



BLUE RIDGE

No. 26

November 2019

No. 11



Wayland Moore presents the program this month. The "short" for the program will be a few photos and words about Wayland's and his CSX-engineer son, Dan's, fire and run ex-N&W 475 on the Strasburg RR last month. The 475 is the 11th steam engine Wayland has fired. You can get some feel of what he experienced when with Southern Steam Program via YouTube he and Dan both appear in ["And Then There Was One" - Full Documentary \[OFFICIAL\]](#). The "main" feature will depend upon the vote of those in attendance. The assembled gathering will choose between "western" or "Winchester & Western" as Wayland will be bringing both those programs of which only one will be shown this time.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019. 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 - October 9, 2019

President Rick Johnson called the meeting to order early at 7:16 pm at Charley's Restaurant and welcomed everyone, including guests Gary Friedhaber and Michael Patrick from Williamsburg, Bob Graham, Donna Duval and Mary Guthrow. There were 22 members attending. Minutes for the September meeting were approved as distributed and treasurer John Tanner. In answer to Earl Guthrow's question John reported that Rail Day cleared about \$3,000 this year.

The annual election of officers took place: Rick Johnson re-elected as President; Gail McKinley is Vice-President; Skip Hansberry is Treasurer; Secretary position is vacant; National Representative is Bob Leslie. Rick thanked Fred Mayer and Skip Hansberry for serving on the nominating committee. Those serving as Webmaster, Newsletter Editor and Chapter Historian will remain as previously appointed. Special thanks were offered to out-going long-time Treasurer John Tanner for a job exceptionally well done!

New Business included an announcement for the Annual Christmas Banquet to be held on December 14 at the SRR Station in Altavista; gathering at 6pm, dinner begins at 7pm. The fee is \$20.00 per person, all money due by December 7 for a reservation. Rick also announced that the Chapter fun meetings, normally scheduled every other month are suspended until further notice due to poor attendance. Also due to poor attendance, Rick announced that the BRC Kemper Street Christmas Party would not be scheduled this year. Rick stated that there would be a Lynchburg Railroad Day Committee meeting at 6:00 pm Wednesday, January 15th in Charley's Restaurant banquet room, and asked that anyone interested in seeing the 2020 event take place, attend.

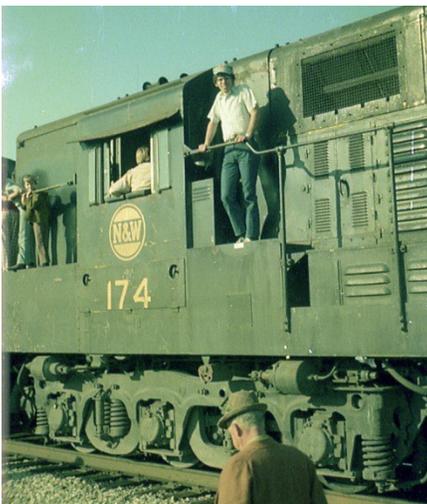
There was no Vice-President's report as Gale was absent, National Representative Bob Leslie reported on the regional meeting in Dallas and said that there was an effort to reduce the Board of Directors membership from 25 to just 7 members but there was considerable opposition to that move. The next general meeting will be held at Fullerton, CA, next summer. Rick thanked Newsletter Editor Garland Harper for another excellent edition. Webmaster Tim Witt reported that lack of updates to our website was due to an ongoing problem with the software that he has been unable to fix. Rick asked if he would prefer the BRC attempt to find a new webmaster, however, Tim stated he would first speak to John Siegle for advice before relinquishing the position. Rick announced that Wayland Moore would be providing the November 13th program. The 50/50 was won by Felix Freeman and the business meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Member Kurt Reisweber presented a program "Across Virginia The Hard Way" melding his own photography with images he has purchased over the last decade.

- Thomas G. Ledford, Secretary

Member notes

- The BRC would like to extend its condolences to member Ruth Coan upon the death of her mother.
- The BRC would like to welcome Jack Whisler to its membership!



Amusing memory moment. Way back when... November 4, 1973. Your Editor, age 20, standing on N&W Fairbanks-Morse trainmaster locomotive during its stop in Appomattox. Another Appomattox way back item (presentation, actually) can be found later in this issue of the BRD.

Union Pacific Officially Announces It Will Donate Its 4141 Locomotive

**for Permanent Display at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Center
November 11, 2019**



***First Unveiled in 2005, the Locomotive That Led Iconic Funeral Train
Coming to Bush Library and Museum in 2020 Following Year-Long Preparation Process***

College Station, Texas — On Friday, November 8th, Union Pacific officially announced it is donating the UP No. 4141 George Bush Locomotive for permanent display at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Scott Moore, UP's senior vice president for corporate relations and chief administrative officer, made the announcement at an invitation-only, trackside media event in front of 40 Bush Foundation guests and the 4141 Locomotive itself.

"With today being its final day of service to Union Pacific, it's appropriate now that this locomotive will find its final home here in College Station," Mr. Moore said. "For today, I am announcing that UP is working with the George and Barbara Bush Foundation to donate UP 4141 for permanent display on the grounds of the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum."

The 4141 engine was pulled into College Station for the announcement by another iconic locomotive — the Big Boy No. 4014 steam engine, which is on a tour across the Southwest to mark the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion. The 4141 will be taken to a locomotive shop in Little Rock, where it will undergo a year-long process preparing it for permanent display.

Sometime later in 2020, it will be brought back, taken off the tracks, and moved to the Bush Library and Museum. The exact location of the exhibit has not been determined yet, but it likely will be placed somewhere around the front of the presidential library near the Annenberg Conference Center.

The design of the exhibit is also still being determined in coordination with Texas A&M, but early designs depict the 4141 on display in a partially enclosed, outdoor exhibit with one side open.

"For this train that has this iconic moment in dad's life to be resident on the museum property is just an amazing tribute to a great man and a great life well lived," Neil Bush said. "We are so grateful to Union Pacific for this generous gift."

"It is safe to say that our relationship with Union Pacific is woven into the DNA of the Bush Library, Texas A&M and the George & Barbara Bush Foundation," added David Jones, president and CEO of the Bush Foundation.

Other speakers at the announcement included Dick Davidson, former CEO of Union Pacific; Bush Foundation board member and former Transportation Secretary Andy Card; Warren Finch, director of the Bush Library and Museum; and Elaine Mendoza, chairman of the Texas A&M University Board of Regents.

With its paint job matching the color scheme of Air Force One, the George Bush Locomotive was first unveiled at an event in College Station in October 2005. Dick Davidson was heavily involved in the creation of No. 4141, and he recalled how, after he retired from UP, President Bush asked him if the 4141 Locomotive could carry his casket to the Bush Library — which it did on December 6, 2018.

"What drew dad to Texas A&M and to trains is the common thread of something nostalgic," Neil Bush summarized. "Something patriotic. Something that lifts us up and reminds us of goodness and kindness and gentleness. This is the perfect marriage of a wonderful blending of the things dad loved the most."



Another locomotive 4141...
not nearly as famous, however.
Williamson WV. March 1977.

South Side Railroad program

The Appomattox County Historical Society will be hosting a presentation by Mr. Jeff Smith on the history of the South Side Railroad.

Jeff, a long-time member of the Historical Society, has conducted extensive research on many aspects of Appomattox County history. In this power point presentation, he will discuss the history of the South Side Railroad and its great importance to the initial establishment and development of the present town of Appomattox. If you are a railroad fan, or if you are interested in learning about the history of the town of Appomattox, and Appomattox County in general, you are certain to enjoy Jeff's presentation.

The talk is free and open to the public, and we invite everyone with an interest in our county's history to attend.

The meeting is Thursday, November 21, at 6 pm in Room 108 of the CVCC Center on Confederate Blvd in Appomattox.

Refreshments will be available.

For information on becoming a member, volunteer, or to suggest a topic for future programs, please contact the Appomattox County Historical Society on Facebook, (search @APX1845); email APX.Historical@gmail.com; or attend one of our meetings scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Check our Facebook page for meeting details and location.

SIGHTINGS



Still image from a phone video your Editor took at 2:45 a.m.(!) October 30 at Kemper St. Station of the 611 on its journey from the Strasburg RR in Pennsylvania to the NC Transportation Museum. 611 spent the night at Lynchburg departing later in the day, about 1:00 p.m., to complete its trip to NC.

U.S. freight volumes suffering

WASHINGTON, D.C. – November 6, 2019 – The Association of American Railroads (AAR) today reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending November 2, 2019, as well as volumes for October 2019.

U.S. railroads originated 1,224,477 carloads in October 2019, down 8.4 percent, or 112,703 carloads, from October 2018. U.S. railroads also originated 1,331,944 containers and trailers in October 2019, down 7.8 percent, or 111,910 units, from the same month last year. Combined U.S. carload and intermodal originations in October 2019 were 2,556,421, down 8.1 percent, or 224,613 carloads and intermodal units from October 2018.

In October 2019, four of the 20 carload commodity categories tracked by the AAR each month saw carload gains compared with October 2018. These included: stone, clay & glass products, up 2,028 carloads or 5.2 percent; petroleum & petroleum products, up 1,543 carloads or 2.5 percent; and chemicals, up 603 carloads or 0.4 percent. Commodities that saw declines in October 2019 from October 2018 included: coal, down 65,554 carloads or 15 percent; motor vehicles & parts, down 8,833 carloads or 10.3 percent; and crushed stone, sand & gravel, down 8,121 carloads or 6.8 percent.

“Sluggish growth abroad and trade developments are weighing on business investment, exports, and manufacturing. Unfortunately, those are precisely what drive much of the freight carried by U.S. railroads, and their weakness goes a long way in explaining why rail traffic is down right now,” said AAR Senior Vice President John T. Gray. “Railroads are hopeful that policymakers here and abroad will take sensible actions aimed at accelerating growth and removing the uncertainty that’s constraining many economic sectors.”

Excluding coal, carloads were down 47,149 carloads, or 5.2 percent, in October 2019 from October 2018. Excluding coal and grain, carloads were down 40,496 carloads, or 5.1 percent.

Total U.S. carload traffic for the first 10 months of 2019 was 11,088,723 carloads, down 4.3 percent, or 497,121 carloads, from the same period last year; and 11,721,870 intermodal units, down 4.5 percent, or 553,863 containers and trailers, from last year.

Total combined U.S. traffic for the first 44 weeks of 2019 was 22,810,593 carloads and intermodal units, a decrease of 4.4 percent compared to last year.

Car loading details can be found at <https://www.aar.org/data-center/rail-traffic-data/>

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BRC Christmas Banquet. Altavista Community Center. Saturday, December 14. Details Page 2.