

# Whistle Stop



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



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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WVRHS&M announces its first-ever steam excursion on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad!. Story on page 4. [GSMR photo]

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## *July 24<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting*

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Chuckey Depot / Railroad Museum, 110 South Second St., Jonesborough, TN (at the railroad crossing). Our program this month will be on the wreck of Ole 97 and the last run of Casey Jones. A great history lesson on railroads. Besides a great program, you can enjoy the Chuckey Depot/Museum and you might get a chance to watch trains passing by the depot. Bring a friend out and enjoy a great evening of railfanning.

## Member Notes

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Gary Price, Bob Mushet, Fred Phofl, Paul Bultman and Jack Maloney. If anyone knows of a member that needs a card, thoughts for various concerns, or to request that one of our members or family be reported for various concerns in the *Whistle Stop*, email a request to [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) or [railfan04041961@gmail.com](mailto:railfan04041961@gmail.com).



If you have a friend or know of someone interested in railroads, please hand them a New Membership Brochure. We have the brochure available at the general membership meetings.

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### WATAUGA VALLEY UNIFORMS NOW AVAILABLE

The Watauga Valley uniforms are available. Order your new uniforms now for these beautiful uniforms. If you want an order form sent to you, please email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) requesting one.

### PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR 2023

Howard Orfield and Brad McCroskey, WVRHS&M program directors, are looking for General Membership Meeting programs for 2023. Please call (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) if you have an interest in offering a program this year. We are looking for speakers interested in

### LIBRARY DONATIONS

Our library collection in Jonesborough is growing fast. We appreciate all the donations that have been made. Please bring your railroad book donations to any membership meeting or call the chapter office at (423) 753-5797. 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!

## Dinner on the Diner



Our annual *Dinner on the Diner* event was held on our *Moultrie* dining car on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. With over 170 dinner reservations, everything appeared like we were ready to go. Then at 7 am on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> as we were getting ready to set up, an electrical problem shut down the air conditioning system. At that point there was no way to repair the problem, but with quick thinking, we decided to put a window unit in the doorway to keep the car cool. With the highest temperature we experienced near 78 degrees, we were able to keep the *Moultrie* cool served all six seatings comfortably. What a close call!

## *Mechanical Department Report*

*by Art Devoe*

### GENERAL

Looks like summer is knocking on our door and we can finally get some work done. The weather has been good to the Watauga Valley Mechanical Team and there have been a lot of excellent working days at the yard over the last several weeks. If you would like to help out at the Jonesborough Coach Yard on Tuesdays between 9 am to 5 pm or Saturdays 9 am to 12 noon, please call our Office at (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).

### ROLLING STOCK

**“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400):** receiving some electrical repairs in the kitchen and repairs on the air conditioning system (see previous page).

**“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500):** at the yard having new windows installed.

**“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539):** at North Carolina Transportation Museum.

**“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351):** receiving upgrades.

**“Clinchfield 100” office car (WATX 100):** at the North Carolina Transportation Museum receiving upgrades on its trucks and wheels.

## *Chuckey Depot / Museum*

We have been seeing up to 50 plus visitors at the Chuckey Depot/Museum. With the warm weather more people come out to see our beautiful museum. May was a record month, then we experienced another record in July due to Jonesborough Days on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### TRAINING SESSION IN THE PLANS FOR THE CHUCKEY DEPOT

The next host training session for the Chuckey Depot will be in September. To get involved with volunteering at the depot/museum one day a month, call the office at (423) 753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) to get your name on the training list. We can always use more hosts as the hours of the depot have been extended.

### Next Artifact Exhibit

The next artifact exhibit will be on the railroads serving Johnson City in the early 1900s. If you have anything you would like to loan to the museum for a six-month period, please email Rick Chinouth ASAP at [chinouthhome@yahoo.com](mailto:chinouthhome@yahoo.com). Our members have some great artifacts; please share them with the museum.

The museum will be closed on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> until Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, while the new exhibit is being set up, reopening Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. A big exhibit reception day is planned for Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**TRAIN TRIVIA:** The world record for a conventional wheeled passenger train was achieved in which country? a.) China b.) France c.) Germany d.) Japan. Answer on page 5.



## *WVRHS&M Steam Train Excursion*



GSMR Photo

Steam railroading is alive and well in the Great Smoky Mountains! On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will sponsor our first-ever “*Steam in the Smokies*” train excursion - offering a steam train trip with the thrill of rolling through Western North Carolina’s hills and valleys behind a piece of history. Powered by steam locomotive #1702, passengers will ride on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad from Bryson City, NC, through the Nantahala Gorge, and return to Bryson City. The #1702 locomotive, an S160 class 2-8-0 “Consolidation” type steam locomotive built in September 1942 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, was constructed for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps during World War II. It is one of the world’s largest engine class and is one of two remaining in the United States. There’s nothing like a ride behind steam while listening to a REAL train whistle.

For a complete trip description and information on ordering tickets, go to our web site at <https://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org/excursions.php>.

## *In the News ...*



### *Washout on Norfolk Southern at Telford, TN*

On the morning of July 14<sup>th</sup>, with over 4 inches of rain in East Tennessee, a large washout occurred at the approach to the Sand Valley siding. Train traffic was delayed for hours until NS got the hole filled back in for service. [Photo posted on our Facebook page]

## *Clinchfield Office Building*

Rumors are floating around Erwin, TN that CSX wants to sell the former Clinchfield office building to the Town of Erwin. Due to with environmental issues, the cost would be expensive. Get your pictures of the building now; it may be coming down soon.

## *TVRM's Locomotive 5288 Moving to Pennsylvania*



#5288 passes by Chuckey Depot on its journey to Pennsylvania.

[wdef.com, Courtney Goins] The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM) is transferring historic steam locomotive 5288 to a preservation trust in Pennsylvania. Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust will display the locomotive near a railroad station in Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Colebrookdale will eventually restore the locomotive. TVRM President Tim Andrews believes this could cost millions of dollars. For this reason, and their limited operating options, it did not

make sense to TVRM to keep and restore it, Andrews said. He also stated that Colebrookdale could give the locomotive a broader range of options in the future.

“This in no way diminishes TVRM’s commitment and dedication to the preservation and operation of vintage steam locomotives, particularly those with regional significance, for the education and enjoyment of the public,” Andrews continued. [ED. NOTE: The Grand Trunk ran trains in Canada and New England.]

TVRM has kept the locomotive as an outdoor display since 2001. The TVRM has been reviewing the current status and future possibilities for locomotive 5288 in the last few years.

Nathaniel Guest is the executive director of the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust [<https://www.colebrookdalerailroad.com/>]. “We are absolutely overjoyed to welcome the 5288 as a star in the Colebrookdale’s growing stable of steam locomotives,” Guest said. “We portray that halcyon era of passenger railroading that took place in the first decades of the Twentieth Century. The noble lines of 5288 absolutely capture the look of that period. She will be a fine stablemate for Grand Trunk 5030 and LS&I 18.”

Montreal Locomotive Works built the steam locomotive in 1919. They built this 4-6-2 Pacific-type locomotive for the Grand Truck Railway. It was owned by the Canadian National and later Nelson Blount. [ED. NOTE: Blount was a noted rail enthusiast and founder of the original Steamtown]. In 1955, they transferred the locomotive to the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1969, it became part of the Steamtown Foundation. It made its way to the TVRM in 2001.

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**TRIVIA answer:** b.) France. The world record for a conventional wheeled passenger train on steel rails is held by France's *Train à Grande Vitesse* (TGV), set in 2007 when it reached 357.2 mph. Japan's L0 Series experimental maglev train achieved 375 mph in 2015. [source: *Wikipedia*]



# Display in the Block

## By Les Billings

I thought I would revisit the *East Tennessee Railway* in Johnson City once more. It is such a neat little railroad, and it is the only reminder of any rail traffic that one graced Elizabethton. With most of its customers vanishing, one wonders how long it can hold on. We can only hope it stays around for years to come.



With its two stacks puffing smoke, the little green locomotive #214 is working hard to shove some cars across Broadway Street in Johnson City on what I believe is the old 3C's line. It was on its way to deliver some cars out and around ST Logistics off East Fairview Ave.



[Below] ETRY is crossing over the NS Mainline, where it had to get a track authority to do so. It keeps this authority as long as it does its work which most days takes an hour or so.



[Above] #214 shown here with a OMNX (OmniSource) car. OmniSource is one of its largest customers. The NS mainline can be seen in the foreground.





[Above] After delivering a few box cars to ST Logistics, it pulls back down the old 3C's track and on to work its daily moves.

[Below] The conductor holds on to the last car as it moves toward the NS Mainline and into Carnegie Yard. They will probably work some empty cars left there the night before by the Greeneville switcher.



[Below] One of the last moves of the day is setting/picking up a car or two from the CSX Yard in south Johnson City. I was just able to catch this shot though the bushes and trees.



[Above] Paralleling City Garage Rd., 214 has picked up a few additional cars and is moving them up the yard connector track (3C's) to make a delivery.



[Below] I ran across this sign a few weeks ago. It was rusty and barely legible. It reads, "ET RAILWAY YARD LIMITS" It is sitting beside State of Franklin Rd. close to Yee Haw Brewing Co. This is where the ETRY Railyard stopped. The track continues down a 1/4 of a mile and connects with the Norfolk Southern mainline.



[Above] On a lunch hour adventure, I caught ETRY crossing the old Clinchfield bridge on Buffalo Road.



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**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL**