



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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(G. Harper photo)

For the program at the July meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, Derek Wimberley will present a DVD presentation by T&W Productions of the amazing convergence of all of Norfolk Southern's heritage-unit fleet that occurred a year ago at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. Several Blue Ridge Chapter members were present to witness this colorful collection of locomotives. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event. See what it was like by coming to the meeting this month.

Wednesday, July 10, 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
Meeting Minutes. June 12, 2013

Business portion of the meeting opened by Chapter President Rick Johnson at 7:42 p.m.
Location: Charley's Restaurant, Lynchburg, VA. Attendance: 19 members and guests.

New Business

Gary Quale gave an update on Ed Fielding's condition. Ed should be retuning from UVA Hospital by the end of the week. He was having complications due to a nagging abdominal infection. The treasurer's report followed.

Meeting Minutes: May meeting minutes were published with the newsletter. President Johnson called for any additions or corrections. There were none so minutes were approved as published.

V.P. Report: VP Charlie Long reported the death of former member Russell Robertson. He was an attorney in Nelson County and was a Chapter member only for a couple of years. All services were held in Newport News.

National Representative, Earl Guthrow: No report.

Rail Heritage Region Chairman, Norris Deyerle: No report.

Editor, Garland Harper: No report. (not present)

Webmaster, John Siegle: No report.

Other:

A discussion ensued concerning the \$11.00 dues increased recently approved by the National. The National is requesting the additional funds due to, among other reasons, increases in operational costs, program awards and the NRHS BULLETIN magazine upgrade. BRC members agreed that the BULLETIN has become a nice publication but cautioned that a dues increase may become a financial burden on an aging membership. Members expressed concerns about the overall financial responsibility of the National. Earl Guthrow suggested writing the National and requesting financial projections. President Johnson requested suggestions from members concerning National/Chapter relations. There was no further discussion or motions made for this topic.

A sympathy card was passed around for Ken Miller due to the recent death of his mother.

President Johnson reminded members that the September 25th fun meeting program will be by Chase Gunnoe and Jesse Smith. This was after the mention of Chase's outstanding photo essay which was in the recent issue of the NRHS BULLETIN.

Gary Quale (for himself in the absence of Tom Ledford) requested information, in particular photographs, on special trains that were operated to Lynchburg from Richmond in 1958-'59. These were 'Santa' trains operated by department stores quite possibly Miller & Rhodes.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Program:

Skip "Groundhog" Hansberry presents "The Groundhog Goes West", his first digital program, consisting of photographs with commentary on a Western trip he made last fall.

Dutifully recorded and respectfully submitted by Charlie Long in the absence of Secretary Tom Ledford.

Chapter Sympathy Extended - Chapter member Warren Middleton's daughter, Cindy, died on Wednesday, July 3rd at a Montgomery County Maryland hospital after a long struggle with cancer. Cindy was a member of St. Barnabas Church when I first moved to Lynchburg in 1971. A graveside service for her will be conducted on Thursday, July 11 in Chillicothe, OH. bg
Lipscomb - Lloyd

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Presents
The 35th Annual Lynchburg Rail Day 2013
9 am – 4 pm, Saturday August 10, 2013
Boonsboro Ruritan Club
1065 Coffee Road Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

**Lynchburg Rail Day 2013 White Elephant Table
Guidelines Information And Release Form**

Thank you for your interest in allowing the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS to sell your railroad related items on a consignment basis. There is no limit on how many items you can consign as long as these guidelines are followed. The “White Elephant Table” is open to everyone! You do not need to be a Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS member to consign your items. We don’t collect a consignment fee if we don’t sell your item{s}. Listing is free! What do you have to lose? Make money while you browse our show and we do the selling!

Our chapter will be accepting railroad related items for consignment at our designated White Elephant Table “check-in” area at the Boonsboro Ruritan Club on 1065 Coffee Road, Route 644, off US 501 North, Lynchburg, Va. 24503. Go to www.blueridgenrhs.org for detailed directions to this location. Do not rely solely on GPS maps to get to the Boonsboro Ruritan Club! The GPS maps may be incorrect! “Check in” times are Friday, August 9, 2013 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am. These are the only times that there will be White Elephant Table workers available to help you check in your items. Please note that there will be no items checked in unless you have your items clearly priced and marked as described in the following guidelines.

Guidelines

1. All items must be railroad related. Examples include, but not limited to, model railroad locomotives, rolling stock, track, transformers, structures, railroad memorabilia, lanterns, locks, keys, china, timetables, etc.

NO MAGAZINES will be accepted unless they are securely bundled and priced by the BUNDLE. Collectible hard and soft cover books are encouraged and gladly accepted.

2. All items must be clearly identified with the **seller’s three initials** and an **item number** written on a price sticker secured to the item for sale.
3. A **master list** to be left with the White Elephant Table staff must include what your three initials are, item description, item number, and the selling price. You must price your items. This is not an auction. There are no exceptions. **No master list, no consignment.** Please have your name, address, phone numbers and email address clearly printed on your master list so you can be contacted about any future shows.

4. **Consignment fees: 20% of the seller’s “marked” price.** There will be a **minimum commission** payable to the Blue Ridge Chapter of **\$1.00** per item or group of items.

Example 1: A single item has the selling price of \$10.00. If sold, the seller received \$8.00 and the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS receives \$2.00

Example 2: A single item has the selling price of \$4.00. 20% of \$4.00 is \$.80. Since the **minimum handling charge is \$1.00**, if this item is sold, the seller will receive \$3.00. It is recommended to bag groups of small loose or inexpensive items together to sell them as a single item. This may save you money by avoiding multiple minimum handling charges. **No charge to you if we don’t sell your item{s}.**

Please mark all of your prices using whole dollar amounts.

5. Any unsold items not picked from the White Elephant Table by the end of the show will become the property of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS.
6. **Instructions for receiving payment:** The White Elephant Table closes at 3:30 pm the day of the show. Sellers may collect the money due to them after the White Elephant Table workers finish calculating the money due to you from the sales of your items. This will take place as close to 4:00 pm as possible depending on when the White Elephant Table workers get the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS commissions calculated. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** The White Elephant Table workers don’t have time to calculate your portion during the day. You can pick up your items at any time providing that there is someone available to help you check your sold items off of your master list. If you are unable to pick up your money, a check will be mailed to you if you supply a SASE.

7. **Disclosure Statement:**

Every precaution will be taken to assure the safe handling of your items. Brass locomotives and other expensive items will be shown only with the assistance of a White Elephant Table staff member. If an item needs to be test run, it will only be done with a White Elephant Table staff member or seller present. No exceptions will be made.

The Boonsboro Ruritan Club, the National Railway Historical Society, the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS or any member of these organizations assume no responsibility for incorrectly priced, damaged, or stolen items. The risk rests entirely upon the seller/consignor.

Thank you for allowing the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS to consign your railroad items. Lynchburg Rail Day 2013 Train Show Chairman: Barry Moorefield, Questions? Email Barry at bmopar@verizon.net . Phone: 434-821-2174 daily before 9:00 pm.

I have read and understand the guidelines and regulations written above and agree with them as written.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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

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.

July 2013:

07-10-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Derek Wimberly's program, {DVD} "NS Heritage Units At Spencer"

07-08-12-13: {Monday-Friday} VMT Wings & Wheels "On The Move Camp", 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Members \$200.00, Nonmembers \$225.00, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>

07-15-19-13: {Monday-Friday} VMT Wings & Wheels "Rolling Wheels Camp", 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Members \$180.00, Nonmembers \$195.00, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>

07-24-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

07-28-08-01-13: {Sunday – Thursday} C&OHS Annual Conference, Info: www.cohs.org

August 2013:

08-03-13: {Saturday} Virginia Train Collectors Charlottesville Summer Train Meet, Holiday Inn Monticello, Exit 120 off I-64 at 5th Street, 1200 5th Street, SW, Charlottesville, Va. 22902, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Info: Russell Youens, Phone {804} 342-6023, www.vatraincollectors.com

08-10-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Lynchburg Rail Day 2013", NOW ACCEPTING VENDOR REGISTRATION RESERVATIONS. PLEASE USE THE LRD 2013 VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE, WWW.BLUERIDGENRHS.ORG, VENDOR TABLES SELL OUT EARLY EACH YEAR! SIGN UP TODAY! Contacts: Barry Moorefield at bmopar@verizon.net or phone 434-821-2174 before 9:00 pm., Norris Deyerle at railcow@msn.com or phone 434-237-4912, John Tanner at flytrains@yahoo.com or phone 434-525-1318

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, Charlie Long program

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 Amfleet” 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.norfolksouthernrhs.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

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

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>

Historic '611' could ply Roanoke rails once again. by [Mike Allen](#). 540-981-3236. Friday, June 28, 2013

The Virginia Museum of Transportation is launching a campaign to get the venerable locomotive operational.

Four months, Three and a half million dollars, One Norfolk & Western J-Class 611 thundering down the rails again.

The Virginia Museum of Transportation is holding a news conference at 11 a.m. today to announce it intends to make a dream come true for the rail fans who come to Roanoke from around the world to see the 611 steam engine.

The museum is launching its "Fire Up 611!" fundraising campaign with a goal of having the venerable Roanoke-built engine, considered by many to represent the apex of steam technology, operational in 2014 so it can be used for Norfolk Southern's 21st Century Steam passenger excursion program.

To have the engine ready in time, the museum needs to raise \$3.5 million by October, said marketing director Peg McGuire. That goal includes \$1 million for the restoration of the engine, \$2 million to construct a mechanical shop on the museum's property where the 611 can be sheltered and worked on, and the remainder for business and marketing expenses. The campaign starts with about \$150,000 already in hand, she said.

If the museum meets its Oct. 31 deadline, the 611 will be sent to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C., for a full restoration. Officials estimate it will take six to nine months to refurbish the engine to meet Norfolk Southern and federal standards.

The campaign won't just be focused on Roanoke or Southwest Virginia. The 611 "is known worldwide as a mechanical powerhouse," McGuire said, and the campaign will reach out to the international rail community using direct mail, social media and good old-fashioned word of mouth. The "Fire Up 611" Facebook page already has more than 3,000 likes.

"The rail community is pretty much connected through the Web," she said. The restoration of the 611 "is already being discussed quite a bit." With the campaign, museum officials hope to harness that passion, she said.

Dave Stephenson, a member of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society, said Thursday that in online rail fan forums, "The buzz has almost reached a roar."

Though the October deadline is crucial to putting the 611 on the tracks, fundraising won't end at \$3.5 million, McGuire said. The museum's ultimately aiming for \$5 million, with the additional funds to go toward an endowment that will be used to cover long-term costs of continuing maintenance.

The fundraiser follows on the heels of a study conducted by a committee of rail experts and historians to figure out the costs of restoration and whether enough demand existed to justify those costs.

The team confirmed the demand is there, said Cheri George, one of the volunteers who conducted the study. An Atlanta software consultant, George, 45, was born in Richmond and volunteered on the 611 while it was used for excursions in the early 1990s.

"People remember and love the 611," she said.

The study involved an online poll to learn what ticket prices rail fans would be willing to pay for a 611 ride. McGuire said ticket prices could range from \$60 to \$350 for luxury seats, in line with other 21st Century Steam ticket prices.

Committee members also traveled on 21st Century Steam excursions to observe the trips and talk with rail fans about the possibility of bringing the 611 back. Parents and grandparents familiar with the 611 were eager for a chance to take their children and grandchildren on a ride, George said.

The committee also put together a business model designed to keep the museum from running excursions at a loss. It concluded that running the 611 out of Roanoke wouldn't be practical unless the transportation museum had a facility on-site for maintenance. At present no facilities in Virginia fit the criteria necessary for keeping the massive antique steam engine in working order.

McGuire said it's not clear yet whether the museum would need to retain a full-time staff for the shop or hire specialists as needed. The museum will be better able to assess that after restoration of the engine begins.

"The long-term view is actually a bigger challenge than just simply getting it running," said Ron Davis, president of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society and a member of the committee that conducted the study.

Built in 1950, the 611 has been housed at the museum since 1962 and was officially the city of Roanoke's property from 1982 when it was given as a centennial gift by the Norfolk Southern Corp. until April 2012, when city officials gave the engine to the museum.

Discussion of what it would take to revive the 611 began in earnest in September 2011, when Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman announced the launch of 21st Century Steam, a partnership program with the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum that offers train excursions pulled by restored steam locomotives. Moorman said Norfolk Southern would consider operating the 611 if the transportation museum could make it rail-worthy.

“They are so excited for this,” McGuire said of rail fans. “They just are so excited to see her run again.”

For more information about the steam excursions, visit www.21stcenturysteam.com/

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/2037006-12/historic-611-could-ply-roanoke-rails-once-again.html>

Liberty University building vehicular tunnel under the Norfolk Southern.

by Charlie Long

Workers began in March to excavate around the site of a long overdue underpass under the Norfolk Southern main line in south Lynchburg. The underpass will connect the Liberty campus with Wards Road on the opposite side of Harvard St.

In a recent interview Liberty Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. said the underpass will be built with modern technology using the ‘pull through’ method. This method requires concrete boxes, or tunnels, to be built adjacent to the tracks. The boxes are then pulled through under the tracks as dirt is being removed. All of this is done without moving the tracks or disturbing train movements on the busy Piedmont Division main line above.

A recent TV news feature showed a video of the process at another location and it was apparently very successful and economical. Chancellor Falwell said that Liberty is planning for the underpass to be finished in September.

(Ed. Note) This is great news for motorists going to and from the Liberty campus. Delays to traffic were common because many trains a day block the crossing as they enter, exit and work Montview Yard, just to the north. It is great news for the railroad, too, because the only good highway grade crossing is an eliminated one!

Unfortunately, the elimination of the current road crossing, adjacent to the Sonic Drive-In on Wards Rd. probably means the loss of a great railroad photo location. I have taken many a fine photo of trains at this crossing. Many of you have, too, I bet.



(Charlie Long photo)

The view above is taken from Harvard St. looking across Wards Rd. at the construction site. Central Virginia Community College is behind us. Montview Yard is to the left. The expanse of the Liberty University campus is on the other side of the track.

Old Amherst Train Depot Gets the Green Light

Posted: Jul 08, 2013

By Rachel Schaerr - WSET. Channel 13



Amherst Co., VA - After more than a decade of trying to restore Amherst's former Southern Ry. train depot, Amherst County has gotten the green light to go ahead with the project.

The county has received \$618,000 from the federal transportation alternatives program to complete the final phase. The county will have to match 20% of the total cost of the project. The money will go towards renovating the depot's interior, adding sewer and water lines, a parking lot, and landscaping.

"There's a light at the end of the tunnel and we're very hopeful we'll see a finished project that can be used by the county and community," said Deputy County Administrator David Proffitt.

The county has discussed turning the depot into a visitor's center along with moving the chamber of commerce's office to the building.

County officials say no plans are set in stone, however.

Work on GLTC transfer station on Kemper St. continues. by Garland Harper

Below are two recent views of the work being done around Kemper Street station as the new transfer center for the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company continues. In the photo below left can be seen the structural steel frame for the GLTC passenger waiting area and additional office space above. In the distance is the former Craddock-Terry "West End" shoe factory building, and, of course, the Kemper Street Station on the other side of the street. Mary Jane's Cafe, an island of private enterprise surrounded by a sea of public spending, is at the end of the temporary fencing.

Parking around the station has been extremely tight this summer, but there is hope for better days ahead. A 40-car lot will be built adjacent to the new building in progress.

In the picture below right can be seen work on the retaining wall that will support an elevated Kemper Street station that will circle the GLTC transfer center on its north side. The current dip the road once took is not friendly for bus operation.



CHAPTER OFFICERS AND STAFF

President	Rick Johnson, 104 Mowry Ln. Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-660-1113 notch8@aol.com
Vice President	Charlie Long, 106 Pacos St., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-239-3521 cwstringr@mindspring.com
Secretary	Tom Ledford, 2186 Woodcrest Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-2013 tomledford@hotmail.com
Treasurer	John Tanner, 209 Pocahontas Dr., Forest, VA 24551-1235 434-525-1318 flytrains@verizon.net
National Representative	Earl Guthrow 1909 Quarry Rd. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-2583 meguthrow@verizon.net
Editor	Garland R. Harper, 3920 Harbor St. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-7210 GRHarper@aol.com
Historian	Rick Johnson, 104 Mowry Ln. Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-660-1113 notch8@aol.com
Webmaster	John Siegle 1225 Krise Cir. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-6951 jas65@comcast.net
BRC Chairman. VA Rail Heritage Region Partners	E. Norris Deyerle, Jr. 744 Chinook Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-237-4912 railcow@msn.com
Rail Day Chairman	Barry Moorefield 434-821-2174 bmopar@verizon.net

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.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS
P. O. Box 11731
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1731
www.blueridgenrhs.org

Lynchburg Rail Day 2013. Saturday, August 10, 2013.