



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 18

March 2010

No. 3



C&O fireman B. L. Stull and engineer John Murphy at Hinton, WV, with the last run of the Sportsman May 1968.  
(photo by T.W. Dixon)

Tom Dixon, Chairman and President Emeritus of the C&O Historical Society, returns to present another great show for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. His theme this month will be "The C&O/B&O c.1968". You'll not want to miss it!

Wednesday, March 10, 2010. 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 - February 10, 2010**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 17 members and two guests. The January minutes were approved as distributed and there was no Treasurer's report. John Tanner is recovering from surgery.

Under old business, 2010 dues are due and members were admonished to get them in right away. Lee Hawkins reported on the circle trip in April and reminded members that they needed to get the train tickets directly from Amtrak and to do so soon to take advantage of the discounts. There are only 16 spaces left. Rick announced that all program slots were filled for 2010 regular meetings, anyone else wanting to do a program should consider one of the Fun Meetings. Gary Quale again asked about the disposition of Ralph Yoder's extensive slide collection, he thought we should at least do a program using them. Barry Moorefield reported that Lynchburg Rail Day will be held at the Boonesboro Ruritan Club on August 14 and that he is discussing new tables with the Ruritan Club.

There was no Vice-president's report. National Director Norris Deyerle updated members about the changes coming to the Annual Report issue of the Bulletin, noting that 2010 would be offered on-line in lieu of a printed issue as they have done in the past. The upcoming C&OHS train show in Clifton Forge on February 20 was discussed and Gary Quale offered to represent the chapter since no one else could go. There was no Editor's report and the Webmaster commented on the need for captions to accompany the photos he was posting.

The next regular meeting will be March 10 with C&OHS President Emeritus Tom Dixon reviewing the C&O/B&O in 1968. Dr. Harris won the 50/50. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The evenings program "Introduction to the Allegheny Division (CSX)" presented by Norris Deyerle.

Tom Ledford, Secretary

### **SIGHTINGS**

Feb. 27 - Carolina Power & Light Alco, stenciled JRWX (Johnson Railway Service) 94., spotted parked at Hurt, VA. Destination unknown. (Aubrey Wiley)

Mar. 5 - UP units 4041 and 9669 spotted switching Montview Yard. Possibly power on train 158. (Charlie Long)



## **Amtrak line posted profit in second month –**

by Ray Reed, Lynchburg News & Advance. February 15, 2010

RICHMOND — Lynchburg and Central Virginia's honeymoon with Amtrak service continued in November, producing enough riders on the new train that was introduced on October 1 to generate a profit in its second month of operation.

Virginia had planned to provide a \$242,000 monthly subsidy to keep the train running. It won't need any of that money for November.

The month's results for the new train between Lynchburg and Washington were stronger than October's ridership, according to Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Danville also provided a remarkable upward spike in the DRPT report: a quadruple increase in passengers boarding Amtrak's previously operating Crescent.

Lynchburg is served by both the Crescent and the new one, the Northeast Regional, which leaves at 7:38 a.m. Mon. – Fri. and at 9:59 a.m. on the weekends and holidays— later in the morning than the Crescent. The Northeast train returns from Washington earlier, at 8:36 p.m.

More than 2,000 people boarded the Crescent in Danville during November, the DRPT said. During the same month of 2008, just 452 people boarded in Danville.

Boardings on the Crescent at Lynchburg and Charlottesville dropped after the new Lynchburg route was established, making more seats available on the Crescent for passengers boarding at Danville and all other locations to its south.

The new Amtrak route had 9,915 riders in November. That was more than double the target of 4,200 riders, according to a report by Kevin Page, DRPT's rail transportation chief. The train's revenue for the month totaled just over \$534,000. When the new service began, its monthly operating cost was projected at about \$455,000.

October's ridership was 97 percent above the Amtrak goal; November's results topped the goal by 136 percent. (Ed. note – Christmas holiday traffic was phenomenal, too! Anxious to see December's figures.)

The train also recorded an 83.6 percent on-time performance in November, 20 percent better than Amtrak's statewide average, Page's report said.

## **Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, 2010 Calendar of Events 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Chapter Compiled By Norris Deyerle**

### **March 2010:**

03-10-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Tom Dixon, C&O/B&O In 1968, Slides

03-13-10: {Saturday} Carolina Model Railroaders Train Show & Swap Meet, J. Douglas Gaylon Depot {former Southern Railway Station}, corner of Washington and Church Streets, Greensboro, NC, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \$5.00 Adults, under 12 free. Contact Ben Stemkowski, 336-540-1543 or email [stemjobe@bellsouth.net](mailto:stemjobe@bellsouth.net)

03-14-10: {Sunday} Virginia Train Collector's, Inc. Train Meet, Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., \$6.00 at Door {Members \$5.00}. Spouses and children under 17 {with adult} admitted free. Contact: Stuart Gordon, 804- 798-3739.

03-24-10: BRC "Fun Meeting"

03-26-27-10: C&OHS Hawks Nest Modelers Symposium, Hawks Nest State Lodge in West Virginia, Info:

<http://www.sa-com.org/meetings>

### **April 2010:**

04-14-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber, Norfolk Southern's Altoona/Johnstown Pa. Update, Slides

04-24-2010: {Saturday} Blue Ridge Chapter Outing, "A Circle Tour Around Virginia, Lynchburg – Richmond – Alexandria – Lynchburg". If you would like to sign up for this outing then you need to bring your check made payable to the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS for \$35.00 per person to our March meeting. Trip Chairman Lee Hawkins will collect them at the regular BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting on **Wed. March 10, 2010**. If you can't make it to the meeting then Lee needs to be notified by March 10, 2010, if you're mailing him a check. Lee

Hawkins' contact info: Cell: 434-610-2429, Bus: 434-522-6704, email: [ilhawkins@babcock.com](mailto:ilhawkins@babcock.com). Enough people have signed up for this trip to make it happen. There are a limited number of seats on the bus still available. Lee has already secured the bus with a deposit. The trip is definitely happening! Important: The \$35.00 check is just for the bus ride from Lynchburg to Richmond. You will also be required to purchase your own ticket(s) for the Amtrak portion of the trip at an additional cost. Please note that the TSA and Amtrak insist that all adults have picture ID to travel on Amtrak! Please verify with Lee Hawkins if there are any seats left on the bus before you purchase your Amtrak tickets from our newsletter Editor and Amtrak Agent Garland Harper. Garland Harper's contact info: Cell: 434-660-1218, email: [grharper@aol.com](mailto:grharper@aol.com). You do not have to be a Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, member or spouse to take this trip. Space is limited and extra seats will be opened up to everyone from this time forward.

#### **May 2010:**

05-02-10: {Sunday} Shenandoah Valley Railroad Club and the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society Model Train & Railroading Show, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Rockingham County Fairgrounds {Located on US 11 between I-81 exits 240 and 243} Harrisonburg, Va., Admission \$4.00, Children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Contact number for vendors and more information: 540-828-1106.

05-08-10: Alleghany Railroad Heritage Festival, C&O Railway Heritage Center, Clifton Forge, Va. Info:

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

05-12-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson, Norfolk Southern's former Virginian trackage from Roanoke, Va.- East, Slides

05-26-10: BRC "Fun Meeting"

#### **June 2010:**

06-09-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Lee Hawkins, Slides, "25th Anniversary Conrail Trip"

06-17-20-10: 2010 N&WHS Convention, Front Royal, Va. Info: [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org)

06-22-26-10: 2010 NRHS Annual Convention, "Endless Mountain Rails", Sponsored by the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, NRHS, Scranton, Pa. Info: [www.endlessmountainrails.com](http://www.endlessmountainrails.com)

06-26-10: {Saturday} 7<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Rail Fair, Metrolina Expo Center, Charlotte, N.C. Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

#### **July 2010:**

07-14-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont

07-28-10: BRC "Fun Meeting"

#### **August 2010:**

08-05-08-10: C&OHS Annual Conference, Richmond, Va. Info: [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org)

08-11-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Fred Mayer, Slides, "Rails Of The Northeast"

08-14-10: Lynchburg Rail Day 2010, Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, Boonsboro Ruritan Club, Lynchburg, Va. White Elephant Tables, Vendor Tables for rent. Train Show Contacts: Barry Moorefield, 434-821-2174, [bmopar@verizon.net](mailto:bmopar@verizon.net), Norris Deyerle, W. 434-455-7421 H. 434-237-4912, [railcow@msn.com](mailto:railcow@msn.com), John Tanner, W. 434-316-9500, H. 434-525-1318, [flytrains@verizon.net](mailto:flytrains@verizon.net). Model and Photography Contest Chairman: Fred Mayer, H. 434-384-2773, [barbalin@earthlink.net](mailto:barbalin@earthlink.net). Visit [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org) for more LRD information and to view photos of past Lynchburg Rail Day's.

#### **September 2010:**

09-08-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Steve Hutchison, Winston-Salem Chapter, NRHS President, DVD, "Trackside Video Memories"

09-19-10: Annual BRC Picnic, Noon – 4:00 p.m. English Park, Altavista, Va.

09-22-10: BRC "Fun Meeting"

#### **October 2010:**

10-13-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber, Historic Railroad Postcards

#### **November 2010:**

11-10-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Blue Ridge Chapter Vice President Charlie Long, DVD  
Attention: No BRC "Fun Meeting" due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

#### **December 2010:**

12-04-10: Annual BRC Christmas Banquet, 6:00 p.m. till... Pre-paid reservations required. Guests welcome.  
Location: Former Southern Railway Depot, Altavista, Va.

12-08-10: Regular BRC Monthly Meeting, Blue Ridge Chapter President Rick Johnson, Slides

12-18-10: Annual BRC Kemper Street Station Christmas Gathering, Guests welcome.

Location: Lynchburg, Va. Amtrak Station.

**Upcoming Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: [www.RailServe.com](http://www.RailServe.com), [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com) or [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com). Additional links to other NRHS Chapters, Railroad Historical Societies and Museums available at [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)**

# The Washington Special

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Experience luxurious rail travel aboard the classic 1930's Pullman lounge-sleeper *Dover Harbor*-- travel to the Nation's Capital--Washington, DC for an enjoyable day-long Springtime rail excursion.

*Dover Harbor* will depart from Lynchburg's Kemper Street Station mid-morning on Saturday, April 24, 2009 with Amtrak's *Regional* train #156, stopping at Charlottesville on the way north. Relax in comfortable Pullman armchairs and love-seats while the train glides through the flower-filled springtime scenery of Virginia's Piedmont region. White jacketed attendants will serve you lunch en route to an early afternoon arrival in Alexandria and Washington.

At Alexandria, you'll have time to walk the same streets that George Washington and Robert E. Lee strode on a walking tour of the city's historic Old Town; many historic sites are an easy walk (or free trolley ride) from the Amtrak train station. Or, continue to Washington's Union Station in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, where you'll have time for a brief stroll around Capitol Hill or to shop in the beautifully restored Union Station.

At late afternoon, Amtrak's *Regional* train #147 will take you southward through historic Virginia Piedmont cities and towns and along the east side of the Virginia Blue Ridge. Sip a cocktail and savor a delicious supper served at white linen clothed tables while en route. *Dover Harbor* will return you to Charlottesville at early evening, and Lynchburg a short time later.

For more information about *Dover Harbor*, please see the car's web site at [www.doverharbor.com](http://www.doverharbor.com).

**For information, call 610-429-5858 or e-mail [dover.agent@dcnrhs.org](mailto:dover.agent@dcnrhs.org).**

## THE WASHINGTON SPECIAL--April 24, 2010

I'm ready to go! My reservation and payment are enclosed:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:  day  evening \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone (day of trip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT METHOD

Check payable to Washington DC Chapter, NRHS

Charge to my Visa/Mastercard:

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## ROUND TRIP FARES:

Lynchburg/Charlottesville to Alexandria/Washington  
Chapter Members: \$189  
Nonmembers \$209

Going, read down (#156)	SCHEDULE*	Return, read up (#147)
9:59 AM	Lynchburg Kemper St. Amtrak Station	7:39 PM
11:10 AM	Charlottesville Amtrak Station	6:26 PM
1:21 PM	Alexandria Amtrak Station	4:17 PM
1:34 PM	Washington Union Station	4:00 PM

\*Note: Schedule subject to change; final schedule will be confirmed with travel documents.

### CONDITIONS:

1. No refund or credit of purchased tickets after February 20, 2010, other than by operator's cancellation of the trip or reselling of the space. Reservations are not transferable and may not be resold without the consent of the operator.
2. Package does not include attraction admissions charges, ground transportation, personal incidental charges or meals except for meal service as described above while on board *Dover Harbor*.
3. Schedule of train departures and arrivals subject to change without notice by Amtrak. Operator reserves the right to substitute equipment or alter itinerary without notice.
4. The Washington D.C. Chapter, NRHS makes every effort to accommodate the physically challenged; however, *Dover Harbor* as a historic railroad car is not wheelchair accessible. Operator requires those passengers requiring special assistance from others to travel with someone who is able to assist them. Those with special dietary needs must notify the reservations agent in writing at least two weeks in advance of the trip.
5. A \$35 fee will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds.

### To ALEXANDRIA, VA or WASHINGTON, DC

# \_\_\_\_\_ Member(s) at \$ 189 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Nonmember(s) at \$ 209 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### NAMES OF ALL PASSENGERS (required):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BOARDING LOCATION:  Lynchburg  Charlottesville

DESTINATION:  Alexandria  Washington

How I heard about trip:  E-mail  Chapter Newsletter

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NRHS  
c/o Mike Martin, Reservation Agent  
503 Mayfield Avenue  
West Chester, PA 19380-5211

The Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, isn't the only NRHS Chapter with travel plans in Virginia the same weekend as our circle trip via Richmond and Alexandria. The segment in the flyer above is a small part of a larger trip the Washington Chapter, NRHS, has that weekend for the *Dover Harbor*. Go to their site at [www.doverharbor.com](http://www.doverharbor.com) for the complete itinerary. The officers of the Blue Ridge Chapter want you to ride the circle trip we have planned, but if your tastes in travel are a bit more refined, perhaps this would appeal to you.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND STAFF

President	Rick Johnson, 104 Mowry Ln. Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-660-1113 notch8@aol.com
Vice President	Charlie Long, 106 Pacos St., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-239-3521 cwlongjr@mindspring.com
Secretary	Tom Ledford, 2186 Woodcrest Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-2013 tomledford@hotmail.com
Treasurer	John Tanner, 209 Pocahontas Dr., Forest, VA 24551-1235 434-525-1318 flytrains@verizon.net
National Director	E. Norris Deyerle, Jr. 744 Chinook Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-237-4912 railcow@msn.com
Editor	Garland R. Harper, 3920 Harbor St. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-7210 GRHarper@aol.com
Historian	Rick Johnson, 104 Mowry Ln. Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-660-1113 notch8@aol.com
Webmaster	John Siegle 1225 Krise Cir. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-6951 jas65@comcast.net

**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.**

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS  
P. O. Box 11731  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1731  
[www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)  
[blueridgenrhs@yahoo.com](mailto:blueridgenrhs@yahoo.com)

**LYNCHBURG RAIL DAY Saturday, August 14, 2010**  
Boonsboro Ruritan Club Coffee Rd. Lynchburg, VA