

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 33 No. 8

August 2013



Ex-SOU Consolidation #630 (ex-ET&WNC #207) leading the charge through Chattanooga's pre-Civil War *Missionary Ridge Tunnel*, which was completed in 1858. The venerable lady is the star of this month's membership meeting program.

August 26th General Membership Meeting

This month's General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum will be held at 6:30 pm on August 26, 2013 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Our program this month is entitled "STEAM ON THE BRISTOL LINE: 2012-2013", featuring ex-SOUTHERN 2-8-0 #630 pulling consists from Roanoke to Walton VA; Roanoke to Bristol, VA; Bristol to Knoxville; Bristol to Radford, VA; Bristol to Bulls Gap, TN; and Bristol to Roanoke. Further detail about our fall excursions on Oct 12 and 13, 2013 out of Spencer, NC will be announced at this meeting.

Member Notes

By Nancy Jewell

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Harriett M. Williams in her death on July 31, 2013, in Johnson City. Harriett had been an active member of Watauga Valley for several years.

Please keep Billy Walker's mother, Belva Walker, in your thoughts as she is in Rehab in Nashville, recovering from injuries received in a recent fall. Also, please continue to remember Bob Yaple as he continues his recovery at Johnson City's NHC with the aid of physical therapy.

As always, let us know of a member, friend or family to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office phone number is (423) 753-5797 or call Nancy Jewell at (423) 282-0918. Thank you for helping us keep in touch.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

By Bob Yaple

CLINCHFIELD 100 Office Car. Our newest piece of equipment is now in Spencer, NC at the North Carolina Transportation Museum being painted back into its original CLINCHFIELD colors. We are hoping to have the car on display at NCTM during our fall excursions on Oct 12 and 13. WVRHS&M volunteers will get a tour of the car and possible ride around the museum in Spencer.

MOULTRIE 400 Diner. Interior work and wiring diagrams continue.

ST. AUGUSTINE 500 Coach. New letter boards have been put on the car heralding its heritage with FLORIDA EAST COAST and St. Augustine lettering. Seats in the car have been taken to the upholstery shop and carpet has been installed on the ceiling and on the panels under the window. The rubber tile will be installed in the coming weeks.

POWHATAN ARROW 539 Coach. Being prepared for the fall excursions.

CRESCENT HARBOR 2351 Sleeper/Lounge. Work continues on the genset. Wiring for the auto-start and source interlock systems has been started.

Fall WVRHS&M Rail Excursions

Tickets for this fall's excursion sponsored by the Watauga Valley RHS&M and the North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation are now on sale. Starting at Spencer, NC, the destinations this year will be Charlottesville VA on October 12 and Asheville, NC via the famous Old Fort Loops on October 13. Please go to at <http://nctrans.org/Home.aspx> for information, details and orders.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. WVRHS&M is on our seventh year in hosting the first class section of this train. Since our train will be bigger and better than ever, we need more volunteers to staff the train. Appended to the end of this newsletter is the Excursion Workers Sign-up Form. Return it either at the August membership meeting or mail to Watauga Valley RHS&M, P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432. You may also email your intentions to wataugavalley@embarqmail.com or call our office at (423) 753-5797. **Volunteers in all areas for the excursion are still needed.** These are two great trips you do not want to miss.

In the News



Steam locomotive ex-NKP #765 returns to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, Peninsula, OH, this September! The locomotive will operate a variety of different excursions with open window coaches and dome cars, with photo run-bys, entertainment, and more. For more information, navigate to <http://www.cvsr.com/contact-us>.



Curious about those NS commercials you see on TV are made? Check out <http://scenios.com/v/7f10adb89e16a145>. [Thanks to Kati Phelps]

If you're like your Editor and not intimately familiar with the names, numbers and terminus cities of SOUTHERN RAILWAY passenger trains that served eastern Tennessee, trying to understand said information in articles within these pages can be daunting. The following table, taken from a 1947 SOUTHERN timetable, is therefore offered as a helpful reference.

17	Birmingham Special	Bristol - Birmingham
18	Birmingham Special	Birmingham - Bristol
27	Carolina Special	Asheville – Knoxville ¹
28	Carolina Special	Knoxville – Asheville ¹
35	Birmingham Special ²	Chattanooga – Memphis
36	Birmingham Special ²	Memphis - Chattanooga
41	The Pelican	Bristol – New Orleans
42	The Pelican	New Orleans - Bristol
43	Queen and Crescent Limited	Knoxville – Chattanooga ³
44	Queen and Crescent Limited	Chattanooga – Knoxville ³
45	The Tennessean	Washington, DC – Bristol ⁴
46	The Tennessean	Bristol - Washington, DC ⁴

¹ A segment of the train's service between Cincinnati and the Carolinas.

² A section of the Birmingham Special. Cars were cut off 17 and added to 18.

³ A segment of the train's service between Cincinnati and New Orleans.

⁴ N&W between Bristol and Monroe, VA. Beginning sometime around 1957, SOUTHERN diesels began hauling the trains between Monroe and Bristol without change to N&W steam.



Train #46 powered by E7A #2918 leads a 12-car train, heading eastbound through Glade Spring, VA, at the close of 1964. Much of the consist appears to be dedicated to freight. [Abe Burnett photo.]

Photo Section



As the years pass, it's difficult for those familiar with the Doe River Gorge to imagine steam-powered freight and passenger trains charging through the chasm. It's even more difficult to imagine automobiles driving through the gorge, yet, as the photos below show, that's what exactly happened. Shortly after the narrow gauge portion of the ET&WNC was abandoned in 1950 and the rails taken up, the ROW was still in a stable enough condition to support cars. Anyone who has hiked back in there in modern times would struggle to imagine driving there, yet a car could traverse the entire gorge as the photos suggest. [Photos courtesy of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, Record Group 82.]



GANDY DANCERS. A wonderful, short video preview of a film on Gandy Dancers can be found on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=025QQwTwzdU>.

Upcoming Events

WVRHS&M Members Only Field Trip to view N&W J-class #611 Saturday, September 14, 2013

Join Nick White and Gary Price on September 14th to Roanoke, Virginia to visit the QUEEN OF STEAM, the Great Norfolk and Western #611, before she leaves for her restoration. This outing offers a Van Trip to the Virginia Museum of Transportation. There you will have the "Special Opportunity" to sit in the cab of the #611!! and visit the N&W #1218, N&W #1776 along with all the other equipment on display. Also, our members will have another "Special Opportunity"! to have a train ride provided by our friends at the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Their vintage equipment will include:

- RNRH Riding Equipment
 - ALCO T-6 NW #41
 - N&W P-3 Arrow coach #512
 - N&W 1940 Roanoke Shop CH caboose #518409
 - N&W 1969 ICCo C-31 Cab #518539
- To View on Display
 - N&W GP-30 #522
 - N&W 1949 Budd sleeper Scioto County (#1489)

After our visit and train ride at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, we will travel over to the Roanoke Chapter NRHS' 9th Street Coach Yard to tour their historic railroad equipment there! More N&W! After our visit at the 9th Street Coach Yard, we'll make our way to the Great 611 Steakhouse Restaurant for lunch (on your own). Then, before we head home, we will venture to Mill Mountain and the Roanoke Star. The star is the world's largest free standing illuminated star, constructed in 1949. Here you will enjoy a wonderful view of the City of Roanoke and of the famous Norfolk and Western East End Shops, a fitting way to conclude our Queen of Steam Field Trip!

Cost: \$50.00 Per Person. This Includes round trip transportation, museum admission and train ride costs. (Meals are on your own.) Email Nick White at nickwhite@hotmail.com or call him at (276) 685-2386 to reserve a seat. Terms: Cash or Check payable to Nick White. NO REFUNDS. If you cannot make the trip you have option of having someone else take your spot in the van. SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Payments are due at the membership meeting on August 26th. If you cannot attend this month's meeting, please contact Nick White to make other arrangements.

Boarding Location: Parson's Table Parking Lot, Jonesborough. DEPARTURE IS 7:00 AM SHARP!



September 7-8: The schedule for TWEETSIE RAILROAD's two-day "Railroad Heritage" special event has been published on-line. Go to <http://tweetsie.com/special-events/railfan-schedule/>.



September 21: Erwin, TN Train Show at the National Guard Armory.



October 5: The Whistle Machine will travel to Greenville, SC for the COTTON MILL blowing event.

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Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

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Opinions or viewpoints are those of the writer and may not necessarily reflect those of the organization members, officers or directors. Items of interest are welcome and will be credited to the author; however, because of space constraints, all submissions are subject to editing. Permission to reprint *Whistle Stop* articles with the exception of photographs is granted if proper credit is given. Reuse of photographs must receive permission by the editor and the photographer.

Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

FALL 2013 EXCURSION WORKERS FORM

OCTOBER 12 and OCTOBER 13, 2013, CAR HOST ASSIGNMENT REQUEST FORM

MEMBER _____ PHONE (____) _____

MEMBER _____ PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR FIRST CLASS CAR HOST SERVICE ON THE SPENCER, NC TO CHARLOTESVILLE, VA ROUND TRIP EXCURSION ON OCTOBER 12, 2013 AND THE SPENCER, NC TO ASHEVILLE, NC ROUND TRIP EXCURSION ON OCTOBER 13, 2013.

WVRHS&M WILL PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION TO SPENCER, NC AND BACK TO JONESBOROUGH, TN. WE WILL LEAVE JONESBOROUGH AT 7:30 AM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO DRIVE DOWN TO SPENCER IN YOUR OWN CAR IF YOU WISH. WVRHS&M WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION BACK TO JONESBOROUGH ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 AND ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14.

ALL CAR HOSTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT SALISBURY SUPER 8 AT A SPECIAL RATE OF \$54.95 PER NIGHT. YOU WILL NEED TO CALL 704-738-8888 AND ASK FOR WATAUGA VALLEY NRHS SPECIAL RATE.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL BY AUGUST 22, 2013. YOU WILL NEED ROOMS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12. STAYING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 IS OPTIONAL.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SIGN UP FOR THIS GREAT TRIP TO SERVE AS CAR HOST. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AT THE JULY MEMBERSHIP MEEETING OR MAIL IT TO: EXCURSION WATV, P.O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN, 37605-0432, BY AUGUST 4. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE 423-753-5797.