



Turntable TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the
Roanoke Chapter, National
Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Volume 41, Number 1
January-February 2009





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Turntable Times is published bimonthly as the newsletter of the Roanoke Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Inc. Opinions and points of view expressed herein are those of the staff members of the Turntable Times and not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Chapter.

Meeting Notice

The Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 15th at 7:30 pm. at the Link Museum located in the former N&W Passenger Station, 101 Shenandoah Avenue. Please note the upcoming Amtrak excursion and sign up at this meeting!

The February Meeting will be held on February 19th at 7:30 pm at the Link Museum.

Please be sure to note our weather cancellation policy below, please note, this policy also applies to Board Meetings.

From The Head End

Cards and Flowers

If you know of a Chapter Member who is sick, lost a loved one or has a new birth in the family, please contact Bonnie Molinary. Bonnie is responsible for Chapter cards and flowers and can be reached at 362-0273.

Deadline for Turntable Times

The deadline for the March/April 2009 issue of Turntable Times is Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Please send articles, information and exchange newsletters to: Kenney Kirkman, Editor Turntable Times, 590 Murphy Road, Collinsville, VA 24078-2128.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

Any Chapter meeting will be considered cancelled if any of the following conditions are due to weather: Roanoke City Schools are closed on the day of or for the day after the meeting, or Virginia Western night classes are cancelled for the night of a meeting.

Material for Turntable Times

We are always in need of articles, photos or news items for the Turntable Times. Due to copyright restrictions, we cannot reprint articles from most newspapers; a condensed rewritten article crediting the source, however, is acceptable.

Cover Photo

When contemplating heading out to shoot, we are often confronted with an easy excuse; "its too cold" or "there's no sun." We are certainly lucky that Johnny Krause did not use one of those excuses to record Y6b No. 2173 backing away from the camera on one of those cold and cloudy days. While he may have been caught off guard with the odd angles (corrected here), nonetheless, he still snapped a memorable photo of the Walton pusher returning after pushing another coal train east.

Attention Exchange Newsletter

To all editors of NRHS chapter newsletters. For many years, the Roanoke Chapter has been exchanging printed copies of its newsletter, Turntable Times, with other chapters on a complimentary basis. The Roanoke Chapter Board of Directors has announced that beginning with the May/June issue it will follow the lead of the NRHS national Board's announcement regarding changing the NRHS Telegraph to all-electronic distribution. Roanoke Chapter will be sending Turntable Times only via email to other NRHS Chapter. Eliminating paper distribution of the newsletter to other chapters will allow Roanoke Chapter to reduce expenses and apply the savings to restoring and maintaining our historic railroad equipment. If you wish to continue receiving the Roanoke Chapter's newsletter for your chapter, please send your chapter name, chapter newsletter editor's name, and email address to the Roanoke Chapter Membership Chairman at TERRAPIN66@COX.NET. Failure to do so will purge your chapter from the distribution list.

2008 Chapter Christmas Party

Just another reminder that the Roanoke Chapter Christmas Party for 2008 will be held at Calvary Baptist Church on Thursday evening, December 18th. This is our regular meeting night, but begins at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Membership News

by Walter Alexander, Membership Chairman

Several chapter members have complained that the "Start Date" for their NRHS membership is not correctly shown on the

membership card received from Philadelphia in October with the dues invoice. It has been brought to my attention that about 8 or 10 years ago, the person in the chapter handling dues had misplaced, or lost, several dues checks, and thus some member's dues were never forwarded to National. Much later, these checks were found. In a subsequent year, when dues were paid, these members had a gap in their membership, and were treated as "new members" by National, thus getting a new start date. Your current Board of Directors feels it is unfair to these members to have a break in continuous membership due to an error by an officer of the chapter.

Therefore, if you believe that you have an incorrect start date due to the above, please contact me and certify that you did pay dues for the missing years. Please send a note to Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke, VA 24032-3222, or email to Terrapin66@cox.net. It will help if you have some kind of record, such as a cancelled check, entry in a checkbook registry, or old membership card, but this is not absolutely necessary. I will pass your name on to the Board of Directors, who will contact National to request that your membership gap be removed and your correct original start date re-instated. In the electronic billing system now in place by National, local chapters have neither the authority nor ability to change a start date, but it can easily be done in Philadelphia if warranted.

A "second notice" letter was sent December 10th to those who had not yet paid dues for 2009. If this applies to you, please remit your dues at once to the Membership Chairman at above address. Dues payment from 75% of our members has already been received by the end of 2008.

Spring Excursion on North Carolina Rails on April 18, 2009

By Jim Overholser and Jim Cosby

On April 18, 2009, the Roanoke Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, is sponsoring a bus trip to Greensboro, North Carolina where we will ride the north (and east) bound Amtrak Carolinian to Rocky Mount, NC, and then return to Greensboro and Roanoke. We will leave from the Virginia Museum of Transportation parking lot at 303 Norfolk Ave., SW in Roanoke at 6:00 am. We will make a brief rest and breakfast stop enroute and arrive at Greensboro's restored station to board at about 9:20 am. We will arrive in Rocky Mount about 12:30 pm and have time for lunch, sightseeing, etc. The station in Rocky Mount has been beautifully restored and we will see it with our tour guide, Barry Rakes, who was the restoration architect there and is also the architect for our Virginian Railway station restoration in Roanoke. We will board the south (and west) bound Carolinian at 3:00 pm, return to Greensboro about 6:30 pm, stop for supper en route and arrive back in Roanoke about 9:30 pm. The trip will include over 300 miles of train travel including recently rebuilt 79 mph track on the North Carolina Railroad operated by Norfolk Southern, and on former Atlantic Coast Line track operated by CSX. Co-sponsors of the trip are the O. Winston Link Museum, Norfolk and Western Historical Society, and Virginia Museum of Transportation.

The trip is priced at \$90 for seniors age 62 and over, \$95 for other adults and \$70 for youth ages 2 through 15. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and will likely be sold out early. To reserve your tick-

et(s), send your check along with your name, address, phone number, email address and type of ticket purchased (adult, senior or youth) to the address at the top of this flyer. Alternatively, you may purchase your tickets by credit card at the O. Winston Link Museum, 540-982-5465. No refunds will be given after February 20th as we can not cancel reservations after that date. However, tickets may be transferred to another person up until April 1st. Please note that you will have to present a photo identification card in order to board and it must match the name on the passenger list.

Editor's Note:

by Ken Miller

Please note the following column was submitted by Mr. Robin Shavers back in August for the September/October issue of Turntable Times. Due to a number of factors, I failed to include the article, it is now included in its entirety. My apologies to Robin for the mistake, but unfortunately, this is not my full time job and is done when I can manage the time. If there is a member who would like to take over the Turntable Times production, please contact myself or Editor Kenny Kirkman, we'd be glad for the help!

This issue is also appearing late, due to a lack of materials and my work schedule which has been every single day from before Thanksgiving until about mid-January.

Mixed Freight January/February

by Mr. Robin R. Shavers

Why did the chickens cross the Southern Railway tracks in a hurry down in Jasper, Alabama back in 1906? To escape Colonel Harland Sanders that's why. That's right folks, most folks know that Colonel

Sanders was the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Very few people are aware that the late Colonel Sanders was a fireman for the Southern Railway for five years commencing in 1906. Mr. Sanders was already employed to fill sand boxes for the Southern when one day a fireman for an outbound freight failed to report for work one day. Mr. Sanders volunteered and proved himself to the engineer and that began a five year firing career. He was born in Henryville, Indiana.

You know folks, it's amazing how information turns up. Many years ago, I kept you folks informed on the restoration of a Norfolk & Western caboose located along the former Atlantic Coast Line tracks at Carson, Virginia adjacent to the library there. The caboose was fully restored and a dedication ceremony was held about five years ago. Quite a few railfans commented that the number applied to the caboose was incorrect. That number being 518286. No one knew the correct number. On a Wednesday night at the weekly work session in the basement, the Virginia & Atlantic Railway Model Railroaders in late July were working away on our layout. A member activates his laptop to show photographs his stepson took while spending 3 weeks deep in Africa. After viewing hundreds of photos, I spot a caboose on the power point group of photos in miniature. I ask what in the name of "Race Horse" Smith is an N&W caboose doing in Africa? It was not in Africa but somewhere in southside Virginia back in the early nineties. My comrade explained that that caboose was his uncles and he had donated it to the Carson community. Boy was I surprised. I explained to my comrade that I had been reporting to a certain readership about that caboose for several years. Here is the real treat. The photo showed the

correct number as issued by the N&W. The correct number is 583286. The caboose is a small railroad museum housing photos, lanterns and other items used by railroaders of the 20th Century.

The Buckingham Branch Railroad recently purchased two former Kansas City Southern GP40-3 locomotives. They are to be used on the Richmond & Alleghany Subdivision.

Several years ago, Norfolk Southern painted SD40-2 No. 3329 in the scheme and colors of Maersk Shipping Line. That locomotive was involved in a minor collision several months ago and was repainted with the current NS scheme.

The future of our beloved East Broad Top Railroad is uncertain. The Kovalchick family has put the historic entity up for sale.

One of the few annual railfan events I attended recently was Lynchburg Rail Day 2008. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the event. It was well attended and the usual oppressive August heat was not present. There were a lot of vendors present and a lot of their goods were reasonably priced. As always, the event is a reunion. With the NS excursion program gone, you just don't see the folks you once did as often. A lot of them usually attend Rail Day. I have missed 2, one because of a funeral scheduled for the same day. I often think of those early RAIL DAYS held at Trains Unlimited when it was located on Lakeside Avenue. The event was held on the property of quite a few owners over the years. A film documentary of this 30 year event would without a doubt be interesting.

Mid-Continent Railway Museum Reopens

The Mid-Continent Railway Museum in Wisconsin has recently reopened its tourist-hauling rail line following June

floods, and has raised enough money to qualify for a key matching grant. The museum has begun weekend-only departures.

The \$475,000 grant, issued by the Jeffris Family Foundation, stipulated a matching \$475,000 be raised by early August. The museum scrambled to meet the goal while fighting back floods. It did so on July 24, when it received a \$35,000 pledge from a Madison, Wisconsin resident. (Trains Newswire, August 8, 2008).

2009 Officers and Directors

At the December Board meeting the board selected the following officers to lead the Chapter during 2009. Please support them and the Chapter in all its endeavors during the year.

President Jeff Sanders
Vice President Eddie Mooneyham
Secretary Skip Salmon
Treasurer Jim Cosby
National Director Carl Jensen
Director at Large Brian Crosier
Director at Large Landon Gregory
Director at Large Bill Mason
Director at Large Ken Miller

Our thanks go to all the candidates who ran this year, and our retiring Secretary Walt Alexander, who has agreed to remain as Membership Chairman.

Chapter Website Report

by Ken Miller

The Chapter website has continued to grow and expand and members are encouraged to check out the latest additions to it. The site is updated as time permits, and new content is added as often as provided or my schedule allows.

For the most current Chapter news and

information, the site is our quickest way of getting information out to members, due to the time that printing a newsletter involves, it is not always timely, please check the website for information, meeting dates or postponements.

Ride the Candy Cane Shifter

By Skip Salmon

Saturday December 13th this year dawned with "frost on the pumpkins", but this did not deter over 300 from travelling to our 9th Street Facilities to ride the "Candy Cane Shifter". People from the Roanoke Valley, Hardy, Fincastle, Goodview, Warsaw, Bedford, Radford, Rocky Mount, Lynchburg, Boones Mill, Rice and Mount Jackson come to ride one of the 9 trips from the 9th Street Bridge into our Yard and back.

There was a holiday atmosphere with many children riding on a real caboose, our N&W 518409 or 611 Tool Car 1407 behind our Alco 6 Number 41 for their very first train ride. Several adults also expressed that this was their first train ride. We asked parents or at least one of a group to sign our Guest Book and 79 signed. We accepted donations and the riders were very generous with their giving.

The Chapter Members working this event included Walt Alexander, Keith Barnett, Eddie Mooneyham, Gary Gray, Landon Gregory, Paul Howell, Bill Mason, Tony McCray, Rick Rader, Skip Salmon, Jeff Shelton, Dorr Tucker and Percy Wilkins.

Chris Hunley, son of Harold Hunley of Goodview, pointed out to us a recent broken rail west of our loading area on the lead track. We reported this to Mr. H. L. Lawson, who uses the lead track daily to unload ethanol. He was very grateful for our help and had emergency repairs made on the 14th.

Riders were asked how they heard about



Walt Alexander Photo

The crew of the "Candy Cane Shifter" from left: Eddie Mooneyham, Rick Rader, Tony McCray, Gary Gray, Skip Salmon, Percy Wilkins, Bill Mason, Landon Gregory, Walt Alexander and Keith Barnett.

our "Candy Cane Shifter". Many got the flyer at the O. Winston Link "Santa by Rail" on December 6. Others got the word from members who poster flyers at their churches and other organizational meetings and several saw our advertisement at the 611 Steak House, Roanoker Restaurant, The Rail Yard, virginianrailwayenthusiasts on the internet and our Chapter web site.

We received donations for the Virginian Station Project and several took station flyers and Chapter application for membership. Many expressed hope that we will do this again. All were given a candy cane upon departing the train and I feel our Chapter now has at least 300 more fans.

Another Long Time Member Passes

by Ken Miller

On December 12, long time member Alice Powers passed away at age 84. Alice had been in decline for many years ever since she was mugged for her purse. Many of our excursion riders will remember Alice for "entertaining" our riders with songs and harmonica playing while selling souvenirs in the aisles of the train. Alice always threw herself into the souvenir job with full force and seemed to enjoy every minute of it. She will be sorely missed and remembered for years to come.

Amtrak Trip

April 18, 2009

*Read the details inside and
sign up as soon as possible!*

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

**Regular Meeting Locations are at the
O. Winston Link Museum.**

January 15, 2009 - General Meeting
February 3, 2009 - Board Meeting
February 19, 2009 - General Meeting
March 3, 2009 - Board Meeting
March 19, 2009 - General Meeting
April 7, 2009 - Board Meeting
April 16, 2009 - General Meeting
April 18, 2009 - Outing on Amtrak, see
article inside!
May 5, 2009 - Board Meeting
May 21, 2009 - General Meeting
June 2, 2009 - Board Meeting

Visit us on the web: www.RoanokeNRHS.org

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