

# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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No. 4



**Top Row:** Two CSX SD40-2s split the signals at Folkston, Georgia, with a merchandise train off the Waycross line 1-14-2008. A pair of former UP SD40-2s and an FEC GP40-2 hustle train #226 across the San Sebastian River at St. Augustine, Florida on a beautiful morning in January, 2008.

**Bottom Row:** L&N GP-9 533 (in what I called the very old paint scheme) eases its local to a stop at Louisville's Strawberry Yard on the day after Christmas, 1966. B&O E-8 #1465 waits to pull the George Washington out of Louisville as the Pennsy train bound for Chicago spews steam on the adjacent track 12-30-69.

Skip "Groundhog" Hansberry has the April program for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. In his own words: "This month's program consists of two distinct portions. Part I is a synthesis of trips we made to Florida in 2008 and 2009. There will be mainlines, short lines, a writer, and, yes, even a steam engine. Of course I'll include a few flashbacks from trips to the Sunshine State back in the early 70s.

"Part II is derived from the first few years of my railfanning career in Louisville. My goal is to convince you what a great experience this was in the late 60s, early 70s time frame: eight railroads, multiple paint schemes; lots of EMDs, GEs, and Alcos with a sprinkling of FMs and Baldwins thrown in. As they say today, "What's not to like?" Rumor has it that there are some photos taken in cloudy or even rainy conditions."

Come on out and enjoy this great show!

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012. 6:30 p.m.**

**Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg, VA**



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Lynchburg, Virginia



## **Blue Ridge Chapter, National Railway Historical Society Minutes of Meeting - March 14, 2012**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 21 members and 2 guests. Rick introduced new chapter member Jim Overholser from Roanoke. The February minutes were approved and Treasurer John Tanner reported.

Rick reported that he and Wayland Moore attended the Friends of High Bridge in Farmville the previous Sunday and presented the group with the Chapter's donation of \$250.00 towards the acquisition of the Vale photographs. Lee Hawkins reported that the East Broad Top RR trip has been cancelled, but the trip to Manassas, Virginia, is set for August 25<sup>th</sup> and a number of special events to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Second Manassas are planned.

Under Old Business Rick reminded members that dues were due. Member Dale Diacont's new book *Yesterday's Trains* will be available in April and Dale gave a brief description of its contents. Rick reported that he and Rick Dash-2 will be presenters at the *Whistle By The Depot* event in St. Albans, WV on Friday, April 6 at 7 p.m. Rick noted that member Dale Rumsdake had old magazines to give away. Ed Fielding reported on the new NS Heritage paint schemes (see the March newsletter).

Vice President Charlie Long reported the N&WHS convention will be held in Lynchburg on the weekend of June 21, and that Rick Johnson will be doing one of the programs. National Director Earl Guthrow announced that he, Bill Robertson and John Tanner were being recognized by the NHRS for 25 years of membership and he presented John Tanner with his pin and certificate at the meeting. Members congratulated the three on making this milestone. Director for the Regional Rail Heritage Area, Norris Deyerle, thanked Barry and Rita Moorefield and his wife Peggy for helping to man the BRC table at the C&OHS train show. He announced that Capitol Region NRHS member Bob Cohen will speak at the Roanoke Chapter's meeting on Thursday evening. Rick thanked Garland for getting the newsletter out and thanked Tom Ledford for the monthly minutes. Webmaster John Siegle reported that he was making good progress on the new webpage and Earl Guthrow suggested that the Vail article in *Engineering News* be included on the website.

Wayland Moore was the evening's presenter with digital slides from California and Kentucky after a brief essay on his recent research on the Farmville and Powhatan narrow gauge. Fun Meeting is scheduled for March 28 with a program by Aubrey Wiley on the restoration of his antique motor car. Skip Hansberry will present slides at the April 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and May 12 is the date for the Virginia Museum of Transportation's Rail Festival. On June 6<sup>th</sup> the O. Winston Link Museum will present a program honoring the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Norfolk Southern merger. Lloyd Lipscomb won the 50/50 and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Tom Ledford, Secretary

**High Bridge near Farmville opens!** Farmville, VA - Civil War history is very much alive in Central Virginia. Last week, the Museum of the Confederacy opened, and Friday, April 6, marks the official opening of the historic High Bridge just outside Farmville. It's famous from the Civil War with the Battle of High Bridge.

Preparations for the bridge's opening for pedestrian use has taken 13 months, and now it's fully equipped with a walkway, a few picnic tables and three outlooks with an absolutely breathtaking view. It's a day people all over Central Virginia have been waiting for.

"I was assigned to this park four-and-a-half years ago and it's almost a daily question, 'When is the bridge going to be open?'" said Eric Hougland, the park manager.

Locals couldn't wait to cross it.

"I was just so excited about it being open that I had to come out and see it myself," said Steven Bowen, a member of the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors.

High Bridge stands about 160 feet high and is nearly half of a mile in length.

"I'm really excited about the rich history of high bridge. To me, we're walking on sacred ground," said Bowen.

In 1865 Confederate troops attempted to burn the original High Bridge to disrupt federal supply lines.

"They actually did burn four spans of the original High Bridge, but there was a wagon bridge down below and they weren't able to burn it and federal troops were able to continue their pursuit," said Hougland.

Two days later at Appomattox Courthouse, the surrender took place. The bridge spans over two counties when it crosses over the Appomattox River.

"I would walk it, hike it and ride on it quite a bit, and now we can start on one end and go to the other so we're very happy about that," said Doug Gilfillan, who lives in Farmville.

This weekend there will be a walk on the newly completed pedestrian bridge and folks will discuss the significance of the battle and the role it played in the Civil War. From [www.wset.com](http://www.wset.com)

View video of the bridge's opening here:

<http://www.wset.com/story/17353704/historic-high-bridge-opens-in-farmville>

**Bicentennial N&W SD-45 1776 is back in Roanoke** - Several months ago it was reported in the BRD that N&W's SD-45 #1776, which had received a special paint scheme for the nation's bicentennial celebration had been moved from the Virginia Museum of Transportation to Norfolk Southern's paint shop in Chattanooga, TN, for restoration. The work has been completed and the locomotive returned to Roanoke on March 23 along with several others in a light-power move. The gleaming locomotive is currently in storage in Roanoke out of sight of the public and will be brought back out on July 4.

An excellent photograph taken by Jonathan McCoy of the 1776 in transit can be seen on the railpictures.net website. <http://www.railpictures.net/viewphoto.php?id=392867&nseq=1>

**The number of Norfolk Southern heritage units in service continues to grow** - The BRD reported last month the story that Norfolk Southern had planned to paint many newly-purchased locomotives in the paint schemes of former railroads that eventually became part of the Norfolk Southern system. This, of course, is to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the creation of Norfolk Southern. To date four units, all being General Electric ES44AC's, have been painted and are in the field. 8098 is Conrail, 8099k is Southern Ry., 8100 is Nickel Plate Rd, and 8101 is Central of Georgia.

Norfolk Southern has posted photos of each engine fresh out of the paint shop on railpictures.net. The units are stunning and can be seen at <http://www.railpictures.net/showphotos.php?userid=56989>.

A list of the predecessor railroads to be remembered with a brief history of each can be found at [http://www.nscorp.com/nscportal/nscorp/Media/News%20Releases/2012/ns\\_heritage.html](http://www.nscorp.com/nscportal/nscorp/Media/News%20Releases/2012/ns_heritage.html).

UPDATE: It was learned just now that the N&W commemorative unit, #8103, is out of the paint shop. It, too is gorgeous!

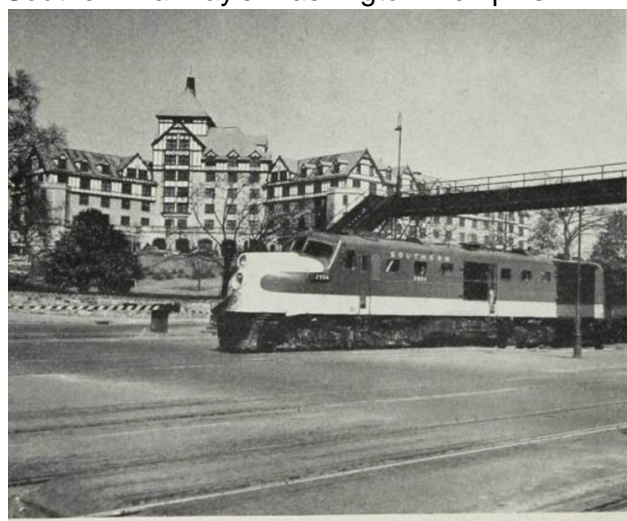
While we are speaking about railroad heritage units, Lee Hawkins sent these pictures to Norris Deyerle of early Southern Ry. diesel locomotives in Roanoke, VA. The photos were taken by Norris's cousin Thurman S. "Buck" Deyerle. Buck Deyerle owned Deyerle Studios in Roanoke, Va. You will note the similarity between the paint scheme on this Alco-GE and NS's heritage ES44AC 8099k. Henry Dralle, III, of Roanoke supplied your Editor with a great photo of the 8099k seen below.

The two B&W photos appeared in the May, 1950, issue of Train Magazine. May, 1950, is when N&W's Class J 4-8-4 #611 was built! The caption of the picture is quite amusing.

"John L. Lewis, of all people, finally persuaded the Norfolk & Western Railway to do what no locomotive builder has ever been able to: operate diesel road units over its main line in revenue service. All this came about because the Southern Railway's Washington-Memphis passenger route depends upon 203.7 miles of N&W rails between Lynchburg, VA., and Bristol, Va.-Tenn., to carry its Pelican, Birmingham Special, and streamlined Tennessean through to their common destination on the Mississippi. Normal practice is for SR diesels to handle these schedules to Lynchburg, where N&W 4-8-4's take over for the haul through Roanoke to Bristol. There SR has other diesels waiting to forward the trains on to Memphis. But the coal strike early in 1950 kept slashing N&W passenger mileage by I.C.C. directive, while it did not affect SR's diesels one whit. At last N&W permitted the diesels to run right through over its rails, with N&W men aboard to act as guides for the diesel-experienced SR crews. Hence these rare scenes of Alco-GE units in Roanoke with the N&W shops and the road's famous hotel as backdrops. Now the 4-8-4's are back and N&W is happy again."



Southern Railway diesels ride the Norfolk & Western



Both photos, Thurman S. Deyerle Studio



NS's Southern Ry. Heritage unit, GE ES44AC #8099k, having come off the L&D at Lynchburg earlier, is seen here climbing the Blue Ridge en route to Roanoke, Va. March 25, 2012. Photo courtesy of Henry Dralle, III.

Ed. Note - Please note the tree branch stuck in the 8099k's cut lever. You may recall the weather in Central and Southside Virginia the day before was very stormy, the entire area being under a tornado watch most of the day. Thanks, Henry, for the use of your photo!

## SIGHTINGS

March 23 - UP's Susan G. Komen for the Cure® engine 7400 spotted southbound leading NS train 203 at Kemper Street. Here is my feeble attempt at a photo of it. Much better shot of it at Shepherdstown WV earlier in the day at

<http://www.railpictures.net/viewphoto.php?id=392943&nseq=0>

(G. Harper)



March 24 - NS Conrail heritage unit 8098 spotted westbound at Lee, near Appomattox. Engine and train at a standstill while eastbound NS train 23G was undergoing train pull-apart repairs.

(Rick Johnson)

**Train Ride to Bull Run** - Blue Ridge Chapter member Lee Hawkins has planned a train ride event that should be of interest to all Blue Ridge Chapter members and friends. He's planning a same-day outing on Saturday, August 25, 2012 to Manassas and return. Northeast Regional train #156 will leave Lynchburg's Kemper Street Station at 9:59 a.m. arriving in Manassas at 12:39 p.m. Returning on train #147 from Manassas at 4:53 p.m. arriving back into Lynchburg's Kemper Street Station at 7:39 p.m.. The approximate costs will be \$44.00 per person, earlier reservations recommended to get the best price for the round trip ticket. You may make your reservations by: calling Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, [www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com) or by calling the Lynchburg Ticket Office at 434-847-8247 (remember they are closed from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.).

Some things to do on the train: Eat, watch scenery, talk, read and nap. Amtrak also has free WI-FI on the Regional for those so inclined. Enjoy the train ride.

Some things to do In Manassas :Visit the Manassas Museum located right across the street from the Manassas station (Cost \$5). Take a walking tour of downtown Manassas. Eat lunch at one of the many restaurants close to the station. Note also this will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Battle of Manassas so there will be displays and such commemorating this event see website:

<http://www.manassascity.org/index.aspx?NID=211>

For those folks from Bedford-Roanoke areas you may like to try THE SMART WAY AMTRAK CONNECTOR for only \$4.00 each way. see websites below:

<http://www.smartwaybus.com/>

[http://www.smartwaybus.com/documents/smart\\_way\\_connector2\\_000.pdf](http://www.smartwaybus.com/documents/smart_way_connector2_000.pdf)

If you have questions feel free to call Lee Hawkins at 434-237-2429 or [railhawk46@aol.com](mailto:railhawk46@aol.com) or Garland Harper (local Amtrak agent) 4 pm to midnight Wednesday thru Sunday at 434-847-8247

**Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2012 Calendar of Events**  
**54TH Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Chapter**  
**A Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partner**  
**Compiled By Norris Deyerle,**  
**Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners**

**Newly updated or added events since last month printed in "Bold Italics".**

Notice: The NRHS is the lead member of a new group of railway heritage groups and preservationists that list their upcoming events on their new website, [RHICalendar@nrhs.com](mailto:RHICalendar@nrhs.com). I urge our friends with the other railway historical groups and museums to take advantage of this new NRHS service. There is no cost to subscribe to this service. This is a website that will help us all get the word out about our events!

**April 2012**

04-11-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Skip Hansberry Slide presentation

04-14-15-12: {Saturday & Sunday} The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, Info: [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

04-19-21-12: {Thursday . Saturday} Train Collectors Association %TCA+York Train Meet, York, PA, Info: [www.easterntca.org](http://www.easterntca.org)

04-21-12: {Saturday} Buckeye Railroadiana Show, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH, Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

**May 2012**

05-05-12: {Saturday} C&O Railway Heritage Festival, Clifton Forge, Va. Info: [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org)

**05-05-12: {Saturday} Raleigh Train Meet, Sponsored by the Southeastern Division, TCA. Holshouser Building, Raleigh, NC Fairgrounds, Info: Charles Alford, {252} 756-7842, e-mail: [csasr@yahoo.com](mailto:csasr@yahoo.com) or [www.se-fca.org](http://www.se-fca.org)**

**05-06-12: {Sunday} Shenandoah Valley Railroad Club, Model Train & Railroading Show, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Rt. 11, I-81Exit 243 Harrisonburg, Va. Admission: \$5.00/Children under 12 Free when accompanied by an adult. Always a fun show with a Family Atmosphere and Operating Layouts. Train Show Coordinator: Paul Graham, {540} 828-1106**

05-09-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber presentation

05-12-12: {Saturday} Roanoke Railfest, Info: [www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org)

05-23-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS %Sun Meeting+

**June 2012**

**06-02-12: {Saturday} A Walking Tour Of Washington Union Station, Sponsored by the Washington, DC Chapter, NRHS Info: 610-429-5858, e-mail to [reservations@dcnrhs.org](mailto:reservations@dcnrhs.org), Website: [www.dcnrhs.org](http://www.dcnrhs.org)**

06-13-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Steve Hutchison presentation

**06-16-12: {Saturday} "The Susquehanna Limited" The Conrail Historical Society will run an excursion from Washington, DC to Harrisburg, PA {RT} via Amtrak, NS Port Road along the Susquehanna River, thru Enola Yard, using the Juniata Terminal E8's. Contact: 215-253-4527, Info: [www.thechrhs.org](http://www.thechrhs.org)**

06-18 - 6-24-12: {Monday - Sunday} NRHS National Convention 2012, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Info: [www.nrhs.org](http://www.nrhs.org)

06-21 - 6-24-11: {Thursday - Sunday}: N&WHS 2012 Convention, %Mainline To Norfolk+, Location: Lynchburg, Va. Info: [conv2012@earthlink.net](mailto:conv2012@earthlink.net) and [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org), Contact: Charlie Long, H. {434} 239-3521, C. {434} 660-6989

06-23-11: {Saturday} North Carolina Railroad Show, Location: Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC, Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

06-23-24-12: {Saturday & Sunday} The Great Scale Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, Info: [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

**06-30-12: {Saturday} The Fast Flying Franklin PRR Coach Ride, Sponsored by the Washington, DC Chapter, NRHS Reserve online at [www.dcnrhs.org](http://www.dcnrhs.org), Information: 610-429-5858 or e-mail to [reservations@dcnrhs.org](mailto:reservations@dcnrhs.org)**

## July 2012

07-11-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Fred Mayer presentation

07-25-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Lun Meeting+

## August 2012

08-08-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont, Green Mountain, Vermont Railroad, Mt. Washington Cog Railroad and the D&H.

08-08-12-12: {Wednesday . Sunday} C&OHS Annual Conference. Old Town Alexandria, Va., Info:

[www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org)

**08-11-12: {Saturday} Lynchburg Rail Day 2012, BRC, NRHS**

**Vendor Table Prices: 6 Ft. = \$25.00 each, 8 Ft. = \$33.00 each Lynchburg Rail Day 2012 Vendor**

**Registration Forms are available on our website: [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)**

**Barry Moorefield: [bmopar@verizon.net](mailto:bmopar@verizon.net) {434} 821-2174**

**Norris Deyerle: [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com) {434} 237-4912**

**John Tanner: [flytrains@verizon.net](mailto:flytrains@verizon.net) {434} 525-1318**

**08-25-12: {Saturday} See article in the newsletter about planned day trip to Manassas via Amtrak.**

**Lee Hawkins [railhawk46@aol.com](mailto:railhawk46@aol.com) {434}237-2429**

## September 2012

09-12-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Norris Deyerle presentation

09-16-12: {Sunday} BRC, NRHS Summer Picnic

09-26-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Lun Meeting+

## October 2012

10-10-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber

10-18-21-12: {Thursday . Saturday} Train Collectors Association TCA+York Train Meet, York, PA. Info:

[www.easterntca.org](http://www.easterntca.org)

10-27-28-12: {Saturday & Sunday} The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds,

Timonium, MD. Info: [www.gsmts.com](http://www.gsmts.com)

## November 2012

11-04-12: Railroadiana & Transport Show and Sale, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD, Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

11-14-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore

11-21-12: No November Lun Meeting+due to Thanksgiving

## December 2012

12-01-12: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet, Altavista, Va.

12-12-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson, presentation

12-22-12: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Kemper Street Station Christmas Gathering

**Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: [www.varailheritage.org](http://www.varailheritage.org), [www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org), [www.linkmuseum.org](http://www.linkmuseum.org), [www.roanokenrhs.org](http://www.roanokenrhs.org), [www.dcnrhs.org](http://www.dcnrhs.org), [www.odcnrhs.org](http://www.odcnrhs.org), [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org), [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org), [www.thecrhs.org](http://www.thecrhs.org), [www.srha.org](http://www.srha.org), [www.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com), [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org), [www.railroadcollectors.org](http://www.railroadcollectors.org), [www.nhvry.org](http://www.nhvry.org), [www.norfolksouthernrhs.org](http://www.norfolksouthernrhs.org), [www.RailServe.com](http://www.RailServe.com), [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), [www.TrainFinder.com](http://www.TrainFinder.com), [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com), [www.wghshow.com](http://www.wghshow.com) or [RHICalendar@nrhs.com](mailto:RHICalendar@nrhs.com).**

**Norfolk Southern/TVRM Steam Excursion Website: <http://www.21stcenturysteam.com>**

**Steam Train Events in the United States and Canada: [www.diary.svsfilm.com](http://www.diary.svsfilm.com)**

**Steam Locomotive Locations: [www.steamlocomotive.com](http://www.steamlocomotive.com)**

**Railroad Historical Information And Related Photos: [www.hawkinsrails.net](http://www.hawkinsrails.net)**

**Danville & Western Ry. Website: Railway operated in Southwestern Virginia between Danville and Stuart. <http://southern-railway.railfan.net/dw/>**

**Trains & Travel International: [www.traintrips.biz](http://www.traintrips.biz)**

**Additional links to other NRHS Chapters, Railroad Historical Societies and Museums available at [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)**

**Virginia Museum Of Transportation Rail Cam: <http://www.nwhs.org/cam/vmt>**

**Roanoke, Va. Rail Cam: <http://128.173.197.94:443/RRCmov>**

**Lynchburg Rail Day 2012 {Saturday} August 11, 2012**

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**Lynchburg Rail Day 2012. Saturday, August 11, 2012**