



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 22

January 2014

No. 1



Kurt Reisweber kicks off the new year for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, with a show of images of Chessie System operations between Newport News and Handley, WV, with emphasis on the east end of the railroad: Newport News, Williamsburg and Richmond. West Virginia will see a fair representation, too. The cover photo above was shot from the Manchester Bridge in Richmond about 1985. Kurt will also have available for sale his newest book, [Trackside around Norfolk with Kurt Reisweber](#)

You know it will be a great presentation, so plan to come on out and enjoy it, assuming the recent Arctic blast hasn't devastated your car battery!

Wednesday, January 8, 2014. 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, NRHS
Minutes of Meeting - December 11, 2013**

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed 20 members and 5 guests. Rick announced that Chuck Hladik's brother had passed away recently. November minutes were approved as distributed. Treasurer John Tanner then reported.

Under old business, Rick reported that 27 members attended this year's Christmas banquet in Altavista and everyone enjoyed the evening. Rick Dash-2 presented his program to a very appreciative audience. Rick thanked Norris Deyerle for organizing this year's event. Derek Wimberly was thanked for contributing the music for the evening and John Tanner for the refreshments! Rick announced next year's banquet will be December 6th. Rick reminded members of the annual Kemper Street Station gathering on December 21 beginning after the arrival of the Regional.

Skip Hansberry reported briefly on the next phase of work to be done on the old Amherst Depot. Advertisements appeared in the News and Advance for Phase II including utilities, parking and exterior renovations.

There was no new business. There were no reports other than the Newsletter Editor Garland Harper who thanked members for their contributions over the last year.

The January meeting will feature member Kurt Reisweber presenting his trackside images taken around Norfolk, Virginia. The Fun Meeting is scheduled on January 22. This evening's program was presented by Rick Dash-2 titled "Tribute to Tennessee Pass," where he and his wife, Tayler, vacationed last summer. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

Chapter Notes

The Blue Ridge Chapter would like to welcome Eddie Mooneyham as its newest member.

Also, please remember these former members in your thoughts and prayers: Roy Evans, whose wife, Tina, passed away on Dec. 17, 2013, and Kipp Teague, whose mother, Elizabeth Flinchum Teague, passed away on Dec. 25, 2013.

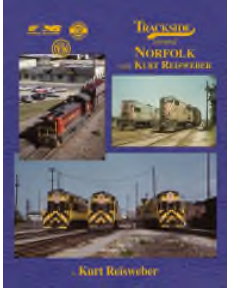
Chapter President Rick Johnson would like to remind all Chapter members that national and chapter dues of \$63 are currently due. Current members should have received a renewal card in the mail a few weeks ago. If not, you can send a check to Rick to the address on the back cover, or bring it to him at the next meeting. Thanks!

**Attention: Don't Throw Away Your Fujifilm Slide Mailers!
by Norris Deyerle**

I may be the last person in this world of digital photography to know that your Fujifilm slide mailers do not have an expiration date that means anything! In fact, I may be the last person that actually shoots slide film! Ha! Henry Posner from B&H Photo-Video also confirmed that Fuji doesn't have a true expiration date on their Prepaid E6 mailers. The Fujifilm website, www.fujifilmusa.com, states that the mailers you purchase from your authorized Fujifilm dealer may list an expiration date of 12/31/09 on them, but this is not the date that they will expire. Your mailers are good with the film that you purchased for any time you need to process it! Fuji Prepaid E6 mailers with your slide film should be mailed to:

Fujicolor Processing, Inc.
P.O. Box 837
Parsons, KS 67357
Dwayne's Photo Customer Service:
Phone: 620-421-3940 or Toll-Free 800-522-3940

P.S. I just called Dwayne's Photo today, January 6, 2014, to verify that this information is correct. It is. Dwayne's Photo is processing the slide film for Fuji. So don't throw away those Fujifilm mailers. I'll be happy to take them off of your hands! Even better yet, load your Fujichrome and get trackside!



Kurt Reisweber's newest book, Trackside around Norfolk with Kurt Reisweber has arrived! Kurt is presenting the January program for the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, and will have copies available for purchase at that time.

Get a jump on your Christmas shopping for 2014! Check out his latest publication.

Recollections and a Red Caboose by J. Powell Anderson

What a gorgeous late fall afternoon it was on December 19, 2013, when Dale Diacont and I headed out to Red Hill, just south of Charlottesville. Our destination was a gathering to bid farewell to a PRR cabin car prior to its shipment to a permanent home in Pennsylvania. Our hometown of Waynesboro is the nexus for CSX running east to west and NS north to south. Train air-chimes resound through our city day and night, celebrating our economic vibrancy.

My fascination and love of railroads date back to my childhood in the mid 1930's. Uncle William Speas worked for the railroad and was an envied kinsman with a good-paying job during the deepest depression when money was tight for most everyone. The romance of the rails was exercised in my fantasy by a beautiful Lionel train. It was a simple oval of track but I could lie on my side and visualize myself riding to exotic destinations. My mother rode the train to Richmond to shop at Miller and Rhodes, and Thalhimer's department stores. Memory of a wonderful lunch on the Mezzanine at Thalhimer's is burned in my brain.

Dale "had his hand (foot, actually) on the throttle (of the SUV) and his eye on the road" so I was free to stay in neutral with all those memories dancing through my head. Hanging a dog's leg down US Route 29 South a handful of miles to Red Hill where the red cabin car stood in all of its refurbished glory. Shortly, we were joined by others to bid a nostalgic farewell. Somehow, the ridiculous comparison was drawn of the caboose with my living quarters aboard the USS McGinty, DE365, during the Korean War. A destroyer escort at that time was like a beer can compared to a destroyer, which was a formidable ship of the line designed to protect aircraft carriers. Thinly armored, a destroyer escort had only a five inch gun fore and aft. Nevertheless, the "Mighty McGinty" could have held our celebrated caboose piggyback across its fantail with ease.

The cabin car contained a cozy space, porches at each end with room for four bunks,



parlor/office/dinette for two, enclosed commode and potbellied coal-fired stove. Air conditioning consisted of opened doors fore and aft with small windows above the alcoved upper bunks. Running water drains from overhead tanks but no shower could be found. Kerosene lanterns provided illumination inside and communication with the head end of the train.

Conversation and camaraderie ensued around past times. After old yarns were spun around many experiences, the sun was beginning to slant. A message on the scanner told of a northbound NS freight approaching and Dale pulled up to the crossing for the big thunder passing. The engineer looked puzzled by the crowd but didn't stop to shake hands, and soon rolled out of sight around the bend with the clattering of a long line of freight cars in tow.

We thank the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS, for all of their hard work and for being such gracious hosts.

Members of the Rivanna Chapter, NRHS are pictured during a farewell gathering to PRR cabin car #477768 at Red Hill, VA, on December 19, 2013. Those pictured helped restore the caboose to like new condition. Not pictured but also helped with the restoration are Bob Lent, Stan Brother, Jeff Perry, Charles Bailey, Ed Birkhead, Nicholas Finck, Ken Moss, George Payne and Ray Short.

J. Powell Anderson is a friend of Chapter member Dale Diacont, who thought the Blue Ridge Chapter would enjoy Mr. Anderson's thoughts. Thank you, Dale.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS, 2014 Calendar of Events
56th 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 or www.trains.com. There is no cost to promote your train show on these websites. It's simple to add your event to their website and your event approval is fast and efficient. This is a website 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.shtml

<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

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.

January 2014

01-08-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber, Chessie System slide presentation featuring scenes from Newport News, Va. to Handley, WV. with emphasis on the East end of the railroad. Kurt will be offering his newest book, "Trackside Around Norfolk" by Morning Sun Books for sale for \$45.00.

01-19-14: {Sunday} Virginia Train Collectors Tidewater Train Show, Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, 3373 Pruden Blvd. {Route 460} Suffolk, Va. 23434. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Info, www.vatraincollectors.com

01-22-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

February 2014

02-12-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Ed Fielding DVD Presentation

02-15 & 16-14: {Saturday & Sunday} C&OHS George Washington's Train Show, Clifton Forge Armory, Clifton Forge, Va. Sat. 10:00 -4:00 PM, Sunday Noon – 4:00 PM, Info, Phone: 540-862-2210, www.cohs.org

March 2014

03-12-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont Slide Presentation, "2013 Year In Review"

03-26-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

April 2014

04-09-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore Presentation

May 2014

05-14-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Presenter Slot Available

05-28-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

June 2014

06-10-14 Thru 06-14-14: {Tuesday Thru Saturday} NRHS 2014 Annual Convention, Springdale, Arkansas, Info, www.nrhs.com

06-11-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Norris Deyerle Slide Presentation

06-26-14 Thru 06-29-14: {Thursday Thru Sunday} N&WHS 2014 Annual Convention, Roanoke, Va. Info, www.nwhs.org

July 2014

07-09-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Derek Wimberly Presentation

07-23-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

07-28-14 Thru 08-01-14: {Monday Thru Friday} C&OHS 44th Annual Conference, Pipestem, WV, Info, www.cohs.org

August 2014

08-09-14: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Lynchburg Rail Day 2014", Info, LRD 2014 Chairman, Barry Moorefield, Phone: 434-821-2174

Before 9:00 PM nightly or email rockdalefarm@live.com

08-13-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont Presentation

September 2014

09-10-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Brad Dobbins Slide Presentation

09-24-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting"

October 2014

10-08-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Kurt Reisweber Presentation

November 2014

11-12-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Wayland Moore Presentation

11-25-14: {Wednesday} NO BRC "FUN MEETING" DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

December 2014

12-06-14: {Saturday} BRC Annual Christmas Banquet, Altavista, Va.

12-10-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Presenter Slot Available

12-20-14: {Saturday} BRC Annual Kemper Street Station Holiday Gathering

Check Out This New Addition! Locomotive Search Tool And Railroad Photos Link: www.railbaron.rpicturearchives.net
 Railroad Related Events Information: Visit: www.varailheritage.org, www.vmt.org, www.linkmuseum.org, www.nctrans.org,
www.roanokenrhs.org, www.dcnrhs.org, www.odcnrhs.org, www.nwhs.org, www.cohs.org, www.csxthsociety.org,
www.thecrhs.org, www.theruralretreatdepot.com, www.srha.org, www.rfandp.org, www.vatraincollectors.com,
www.traincollectors.org, www.railroadcollectors.org, www.nhvry.org, www.norfolksouthernrhs.org, www.RailServe.com,
www.gsmr.com, www.trains.com, www.TrainFinder.com, www.gserr.com, www.wghshow.com, www.drpt.virginia.gov
 Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Website: www.blueridgenrhs.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
 Steam Locomotive Locations: www.steamlocomotive.com
 Railroad Historical Information and Related Photos: www.hawkinsrails.net
 Railroad Photos: www.railsinvirginia.com, www.railfirephotography.com
 Key Lock & Lantern Railroad History and Preservation Organization, 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
 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>

SIGHTINGS

Dec. 23 - Running TEN hours late account one flood warning after another the previous night, Amtrak train #20 is refueled at Lynchburg. (G. Harper)



Jan. 1 - Your Editor's first train picture of 2014: BNSF power on a train of crude oil empties.



Jan. 2 - NS 9074 leads a grain train, G89831, along the James River. (G. Harper)



Dec. 30 - Your Editor got skunked by 35Q at Carroll Ave. setting off his Crewe block while waiting for NS 214 with the Reading heritage unit to go north from Montview. Win some. Lose some.



Jan. 5 - Dale Diacont captured an image of Amtrak #51, the Cardinal, operating with Superliner equipment. This was a move by Amtrak because Superliners reportedly do better than Amfleet cars in bitter cold weather.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND STAFF

President	Rick Johnson, 104 Mowry Ln. Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-660-1113 notch8@aol.com
Vice President	Ed Fielding, 4 Clifton St. Lynchburg, VA 24501 434-845-1740 refileding@verizon.net
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@yahoo.com
National Representative	Bob Leslie 3844 Peakland Pl. Lynchburg, VA 24503 434-384-9062 lckawanna@aol.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
BRC Chairman. VA Rail Heritage Region Partners	E. Norris Deyerle, Jr. 744 Chinook Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502 434-237-4912 railcow@msn.com
Rail Day Chairman	Barry Moorefield 434-821-2174 rockdalefarm@live.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

Lynchburg Rail Day 2014. Saturday, August 9, 2014.