

# Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432  
(423) 753-5797  
[www.wataugavalleyrhs.org](http://www.wataugavalleyrhs.org)



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

---

Volume 43 No. 6

June 2023

---



CSX ES44AH #1827 Heritage unit honoring CSX predecessor B&O passing the former ACL depot at Thomasville, GA. Story on page 4. [Photo is screenshot from Facebook posting by photographer Allan Williams.]

---

## *May 22<sup>nd</sup> General Membership Meeting*

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</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 N&W 611. Come out, bring a friend, see a great video and enjoy a fun night of railroading with your friends and fellow railfans.

## Member Notes

Please remember Gary Price, Tony King, and Fred Pfohl in your thoughts and prayers for various health reasons.

*Welcome Aboard!* New member, Dave Doughty, Bristol, TN.

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.

---

### 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

## WVRHS&M Rail Events



Watauga Valley's Great Smoky Mountain Railroad trip on May 20<sup>th</sup> has sold out. We have a full complement of passengers on this trip. The next GSMR trip will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> powered by steam!



### *Dinner on the Diner*



Plans for Dinner on the Diner follow. Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and dinner will be served on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. All meals will be served in WVRH&M's vintage dining car, the *Moultrie*, followed by entertainment from an authentic railroad storyteller. Tickets are \$60.00/person for dinner and \$35.00/person for lunch, must be purchased in advance, and are available at the Jonesborough Visitors' Center, located at 117 Boone St.; by calling (423) 753-1010 between 9 am and 5 pm; or purchased online at [www.jonesboroughtn.org](http://www.jonesboroughtn.org). Refunds are not available. Diners may choose a table for two or four; however, due to a limited number of smaller tables, parties with fewer than four may be seated with other diners. As there is limited parking at the rail yard where the dining car is parked, all patrons

will park cars at the Jonesborough Senior Center, 307 E. Main St., and be shuttled a short distance to and from the dining car at no charge.

## *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 productive working days at the yard 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 the Office at 423-753-5797 or email [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com).

#### ROLLING STOCK

**“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400):** receiving repairs and being readied for the *“Dinner on the Diner”* event.

**“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500):** is on its way back home. Will be receiving upgrades to its seats.

**“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539):** is in service at NCTM.

**“Crescent Harbor” sleeper / lounge (WATX 2351):** is ready for its next assignment.

**“Clinchfield 100” office car (WATX 100):** is at the North Carolina Transportation Museum getting upgrades to its wheels and bearings. The photo at left shows the car being raised to remove existing trucks for repairs. At right we see temporary shop trucks in place to support the car while repairs are being made.



## *Chuckey Depot / Museum*

The warm weather is bringing more people out to see our beautiful Depot / Museum; we have been seeing 50+ visitors at times and are expecting another record month in May.

The next host training session will be this summer. If you would like to get involved and volunteer one day a month, please 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 are in need of more hosts since the hours of the depot will be extended during the summer months.

---

**TRAIN TRIVIA:** In what country will you find 478 km (297 miles) of absolutely straight railway tracks, the longest stretch in the world? a.) Russia b.) Brazil c.) Australia d.) Africa. Answer pg 5.



## *In the News ...*

### *CSX Unveils Locomotive 1827 Honoring B&O Railroad Heritage*

[CSX web site] Much like the diverse employees who make up the ONE CSX team, today's CSX is comprised of many heritage railroads, each of which adds a unique chapter to the story of the modern company.



To honor CSX's heritage railroads, employees at the Waycross Locomotive Shop are creating paint designs for many of the predecessor roads. The Waycross team recently completed the first of its heritage designs, which honors the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first common carrier railroad in the United States.

The inaugural heritage series locomotive - renumbered CSX 1827 [formerly #3059] in recognition of the year the B&O was chartered - combines colors from the modern CSX and the most recognized of the many B&O paint schemes. It carries the modern CSX logo on the front and the B&O's iconic capitol dome logo on the rear. The design was initiated by a 25-year CSX employee and generational railroader at the CSX locomotive shop in Huntington, WV.

Watch the unveiling video at <https://tinyurl.com/3bp4xbw9> to hear the story of how the CSX teammates took the initiative to create and apply a new locomotive design honoring CSX's oldest ancestor.

[ED. NOTE: No word yet on other CSX heritage lines to be honored.]

### *Conductors Ratify CSX Sick-time Agreement*

[trains.com] Conductors and trainmen on CSX Transportation's northern lines have ratified an agreement for paid sick time reached earlier this month, their union announced Friday.

Members of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Transportation Division GO-049 ratified the agreement on a majority of ballots returned, SMART General Chairperson Richard Lee announced. Exact ballot results were not released.

The deal was the first such sick-time agreement covering an operating union. It was followed by the agreement announced Friday by Norfolk Southern with SMART-TD that also includes scheduling of days off and increased weekend and away-from-home pay.

The CSX agreement covers approximately 2,400 conductors and trainmen. The union says it also adopts the attendance policy put in place by CSX in the most recent collective bargaining agreement, while the company gained flexibility and cost savings through provisions that allow conductors and trainmen to drive company vehicles under certain conditions. It also settled a long-term dispute between the union and CSX regarding assignment placement. [continued]


Lee said in a press release that support for the agreement was “overwhelming,” and that it is “encouraging that SMART-TD and CSX Leadership were able to sit down at the table and reach a consensus on items as important as these. I am hopeful this momentum will carry forward in future negotiations and help us collectively improve the working conditions and overall moral at CSX.”


## *Craggy Mountain Line Offers New Trolley Ride*



*Craggy Mountain Line Railroad* in Asheville, NC (111 North Woodfin Avenue) announced that they now offer charter runs on Thursday evenings at 4 o'clock in addition to their regular Friday, Saturday, and Monday trolley rides. Call them at (828) 808-4877 or go to <http://craggymountainline.com/> for reservations or more information.

## *Railfanning on the 'net ...*

 Over a pair of days in late April of 2023, Lerro Productions brought a photo event to the **East Broad Top Railroad** in Orbisonia, PA using newly restored 2-8-2 #16 at the head of both a freight and passenger train. As usual, a mix of reenactors and classic vehicles were used in various locations throughout both days. Nostalgic and entertaining, a 12-minute video of the event can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-10FDhdPWw>.

 [Alan Byer, *trains.com*] West Virginia state dignitaries were among the passengers Friday, May 12, on a special **Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad** train to dedicate the opening of the Trout Run Bridge and with it, reopening of the northernmost 15 miles of the former Chesapeake & Ohio Durbin route.

Shay No. 5, West Virginia's official state locomotive, provided power for the train's 6-mile trip from Cass to the bridge. The bridge, along with much of the track on either side, was washed away during a disastrous flood in 1985. Its replacement, completed earlier this year, was the last obstacle to reopening the line between Cass and Durbin.

Upon reaching the bridge, passengers detrained, then Shay No. 5 pushed through a ribbon to mark the official opening. Durbin & Greenbrier Valley CEO John Smith; Cindy Butler, executive director of the West Virginia State Rail Authority; and Jimmy Wriston, West Virginia Departments of Transportation and Highways secretary, offered remarks using the train's caboose as a speaking platform, with Wriston awarding certificates of appreciation to those who contributed time, effort, and expertise to the project. The Shay then pushed the consist back to Cass.

For full article and great photos, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3vdzf38m>

---

**TRIVIA answer:** c.) Australia. The Trans-Australian Railway line of 1108 miles from Kalgoorlie (Western Australia) to Port Pirie (South Australia) includes 297 miles without a curve. [source: National Library of Australia.]



# Display in the Block By Les Billings

This month "Display in the Block" will feature some Railfanning in and around Jonesborough. Various dates and times of the year. one of my favorite places to



Jonesborough has always been visit and photograph.



Coming around the Salt House, eastbound, is NS 126 with 1046 leading the way. With the leaves off the trees, we can see the top of the old courthouse. 1046 is an SD70Ace. These locomotives always have good sounding horns, the Nathan K5LLA. I have this horn as my ring tone on my phone.

[Below] You may be asking if this moon shot has something to do with railfanning. It Does.

It was taken on April 5<sup>th</sup> of this year, from our Car Yard on Spring



St. This was supposed to be the Pink Moon but it didn't look pink. Mike Tilley, Art Devoe and I were waiting for our 2 cars to be dropped off as they were returning from Spencer after being used on the Polar Express.

[Below] Foreign power is the name of the game for NS127 on this day. CN 8860, UP 5187 and UP 6309

were pushing from the rear. Here they are crossing Lingo Rd. about a mile from town. It is



always nice to see a Canadian National, they are kind of rare in these parts. So, when you hear of one in the area, you make a dash to find a good spot to get your best photo. CN appears more times than not on a CSX ethanol train.





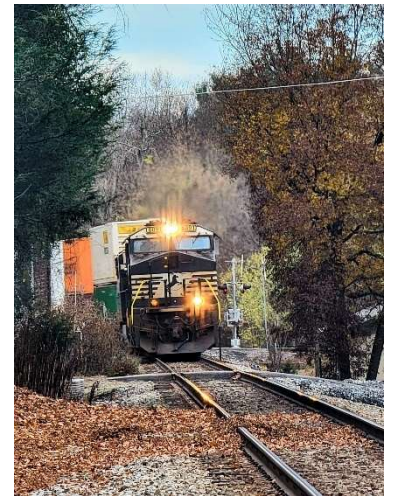
[Above] The Jonesborough and MP 33 sign just west of the Chuckey Depot. Notice how straight it is at that time. It will soon be moved a little west from this spot.



[Right] This shot was taken just below Jonesborough behind the burned out Hexpol/Burton plant. AJ Gray was the conductor that day and we messaged each other, and I got a wave from him.



[Left] Approaching the Whiskey Kitchen, at the Salt House, 1120 passes the long shadows of the crossing signal at Fox St.



[Right] After NS 278 passed the Chuckey Depot, it heads east over some November Fall leaves lying across the track.



[Left] As NS 127 passed underneath the bridge on E. Main St., on a rainy Sunday afternoon, it makes a good scene showing the EOT Fred.



[Right] This shot was taken after our March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. I liked the sky color.

# *Whistle Stop*

Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432  
[whistlestop.editor@gmail.com](mailto:whistlestop.editor@gmail.com)

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.



**Watauga Valley RHS & Museum**  
**P.O. Box 432**  
**Johnson City, TN 37605-0432**

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL**





The Historic Spencer Shops Train Show features vendors with railroad memorabilia of all types: model train dealers, model train layouts, collectors, and more. The show takes place at the former Southern Railway Spencer Shops steam repair facility, a historic railroad location perfect for a railroading event!

Take a train ride around our 60-acre historic site, ride on restored railroad maintenance motor cars, and enjoy more fun for all ages.

### **Historic Spencer Shops Train Show Features:**

- Model train and railroad collectible vendors
- Model train layouts – multiple scales
- Railroad motor car rides provided by Red Springs & Northern
- Museum passenger train rides
- Museum exhibits and programs
- Special photo opportunities

### **Saturday, May 20**

Museum Open with Train Show 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Train rides at 10 & 11 a.m. and 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

### **Sunday, May 21**

Museum Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Train Show open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Train rides at 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

### **Admission Pricing**

Adults: \$8  
Seniors/Military: \$7  
Children (3-12): \$6  
Free for Members & Children under 3  
**\*These prices do not include taxes or fees.**

### **Train Ride & Admission Pricing**

Adults: \$16  
Seniors/Military: \$14  
Children (3-12): \$12  
Free for Members & Children under 3  
**\*These prices do not include taxes or fees.**