

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432
(423) 753-5797
www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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Restoration work continues on ex-CLINCHFIELD Business Car 100 at the NCTM in Spencer, NC. In the photo above, the car is undergoing body work prior to painting. Continue to follow the transformation of this classic car to its original beauty in future issues of the Whistle Stop.

October 28th 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 October 28, 2013 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Our program this month will feature our Autumn Train Excursions out of the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC. Revisit our two very successful excursions to Charlottesville, VA and Asheville, NC. You will also be treated with details about our new passenger car – the CLINCHFIELD 100. Bring a friend along for a relaxing evening with your fellow members.

Member Notes

By Nancy Jewell

Our sympathy is extended to Jim Smallwood and family in the death of Jim's Mother, India V. Smallwood, on September 22, 2013, in Bristol, VA. Sympathy is also extended to George and Nancy Ritchie in the death of George's brother, Ernest "Gebe" Ritchie, on October 11, 2013, in Elizabethton, TN.

Please let us know of any members, friends or families to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made to let them know that they are in our thoughts. The office phone number is 423-753-5797 or call Nancy Jewell at 423-282-0918. Thank you for your help.

DUES NOTICES FOR 2014

You'll find attached to the end of this newsletter the Dues Notice for 2014 renewals. Please return to Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605. As in 2013, you have several options to consider when renewing. You can: (1.) join the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum for \$20.00 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each; (2.) join the National Railway Historical Society, which has raised dues by \$11.00 to \$70.00 this year; (3.) join WVRHS&M and the Railroad Heritage Alliance for \$35 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each; and (4.) join all three organizations for \$85 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each. Each option is specified on the Dues Notice. Any questions should be posted to wataugavalley@embarqmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE 2014 ELECTIONS

Nominations for the 2014 Election were presented by the WVRHS&M NOMINATING COMMITTEE to the membership at our August Meeting. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the following will be on the ballot, which will be mailed soon. When received, please mail your ballot to the WVRHS&M Nominating Committee, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432

MIKE TILLEY	PRESIDENT	GARY PRICE	HISTORIAN
BOB SCHUBEL	VICE PRESIDENT	JIM CALHOUN	DIRECTOR (3 YEARS)
JIM SMALLWOOD	SECRETARY	HELEN CALHOUN	DIRECTOR (3 YEARS)
JEANIE WALKER	TREASURER	DON FINDLEY	DIRECTOR (3 YEARS)

FALL 2013 RAIL EXCURSIONS

The WVRHS&M / NCTM Foundation Fall Excursions are now history. Both trips were very successful even though we had some equipment problems with the *Crescent Harbor*. In Charlottesville, when the engines ran around the train to head back south to Spencer, the engineer performed a very hard coupling which caused the Head End Power cable to get damaged and caused a short. The *Crescent Harbor* had to be set out at Spencer and not operate to Asheville. As of press time the *Crescent Harbor* was headed back home to Jonesborough for repairs.

We had good weather along with a sold out train to Charlottesville and a nearly sold out train for Sunday with just a few coach tickets left. The WVRHS&M Board of Directors would like to thank all our members for outstanding professional job in manning the train. Everyone performed an excellent job in the operation of the First Class Section. We will give everyone a chance at the October meeting to express their viewpoint in making the trips operate better next year.

[Newspaper coverage of Sunday's trip can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ptcthtnt>]

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

By Bob Yaple

As most of our members know, Bob Yaple, Assistant Chief Mechanical Officer, is in the NHC Healthcare Facility, 3209 Bristol Highway, Johnson City, TN. If you're in the area, please stop by and see Bob. He enjoys having company and talking with WVRHS&M members.

Over 30 some members showed up for the cleaning session at the Jonesborough Coach yard on September 21 and 29. Thanks for everyone in getting our cars ready for Fall Excursion service.

You're invited to get involved with the Mechanical Crew. Even if you're not mechanically gifted, you can still come on down to Jonesborough on Tuesdays and Saturdays and help with our equipment. There is something for everyone to do at the yard. Everyone is welcome to come down and volunteer!!!!!! For information about volunteering at the Coach Yard, please call (423) 753-5797 or e-mail wataugavalley@embarqmail.com

CLINCHFIELD BUSINESS CAR: WVRHS&M's newest car, the *Clinchfield*, is in the paint shop in Spencer, NC as of press time. The Mechanical Crew along with several volunteers is working with the painters to get Car 100 paint matched with its scheme when operating on the CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD.

WVRHS&M members were given a chance to tour the car while being prepared for painting at Spencer on Friday, October 11. Most members were amazed at how good of condition Car 100 was after many years of storage. Plans are to paint Car 100 at the end of October and bring it back to the Jonesborough Coach Yard for an Open House in mid-November. Many former CLINCHFIELD employees will be invited. Time and date will be announced soon.



(Photo enhanced to highlight letter boards.)


ST. AUGUSTINE COACH: Work has been completed on the restoration project and the car is back out on the road again. It performed excellently on the Spencer trips and is out running on the October 19-20/26-27 New River trips in Huntington WV. The car had new flooring installed along with new upholstery in the interior. The exterior also had some updates - the original names put back on the car with FLORIDA EAST COAST on the top letter board and the car's original name *St. Augustine* on the bottom board. Work on the coach lighting and septic system was repaired before the car departed for Spencer.


MOULTRIE DINING CAR: The dishwasher was repaired before the car left for Spencer.


POWHATAN ARROW COACH: Polishing and buffing performed before departing for Spencer.

CRESCENT HARBOR LOUNGE/SLEEPER: The car was cleaned and all systems checked prior to departure for the fall excursions.

In the News

 **NORFOLK SOUTHERN Exhibit Car Makes Five-state Tour.** NS's popular exhibit car launched a five-state public tour this fall, educating people about the railroad's history. The tour stopped in PA, TN, NC, and SC and will end in VA. The car, made from a 1926 Pullman car, features interactive exhibits and locomotive simulator. A new feature of the exhibit car is a display of 21 models featuring all of the NS Heritage units and recently painted Veterans unit. The display also features a short film showing how each locomotive was painted. The car also has a "Load the Line" computer game and photo booth. The railroad provides the exhibit car to community events free-of-charge. The car will be on regional display at the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke from Nov. 8th through the 29th. [TRAINS News Wire via "Turntable Times", Roanoke NRHS]

 **Fire Up 611 Update.** The \$5 million Capital Campaign to restore ex-N&W steam locomotive #611 has received donations from 48 states and 11 countries. Project organizers have been overwhelmed by the level of interest and this great diversity of donors. They are currently in the process of negotiating contracts for the restoration site; restoration work; and operations. They are very pleased with progress toward meeting their goal, but are still need help to reach it. For more information about the project, visit <http://www.fireup611.org/>. ["Turntable Times", Roanoke NRHS]

 **Possible Restoration of C&O #1309.** In a search for potential additional steam power as it begins its 25th season of operation, the mountain-climbing WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD is investigating more steam power to supplement its 2-8-0. One possible contender is ex-CHESAPEAKE & OHIO class H-6 Mallet 2-6-6-2 #1309, currently on display at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Museum chief curator David Shackelford has confirmed the initial inquiries. "WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD contacted the B&O Museum concerning acquiring the engine. The museum is in the early stages of evaluating their request, and no decision has been made at this time," Shackelford says. He rejects numerous internet rumors that stated the loco is already being prepared for shipment or is already confirmed as going to Cumberland. [Trains Magazine online via "The Automatic Block", Western Maryland NRHS]


 **Tourist train / truck collision.** The driver of a westbound truck carrying logs down Cheat Mountain, WV was killed when his truck crashed into the side of a tourist train at a rail crossing on U.S. Route 250, about 1:30 p.m. the afternoon of Friday, October 11th. The driver was killed when his truck slammed into the side of the "Cheat Mountain Salamander", a tourist train operated by the WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL RAILROAD, out of Elkins. Sixty train passengers were injured, three critically in the crash. One passenger car was derailed and knocked onto its side by the impact. Another passenger car was derailed and leaning at a 45-degree angle. The truck struck the train near the hitch between the third-to-last and second-to-last cars of the train. One official on the scene said most passengers were seated in cars forward of the impact point. The cause of the crash is unknown but under investigation. Visibility at the time of the crash was good and all rail crossing warning signals reportedly working properly. ["The Pocahontas Times", Marlinton, WV]



Photo by Geoff Hamill, The Pocahontas Times

Photo Section: October Excursions

The following shots of our recent excursions were taken by writer/photographer Ann Cameron Siegal. Ann's foster father was the chief dining car steward on the ATLANTIC COAST LINE's "West Coast Champion" from DC to Tampa. She says she still can picture him, looking spiffy in his white jacket and black bow tie, joking around with the dining car staff and loving his interaction with rail passengers. More of her trip pictures can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/k8q7mo3>. [Notes taken from Ann's photo album.]



Our "Moultrie" being readied for the trips.



The "Moultrie" beautifully set for dinner.



A tasty breakfast aboard the "Moultrie", proof that our passengers ate well.



Passengers and volunteers enjoying the ride aboard ex-NEW YORK CENTRAL club car #38.



"Southern Hospitality" lounge and dome car.



For an all-around view, nothing beats the ex-SEABOARD RAILWAY "Silver Meteor" sky lounge car.



A railfan's delight: the "Wisconsin" bringing up the rear. Now that's a view!



As Ann notes on her album page: "So much nicer than airplane seats!"



"Scenic View" dome car. Built by Budd in 1954 as part of an order re-equipping the SANTA FE's streamliner fleet. Ultimately sold to Holland America to operate on the ALASKA RAILROAD. Acquired in 2007 by Iowa Pacific along with eight other similar domes.

Photo Section: Archives

Whistle Stop contributor Abe Burnett recently scanned many of his legacy N&W photographs, creating a digital archive that captures a bygone railroading era for our region. Their grainy quality contributes to the ghost-like mood created by these views into our past.



Train No. 41, the "Pelican", coming through Glade Spring in 1964 with a heavy train. This was one of three SOUTHERN trains that the N&W handled from Lynchburg to Bristol, 200 miles. It was unusual that an N&W engine was coupled ahead.



Action on that same September day included #95, a Roanoke to Bristol train, pulling into the passing siding at Glade Spring so cars can be set off and picked up on the hill tracks a half-mile to the west, and so that No. 41 can run around. Old timers referred to #95 as "The Hog" for reasons unknown.



The May 29, 1969 last run of the "Powhatan Arrow"; location unknown. Compare this photo with those of the elegant train in its glory days, resplendent in tuscan red livery and powered by a magnificent J class locomotive.



ALCO RS-11 #347 switching the Bristol local at Glade Spring. September 1964.

Upcoming Events



November 2nd, 2013: Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's "Summerville Steam Special". ex-SOUTHERN 2-8-0 #630 leads a trip from Chattanooga, Tennessee (Grand Jct. Station) to Summerville, GA. For more information, click on <http://www.tvrail.com/pages/summerville-steam-special>.

21ST CENTURY STEAM!

As part of NORFOLK SOUTHERN's 21st Century Steam Program, TVRM will be offering a limited number of public excursions during this coming November. The schedule will be:

November 9 ~ Chattanooga to Attalla, AL

November 10 ~ Chattanooga to Oneida, TN

November 16 & 17 ~ Knoxville to Asheville, NC

General admission seating will be provided in climate-controlled coaches with comfortable seats and large windows. A commissary car selling snacks, soft drinks, and light food items, along with souvenir items, will be part of the train. Power is scheduled to be ex-SOUTHERN RAILWAY 2-8-0 #630 built in 1904 and recently restored to service by TVRM in Chattanooga, assisted by modern NORFOLK SOUTHERN diesels unless noted otherwise. For ordering tickets and more information, go to <http://www.tvrail.com/pages/21st-century-steam/>.



CSX's annual "Santa Train" will make its 71st run on **Saturday, November 23rd, 2013**. What a remarkable record! This year's Celebrity Guest, making a return appearance, is rising country music star Kree Harrison, runner-up of "American Idol" Season 12.



It's not too early to start planning for the **WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M CHRISTMAS PARTY** on **Saturday, December 7th, 2013** at the Jonesborough Visitors Center. Details will be provided in the November edition of the "Whistle Stop". **MARK YOUR CALENDER.**

Modeler's Workshop



Kati Phelps passes along a link to a handy web site providing a reference to SOUTHERN RAILWAY locomotive paint schemes. To view, go to <http://www.hosam.com/srr/hoodpnt.html>.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

We are still asking members to switch over to the electronic version of the *Whistle Stop* to help reduce distribution costs. The electronic version is in living color, the quality is so much better than the printed copy, you'll be able to link directly to referenced web sites, and you'll receive your issue MUCH SOONER. Please try it! Send your e-mail address to wataugavalley@gmail.com or call the WVRHS&M office (423) 753-5797 to receive future copies on line. You will not go back to the printed version once you see what you are missing.

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M DUES NOTICE FOR 2014

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM WILL **EXPIRE** ON DECEMBER 31, 2013. YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF WHICH TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP YOU DESIRE. PLEASE SELECT WHICH MEMBERSHIP YOU CHOOSE AND MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK (NO CASH, PLEASE) TO WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M, P. O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN.37605-0432. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE DISREGARD.

___ OPTION 1: WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Dues

Individual Membership \$20.00

Family Membership. \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ _____

___ OPTION 2: WATAUGA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dues

Individual Membership \$70.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ _____

___ OPTION 3: WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM AND THE RAILROAD HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Dues

Individual Membership \$35.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ _____

___ OPTION 4: MEMBERSHIP IN ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS ABOVE

Individual Membership \$85.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ _____

Donation to Watauga Valley RHS&M \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (check only, please) \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____