

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

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www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 42 No. 10

October 2022



The cover photo this month was made by a very fine Railfan photographer Mike Perry.

He has captured 14Z passing by Litchfield C.P. in Abingdon on an August evening.

September 26th General Membership Meeting

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will have our regular meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 26, 2022 at the Chuckey Depot / Museum at 110 2nd St Jonesborough at the railroad crossing. Our program this month will be presented on the Norfolk Southern SD40-2 still in service. This program will promise to be a great and informative program.

Bring a friend out for a relaxing evening with your fellow members.

Member Notes

Please keep Gary Price, Lois Tilley, Jack Maloney, Don Findley and Mike Jackson in your thoughts and prayers for various health reasons. To request that one of our members or family be reported in the Whistle Stop, email a request to wataugavalley@gmail.com.

We have no new members to report currently.

Hope everyone had a good Summer and looking forward to a great Fall.

WATAUGA VALLEY CHRISTMAS DINNER

As of press time, no date has been set for the Christmas Dinner. Stay tuned.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES

If you know someone that is interested in joining the Watauga Valley Railroad Museum, new brochures are available to give out. Either go by the Chuckey Depot and pick one up or phone the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797.

2022 BOARD MEMBER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee has been formed comprising of Jeanie Walker—Officer, Frank Griacus—Board and Billy Walker—Member. If you would like to run for a position, please submit your name to our email at wataugavalley@gmail.com by the October 11th board meeting. Requirements are that you are a WVRHS&M member in good standing and that you are able to attend the board meetings held each month.

LIBRARY DONATIONS FOR RAILROAD SECTION

Please bring your railroad book donations to any membership meeting or call the chapter office at 423-753-5797. Our Railroad Section at the Jonesborough Library is growing everyday. If you are finished reading or just want to donate, put your books to good works. We have plenty of room to add more books.

WHISTLE STOP GUEST EDITOR

Whistle Stop would like to welcome Les Billings as a guest Editor this month. You may see him more frequently in the future. He will be helping Fred from time to time with the Newsletter. We will see what the future will hold.

2022 WVRHS&M Rail Events

Autumn Leaf Scenic Hiwassee River Train Excursion—Saturday, October 15th, 2022

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum is once again pleased to announce another Autumn Leaf Rail Excursion through the scenic Hiwassee River Gorge of East Tennessee. The excursion date is set for Saturday, October 15th, 2022 and will offer an opportunity to ride the rails through the one of the most beautiful river gorges in the United States as the railroad tracks travel along the Hiwassee River. An added feature is traversing the famous, spiral "Hiwassee Loop".



Chattanooga TVRM Trip a Big Success

We had 43 members and guest enjoy a motor coach trip to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum on August 13. We had the opportunity to ride behind Southern 4501 on the Missionary Ridge ride, a tour of the shop and observing our WATX 539, with its new paint job along with a tour of the Chattanooga CHOO CHOO. To top it off we got to stop at the famous Dinner Bell Restaurant in Sweetwater, TN for a great meal.



AIRBNB

GOING INTO SERVICE ON THE CRESCENT

On October 7th, our new AIRBNB will begin on our passenger car *Crescent Harbor* for the National Storytelling event. Thanks to Ralph Clarke, AIRBNB Director, Billy and Jeanie Walker, Rick Chinouth and to our Mechanical Team for making this happened. **BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE.** If your interested in staying on the car for rental, please go to www.airbnb.com to make your reservations on line.



Chuckey Depot / Museum

With Fall season arriving and with our new Norfolk/Western exhibit, our Museum should be very busy with a lot of new visitors. We would like to thank all who donate their time hosting at the Depot. If anyone would like to train for hosting, please see information below.



SAVE THE DATE: SPECIAL RAILROAD SALE AT CHUCKEY

DEPOT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

OCTOBER 1, 2022 - IF YOU LIKE TRAIN ARTIFACTS- YOU NEED TO COME TO THE OLDEST TOWN IN JONESBOROUGH, TN FOR THIS SPECIAL SALE.

STEAM AND STEEL

Classic Railroad Artifact Sale: 830am - 400pm, Saturday, October 1st, 2022

To be held at the Historic Chuckey Depot Museum - 210 S 2nd Avenue, Jonesborough, TN

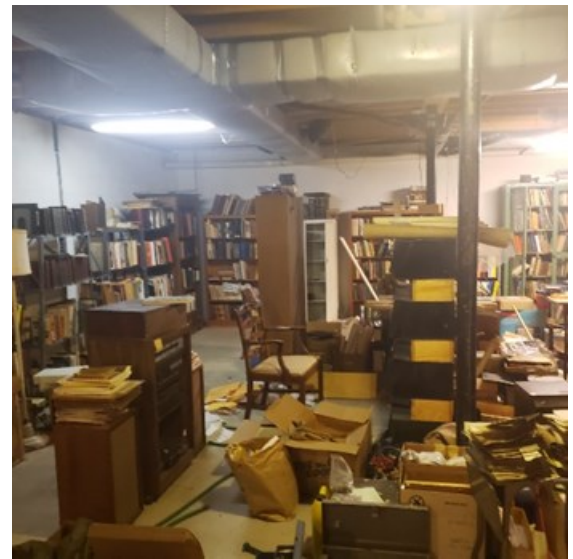
Sale sponsored by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

Local East Tennessee collector is reducing his vast selection of railroad items. For sale will be over 75 books including several hard to find, various years Poor's Manual of Railroads, N&W magazines, timetables from across the USA, several railroad switch locks and keys, dispatcher train sheets including C&O, Southern from Knoxville, and three 1977 Interstate Railroad.

Over 60 pieces of china including L&N, C&O, B&O, FEC, CB&Q, ACL, and SOU.

Norfolk & Western china on display at the depot is on loan until February 2023, but is for sale.

All transactions are cash only.



NEW CROSSING SIGNAL WILL GO UP AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT MUSEUM

We are installing a operating crossing signal beside the caboose that will be flashing when the depot is open. Thanks to Jack Gaut for the pole and cross bucks and to Rocky Hollyfield for the signals. And to Terry Worley for rewiring and to our mechanical team for painting and restoration.



TRAINING FOR HOST AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT IN JONESBOROUGH

We getting ready to schedule host training sessions for anyone in the WATV that is interested in hosting at the Chuckey Depot .If you would like to attend one of the host training, please email wataugavalley@gmail.com. If your interested in hosting at the Chuckey Depot Museum.

Mechanical Department Report

by Jim Magill and Art DeVoe



As fall is upon us, all of the hard work of the Mechanical Team is now over and our Coaches will be put into service. **Thank you all who served.**

We're needing volunteers at the coach yard, please call the WATV office at 423 753 5797 or email wataugavalley@gmail.com if you have interest in working at the coach yard on Tuesdays.

ROLLING STOCK

St Augustine – Traveling to North Carolina Transportation Museum in service. [WATX 500]

Powhatan Arrow – Traveling to North Carolina Transportation Museum in service. [WATX 539]

Moultrie – Traveling to North Carolina Transportation Museum in service. [WATX 400]

Clinchfield 100 – Traveling to North Carolina Transportation Museum in service. [

All four cars will serve on the Polar Express Train Ride.

Crescent Harbor – Going into AirBNB service at the Spring St. Coach Yard.



On Friday 9/16/2022 a rare occasion occurred as WATX 539 and WATX 500 left Bristol yard behind a 93Z Herzog Ballast train at 1:30pm bound for Spencer NC.

GSMR Excursion

All Aboard



Great Smoky Mtn Train Excursion close to 700 delighted passengers, great weather and good fellowship for all who hosted on Saturday Sept 17, 2022. Below are a few photos courtesy of Member, **Bob Hand**.

Excursion was a big success with

passengers on the train. A good

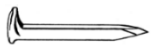
time, great weather and good fellowship for all who hosted on Saturday Sept 17, 2022. Below are a few photos courtesy of Member, **Bob Hand**.

The Watauga Valley RHS&M has one more excursion this year, the next excursion is October 17th for the Autumn Leaf Scenic Hiwassee River.

In the News

↳ *Ridership on Amtrak's Virginia routes reaches all-time high*

[Report from Progressive Railroading] The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and Amtrak announced yesterday that ridership on state-supported trains reached 110,256 passengers in July, a 28.9% increase from June's level and a 19.8% increase compared with pre-pandemic ridership in July 2019.



Strasburg Rail Road

@StrasburgRailRoad · Railroad Company



The Norfolk & Western 611 will be operating once again at the Strasburg Rail Road this fall!!!

The Virginia Museum of Transportation (VMT) and Strasburg Rail Road are pleased to jointly announce that for a limited-time-only, the Strasburg Rail Road will be hosting several events featuring the historic Norfolk & Western Class J No. 611.

These ticketed events will mark the locomotive's first public operations following her federally required inspection which took place with the help of the Strasburg Rail Road Mechanical Department and VMT Engine Crew at the Strasburg Rail Road.

"On behalf of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, I'm thrilled to continue our partnership with the Strasburg Rail Road where we have had the opportunity to showcase the Class J 611 to thousands of visitors, perform necessary maintenance, and generate revenue essential to preserving

the locomotive's status as an operating steam engine in the years to come," stated Gavin Miller, 611 Assistant Operations Manager and Virginia Museum of Transportation Board Member.



Event Schedule:

- *September 30 – October 2: At-the-Throttle-Experiences
- *October 7 – October 9: Stationary Cab Tours
- *November 9 – November 10: Photo Charter directed by Pete Lerro
- *November 11 – November 13: Excursion Rides

A portion of proceeds from these events benefit the Virginia Museum of Transportation and support the preservation and maintenance of the Norfolk and Western Class J No. 611.

For tickets and more information, please visit the Strasburg Rail Road website at <https://www.strasburgrailroad.com/611-experiences/>



Southern Heritage Locomotive

NS 8099 has finally arrived at Altoona. You'll recall it was wrecked in a rockslide derailment back in December on the Mon Line. Odds are it will be placed in a dead line at the Juniata Shops and will not be touched for some time. We'll be sure to keep you updated.

www.AltoonaWorks.info





RAILROAD STRIKE



As of press time, the Rail Strike has been averted. This is only a tentative agreement that was reached with 20 hours of negotiations. The tentative agreement discusses raises, bonuses, health care, more time off and protects a two man crew. We will have to see if this all works out and everything gets back to normal.

Photos From The Past

Photos Submitted By Mike Tilley



[Left] The Southern Tennessean in 1941 at Jonesborough Depot for the Grand Showing of the train. It started in Memphis and ended up in Washington DC with stops along the line. 3000 people showed up in Jonesborough at the ole depot and they could not get everyone through the train and had to leave for Johnson City to meet the schedule. . More people showed up in Jonesborough for the showing than in Memphis

[Right] Jonesborough depot taken in 1956 by the Gilliam Family.



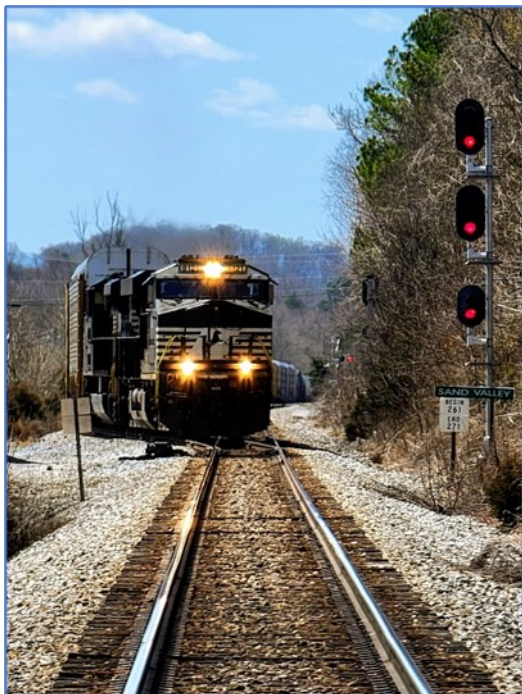
Display in the Block
by Les Billings

I have been doing “Display in The Block” for over a year now and have had great fun displaying some of my photos and experiences. I hope you all have enjoyed, and it has been a good contribution to the “Whistle Stop” Newsletter. This month’s theme is “**Here and There**”.



[Above] CSX northbound over Boones Creek Viaduct.

[Below] NS 126 as it passes over the Watauga River Bridge in Watauga, TN.



[Above] NS 126 pulling out of Sand Valley siding.



[Above] NS 127 rumbling through Jonesborough on a Saturday Morning.

Jonesborough's Historic/Money Tree No More!!

For some time, there has been a tree in Jonesborough that has caused a lot of trouble for passing trains with High/Wide loads. These trains had to stop and let the conductor out to watch and do a walk by to make sure that it was not going to hit. But no more! It was cut down in July or August.

[Below] The results of a chain saw can be seen below as the tree is now history. Pardon the pun.



[Above] Looking east, we see the tree as it stood in Dec. 19th, 2021.



[Above] The stump, as is sits, is the only reminder of this powerful force that has delayed many a train.



[Left] Here, we see a Conductor Watching a High and wide load as it is passing the tree. Now these wide loads can pass by at speed with only a memory.

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL