



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 19

December 2011

No. 12



Charlie Long brings us the December program. He'll present a video entitled *Steam in the Winter*. It is a professionally produced DVD and will include action scenes from the Heber Valley Railroad, the Nevada Northern and the Ohio Central. Get into a winter mood by planning to attend.

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011. 6:00 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 - November 9, 2011**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed 20 members and one guest. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed with thanks to Lloyd Lipscomb for taking them. Treasurer John Tanner made his report. He stated that Rail Day netted approximately \$300.00 less than 2010, our best year ever. Attendance was level, concessions were down and the white elephant sales were down.

Under Old Business Rick reminded members that dues were due! There will be no Fun Meeting in November and Charlie Long will present the December program. Ed Fielding will do the January program and Mr. Bob Flippin from the new High Bridge State Park will have a special program at the January Fun Meeting featuring recently discovered photographs of the 1914 bridge construction. Christmas banquet is December 3, \$15.00 per person and due this week. Rick added that slides of recent chapter activities for that program. The Kemper Street Station Christmas gathering is December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Under new business the following donations from Rail Day proceeds were approved on a motion by Skip Hansberry, seconded by Barry Moorefield. Virginia Museum of Transportation: \$1,000 for railroad related projects; C&O Historical Society, \$1,000 for their Heritage Fund; N&W Historical Society, \$500 for archive projects; Roanoke Chapter NRHS, \$500 for the Virginian Station restoration project. Member Lee Hawkins described a possible field trip in June 2012 to the East Broad Top Railroad: travel by bus leaving Lynchburg at 7 a.m., 3 or 4 hours at the museum, dinner in Winchester on the way home arriving back at 10 p.m. Cost of the trip would be \$120 all inclusive. He also described another possible trip to Manassas for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Second Manassas by Amtrak Regional in August 2012.

There were no reports but Charlie Long announced that a group of members were helping to host the 2012 N&WHS convention in Lynchburg June 21-24. He also mentioned that he and his wife and John Siegle and his wife had volunteered as hosts on the recent Roanoke Chapter excursion November 5-6.

The evening's program was prepared by Rick Johnson, Jr. and presented by Rick, Sr. in his absence due to his work schedule. The program covered the CSX divisions west of Rivanna Junction to Hinton photographed within the last three years. The 50/50 was won by Norris Deyerle and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Tom Ledford, Secretary

**Annual Kemper Street gathering is Dec. 17** – Every year the Blue Ridge Chapter gathers at Kemper Street Station in December to share edibles, to greet Amtrak passengers, to enjoy each other's company and to reminisce about the past year. OH YES! And maybe to watch a few trains go by.

This year's date is upon us: Saturday, December 17. We usually begin the affair between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and wind up after train #19 leaves. **PARKING IS AN ISSUE THESE DAYS** since train travel has become so popular out of Lynchburg. (We have 220 boarding the northbound Regional that morning!) Please try to find a parking spot on the upper level at the station to make the parking places trackside available to those coming to meet #19. The elevator is at your disposal to bring you downstairs. Bring your favorite snack and/or beverage (RULE G compliant, of course) to share. Hope you can come!

**Southern Ry. train  
schedules.  
April 16, 1911.**

**Southern Railway**

N. B.—Following schedule figures published only as information, and are not guaranteed:

**NORTHBOUND**

From Buchanan St. Station

Ar. 1:20 a. m. Lv. 1:27 a. m., No. 35, New York, Atlanta and New Orleans Ltd.; solid Pullman for Washington and points east.

Ar. 1:35. Lv. 1:45 a. m., No. 42, Washington and East. Sleeping cars and coaches.

Ar. 3:37 a. m. Lv. 3:45 a. m. No. 32 for Washington and points north. Sleeping cars and coaches. Diner.

Ar. 5:14 a. m. Lv. 5:22 a. m., No. 30. Sleeping cars and coaches to Washington and New York. Diner.

Ar. 5:15. Lv. 5:25 p. m. No. 36, Sleeping cars and coaches for Washington and points East. Diner.

Ar. 7:05. Lv. 7:15 p. m. No. 26, Memphis Special. Sleeping cars and coaches to Washington and New York. Diner.

From Union, or N. & W. Station.

Ar. — Lv. 7:30 a. m. No. 10, Washington and way stations.

Ar. — Lv. 1:07 p. m. No. 44, Washington and way stations.

Ar. 7:20. Lv. 7:30 p. m. No. 20, Charlottesville and way stations.

**SOUTHBOUND**

From Buchanan St. Station.

Ar. 3:13. Lv. 3:28 a. m., No. 41, from North and East.

Ar. 3:43. Lv. 3:48 a. m., No. 37, New York, Atlanta and New Orleans Ltd. Solid Pullman to New Orleans, Asheville, Atlanta and Macon. Club and Observation cars. Diner.

Ar. 9:10 a. m. Lv. 9:20 a. m., No. 25, from North and East.

Ar. 3:57. Lv. 4:07 p. m., No. 43, Coaches to Atlanta. Sleeping car Greensboro to Atlanta.

Ar. 9:03. Lv. 9:16 p. m., No. 29, Coaches and sleeping car for Atlanta, Birmingham, Tourist sleeping car Mon., Wed., Thur., Friday, Saturday, to San Francisco. Diner.

Ar. 11:02. Lv. 11:07 p. m., No. 31, Coaches and Pullman Drawing-Room Sleeping cars to Greensboro, Durham, Raleigh, Columbia, Augusta, Savannah and Jacksonville. Dining cars.

From Union, or N. & W. Station

Ar. — Lv. 8:38 a. m., No. 19, Danville and way stations.

Ar. 2:15. Lv. 2:25 p. m. No. 35, Sleeping cars and Coaches to New Orleans. Sleeping cars to Birmingham and Salisbury to Memphis. Diner.

Ar. — Lv. 3:05 p. m. No. 9, Danville and way stations.

L. S. BROWN, G. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

O. L. McCRAW,

Joint City Ticket Agt.

More newspaper articles from a century ago documenting the opening of the Southern Railway's "Lynchburg Cut-off" and the construction of Kemper Street Station, which turns 100 in 2012, follow.

The New Depot

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Work Soon to Be Started and Building

To Be Completed by Winter

(The Lynchburg News. May 24, 1911)

It was stated here yesterday by a local representative of the Southern Railway that there will be little delay in starting the construction of the new Kemper street station, that the contract for the excavation will be let shortly and work will be started almost immediately.

It is understood from this same source that vouchers have been drawn for the remainder of the money the company is to pay to the city for the station site, and within another ten days or two weeks the actual work will have been started.

Arrangements have been made to deposit the earth to be removed along the west side of the track on the sites formerly occupied by Moore's planing mill and Williams & Barnett's coal yard. This will make valuable fill for the company, for it is expected in railway circles that within the next year of two a branch freight station will be established on or near the present temporary passenger station which would give the Southern about the same facilities uptown for unloading car load lots that is enjoyed now solely by the Norfolk and Western at its Twelfth street yard.

It is more probable that the main track eventually will be pushed near the Durham branch of the Norfolk and Western and that the present road bed will be utilized for the delivery of car lot freight.

There is an immense amount of earth to be removed before the site can be gotten ready for the actual work on the new station, but it is said that hereafter the work will proceed in a manner satisfactory to the city and that the new station will be ready for use before cold weather.

EXCAVATE FOR NEW STATION

(The Lynchburg News. June 6, 1911)

Curtis & Shumway, a firm which did much work on the Southern's cut off around the city, has been awarded the contract for the excavation for the new passenger station to be built on that line at Kemper street, and work is to be started at once.

Forty thousand yards of earth is to be removed before actual work can be commenced on the new station, which is to cost \$50,000.

**Left:** All three railroads serving Lynchburg published their passenger schedules in the local paper every day. Here is the Southern's schedule after the cut-off was put into service. You will note the "Buchanan St. Station" location. Kemper Street station was yet to come.

WHISTLING MUST STOP  
(The Lynchburg News. June 16, 1911)

The engineers of the Danville division of the Southern Railway have been instructed by Superintendent Shelton that the practice of sounding their whistles from one end of the new line through the city to the other must stop.

A circular has been issued to the enginemen to the effect that this is a violation of a city ordinance here and that if any of the men are arrested and fined they will have to foot the bill.

Superintendent Shelton, who was in the city Wednesday evening, said there is no necessity for the use of the whistles anywhere inside the city limits on the new route, unless in case of immediate danger. The line has no grade crossings on it and unless persons or stock are seen on the track there can be no excuse for whistling.

The practice which has caused some complaint from persons living near the new line has been stopped and these folks may expect to have good sleeping times, even during the heavy movement of Georgia melons and peaches.

HIDEOUS NIGHT NOISES

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Southern Engineers Are Charged With Disturbing Sleep.

(The Lynchburg News. June 25, 1911)

Some time ago an order was issued by the Southern Railway that those in charge of the engines on the new route should cease to blow the whistles in an unreasonable manner after night, thus awakening the residents of that part of the city from their sleep and making the night hideous.

Complaints have been recently registered against the practices which some of the engineers on this new route have of not regarding the orders issued by the Railway Company. It is said that there has been practically no cessation of the night noises emanating from the locomotives, and what makes it the more unbearable is that there seems to be no cause for the existence of such conditions.

The shrieking of whistles, clanging of bells and steam popping off, all have a tendency to keep awake or to awaken people who are anywhere near at hand, and it does seem that it serves merely as an amusement for those who engage in operating the instruments which serve as noise-makers, rather than a necessity.

TO BEGIN ON NEW DEPOT  
(The Lynchburg News. June 27, 1911)

Everything is said to be ready to start the excavation for the new passenger station to be built on Kemper street by the Southern Railway, and it is expected the work will be started today if the weather conditions will permit.

A big steam shovel reached the city Saturday and Saturday afternoon it was shifted from the Orange yard to Montview and later in the day was taken to a temporary side track at the head of Seventh street.

Something like fifty thousand yards of earth is to be removed from the station site and the approach from Park avenue and most of this will be used to fill in low places along the new tracks in the West End, which in [the] future may be utilized for warehouses or team tracks.

The contract was let some weeks ago to Curtis & Shumway, since when the debris left in the removal of several buildings, including the large stable of the Adams Bros. Paynes Company, has been cleaned off, leaving only such materials there now as can be handled by the steam shovel.

Owing to the unpopularity of the temporary station at Seventh street the railway company is very anxious to have the new station ready for use before the return of cold weather, and every energy will be bended with that object in view.

EXCAVATING FOR NEW DEPOT  
(The Lynchburg News. July 16, 1911)

The steam shovel, which has been excavating for the change of the Southern Railway tracks in the West End, is now at work removing the earth from the site of the proposed station.

An immense amount of dirt is to [be] taken away before actual work can be started on the new depot, but it is believed this can be started during the next month or six weeks.

The earth is being hauled across the main line of the railway, and is being dumped along the road, where valuable land will be made by the fills.

At the same time it is generally conceded that if the work from now on does not proceed more rapidly that that which has already been done cold weather will be here before the new depot is ready for use.



## SIGHTINGS

Nov. 13 – Full length dome car SLRG 511 spent the weekend at the Amtrak Yard just north of Kemper Street Station. One truck of the car went on the ground in Roanoke about a week earlier when it was shoved over a derail by accident prior to one of the Roanoke Chapter's excursions. After repairs the car were made it was brought over to Lynchburg and was added to the rear of the NEC Regional train to get it on its way to its next excursion train engagement in New York state. Car departed Lynchburg on Nov. 14. See photo below left. (Rick Johnson-II, G. Harper)



Nov. 26 – NW caboose 555063 seen on the rear of NS train 11R at Kemper Street station. Destination unknown. See photo above right. (G. Harper)

Nov. 27 – CSXT 8622 middle of three units on NS train 212 at Kemper Street. (G. Harper)

Dec. 4 – NS train 11R sported much CSX power today. Seen at Kemper Street. CSX 247, 68, 2256, 6449 and NS 8968. (John Collins, G. Harper)

Dec. 10 – UP 2002 in a special paint scheme commemorating the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City spotted on NS train 212 at Kemper St. (G. Harper)

Dec. 11 – NS office car train 955 seen southbound at Kemper Street. Cars Indiana, Georgia and Claytor Lake seen, but no F Units. (G. Harper)

**Big plans for small trains!** - GREENVILLE, SC — Organizers say a miniature train museum will open in Greenville late next year. The Greenville News reported developers of the Transportation Museum of the World will feature the Miniature World of Trains in a vacant store.

The museum will recreate famous railroad scenes and is expected to include models of oil refining, power plants, steel and automobile manufacturing, coal mining, an amusement park and a sports stadium. The museum is modeled after one in Hamburg, Germany, that attracted more than four million visitors since opening in 2001.

The project is expected to cost about \$25 million, to be paid by corporate sponsors, private donations and grants. It could eventually employ up to 150 people. The museum will have conference and event rooms, a model building viewing area and restaurants.

Information from: The Greenville, SC, News. Submitted by Aubrey Wiley

**Another life lost on the James River trestle** – It was widely reported in the local media after it happened: Another individual unaware of the danger it presents lost her life on NS's James River trestle about 10:50 p.m. Nov. 17. It was reported that the victim and four other freshmen from Liberty University had gone out onto the bridge to stargaze! Indeed, the peak of the Leonid Meteor shower occurred that night. Perhaps that was the reason for selecting this particular night to venture out. In any event, it was a decision with deadly consequences.

Northbound NS train P98 with about 25 cars emerged from the Rivermont Tunnel surprising the stargazers. According to news reports three managed to hang off the edge of the deck, one student jumped and sustained serious injuries after falling some 80 feet to the ground below. Hannah E. Williams of Sanford, NC, however, was struck and killed.

The News & Advance listed all the fatalities and near misses that have occurred on the trestle since 1969. There have been quite a few. Several I recall. One occurred the night of our 2000 Christmas banquet involving college students! Sigh... As the folk song goes, "When will they ever learn?"

Pictured here is one that didn't make the list. Your Editor took it from Riverside Park in Nov. 1990 standing next to some Lynchburg police officers. The trespassers made it back to their cars and left before Amherst County authorities arrived.



**Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, 2011 Calendar of Events**  
**53RD 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 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. 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!

December 2011:

Now Through 12-31-11: "River City 3 Railers" O Gauge operating model train layout, Midlothian, Va. Info: rivercity3railers@yahoo.com, Courtesy of Robin R. Shavers

Now Through 1-08-12: Bevell's Ace Hardware in the heart of downtown Blackstone, Va. will present its annual "Trains For Christmas" commencing the Friday after Thanksgiving Day thru January 8, 2012. "O" Gauge trains will operate during normal store hours. Free and open to the public. This model train layout is one of the nicest that you will ever see! It's displayed so small children can enjoy it. Courtesy of Robin R. Shavers

12-13-11: {Tuesday} Nineteenth-Century Brick Architecture in the Roanoke Valley and Beyond: Discovering the True Legacies of the DEYERLE BUILDERS. O. Winston Link Museum, Opening Reception & Book Signing, 7:00 pm, Admission: \$5.00 donation, Book Price: \$35.00, Info: 540-982-5465.

12-14-11: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Charlie Long - Video

12-15-11: {Thursday} Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Holiday Gathering, 6:00 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va. Blue Ridge Chapter Members and their guests are invited to this event. This takes place of their regular monthly meeting. Contact Norris Deyerle if you would like to attend.

12-17-11: {Saturday} 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, "High Bridge Railroad Club 2011 Free Holidays Open House", See fantastic "N", "HO" and "O" Gauge model train layouts. Be sure to bring the kids! Location: Main Street and 4th Street, Farmville, Va. {Location is in the basement of the Crute Stage} Courtesy of Robin R. Shavers

12-17-11: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Kemper Street Station Christmas Gathering. Kemper Street Station, Lynchburg, Va. This gathering is open to everyone! Please bring snacks, sweets and non alcoholic beverages to share with others including the Amtrak passengers. 9:00 pm until Amtrak 19 arrival. This is one of our most popular gatherings of the year. Trains, food and good friends! Need I say more?

12-17 & 12-18-11: {Saturday & Sunday} Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Richmond Speedway Complex, Richmond, Va. Admission \$7.00 Adults, C&OHS will be present. Info: www.greenbergshows.com

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2012 Calendar of Events

01-11-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Ed Fielding slide show

01-21-12: {Saturday} Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet, Location: Merchant Square Mall. Info: <http://valleygoto.com>, email: [info@lehighvalleytrainmeet.com](mailto:info@lehighvalleytrainmeet.com)

01-25-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

02-08-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont slide show "2011 Year in Review"

02-18 & 19-12: {Saturday & Sunday} C&OHS "George Washington's Train Show" Sat. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sun. Noon – 4:00 pm, Admission \$5.00 per person, Clifton Forge Armory, Clifton Forge, Va. Info: 540-862-2210

02-25 & 26-12: {Saturday & Sunday} Spring Thaw Train Show, Allentown Fairgrounds Ag Hall, Allentown, Pa. Info: [www.allentowntrainmeet.com](http://www.allentowntrainmeet.com)

03-14-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore presentation

03-28-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

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

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

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

05-23-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

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

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

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

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

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

07-25-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"

08-08-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, OPEN

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

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

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

09-26-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting"  
10-10-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber  
11-14-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, OPEN  
11-21-12: No November "Fun Meeting" due to Thanksgiving  
12-01-12: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet, Altavista, Va.  
12-12-12: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, OPEN  
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.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org), [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org), [www.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com), [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.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) or  
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)  
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/>  
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

### **Friends, Trains and Preservation By Norris Deyerle**

A little over a year ago Blue Ridge Chapter President Rick Johnson asked me to accept a new chapter position that he created. This position was being a chairman and not a chapter officer. He laughed and told me that I would get a big long official title though. I decided to accept his offer since big titles look good on your resumes! Ha! My new title was and still is the "Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners". This region stretches from Roanoke to Clifton Forge to Lynchburg. You may have seen the VRHR signs on the major highways in these areas.

For those of you that have no idea what my "job" is, I'll try to explain. It's actually fun and rewarding. I'm the BRC, NRHS, ambassador between our chapter and the other railroad historical societies and museums in Virginia's Rail Heritage Region. I pass on the info that you and others send me along to others that are interested in trains, both real and model versions, along with railroad related events in our region. That's enough about me. The reason that I enjoy doing this "job" is because of you! I want to thank all of you that take the time to send me info either for forwarding to the folks on my railroad email list or to use in my monthly "Calendar of Events" in this newsletter.

At our November BRC meeting, you the members voted to donate most of the money that we made from Lynchburg Rail Day 2011 to help with the railroad preservation efforts of our partners. The four partners that received donations from us this year have either sent us thank you letters or emails. Every year that the BRC, NRHS has sponsored Lynchburg Rail Day you have voted to donate most of the money made from our train show to our partners. I want you to know that these donations don't go unnoticed. They also are not wasted. To see our 2011 donations at work, just take a short trip to the N&WHS Archives, the C&OHS Heritage Center, the Virginia Museum Of Transportation or the Roanoke Chapter, NRHS and view their pending Virginian Station Restoration. In past years you've also donated money to other groups such as the Lynchburg Kiwanis Club and our Virginian Railway preservation friends in Victoria, Va. The OWLM is also among the recipients of your generosity. We have a pending donation to the Amherst Station restoration group.

The Blue Ridge Chapter is a well respected group in the Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partner's. Many of you have even donated your time to help our partners by volunteering in person. You should be proud of your preservation efforts through your donations also. You have truly made new friends and preserved railroad history at the same time. If you ever want to visit any of the partners just let me know. I'll put you in contact with a friend that you may have never even met.

On behalf of the BRC, NRHS officers, our Webmaster and our Editor I want to wish you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season. May God bless you and your family now, in 2012 and years to come.

**More amazing passenger counts** – Without a doubt the number of people boarding the NEC Regional train at Lynchburg on a single day set a record on Nov. 19. The student exodus from town for the Thanksgiving break was in full swing. 390 individuals had booked passage on train #156 that morning. The Christmas / New Year's exodus is more spread out. There are several days in mid-December, however, where the count goes above 200! More and more people are finding that the train is the way to go!

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND STAFF

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**The BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER is published by the Blue Ridge Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Blue Ridge Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society unless otherwise stated.**

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