

Whistle Stop



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



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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The road number of CLINCHFIELD 100, according to some sources, reflects an estimate of the total weight in tons of the car. (Originally an ACL passenger car, the 100 was built up with gratuitous amounts of sheet metal and skill by the gifted shop crew in Erwin.) Currently undergoing cosmetic restoration at NCTM, our goal is to have the 100 returned to its former CRR livery in time for our October excursions out of Spencer. [Arnie Burchardt photo; Kyle Korienek collection.]

September 23rd General Membership Meeting *Excursion Worker Safety Meeting*

This month's General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum will be held at 6:30 pm on September 23, 2013 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. We will conduct the Safety Meeting for ALL AUTUMN TRAIN EXCURSION WORKERS ON THE SPENCER TRIPS as required by AMTRAK. You'll also learn details about the trip and other helpful items. Every one is invited even if you not working these trips. We look forward to seeing everyone at this very important meeting. We know many of you live a couple of hours away and we plan on getting everyone out of the meeting ASAP so you can get home at decent hour.

Member Notes

By Nancy Jewell

Please keep the following folk in your thoughts as they deal with continuing health concerns: Bob Yapple, Walter Byrd, and George Ritchie's brother, Geb, of Elizabethton, TN.

We are glad to report that George and Nancy Ritchie's daughter, Sharon, has completed her treatments and is teaching her class-room of pre-school children as she has for several years.

As always, let us know of a member, friend or family to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office number is 423-753-5797 or call Nancy Jewell at 423-282-0918. Thanks for helping us keep in touch.

Clean Up Day at Spring Street Coach Yard

As everyone knows, there is a lot more to do than just riding our excursion train. For the last 4 months, our Mechanical Crew has been busy preparing our cars for the fall excursions. Others have been getting supplies together for the trip and have been involved in the planning. Even with our dedicated members on the Mechanical Crew and other committees, there is still more to do in getting the cars ready to move.



In order to make our fall excursion happen, we are asking all **members who are working the excursions** to come to the Jonesborough Coach Yard on Saturday, September 21, to help in cleaning the cars so they can depart for Spencer. The Cleaning Day is also opened to members that are not working the train. The hours will be 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. We need everyone for the cleaning session; there will be a job for you.

Many members have not been to the coach yard in some time. This will be your chance to help and see your equipment!

Fall WVRHS&M Rail Excursions

Tickets for this fall's excursion sponsored by the Watauga Valley RHS&M and the North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation are still available. Starting at Spencer, NC, the destinations this year will be Charlottesville, VA on October 12 and Asheville, NC via the famous Old Fort Loops on October 13. Please go to at <http://nctrans.org/Home.aspx> for information, details and orders or call (704) 636-2889, EXT. 237

Smoky Mountain Excursion a Huge Success!

We would like to thank all members who worked the successful Smoky Mountain Excursion. The trips were a great success with a sell out; many had to be turned away due to no more space on the train. Watauga Valley had the entire train leased - another excellent WATV excursion!

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

By Bob Yaple

General: Four cars have completed their PC-1 AMTRAK inspections and certified for travel.

MOULTRIE DINER: An extensive cleaning session will be done by the membership on Saturday, September 21 by the membership. All systems are being checked out for the up coming excursion season.

ST AUGUSTINE COACH: Things are now happening with the St. Augustine. New sign boards on side of car, new rubber tile flooring and new upholstery for the seats have been installed. You will be proud how the car has turned out. It will be ready for our October 12 and 13 Excursion in Spencer.

POWHATAN ARROW COACH: Systems have been checked out and the car has left for some pre-excursion trips.

CRESCENT HARBOR SLEEPER/LOUNGE: Interior detail work is on-going. Work continues on the generator and the Auto Start System.

CLINCHFIELD BUSINESS CAR: Our new business car, the Clinchfield, is in the shop at Spencer, NC being painted. Plans are to have the car on display for our membership only to view at the North Carolina Transportation Museum during our October excursions. (The car is not AMTRAK certified at present and will not be in the train's consist.)

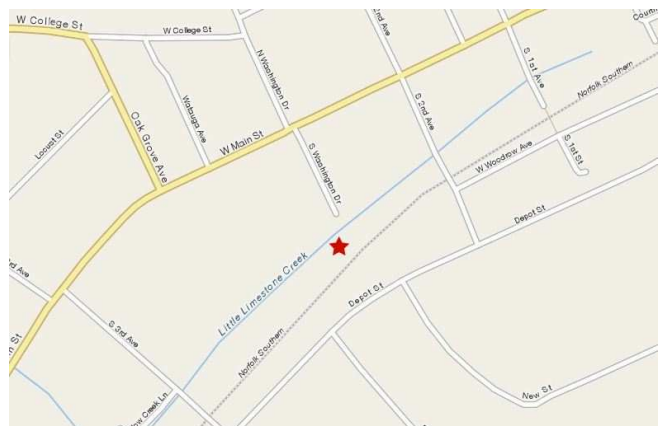
Chuckey Depot Report



Everyone is looking forward in having a railroad depot in Jonesborough after a forty year absence.

Anyone that has railroad items that you would like displayed in the museum within the depot, please call the WVRHS&M office at (423) 753-5797.

The Chuckey Depot Project is still on track. Rebuilding of the depot will occur in the spring of 2014, put back on account of town work crews being tied up with the construction work in downtown Jonesborough. The station is currently stored in four trailers. Plans call for the station to be erected on 2nd street in Jonesborough along the railroad.



In the News



611 RESTORATION UPDATE. Launched June 28, the “Fire Up 611!” campaign seeks \$3.5 million by Oct. 31 to make the ex-N&W #611 operational and to construct a shop on the museum’s property where the engine can be housed and serviced. The goal is to have the #611 take part in NORFOLK SOUTHERN’s 21st Century Steam passenger excursion program in 2014. “The money has not come in as quickly as we had hoped from the big donors, but it’s coming in quickly from small donors,” said museum Executive Director Bev Fitzpatrick. The museum had hoped by this time to have raised about \$750,000. “We’re not there yet,” he said. Museum officials have said the campaign began with \$150,000 already in hand. Rumors have it that NORFOLK SOUTHERN has optimistically delayed any scheduling of #611 on excursions until 2015. Previous reports that the #611 may be placed into running condition by the North Carolina Transportation Museum have been denied by some sources. [Multiple sources via “The Roundhouse”, Greensboro NRHS]



VIRGINIA GOVERNOR SAYS PASSENGER RAIL IS COMING TO ROANOKE. Governor Bob McDonnell was recently in Roanoke, VA, for a signing ceremony where he announced that Roanoke, NORFOLK SOUTHERN, AMTRAK, and the Commonwealth have started to work together towards the goal of bringing passenger rail service back to Roanoke for the first time in more than 30 years. The Governor also stated that The General Assembly’s transportation funding plan, pushed for by McDonnell last spring and now signed into law, will help provide the funding for rail line improvements and a passenger rail terminal. McDonnell mentioned a likely 3-4 year time frame before rail service might return; Virginia State Senator John Edwards (D-Roanoke), a long-time advocate, suggested 2-3 years as a timeline.

Wick Moorman, NORFOLK SOUTHERN CEO, said “We’re proud to play a role today in starting a new chapter in the Star City’s history.” (Passenger trains will run on NS freight lines.) Thelma Drake, Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the State, noted that design work and rail capacity analysis between Roanoke and Lynchburg, where passengers would connect to AMTRAK, is already underway. “Virginia does not own a train nor do we operate train service. We use existing tracks and we rely on AMTRAK to operate Virginia passenger trains,” noted Drake, a McDonnell appointee who was widely praised during the ceremony at Railside Plaza, with a NORFOLK SOUTHERN locomotive serving as a backdrop.

Lynchburg AMTRAK service, bolstered by additional trains in recent years, has turned out to be much more widely used than anticipated. Roanokers can now book AMTRAK and Smart Way Connector bus service to the Kemper Street Station in Lynchburg on a single ticket. Drake noted that Roanoke Mayor David Bowers “set his mind” on having passenger rail service return to Roanoke, “and never let up on that” even when initially there was no State funding available before a transportation funding plan was put in place this spring. [“The Roanoke Star” via “Potomac Rail News”, Potomac NRHS]

Programs Needed!

We still need to schedule a program for our General Membership meetings in October and November, so if you have any material, including railroad slides, a video, a DVD, or know of a possible speaker, contact Nick White, the Program Director, at the September meeting, call our office phone (423) 753-5797, or e-mail wataugavalley@embarqmail.com.

**NATIONAL GATEWAY COMPLETES PHASE ONE CLEARANCE** [CSX Press Release]

The National Gateway coalition today announced the on-time, on-budget completion of its first phase, which clears the way for double-stack intermodal rail service between CSX's existing terminal in Chambersburg, Pa. and its state-of-the-art hub facility in Northwest Ohio.



The National Gateway, an award-winning \$850 million public private partnership to create a highly efficient and environmentally-friendly, double-stack cleared rail corridor between the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest, is made possible through a combination of federal and state funds and CSX investment.

"Today, we celebrate the efforts of federal and state officials in achieving this milestone, which means more jobs, a more competitive America, and a more environmentally friendly way to move freight," said Michael J. Ward, CSX chairman, president and chief executive officer.

"This is great news for our nation's transportation infrastructure, our customers and the communities we serve, and wouldn't be possible without the major investment of time and resources by our federal and state partners. While this is a significant milestone, our work is not done. Working with our public sector partners, we need to finish the job and complete double-stack clearances between Chambersburg and the Ports of Baltimore and Virginia."

Since its inception, the National Gateway generated support from governors and scores of public officials across six states, including more than three dozen members of Congress, three port authorities and dozens of global shippers, ocean carriers, business organizations and environmental groups.

Public funding for Phase One was supported by a federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant secured by the State of Ohio on behalf of the coalition, and administered by the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration.

As one of the nation's largest transportation projects, over a 30 year period, the National Gateway will create more than 50,000 jobs and deliver a host of benefits including reduced fuel consumption, lower emissions, better safety, lower highway maintenance costs and reduced shipping costs. The National Gateway is driving economic growth in areas like Wood County, Ohio, where the recently opened Northwest Ohio Intermodal Terminal employs nearly 300 full-time employees and is handling hundreds of thousands of containers per year.

"The National Gateway will stimulate economic activity and boost the United States' competitive edge in the global economy while employing the people who will prepare us to meet future challenges," added Ward. "CSX is proud to support this significant infrastructure investment that will help modernize our transportation system and spur growth."

The National Gateway is currently focused on the project's Phase Two, which will double-stack clear the CSX corridor between Chambersburg, Pa. and mid-Atlantic ports.

To learn more about the National Gateway, visit <http://www.nationalgateway.org>.

Photo Section



NS SD70ACe Heritage Unit #1069 recently captured entering Bristol in the lead of train 22A. [Mike Pierry, Jr. photo courtesy of the N&W Historical Society.]

WVRHS&M crew posing in front of ex-N&W #611 during their September 14th field trip to Roanoke. You'll have to look closely to see those hidden by the shade. [Don Finley photo]



Nick White shot these photos of the amazing convoy of buses that transported passengers from Johnson City over the mountains to Bryson City, NC for our recent rail trip on the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD.



So You're Tired of Modeling in N or HO Scale?

[From the N&W Historical Society mailing list]

Don Guill, a machine shop owner in the Cincinnati area, built a custom replica of #611. He displays it at special events. It has also appeared at the Virginia Transportation Museum. Don is semi-retiring, and is selling this model.

The engine and tender are 36' 5" long, 64" high, and 38" wide and it is 15" gauge. It weighs 16,000 pounds, and has a 135 HP Cummins diesel engine with a hydrostatic hydraulic drive. It also has a sound system, generates smoke, and a forward camera.

Moving it requires a trailer, and he is including that in the package.

[ED. NOTE: Those considering purchasing should seek counseling first.]

Upcoming Events



September 20-21: Model Train Show at the National Guard Armory, Erwin, TN.



October 5: The Whistle Machine will travel to Greenville, SC for the COTTON MILL blowing event.



October 12 and 13: WVRHS&M and NCTM excursions to Charlottesville, VA and Asheville, NC.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

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

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P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432
wataugavalley@gmail.com

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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