ensure its corridor services continue to operate beyond the October 1 deadline," said Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman. "Virginia recognizes the value, mobility and economic development that Amtrak service brings to the state and local communities."

The agreement between Virginia and Amtrak is part of Section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA), a federal law that requires Amtrak to work with the 19 affected states to establish a consistent cost-sharing methodology for the 28 corridor routes of less than 750 miles in order to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all states. Starting in late 2010, Amtrak and the Section 209 State Working Group, comprised of representatives from California, Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin, developed a cost-sharing methodology that ultimately received approval for implementation by the Surface Transportation Board.

It's official! Amtrak service to be extended to Roanoke

It's been 34 years since the fine folks of Roanoke, Va., have had intercity rail service, but that's about to change.

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell August 9 announced that the Commonwealth of Virginia, Norfolk Southern, Amtrak and the City of Roanoke have joined together to start work to extend Amtrak Virginia's rail service from Lynchburg to Roanoke.

"We're cutting a lot of ribbons," McDonnell says. "We're building new roads and railways all around the Commonwealth. All of this will lead to new jobs for our citizens, and a more prosperous Virginia. And right here in Roanoke, it means the return of intercity passenger rail service to the Star City."

Extending the state's highly-successful Lynchburg line is anticipated to take between three and four years.

"This new service to Roanoke connects passengers to other areas of the Commonwealth as well as cities along the [Northeast Corridor](#)," says Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman. "We offer travelers a safe, efficient and reliable alternative that mitigates the effect of high gas prices and pervasive highway and airline congestion."

Once the Roanoke service is added, passengers will be able to access Amtrak's national network of more than 500 destinations, including the Big Apple, the City of Brotherly Love and the Nation's Capitol all just a short ride away on the [Northeast Corridor](#).

Ed. Note: While the extension of the Regional to Roanoke is good news in that it extends train service into a market hungry for it, it would mean the end of the little railroad drama that plays out every evening in Lynchburg as the train is turned at Montview and put away for the night at Kemper Street, and every morning as the train prepares to leave. Oh, and it would probably mean the end of 4-dollar Smartway bus rides to and from Roanoke, too. Oh, too, and the nerve of those Roanokers wanting to give the extended train a Roanoke-sounding name, as if they birthed it! <http://www.roanoke.com/news/dancasey/2117094-12/why-give-train-to-roanoke-a-boring-name.html> Ahh, well. Maybe it is sour grapes on my part. Lots of folks refer to it at the Lynchburg Regional now. I guess I can live with it being called the Roanoke Regional (which has a nice ring to it, I'll admit) when the change comes.

Please keep the Longs in your thoughts and prayers - BRC Vice President Charlie Long's son, Jeremy, was involved a vey serious motorcycle accident early Saturday morning, July 13, in Ohio. Please keep Jeremy, Charlie and Judy in your thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time as Jeremy recovers.



Lynchburg Rail Day 2013 is history!

The Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, can chalk up another great Rail Day event. The Boonsboro Ruritan Club's exhibit hall on Coffee Rd. was filled with tables full of vendors' wares and model railroad displays. Just shy of 400 visitors came out to enjoy all that was offered.

We can give ourselves a big pat on the back for a job well done. Many thanks to all of you who came out to set up, supervise the floor and kitchen, and helped clean up after it was over. Below are a few pictures of the day's events.



Top Row: vendors on the Rail Day floor. (Chris Scheick and G. Harper)

Middle Row: Running model display and the kitchen crew takes and order for hungry Rail Day participants. (G. Harper)

Bottom Row: Chapter member and Richmond, VA, resident Robins Shavers and Chapter President Rick Johnson enjoy a moment of camaraderie. (G. Harper)
Chapter members Garland Harper and Kurt Moss work on brewing coffee. (Chris Scheick)



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2013 Calendar of Events
55th 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 or 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.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

Calendar Of Events.

August 2013:

08-14-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont program, "The Stuff Dash-2 Didn't Do In Colorado"

September 2013:

09-11-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, program TBA.

09-13-14-13: {Friday & Saturday} The Mid-Atlantic Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, Stafford, Va. Info: <http://www.marpm.org>

09-15-13: {Sunday} BRC, NRHS Summer Picnic, English Park, Altavista Va.

09-18-22-13: {Wednesday-Sunday} NRHS 2013 Alaska Convention, Info: www.nrhs.com

09-25-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting" Chase Gunnoe and Jesse Smith's digital program titled "Starry Nights".

October 2013:

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

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

www.easterntca.org

November 2013:

11-03-13 {Sunday} 36th Gaithersburg Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD Info: www.gserr.com

11-9 & 10-13: 25th 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

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

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

December 2013:

12-07-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet, Former Southern Railway Station, Altavista, Va.

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, 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.norfolksouthernhs.org, www.RailServe.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

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

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>

Port of Virginia Handled Record Container Traffic in FY 2013

The Port of Virginia handled 175,864 20-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) in June, up 4.4 percent or 7,434 units compared to June 2012, wrapping up the port's best fiscal year ever.

Export TEUs in June tallied 93,020, while import TEUs were 89,635, year-over-year gains of 3.8 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively.

June's totals also closed the port's best performance for the first half of a calendar year. Since January, the port has handled 1.054 million TEUs, up 6 percent year-over-year.

"There are a number of factors that we can attribute this success to: ocean carriers loading their vessels heavy to take advantage of our 50-foot-deep channels, an increasing number of first-in and last-out vessel calls, our expanding rail service, our push into new markets like Greensboro, N.C., and an improving economy," said Rodney W. Oliver, interim executive director of the Virginia Port Authority, in a written statement. "We're also seeing a lot of interest to expand operations by some large port users and given that we believe the growth will continue."

The port handled 2.165 million TEUs in fiscal year 2013, representing a 10 percent increase versus the previous fiscal year.

Journal of Commerce - July 9, 2013

SIGHTINGS

July 15 - Amtrak Heritage unit 822 seen on a late northbound Crescent at Lynchburg. (G. Harper)



August 1 - NS reserach train spent the night in the Amtrak yard above Kemper St. Station.

(R. Johnson-II, G. Harper)



August 11 - NS Nickel Plate heritage unit 8100 seen on train 204 at Sweet Briar. (Skip Hansberry)



August 11 - Black River & Western SW1500 1539 seen in the NS/CSX interchange yard in downtown Lynchburg. Bulk terminal operator Kinder-Morgan is leasing the unit, but it is unknown which way the unit was being interchanged, NS to CSX, or CSX to NS. (G. Harper)



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