



Turntable TIMES

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

Volume 48, Number 4
Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2016

From the Turntable Times Staff
May All Your Holiday Wishes Come True!



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Turntable Times is published quarterly 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 or contributors of the Turntable Times and do 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 regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 19th. The meeting will be held in the auditorium at the O. Winston Link Museum at 7:30 pm. Please be sure to enter at the west end of the building on the track level. Our February Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16th.

Our Annual Holiday Gathering will be held Thursday, December 15th. Please be sure to check the cancellation policy below, as it does apply year round.

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 966-4809.

Deadline for Turntable Times

The deadline for the next issue of Turntable Times is Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Please send articles, information and exchange newsletters to: Editor Turntable Times, P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke, VA, 24032. All parties sending newsletters to the Roanoke Chapter via email should send them to Jim Overholser: jgoverholser@verizon.net, Dorr Tucker at joandorr@cox.net and Ken Miller at klmiller@rev.net

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.

Cover Photo

The attack on Pearl Harbor was just 2 weeks past when the Shops rushed Class J number 603 to completion on Christmas Eve, 1941. That December, now 75 years ago, saw the world erupt in war, both in Europe and the Pacific. The shiny new Class J (minus wreath) would quickly be put to work, not a day too soon hauling passengers and troops, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. Original N&W Photo, colorization by Kenneth L. Miller

For current information on the FIRE UP 611! campaign,
see www.FireUp611.org

From The Editor

This fall the Chapter celebrated the completed restoration of the Roanoke Virginian Railway passenger station. We had a Chapter picnic and two Grand Openings. A really nice brochure for the openings was prepared by Ken Miller, Jim Cosby, and Lewis Foster. We have copies available for members to take and pass out to show what we are about and what we have done.

Coming up Thursday, December 15 (our usual meeting night) will be our annual Holiday Gathering.

Be sure to send in your renewal for 2017. This year the Chapter will be able to handle both National and Chapter dues at the same time. Membership Chairman David Johnson has sent out the renewal notices. Please return them promptly. If you did not receive this information please contact David or Jim Cosby.

Activity continues at our 9th Street maintenance facility. See Lewis Foster's report in this issue and consider coming out to see what's going on maybe give a hand.

The Chapter is willing to sponsor a young camper (high school age) at one of the two Rail Camps for 2017. For more information, please contact Carl Jensen and see the article that follows in this issue.

Construction continues on the new Amtrak servicing/maintenance facility in Roanoke. We look forward to the first Northeast Regional train to arrive and use it, scheduled for Fall 2017.

Norfolk & Western 611 is home at VMT for the winter. In 2017 it will return to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC, for maintenance. The Virginia Museum of Transportation has requested to operate trips from Norfolk Southern in 2017 and we certainly hope that comes to pass.

Holiday Gathering December 15

Roanoke Chapter's annual Holiday Gathering is scheduled for 6 PM Thursday, December 15, at Calvary Baptist Church, 608 Campbell Avenue SW, Roanoke. Enter the building from the parking lot in the rear. Members and their families are invited to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to go with Chapter-provided meat, drinks, paper products, and utensils. Please plan to attend this joyous holiday event, our December "meeting." A few volunteers are needed to help with setup, beginning at 3:30 PM December 15. Questions? Contact Bonnie Molinary (966-4809) or Kathy Overholser (343-1928).

Condolences

Long time member Joe Fagan passed away October 31. Joe was 90 years old. He worked on Chapter excursions as a car host, among other activities. For many years Joe worked as a telegrapher on the Radford Division, including Randolph Street Tower and MH in the basement of the passenger station. He later finished out his N&W and Norfolk Southern career in the General Offices as a claims investigator and accounts auditor, retiring in 1987. Joe also served in the US Navy during WWII as a Radioman 3rd class aboard the USS Apollo and Orion. He was predeceased by his wife, Sue. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Former member Joyce Harriston passed away on November 14. She worked on chapter excursions and enjoyed the Chapter's bus trips.

Member Sick List

Norris Deyerle underwent reconstructive surgery October 27th and his condition has been steadily improving.

Richard Shell had surgery to have a stint put in and is doing well.

NRHS Advisory Council And National Board Of Directors Meetings Report – October 15, 2016

By Carl S Jensen, Roanoke Chapter
Advisory Council Representative

The Fall 2016 meetings of these two groups met in Portland, OR, October 15. The Council met in the morning and the BOD the same afternoon. Many of the Council subjects, reports and discussions deal with matters the BOD will act upon later in the day.

Items of Interest:

Dues Renewal – The process for 2017 renewal was underway with notices to members with Amelia registrations, with instructions to renew on-line. President Weber announced that letters to all members would be sent in late October asking for their renewals by check or other payments. These letters were received by members in November, and included a renewal form and 2017 membership cards. At the Council meeting Roanoke Chapter and several others announced we would revert to a modified format like the former method used by F&F for dues collection and renewals. We will send Chapter notices to members with forms to both renew our local dues and that of the national, with a single payment for both to our Chapter. A combined payment to the national for all the dues our members have paid will be sent in batches to the National Treasurer. This procedure has been implemented and everyone should have received the Chapter notice.

National offered to send us a list of all our members from their records. This has been received by Delta Helmer Pilgrim. She has volunteered to take over the membership duties from David Johnson who is turning them over due to work and personal chang-

es. This list will assist in determining which members are currently on the national records.

The Chapter Board voted to require all members pay both chapter and national dues to maintain their membership. Our By-Laws clearly state that requirement.

National Financial Information - NRHS is solvent. The final 2015 Audit was furnished to the Board, and a copy was obtained by the undersigned. Briefly it shows 2015 Revenues of \$744,000 and Expenses of \$528,000 (rounded to nearest thousands). In 2014 Revenues were just over \$767,000 but Expenses were over \$904,000. A significant reduction in dues income of nearly \$100,000 in 2014 compared to 2015 was the major difference in the revenue side, but was more than offset by major expenses in 2014.

A 2017 Budget was approved by the Board, forecasting total income of \$460,000 and expenses of \$415,000, or a net income of \$45,000. Membership is projected to experience a decline in 2017, which will result in some decline in both dues and donation income. Conventions are now showing positive cash flow (Denver a plus \$6,000). There is no doubt there is a strong need to stabilize and increase membership. This is getting attention at the Board and Council levels, but I am not sure what plans will be forthcoming.

Conventions – 2015 Rutland, VT, 610 attended, loss of \$2,000; Denver 2016 attendance 300, net profit approximated \$6,000; 2017 at Nashville, TN, June 20-24, hotel to be a Hilton property, rate \$129, plus tax. Working on the future, in 2018 possibly Albuquerque, NM, and 2019 at Salt Lake City in connection with the 150th Anniversary of the Promontory Point meeting of UP and SP. Understand UP is planning a big event.

Publications – Included in the 2017 budget are plans to publish 3 printed versions of NRHS Bulletins and 3 printed NRHS NEWS all of which will be mailed to the membership. In addition, the NRHS NEWS will continue to publish 6 email editions, with enhanced color photos and increased length.

RailCamp – A total of 36 campers participated in the 2016 program, 24 at Wilmington, DE, and 12 at Tacoma, WA. The program operated within budget (\$48,000, to be the same in 2017), with most of the revenues received from individual campers or by sponsorship and donation of tuition from various NRHS chapters, several rail affiliated organizations (RPCA) (PRRT&HS), and several individuals.

The 2017 program will begin taking applications on January 1 (closing date for applying is March 31). Tuition will be the same next year, \$1,290. The Roanoke Chapter Board has voted to sponsor one camper next year, and is currently working on locating that person. We think we have a good candidate, but will look at more as we can obtain some additional sponsorships from other sources.

National Film Library and preservation – Currently working on digitizing 8 mm films (about 80% completed) but remaining 20% more difficult. Working on making past convention films available, including three which Roanoke sponsored. Apparently two of the three are good quality but they are looking to get the third one improved. Need to have various parts identified as to location and maybe dates, narration or captioning done. Some other films which are from events in our general area need review. I agreed to have some of our members look at these films and help get them identified. We have received access to the electronic material and will begin looking and trying to identify the event and location. Understand

16 mm film is more challenging due to many commercial productions and copyright restrictions. A complete inventory of films is being made. Some of these films will be made available to chapters for use.

The next Advisory Council and BOD meetings are in April at Wilmington, DE, with the summer meetings in Nashville during the convention.

Summary Of Chapter News And Events

By Jeff Sanders, President

Member and former Virginian Railway Surveyor Dewey Houck lost his wife of 61 years, Sheila Snyder Houck. Beth Miller's father, Durwood Kressler passed away on August 12th in Pennsylvania. Former long-time member John Garrett passed away on July 17. Another long-time member, Joe Fagan, age 90, passed away October 31. We have also learned that former Chapter member Joyce Hairston passed away recently. Our sympathy goes out to all our members and friends who have lost loved ones.

Member Norris Deyerle has been very sick and has endured numerous surgeries during the past few months. He is on the mend now, but still needs our prayers and encouragement.

On September 14, the Chapter used the Virginian Station for the very first time as we held our picnic there. Special thanks are extended for members Percy and Linda Wilkins for heading up the moving and set up of the tables and chairs, along with help from Tommy Massey and others. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone!

Chapter friends Steve Hutchison and Jeff Miller, from Winston-Salem area, visited our meeting in September, and Steve presented our program.

Chapter CPA Patrick Budd visited our October Board Meeting to answer ques-

tions and make any remarks of concerning the Chapter books. He reported that our books are in very good condition. Much better, in fact, than many non-profit books he has reviewed. He believes we are taking appropriate measures to ensure our finances are in good order. Mr. Budd has prepared our and submitted our 2015 tax returns. As a reminder, Chapter members may review our financial statements - Chapter Treasurer Jim Cosby can provide you with a copy.

Dues notices have been sent to our membership. We will be pushing to return to the former method of collecting dues. That is to be accomplished by members submitting ALL their dues, both Chapter as well as National, to the Chapter. That way we will have a concise record of who has paid and how much has been paid to the Chapter and National. Our Treasurer will handle the payments to National. If you have already paid National directly, that is fine. Do not send



All: Dorr Tucker Photos
 Top: From left: Jim Cosby, Ron Davis of the N&WHS, Jeff Sanders and Skip Salmon at the dedication of our station on November 10, 2016. Bottom: Members and guests at the November 10 dedication.

a duplicate payment to the Chapter. But for future renewals, we will collect directly to the Chapter. We appreciate your cooperation in getting things straightened out, as this has been a real headache for several years.

The Mechanical Committee reports that work is progressing steadily on our N&W Coach 537. This is the car we hope to have in operation next year. We operated again this year for Grandparents Day at VMT, carrying about 290 passengers. We also helped teach 18 Boy Scouts to help them obtain their Railroading Merit Badge.

Security is being reviewed at both the Siding at 9th Street and at the Virginian Station.



At a meeting in Charlottesville on October 17 the Chapter was presented the "Gabriella Page Preservation Award" by the organization Preservation Virginia, recognizing our restoration of the Virginian Station. In November our two Open Houses for the



Dorr Tucker Photo

It's been a long road to completion, 15 years, 10 months and 12 days. These gentlemen were special guests at the dedication ceremony. All former Virginian employees.

Virginian Station were scheduled. The first was an invitation-only for major donors to the project, held on Thursday, November 10. Attendance was close to 100 and the evening was enjoyed by all. Among other special guests were Congressman Bob Goodlatte, who has been a friend and supporter from the beginning. Also, Vice Mayor Anita Price, City of Roanoke, spoke highly of our restoration. City Councilman John Garland spoke positively about our efforts in historic restoration. Attending as very special guests were a number of Virginian Railway veterans who have been waiting a long time to see the Station finished. Needless to say, they were all pleased.

The second opening, for the general public, took place on Saturday, November 12. I estimate we had between 300-400 visitors that day. Again, we had Virginian

S.R. Winegard Photo

S.R. Winegard posed Skip Salmon looking all the world as a Virginian Conductor posed next to the train board on November 12, 2016.

friends and veterans who visited, some travelling great distances to be with us for the special occasion. The Norfolk Southern Lawmen Band provided great music for the day. A very interesting display of Virginian photos and artifacts was presented in the Baggage and Express (B&E) Building.

The following Tuesday the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation met at the Station for their annual meeting. During the meeting, they presented the Chapter with





All: Dorr Tucker Photos
 Top left: Norfolk Southern's Lawmen play in the breezeway on November 12 with NS power substituting for EL-2Bs. Top Right: S. R. Winegard and Jim Overholser pose in the ticket window. Bottom Left: A bit of calm before the arrival of our visitors

a preservation award recognizing the outstanding work on the Station.

At our Annual Meeting in November elections were held for four seats whose terms expired this year. Three incumbents ran for re-election. One nominee, Fred Boettner, ran for the one open seat, vacated by Steve Smith. Steve was thanked for all his work for the Chapter over the years.

With no other nominees, the slate of

Directors was elected by acclamation.

Directors elected for a two-year term are Fred Boettner, Lewis Foster, Ken Miller and Percy Wilkins. At the December 6 Board of Directors meeting Chapter directors will elect officers for 2017.

Coming up December 3 and 4 we will be operating the Candy Cane Express at VMT. This is usually a very busy weekend, so if you can help out, please contact Gary Gray

or Bill Mason. Generally, we carry between 3000-4000 passengers on this weekend! If you can't work, come on out and ride with us!

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on December 15 at Calvary Baptist Church, located on Campbell Avenue and 6th Street SW. Enter the back door at the parking lot. The Chapter will provide the meats, drinks and utensils. Members are invited to bring a favorite dish, salad, or dessert. I hope to see you there!

Mixed Freight

By Mr. Robin R. Shavers

Two corrections need to be made with regards to my last contributions to the Turntable Times. I did indeed attend the NRHS national convention based out of Huntington, West Virginia, 25 years ago this past August. Also, I don't know how or why Gaithersburg got misspelled "Gathersburg." Speaking of Gaithersburg, I did make it to the annual Gaithersburg Railroadians Show on Sunday, November 6, and I hoped some of you would also have been so inspired to attend after reading my article about the event within the pages of the third quarter Turntable Times. I will admit the event was not as enjoyable as it has been on many past occasions. The number of vendors as well as patrons was noticeably down. The weather was very pleasant and freight traffic on the former Baltimore & Ohio was about average with four during my presence. I did arrive an hour and forty-five minutes late due to just pure heavy highway traffic. Another thing that annoyed some patrons was vendors who started packing away their goods before the advertised 4 PM shut down time. Some commenced as early as 230 PM. I did indeed email the man in charge of the event to express my concern and he did respond. I doubt if anything will be done. For some

events, vendors can be fined for early departure.

The Ashland Train Day event was an overwhelming success, by all accounts, for its 13th year. Patronage was way up and there was more CSX freight traffic than years past. The weather was superb. As I have noted in the past, this is not an event for the hardcore, dyed-in-the-wool railfan. It is geared toward families and those that a somewhat mild interest in trains.

Within my second quarter Mixed Freight I noted that 2016 marks the 45th anniversary of the Auto Train. I also mentioned that retired railroader Mr. Doug Ridell would be writing a book on the Auto Train and its history. That book arrived in October and has been selling very well. In fact, as I write this column, Mr. Ridell will be making a presentation tonight (November 21) on what it took to put the book together at the monthly meeting of the Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS.

Those of you who spend time along the tracks enjoying the railroading hobby have probably noticed an increase of coal train traffic since mid August on both Norfolk Southern and CSX. A reliable source informed me that the reason for this increase is as follows. Australia has been making some serious inroads into the soft coal markets worldwide. Australian coal mines got hit by floodwaters during the late summer and customers turned to the U.S. to meet the continuing demand. No one seems to know how long this will be going on. As I drive over or under the massive former C&O trestle here in Richmond, it is rare not to see a coal train either rolling eastward or waiting to get into Fulton Yard for further forwarding.

2016 has two more anniversaries worth noting. It marks 30 years since Atlanta & West Point steamer No. 290 began its resto-

ration project that was the brainchild of a group of Atlanta area railfans that just didn't want to see the locomotive rust away to nothing. The 290 starred in the 1992 movie "Fried Green Tomatoes." And it was 20 years ago, in 1996, that the Trailer Train Company presented its new Railbox boxcar livery. I still prefer the former livery. Speaking of Railbox boxcars, how many of you are aware that there is a difference between the Railbox boxcar with the RBOX reporting marks and one with ABOX reporting marks? RBOX reporting marks indicate that the car has one single sliding door per side. ABOX cars have two doors per side, a sliding door and a plug door. Some railroaders refer to these as slide 'n' plug door cars. Information like this is a major reason I at least try to browse through model railroading magazines.

As a fan of Conrail, I have many fond memories from times spent along its mainlines within the Keystone State of Pennsylvania. Upon viewing a drone photo of the former Pennsylvania Railroad station at Duncannon about 20 miles west of Harrisburg, I remembered an event that I thoroughly enjoyed. The photo was featured in a 2015 issue of TRAINS magazine. Back in the nineteen-eighties and nineties I used to have what I called RCA's, Robin's Conrail Adventures. They would be trips of three to five days and would commence with a drive to Reading, PA, and a westward journey with Conway yard or Beaver Falls being the destination. Though I tried to operate on a reasonable timetable, being extremely flexible was indeed a valuable characteristic to adhere to. While on one of those RCA's about 1985, just after daylight savings time had kicked in, I was approached by a railfan in Harrisburg who was a member of the local NRHS chapter. The chapter was hosting a railfan social event to be held in the

Duncannon depot. The depot was being used by a natural gas distributor and another chapter member who was an employee had access and authorization to be on and in the facility. He said activities would get under way around 5:30 but he expected railfans to be gathering all day long. A grill would be grilling, VCRs would be showing homemade videos as well as commercial ones, slides would be shown upon sunset and photo albums were welcomed. Of course, Conrail trains would be rolling by behind the station. Folks could contribute \$5 or bring food to share. I opted for the \$5 to save time at a local store and thus miss a train or trains. Conrail was VERY BUSY that day. Despite all the food we had on hand, somebody introduced us to some pizza from a mom 'n' pop restaurant about ten miles east of Duncannon. To say that pizza was great would have been an understatement. The place was owned and run by a real Italian family and the entire family it seemed had his or her part at the restaurant. We must have ordered for carry out at least ten large pizzas. We just kept making runs to the place. With the Conrail tracks closely paralleling the highway, we didn't miss any trains and in fact the last pizza ordered just before midnight was on the house.

It was a truly enjoyable event and everyone seemed to have a good time. The local police were informed that some of us would be spending the night in our cars at the depot. In fact, a few of the cops had family or friends who were railroaders and ancestors dating back to Penn Central and Pennsy days so they partook of food and camaraderie, I miss that era. Nearly everyone sported train related shirts, caps, belt buckles, and license plates. People socialized with each other instead of texting or phoning with folks miles or even time zones away. After a night of heavy freight traffic, I was off to

Altoona with an enjoyable event etched in my memory.

The Timetable

December 3 and 4 - Chapter provided train rides at VMT.

December 15 - Annual Chapter Holiday Gathering, 6 PM, Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke.

(?) 2017 – Norfolk and Western Historical Society annual convention, Strasburg, PA., date to be announced soon. www.nwhs.org

June 20 – 24, 2017 – NRHS National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. www.nrhs.com

August 2 – 6, 2017 – Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society annual conference, Huntington, WV. www.cohs.org

Fall 2017 – Amtrak service to Roanoke begins with the extension of the present Lynchburg train.

Board Of Directors

Our Chapter Board usually meets at 7 PM the first Tuesday of each month in the Chapter's Virginian Station. Note the new location. Members are welcome to attend. Please welcome Fred Boettner (elected at the Chapter Annual Meeting November 17) to the Board, and a big "Thank You" to Steve Smith for his service on the Board. The Board elects officers for 2017 at the December 6 Directors meeting.

President - Jeff Sanders

Vice-President - Gary Gray

Treasurer - Jim Cosby

Secretary - Lewis Foster

National Representative - Carl Jensen

Fred Boettner

Ken Miller

Skip Salmon

Percy Wilkins

Programs

Roanoke Chapter is always interested in programs for our monthly meetings. If you have a program in mind, please contact Program Chairman Dorr Tucker.

Speaking of Chapter programs, after a long stay as Program Chairman Dorr would like to retire from this job. If interested or you would like more information, contact President Jeff Sanders or Dorr.

Emergency Notification Phone Numbers

You may use these phone numbers to report emergencies or other conditions affecting railroad operations, including trespassers, vandalism, fires, defective equipment, etc. If at a railroad/highway grade crossing try to provide the unique crossing number/DOT number posted nearby.

Norfolk Southern 800-453-2530

CSX 800-232-0144

Treasurers Report

Members are always welcome to review Roanoke Chapter's Treasurers Report. Please contact Treasurer Jim Cosby to receive a copy.

NRHS News

Here is a link to the NRHS News, October issue. There is a report on RailCamp in this issue.

<https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/NRHS-NewsOctober2016.pdf>

Fall Mechanical Committee Report

By Lewis Foster

We've been busy at the yard this fall and are making progress on several projects, both short and long-term.

Work is progressing on coach 537, with the goal of having the car complete by sometime next spring. We were able to locate a ceramic floor tile that is very similar to the original tile that was used in the bathroom annex on the 1949 Pullman-Standard built coaches for the N&W Powhatan Arrow. Installing these tiles required cleaning all the remnants of the old floor pan, laying a ¼" cement backer board on mortar and then securing it to the floor with self-drilling screws, using mortar to lay the 2" tile, grouting the tile, and sealing the grout. Using these tiles instead of the 12" linoleum tiles that had been in the annex floor will provide a higher quality and waterproof floor and will hopefully last for a significant period of time.

The holding tank to go under the car is now complete and will have a final leak test performed. Once the tank is hung under the car, the plumbing can be finished and the toilet installed in the restroom annex. The 537 never received a retention system during the old excursion program, so this will be the first time that restroom has been in service since the mid-1980s.

The prep work for painting the interior is almost complete as well. The walls below



Both: Lewis Foster Photos

Above: A fine example of the craftsmanship our mechanical forces exhibit in a rather mundane but important function is the all new holding tank to go under the 537. This job is not only construction, engineering, planning and final production and installation. Below: The new floor in place in the restroom of the 537, looks very much like the original floor installed in 1949 by Pullman-Standard



the window band, the bathroom lounge, the end walls of the seating area, and the locker and closet doors have been sanded and filler applied where necessary. After a few more touch-ups, we will use matching tan interior paint to get the car looking good inside. Once the interior paint is set, the floor can be stripped and waxed and the seat frames and upholstery reinstalled.

We have also been working on the AC system on the car. A rebuilt AC compressor has arrived and will be installed soon, along with some reconfiguration of the refrigerant lines in the ceiling near the vestibule. The HVAC control systems are being modernized as well, with new thermostats, temperature and air flow sensors, and wiring for the solenoids and blower motors. The wiring for the lights in the vestibule end of the car, the vestibule lights, and the work lights overhead was also replaced, and a new light was installed in the closet behind the vestibule door (which had never had one) as well. Generator, HVAC, and control wiring in the electrical locker will be completed this winter.

Once the project is complete we expect the 537 to be a much more reliable and dependable coach. With the upgraded mechanical systems and controls (and working restroom), the car will be able usable over longer trips.

We have been working on several other projects around the yard this fall as well. The wooden box car project is nearing completion. Several of our younger volunteers have taken on the restoration of Virginian Caboose No. 322 and are working on clearing out the interior and beginning to strip the old paint. The work on removing the old boom from the road crane is continuing as well, with the counterweight and most of the deck now ready to be taken for scrap. We are also working on replacing our water

line due to repeated failures over the past two years.

Additionally, we have had several run days at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, both for public and private events. We've carried several thousand passengers so far this year and our biggest event is still to come, with the Candy Cane Express coming up on December 3rd and 4th. We've also switched the yard at VMT several times in support of 611 operations. This involved getting the consist ready to depart, breaking it down after it arrived at the museum, and putting the 611 back under the pavilion for the winter.

If you're interested in helping out with the restoration work, or just in visiting the yard at 9th Street, please contact Gary Gray or Lewis Foster. Anyone is welcome to come see what we're working on and help out (no special skills are required). If you'd like to see photos of our current projects, you can find them on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/roanokenrhs>

Membership Report

By David Johnson

The Roanoke Chapter NRHS has gained no new members since the last edition. Long time member and friend Joe Fagan passed away on October 31st. We currently have 155 members in our chapter. Membership renewals have mailed. There will be two options for renewing national membership this year. The recommended method is to renew national membership with your local dues. The chapter will send a single check to national to cover renewal. You may still renew national membership through the NRHS website. The renewal letter will have more information. As a reminder, national membership is required to be a member in good standing with our local chapter. If you have any questions

please contact me at membership.rcnrhs@gmail.com or call me at (434) 426-3133.

Amtrak Servicing Facility

Work continues (since September 6) on the servicing/maintenance facility between Albemarle Avenue and JK interlocking where the Northeast Regional train will be held overnight when Amtrak service begins in the fall of 2017. As of late November no construction has begun on the downtown platform and track adjacent to Norfolk Avenue where passengers will board the train. This service will be an extension of the present Lynchburg train with an early morning departure to New York/Boston and a late evening arrival.

Chase And Max To See Their Grandpa Tell Of Virginian Railway

By Skip Salmon

At the November 12, 2016 Open House for our restored Virginian Station, I was telling a group on the tour about the video I filmed in 2009, being shown in the B&E Conference room, of retired VGN Yardmaster Rufus Wingfield. A nice lady in the group asked me if I had a tape of VGN Conductor Tom Victory. I answered yes I do, and she responded, with a tear running down her cheek, "is it available for showing?" I explained that I have taped interviews of about a dozen former VGN employees and will show these CDs after their editing, like the one being shown now. She told me her name was Linda Creasy, daughter of Tom Victory. The two young boys with her, Chase, age 7 and Max age 5, are Tom's great grandsons. They were born after he passed away in June 2009 (Note: my taped interview with Tom was March 23, 2009).

Since the Open House I have spoken with Linda and made her a copy of the interview

with Tom for her to show the whole family this year at Thanksgiving. Chase and Max as well as several other family members will be able to see their Grandpa Tom for the first time, telling of his work on the Virginian Railway. This is possible because of The Roanoke Chapter NRHS' efforts to save the Virginian Station. Linda also answered a question I've been trying to get solved since before we started the Station project: Who planted the rose bush that is now featured behind our VIRGINIAN monument? Linda told me her Dad Tom tended roses and felt there should be some at the station. She doesn't know when, but is sure, that he planted that one we have now....

Because of the work of Chapter members Joyce and Dave Foster, we now have an extra rose bush planted from a "cutting" off Tom's original. These two now frame the VIRGINIAN monument in front of the Station. Should we name these rose bushes "Chase" and "Max"?

A View From A Bridge

By Dorr Tucker

As a frequent Roanoke River Greenway pedestrian, I often detour via the Walnut Avenue bridge to get another view of our magnificent rebuilt Virginian Station. At the same time, by carefully crossing to the east side of the bridge, ongoing construction of the new Amtrak maintenance facility can be seen to the immediate north of JK. It is truly amazing, that a rebuilt passenger station and a new passenger rail maintenance site are within sight of each other here in 2016. In reality, the proximity of the two facilities are merely coincidental. Yet, each facility signifies the magnitude of railroading in Roanoke over the years.

Additionally, the view from the 1927 constructed bridge serves as a reminder of what could be seen in years past. With a little

imagination, along with a hazy recollection, I can visualize pantographs of streamlined EL-2B's or the massive driving wheels of El-3A's along with the blue smoke of yellow and black H-16-44's or even a little PA Pacific heading a 3-car passenger train along with a second hand 0-8-0 kicking cars in different directions.

Turning to the east side of the bridge I see similar 0-8-0's heading toward the grain elevators or the ubiquitous 2-8-8-2's working on each end of a mixed consist heading south. Also, I can clearly see another 3-car passenger train, albeit with a streamlined black 4-8-2 embellished with a red stripe! There were others, some well before my time and some beyond my memory.

All of this viewing goes to show that while we have a momentous rail history here in the Star City, we are sustaining this history with our organization being one of the major players.

Virginia Museum Of Transportation Report

By Bev Fitzpatrick

The Virginia Museum of Transportation continues to be busy with good fall weather helping attendance. Class J 611 is back and in the shed where all can again see the "Big Three" all lined up together. She will be leaving in January for her first trip to the NCTM for her Annual FRA inspection. Norfolk Southern has let us know that we will be hearing soon about the potential 2017 schedule of the locomotive but we have no concrete decision yet.

Norfolk Southern continues to work with us on the possible location of the new locomotive display building in the rear of the VMT. Engineers are now working on placement of the building on the site so we can ultimately hire firms to construct the new facility. Much has to be considered as

to size, drainage, storm water holding and making sure trackage can be laid properly to insure all three of the locomotives can easily access the site and the building. Our hope is to have the option of running 611 on site in the future if we can. We have a long way to go but we have started and that is good news. We know that the RCNRHS knows more about a building project after the Virginian Station project than we could possibly imagine!

We have made an addition to our African American exhibit with a chronological timetable along tracks painted in the floor and it looks fantastic. Jen Wright, one of our employees, did the work and she is good. Also, we are moving forward on the cabinet construction to house our operating 1218 on loan to the museum. It is brass and copper and weighs in at over 500 plus pounds. It was hand-made by the head machinist at the Gary Mine of US Steel. It is a wonderful addition to the rail area. We continue to work on our RPO with more lighting expected and an additional ramp on the west end for exiting the new exhibit.

We will see construction soon on removing the Railwalk from Norfolk Avenue due to the coming of Amtrak and will be storing the exhibits, both ones we already own and the ones owned by the City of Roanoke temporarily in the western portion of our graveled area out back.

ROANOKE SOUTHERN continues to move, albeit slowly. We had to clear a drainage ditch (100 yards) for one of our neighbors who experiences minor flooding when it rains, have done a partial track inspection thanks to John Bernie, and have placed some signage along the way with more to come. Jeff Sanders approved us putting up signage at the entrance to the Chapter property on Brandon Avenue so we could help post the property for the Chapter. We continue to

work on determining utility crossings, rights of way and future improvements to the Franklin Road Crossing at Brandon.

We hope all RCNRHS members have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are proud to be partners with the Roanoke Chapter, the Lynchburg Chapter, the NWHS, the C&OHS, and the Link Museum as we all work together for Virginia's Rail Heritage Region.

Working together we are all stronger and able to get more done!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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

December 6 - Board Meeting

December 15 - Holiday Gathering

January 3 - Board Meeting

January 19 - General Meeting

February 7 - Board Meeting

February 16 - General Meeting

March 7 - Board Meeting

March 16 - General Meeting

April 4 - Board Meeting

April 20 - General Meeting

Visit us on the web: www.RoanokeNRHS.org

Turntable Times is published quarterly 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 and non-staff contributors of the Turntable Times and do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Chapter. Items of interest should be sent to Editors, P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke, VA 24032

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