



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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Pier 6 at Lambert's Point in July 1982.

BRC member Kurt Reisweber travels from Williamsburg to Lynchburg to present the October show for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. He'll be doing a slide show of the Hampton Roads area. N&W, Norfolk Southern on ex-Virginian, and Chessie System with some Norfolk-Portsmouth Beltline and other items thrown in will be shown. Much material goes back to the 1970's. Plan to be at this show. You won't regret it!

Wednesday, October 12, 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 - September 14, 2011**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 23 members and 4 guests including Peggy and Adam Deyerle, Rita Moorefield and Katy Herbst. John Gardner was present after suffering a bicycle accident and Gordon Watkins sent greetings that he was recovering well after hip surgery. Garland Harper made a rare appearance due to a scheduling change at the station. Robin Shavers traveled from Richmond to attend as well.

Aubrey Wiley announced the up-coming Virginian Railway Day at the Virginia Museum of Transportation on September 24th and also offered his new 2012 Virginian calendars for sale. Minutes were approved as distributed. Treasurer John Tanner could not attend but sent a report. In his report he stated that receipts from Rail Day this year were about 25% lower than last year's mainly due to fewer items available on the White Elephant table.

Continuing the Rail Day reporting, Chairman Barry Moorefield thanked all of the members who helped with the event. Members congratulated Barry for another excellent event and gave him a round of applause. Aubrey Wiley reported over thirty attended his open house and Contest Chairman Fred Mayer announced the winners of the Rail Day contests. They are: Carl Laubisch-Best Photo; John Czarny-Favorite Train; Kevin Olson and Shannon Crabtree-Best Locomotive; Shannon Crabtree and Ron Geouge-Best Structure; and Carl Laubisch- Best Diorama.

Under Old Business the Amherst Station has been transferred to Amherst County and work is expected to begin soon although no schedule has been released. Under New Business, Rick Johnson asked for volunteers to form the Nominating Committee for next year's slate of officers. Fred Mayer will chair with Warren Middleton and Aubrey Wiley assisting.

There was no Vice President's report. National Director Earl Guthrow again suggested a trip to Philadelphia, perhaps next spring and offered to plan it. Virginia Rail Heritage Region chairman Norris Deyerle had no report but passed around the sign-up sheet for the Chapter picnic on September 18. Newsletter Editor Garland Harper reported that he was currently updating his e-mail distribution list and asked any members who were not receiving the newsletter to let him know. There was no report from the Webmaster.

Rick reported that he had received a letter of thanks from the Virginia Museum of Transportation for the Blue Ridge Chapter's donation of \$100 for the restoration of N&W's bi-centennial locomotive 1776. He also had received a letter from Bob Carpenter thanking the members for their support during his illness and the loss of his son.

Tonight's program is a review of N&W and Virginian photographs focused on the 1960s and 1970s from the collection of Norris Deyerle. September 28 is the date for the Fun Meeting and Wayland Moore will present the program. Kurt Reisweber will bring the program at the October 12 meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and Rick Johnson won the 50/50.

- Tom Ledford, Secretary

Centennial Observations - In 2012 Kemper Street Station in Lynchburg will celebrate its 100th year. The station opened on October 31 of that year. The Lynchburg newspaper in announcing the news had this to say, among other things, about its opening. "The using of the new station marks the completion of the Lynchburg cut-off which has cost the Southern Railway in round figures the sum of \$3,000,000."

The Lynchburg cut-off, of course, is the route the Southern Ry. built to bypass the tortuous grades and congestion of the original rail line through downtown. 2011 marks the centennial of the completion of the actual cut-off. What follows are two articles transcribed from the Lynchburg News which reveal what a significant achievement the construction of the cut-off was. As an aside, I hope you will appreciate the construction of the sentences used in newspaper reporting 100 years ago.

SOUTHERN CUT-OFF

Official Statement Given Out Regarding the Belt Line

(from the Lynchburg News. January 4, 1911)

The publicity department of the Southern Railway, located at Atlanta, Ga., has just sent out the following item under a Lynchburg date line, relative to the opening of the Lynchburg cut-off.

The gigantic task of building a low-grade double-track line through the rugged hill country on which this city rests and across the ravines which surround it has just been completed by the Southern Railway Company, which announces that it expects to begin the operation of passenger and freight service over the new line very soon after the beginning of the New Year.

The extent of this improvement will be realized when it is understood that there has been an entire change of line for seven miles from Winesap, north of this city, to Durmid on the south, the most important construction features being the following: A tunnel 1300 feet long under Rivermont, a suburb of Lynchburg; a tunnel 120 feet long under Park Avenue; a steel bridge 1860 feet long and 150 feet high over the James River, steel viaducts 600 feet long and 115 feet high over Harris Creek, 1000 feet long and 135 feet high over Blackwater Creek, and 500 feet long and 80 feet high over Fishing Creek; a concrete viaduct 700 feet long carrying Fifth Street over the railroad yards in West Lynchburg; a concrete aqueduct 150 feet long carrying the Lynchburg water supply, a steel viaduct 150 feet long carrying a spur track of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, and a concrete bridge 80 feet long carrying Twelfth Street.

The completion of this great work at Lynchburg, which has been under way four and a half years, the contract having been let on April 2, 1906, and the first work done in May of that year, will be of great interest throughout the South, as well as in the adjacent territory, for the reason that the resulting benefits will not be confined to the country immediately surrounding this city, but every point on the Southern Railway system, south of Lynchburg, will be given better facilities for freight and passenger service to and from the East.

The old line now in use crosses the James river at the foot of the hills and passes through a very restricted section on the east side of the city. The bridge over the James is at a very low level. Consequently every Southern freight and passenger train going out of Lynchburg, north or southbound has to climb a very heavy grade.

By the use of the new line, which runs through the western part of the city on a much higher plane, the heavy grades, north and south of Lynchburg, which are now such an obstacle to through traffic, will be avoided and trains will pass through the city without having to climb a grade exceeding forty feet per mile. This great improvement in grade and the substitution of double track for the present single track will result in better handling of freight and passenger traffic over this section of the line, which is sure to prove of benefit to the patrons of the Southern Railway.

All through passenger trains of the Southern will be run over the new line and all through freight will also go over it. The local freight terminals, now in use, will be maintained and local passenger trains will use the old line and stop at the present passenger station, this being in accordance with the wishes of the people of Lynchburg.

Ed. Note – Freight service over the Southern Railway System's "Lynchburg cut-off" began March 1, 1911. Passenger service began April 16, 1911. Read the following article.

TO USE NEW LINE

**Southern Railway Belt Line Goes Into
Commission Next Sunday.**

(from the Lynchburg News. April 9, 1911)

Southern Railway passenger trains between Washington and the South will begin using the new double-track low grade line through Lynchburg on Sunday, April 16, according to announcement made yesterday by Vice President and General Manager E. H. Coapman. Freight trains have been operated over this line for several weeks and the beginning of passenger service will mark the full use of this very remarkable piece of railroad improvement.

As has been published the revision through Lynchburg was begun nearly five years ago and has involved an entire change of line for seven miles, a double track on very favorable grades taking the place of the old single track. A steel bridge 1860 feet long and 150 feet high over the James River and a tunnel 1300 feet long under Rivermont are the principal features of the improvement which will greatly facilitate the handling of freight and passenger traffic to and from all parts of the South.

The old line will be retained for local freight and passenger service, this being in accordance with the franchise granted the Southern Railway.

The use of the new line will be commenced at 12:01 a.m. next Sunday. After that time trains Nos. 10, 19, 20, 44 and 35 will still use the old line and present passenger station. The time of these trains with the exception of trains No. 20 will remain at the same as present. No. 20 on the new time card will arrive Lynchburg at 7:30 p.m. The following are the trains using the new line and new station:

No.	Arrive Lynchburg	Leave Lynchburg
38	1:20 a. m.	1:27 a. m.
42	1:35 a. m.	1:45 a. m.
32	3:37 a. m.	3:45 a. m.
30	5:14 a.m.	5:22 a. m.
36	5:15 p. m.	5:25 p. m.
26	7:05 p. m.	7:15 p. m.
41	3:13 a. m.	3:20 a. m.
37	3:43 a. m.	3:48 a. m.
25	9:10 a. m.	9:20 a. m.
43	3:57 p. m.	4:07 p. m.
29	9:08 p. m.	9:16 p. m.
31	11:02 p. m.	11:07 p.m.

(Ed. Note – You may have noted that passenger service on the new line began on April 16, 1911, but as mentioned earlier Kemper Street Station did not open up until 18 months later. Future articles will help shed some light on what was used during the interim. Stay tuned.)

SIGHTINGS

Oct. 7 - Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, owned Alco T-6 #41 and caboose and Norfolk Southern exhibit car and equipment seen crossing Cotton Mill trestle en route to Appomattox Railroad Festival. Equipment returned on Oct. 9 (G. Harper, Lee Hawkins, Norris Deyerle)



The Virginia Railway celebrated at the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

From The Roanoke Star-Sentinel
Submitted by Aubrey Wiley

One of the most unique and fascinating rail stories in America was celebrated September 24 at the Virginia Museum of Transportation. The Museum showcased various Virginian Railway equipment and artifacts throughout the day while knowledgeable hosts and docents were on hand to describe the history and operation of the railway.



“The Virginian Railway is one of our least often told transportation stories in the Commonwealth,” said Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr. executive director of the VMT. “Our hope is that people [continue to] come out and learn about this fascinating piece of Virginia history.”

The Virginian Railway was founded in 1907 to transport high quality “smokeless” bituminous coal from southern West Virginia to the port at Hampton Roads. “The Mountains to Sea” railway was known for its efficiencies in the mountains, across the rolling piedmont and into the flat tidewater terrain. Known for operating some of the largest and best steam, electric, and diesel motive power, it was nicknamed the “Richest Little Railroad in the World.” The Virginian Railway merged with the Norfolk & Western Railway in 1959.

On display during Virginian Rail Day were: Virginian Railway’s steam locomotive #4, the sole remaining Virginian steam locomotive, Class EL-C, General Electric Rectifier #135, one of the Virginian Railway’s last locomotives from the 1950s, Virginian Railway Class C-10 Caboose #321, built in 1949 by the St. Louis Car Company and a Virginian Railway Sheffield Motor Car built in 1921, fully restored and presented as though in service in the mid-1950s in a “living history” presentation by Aubrey Wiley.

The actual train order station from Ellett, VA near Christiansburg from the 1950s was also available for viewing. Before the days of cell phones and other communication methods, engineers’ instructions were sent by Morse Code to the train order station. The telegraph operator wrote out the instructions and held them up on a long pole for the engineer to grab through the locomotive’s open window. Pictured above is L. D. Gregory simulating station operator activity in the Ellett station.

Virginia Intermodal News – The Virginia Port Authority made two announcements recently that could affect train traffic in the area. Both CSX and Norfolk Southern will be expanding container traffic to and from the ports in Hampton Roads.

New CSX Rail Service Links Port with NW Ohio - Norfolk – CSXT announced today (Oct. 7) that it is offering international container service that will link The Port of Virginia to the railroad’s intermodal ramp in Northwest, Ohio; the service begins Oct. 10. This development will connect customers using The Port of Virginia to the markets of Findlay and Toledo, Ohio, as well as Ft. Wayne, IN. In those three markets combined, there are several manufacturers. The service is seen as another asset that helps the port expand its reach into the nation. The Northwest Ohio ramp will have service to/from the following locations: Chicago, 59th Street, Portsmouth and at APM Terminals beginning in the first quarter of 2012.

and

Norfolk – A new double-stack rail service that expands The Port of Virginia's reach into central North Carolina, an important and growing Southeastern market, will be inaugurated in mid-October, port and railroad officials confirmed recently.

"Many North Carolina-based cargo owners have expressed a very genuine interest in this service because of the economics of bringing their cargo through our port and into this market by rail," said Jerry A. Bridges, the VPA's executive director. "This service diversifies and enhances our reach into what we see as an area with a lot of potential."

The six-day-a-week service is owned and operated by Norfolk Southern. It will serve Greensboro with a focus on the textile, furniture, retail, chemical and agriculture industries; the city is considered a load center for imports and exports of those cargoes in central North Carolina. The service is already supported by two ocean carriers that have committed to its use and it is generating interest from other carriers as well.

Whether completely new trains will be added or the new traffic will be added onto existing trains remains to be seen. Currently CSX is rerouting its intermodal trains, Q135 and Q136, which operate between Portsmouth, VA, and the new terminal in North Baltimore, OH, via the James River. It is thought that NS will simply interchange container shipments in Lynchburg on existing trains.

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, BRC, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners

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

Notice: The East Broad Top Railroad National Historical Landmark has many events planned for the rest of 2011. Info: www.ebtrr.com. Their neighbor next door, The Rockhill Trolley Museum also has events planned. Info: www.rockhilltrolley.org. 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. The EBRR and the Rock Hill Trolley Museum both have their events listed along with dozens of other groups. I emailed our LRD 2011 Media Release to the Railway Heritage Initiative Planning Calendar. 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!

Steam Train Events in the United States and Canada! www.diary.svsfilm.com

October 2011

10-08 & 15 & 22-11: Autumn Leaf Rambler Trips, Old Dominion Chapter, Info: www.odcnrhs.org/excursions.htm Phone: 1-800-451-6318 outside of Richmond, Va. Submitted by Robin R. Shavers

10-12-11: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Show Presentation by Kurt Reisweber, Kurt's slide show will be of Hampton Roads, including some 1970's material. Mostly N&W, NS on Virginian and Chessie System. I'm sure you'll want to see this show! Remember October is election month for chapter officers. If you would like to run for an office please contact a current chapter officer for details.

10-13-15-11: {Thursday-Saturday} Train Collectors Association, Fall York Train Meet, York, Pa. Info: www.tca.org

10-15, 16, 22 & 23-11: New River Train Excursions, Collis P. Huntington Chapter, NRHS, Huntington, WV C&O Depot located at 935 7th Ave. Info: <http://www.newrivertrain.com/events.shtml>

10-20-11: {Thursday} Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome, OWLM, 7:30 pm, Roanoke, Va. Info: www.roanokenrhs.org

10-22-11: {Saturday} Eastern PA 2 Rail O Scale Train Show/Swap Meet, O-On3-On30, Strasburg Fire Company, 203 W. Franklin Street, Strasburg, PA 17579, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Info: Rich Yoder, {610} 678-2834, Call between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm EST. www.richyodermodels.com

10-29-11: {Saturday} North Carolina Transportation Museum excursion to Roanoke, Va. Two options when in Roanoke are to visit the O. Winston Link Museum in the former N&W Passenger Station or the Virginia Museum of Transportation. Complete information and to order tickets call: 704-636-2889, ext. 237 or visit www.nctrans.org {Courtesy of the "Piedmont Flyer"}

November 2011:

11-05-11: {Saturday} Virginia Train Collectors Richmond Fall Meet, Hanover Academy, 115 Frances Road {Rt. 656} Ashland, Va. 23005, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Info: Stuart Gordon, {804} 798-3739, 5-9 pm, www.vatraincollectors.com

11-05-06-11: {Saturday & Sunday} Two Fall Foliage Amtrak Excursions from Roanoke, Va. Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, Info: www.roanokenrhs.org

11-06-11: {Sunday} 34th Annual Railroadiana & Transportation Artifacts Show and Sale, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, Md. Info: www.gserr.com

11-09-11: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson

11-17-11: {Thursday} Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome, OWLM, 7:30 pm, Roanoke, Va. Info: www.roanokenrhs.org

11-23-11: No BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting" due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

December 2011:

12-03-11: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Christmas Banquet, Former Southern Railway Depot, Altavista, Va. Reservations Required.

12-03 & 10-11: Santa Claus Trips, Old Dominion Chapter, Info: www.odcnrhs.org/excursions.htm Phone: 1-800-451-6318 outside of Richmond, Va. Submitted by Robin R. Shavers

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

12-17-11: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS Annual Kemper Street Station Christmas Gathering. Kemper Street Station, Lynchburg, Va.

2012 Events

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

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

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

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

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

Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: www.varailheritage.org, www.vmt.org, www.linkmuseum.org, www.roanokenrhs.org, www.nwhs.org, www.cohs.org, www.vatraincollectors.com, www.klnl.org, www.nhvry.org, www.norfolksouthernrhs.org, www.RailServe.com, www.trains.com, www.TrainFinder.com, 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

Railroad Historical Information And Related Photos: 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

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

Is this a record for Lynchburg? – Approximately 290 people were booked to detrain at Lynchburg off NEC Regional train #145 Sunday night, October 9. One of the contributing factors to the high passenger count: L.U. students returning from their extended Fall Break weekend.

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Lynchburg Rail Day 2012. Saturday, August 11, 2012