



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

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Retired CSX locomotive operator (formerly known as "engineers") and BRC member, Dale Diacont, will present the show at the August meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. He'll be showing slides of a trip he took to California in 2002. Included will be images of Feather River Canyon, Donner Pass, Niles Canyon and others, including a ride on the famed "Skunk Train". Be sure to be there!

Wednesday, August 13, 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



Lynchburg Rail Day 2014 is Saturday, August 9.

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Minutes of Meeting – July 9, 2014

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at Charley's Restaurant at 7:45 p.m. and welcomed 18 members and guests Jim Talian and Tex Carter. He also recognized members Dr. David Harris and John Siegle, who had not been able to attend recent meetings. Minutes of the June meeting were approved as distributed, and Lloyd Lipscomb agreed to take the minutes for this meeting. In the absence of John Tanner, the treasurer's report was postponed.

Old business and announcements: Dale Diacont is selling copies of his new book, *Railroads in East Carolina*, at the base price of \$40 per copy. Vice-president Ed Fielding reported he was present at the dedication of the expanded VBR Rail Trail. It was announced that employees of the Cass (WV) Scenic Railway will be terminated at the end of this season on October 31. A search has begun for a public-private partnership for the future of this railway. In place of the fall picnic in Altavista, Dale Diacont said that members and guests would be welcome to a covered dish picnic on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 28, from 2 to 4 at his home, "Red Dog Manor" (220 Chantilly Drive, Waynesboro), along the CSX (BBRR) tracks. Reservations would be required

Barry Moorefield and Norris Deyerle reported on plans for Rail Day on Saturday, August 9, at the Boonsboro Ruritan Club. Volunteers are needed for setting up on Friday afternoon and for taking down after the closing. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in working on specific areas. Dale Diacont volunteered to present a slide program.

New business and announcements: Bob Leslie, National Representative, reminded members that voting for NRHS officers would close at the end of July. Rick Johnson said that member Bill Cabble is in health care in Princeton WV. His wife Douglass said that she and Bill are always glad to receive cards or notes from Blue Ridge Chapter friends. Rick announced that at a special Fun Meeting on July 23, Chase Gunnoe of West Virginia plans to present a program, "Nighttime Ramblings through the Mountain State." At the regular meeting on August 13, Dale Diacont will present slides taken on a trip through Northern California in 2005. The business meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m. Reggie Akers won the 50-50 drawing.

Derek Wimberly presented a DVD program on Norfolk Southern's 30th Anniversary Heritage Locomotives filmed at Spencer, NC, in 2012. Exhibited were locomotives representing the predecessor railroads before the formation of Norfolk Southern in 1982.

Lloyd Lipscomb, Acting Secretary

News from the Virginia Museum of Transportation

611 restoration is on schedule!



Shortly after the 611 was pulled dead-in-tow to the North Carolina Transportation Museum (NCTM) in Spencer, North Carolina, the mechanical team began restoration. First up was shedding her cover, removing the super heaters, air compressors and other key components. Once the big pieces were removed, the 611 was moved into a bay in the roundhouse at the NCTM so the more detailed work could begin.

The boiler becomes the focus

The boiler -- the component that produces the steam needed to power the locomotive -- was the main focus in July. The team of mechanical volunteers, led by chief mechanical officer Scott Lindsay of Steam Operations Corporation and Fire Up 611! Committee chairman Preston Claytor, bead-blasted the build up that accumulated in the boiler. Bead blasting is a high-pressure cleaning system that "blasts" small particles on the boiler's surface to dislodge buildup that accumulated due to water scale buildup.

The boiler then underwent a two-day ultrasonic test. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations require this testing as a part of the 1,472 day inspection, and it is an important stage in the restoration process. Boilers are designed to withstand extremely high pressured steam - 300 psi in 611's case - and the ultrasonic testing ensures that there are no weak or thin spots in the metal. The data will take weeks to analyze. The restoration is led by Preston Claytor, chairman of the Fire Up 611! Committee, and Scott Lindsay, chief mechanical officer and owner of Steam Operations Corporation.



Read more about 611's restoration at fireup611.org and [Facebook](#). You can also follow along on [Twitter](#).

VMT welcomes Aubrey Wiley, Lynchburg, VA, writer and author, as author-in-residence

The Virginia Museum of Transportation welcomes Aubrey Wiley, a Lynchburg, Virginia, writer, historian and storyteller, as author-in-residence.

Mr. Wiley's books have chronicled the railroads of Virginia. Most of his work revolves around the Virginian Railway, a small railroad that ran from the coal mines in West Virginia to the seaports along Virginia's Atlantic coast. Mr. Wiley also founded the Virginian Railway Heritage Trail that highlights key sites of the small, but important, railway.

"We are pleased that Aubrey has agreed to be our author in residence," says Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., executive director of the Virginia Museum of Transportation. "Aubrey tells stories that excite and inform. His talent and passion will help us tell the stories of Virginia's rail heritage."



Mr. Wiley will help the Museum plan workshops and programs throughout the year that will tell the stories of the people who built the railroads in Virginia. Mr. Wiley's books can be purchased through the Museum Store in downtown Roanoke or online at shop.vmt.org.

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, BRC, 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, www.trains.com or RHICalendar@nrhs.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.

August 2014

08-09-14: {Saturday} BRC, NRHS "Lynchburg Rail Day 2014", New show times are 9:00 am till 3:00 pm, Info: LRD 2014 Chairman, Barry Moorefield, Phone: 434-821-2174 before 9:00 pm nightly or email rockdalefarm@live.com, or Norris Deyerle, Phone: 434-237-4912 or email railcow@msn.com. Table Registrar John Tanner, Phone 434-525-1318 or email flytrains@yahoo.com. Note: We may be sold out of vendor tables by the time that you read this. Please contact one of our LRD 2014 committee members listed above to confirm if there are any vendor tables still available. Vendor Registration Forms and White Elephant Table Guidelines print outs are available on our website, www.blueridgenrhs.org LRD 2014 is shaping up to be one of our best model train shows ever! There will be many new vendors to supplement our "Old Faithful" vendors. Many members are clearing out their basements. This should offer some rare and diverse finds. Some may even have "PATINA" Ha! Two railroad book authors will be our show presenters and have their new railroad books for sale! You should plan to get to the train show early so you won't miss out on all of the different activities planned throughout the day. Our BRC concession stand will be serving North Carolina BBQ at lunch!

08-13-14: {Wednesday} BRC Monthly Meeting, Dale Diacont Presentation: California trip - 2002.

September 2014

09-06-14: {Saturday} "Grandparent's Day" at the Virginia Museum Of Transportation, Roanoke, Va. 10:00 am till 5:00 pm. \$5.00 admission, AARP members get in free with their AARP card, \$3.00 Train Rides and FREE ICE CREAM! Info: www.vmt.org

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

09-24-14: {Wednesday} BRC "Fun Meeting", A Lynchburg City Fire Department officer will have a special presentation on the 2014 CSX oil train derailment in Lynchburg, Va.

09-28-14: {Sunday} Our Blue Ridge Chapter annual "Summer Picnic" will be at "Red Dog Manor" in Waynesboro, Va. I want to personally thank BRC member Dale Diacont and his wife Audrey for hosting our annual Summer Picnic this year. If it wasn't for them we would not have had one. Dale and Audrey will cook the hamburgers and hot dogs. Attendees are requested to bring a covered dish or dessert to share with the others. 2:00 pm till 4:00 pm. Bring your camera since the railroad tracks are bordering their back yard! Info: daled1acont@yahoo.com

October 2014

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

10-11&12-14: {Saturday & Sunday} Appomattox Railroad Festival, Appomattox, Va. Contact info: TBD

10-12-14: {Sunday} BRC member Dale Diacont's cookout at "Red Dog Manor" in Waynesboro, Va. BRC members and their guests are invited. Contact Dale for more info. Space may be limited since this is Dale and Audrey's home. Info: daled1acont@yahoo.com to get more details and make sure the cookout is still scheduled.

November 2014

11-01& 02-14: North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation & the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum, "Scenic Southern Rails" Fall Excursions, Virginia Autumn Special, Spencer, NC to Appomattox, Va. Georgia Autumn Special, Spencer, NC to Toccoa, Ga. Tickets went on sale to the general public on July 9, 2014. Info: <http://www.nctrans.org/Events/Fall-Excursions--Appomattox,-Va--and-Toccoa,-Ga-.aspx>

11-02-14: {Sunday} 37th Annual Gaithersburg Railroadiana & Transportation Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Info: www.gserr.com

11-08-14: {Saturday} 13th Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Trains & Railroadiana Show and Sale, Raleigh, NC. Info: www.nrvshow.org

11-08 & 09-14: Pocahontas NRHS Model Train Show, Bluefield Youth Center, 1780 Stadium Drive, Bluefield, WV, Contact Phone: 304-431-2593, Website: <http://www.visitmercercounty.com> Contact email: rkmassie@yahoo.com

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, Skip "Groundhog" Hansberry Presentation

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

Check Out This New Addition!

Norfolk Southern Locomotives – The Diesel Shop, NS Loco roster with professional quality photographs. NS Heritage Locos included. www.thedieselshop.us/NS.HTML

"Fallen Flag" railroad of local interest:

Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad, "The old fast and perfect" railroad that ran between Gretna and Rocky Mount, Va.:

www.fandprailroad.org

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.wqhshow.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>

Plan to come out for Lynchburg Rail Day 2014 - Lynchburg Rail Day 2014 promises to be one of our best model train shows in years! We have many of our faithful vendors along with some new ones offering different merchandise for sale. Several BRC, NRHS members are clearing out some oldies but goodies from their basements. There may be some "American Pickers" items to choose from in those batches! I want to thank local vendors such as The Rail Yard and TLC Publishing for being two of our most loyal and long lived vendors! Some of our railroad museum and historical society LRD 2014 vendors are the VMT, Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, Boones Mill Station Restoration Group and the N&WHS. We also have two show presenters lined up. Railroad book authors Wayne McKinney and Blue Ridge Chapter Member Dale Diacont will present their shows. They will also have their new books for sale. Wayne's Power Point presentation is at 11:00 am and Dale's slide show is at noon. Some things never change and that's great! We'll be offering our popular North Carolina BBQ and Lynchburg hot dogs with all the fixings at our BRC, NRHS concession stand. Of course we still have our annual model and photography contests. The closer LRD 2014 comes, the more excited I get! With the mixture of vendors that we have this year it will be an awesome model train show! Please plan to attend and bring a friend or two. Don't miss it!
See you on August 9, 2014, starting at 9:00 am,

Norris Deyerle, Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS. Chairman Of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners

**Blue Ridge Chapter, National Railway Historical Society 36th Annual
LYNCHBURG RAIL DAY 2014
Saturday, August 9, 2014
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
BOONSBORO RURITAN CLUB
1065 Coffee Road Lynchburg, Va. 24503**

**Admission: \$6/person, Family admission: \$10. Children 12/under free w/paying adult
TRAIN EXHIBITS, SLIDE SHOW, AND OPERATING MODEL LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY
DOOR PRIZES AND FRESHLY PREPARED FOOD/BEVERAGES AVAILABLE**

*** * * * * * * * *BARGAIN MART * * * * * * * ***

**Model train items and Railroad Memorabilia with Vendors from around the Region
Sales tables available to the general public, advance registration/payment required.
8 foot tables: \$33.00 each, 6 foot tables: \$25.00 each, Table Size Subject To Availability**

*** * * * * * * "WHITE ELEPHANT" TABLE * * * * * * * ***

**Available to train show attendees, the Blue Ridge Chapter N.R.H.S. will sell your model trains and
Railroad Memorabilia for a 20% commission, MAKE MONEY WHILE YOU BROWSE THE SHOW.**

RAILROAD MODEL/PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Notice: All Email Inquiries Please Write "LRD 2014" Question" In the Email Subject Box

Model & Photo Contest Information: Contact Jean Raas (434-384-0798) jraas1@verizon.net

For more train show information and to rent Vendor Tables contact:

Barry Moorefield (434-821-2174-before 9 p.m.) rockdalefarm@live.com, John Tanner (434-525-1318) flytrains@yahoo.com, Norris Deyerle (434-237-4912) railcow@msn.com

Blue Ridge Chapter, N.R.H.S., P.O. Box 11731, Lynchburg, Va. 24506-1731

Website: www.blueridgenrhs.org

SIGHTINGS

Jul. 9 - UP 2002, an SD70M, painted up to commemorate the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic games spotted trailing on NS train 211. (G. Harper)



Jul. 17 - Amtrak Phase I heritage unit , #156, seen leading Train 19 at Kemper Street. Train's conductor, or a ghost maybe, seen in the picture, too. (G. Harper)



Jul. 23 - CREX 1339, an ES44AC, seen leading NS train 12R from the back porch at Kemper Street Station. Editor's son, Taylor, seen "daisypicking" in the field of view on the platform below, but did not interfere too badly with the train. (G. Harper)



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P. O. Box 11731
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www.blueridgenrhs.org**

**Don't forget. Lynchburg Rail Day 2014 is upon us!
Saturday, August 9. 9am - 3pm. Boonsboro Ruritan Club.
1065 Coffee Road. Lynchburg, Va. 24503**