

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

Volume 45 No. 10

October 2025



Final work is being performed in Poplar, NC as this Ballast Sweeper is making its way towards the Poplar bridge. This photo was taken on Sept, 13 by your Assistant editor. More Gorge photos on page 5.

September 22th General Membership Meeting

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will have our regular General Membership Meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at the Chuckey Depot, 110 Spring Street, Jonesborough, TN. Our program this month will be **Railroad 101** by Ralph Clarke.

Bring a friend out for a relaxing evening with your fellow members.

Member Notes

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers for various reasons: Mike & Betty Jackson, Fred Pfohl, Lois Tilley and Jack Maloney.

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 or wataugavalley.membership.com.

NEW MEMBER: Lawrence Olivera - Johnson City **Welcome Aboard!**

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

If you know of someone interested in railroads, hand them a New Membership Brochure; Brochures are available at the General Membership meetings.

Watauga Valley Christmas Gala - The Christmas Gala will be held on Saturday, December 13 at the Johnson City State of Franklin Food City . The speaker will be announced soon and the cost will be \$15.00 per person. Mark your calendar for the special event. More information will be in the November newsletter and the reservation sheet will be mailed out with the election ballots.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We will soon be taking nominations for WVRHS&M elected officials (Officers and Board members) from the floor at the October meeting. If you would like to run for a position, please make sure you submit your name to Jim Sutterlin. Requirements are few but the Nominating Committee does ask that if you run and are elected that you will attend the Board meetings held each month.

Historical Jonesborough Train Show



Historic Jonesborough Train Show Saturday, November 15th, 2025 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Held in Jonesborough, Tennessee's oldest town!

Sponsored by Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum/Chuckey Depot/Museum

A few tables are still available for the Train show. Tables are \$30 per a 8ft table. Get your table before they are all gone.

Phone for information: 423-753-5797
Email: wataugavalley@gmail.com

Wheelchair accessible.

Admission: \$7.00. Kids 10 and under FREE when accompanied by an adult.

Set up for vendors is 10:00am to 6:00pm on Friday, November 14th, 2025.

Mechanical Department Report

by Art DeVoe

If you would like to volunteer at the Spring St. Coach Yard on Tuesdays or Saturdays, please call (423) 753-5797 or email wataugavalley@embarqmail.com. There are projects for everyone; hope to hear from you.

ROLLING STOCK and EQUIPMENT

“Moultrie” diner (WATX 400): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

“St Augustine” coach (WATX 500): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

“Powhatan Arrow” coach (WATX 539): Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

“Crescent Harbor” (WATX 2351) sleeper/lounge: at the Watauga Valley Coach yard .

“Clinchfield 100” office car: Located at the N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

“Seaboard 6219” coach: Being prepared for its move to Jonesborough on NS in November.

A big thanks goes out to all of the Mechanical team and all who work on the coaches to get them ready for their duties.



[Above] Seaboard 6219 as it sets in Oak Ridge being readied for its journey to the Spring Street Yard for work to begin on restoring it for service in our rolling stock.

[Left] During our off time at the yard while, waiting on the Seaboard 6219 to arrive, David Denny and Jan Edwards are painting the storage building. Also work is being performed on the Crescent Harbor and other general work.

Clinchfield Motor Car

Watauga Valley Speeder Foreman, Terry Worley is painting the Clinchfield Speeder No 79. It's about ready to put on the mainline. We will be taking it to the Spring Street yard and riding it up and down the yard tracks soon.



Chuckey Depot / Museum

Things are very busy at the Chuckey Depot with record attendance during the month of August. Please come by and enjoy the new exhibit ***The Golden Age of Rail Travel***. We appreciate all the WVRHS&M volunteers that host and make the museum happen.

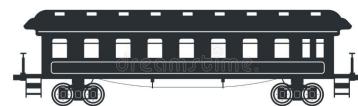
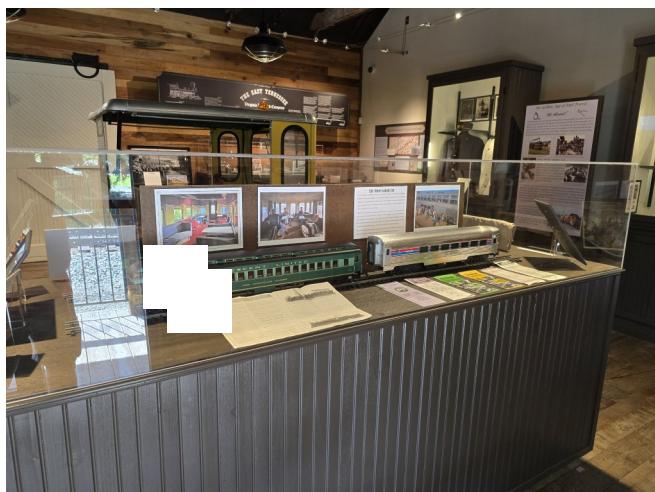


TRAINING FOR HOST AT THE CHUCKEY DEPOT IN JONESBOROUGH

We are getting ready to schedule host training sessions for anyone in the WVRHS&M that is interested in hosting at the Chuckey Depot. If you would like to attend one of the host training, please call the WVRHS&M office at 423 753 5797 or e mail wataugavalley@gmail.com.

New Exhibit

The Chuckey Depot Museum is presenting a new exhibit entitled ***The Golden Age of Rail Travel***. **"All Aboard"** It opened September 4th.



In the News

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum has taken possession of the East Tennessee -see Railway #214 switcher. The #214 is an EMD SW1200. It has run into disrepair lately and had to be replaced.



Action In the Gorge

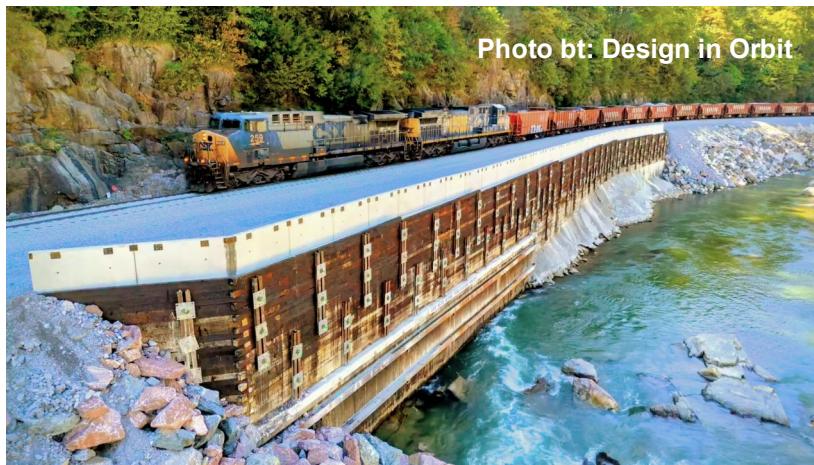


Photo by: Design in Orbit

[Left] First train in the Gorge.

W025

Ballast

Train
pla-
cing
ballast
along

the newly laid track.

CSX

Scan here for river safety
information regarding
emergency reconstruction.



csx.com/BlueRidgeRecovery

[Right] Herzog Ballast Belt Train placing rock on the sides of the banks down toward the river and laying ballast on the tracks. This train has a conveyor that rolls the entire length on the train moving rock towards to yellow Herzog placement machine.



@TrainChaserElliot

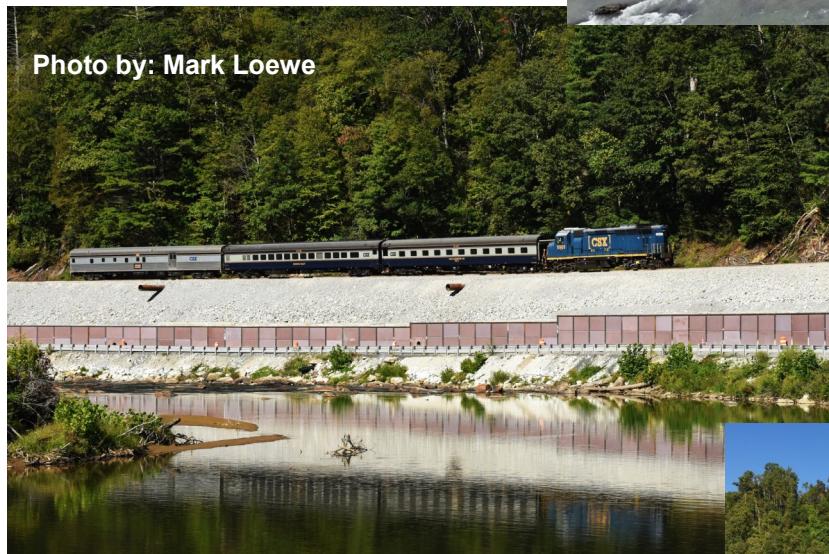


Photo by: Mark Loewe

[Left/Below] CSX W003 Geometry Train, which is a specialized vehicle used to inspect and measure the geometric parameters of the track, such as alignment, curvature, gauge, and elevation.



Photo by: Mark Loewe



September 2025 WVRHS&M Excursion



Great Smoky Mtn Train Excursion



Great Smoky Mtn Train Excursion on September 6th was a big success. We had a lot of happy passengers on Saturday, Sept 6, 2025

HIWASSEE Train Excursions

The Hiwassee River Gorge Excursion was a sell out over night on October 11. This will be a great trip.

Shenandoah Valley Limited

This seasonal 611 steam-powered foliage train runs for a limited time only. A variety of passenger cars styles are available for this leaf-peeping train that starts in Goshen, ventures west through the Shenandoah Valley and turns around in historic Staunton. Duration: Four hours.

Due to the large number of carriages anticipated to run in this consist, train rides will begin and end at the custom-built Victoria Station in Goshen, Virginia.

The *Shenandoah Valley Limited* will operate for five consecutive weekends (on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays) starting September 26, 2025.

We encourage you to subscribe to the e-newsletter in the footer of our website to be among the first to know when tickets become available later this summer.

Operation of the *Shenandoah Valley Limited* is made possible by a joint venture between the Virginia Scenic Railway, the [Virginia Museum of Transportation](#), the [Steam Railroading Institute](#), the Virginia Mechanical Preservation Society, and the combined efforts of hundreds of volunteers.



Display in the Block

by Les Billings

Happy Fall to all. In this edition of Display in the Block I am displaying a few photos taken in October of some past years. This is a very colorful time of the year to take some nice shots and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.



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Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL