



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 19

September 2011

No. 9



Photo of Norfolk And Western Railway GP30 #522, built by EMD in 1962 and retired in 1990, is just one example of the vintage N&W slides that Norris Deyerle will share with you from his collection of slides taken by various photographers at our September regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 14, 2011. This Kodachrome slide is dated February 10, 1990. The location listed is Allen Park, MI. Being a Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, member as well as a Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, member this locomotive is dear to my heart. Many of you have either seen this locomotive or have ridden behind it. It was purchased by the Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, and restored between 2000 – 2002. It's now operational in our area and is a very popular locomotive to the many lovers of the "Route of Precision Transportation". You and your guests are invited to join us for Norris' presentation "Trackside along the Old N&W".

Wednesday, September 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 - August 10, 2011

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 27 members, including Reggie Akers as a new member. Congratulations were extended to member Gene Campbell on the eve of his 90th birthday. Gene thanked the membership and commented that "getting old ain't for sissies." Gordon Watkins announced that he and his wife were moving into Westminster-Canterbury. Rick congratulated Skip Hansberry for his railway history chapter in the new Amherst County Bicentennial book. Minutes of the July meeting were approved as distributed and thanks were extended to Lloyd Lipscomb for taking them in the Secretary's absence. Treasurer John Tanner then reported.

Under Old Business Rick thanked everyone who went on the C&O Heritage trip to Clifton Forge. 12 members and guests attended and the Chapter donated \$100 to the C&OHS. The Chapter also donated \$100.00 to the Virginia Museum of Transportation, which matched Skip Hansberry's donation to help save N&W SD45 1776. Thanks were also extended to David Helmer for the program he presented on Vietnamese railroads for the July Fun Meeting. Under New Business Rick invited members to sign up for 2012 programs. Ed Fielding will do the January program, Dale Diacont will take February and Skip Hansberry will do April. Skip reported that Kenny Kennier told him that Amherst County will take ownership of the former Southern Railway station and restoration will proceed.

There were no reports from the Vice President, National Director, Newsletter Editor or the Web Master. Rail Day Chairman Barry Moorefield described plans for Rail Day. 29 vendors signed up to date and the N-Trak layout Fielding's Fabulous Floor Layout and Gary Quale's HO layout would be there. Building will be open at 10 am Friday and at 7 am Saturday for set up. There will be a NMRA meeting in conjunction with Rail Day and Norris Deyerle encouraged members to use Face Book to help promote the event.

Dale Diacont presented the evening's program with PowerPoint review of his trip to the west to see the UP, Utah RR and other western rail delights in Utah and Nevada. The September meeting will feature vintage slides of Norfolk and Western presented by Norris Deyerle. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Tom Ledford, Secretary

FreightCar America's Roanoke shops to produce more rail cars for Norfolk Southern -

FreightCar America and Norfolk Southern Corp. in late August announced the second phase of production for an order of rail cars in Roanoke.

The two companies announced in February that Chicago-based FreightCar America ultimately would produce 3,000 new rail cars for the railroad in Roanoke. Production of the first 1,500, under a \$100 million contract, was slated to begin in May.

Officials from FreightCar America, Norfolk Southern, the state and city will announce the second phase of production for the remaining 1,500 cars. Robin Chapman, a spokesman for the railroad, said Friday that the contract amount will be equivalent.

FreightCar America said this phase of production will focus on hybrid coal rail cars that are described by the company as uniquely suited for carrying Eastern coal.

In 2009, FreightCar America laid off much of its Roanoke work force. Production resumed in January.

In February, the Roanoke plant had about 120 workers. In early August, the company had about 225, according to company official Mark Saylor.

Bruce Harmon, a spokesman for the company, declined to comment about current employment but said in an email, "I can only say there will be additional employment." Harmon said additional details will be provided Monday at a ceremony that will feature, among others, Charles "Wick" Moorman, Norfolk Southern's chairman, president and chief executive officer.

- Duncan Adams. The Roanoke Times. 540- 981-3324
Staff writer Jeff Sturgeon contributed to this report.

VGN Day at the Virginia Museum of Transportation - The Virginia Museum of Transportation is having a Virginian Day Saturday Sept. 24. This is the first, one-railroad-specific event they have held! Virginian employees and Virginian historians will be present to interpret the many Virginian pieces in the collection, namely: The Operator's Shanty from Ellett, Va which is now painted in correct VGN colors and will be set up to represent it in service by two former VGN operators; the VGN steam engine number 4 which is the only Virginian steam engine still in existence; VGN GE rectifier electric locomotive 135; the "Virginian Room" which displays VGN artifacts; and the 90 year old, Virginian Sheffield motor car recently restored by Aubrey Wiley. It will be presented in "living history" fashion and outfitted as though it is in service in the mid 1950's, complete with a signal maintainer of the period. Virginian employees will be on hand to assist visitors and to relate stories of their years on the railroad.



Operator's shanty above.
Restored VGN motor car right.

Lynchburg Rail Day 2011 Report

Greetings Blue Ridge Chapter Members and Friends,

On behalf of our Lynchburg Rail Day 2011 Staff, Barry Moorefield, John Tanner, Fred Mayer, Rick Johnson, John Siegle and myself, I would like to thank all of the folks that made our Lynchburg Rail Day 2011 another successful train show! We would have never been able to put our annual event on without the help of all of our members that participated, BRC, NRHS volunteers, model train layout exhibitors, vendors and railroad historical groups and museums that were involved in one form or another! Thanks to those who supplied tables for our event and those that helped to set up and take down the tables in the hall. Last but not least, we would like to thank all of you that were train show attendees. The vendors were very pleased with their sales. One of our larger vendors told me that he sold more in the first three hours of our train show than the last two day train show he set up at in a major city! Please mark your calendars for LRD 2012. It will be held in the same location the second Saturday in August, 2012. Please visit the BRC website to see some pictures taken that day. www.blueridgenrhs.org A few are reproduced on the next page.

Thanks again!

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



Vendors and shoppers on the floor.



The Fieldings and their hands-on



train
lay
out
for
the
kids.



A Rail Day shopper delighted with the bargain he has found.
Rail Day chairman Barry Moorefield

is interviewed by WSET reporter.

Blue Ridge Chapter Summer Picnic - If you are reading this then you are invited to our upcoming annual picnic. It's Sunday, September 18, 2011. Join us at English Park, next to the former Virginian Railway mainline, in Altavista, Va. We have the large covered picnic pavilion near the restrooms reserved from Noon until 4:00 pm. We usually eat around 1:00 pm or a little before if everyone is present. We're usually finished by 2:00 pm or so. Reservations with me are required so I'll know how much fried chicken to order. I have to know if you are coming and how many guests you're bringing by our regular monthly meeting this Wednesday, September 14, 2011. I have to order the fried chicken by Thursday, September 15, 2011. The BRC, NRHS, will also supply the drinks and the ice. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share with the others. Contact me by phone, 434-237-4912 or email me at railcow@msn.com

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, 2011 Calendar of Events
53rd Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS
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 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

September 2011:

09-14-11: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS Monthly Meeting, "Trackside along the old N&W". A look back at the old N&W Railway prior to the Norfolk Southern Merger. A collection of slides from various photographers presented by Norris Deyerle

09-15-11: {Thursday} Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Membership Meeting, Guests Welcome, OWLM, 7:30 pm, Roanoke, Va. Info: www.roanokenrhs.org

09-18-11: {Sunday} BRC, NRHS Annual Chapter Picnic, English Park, next to the former Virginian Railway mainline, Altavista, Va. Noon till 4:00 pm. We usually eat around 1:00 pm and have finished eating by 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The BRC will supply the fried chicken, drinks and ice. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert to share with the others. Guests are welcome. If you're coming, please contact Norris Deyerle by Wednesday 9-14-11, so he can order the chicken. Email Norris at railcow@msn.com

09-23-25 & 30 – October 2-11: "Day Out With Thomas at the NCTM" North Carolina Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC Info: 704-636-2889, www.nctrans.org

09-24-11: {Saturday} Virginian Rail Day at the VMT, Roanoke, Va. On display will be a restored 90-year-old Virginian Rail Motor Car. Aubrey Wiley, author of "Virginian Railway Pictorial, Pictures and Stories", will provide commentary and information. (See separate article.) Info: www.vmt.org

09-24-11: {Saturday} Smithsonian Museum Day, Download a ticket for free admission at www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday Limit one ticket per household {for two people}

09-28-11: {Wednesday} BRC, NRHS "Fun Meeting", Wayland Moore will feature a digital show on more recent trains from his travels to CA, Australia and KY! That will probably be in the order he presents them knowing Wayland! From one side of the world then back to the other! Ha! I can't wait.

October 2011

10-02-11: Railroads in the African American Experience Author Discussion and Book Signing, Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., author of "Railroads in the African American Experience", examines the contributions of African Americans to the building, maintenance, operation and profitability of the American railway system, VMT, Roanoke, Va. 2 pm to 5 pm, Info: www.vmt.org

10-07-09-11: Annual East Broad Top Railroad Fall Spectacular. Info: www.ebtrr.com

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, Kurt Reisweber

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

10-29-11: {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:

11-05-06-11: {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.

Upcoming 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

Remembering 9-11-01. A Decade Later By Norris Deyerle

To say that September 11, 2001, changed everyone's life in one form or another is an understatement. We all know how much it changed our transportation system forever. As I recollected my thoughts from on that day and in the weeks and months following, I came away with one positive note that came from such a terrible tragedy. That was the feeling that most of us were just plain old Americans. It was a great

feeling. It didn't make any difference what your religious or political beliefs were. It didn't make any difference how rich or poor you were. I didn't even make any difference what race or color you were. We were Americans helping each other and praying for those in need. What will the next decade bring? I can only hope and pray that we become just plain old Americans again. Just plain old Americans. Sounds good doesn't it?



SIGHTINGS

Aug. 1 - NS Freight Train with VREX #66 in the consist, NB, Montview Yard, Lynchburg, Va. (Peggy Deyerle)
Sep. 1 - NS train 228 southbound by Kemper Street Station with CP 80?? and CP 8888. (G. Harper)
Sep. 10 - James E. Strates carnival train seen southbound at Kemper Street Station. Train en route to an engagement in Danville, VA. Seen at left with NS special officer and two fans from Richmond watching it go by. (G. Harper)

National Association of Railroad Passengers News Alert. September 9, 2011 Is our Lynchburg Regional NEC train really in danger? Could be. Read below.

A House appropriations subcommittee yesterday approved [a Fiscal Year 2012 funding bill](#) that zeroes-out high-speed rail, slashes Amtrak funding by \$357 million—with a 60 percent reduction for operations—and prohibits Amtrak from using federal dollars to fund operating expenses for state-supported routes, endangering short-corridor service in 15 states.

The House Republicans' transportation and housing appropriations bill for the coming year passed the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation & Housing yesterday evening on a voice vote. The bill provides \$1.1 billion for Amtrak, or just half of the \$2.2 billion requested by Amtrak to keep their system in good running order and prepare for increasing ridership. There is \$899 million for Amtrak capital and debt servicing, just a little over half of Amtrak's \$1.6 billion request (\$1.28 billion for capital, \$50 million for the NEC Gateway project, and \$271 million for debt service). Absolutely crushing is the cut to Amtrak's operating grant—slashed 60% to \$227 million, compared with \$563 million this year and last year.

As noted below, the bill prohibits use of federal funds to support short-distance corridors. Thus, the bill overrides ongoing negotiations among states and Amtrak aimed at complying with Amtrak's 2008 reauthorization law—and overrides that law's October 2013 target date for "equal treatment" of all states as to what they must pay for short corridors.

Quoting NARP's release: "But the bill really would kill all of Amtrak because loss of the short corridors would cut revenues and balloon costs for Northeast Corridor and national network (overnight) trains. Revenues from connecting passengers disenfranchised by loss of those corridors would disappear. Overhead costs—such as for station facilities and maintenance back shops—which now are shared among routes would be dumped on the surviving trains. For example, the Texas Eagle would become the sole user of the St. Louis and Fort Worth terminals and six Illinois stations. And Amtrak's Chicago terminal costs would be borne solely by eight overnight trains."

Additionally, funding for the High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail (HSRIP) Program is zeroed-out in the draft budget. Thirty-nine states have applied for HSIPR grants, and the program promised to improve (and introduce) modern passenger trains for hundreds of millions of Americans. This blow to the program comes just as California is set to begin work on a Los Angeles to San Francisco high-speed corridor.

Amtrak Responds to Attack on State-Supported Trains

In light of the above-referenced prohibition on funding short corridors, Amtrak issued a press release headed, House Republican Budget Plan Will Eliminate All State-Supported Amtrak Service For a list of these corridors, go to page three of the July 12 release, "[Amtrak to exceed 30 million passengers...](#)" [PDF] the short corridors are listed under the heading "State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors."

"The House Republican plan is shortsighted and is the wrong policy for America," said Amtrak President and CEO Joseph Boardman. "It will result in the loss of jobs and reverses significant progress made to use passenger rail to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil."

According to the statement released by Amtrak, *the prohibition on using federal funds for state-supported service endangers nearly 150 weekday state-supported trains, affecting nine million passengers annually.* Fifteen states would be directly affected—California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Some of the trains also serve Indiana, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. For the trains to keep running, state governments would have to convene by the time of enactment and come up with money for the operations shortfall—far from certain with states experiencing budget contractions across the nation.

“The GOP plan penalizes states that have made investments in passenger rail, some of which have contributed toward costs for nearly 40 years,” said Amtrak board chairman Tom Carper. “It kills an engine of local and regional economic growth much needed today, harms the future economic vitality of the nation and is unnecessary.

www.narprail.org

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	Earl Guthrow 1909 Quarry Rd. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-2583 meguthrow@verizon.net
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
BRC Chairman. VA Rail Heritage Region Partners	E. Norris Deyerle, Jr. 744 Chinook Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-237-4912 railcow@msn.com

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