

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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October 2016



A distressing sight in Charlotte – our beautiful “Crescent Harbor” off of the rails. As disturbing as this scene is, we should pause and be thankful that disaster was avoided as the car remained outright. Story on page 3.

October 24th Membership Meeting

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held October 24th, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. This is a mandatory safety and car host training meeting for all volunteers working the October 2016 excursions. Details about the trip and other helpful items will be discussed. Those not working this year's trains are still welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone at this very important meeting. Many of you live a couple of hours away and the plan is to get everyone out of the meeting ASAP and back home at a decent hour.

Member Notes

By Edna Carter

Please keep the following members in your thoughts as they deal with various concerns: Suzie Tilley, Gary Price, George Ritchie, Kati Phelps, Nancy Jewel and Bob Yapple. As always, let me know of any member, friend or family member to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office number is 423-753-5797 or call me at 423-571-3226.

Hoping that all members and everyone will enjoy this beautiful fall weather.

2017 Officers and Board Members Ballot

The Nominating Committee presented the following ballot for the upcoming election at the last WVRHS&M General Membership Meeting. As no further names came from the floor during that meeting, the following ballot, initially proposed, was accepted. Ballots will be mailed out shortly.

PRESIDENT: Mike Tilley
SECRETARY: Jim Smallwood
HISTORIAN: Gary Price
DIRECTOR (2017-19): Don Finley

VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Schubel
TREASURER: Jeanie Walker
DIRECTOR (2017-19): Jim Calhoun
DIRECTOR (2017-19): Edna Carter

Membership Dues

Your Membership Dues Statement for 2017 is attached to this newsletter; please return it in a timely matter, along with your check, to Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432.

Individual Membership: \$20.00 Family Membership: \$5.00 per family member

Benefits include:

- Membership in the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum
- Participation in all WVRHS&M functions, events and excursions
- 12 issues of the "Whistle Stop", WVRHS&M's newsletter

Note: If you wish to join or renew membership for the Railroad Heritage Alliance or National Railway Historical Society, both organizations will be sending you dues notices; you must send in your check to them separately from your Watauga Valley RHS&M dues.

Fall 2016 Excursions

Tickets for our Autumn 2016 train excursions are still on sale; please go to <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/excursions.php> for information and details. If you have volunteered to work on the trips and have not done so, please make your hotel reservations at the Salisbury Super 8 ASAP (mention Watauga Valley to get a discount).

Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report

by Jim Magill

As most of you know, NORFOLK SOUTHERN spotted our cars headed to Huntington, WV for the New River Train at their NS in Charlotte, NC beside the Yardmasters Tower but failed to apply hand brakes. All four cars rolled down into the yard, derailing both trucks on the “Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATV 2351) and one truck on the “Moultrie” diner (WATV 400). Coaches “Powhatan Arrow” (WATV 539) and “St Augustine” (WATV 500) did not derail and were not damaged. The two derailed cars were re-railed 4 hours after the accident. The WVRHS&M mechanical team drove to Charlotte to inspect the cars this on October 14 and found the following damage.

“Crescent Harbor”

Bent Vestibule Steps
Bent Pump Holding Tank
Water Tank Cover damaged.

“Moultrie”

Sill Step bent

Both cars had their wheels removed at NS Charlotte for wheel and bearing inspections prior to movement; all passed these tests, allowing NS to move the cars to Willetts Rail Car Service at NCTM in Spencer, NC. There, the wheels were removed again and on Monday, October 17 were transported to United Transportation Wheel Shop in Morton, PA for re-certification. The “St Augustine” and “Powhatan Arrow” made it to Huntington for the New River Train.

We cannot promise but are hoping to have the “Crescent Harbor” and “Moultrie” on the Spencer Trips. The inspections this week [of the 17th] will determine if this will happen. We will keep everyone informed about the progress of the repair work. Check our facebook page for an update.



A crane hoists the Crescent Harbor off of its truck for wheel removal.

General

All cars have now had their PC-1 Amtrak inspections and are certified.

In the News

Restored Caboose Makes Historic Trek



[Jessica Fuller, JC Press] Restored to its bright red luster, a 46-year-old caboose settled into its new home next to the tracks it rolled along for more than 20 years. Ten years after the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum bought and restored the 46-year-old Caboose Southern X450 from Morristown, spectators gathered Thursday morning to watch the caboose

make its historic trek down Main Street in Jonesborough to its retirement next to the restored Chuckey Depot, which should finish its metamorphosis into a railroad museum next year.

About two dozen onlookers watched as workers lowered two sets of wheels onto a set of display tracks with the help of a crane, followed by the 38-ton caboose, which snapped in place with a loud “clank” that the crowd answered with applause.

Marilyn Monin stopped by the site with her grandchildren, Ella, 5, and Hayden, 7, and the two children were among the first to climb into the caboose in its new home. Hayden said he thought it was cool to watch the crane lift the big red caboose onto its wheels. Monin said the family wasn't even aware of the caboose's big move and were just enjoying a lazy morning in downtown Jonesborough. “We just drove by and saw the excitement and decided to see what was going on,” Monin said, adding she was glad for the stop as Hayden and Ella waved through one of the caboose's windows from the inside.

WVRHSM President Mike Tilley said that while he and the other members of the society and town have been looking forward to the relocation since restoration on the caboose began, he didn't expect so many eager community members to come out in support. “We want people in the town to get to see it,” Tilley said. “You can see the children really love getting up in the caboose, so we'll build a platform.”

Once the Chuckey Depot Museum is up and running, the caboose will serve as a venue for birthday parties or other events. The museum, which is being restored and finished by the town staff and inmate labor, is slated to open in early 2017.



Chuckey Depot and Museum

Work at the Chuckey Depot / Museum at Jonesborough will be finished very soon as the Northeast Tennessee Heritage Alliance will begin working on the displays. Display counters along with a restored Southern Railway signal light has been installed in the station's freight area. (The signal restoration work was performed by Terry Worley, photo at left.) Terry is also getting An ex-N&W Fairmont Motor Car model M19 ready for display at the station.

Darryl Worley will be Celebrity Guest for 74th Santa Train

Country music star Darryl Worley will be the celebrity guest on the Santa Train when it makes its 74th journey, on Saturday, Nov. 19. He will accompany Santa and event sponsors CSX, Dignity U Wear, Food City and the Kingsport, TN Chamber of Commerce on the 110-mile trek. "I'm honored to accompany the Santa Train as the celebrity guest this year," Worley said. "The opportunity to give back and to be a part of a 74-year-old holiday tradition is one that I couldn't pass up, and I look forward to being a part of it."

Worley, who has three No. 1 singles on the Billboard U.S. country chart during his career, has been on the country music scene since 2000. Worley has released six albums during his career and as well as 18 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts. 2017 is a big year for Worley, as the singer is planning to release his first-ever gospel album.

"We are thrilled to have Darryl Worley join us on this year's Santa Train," said Tori Kaplan assistant vice president, corporate social responsibility, CSX. "The support we receive each year from celebrity guests is humbling, and we know Darryl will add to the holiday spirit of the Santa Train."



The Santa Train makes 14 stops in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee and delivers toys, food and winter clothing to hundreds of children and families along the way. Fans can use the Twitter hashtag #SantaTrain16 to follow the train online and engage in the Santa Train conversation on social media. Look for the Santa Train schedule in your e-mailbox soon.

CSX CLOSED ERWIN RAIL YARD ONE YEAR AGO

It's hard to believe that it has been one year since CSX closed the busy Erwin Yard. Not much has changed in that there are only two through trains that operate between Kingsport and Hamlet, NC. They are Q696 and Q697 along with the yellow dog local which works between Kingsport and Spruce Pine, NC and the Bostic 770 local. There is still a crew at Dante that moves coal trains out of McClure, VA; these trains are headed to Mexico.

X450's Journey ... From Neglect to Showpiece

The sequence of photos below offer a short pictorial diary of X450's metamorphosis from neglected, rusting hulk to showpiece. (1.) As it arrived from Morristown, TN where it sat neglected and vandalized. (2.) A remarkable and beautiful restoration performed by WVRHS&M. (3.) Visual proof that the interior was not neglected in its renovation. (4.) Preparing X450's new, permanent home. (5.) The big move from the Spring Street Coach Yard to downtown Jonesborough. (6.) X450's new home alongside another restoration jewel – the Chuckey Depot / Railroad Museum.



Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 22, 29: "Super Fall Foliage Trips", TCRM, Nashville.
Info: **These trips are sold out.**



OCTOBER 22, 23: "New River Train", 50th Anniversary Celebration.
These trips are sold out.

611

OCTOBER 24 (tentative): ex-N&W 611 move from NCTM to VMT.



OCTOBER 29 & 30: "Virginia Autumn Special" excursion from Spencer, NC to Charlottesville, VA and the "Georgia Autumn Special" excursion from Spencer to Toccoa, GA. **Tickets still available.** Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jbsgpsk>.



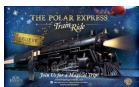
NOVEMBER 5: "Photo Special" from Dillsboro, NC to Nantahala Gorge, featuring steam engine #1702. Info: <http://www.gsmr.com/photo-special#about>



NOVEMBER 12 & 13: "Summerville Steam Special", TVRM, featuring #630 and #4501 double-heading. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/zwr2rjm>.



NOVEMBER 19: 74th annual CSX "Santa Train".



NOVEMBER 19: "Polar Express Train Ride", GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD and WVRHS&M. Info: <http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org/PolarExpress2016.php>

For Your Viewing Pleasure ...



Some of us dream about time travel taking us back to the era of steam where we can experience historic trains in action. Thanks to video that seems to keep magically cropping up on the internet, a virtual digital trip is possible. Case in point is this narrated sequence of scenes on the "Virginia Creeper" complete with locomotive sounds:

<https://www.facebook.com/burtonbr08/videos/1037634902952355/>

When finished viewing, browse some terrific shots offered on this site (Appalachian History On Rails) taken on the CLINCHFIELD, ET&WNC, SOUTHERN and N&W.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1694761940753634/?fref=nf>



Have 93 minutes to burn? Check out "And Then There Was One", a feature-length documentary that tells the story of SOUTHERN RAILWAY #4501 and the men and women who have cared for her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDsmwetbqxl&feature=youtu.be>

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MATERIAL



WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

How do you wish to receive our newsletter? ___ email (preferred) ___ paper copy via U S Mail

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Individual Membership \$ 20.00 \$ _____

Family Membership. \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ _____

Donation to Watauga Valley RHS&M \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (check only, please) \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: If you want to join or renew with the Railroad Heritage Alliance or National Railway Historical Society, you must submit through those organizations. Watauga Valley RHS&M does not process membership for those two organizations.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please send check (no cash, please) payable to WVRHS&M and remit to:

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