



# BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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## “North to Alaska”

Norris Deyerle will be presenting a slide show featuring railroads of Alaska at the September meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. He will cover a period of more than fifty years using some duplicate, but mostly original, slides taken by various photographers. The rough Alaskan terrain and weather conditions makes photographing trains away from the populated areas a real challenge. Norris is excited to share with you the striking colors of the various trains and the breathtaking beauty of Alaska itself! Please plan to join us for an enjoyable evening and be sure to invite a friend.

Pictured above is a E9B power car. Norris Deyerle Collection taken by Keith E. Ardinger.

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015. 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



## Minutes From the August 12, 2015, Meeting of The Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS

The regularly scheduled meeting for August 12, 2015, for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS was held at Charley's Restaurant. President Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. (1932 hrs. Official CSX Time). Twenty-four members in good standing welcomed three visitors – Fred Mayer, Dona Duval and Roanoke's Felix Freeman. An amended version of the July 2015 minutes was presented by President Johnson for the official record.

The July 22, 2015, fun meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS was a success with twenty-five attendees. Michael Jones did the program related to his book *Lost at Thaxton*.

Treasurer Tanner, Norris Deyerle and Barry Moorefield all thanked everyone who helped with Lynchburg Rail Day 2015. Sufficient help showed up for the set-up on Friday and the takedown Saturday afternoon; including getting the tables that were used back to Garland Harper's church. A smooth operation was noted and vendors seemed to have a good day. Earl Guthrow offered suggestions about helping to price items received for the White Elephant Table.

Rail Heritage Report: Norris Deyerle began discussion with regards to the disbursement of funds earned as a result of Lynchburg Rail Day 2015. Motion was eventually made by Dr. Earl Guthrow and seconded by Dale Diacont to make the following contributions:

VBR Trail Foundation Caboose No. 2	\$500
N&W Historical Society - Archives	\$250
C&O Historical Society – general fund	\$250
VMT Fire up N&W No. 611	\$250
Virginian Station Fund, Roanoke Chapter	\$250
VMT – Save the Panama Mule	\$250
Friends of the High Bridge Trail	<u>\$250</u>
Seven grants in all totaling:	\$2,000

It was duly noted the VBR Caboose No. 2 is the closest thing we have to a “home team” and they received a larger share of the offering. Less money will be donated this year as the future of the NRHS remains unclear. As outlined above, the motion carried.

Vice President McKinley: Absent

National Representative Bob Leslie: Suggested that we read the August 2015 issue of the *NRHS News*.

Editor Garland Harper: Absent. August *Blue Ridge Dispatcher* on time with incorrect minutes.

Webmaster John Siegle: No report but a heartfelt “thank you” to Richard Hawkins for the audio equipment that we used during Lynchburg Rail Day 2015.

Business concluded at 8:13 p.m. Dale Diacont has the show “C&O's Peninsula Subdivision – Now and Then.” Lou Revelle won the 50/50 and donated the proceeds back to the Blue Ridge Chapter. Norris Deyerle will have next month's program at the meeting scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dale W. Diacont,  
Secretary

**Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS 2015 Calendar of Events  
57th 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 updated or added events since last month printed in "*Bold Italics*".**

Notice: I urge our friends with the other railway historical groups and museums to take advantage of [www.trainfinder.com](http://www.trainfinder.com), [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com) or <http://www.modelshopsusa.com/form/event>. There is no cost to promote your train show on these websites. It's simple to add your event to their websites and your event approval is fast and efficient. These are websites that will help us all get the word out about our events!

Are you interested in learning more about the historic Norfolk & Western Railway "High Bridge" in Farmville, Va.? Please check out the following links for more info:

Friends of High Bridge Trail:

<https://sites.google.com/site/friendsofhighbridgetrail/>

High Bridge Trail State Park: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/hig.shtm](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hig.shtm)

<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/OutdoorsAndSports/HighBridgeTrailStatePark/>

Historical USGS Topographical Maps: A great research tool for locating abandoned railroad lines, etc.

<http://nationalmap.gov/historical/>

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation – Free Official State of Virginia Railroad Map, 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Va. 23219 Phone: 804-786-4440

[www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

Tennessee Valley Railroad/Norfolk Southern 21st Century Steam Train Excursion Schedule Info:

<http://www.tvrail.com/pages/21st-century-steam> Note: Find more railroad related info on other websites at the end of this Calendar Of Events.

## SEPTEMBER 2015

**9-09-15: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Norris Deyerle Slide Presentation, "North to Alaska!"**

**9-15-15: {Tuesday} Rivanna Chapter, NRHS Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Timberwood Grill, 3311 Worth Crossing, Charlottesville, Va. Their September program will be from the camera of BRC, NRHS Secretary Dale Diacont. Info: Ed de Bary, [eddebaryjr@aol.com](mailto:eddebaryjr@aol.com)**

**9-17-15: {Thursday} Roanoke Chapter, NRHS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lower level theater, O. Winston Link Museum, Roanoke, Va.**

9-23-15: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

**9-26-15: {Saturday} Pulaski Train Show, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pulaski Depot and Ratcliffe Trans. Museum, Right Next to Jackson Park and Pulaskifest. Free Admission, Train Show Info: email [grahamclaytor@gmail.com](mailto:grahamclaytor@gmail.com) or phone {540} 505-4153 for vendor table rentals, Train Show Dealers may set up Friday evening, Pulaskifest info: [www.pulaskitown.org/templatecalendar.aspx](http://www.pulaskitown.org/templatecalendar.aspx).**

**9-26-15 & 9-27-15: {Saturday & Sunday} Danville Science Center's Annual "Old 97 Rail Days" Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission for the Science Center will cover the event price, Info: [www.godanriver.com](http://www.godanriver.com) or phone {434} 791-5160. Submitted by Matt Bell**

**9-27-15: {Sunday} BRC "Fall Picnic" hosted by Dale and Audrey Diacont at their home "Red Dog Manor" in Waynesboro, Va. 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share with others. No alcoholic beverages allowed. Please let Dale know that you are attending by Saturday, September 19, 2015 so he will have time to purchase the needed food items. Dale will also need to know the number of folks in your party. Thanks to Dale and Audrey for hosting our BRC picnic again this year. Contact email: [daled1acont@yahoo.com](mailto:daled1acont@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot and for directions to the picnic.**

## OCTOBER 2015

10-14-15: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber Presentation

## NOVEMBER 2015

11-01-15: {Sunday} 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaithersburg Railroad – Transportation Artifacts Show & Sale and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaithersburg Model Train Show & Sale, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Transportation Artifacts Show Vendor Table Rental: \$75.00 per 6ft. table {Electric \$20.00 additional} Note: Early admission tickets may be purchased for \$35.00 each that allow entrance to the transportation artifacts show on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is the premier railroad – transportation show in the United States! Info: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com), Charles W. Miller, Phone {703} 536-2954, e-mail: [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com)

**11-07-15 & 11-08-15: {Saturday & Sunday} 27 Annual '15 Railfest, Pocahontas Chapter, NRHS, Bluefield Youth Center, 1780 Stadium Drive, Next to Mitchell Stadium, Bluefield, WV, Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m., Admission \$5.00 Per Person, \$10.00 Per Family, Info: {304} 431-2593 or {304} 325-7745, Submitted by Derek Wimberly**

11-11-15: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore Presentation

11-25-15: NO NOVEMBER “FUN MEETING” DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

## DECEMBER 2015

12-05-15: {Saturday} Annual BRC Christmas Banquet, Altavista, Va. Former Southern Railway Station, Prior reservations required.

12-09-15: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Presentation by Skip “Groundhog” Hansberry, Program TBA

12-19-15: {Saturday} Annual BRC Kemper Street Station “Holiday Gathering”

### **“Lynchburg Rail Day 2016”, Saturday, August 13, 2016**

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Website: [www.blueridgenrhs.org](http://www.blueridgenrhs.org)

#### **Model Railroading:**

High Bridge Railroad Club, Farmville, Va. Info: [www.sites.google.com/site/hbrrclub](http://www.sites.google.com/site/hbrrclub)

#### **Modern Day Railroading:**

Norfolk Southern and CSX Locomotives – The Diesel Shop, NS and CSX Loco rosters with professional quality photographs. The NS site includes NS Heritage locomotives.

<http://www.thedieselshop.us/NS.HTML> & <http://www.thedieselshop.us/CSX.HTML>

#### **“Fallen Flag” railroad of local interest:**

Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad, The old “fast and perfect” railroad that ran between Gretna and Rocky Mount, Va.: <http://www.fandprailroad.org>

Locomotive Search Tool And Railroad Photos Link: [www.railbaron.rpicturearchives.net](http://www.railbaron.rpicturearchives.net)

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.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org), [www.RoanokeNRHS.org](http://www.RoanokeNRHS.org),

<http://nrhsrivanna.blogspot.com>, [www.dcnrhs.org](http://www.dcnrhs.org), [www.odcnrhs.org](http://www.odcnrhs.org) [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org),

[www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org), [www.csxthsociety.org](http://www.csxthsociety.org), [www.thecrhs.org](http://www.thecrhs.org), [www.theruralretreatdepot.com](http://www.theruralretreatdepot.com),

[www.srha.org](http://www.srha.org), [www.rfandp.org](http://www.rfandp.org) [www.vatraincollectors.com](http://www.vatraincollectors.com), [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org),

[www.railroadcollectors.org](http://www.railroadcollectors.org), [www.nhvry.org](http://www.nhvry.org), [www.norfolksouthernhs.org](http://www.norfolksouthernhs.org), [www.RailServe.com](http://www.RailServe.com),

[www.gsmr.com](http://www.gsmr.com), [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), [www.TrainFinder.com](http://www.TrainFinder.com), [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com), [www.wghshow.com](http://www.wghshow.com),

[www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov), [www.crewerailroadmuseum.org](http://www.crewerailroadmuseum.org)

Norfolk Southern/TVRM Steam Excursion Website: <http://www.21stcenturysteam.com> OR

<http://www.tvrail.com/pages/21st-century-steam>

Steam Train Events in the United States and Canada: [www.diary.svsfilm.com](http://www.diary.svsfilm.com)

Steam Locomotive Locations: [www.steamlocomotive.com](http://www.steamlocomotive.com)

Railroad Historical Information and Related Photos: [www.hawkinsrails.net](http://www.hawkinsrails.net)

Railroad Photos: [www.railsinvirginia.com](http://www.railsinvirginia.com), [www.railfirephotography.com](http://www.railfirephotography.com)

Key Lock & Lantern Railroad History and Preservation Organization, [www.klnl.org](http://www.klnl.org)

Danville & Western Ry. Website: Railway operated in Southwestern Virginia between Danville and Stuart. <http://southern-railway.railfan.net/dw/>

Trains & Travel International: [www.traintrips.biz](http://www.traintrips.biz)

Virginia Museum Of Transportation Rail Cam: <http://www.nwhs.org/cam/vmt>

Roanoke, Va. Rail Cam: <http://128.173.197.94:443/RRCmov>

## **Danville Science Center's annual "Old 97 Rail Days" event will provide a two-day celebration of all things trains.**

"Children and adults of all ages are enthralled by trains," Director Adam Goebel said.

The most impressive showing at these events are the train enthusiasts that make up the event. The Pepsi building situated between the science center and the combination train depot and exhibit hall is filled to the brim with train models.

"There will be model railroaders from up and down the East Coast. Railroad clubs converge here," he said.

Goebel described the model set up as multi-layered tracks that cross over landscapes of mountains, valleys and more. Trains will run along the approximately 1,000 square feet of tracks that take up the whole building.

"They'll come in Friday morning and set up and be ready by Saturday," Goebel said of the complex and detailed train networks.

The event, which has been held since 2003, will feature a diorama of Danville's Wreck of Old '97. The museum's own smaller train layout will be operable for the event, too.

A big draw for the Rail Days event is fully restored Norfolk Western caboose donated by the Register & Bee. Visitors can enter the interior of the rail car and glimpse the recent past with its original materials. The top window lets passengers get a unique perspective on Danville.

"Everything is original in it. You can see how life was like in the 1940s," Goebel said.

Historically train enthusiasts and attendees looking for an informative and fun time come out in droves for the multi-day event.

"Usually it's a high visitation weekend — up to 300 to 400 people," he said. "People really enjoy trains. It's a part of Danville's history."

by VICKY CRUZ [vmorrison@registerbee.com](mailto:vmorrison@registerbee.com) Cruz reports for the Danville Register & Bee.

### **Want to go?**

- » Danville Science Center hosts the two day event.
- » The first day, Saturday, Sep. 26, is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- » The second, Sunday, Sep. 27, is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Old 97 wrecked on a Sunday! Sep. 27, 1903.)
- » Admission for the Science Center will cover the event price.
- » Gallery admission rates will be reduced to half-off prices.
- » For more information, call the center at (434) 791-5160.

### **Another death on the James River trestle**

A Lynchburg man, identified as Robert Aaron Harbridge, 35, was killed Friday, September 4 about 10:15 a.m. when a train struck him on the trestle spanning the James River between Lynchburg and Amherst County. The northbound Norfolk Southern train was unable to stop in time and struck him, Norfolk Southern spokeswoman Susan Terpay said in an email to The News & Advance. The train that struck the man was delivering cars filled with plastic pellets to an unidentified local customer, Terpay said.

"The man fell off the bridge and onto the riverbank below and died," she said. His body landed on the Lynchburg side of the river.

"At this time the investigation does not suggest any foul play was involved in the incident," a police department release said.

Investigators searched the area beneath the trestle, and rescue boats briefly searched the water for other victims as a precaution. Norfolk Southern's police department assisted other agencies on the investigation.

Friday's incident is not the first time in recent memory emergency crews have responded to the trestle. Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Doucette said at the time 13 people have been killed on the trestle since 1969.

On Nov. 8, Liberty University student Jonathan Gregoire was struck and killed there. Four students accompanying him were convicted in April of trespassing charges and sentenced to community service and probation. In October 2012, Amherst County authorities said a man was struck and killed on the trestle. His name was not released. In Nov. 8, 2011, five LU students were stargazing on the trestle when a train appeared. One student, Hannah Williams, was killed. Another, Julianne Ashbaugh, was injured critically after falling 90 feet to the riverbank below; she recovered. The three remaining students suffered minor injuries escaping the train.

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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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