



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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One of the BRC's newest members, Gale McKinley, will show videos of 1950s footage filmed around southwestern Virginia and elsewhere at the March meeting. What's special about these videos is that they are "home movies" taken by W. Graham Claytor, Jr., former Secretary of the Navy, former President of the Southern Railway System, former President of Amtrak and Gale's uncle! The videos have no sound, so she will play a montage of railroad songs on a CD as accompaniment. She will also show 1992 a Pentrex video of the 25th anniversary celebration of the NS steam program in Chattanooga. Among others, scenes of the 4501, 611 and 1218 will be included.

Plan to come to this very different meeting and show.

**Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg, VA  
Wednesday, March 13, 2013. 6:00 p.m.**



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



Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS.  
Minutes of Meeting - February 13, 2013

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 25 members and 7 guests. Rick announced that former chapter member David Leonard had died of cancer January 28 in Binghamton, NY. The minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved as distributed and Treasurer John Tanner gave his report.

Rick reported that BRC members Barry Moorefield and Galen Wright had been awarded their 25-Year membership pins by the NRHS. He also announced that the date for the High Bridge trip had been changed to Thursday, April 11 instead of April 4. Plan is now to arrive in Farmville at the station at 11:00 a.m., but this will be confirmed. A chapter field trip to the Virginia Museum of Transportation to see 1776 and the newly restored Chesapeake and Western Baldwin switcher is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 17. There will be a lecture on the Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad on Tuesday April 16 in Rocky Mount, VA, other details TBA. Rick also announced that the September fun meeting will feature special guests Chase Gunnoe and Jesse Smith presenting their "Starry Nights" program of night rail photography.

There were no reports from the Vice President or the Editor who was thanked for another excellent issue of the Blue Ridge Dispatcher. National Representative, Earl Guthrow reminded members that the 2013 NRHS National Convention would be held in Alaska. Webmaster John Seigle asked that any members who had been published supply him with bibliographic references for a new addition to the webpage. Rail Heritage Region Director Norris Deyerle discussed the upcoming C&OHS George Washington Train Show in Clifton Forge on February 16 and 17, noting that Lynchburg Rail Day fliers will be distributed there. He was also trying to arrange a Rail Day program by High Bridge Trail State Park ranger Bob Flippen on the Farmville & Powhatan Railroad.

Several other announcements followed: The Old Dominion Chapter schedule for upcoming trips on the Buckingham Branch is posted on the internet. On March 16, TVRM will run an excursion with SR 630 from Roanoke to Walton in the morning and Roanoke to Lynchburg in the afternoon. Tickets are \$45.00. Lee Hawkins is thinking about a trip to Hampton and Norfolk and will have details later.

Rick announced that the March 13 program would be Gale McKinley presenting home movies taken by former Southern Railway and Amtrak president W. Graham Claytor, Jr. and the March 27 fun meeting features Wayland Moore's program "Things Down South". The evening's program was Dale Diacont's "2012 Year In Review". Our waiter Dave won the 50/50 and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

The VIRGINIAN RAILWAY HERITAGE TRAIL by Aubrey Wiley is the newest book on the Virginian railroad and will be available in early May. Containing over 175 pictures plus maps, the 90 page, hardback book covers the Virginian from its formation in 1907 to today's role in the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Over three dozen locations are recognized as significant to the operational success of the old Virginian. Bridging from the past to the present, these surviving places are covered in great detail with pictures, information from primary sources and stories from people who actually experienced the Virginian. In establishing the physical, 525 miles long Virginian Railway Heritage Trail (mainline plus three branches), the author developed contacts and new sources for heretofore unknown information and pictures of the Virginian. The operation of C&O passenger trains over the Virginian is just one example.

For more information use this link: <http://virginianrailwayheritagetrailbook.blogspot.com/>

## Norfolk Southern to discontinue certain railcar sorting operations in Roanoke

NORFOLK, VA. – Norfolk Southern announced on Feb. 25 that it will cease regional railcar classification operations at its Roanoke Terminal hump yard in Roanoke, Va., beginning today. This will mean the elimination of about 140 positions. The Terminal will continue to provide service to local customers, and to be a hub for through-train operations.

The Roanoke hump operation has seen a steady decline in the volume of general merchandise cars handled by about 30 percent since 2006. At the same time, system-wide improvements in the railroad's operations have freed up network capacity such that classification operations now performed at Roanoke are no longer necessary.

"The employees who work at Roanoke are dedicated and efficient," said Terry Evans, vice president transportation. "But the geographical location and layout of the hump yard make it not only expensive but redundant within our network."

Most of the affected positions are carmen, who inspect and repair railcars, and train crews, who conduct switching operations in the yard. Some track maintenance positions are affected.

System-wide, Norfolk Southern anticipates hiring between 850 and 1,150 employees in 2013 to keep up with attrition. These positions will first be offered to employees affected by the Roanoke change and employees furloughed at other locations.

Ed. Note: Additional trains are being seen on the road, presumably as a result of this move. General merchandise trains 35Q and 36Q are now seen on a regular basis.

**Winter weather woes** - the winter storm which began in the Lynchburg area Tuesday night, March 5, really put a dent in the plans of train travelers the next day. While the amount of snow received in the Lynchburg area was minimal, this was not the case to our north.

Amtrak #20 departed Lynchburg on-time at 5:56 a.m. March 6. Things changed rapidly after that! #20 was told to hold his train at Oak Ridge while track people could patrol ahead of him. Apparently many trees had come down across the right of way due to the heavy, wet snow falling in places north of town.

Get this! Things looked so hopeless that #20 had to make a back-up move from Oak Ridge to Lynchburg, was turned on the wye at Montview, backed up to the Lynchburg station to let off those that wanted to leave the train, and then headed south to be routed to Washington via Greensboro, Raleigh and Richmond! What a trip! #20 finally arrived into Washington some fourteen hours behind schedule.

Oh, and the Lynchburg Regional was cancelled, too, that morning. Here is a shot of it tied down on its storage track about 3:50 p.m. on March 6.

You will note all the construction going on in the background as the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company prepares the property across the street from the station for its transfer center. Part of the layout includes a new access road from Buchanan St. to the Amtrak storage yard. The dip Kemper



St, seen above the train where the present entrance is located, will be eliminated with the construction of a large retaining wall.

## SIGHTINGS

Feb. 25 - CSX office car train deadhead move spotted westbound at Reusens. Train symbolled P95423.

Pictured below left.

(G. Harper)

Feb. 28 - Export units for Vale mining in Brazil spotted at Kinney yard. Pictured below second from left.

(A. Wiley. C. Long)

Feb. 28 - Loram rail grinder seen at work headed eastbound along Hydro St. in Reusens.

Pictured below second from right.

(G. Harper)

Mar. 2 - Amtrak heritage unit #66 seen on the Lynchburg Regional at Bedford Ave. Pictured below right.

(G. Harper)





Feb. 27 - Norfolk Southern's Central of Georgia heritage unit, #8101, was spotted leaving Lynchburg northbound on train 214. While the heritage units make somewhat regular appearances in the Lynchburg area on coal trains and empties between the coal fields and Lambert's Point in Norfolk, it is very rare to see them on the ex-Southern north or south of town. (G. Harper)  
Feb. 27 - NS 956, a deadhead office car move with cars Pennsylvania, Delaware (full-length dome), Kentucky and Maryland, seen southbound at Kemper St. Station. (R. Johnson-II, 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 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.**

**March 2013:**

03-10-13: {Sunday} VTC Richmond Area Train Meet, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Hanover Academy, Ashland, Va., Info: [www.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com)

03-13-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Gale McKinley's program, "Graham Claytor's Home Movies" DVD. Image to the left taken by your editor is of Mr. Claytor and admirers in Roanoke following a double-headed steam circle trip in August, 1971.

03-16-13: {Saturday} Harrisburg Railroad Show & Collectors Market, IW Abel Union Hall, Steelton, Pa. Info: [www.harristower.org](http://www.harristower.org)

***03-17-13: {Sunday} Blue Ridge Chapter outing to the Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Museum opens at 1:00 pm and closes at 5:00 pm. Arrive when you like and leave when you like. I would like to see us gather at 1:00 pm at the VMT if possible so we could enter as a group. Make sure that you tell the VMT workers at the front desk that you are a BRC, NRHS member. If you have a guest make sure that they are with you. Since this is a special BRC, NRHS outing, prior arrangements have been made so there will be no admission charge for BRC, NRHS members and their guests. We may gather to dine at "The Great 611 Steak Company" restaurant at 3830 Franklin Road SW, Roanoke, Va. 24014 afterwards. Info: Norris Deyerle at 434-237-4912 or [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com)***

***03-23-13: {Saturday} Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad BRC, NRHS Field Trip, Info: Rick Johnson at 434-660-1113 or [notch8@aol.com](mailto:notch8@aol.com) READ DETAILS BELOW!!!***

***03-23-13: {Saturday} VMT Model Train Day, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>***

***03-23-13: {Saturday} Carolina Model Railroaders' Annual Train Show, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm in the West Wing of the J. Douglas Galyon Depot {Restored SR/Amtrak railroad station}, 236 East Washington Street, Greensboro, NC. Info: <http://www.carolinamodelrr.org> Courtesy of Gene Lewis, Greensboro Chapter, NRHS***

**03-27-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting" Wayland Moore's program titled "Some Southern Sights". Included will be a very brief summary of some unique Australian things including a triple gauge turn table and doubled ended "F" type units. Also some sights around New Orleans from a couple of trips there by Wayland in the past couple of years including the Boise MP1500D on the New Orleans Public Belt and street running. Sample images provided!**



Far left: Street running in New Orleans. Left: Triple-gauge turntable in Australia. April 2013:  
**04-10-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber's program titled "Rails Northeast". Featured will be the former B&O between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh 1984-2008, the Northeast Corridor from New Jersey to Washington, DC**

**1980-2010 and the Delmarva Peninsula 1980-2010.**

**04-11-13: {Thursday} BRC, NRHS "High Bridge" Outing Number 2, For those of you that missed our first BRC, NRHS "High Bridge" outing you have a second opportunity. This will be close to the 148th anniversary date of the Civil War Battle For High Bridge. Meet at the Farmville, Va. former N&W Passenger Station at 11:00 a.m. to follow our group over to the High Bridge. For those of you that know how to get to the High Bridge then you can meet up with our group at the High Bridge parking lot area at 11:30 a.m. to start the tour. Free admission. Car pooling out of Lynchburg could be arranged if there's an interest. Dine at Charley's Riverfront Café in Farmville after the High Bridge tour.**

**Info: Rick Johnson at 434-660-1113 or [notch8@aol.com](mailto:notch8@aol.com) **READ DETAILS BELOW!!!****

04-16-13: {Tuesday} Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad Program, Tex Carter will give a small talk about the F&P Railroad, which went through Franklin County and Pittsylvania area. Mr. Carter will have a limited number of books available about this railroad. He will also present a slide show about the depots that were scattered throughout the area. Location: Franklin County Library, Rocky Mount, Va. 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Info: Dorothy Hodges, Archivist/Genealogist, Franklin County Public Library, Phone: 540-483-3098 Opt. 0, Email: [dorothyhodges@franklincountyva.org](mailto:dorothyhodges@franklincountyva.org)

04-18-20-13: {Thursday-Saturday} Eastern Division Train Collectors Association York Spring Meet, York, Pa. Info: [www.easterntca.org](http://www.easterntca.org)

04-19 & 20-13: {Friday- Saturday} 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Key, Lock & Lantern Convention, Glenmont Comfort Inn, Albany, NY, Info: [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org)

**May 2013:**

05-08-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson program {Digital}

**05-11-12-13: {Saturday & Sunday} Roanoke Rail Fest, Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>**

**05-17-18-13: {Friday & Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Overnight Tidewater Circle Trip". Info: Lee Hawkins: Cell; 434-610-2429, Work; 434-522-6704, Home; 434-237-2429 or email: [railhawk46@aol.com](mailto:railhawk46@aol.com)**

**READ DETAILS BELOW!!!**

**05-22-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting" Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Member Dorr Tucker's slide program**

**June 2013:**

06-07-09-13: {Friday – Sunday} CSXT Historical Society 2013 Convention, Winchester, KY, This is a new railroad historical society that after looking at their website appears to be made up of active railfans! Take a look at [www.csxthsociety.org](http://www.csxthsociety.org).

06-12-13: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Skip Hansberry program {Digital}

06-12-16-13: {Wednesday – Sunday} N&WHS Annual Convention, Twin Falls State Park, WV, Twin Falls is just a bit north of Mullins, WV Info: [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org)

06-17-21-13: {Monday-Friday} VMT Wings & Wheels "Zoom Camp", 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Members \$70.00, Nonmembers \$85.00, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>

06-22-13: {Saturday} North Carolina Railroad Show, Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC, Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

06-24-28-13: {Monday-Friday} VMT Wings & Wheels "Let's Go Camp", 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Members \$180.00, Non-members \$195.00, Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. Info: <http://vmt.org>

06-22-13: {Saturday} North Carolina Railroad Show, Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC Info:

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

**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](http://www.cohs.org)

**August 2013:**

08-10-13: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Lynchburg Rail Day 2013", Contacts: Barry Moorefield at [bmopar@verizon.net](mailto:bmopar@verizon.net) or phone 434-821-2174 before 9:00 pm. Norris Deyerle at [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com) or phone 434-237-4912, John Tanner at [flytrains@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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

09-18-22-13: {Wednesday-Sunday} NRHS 2013 Alaska Convention, Info: [www.nrhs.com](http://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](http://www.easterntca.org)

**November 2013:**

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

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

**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 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.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com), [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org), [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.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.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), [www.TrainFinder.com](http://www.TrainFinder.com), [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com) or [www.wghshow.com](http://www.wghshow.com), [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

**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)

**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>



**Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad Chapter Field Trip** - Blue Ridge Chapter members and friends are invited to attend a field trip hosted by Tex Carter along the historical route of the Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad from Gretna, Va. in Pittsylvania Co. to Rocky Mount, Va. in Franklin Co. on Saturday, March 23. Tex has authored a book on this short line railroad, which was in service from 1880 to 1932 and was originally constructed as a way to haul ore out of the Pittsville area of Pittsylvania Co., and later ran between the above named locations. We will meet Tex and begin our field trip at the Southern Railway bay window caboose in Gretna at 9:00 A.M. sharp. Tex will give us a "trip briefing" sharing with us the history of the line, where we will be stopping and what we will be seeing on our road trip to Rocky Mount. At this time, for anyone bringing a laptop computer, Tex will download F&P info for use and assistance during the field trip. We will then carpool towards Rocky Mount following the F&P right-of-way and stopping to visit the visible scars of the railroad grade and extant depots! Yes, DEPOTS!!! Restroom facilities will be available at Gretna and Rocky Mount, however, finding one between the start and finish lines may be like finding a train (*Note: There are lots of trees!*). Wearing comfortable shoes, bringing a jacket and laptop computer is suggested. Contact Rick Johnson for more info at 434-660-1113 or Notch8@aol.com

**"Special" High Bridge Chapter Field Trip** - Blue Ridge Chapter members and friends are invited to attend a "special" field trip to Farmville, Va. on **Thursday**, April 11 to visit N&W's famous "High Bridge". For those of you that missed our first "High Bridge" field trip last October, you have a second opportunity! Our spring field trip will be as close to the 148th anniversary of the Civil War battle for "High Bridge" (April 6-7, 1865) as could be arranged so as to give us the same feel that the troops had during the battle (well, maybe not the "same" feel). This is a special weekday trip in order to accommodate any members and friends with mobility issues that may not get to visit the bridge otherwise. Normal visits would require almost a mile hike or bike ride from the River Road parking area to the bridge. On our special visit, a High Bridge Trail State Park Ranger will meet us at the River Road parking area at 11:30 A.M. and allow any of our guests to drive to the bridge where he will provide a talk about the bridge!!! (Of course anyone wishing to hike or bike ride in may do so.) Carpooling out of Lynchburg at 10:00 A.M. could be arranged if there is an interest. We will then meet at the N&W train station in Farmville at 11:00 A.M. to join others for carpooling over to the bridge. This should be a terrific field trip and spring flora (and maybe some fauna) should be great for viewing from atop this massive structure! Wearing comfortable shoes and bringing a light jacket is suggested. After our visit to the bridge, we will dine at Charley's Riverfront Café in Farmville!! Contact Rick Johnson for more info at 434-660-1113 or Notch8@aol.com

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/>

Charley's Waterfront Cafe

<http://www.charleywaterfront.com/>

**Amtrak Circle trip proposed** - Travel wizard Lee Hawkins is conceptualizing yet another BRC outing involving the riding of Amtrak trains. Here is the adventure which he has entitled "The Overnight Tidewater Circle Trip". Leave Kemper Street station by car at 6.45 a.m. on Friday, May 17. Take Amtrak #67 from Richmond to Newport News (C&O) then on to the Norfolk Amtrak platform by AMBus. On May 18 return on the recently added train from Norfolk to Richmond via the N&W and new interchange track to the ACL. Those of you with the money and inclination COULD stay on the train for a trip over the ex-RF&P into Washington, DC and then ride the Lynchburg Regional back home. This being the month of May it should be a day light trip.

Things to do right next to the Norfolk Amtrak Platform / Harbor Park Light Rail Station:

Ride Virginia's First Light Rail System-"The Tide", Railfan NS near the Elizabeth River Bridge, Attend a Norfolk Tides vs. Lehigh Valley minor league baseball game, Walk to Waterside in Norfolk, Ride Ferry from Waterside to Portsmouth. Lee can provide information on hotel accommodations which you would have to make on your own

Those that are interested may contact Lee Hawkins for details. cell 434-610-2429, home 434-237-2429, work 434-522-6704 or [railhawk46@aol.com](mailto:railhawk46@aol.com)

## 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 cwrongjr@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](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)

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



