

Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
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Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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This June 9th photo captures the beautiful restoration work on the Chuckey Depot nearing completion. The Grand Opening to the public (building only) is scheduled for July 1-2.

June 27th Membership Meeting

The WVRHS&M will conduct our monthly General Membership Meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 27th, 2016 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. This month's program will be on Part 2 of the program on the American Freedom Train. If you've seen Part One at the May meeting, you do not want to miss this grand finale.

July 25th Membership Meeting

The July meeting will be held July 25th, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Richard Baker will entertain us with a program on SOUTHERN RAILWAY Passenger service. At 5:45 pm, prior to the General Membership Meeting, there will be a training session for all Cars Hosts serving on the Great Smoky Mountain Excursion on August 13th.

Member Notes

By Edna Carter

Our Gratitude to Nancy Jewell

Effective immediately, Nancy Jewell is giving up the Members Notes. A heartfelt and well-deserved **“Thank You!”** goes out to Nancy for her many years of dedicated service in putting together the Member Notes. As of this issue, Edna Carter will be taking over. As always, let us know of any members, friends, 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) 571-3226. Your help is needed and appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHUCKEY DEPOT / MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

The Chuckey Depot / Museum at Jonesborough will be open to the General Public on Friday, July 1 and Saturday, July 2 from 11am to 4 pm. Volunteers are needed to give tours (through the building only; displays will not be installed until later this year). Four volunteers per shift are needed. Please call (423) 753-5797 or email wataugavalley@embarqmail.com if you can work one of the two days for a couple of hours. You will be trained on what to tell the visitors.

FUTURE WVRHS&M RAIL TRIPS / EXCURSIONS

“The Capital City Special”

WVRHS&M and NCTM excursion to Washington, DC. Our “*St. Augustine*” and “*Crescent Harbor*” will be the equipment for this July 7-10 trip.

SUMMER EXCURSION ON THE GSMR

The Watauga Valley RHS&M announced recently that our Summer Excursion will be on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson City, NC on Saturday, August 13, 2016. Tickets will go on sale soon; a sign up sheet for car hosts will be available at the May membership meeting.

FALL AMTRAK EXCURSION

This year’s Fall AMTRAK Excursion, always a very popular event, will be operated on October 29th from Spencer, NC to Charlottesville, VA and on Sunday, October 30th from Spencer to Toccoa, GA. Car Host sign up forms will be available soon.

No July Newsletter!

Early next month, your Editor is leaving New England after 16 wonderful years and heading back South. Until we get settled, I will not have internet service, thus there will not be a July newsletter. This newsletter serves as a combination June / July issue.

“See” you in August.

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Jim Magill

GENERAL

The Jonesborough Spring St. Coach Yard Extension is right on schedule. As of press time the project is 80% complete. The expansion was necessitated by the fact that the size of Watauga Valley's equipment collection exceeded capacity - we have more cars than track to put them on - so we're expanding. See picture of the expansion work in the Photo Section.

ROLLING STOCK

"Powhatan Arrow" coach (WATV 539): Car is up North in the Norfolk Southern Steam Program.

"St Augustine" coach (WATV 500): Car is up North in the Norfolk Southern Steam Program. Going on "The Capitol City Special" on July 7 to Washington, DC.

"Moultrie" diner (WATV 400): In service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.

"Crescent Harbor" sleeper / lounge (WATV 2351): Going on "The Capitol City Special" on July 7 to Washington, DC.

"Clinchfield" business car (WATV 100): Presently in storage during the yard extension.

SOUTHERN caboose (X450): Is presently undergoing extensive restoration work with a new paint job exterior and interior. See photos of project in the Photo Section.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT COACH YARD

With all the activities at the coach yard, we need you on a Tuesday or Saturday to volunteer to help; we have a project for everyone. Come on down to Jonesborough one of the two days or call the office at (423) 753-5797 and let us know your interest.

In the News



NS CUTS OUT TWO TRAINS ON THE BRISTOL LINE

Due to NORFOLK SOUTHERN's closing of the John Sevier Yard in Knoxville, two trains have been removed from the Bristol Line - 37Q and 38Q. Trains remaining are:

201 – Intermodal Train West

15T – Merchandise Train West

22A – Intermodal Train West

27V – Auto Train West

T23 – Greeneville Switcher (Greeneville to Bulls Gap)

202 – Intermodal Train East

16T – Merchandise Train East

23 G – Intermodal Train East

28K – Auto Train West

T24 – Greeneville Switcher (Greeneville to Piney Flats)

 *Work Continues on the Restoration of ET Combine 15*

[Gil Williams, Combine 15 Project Manager, NCTM]

Work continues on ET&WNC Combine #15, said to be the sole survivor of the country's finest narrow gauge passenger train set. The 98 year old combine is a triple combination car containing a Railway Post Office, a Baggage Compartment, and a Passenger Compartment

When complete, the restoration will return the car's appearance to its first twenty years of operation. Exterior siding will be replaced and the roof repaired. The vestibule end diaphragm and the buffers from both ends were removed after 1940 - The vestibule end diaphragm only will be restored. A stove and a bathroom were added to the baggage compartment during WWII. We have the stove. It is clearly not original but is from the early 1900's. We believe this section of the car was operated as a Jim Crow Car during World War II. The hole in the roof has been resealed. We will restore the baggage compartment to its pre-1940 condition

A sink was added to the stove bulkhead wall in the RPO compartment and piped to the water tank. The original sink in the toilet stall is there with no piping. These will be restored as is. The seats were replaced and the seating pattern changed early in the life of the car. The seat upholstery is Panasote, a material that is similar to naugahyde. The original seats came with rattan. The original seating pattern of 4 stationary seats and 2 walkover seats will be restored. The clerestory windows and screens have been covered over or sealed. These will be restored to as-built operating status. The green opal glass in the clerestory and above the triple windows will be restored. The glass in the oval bathroom window will be replaced with the original leaded green opal glass.

The interior colors will be the original orange shellac (light mahogany stain) for the woodwork and green ceiling in the passenger compartment and original yellow with white ceiling in the Baggage and RPO Compartments. The exterior colors over the years have been original (believed to be Pullman Green) burgundy, gray, Southern Green, red, light green (or gray), and green. We had a professional paint chip analyzer perform an analysis of a section of exterior siding. There was no evidence of any Pullman Green. Since this is clearly contradictory with pictures (color and Black & white) and original specifications, I believe the paint was stripped from the exterior at some point after 1950, probably at Tweetsie RR. We anticipate the restored exterior color will be the original Pullman Green with red window trim. The original color for the trucks is believed to be green.

The following areas will be restored to as-built if we can find the missing parts:

1. We seem to be missing both original stoves. We have one stove which is not original that is small enough to fit in the RPO spot. The passenger spot is bigger.
2. We do not have any of the oil lamps.

 *Trains on CSX Transportation through Erwin*

There are three CSXT trains operating through Erwin, TN at present: Q696 (Kingsport, TN to Hamlet, NC); Q697 (Hamlet, NC to Kingsport, TN); AND F689 (Kingsport to Erwin, TN Local). There are no coal trains operating through Erwin.


NKP 765 Excursions Canceled on Account of Slow Ticket Sales


[Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society Press Release] We've been in the railroad preservation industry since 1972. We have enjoyed over 44 years of success because we have committed ourselves to providing outstanding experiences for the general public and by treating the operation of the steam locomotive no. 765 like the business that it is.

In looking forward to our Galesburg Zephyr excursions on June 25th and 26th, we've had to weigh several important factors. Operations like these can take months - if not years - of planning and logistical work. In addition to the planning, the cost of providing these excursions is significant. We announced these operations within 30 days of their planned execution, which is very unusual for us. Eager to take advantage of new opportunities for the 765 once the commitments from our partners were secured, we proceeded.

Ticket sales to date reflect meaningful interest, but subsequent sales have been less than satisfactory. This has led us to conclude that while the trip has stimulated much interest, competing weekend plans and short lead time in the summer months have contributed to a selling rate far below our average.

While our operations historically have experienced a tremendous amount of successful, sell-out trips, the lack of time to properly market and sell these tickets at the same time as our other recent operations in Chicago has left the Society with no choice but to make the difficult decision to postpone these trips. Based on the current sales data, we would need exactly 59 days to sell these trips out and time has run out.

The decision to postpone these trips in no way reflects the cooperation, interest or willingness of our various partners. It reflects wholly our desire to protect the financial future of our organization and the longevity of steam locomotive no. 765. It is incredibly rare for us to cancel any announced operation. We explored a variety of options and considered the multitude of outcomes that would face existing passengers before reaching this decision.

The Society, its management and countless volunteers have invested several months worth of time, effort and expenses into these excursions already. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause for our loyal fans, supporters, and of course passengers. Starting immediately, we'll be refunding passengers and offering all customers a 10% discount on a future excursion.

We are confident that with additional lead time and unique promotional opportunities that future planning can afford us, we will return to the Chicagoland area and thrill thousands more with the sights and sounds of the 765 and our historic train. You can help support the ongoing operation of the 765 by making a donation online at <http://fortwaynerailroad.org/donate>.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Photos ...



Yard Extension. [Mike Tilley posting on facebook] Everyone driving by the Jonesborough Spring St. Coach yard is asking what are those Watauga railroad guys doing now. We now have a 9 ft high wall and the track extension project is about to get done. The retaining wall contractors will finish up [June 21] and the railroad section men will be in Jonesborough Monday to start moving and laying track on the extension. Hopefully the NORFOLK SOUTHERN Track Foreman will be making his inspection [June 24] to put our 108-ton "Clinchfield 100" plus another 75-ton car

out on the extension. This has been a major project for Watauga Valley to make sure the 9 ft wall and fill will hold two railroad passenger cars. Jackson Jones Construction Company out of Tri Cities has done a great job in building the wall and having it tested to handle all this tonnage.

Paint work being performed on caboose X450. [Mike Tilley posting on facebook] ex-SOUTHERN caboose X450 after having been on the storage track at the Spring St. Coach Yard in Jonesborough for 11 years is finally getting some TLC today with new red paint job. Rocky Hollifield is heading up the project. A lot of prep work but Rocky thinks we will come out with a beautiful paint job. X450 was retired from service in 1992 and donated to the Morristown, TN landfill. Watauga Valley purchased the caboose in 2005 and brought it to Jonesborough.



At left, the nearly-completed culmination of some great restoration work.

Upcoming Events



JUNE 25: 13th North Carolina Rail Fair, Metrolina Expo Center, Building 1, Charlotte, NC. Info: <http://www.gserr.com/shows.htm>



JULY 2: N&W 4-8-4 #611 will move from Roanoke to Spencer NC (non excursion move) for display in July at the NCTM.



JULY 7-10: "The Capital City Special", WVRHS&M and NCTM excursion to Washington, DC. Our "St. Augustine" and "Crescent Harbor" will be the equipment for this trip. These trips sell out quickly; don't delay in ordering tickets – you'll miss a great trip and a fun weekend. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jb5wda9> or call (704) 636-2889.



JULY 16: 4th Annual Railroad Day at Natural Tunnel State Park, VA. 10 am – 2 pm. No trains will run. More info: <http://tinyurl.com/glmjusr>.



JULY 16 & 17: MSR&LHA Membership Weekend (public invited) at Cass Scenic Railroad, sponsored by the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association in conjunction with the DURBIN & GREENBRIER VALLEY RAILROAD.

Info: <http://www.msrlha.org/mw/index.html>



JULY 19-24: NRHS National Convention, Denver, CO. Info:

<http://nrhs.com/content/2016-convention>



AUGUST 6: Railroad Heritage Alliance Annual Picnic, Woodfin, NC. See flyer at end of newsletter for details.



AUGUST 13: WVRHS&M Summer Excursion over the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD. Info:

<http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/excursions.php>



AUGUST 13: The Blue Ridge NRHS sponsored 38th Annual Model Train and Railroadiana Show and Sale, Lynchburg, VA. Info:

<http://www.blueridgenrhs.org/calendar-of-events>



OCTOBER 29 & 30: WVRHS&M and NCTM Fall AMTRAK excursions from Spencer, NC to Charlottesville, VA and Toccoa, GA.

NS and CSXT Radio Frequencies ...

NORFOLK SOUTHERN

160.950 Train to Train
160.245 Dispatcher to Train
160.830 Train to Dispatcher

CSX TRANSPORTATION

161.100 Train to Train
161.520 Dispatcher to Train
161.550 Kingsport Yard

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Opinions or viewpoints are those of the writer and may not necessarily reflect those of the organization members, officers or directors. Items of interest are welcome and will be credited to the author; however, because of space constraints, all submissions are subject to editing. Permission to reprint *Whistle Stop* articles with the exception of photographs is granted if proper credit is given. Reuse of photographs must receive permission by the editor and the photographer.

Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

***RAILROAD HERITAGE ALLIANCE ANNUAL PICNIC
WOODFIN, NC RIVERSIDE PARK
AUGUST 6, 2016 - 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM***

Bring your own food! Drinks, plates, ice, and utensils will be provided. It is also suggested that you bring lawn chairs. Tours and motor car rides along the historic Craggy Mountain Line will be offered. Rocky Hollifield, President of the line invites members who have motor cars to bring them along for a great day on the rails.

Check out <http://www.craggymountainline.com>

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

PARKING

Due to limited parking at the Woodfin Riverside Park, we are directing you to the top of the Craggy Mountain Line which is located at 111 North Woodfin Avenue, Asheville, NC. From this location, you will be transported down the Craggy Mountain Line to the park.

DIRECTIONS

On I-26 you will need to take Exit 24 which is the Elk Mountain Road exit.

From Asheville, take the exit ramp on the right, then right onto Elk Mountain Road. From Weaverville and points north take the exit ramp on the right, then left onto Elk Mountain Road. Then turn left (about .2 miles) onto Brookdale Road. Brookdale Road becomes N. Woodfin Avenue.

As soon as you cross the railroad tracks, pull into the parking area on the right.

If you prefer to unload first, then park...

**WOODFIN RIVER PARK
1050 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
WOODFIN, NC**

From Asheville, take I-26 towards Weaverville. Take Exit 24 Elk Mountain Road. At the end of the ramp, turn left and go to the end of the road. Turn left – go approximately 1 mile and park is on the right.

From Weaverville and points north, take Interstate 26 towards Asheville. Take Exit 24 Elk Mountain Road. At the end of the ramp, turn right and go to the end of the road. Turn left – go approximately 1 mile and park is on the right.