

# Whistle Stop



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



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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Photographer Mike Pierry, Jr. captured GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD'S 2-8-0 #1702 at Red Marble Gap, NC on its first run of the 2018 season. Check out <https://www.gsmr.com/steam#schedule> to learn when the #1702 will be running next.

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## *July 23<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting*

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will conduct our monthly General Membership meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 6:30pm at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St. Mark your calendar so you will not miss this meeting. The program will be presented Margaret Feierabend, who was recently elected to serve as Mayor of Bristol. She has served on Bristol, TN City Council for several terms and comes to passenger rail interest through her service on the Bristol Train Station Board, a loose coalition of folks whose goal is to support passenger rail service to Bristol. Margaret will provide an update on the progress of rail to our region, closer to reality with an economic study currently underway, and encourages active support to continue this progress.

## *Member Notes*

*by Edna Kay Carter, Membership Chairperson*

Please continue to keep all the families who have lost loved ones during the year in your thoughts and prayers.

Keep the following in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns. They are Nancy Jewel and Gary Price. 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) 571-4612.

We would like to welcome new members to our club. They are as follows: Douglas Paton, Mike Mitchell, Alan Gartner, Pam Ragon, Phillip & Mary McPeak, Roger & Kay McElroy.

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer activities.

## *WVRHS&M News*

### **GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN SUMMER TRAIN EXCURSION SOLD OUT**

WVRHS&M had a very fast sell out on all five of our 2018 Great Smoky Mountain Railroad excursions. We have 10 bus loads going down this year for each of the five trips. All car hosts who volunteered to help on the train at the last membership meeting will need to attend the GSMR Safety Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 pm at the Johnson City Public Library. (Note that this is held prior to our regular membership meeting.)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRAIN EXCURSIONS**

We're still in need of volunteer hosts for our Great Smoky Mountain Train Excursions. This is your chance to experience a great train ride and have an enjoyable day. Please call Mike Tilley at (423) 335-1100 if you can help out on either Aug 26, Sept 8, Sept 23 or Nov 4. There's also a sign-up form at the end of this newsletter that you can bring to the July General Membership Meeting.

### **INVITATION FROM ASHEVILLE NRHS**

The Asheville Chapter NRHS has invited all Watauga Valley members over to Woodfin (just north of Asheville) to their Picnic and Motor Car Event on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The event starts at 10:30 am with free motor car rides on the Craggy Mountain Line along with a nice picnic along the river at Woodfin Riverside Park. Please bring a covered dish to serve several people. Directions: take the I26 Woodfin Exit (24); proceed west on Elk Mountain Road and turn left at its end onto Riverside Drive. You will see the park and motor cars lined up to your right after a short distance.

### **ARE YOU MISSING OUT?**

If you're still receiving a paper copy of this newsletter you're missing out on the beautiful color images and live links to other web sites with relevant and useful information. Switch over to our digital copy by calling us at (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) and you won't be left behind.

## Mechanical Team Report

By Jim Magill

### GENERAL

We're in need of volunteers to work at the Spring Street Coach Yard every Tuesday from 9am to 5pm. If you want to get involved in our great projects, please call (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).

### ROLLING STOCK



**“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539):** is still in the shop having air conditioning upgrades (photo at left) along with plumbing and door repairs.

**“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500):** is at the Jonesborough Coach Yard. Minor repairs are ongoing.

**“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400):** is having new

signage installed on the car. Photo at right shows the purple nameplate being removed and made stainless for black lettering.



**“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351):** is being cleaned for departure from the Spring Street Coach Yard to NCTM in Spencer in



August. As a reminder of just how far we've come with our equipment, Bobby Hand posted on our Facebook page the interior shots at left and right of the Crescent Harbor under restoration.



**“Clinchfield” office car (WATX 100):** work is under way for the major upgrades to the interior of the car.

### RAIL CAMERAS AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT

Don't forget to go on line and see the Watauga Valley Virtual Rail Cams at the Chuckey Depot. They are live; in addition, you can review trains back for 4 hours by moving the red bar at bottom of page. We will soon have a live radio feed of the trains and dispatchers talking along to supplement the web cam. Go to our home page at <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/> and click on the link that says web cam.



## *In the News ...*

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

Things at the Chuckey Depot/Museum have been very busy for the month of June. We had over 185 volunteer host hours during the month serving the large crowds coming through the museum. During Jonesborough Days, we had on the average of 200+ visitors each day during the event. New displays have been added at the museum. If you would like volunteer at the museum, please call (423) 753-5797. Thanks to all the Watauga Valley members who make this possible through your volunteer hours.



### **WATAUGA VALLEY WHISTLE TRUCK**



As most of you know, Watauga Valley's Whistle Truck is now back home, ready to go into action bringing SOUNDS FROM THE PAST. We recently had it at the Chuckey Depot / Museum for Jonesborough Days; several people lined up to blow the whistles. Bill Heaton brought his Clinchfield Whistle and we had our Southern Railway whistle on hand for this special event. What a great time we had filling the air waves with steam engine whistles.

Future schedule for Whistle Truck appearances:

August 4<sup>th</sup>: Appalachia, VA Coal/Rail Days.

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Parade for *Duffield* (VA) Days.

### **CSX is Selling Six Rail Lines**

[Progressive RAILROADING] CSX is soliciting bids on six rail segments totaling more than 650 miles of track as part of the Class I's continuing strategy to sell under-used assets. The company is soliciting bids for the following non-contiguous properties: the Massena Line; Baldwinsville Subdivision; West Albany and Rensselaer; Cumberland Valley; Eastern North Carolina; and the Marietta Subdivision. For the full story, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ydx9lhwn>.

## *Megan's Manifest*

*by Megan Kegley*

[ED. note: fans of the former CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD always refer to CSX's Blue Ridge and Kingsport Subdivisions by that name.]

On May 25, 2018 I was planning to go clogging at Lays Hardware in Coeburn, VA for the evening. I knew that CSX Q692 was coming north out of Kingsport ahead of time, so I went ahead and decided to leave the house earlier than planned to catch the northbound Q692 at Waycross, where I caught the mixed freight passing by me with CSX no. 766, an ES44AH, leading the consist. I had already left Waycross to go back and meet a clogging friend in



Weber City when my phone rang. David Hammonds called me up and told me to stay put for a few more minutes because the Grain Train was sitting in the next siding to the north of me at Kermit. Sure enough, here came the G565-25 Grain Train south bound with CSX ES40DC no. 5354 leading the consist. While I was pretty pleased with catching both trains within a few minutes of each other, I was the most pleased with catching the Grain Train.



I was out railfanning on the Clinchfield on the morning of May 30, 2018; I went up to Hill Station (VA) to view a southbound that was coming. I did not catch the ID on this train that day, but it was a Duke Power train nonetheless. At point the 7227 popped out of the tunnel and my mouth literally fell open, I had no idea the train was going to have an SD80MAC leader on it and a SD70ACU trailing. I had my ear buds in listening to music while I was standing there waiting for the train to get close, and it is a good

thing I had my music turned up because the horn on this engine about deafened me LOL! It was all worth it for this EMD power. I am all about the EMD locomotives!

On June 3, 2018 I again was out railfanning (shocking, right?). Anyways, I was out and about looking around Frisco to see if I could spot anything special sitting in the yard. As I was driving by Frisco I kept hearing an EOT go off on my radio, and there was a red block on the siding at Click on the ATCS. So, I drove down to Click to at first find NS 79K sitting on the siding waiting for the Q44 to pass by on the main. I got to Click and received a phone call from David Hammonds telling me that there was a train coming up [continued on next page]





MEGAN KEGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Watkins on its way up the Appalachia District.

from Bulls Gap and that it was getting close to me. I sat and waited for about 20 minutes until I heard the horn blowing, so I got out of the car and waited to get photos. The 79K had NS SD70ACU no. 7314 leading and Q44 had NS ES44AC no. 8144 leading it. Q44 proceeded to get on the Clinchfield connection at Frisco and continue north, and 79K went to the yard at Yuma. NS 7314 SD70ACU also has a Leslie horn on it. I caught it on a power move later that day at



MEGAN KEGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

On July 11, 2018 I was out and about running some errands with a close friend, so we decided to go see what was sitting in the Kingsport CSX Yard on our way home. As I was



MEGAN KEGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

making my way toward the yard, I noticed they had the Jordan Spreader [ED: used to spread gravel] sitting in a visible place near the concrete plant. So, I whipped the car around and went back to get pictures of it. I had never really been able to get photos of the spreader before because it always seems like it is always parked somewhere you can't see it. Anyhow, I love old railroad equipment like this; it makes me wish the machines like this could talk! Just imagine the stories this Jordan Spreader could tell!



MEGAN KEGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

July 12, 2018 was model RR club night for me, so as soon as I got off work I went to Appalachia to the club. Well, I got there and there was an empty coal train that had come up the NS Appalachia District earlier that day as train 73A. The Crew toned up to the Dispatcher and became train U46 once it got trackage between Appalachia and Norton. As U46 got permission to make their moves between Appalachia and Norton, my friend and fellow photographer Pete Aistrop and I got in the car and went

up the tracks a little ways to shoot U46. The sun wasn't particularly in our favor, but we made it work. I was going for that starburst effect, and I think I nailed it pretty well.



## Photo Gallery

While enjoying the recent Watauga Valley outing exploring surviving stations along the ex-N&W Bristol Line, Brad McCroskey shot and produced these wonderful, artful images.

Clockwise from upper left: Abingdon, Bristol, Marion, Meadowview, Rural Retreat and Seven Mile Ford. For you shutter bugs, Brad shot all photos but Abingdon with a Fuji X-T1 and 18-55mm lens with a graduated neutral density filter for the sky; the Abingdon photo was taken with a Nikon D800 and 24mm lens and converted it to black and white; he used no special effects other than processing the raw file in Adobe Lightroom.



## *Important 2018 Dates ...*



**AUGUST 1-5:** Appalachia Coal / Railroad Days, Appalachia, VA. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/213463255928793/>



**AUGUST 5-12:** NMRA National Convention, Kansas City, MO. Info: <http://www.nmra.org>



**AUGUST 7-12:** NRHS National Convention, Cumberland, MD. Info: <http://www.nrhs.com/content/2017-convention> [2017 is not a typo]



**AUGUST 26:** GSMR Excursion #2



**SEPTEMBER 5-8:** National Narrow Gauge National Convention, Bloomington, MN. Info: <https://nngc-2018.com/>.



**SEPTEMBER 8, 23:** GSMR Excursions #3 and #4



**NOVEMBER 4:** GSMR Excursion #5

### *NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK ANNUAL RAILROAD DAYS JULY 21.*



Natural Tunnel SP in Duffield, VA is offering a rare opportunity to walk the tunnel (both sides) and see a Norfolk Southern engine up close. Join us for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Railroad Day at

Natural Tunnel State Park on Saturday, July 21, 2018. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycauqumh> for more information.



### *Lynchburg Rail Day 2018 Model Train & Railroadiana Show*

The Blue Ridge Chapter NRHS is holding its 40<sup>th</sup> annual model train and railroadiana show and sale on Saturday, August 11, 2018 in the air conditioned Boonsboro Ruritan Club at 1065 Coffee Road (Virginia State Route 644) Lynchburg, VA, hours: 9:00 am till 3:00 pm. Plenty of free parking on site and the building is handicapped accessible. Operating model train layouts will be on display and model trains and railroad memorabilia for sale. If you want to sell your old model trains we offer a service for you to consign your items on our "White Elephant Table". This show is known for its family friendly atmosphere. You will also find items for the serious collector. Admission \$6.00 per person, Family admission \$10.00, Children 12 and under free with a paying adult. For more information, call Norris Deyerle at (434) 851-0151, email [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com) or visit their website at <http://www.blueridgenrhs.org/rail-day>.



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## *GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD EXCURSION BUS / RAIL CAR HOST WORKERS SIGN-UP*

I would like to sign up as a Bus / Rail Car Host on one or more of the following Great Smoky Mountain Train Excursion as noted below. Trip duties involve serving as a host on the buses and relaxing on the train for a great ride on the. Please check which dates you can work and turn in this form at the June General Membership Meeting; mail to WVRHS&M, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432; or email it to [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I can work the following dates (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_ August 26
- \_\_\_ September 8
- \_\_\_ September 23
- \_\_\_ November 4