

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley NRHS
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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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In Memoriam



As I write for the Whistle Stop, all of the news, both local and national, are abuzz about the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on US soil. Almost everyone who was around at that time remembers exactly what they were doing that day when the World Trade Center fell. I remember it vividly myself. I was in Hornell, New York that morning, a [continued on next page] mere 300 miles away from Ground Zero. I was working as a laborer at that time, feeding spikes into an automatic spiking machine. We did not have any source of communications with the outside world other than the company radio and the dispatcher. Following us to the rear of our gang was a contractor in a hy-rail boom truck. He just happened to have his FM radio on when they broke in with the news of the first plane to strike. He held the company mike down so we could hear the broadcast when the second plane struck. We all stepped out and looked to the skies, wondering what was next. Then came the news of the other attacks. We were worried that the railroads would be next (we still do), but we kept working, finished the day out, caught the evening news and headed to the pay phones to let worried family know we were ok. This month I choose to remember all those that lost their lives in these attacks ten years ago.

--- Gary Price

Member Notes

by Nancy Jewell

Sympathy is extended to the family of Ray Trivette, Johnson City, in his death on Sunday, September 11, 2011, after a lengthy illness. Ray and his wife Florence were members during the early days of the Chapter. He served as a car host on several of the Chapter excursions in the 1990's.

Please let us know of family, friends or members to whom a call might be made or a card sent to brighten a day. Call the Chapter phone, (423) 753-5797, or Nancy Jewell at (423) 282-0918. As always, thanks for helping us keep in touch.

Chapter Notices

Fall Excursions

Tickets are moving on our Roanoke and Spencer excursions for October 29 and October 30. All classes are sold out except coach class. If you signed up to work, more details will be available at the next chapter meeting on September 26 meeting. Also please mark your calendar for the Excursion Safety and car host meeting at the October 24 chapter meeting.

Programs for 2011

We still need programs for our General Membership Meetings for the remainder of 2011. If you have any programs, including railroad slides, a video, a DVD, or know of a possible speaker, contact Nick White, the Program Director, at any Chapter meeting; call the chapter phone (423) 753-5797; or e-mail wataugavalley@embarqmail.com.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

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 work. We have plenty of room to add more books!

September 26th Chapter Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Railway Historical Society & Museum will be held Monday, September 26, 2011, at 6:30 pm, at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. The program will feature our past NORFOLK SOUTHERN excursions. Come and learn more information about our 2011 excursion program as well. Bring a friend and enjoy a great night of railroading.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Bob Yaple

400 MOULTRIE DINER

The brake valves were returned from recertification at Pittsburgh Air Brake and installed on the car. As often the case, one of the valves did not work properly and a replacement is on the way. There is also an air leak that has persisted in the past that could not be found. It has now gone beyond acceptable limits and must be found.

Dan Freeman has spent several Tuesdays documenting wiring diagrams for the wiring overhaul he did a few years back. These will be drawn on a computer for preservation, allowing them to be easily modified as any future changes take place.

Crescent Harbor



The interior is really starting to shape up. The painting is complete except for touch up. The carpet and vinyl floors are done. Three bedrooms now have their upholstered components, stainless and chrome trim, and laminate surfaces installed. A trial bunk mattress has been received and is acceptable.

Work under the car also is in progressing. Detail work such as clamping conduits; installing j box covers; identification tags and lots more has been completed. We used the home made 480 v 3 phase power supply for the first time to test the HEP System. IT WORKS!!!



Paul Markey getting to the bottom of things.

Whole Lotta Shakin" Going On

by Gary Price

Although it wasn't the same kind of shaking that Jerry Lee Lewis sang about in his 1957 hit song, we were all singing it jokingly after the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Northern Virginia on August 23, 2011 at approximately 1:51 p.m. that afternoon.

My tie gang has been working on the NS Durham Line between Brookneil, VA, and Lynchburg, VA for about a month. Located middle ways on the route is the tiny community of Winfall, VA. Standing quietly in private ownership and used for feed storage is the former LYNCHBURG AND DURHAM RAILROAD depot. The depot is in excellent shape, and I have seen it several times while driving on State Route 501, but never had the time or light to stop and take a photo of it.



After Lunch, I worked my machine up to the depot, and had just stepped off my machine and walked into a field to take a photo of the quaint little combination depot. The lighting was perfect, and as I walked back to my machine, I thought to myself that "Today was a beautiful day", I grabbed the handrails and was about to mount my machine when, suddenly, my machine began gyrating in an up and down motion. I stepped back, thinking my motor mounts had broken. I was inspecting my engine compartment, still thinking it was a mechanical problem, when a visiting NS Supervisor walked up and said, "Did you feel that?" I looked at him

and said "what?" He replied, "We just had an earthquake". Then he proceeded to tell me that his Dodge Durango bounced so hard that he thought someone was jumping up-and-down on his bumper. He was visibly shaken and he then pointed to a blue Ford Taurus, and told me that he saw it wreck when the vibrations jerked the wheel out of the drivers hand.

Later we learned about the strength of the quake, and that the epicenter was in Mineral, VA. some 40 miles north of Richmond, VA, and that was only around 100 miles away from our location. We were surprised that only the people on the ground working felt it. The operators on the machines didn't notice it at all. I was in between and simply thought it was a mechanical problem.

As a safety concern, NORFOLK SOUTHERN placed a speed restriction on all trains within a 100 mile radius until inspections of all tracks, bridges, and structures had been made and deemed safe for normal operations.

[ED. NOTE: I was sitting in my car 600 miles away and had the same sensation of the car rocking. I, too, thought someone was rocking the car or it was having a mechanical problem.]

In the News – National

NORFOLK SOUTHERN's Heartland Corridor Project Wins Railway Design Award

NORFOLK SOUTHERN has received a technical infrastructure commendation for its [Heartland Corridor](#) project in the 2011 [Brunel Awards](#) International Railway Design Competition.



The Heartland Corridor project, one of the most extensive railroad engineering projects in modern times, was an initiative to raise the vertical clearances of 28 railroad tunnels and remove 24 overhead obstructions in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio to allow the passage of double-stack container trains. The project began in October 2007 and was completed in September 2010. The Brunel Jury was impressed with the overall magnitude of the Heartland Corridor project and the long-term positive impact it will have on the environment by eliminating more than 300 miles of travel between the Port of Virginia and the Midwest.

The Brunel Awards are presented tri-annually by the Watford Group of International Railway Designers to recognize the best in railway architecture, engineering, landscape and environmental design, product design, locomotive and car design, graphic arts, and corporate branding among the world's railways. The competition is named after the 19th Century British railroad pioneer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859), founder and builder of the Great Western Railway.

Forty-three projects in 11 nations won awards in the competition. The 2011 Brunel awards will be presented October 14 in Washington, D.C. [NORFOLK SOUTHERN Press Release.]

In the News - Region

ET&WNC Video

ASU has posted on-line a black & white, silent, home film shot in 1937 featuring an excursion over the ET&WNC to an APP State / ETSTC football game in Johnson City. While shaky due to train motion, it is a wonderful step back in time with some terrific views of the train crew, passengers, and ROW. There's also some remarkable footage of the game itself. Hats off to the unknown photographer for filming this marvelous piece of history, as well as the good folk at ASU for making it publicly available. The video can be found on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ws5_UPjDn8.

TVRM #630

While you're visiting YouTube, check out some beautiful footage of TVRM #630 on her 2nd official mainline trip, including some nice shots of our Chapter cars. A pet peeve of your Editor is the insistence of some amateur photographers to add sound tracks, but an excellent video nonetheless. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8c4YkoC0BY4&feature=related>.

Amtrak Great Dome car to make special trips on the Cardinal this fall

[Gene Bowker, Train Travel Examiner]

Passengers traveling on four Amtrak *Cardinal* trains will have an even better opportunity to view the route's dazzling fall foliage when the unique Amtrak Great Dome railcar makes special appearances on the route during two round-trips between Chicago and Washington in October and November. The car will operate on Train 50 traveling from Chicago to Washington on October 30 and November 6. It will make the return trip on Train 51 from Washington to Chicago on November 5 and November 12.

The refurbished vintage car dates back to 1955 and has a dome section that runs its full length, a rare feature even when dome cars were more numerous on the nation's railroads. Great Dome car "Ocean View" is the only Amtrak railcar of its type. "The opportunity to ride *Cardinal* and view the amazing fall foliage through the New River Gorge from the panoramic windows of the Great Dome car is one our passengers will never forget," said Brian Rosenwald, chief of product development for Amtrak. "We're thrilled to offer this very special service."

Named for the state bird of all six states through which it travels south of Washington (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois), the *Cardinal* is one of the most scenic Amtrak routes. Traveling through the gorge, plus the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley, the route offers some of the best views of foliage in Eastern U.S. The Amtrak *Cardinal* offers service three days a week in each direction with comfortable reserved coach seats and Viewliner sleeping cars with bi-level windows in each compartment. All passengers traveling on the days when the Great Dome is in service are welcome to visit it, and additional coach capacity has been added on these dates. Seats in the Great Dome car are not reserved and are available on a first-come, first served basis.


Photo Section


SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK 7-26-34 600M Sets C. FREIGHT BILL Form 1649-T
 AND COMPLY THEREWITH

CONSIGNEE **J C MCGEE ROUTE 3** STATION **GATE CITY 10_15_35_93**
 DESTINATION FREIGHT BILL No. **213**

ROUTE To SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, Dr., for charges on articles transported: **213**

Way-billed From **WINSTON SALEM NC** Way-bill Date and No. **10_11_35_51498** Full Name of Shipper **RJM** Car Initials and No.
 Point and Date of Shipment **10_11_35_51498** Previous Way-bill Reference Original Car Initials and No.

(BINDING SPACE)	NUMBER OF PACKAGES, ARTICLES AND MARKS		WEIGHT	RATE	FREIGHT	ADVANCES	TOTAL
		1 PA 3 BOX PLUG TOB	23	83			
	4 CS SMOKING	46					
	1 CS CIGTS	04	100	1 00	02		
			Weight Symbol L.C.L.fr.	*Total Prepaid \$	1.02		

LOCATION Warehouse Post or Section
 Received payment for the Company 191 Total
 Per Agent
 Cashier or Collector

*For use at Junction Points on Freight subject to connecting line settlement. †See Rule 9.
 ‡Junction Agents with, on connecting line transfers, indicate by symbol how weight was obtained.
 If unclaimed or undelivered fifteen days after expiration of free time, will be treated as refused and sold without further notice sixty days from date.

Jim McGee sent us this copy of a 1935 freight bill from his father's store in Yuma, VA. You have to wonder if the railroad made any money on the shipment considering the rates charged.

More photos from the work and volunteers on the Crescent Harbor, thanks to Don Finley. Pictured clockwise from upper left are Art Devoe and Jim Calhoun; Jim Magill and Jack Maloney; and Richard Freeman. Last photo is hallway prior to carpeting.



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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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