

# Whistle Stop



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



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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Mike Tilley found a forlorn and decrepit relic from our region's railroading the past – the former SOUTHERN RAILWAY station at Mohawk, TN along the NS Bristol – Knoxville line. Of note are the two doors at the building's end in the photo at the left, similar to the Chuckey Depot, which provided entry to racially-separated waiting rooms. Historically significant, it is one of the few remaining stations along the line, but its days are numbered unless some person or organization comes to its rescue.

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## *March 27<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting*

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will have our regular meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Our program this month, presented by Ralph Clarke, will be on the JOHNSON CITY SOUTHERN which operated between Johnson City and Embreeville, TN. This railroad, starting at the "Y section" in West Johnson City and terminating at the Embreeville mines near the Lamar community, was absorbed into the SOUTHERN RAILWAY, and lasted until 1939 hauling ore out of the mines. Come out, bring a friend, and enjoy a great night of railroading.

## *Member Notes*

*by Edna Kay Carter*

Our sympathy goes out to Mike Sanford on the passing of his wife Vern. Please keep the following in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns: Suzie Tilley, Bob Yaple, Kati Phelps, Nancy Jewell, George Ritchie, Gary Price and Art Devoe. As always, let us know of any 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 Edna Carter at (423) 571-3226.

We can now look forward to the upcoming spring season with everything in bloom and the warmer days.

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### **LATE WVRHS&M DUES NOTICE**

Late dues notices were recently sent out to all members who have not renewed for 2017. Please act fast and get your dues notices mailed back to WVRHS&M, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN, 37605-0432. NON-RENEWALS WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP LIST AT THE END OF THIS MONTH; THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST WHISTLE STOP.

### **HIWASSEE GORGE TRIP **SOLD OUT****

We are happy to announce that the Hiwassee Gorge excursions have sold out. Five busses will depart Johnson City on April 1<sup>st</sup> for a full day of fun for our passengers.

### **CAR HOST VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR #611 EXCURSIONS**

NCTM has asked the WVRHS&M for volunteers to help host the 611 excursions on April 8<sup>th</sup> from Spencer to Lynchburg, VA and April 9<sup>th</sup> for two half day trips out of Spencer to Charlotte and Greensboro, NC. If you're interested in volunteering, please e-mail Marcus Neubacher at [Marcus.Neubacher@nctrans.org](mailto:Marcus.Neubacher@nctrans.org).

The Virginia Museum of Transportation is seeking volunteers to help host the 611 excursions for their Greensboro, NC to Roanoke, VA excursions on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. If interested, please go to the following web site: <http://tinyurl.com/k9fukls>.

### **SUMMER EXCURSION ON THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD**

WVRHS&M's 2017 Summer Train Excursion from Bryson City to the Nantahala Gorge, NC will be held on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Trip information will be coming out very shortly. If you would like to host, please sign up at the General Membership Meeting.

### **WVRHS&M / NCTM FALL AMTRAK EXCURSIONS**

The committee for the November AMTRAK excursions out of the North Carolina Transportation Museum is still in their planning stage; details will come on a later date.

### **NEW EXCURSION MAILING LIST**

WVRHS&M has put together a new mass email list for people to receive advance notification of future excursions. Anyone interested in being added to list should send their e-mail address to [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).



# *Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report*

*by Jim Magill*

## GENERAL

The Mechanical Team had been very busy over the last couple of months with some work days seeing 15 plus members helping on the equipment; however, recent bad weather has again taken its toll on progress. Hopefully the weather will turn around and we can finish some of the work planned for the spring. We are in need of several more volunteers to help on the cars. If you would like to volunteer, please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797 and leave a message; we will call you back.

## ROLLING STOCK

“Clinchfield” business car (WATX 100): A new ratchet style hand brake being added.

“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351): 2351 Electrical system work.

“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400): 26-C brake system being added.

“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539): Air conditioning maintenance and general cleaning.

“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500): Major seat repair and general cleaning.



Pictured above clock-wise we see the Mechanical Crew members hard at work repairing a coach seat; enjoying a much-needed lunch break; and warming up in our yard office (ex-C&O caboose #903103) prior to the day's work.

## *In the News*



### ***CHUCKEY DEPOT / MUSEUM AT JONESBOROUGH***

The Chuckey Depot / Museum at Jonesborough is right on track with its opening date coming around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The only construction work left at the Museum is finishing a handicap ramp; however, it will take several months to move display material into the building. The Museum Committee is collecting names to serve as volunteer guides at the museum. If you're interested in helping, fill out the Volunteer Application which was sent out to all WVRHS&M members. If you did not receive an application, please call our office at (423) 753-5797 or get one at the March meeting.



### ***NORFOLK SOUTHERN A-LINE IS VERY BUSY***

There are a lot of trains running through Johnson City on NORFOLK SOUTHERN. Below is a list and information about the trains.

15T Allentown, PA to Chattanooga, TN  
 16T Chattanooga, TN to Allentown, PA  
 201 New Jersey to Memphis, TN  
 202 Memphis, TN to New Jersey  
 134 Chattanooga, TN to Linwood, NC  
 165 Linwood, NC to Chattanooga, TN  
 T24 Greeneville, TN to Piney Flats, TN switcher  
 816 Coal trains Princeton, IN to Norfolk VA  
 817 Empty coal trains Norfolk, VA to Princeton, IN  
 22A Intermodal Norfolk, VA to Louisville, KY  
 23G Intermodal Louisville, KY to Norfolk, VA  
 M5 Extra 15T Allentown, PA to Chattanooga, TN  
 M6 Extra 16T Chattanooga, TN to Allentown, PA  
 I8 Extra 23G  
 27V Auto rack train Winston Salem, NC to Louisville, KY  
 24Q Empty auto rack train Norfolk, VA to Louisville, KY  
 23Q Empty auto rack train Norfolk, VA to Louisville, KY

#### **Radio Frequencies**

Bristol, VA to Knoxville, TN  
 Channel 1 160.950  
 Channel 2 160.245  
 Dispatcher to Train  
 Channel 3 160.830  
 Train to Dispatcher, Bristol to Roanoke  
 Channel 1 160.470

#### **Hot Box Detectors Bristol to Greeneville HEARD ON CHANNEL ONE 160.95**

11.3 Bluff City detector  
 27.2 Johnson City detector  
 40.3 Washington College detector  
 52.9 Greeneville detector

 *CSX Traffic through Johnson City*

- Q696 Freight Kingsport, TN to Hamlet, NC
- Q697 Freight Hamlet, NC to Kingsport, TN
- F689 “Yellow Dog” switcher between Kingsport to Erwin, operated as needed. (A “Yellow Dog” is a local train that works between two local points, in this case, Erwin and Kingsport. It got the name due to stops at so many places, slowest train on the railroad.)
- ? Rock Trains to Brice, NC, operated as needed.

This is a far cry of the 25 trains that ran through Johnson City several years ago; let's hope the mighty CLINCHFIELD will rebound.

 *CSX Appoints Fredrik J. Eliasson as President*

[JACKSONVILLE, 2/21/17] CSX Corporation today announced the decisions of Michael J. Ward, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Clarence W. Gooden, President, to retire from the Company effective May 31, 2017. Fredrik J. Eliasson, a 22-year veteran of the Company and its current Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, has been appointed as President of CSX effective February 15, 2017, replacing Mr. Gooden, who will assume the role of Vice Chairman until his retirement. Mr. Eliasson will maintain his current responsibilities in his new position. The changes are part of an orderly transition of the company's senior leadership that the Board has been considering for more than a year. The appointment of Mr. Eliasson as President is not intended to preempt or otherwise affect any discussions CSX may continue to have with Mr. Hunter Harrison and Mantle Ridge regarding Mr. Harrison becoming the CEO at CSX.

“Fredrik has played a vital role in CSX's progress in recent years and in the development of the next phase of its strategic plan, and he was a natural choice to help the Company continue to advance its CSX of Tomorrow strategy,” said Mr. Ward. “He has the vision, leadership abilities and deep understanding of our business to help CSX's future leadership achieve its long-term strategic goals.”

“On behalf of CSX's Board of Directors, I want to thank Michael and Clarence for their many years of dedicated service and contributions to our Company,” said Edward J. Kelly, III, CSX's Presiding Director. “Michael has helped build CSX into one of the nation's leading transportation and logistics companies, and Clarence has similarly provided valuable leadership across CSX's sales, marketing and operations teams. We wish both the best in their retirements.”

Mr. Eliasson commented, “This is a dynamic and important time at CSX, and I look forward to continuing to work with the management team to implement the best ideas to drive growth across the organization and deliver a compelling future for our Company and our shareholders.”

Mr. Eliasson, 46, has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at CSX since September 2015, where he is responsible for overseeing all customer service activities, growing rail-served markets and developing strategic plans for long-term revenue growth at the Company. He was previously CSX's Chief Financial Officer, from 2012 to 2015, and he has held several leadership roles across the Company's finance and sales and marketing departments since joining CSX in 1995.



## *NS Double Track Work in Virginia Completed*

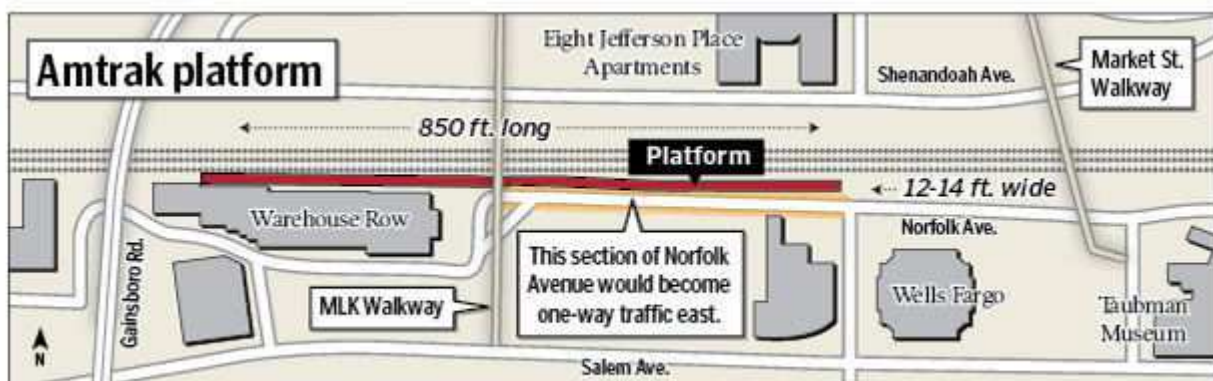


[Ed. Note: those who worked last year's excursion to Charlottesville should recall this work.] For many months now, NORFOLK SOUTHERN in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been installing double track (actually reinstalling double track removed about 1962) in a ten mile stretch between Green (MP 202) and Smothers (MP 212) on the Danville District, roughly between Altavista and Chatham, VA. The return of double track here will help NS relieve a traffic bottleneck that has existed since the new connection off the ex-VGN at Hurt, VA, was constructed.

Once complete, NS will have a 32-mile stretch of unbroken double track between Deal (MP 190) and White (MP 222). [Photo and text courtesy G.R. Harper, "The BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER", Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS]

## *AMTRAK in Roanoke on schedule for October launch*

["Roanoke Times" via "The BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER", Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS] AMTRAK passenger rail service out of Roanoke is on track to begin in October after a final council action to clear the way for construction of the boarding platform and track siding for the train. The council approved granting an easement allowing NORFOLK SOUTHERN to build a retaining wall on the right-of-way for Norfolk Avenue downtown. The wall is necessary to allow construction of the tracks where the train will stop, adjacent to platform that will run along Norfolk Avenue between Jefferson and Second Streets. The easement was the last action necessary by the city to allow the project to go forward. Previously, city officials have said generally that AMTRAK would come to Roanoke in the fall of 2017, but during discussion at the council meeting, city leaders said it would begin in October.



SOURCES: Amtrak, Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation

The Roanoke Times

 ***NEW WVRHS&M MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE***

Megan Kegley was selected to head up the new Membership Brochure Committee to redesign our membership brochure. Everyone is looking forward seeing our new look!

 ***GSMR "BBQ and BREWS"***

Back by popular demand is GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD's "BBQ & Brews", featuring slow-cooked BBQ prepared fresh and beer tastings showcasing local breweries! Departing from Bryson City, NC, these trains will travel to the Fontana Trestle and arrive just around sunset for a spectacular view, returning to the Bryson City Depot at 9 pm. A delicious BBQ meal and craft beers will be served during the trip. Family friendly seating is available on this experience. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/jmdzw34>

 ***WMSR Announces #1309 Debut***

[Megan Spindler, "The Automatic Block", Western Maryland NRHS]

The WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD has set an official roll-out date for the restored 2-6-6-2 #1309. The steam locomotive will pull its first public revenue trains beginning Saturday, July 1, 2017. The July 4<sup>th</sup> week will feature a variety of regular trains, special moves, celebratory events, and railroad activities. WMSR #1309 is a true Mallet, using steam twice in a 2-6-6-2 articulated compound arrangement. Baldwin Locomotive Works built it for the CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RAILWAY in 1949 for use on coal branches in West Virginia. C&O retired the locomotive after just seven years of use, and later transferred it to the B&O Museum in 1972. The museum sold it to WMSR in 2014 for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), with the stipulation that it be returned to active service. The two-year rebuild will bring the locomotive back to "better than new" condition. The rehabilitated #1309 will feature an improved lubrication system, new tires and updated driving boxes, a 26L air brake system, improved electrical system, and a nearly complete replacement of studs, pins and bushings, and other wearing parts. The boiler will feature almost 400 new staybolts, and all new flues and tubes. The #1309 will have refurbished superheater units, new ash pan and hopper, completely rebuilt tender, and FRA-mandated upgrades, but it will remain a classic American coal-fired Mallet.

WMSR anticipates making tests and training runs in June, and offering a full schedule of regular runs beginning in July. Diversified Rail Services is working closely with WMSR to complete the locomotive restoration, with completion funding from a State of Maryland Capital Projects grant.

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## ***PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR 2017***

The WVRHS&M Program Committee is looking for General Membership Meeting programs for 2017. Please call the office at (423) 753-5797 if you have an interest in presenting a program this year. We are looking for speakers also if you know someone that would come and present a railroad related program. And as always were looking for DVD and slide programs.

## Upcoming Events



**APRIL 1:** WVRHS&M "Spring Rail Excursion". **SOLD OUT.**



**APRIL 1:** TVRM steam trip to Summersville, GA. For details: <http://www.tvrail.com/>



**APRIL 8:** NC Railroad Expo, Hickory, NC Metro Center. <http://www.tarheelpress.com/Trainshow>



**APRIL 8:** "The Virginian", N&W 611 excursion, Spencer, NC to Lynchburg, VA. <https://www.showclix.com/events/24306>



**APRIL 9:** "The Charlotte Special", N&W 611 excursion, Spencer, NC to Charlotte, NC. <https://www.showclix.com/events/24306>



**APRIL 9:** "The Piedmont Limited", N&W 611 excursion, Spencer, NC to Greensboro, NC. <https://www.showclix.com/events/24306>



**APRIL 22:** "The Roanoker", N&W 611 excursion, Greensboro, NC to Roanoke, VA. <https://www.showclix.com/events/24306>



**APRIL 23:** "The Roanoker", N&W 611 excursion, Greensboro, NC to Roanoke, VA. <https://www.showclix.com/events/24306>



**APRIL 28-30:** Unveiling of historical Civil War locomotive "Texas" after year-long restoration. NCTM. For details: <http://tinyurl.com/h3jaavt>.



**APRIL 29-30:** Cass and Durbin, WV. Special photo events. For details: <http://tinyurl.com/z85c2u4>



**MAY 6:** "Monterey Spring Festival Trip", 216 mile, 10-hour Tennessee Central excursion. Details: <http://www.tcry.org/pdf/17-05-06.pdf>



**MAY 20:** TVRM steam trip to Summersville, GA. For details: <http://www.tvrail.com/>



**JUNE 20-24:** Annual NRHS Convention, Nashville, TN. Of note is the 64-mile charter TCM RR roundtrip from Nashville to Lebanon, TN. <http://www.nrhs.com/content/2017-convention>

## *RIVERBOAT RIDE and EXCURSION on the "THREE RIVERS RAMBLER" PLANNED*

Nick White is putting together plans for a riverboat ride on the Tennessee River and a train ride on the "Three Rivers Rambler" in Knoxville this summer for WVRHS&M members. Please stay tuned for more information.



## Photo Gallery ...

Several members have expressed an interest in contributing photos for the Whistle Stop, which is most welcome. Send your photos to the Whistle Stop editor, Fred Waskiewicz, at [wataugavalley@gmail.org](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.org). Photos should be reasonably composed, in focus with ample lighting, and PLEASE provide a description.



[Left] Jim Mischke provided this 1982 photo of our extended vision caboose while in service with Chessie System in Indianapolis, IN. Atlas makes an N scale model of the car in this rare "Handle with Care" paint scheme. [Right] NCTM's ex-SOUTHERN 10/6 sleeper car "Catawba River", which served on the "Crescent", "Royal Palm", "Southerner" and other named trains. [Mike Tilley photo]



The Bulls Gap Railroad Museum has an extensive collection of railroad memorabilia in East Tennessee. They have model trains, newspaper articles, photos, and many articles that came mostly from the people in the area who made their livelihoods working for the railroad. Plans call for the Museum to be relocated to the national landmark Gilley's Hotel which served SOUTHERN RAILWAY crews for many years.

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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