



BLUE RIDGE DISPATCHER

Vol. 24

January 2017

No. 1



800-series coal train at Ada, WV.

JANUARY 2017 PROGRAM: JEFF HAWKINS - RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Our January 11th BRC, NRHS, program will be presented by special guest, Jeff Hawkins of Richmond, VA. (Please read his bio on Page 3.) An outstanding photographer and author, Jeff's presentation will encompass drone photography along with "now-and-then" compositions that have generated great interest on social media! This promises to be a great show and one you will not want to miss. We thank Jeff for coming to Lynchburg to share his work and to get the Blue Ridge Chapter off to a great start in 2017.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017. 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 14, 2016

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order at Charley's Restaurant at 7:30 p.m. Rick welcomed 21 members and 6 guests for a total of 27 in attendance. Our guests for the evening were Felix Freeman (our program presenter), Tim and Linda Witt, Dorr Tucker, and Dona Duvall. Also, first time guest, Ian Whaley, joined tonight! Earl Guthrow updated us on Norris Deyerle's improving condition. Jim Overholser discussed N&W J 611's 2017 excursion schedule. Rick asked that the reading of the November 2016 minutes be dispensed. The minutes were approved as published in the "Blue Ridge Dispatcher" with no additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

John Tanner reported:

Old Business:

Rick thanked everyone that made our Christmas Banquet in Altavista on Saturday, December 3 a complete success with 34 attending. Rick provided the evening's program, Derek provided the music and John Tanner handled the arrangements in Norris' absence and provided the shrimp.

With the generous \$500.00 donation from the Roanoke Chapter for BRC's participation on 611 excursions this year, John Tanner suggested adjustments to BRC donation amounts proposed and voted on at the November meeting to include this \$500.00. Earl Guthrow put a motion on the floor to accept the changes, a second by Skip Hansberry and passed by vote. Rick asked that anyone considering presenting a program next year, let him know, as the schedule is about half full.

Rick stated that he was accepting payment for "local" BRC dues which are \$13.00. He also stated that everyone was responsible for paying their National dues directly to NRHS, not the BRC.

Rick invited everyone to the upcoming BRC Amtrak Station Kemper St. Christmas Party Saturday, December 17th.

New Business:

None

Vice President's Report:

Gale McKinley – Absent

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS Chairman of Virginia's Rail Heritage Region Partners:

Norris Deyerle - absent due to illness

Blue Ridge Chapter, NRHS National Representative:

Bob Leslie – Said he would be attending the spring director's meeting.

Webmaster Report:

John Siegle - Invited everyone to his model railroad open house on Saturday, December 17th.

Editor's Report:

Garland Harper - Absent, but Rick thanked Garland for getting the newsletter out.

Programs:

January 11, 2017, will bring in a special guest speaker/presenter, Jeff Hawkins to provide our program. January 25th will be a "Fun Meeting" with digital/slide format decided at the January 11th meeting. Special guest, Felix Freeman, presented the evening's program "Railfanning Atlanta, Ga. - 1970s"

50/50 Raffle:

There was no 50/50 raffle as Rick forgot to bring the tickets.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rick Johnson, acting BRC Secretary

**JANUARY PRESENTER PROFILE -
JEFF HAWKINS**

I'm 38 years old from Richmond, Va., married for 13 years with a 3 year old son who is also a train fanatic! I have been employed in the emergency vehicle sales industry for 15 years (sales and marketing). I'm a lifelong railfan that grew up along the real RF&P Railroad, not the homogenized CSX mainline that it is today. I have been a serious photographer for the last 16 years and have had my writing and photography published in many of the major railroad publications, calendars and books, including my book "Richmond Railroads". I also host two websites:
www.railsinvirginia.com and
www.railfirephotography.com



WELCOME NEW BRC MEMBERS

The Blue Ridge Chapter would like to welcome Felix Freeman and Ian Whaley to it's membership!!!

NORRIS DEYERLE UPDATE

Norris is steadily improving and has returned home after being hospitalized since August 29th! Please give him a call at 434-237-4912 or stop by to see him at 744 Chinook Place, Lynchburg, Va. 24502. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers.

2017 BRC DUES

BRC dues are now being collected with many members already paid. BRC yearly dues are again \$13.00. We hope that you will also continue your National membership, however, National dues must be paid directly to NRHS. National dues will not be accepted by the BRC.

NS TRAINMASTER BO BLAIR RETIRES

Long-time NS employee C. V. "Bo" Blair, Jr. retired at the end of 2016 after many years of service with the railroad. His hire date was March 25, 1980. Bo, we appreciate your understanding of and patience with the railfan community over the years and wish you the best as you enter this new phase of life. Bo is seen here striking a pose with the NS research train at Kemper Street May, 2015, and at Montview Yard prior to the 611's first Lynchburg - Petersburg round trip June 13, 2015.



Virginia Museum of Transportation Announces the 2017 Schedule of N&W Class J 611 Excursions

(Dec. 21, 2016 – Roanoke, Va.) The Virginia Museum of Transportation (VMT) is pleased to announce that the Norfolk & Western Class J 611 steam passenger locomotive will return to the mainline in 2017 with an exciting schedule of public excursions.

The sleek and powerful Class J steam passenger locomotives, designed and built in Roanoke, Va., by the Norfolk & Western Railway, widely were hailed as the finest steam passenger locomotives in the world. Today, the 611 is the only Class J still in existence and is owned by the VMT. It was restored in 2014-2015 through a worldwide fundraising effort by the VMT. “A ride behind the 611 is a bucket list dream come true for everyone who remembers the golden age of steam, or who has been lucky enough to learn her story,” said Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., VMT executive director. “611 is the star of the Museum’s collection and a traveling ambassador for the remarkable rail heritage of Norfolk Southern.”

In January, 611 will undergo maintenance in preparation for its annual Federal Railway Administration inspection. Following that work, public excursions behind 611 on the Norfolk Southern system will begin. A variety of seating options, including coach, first class, and dome cars are planned for each excursion.

611’s EXCURSION SCHEDULE

- April 8, 2017 – The Virginian, Spencer, NC to Lynchburg, VA
- April 9, 2017 – The Charlotte Special, Spencer, NC to Charlotte, NC
- April 9, 2017 – The Piedmont Limited, Spencer, NC to Greensboro, NC
- April 22, 2017 – The Roanoker, Greensboro, N.C. to Roanoke, Va.
- April 23, 2017 – The Roanoker, Greensboro, N.C. to Roanoke, Va.
- May 6, 2017 – The Cavalier, Lynchburg, Va., to Petersburg, Va.
- May 7, 2017 – The Cavalier, Lynchburg, Va., to Petersburg, Va.
- May 27, 2017 – The Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke, Va., to Lynchburg, Va.
- May 27, 2017 – The Pocahontas, Roanoke, Va., to Walton (Radford), Va.
- May 28, 2017 – The Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke, Va., to Lynchburg, Va.
- May 28, 2017 – The Pocahontas, Roanoke, Va., to Walton (Radford), Va.
- May 29, 2017 – The Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke, Va., to Lynchburg, Va.
- May 29, 2017 – The Pocahontas, Roanoke, Va., to Walton (Radford), Va.

Tickets will go on sale to the public January 12th at 12:00 PM/Noon Eastern Standard Time. For excursion information and to sign up for email notifications, visit www.FireUp611.org.

“We are so grateful to Norfolk Southern Corporation for allowing the Class J 611 to run during 2017,” said Fitzpatrick. “We are also thankful to many partners including the North Carolina Transportation Museum, the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Norfolk & Western Historical Society, and the many donors who are helping us bring back the wonder for 611’s passengers and fans of all ages.”

SIGHTINGS

Dec. 12 - CN C44-9WL, still in its British Columbia livery, leads NS 35Q through the curve just north of Amherst. Within five seconds after my shot the sun popped out "full bright". (Skip Hansberry) →



← Jan. 7 - BNSF 5991 leads CSX train Q30205 past the Reusens dam. (G. Harper)



Jan. 8 - Amtrak Regional #156 in a cloud of snow is seen racing northbound past the "plant" at Angelo. (Skip Hansberry) →



← Jan. 8 - BNSF 8215 on NS train 214 is seen stopped behind Kemper Street Station on #1 track awaiting a recrew. Train 212 passed by on #2 track. (G. Harper)

Plans for a train stop in Bedford are on hold

(WSET) -- Plans for a train stop in Bedford are on hold due to a state study that showed low ridership and higher costs. The state's study shows that a stop in Bedford would cost too much and not serve enough people, but a study done by the town shows a different story. The town's study found that it would cost it \$2 million and serve 28,000 riders, but the state's contradicts those numbers showing it would cost \$10 million and only serve 2,800 riders.

"We think our numbers are defensible and we would like to just sit down and say okay what's the real number?" said Charles Kolakowski, Bedford's town manager. Kolakowski questions what parameters the state used because he says, the enthusiasm around town comes from people who are retired and people who have funds that are interested in traveling.

One of them being wedding photographer Amy Ellis, who drives 40 minutes to Lynchburg to catch the train for work.

"It would be great to have one right in Bedford rather than having to travel out and then worrying about getting a ride there or leaving your car, stuff like that, it would be really great," Ellis said.

Or others who travel into Bedford for leisure and business.

"It would be easier than a bus or just commuting, it would be a lot easier," said Triston Akers.

"I can catch the Amtrak, go shop or whatever and come back the same day," said Hamza Iman.

It was tough to find anyone who didn't support the idea of a train stop in Bedford, one reason why Kolakowski says the town plans to challenge the state's results.

"If it makes sense we want to continue it," he said. "We think it would be a good thing for the area."

Kolakowski said the committee is going to sit down with Amtrak and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to get clarification on the criteria and numbers. He says if plans go through, we may not see any concrete evidence of a train stop now for another several years.

Kodak Brings Back a Classic with EKTACHROME Film

Thursday, January 05, 2017 --

To the delight of film enthusiasts across the globe, Eastman Kodak Company today announced plans to bring back one of its most iconic film stocks. Over the next 12 months, Kodak will be working to reformulate and manufacture KODAK EKTACHROME Film for both motion picture and still photography applications. Initial availability is expected in the fourth quarter of 2017.



KODAK EKTACHROME Film has a distinctive look that was the choice for generations of cinematographers before it was discontinued in 2012. The film is known for its extremely fine grain, clean colors, great tones and contrasts.

“It is such a privilege to reintroduce KODAK EKTRACHROME Film to the cinematography community,” said Steven Overman, Kodak’s chief marketing officer and president of the Consumer and Film Division. “We are seeing a broad resurgence of excitement about capturing images on film. Kodak is committed to continuing to manufacture film as an irreplaceable medium for image creators to capture their artistic vision. We are proud to help bring back this classic.”

Kodak will produce EKTACHROME at its film factory in Rochester, N.Y., and will market and distribute the Super 8 motion picture film version of EKTACHROME Film directly.

Kodak Alaris, an independent company since 2013, also plans to offer a still format KODAK PROFESSIONAL EKTACHROME Film for photographers in 135-36x format. KODAK PROFESSIONAL EKTACHROME Film is a color positive film, also known as “reversal,” “slide,” or “transparency” film. Unlike all of the other KODAK PROFESSIONAL Films available today, which are color negative films, EKTACHROME generates a positive image that can be viewed or projected once it is exposed and processed. This makes it ideal for high-resolution projection or presentations. It is also well suited for scanning and printing onto a range of professional-grade photographic media. Availability is expected in the fourth quarter of 2017.

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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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Lynchburg Rail Day 2017. August 12, 2017.