



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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Southern FP7 A's 3498 & 3496 are southbound on a rare mileage circle trip in May of 1986. photo by Steve Hutchison

April program: Steve Hutchison's "TRACKSIDE VIDEO MEMORIES – PART-1 1984, 1985, 1986"

The 1980's were "boom" times for railfans in the southeast. The NS Steam Program was in it's heyday with multiple engines running through-out the system. In the mid 80's you could find Southern 4501, FP7's and N&W 611 in our area on a regular basis. You could also still find solid consists of Southern freight diesels on the head end of TOFC trains. The Seaboard System was also running F units on special trains, while just to the north of us, Chessie was running steam on the former C&O New River and Alleghany divisions.

My wife Susan and I spent a lot of time chasing, riding and photographing these trips. You have seen many of my slides but we were also shooting video along the way. I have compiled a DVD of some of my favorite footage from these trips, some of which I had not looked at in 20 years. Both steam and diesel are included in locations you're sure to recognize.

So come and join me at the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, meeting in reliving the sights, sounds and fond memories of a past time that many of us shared.

Wednesday, April 9, 2008. 6:00 p.m. Charley's Restaurant. 707 Graves Mill Rd. Lynchburg.



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



Blue Ridge Chapter - National Railway Historical Society
Minutes of Meeting - March 12, 2008

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 25 members and 6 guests. Rick introduced guests Sam and Jean DeLaura, Mollie Mayhew, Taylor Shores and Freda Johnson. He announced that our waiter Dave Johnston was getting married and a collection was taken up on his behalf. Peggy Harper was recovering from a broken right leg courtesy of the recent ice storm and members wished her a speedy recovery. A candlelit dessert was presented to Tom Ledford for his birthday.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed and Treasurer John Tanner presented the treasurer's report.

Under old business Rick reminded everyone about dues, but noted everyone attending the evening's meeting had renewed. He also announced that all regular meetings in 2008 now had programs. There was no new business. Webmaster Ralph Hawkins reported that the new Lynchburg Rail Days page was up and encouraged members to have a look. He reported that the site was averaging 40 to 60 visits per week. National Director Norris Deyerle reviewed the dues renewal situation and reported on the recent Rail Day committee meeting. He noted that the organizations offered free tables had accepted but he was still trying to contact the Southern Railway Historical Association and Ledford said he could provide contact information. He also pointed out that there were a number of giveaways from several members available near the door.

Gary Quale described a notebook that was passed around showing photographs of the railroad memorabilia collection of the owner of the Ohio Central. Rick reminded members of the fun meeting on March 26, slides will be shown; and the next regular meeting will be on April 9 with Steve Hutchison on the program. Dave Johnston won the 50/50 raffle and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm. Skip Hansberry showed slides of his 2007 travels abroad and through the Midwest and Virginia.

Tom Ledford, Secretary

National Director's Page
by Norris Deyerle

Why did I join the NRHS? If you had asked me that question when I joined over twenty years ago I would have answered it differently than I would now. I would have told you because of my love of steam trains and interest in railroad history. If you asked me that same question today those reasons would be secondary on my list. The people that I have met and become friends with would be first on my list. I feel privileged to have made close friends in the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, the Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, the Winston-Salem Chapter, NRHS and the N&WHS.

Let me elaborate on my statement. Please see if you can relate to what I'm going to write. While sitting in church this morning the minister was asking us to pray for those that have been ill or are facing hard times for various reasons. I found myself praying for Ed and Jean Fielding. Ed is at home now recovering from a double hernia operation. I talked with Ed yesterday and he told me that he was doing much better following several surgeries that he had while he was in the hospital. A couple of the operations were due to complications from his first surgery. The reason I was praying for his wife Jean is because she needs the strength to have the patience to nurse him back to health! Ha! Hang in there Jean. Ed told me that he's not going to rush his recovery. If he feels better he may join us at our regular monthly meeting this coming Wednesday night. When I

became an associate member of the BRC many years ago Ed always made me feel at home. Ed wasn't the only one. Rev. Lloyd Lipscomb comes to my mind as a member that has always made me feel at home and given me his support and encouragement throughout the years. There were many of you that have and I thank you for that.

During the slide shows at the March regular monthly meeting and the "Fun Meeting", I observed many in our group reminiscing about "chasing trains" together and talking about their favorite spots to "shoot them". If an outsider was listening in, we probably would have been raided by the guys from "The Department Of Homeland Security"! The regular monthly meeting slide show that Ship Hansberry presented on the various railroads he photographed from around the country was awesome. He showed "then and now" shots in many locations. That's one of my favorite ways to document railroad history. I want to thank Wayland Moore, Fred Mayer and Rick-2 Johnson for sharing their slides during the "Fun Meeting" with us. Slides are so much more personal than professionally produced movies. Please don't think that I'm asking you not to offer to show a movie at a monthly show. I've done so myself. To see the guys eyes light up and to hear the laughter when the question "You remember when....?" is asked is truly special.

O. Winston Link is my favorite railroad photographer. He was our quest speaker at a Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Christmas Banquet a few years before he passed away. I was so glad that my wife Peggy and I had the opportunity to hear him share some of his favorite N&W stories about his famous photos. Thank goodness Roanoke Chapter member Gary Ballard videotaped Mr. Link's memories during this banquet. If I can get a copy of this tape I'll share it with you at one of our BRC meetings. As Mr. Link began to tell us about his times along the N&W tracks 50 years ago his eyes lit up. You could see the younger Winston talking. He didn't talk about the trains this time. The other times that I had seen him give presentations he talked about his photos and how he set up his equipment to "shoot" them. This time was different though. He started thanking the "folks along the line". He thanked the railroad workers, men, women and families that were in his photos. He chuckled when he told his famous story about the woman that lived in a house on Blue Ridge. She would charge him a nominal amount to use her electrical hookup so he could tape record the trains as they crossed the summit of the Blue Ridge grade. When she would leave her house she would unscrew her fuse and take it with her. Winston would simply bring his own fuse with him! Problem solved and for free! Ha! Yes, he even thanked her! As he continued to thank each individual in his famous photos, by name in most cases, you could see him getting choked up. Maybe he knew that would be one of the last times that he had the chance to honor the folks in his photos. He did so with pride and humiliation. What did Mr. Link know that many of us have overlooked when we're "shooting trains"? If you're like me, you put your "people filter" on during your early days of railroad photography. Big mistake, ugh? When I watch our members or quests present their slide shows, the photos with the people in them are the ones that we "freeze in time" on the screen. Is there ever a photo of Marshall "Pothole" Griffin that we don't "freeze in time"? What about when someone shows a photo of a railroad worker, especially an engineer, that we don't ask Ed Fielding what his name is? Ha!

I think by this point that you see where I'm going with this month's column. Don't be a closet NRHS member. The fun part is not just reading the monthly BRC "Dispatcher" or the publications from National. The real lasting joy is the memories and the relationships you make. Charlie Long and I have attended many N&WHS Conventions together. We have become very close friends over the years. John Tanner and I have gone to dozens of railroadiana and model train shows over the years. In recent years John and I have had the pleasure of Tom Ledford joining us. John is quick to point out that shows are fun. I tell John that we always come home "broke" so we must have had a good time! Right? All kidding aside, John tells me that the real joy is the comraderie during the trip. Thanks John for being a great friend. I'm sure Tom feels the same way. On numerous occasions, Lee Hawkins, Rick Johnson and I have stopped by Kemper Street Station and visited our Editor and Amtrak Ticket Agent Garland Harper. Garland is "King Of The Trackside Train Watchers"! Is that what the guys are referring to when they're talking about Garland's "Kott"?

You can have all of the model trains, nicest photos or best railroadians in the world but is it really any fun if you don't share your interests with your friends. Is it any fun when you go to a show or "shoot trains" trackside by yourself? Grab a friend the next time you go. Then when the question is asked "You remember when....?" Maybe you'll have someone else help you remember what the answer is? Ha! Ha! Please come to this month's regular monthly meeting and make a new friend or reminisce with an old one. My friend Steve Hutchison, Winston-Salem Chapter, NRHS President has an awesome DVD video show of his personal work. I promise you that you will enjoy Steve's show.

If you can join your fellow BRC members and guests for dinner prior to the show we would love to have you. Sharing a meal together is a tradition that goes all the way back to biblical times. If you dine with someone it's a good chance that you will become friends. Remember, "It's the love of trains that brought us together. The friendships that we made along the way will keep us together". Happy 50th Anniversary Blue Ridge Chapter Members!

Obituary - Jarrell Greever, Editor Emeritus of 'The Arrow' and former director of the N&W Historical Society passed away last night to join his beloved J-class locomotives. Jarrell had been battling kidney and heart disease for the past few years in Atlanta, GA. He is survived by his two brothers.

As a boy he lived in the town of Welch, WV in the 1950s where his life-long love of steam-powered N&W mainline passenger service began. Jarrell shared that love through his talents as a graphic artist and editor of 'The Arrow' and a number of Society-published books. Jarrell considered the N&WHS his family.

Those who knew him will miss his wit and love of the N&W.

- Ron Davis, N&WHS

Collecting Railroadiana By Norris Deyerle

Railroadiana is a fancy word for railroad artifacts or antiques. I recently joined two railroadiana collectors organizations. I received their quarterly publications and I just wanted to tell you how nice and professionally done both are. Key, Lock & Lantern, Inc. membership is \$25.00 per year. Their website is www.klnl.org. Geared more to what their name suggests. The other is the Railroadiana Collectors Association Incorporated. Their annual dues are \$30.00. Information, RCAI Renewal, email: rcaisec@swbell.net. Their latest Spring 2008 issue of their publication "The Railroadiana Express" has a very well done four-page story complete with B/W photos on Myra Virginia Donald, Southern Railway Hostess. I was shocked to see this and other stories ranging from restoring a D&H train depot to Photomatic machines in some train stations in the 1930's. Of course there were articles on collecting railroad ash trays and china, lanterns, etc. Seemed to be something for everyone interested in railroadiana. "Two Moo's up" for both publications from these fine organizations.

2008 BRC, NRHS Calendar Of Events - "50th Anniversary Of The Blue Ridge Chapter" by Norris Deyerle

APRIL

04-5-6-08: Chesapeake Bay Railroaders Open House, Sat. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sun. Noon - 4:00pm. Come see the largest HO scale layout in Va., 110-F Dare Rd., Grafton, Va. 23692. Info: Call 757-890-0061 {Richard Andrews} <http://www.trainweb.org/cbw/>

04-09-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting", Steve Hutchison video

04-12-13-08: The Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, Md. Info: www.gsmts.com

04-13-08: Marklin Enthusiasts Of America Train Meet, Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel, Bethlehem, PA. Info: Steve Seyer, 610-398-3021 or at scsbahn@msn.com

04-17-19-08: Eastern Division of the Train Collectors Association {TCA} Spring Train Meet, York Fairgrounds, York, Pa.

04-26-27-08: Rail-Days, North Carolina Transportation Museum, Return of Steam. Spencer, NC.

MAY

05-02-04-08: "Friends of the Virginian Railway at Milepost 2008", Mullens, WV. Questions: Call 434-386-2226 before 8:00 pm ET, email: VgnRy43@aol.com

05-03-08: The Southeastern Division Of The Train Collectors Association {TCA} Train Show, 9:00 am, Holshouser Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC, Info: www.se-tca.org, Charles Alford, Secretary, 252-756-7842

05-04-08: Shenandoah Valley Model Railroad Club and the Shenandoah Valley Chapter, NRHS annual train show, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, US 11 South of Harrisonburg, Va., Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Admission: \$4.00. This is one of the most enjoyable long running train shows in the area. Many BRC members attend this show annually. Please consider showing your support for one of our closest NRHS chapters by attending this wonderful train show. Information: Paul Graham, 540-828-1106.

05-04-08: New Hope Valley Railway, East Carolina Chapter, NRHS, Bonsal, NC, Public Ride Day. Note that the ECC, NRHS has public ride days once a month through Dec. Info: www.nhvry.org

05-10, 05-17 & 05-31-08: "The James River Rambler" Springtime railroad excursions from Dillwyn, Va., Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS, Info: www.odcnrhs.org

05-14-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Program TBA.

05-28-08: BRC "Fun Meeting"

JUNE

06-07-08: 14th Manassas Heritage Railway Festival, Location: Old Town Manassas Street Festival, Sat. 10:00 am-5:00pm. \$55.00 Vendor 10' x 10' booth space rental. Vendors must provide their own table and chairs. Info: 703-361-6599

06-11-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson, slides

06-11-15-08: N&W Historical Society 2008 Convention, Marion, Ohio, Info: www.nrhs.org

06-16-22-08: NRHS National Convention, North Texas Chapter, Fort Worth, TX. Info: www.nrhs.com

06-28-08: 5th North Carolina Rail Fair And Model Train show And Sale, Saturday, 9:00 am – 4:00pm. Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Building No.1, 7100 Statesville Road, Charlotte, NC, Info: Charles Miller, 703-536-2954, email rshows@aol.com, Visit their website at www.gserr.com for discount coupons!

06-28-29-08: The Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, Md. Info: www.gsmts.com

JULY

07-09-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Brad Dobbins, slides

07-16-20-08: 2008 C&O Historical Society Annual Conference, Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton, Va., Info: www.cohs.org

07-23-08: BRC "Fun Meeting"

AUGUST

08-02-03-08: Greenberg's Toy Train & hobby Show, 10:00 am- 4:00 pm each day, Admission: \$7.00 adults, kids 11 and under free. Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. Info: Phone 630-279-4087 or at www.greenbergshows.com.

08-02-08: The Southeastern Division Of The Train Collectors Association {TCA} Train Show, 9:00 am, Holshouser Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC, Info: www.se-tca.org, Charles Alford, Secretary, 252-756-7842

08-09-08: Lynchburg Rail Day 2008 30th Anniversary Train Show! Jim Revell, Founder of Rail Day and the original owner of Train's Unlimited will be our guest of honor! For train show information or table rental please contact Norris Deyerle, LRD 2008 Train Show Coordinator at 434-237-4912 or at railcow@msn.com.

08-13-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Guests Greg Molloy, National President, NRHS and Carl Jensen, Appalachian Region Vice President join us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the BRC, NRHS.

SEPTEMBER

09-07-08: Marklin Enthusiasts Of America Summer Train Meet, co-hosted with the ETE Keystone Chapter Marietta, PA during their EuroEast 2008, Sept. 6 & 7, 2008, Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, PA. Info: Steve Seyer, 610-398-3021 or at scsbahn@msn.com.

09-10-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Fred Mayer, slides?

09-13-14-08: Great Train Expo, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm each day, Admission: \$7.00, kids under 12 free. Info: 630-279-4048 or at www.greattrainexpo.com, Expo Center, North Carolina 1State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC.

09-20-21-08: Tidewater Division Model Railroaders 2008 Model Train Show & Sale, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th St., Va. Beach, Va. Info: Call 757-426-2811 email: nawneycreek@msn.com

09-21-08: BRC Annual Summer Picnic

09-24-08: BRC “Fun Meeting”

OCTOBER

10-08-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Rick-2 Johnson, slides

10-12-08: Marklin Enthusiasts Of America Fall Train Meet, Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel, Bethlehem, PA. Info: Steve Seyer, 610-398-3021 or at scsbahn@msn.com.

10-11-12-08: The Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, Md., Info: www.gsmts.com

10-16-18-08: Eastern Division of the Train Collectors Association {TCA} Fall Train Meet, York Fairgrounds, York, Pa.

NOVEMBER

11-02-08: 31st Gaithersburg Railroadiana Show, Sunday, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, Md., Info: www.gserr.com

11-12-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber, slides

11-26-08: BRC “Fun Meeting”

11-30-08: The Southeastern Division Of The Train Collectors Association {TCA} Train Show, 10:00 am, Kerr Scott Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC, Info: www.se-tca.org. Charles Alford, Secretary, 252-756-7842

DECEMBER

12-06-08: BRC Annual Christmas Banquet, 6:00 pm, former Southern Railway Depot, Altavista, Va. Buffet includes dessert and refreshments. Reservations and paid admission for this annual event are required to attend the banquet or the “50th Anniversary Of The Blue Ridge Chapter” slide show”. Reservations are \$18.00 per person for BRC members and their guests. Guests are always welcome. I would like to have a slide show highlighting the 50 Years of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. In recognition of Rick Johnson’s many years of service to our chapter I asked Rick to present this special slide show. Rick agreed to present this special slide show with your help. After you let our Webmaster Ralph Hawkins copy your slides for the “50th Anniversary Of The Blue Ridge Chapter” section on our BRC website, Rick would like to borrow them from you to insert into the slide show. Please include as much information about the slide or slides as possible.

12-10-08: BRC Regular Monthly Meeting, Rick Johnson, slides

12-20-08: BRC “Christmas Gathering”, 9:00 pm till Amtrak Train 19 arrival? Kemper Street Station, Lynchburg, Va. Please bring your favorite holiday treat, snacks, sweets or non-alcoholic beverages to share with your friends as well as the Amtrak passengers.

N&WHS Calendar of Events: For N&W and Virginian Railway Related Events log onto www.nwhs.org/events.html

ATTENTION N.R.H.S. EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER EDITORS AND TRAIN SHOW EVENT CONTACT PERSONS: PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE INFORMATION FROM THIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO PROMOTE UPCOMING EVENTS. PLEASE EMAIL ME YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT RAILCOW@MSN.COM SO I CAN INCLUDE THEM IN FUTURE 2008 BRC, NRHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS LISTINGS. VIEW THEM ANYTIME ONLINE AT WWW.BLUERIDGENRHS.ORG

Fire strikes historic train depot – The historic C&O train depot in Marlinton, WV, has burned. by The Associated Press.

No one was injured in the 5 a.m. Friday fire, but the volunteer fire department says the building that housed the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau was a total loss.

Shirley Adams, information specialist for the county tourism office, said the losses include furniture and fixtures original to the more than 100-year-old building. Among the losses were a two-seat desk, a semaphore used to signal trains and a telegraph.

A wall featuring planks of different wood native to the region also was destroyed. Everything else the chamber needed to run its office is gone.

The building was renovated sometime after the trains quite running in 1978.

The West Virginia state Fire Marshal's Office is investigating.

Sightings

March 20 - BNSF #5110, NS {Ex-Conrail} #5318, NS {Ex-Conrail} #8358, WB mixed freight, OWL Museum, Roanoke. Norris Deyerle

March 21 - NS 158 came into Montview Yard in Lynchburg this evening with 3 consecutively numbered Conrail 8-40CWs. 8451, 8450, and 8449 all in Conrail paint. They also had a high hood NS GP38 dead in tow bringing up the rear of motive power consist. Galen Wright

March 27 – Amtrak 92, the Silver Star, seen detouring thru Lynchburg 6:15 p.m. due to a CSX freight train wreck in Richmond earlier in the day. Dale Rums smoke, G. Harper

March 28 - NS train 148 ran the Virginian today with UP 8-40C #9112 leading 2 NS GEs. Seen at Altavista. Galen Wright

March 29 - UP #9314 & NS #6778, seen on NS Train #203 “Double Stack” SB, Montview Yard, Lynchburg. Norris Deyerle and Lee Hawkins

April 1 - BNSF 9-44CW #4817 is leading an eastbound coal train through Altavista on the Virginian. Galen Wright

April 1 - CSX sulphur train K89828 seen in town with CN 5654(SD75I) leading IC 1033(IC painted SD70). Seen again April 3 westbound thru Charlottesville with IC 1033 leading. Rick Johnson, G. Harper, Galen Wright, John Collins

April 2 – Norfolk Southern’s executive F unit A-B-B-A set and 15 NS office cars on their annual trip to the Masters golf tournament train seen at Kemper Street station and Montview Yd. Sample video of train in North Carolina a few hours later is available at <http://www.rail-videos.net/video/view.php?id=2224> G. Harper, John Collins

April 3 – The following paint schemes were seen on locomotives in Charlottesville this day: NS, CSX, UP, BNSF, BBRR, CNW, AMTK, CN, and IC. G. Harper, John Collins

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LYNCHBURG RAIL DAY 2008! Saturday, August 9. Boonsboro Ruritan Club. Lynchburg.

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