

# Whistle Stop



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432  
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[www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org](http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org)



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

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Mike Tilley accepting the keys from the Alley Family for the Watauga Valley's whistle machine and truck. See page 2 for full story.

## *June 25<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting*

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will have our regular meeting on Monday, June 25, 2012 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Our program this month will be on the NORFOLK SOUTHERN's *21 Century Steam* program. This will be a program you do not want to miss as you'll learn all about steam power returning to the region's rails. Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing evening with your fellow members.

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## *Member Notes*

By Nancy Jewell

Please keep David Denny in your thoughts as he deals with health concerns. As always, please let us know of any members, families or friends to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office phone number is 423-753-5797 or call Nancy Jewell at 423-282-0918.

With summer just around the corner, remember to protect your skin when you are out in the hot sun - at the beach, mowing the lawn, or working in the garden. Just a reminder to take care.

## *WVRHS&M RECEIVES REMARKABLE DONATION*

On March 28, 2012, WATV member Lee Alley passed away. As many of you know, Lee represented WVRHS&M many times in parades throughout the area with his 16-foot "Ghost Train". The machine is a self-contained trailer featuring a collection of unique, historically-significant whistles from steam locomotives and the means to blow them: a 185CFM Sullair compressor and a 125 gallon surge tank. The rig is towed by a custom built Ford F900 Diesel Truck. Lee's last parade was for the Kingsport Santa Train event.

Lee specified in his will that the truck and trailer be donated to the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, which has now taken possession of the equipment. Our first showing will be in the Jonesborough Fourth of July Parade. In addition, the public will have an opportunity to blow the many whistles during the festivities. WVRHS&M publicity director Nick White will oversee the operation of this truly unique rolling piece of equipment. Anyone interested in having the whistle machine at their event, please call Nick at 423-753-5797.

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## *Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report*

By Bob Yapple

Due to an overwhelming demand on our time, the mechanical report will be very short this month. The major project we are involved in is the repair of our dining car Moultrie's flooring. New carpet will be going down soon in the Moultrie.



Don Finley took these two nice shots of the "Crescent Harbor" during its April trip to Washington, DC. At left is the car in NS Charlotte Yard as it is prepared to leave. At right is its overnight spot on Washington Union Station's Track 15.

## ***ANNUAL FALL EXCURSIONS ANNOUNCED***

Has the heat got you down? Put yourself in a cooler frame of mind by planning your fall travel now. Two autumn foliage train trips, departing from the N.C. Transportation Museum this November, will offer ideal daytrip getaways this fall through the beautiful mountains and valleys of North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter NRHS will host two day trip excursions, offering the romance of riding the rails, to a great destination of Appomattox, VA and Toccoa, GA. These trips will allow passengers wonderful views of the fall colors. The vintage train will ride the rails through these states on November 3 & 4, 2012 on its Appalachian Region tour. People from all over will have a chance to see and ride this historic train. Our grandparents have ridden many of these restored passenger cars during the 1950's and 60's. This will be a train that the whole family will want to come out to ride and see.

Now in its sixth year, the "*Virginia Autumn Special*" will travel to Appomattox, VA on Saturday, Nov. 3. Departure is scheduled from Spencer, NC at 7 a.m. with additional passenger pick-up at the Greensboro Amtrak Station at 8 a.m. The train will travel through the northern portion of the North Carolina Piedmont, including the cities of High Point and Reidsville, before crossing into Virginia. Passengers will enjoy traveling over trestles that provide views of the tributaries into Virginia major rivers.

Arriving in Appomattox, passengers will disembark at the restored Appomattox Station, once a stop for the South Side Railroad in the late 1800s and now home to the Appomattox Visitor Information Center. This charming small town holds claim to one of the most significant moments in U.S. history - the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to end the Civil War and the reuniting of a divided nation. Virginia Autumn Special passengers can enjoy the historic shops and restaurants of Appomattox's quaint downtown, or, for a nominal additional fee, explore either the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, or the Museum of the Confederacy's newly-opened Appomattox site.

On Sunday, Nov. 4, the "*Georgia Autumn Special*", will depart from the N.C. Transportation Museum at 7:00 am with additional stop / pickup at the Spartanburg, SC Amtrak station at 9:30 a.m. This train will traverse what was once Southern Railway's main line running from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta, GA. Passengers will enjoy the gala fall colors of South Carolinas' rolling foothills, before crossing the 100-foot Seneca River trestle spanning Lake Hartwell to arrive at Toccoa.

Nestled in the foothills of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the historic town will be bustling with activity during the 29th annual Harvest Festival. Passengers will have approximately three hours to enjoy the festival, which features handmade, handcrafted and home-grown items from more than 200 vendors, as well as delicious regional foods, great entertainment on two stages, children and youth activities, buggy rides and much more.

Toccoa Falls, named for the Cherokee word "Toccoah" meaning beautiful, is a must see. Located on the campus of Toccoa College, the 186-foot falls are 26 feet taller than Niagara Falls. Shuttle buses will be making a continuous loop between downtown Toccoa and Toccoa Falls.

With a scheduled Toccoa departure at 3 p.m., the train will return to Spartanburg, SC at 6:00 p.m. and back to Spencer, NC at 8 p.m.

Several seating options are offered. Tourist Class seating features the convenience and comforts of modern rail travel. Each car has a center aisle with two adjustable seats and a wide window on each side. The seating area provides convenient access to the souvenir and café cars. Deluxe and First Class coaches and dome cars will also be offered. All rail cars feature air conditioning, heat and rest rooms.

Tickets go on sale June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The price for Tourist Class tickets is \$150 each (lunch not included). Deluxe Coach tickets are \$185.00 each, which includes lunch in the dining car. Premium First Class tickets are \$260.00 each and Dome Cars tickets will cost \$295.00 each, both of which include breakfast and dinner.

Tickets will be available either online by simply logging on to [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org) and clicking the available links (when available) or by calling call 704-636-2889.

**NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2012, CAR HOST ASSIGNMENT REQUEST FORM**

CHAPTER MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAPTER MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR **PREMIUM FIRST CLASS** CAR HOST ON THE SPENCER, NC, TO APPROXMATOX, VA ROUND TRIP EXCURSION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2012 AND THE SPENCER, NC, TO TOCCOA, GA ROUND TRIP EXCURSION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2012.

CHAPTER WILL PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION TO SPENCER, NC, AND BACK TO JONESBOROUGH, TN. WE WILL LEAVE JONESBOROUGH AT 7:30 AM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO DRIVE DOWN TO SPENCER IN YOUR OWN CAR IF YOU WISH. THE CHAPTER WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION BACK TO JONESBOROUGH ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> AND ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>.

ALL CAR HOSTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT SALISBURY SUPER 8 AT A SPECIAL RATE OF \$54.95 PER NIGHT. YOU WILL NEED TO CALL 704-738-8888 AND ASK FOR WATAUGA VALLEY NRHS SPECIAL RATE.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY AUGUST 22, 2011. YOU WILL NEED ROOMS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> - STAYING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> IS OPTIONAL.

ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO SIGN UP FOR THIS GREAT TRIP TO SERVE AS CAR HOST. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AT THE JUNE OR JULY MEMBERSHIP MEEETING OR MAIL IT TO: EXCURSION, WVRHS&M, P.O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN, 37605-0432, BY JULY 30<sup>th</sup>. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE 423-753-5797.

**GET YOUR REQUEST IN ASAP SO YOU WILL NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER ON THESE EXCITING TRIPS!**

## ***SOUTHERN LOCOMOTIVE #630 RAIL TRIP***



Norfolk Southern's 21st Century Steam program is bringing historic steam locomotives from TVRM in Chattanooga to communities along Norfolk Southern lines for display and periodic excursions. In conjunction with this program, WVRHS&M is hosting two steam train excursions on July 7 and 8 through the rolling, beautiful hills of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee. For the first time since 1994, you will have the rare chance to ride behind a real coal-fired steam locomotive on mainline tracks. Motive power will be ex-Southern Railway steam locomotive, No. 630 (ex-ET&WNC #207).

Trip 1 - Saturday, July 7, 2012: Pulaski, VA to Bristol, TN. One way train trip from Pulaski, VA to Bristol, TN and return to Pulaski via motor coach. Passengers will board the train at the former Norfolk & Western Depot in Pulaski. The train will depart Pulaski at 1:45 pm. The train will arrive at the Bristol VA train station at 4:45 pm where passengers will unload and board motor coaches for the return trip back to Pulaski.

Trip 2 - Sunday, July 8, 2012: Bristol, VA to Knoxville, TN. One way train trip from Bristol, VA or Johnson City, TN to Knoxville and return to starting location. Passengers will board the train at the beautiful Bristol Union Station. Train will also take on passengers at Johnson City's Southern Railway station on Elm St. at 10:50 am. The train will depart Johnson City at 11:00 am. Upon arriving in Knoxville, passengers will then board the motor coaches for a return trip back to Johnson City, arriving at 5:15 pm and Bristol at 6:00 pm.

Tickets prices for each trip is \$80.00, which includes coach seat, box lunch and seat on returning bus. Children ages 2 and under who will ride on the lap of a parent or guardian do not need a ticket. Tickets are available on TVRM's [21st Century Steam!](#) web page or by calling (423) 894-8028.

Do not miss this rare opportunity to ride behind a steam locomotive. Order your tickets today.! For more information, go to our web site at <http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org/excursions.php>.

## ***RAILS n' SAILS 2012***

Back by popular demand: the WVRHS&M's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **\*\*Members Only\*\*** riverboat / rail adventure is planned for July 21<sup>st</sup>. Leave the driving to us as we board vans for an exciting two part adventure in Knoxville, Tennessee. Scheduled first is a leisurely riverboat ride on the Tennessee River through the heart of Knoxville. While aboard the riverboat, we will be treated to a wonderful buffet lunch. Then we will travel just south of Knoxville to Oak Ridge for a visit to the Southern Appalachia Railroad Museum, where we will ride behind their Secret City Train. The total cost for the entire trip will be only \$70.00. Tickets must be purchased no later than the June 25<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. For more information, go to the "Special Events" page on our web site, found at <http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org/specialevents.php>

**“The Switchback Scenic Route ~ A History of The Marion and Rye Valley Railway”  
By: Gary P. Price**

[This is the third installment of the serialization of Gary’s Book on the M&RV. ©Gary. P. Price, 1998. All Rights Reserved.]

Author’s note: When I originally put this book together, I had only figured that it would be popular on a local level, so in the Third Chapter entitled "Whistlestops" I intended for the photos to tell the stories of how life revolved around the railroad. I did not think to add histories of the community; therefore, Chapter three is only a pictorial. I have selected a few photos from my book that I feel best represent each community.

**Chapter III - WHISTLESTOPS**

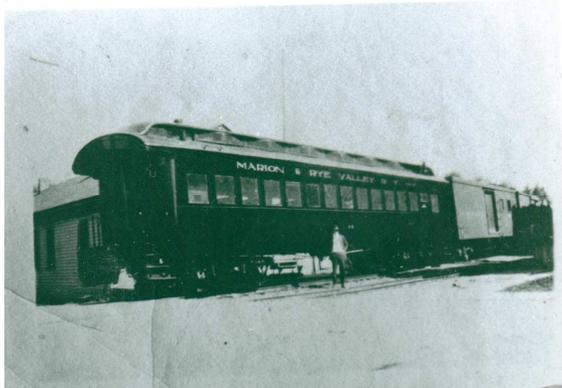
Although there were six major depots along the line, the train was known to stop anywhere a passenger, as long as you had the fare.



depots along the line, the train along the line to pick up a the fare.

The Marion and Rye Valley provided daily from town to cases, it was the only for the small mountain hauled mail through an extensive United States Postal contract which lasted through 1932.

passenger service was town along the system. In most connection to the outside world communities. The railroad



**Milepost 1: Marion, Virginia.** (left) Here we see coach #29 sitting at the Marion Depot, ready to bring up the rear markers of what appears to be a work train preparing to leave southbound for the mountains.

(right) Edwards demonstrator motorcar #11 begins a trial run through



the small yard located at the Look and Lincoln Furniture Factory. The Railroad would purchase this unit and renumber it as Marion and Rye Valley #202.



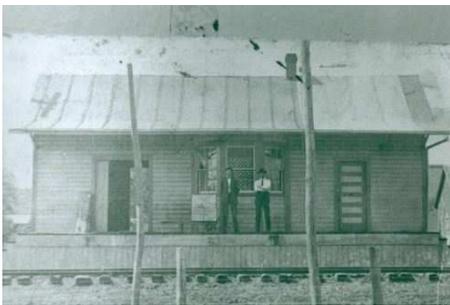
U.S. Spruce Lumber Company Plant 2 was a major sawmill and big business for the north side of the railroad. This site today is occupied by Exit 45 of Interstate 81.



**Milepost 5: Attoway, Virginia.** This photo depicts a Fourth of July special leaving Currin Valley for a Marion celebration around 1925. A lot of white dresses to be riding behind a steam locomotive.

**Milepost 14: Pugh, Virginia.**

(known locally as Teas.)



(left) The station agents pose for the camera in front of the Teas Station.



(right) ) No. 101 leaves Teas headed northbound to Marion. To the left of the locomotive is a Norfolk and Western ventilated box car.

**Milepost 24: Troutdale, Virginia.** (right) No.202 takes on mail and passengers at Troutdale, Virginia on the way back to Marion.



**Milepost 27: Fairwood, Virginia.**

(left) The station at the terminus of the railroad



was located at the lumber mill in Fairwood. This was as far as passengers could ride. From here, the line split off and criss-crossed Pine Mountain, Mount Rogers, and other timber reserves of the area. There is a new siding to the loading dock being built and new band

saw blades are awaiting transportation over to the sawmill.



# Photo Section



The NORFOLK SOUTHERN SD70ACe Heritage Diesels are beginning to roll out of EMD's Muncie, IN shops. Pictured below are the latest additions to this magnificent fleet.



A gala event featuring a family portrait of the Heritage diesels is planned for the Fourth of July weekend at NCTM in Spencer, NC. A schedule of events can be found on the next page.

## *In the News*

### **To all our friends, fellow railroaders, and loyal patrons:**

It is with great remorse that the East Broad Top Railroad officially announces that we will not be operating steam powered excursions for the 2012 season. On April 1st, 2012, the East Broad Top Preservation Association's 3-year lease to operate the East Broad Top Railroad with an option to buy has ended. After painstaking talks and options were evaluated and discussed, no arrangement could be made between the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company and the East Broad Top Preservation Association.

At this time there are no certainties beyond 2012. We can't say this is the end of the line, nor can we say this is just temporary. Should any type of operations or events be planned in the future, we will announce them here. Until then there are no further details.

The decision to close this season was a difficult one. The employees of the East Broad Top Railroad would like to say "Thank You" to all of our patrons, fans, and supporters for allowing us to serve you with the enchanting and historical experience on America's oldest operating narrow gauge steam railroad. Rest assured it is difficult for us to accept that we are unable to provide a memorable visit on our railroad, much the same as it is for you to read this announcement. If it were not for the kind support of our visitors over the past 51 years we would have never made it this far. Again, we thank you for the greatest experience we could ever imagine.

The East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company

### **Schedule for Norfolk Southern Heritage Locomotive family portrait at NCTM:**

- **8 a.m.** - Gates open
- **8:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.** - Heritage Power Parade in the area south of the roundhouse. This is a photo event featuring each heritage unit separately and side-by-side with historic locomotives from predecessor railroads.
- **11 a.m.** - Welcome, announcements, and safety briefing in the turntable area. Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman will speak on July 3 only.
- **1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** - Conrail locomotive family around the turntable. Up-close visiting time for Southern and Norfolk & Western family units.
- **2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.** - Norfolk & Western family around the turntable. Up-close visiting time for Conrail and Southern family units.
- **4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** - Southern family around the turntable. Up-close visiting time for Norfolk & Western and Conrail family units.
- **5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.** - All 20 units around the turntable with NS locomotive 1030 (signifying NS' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary) on display.
- **9 p.m. - 11 p.m.** - Night photo session. Schedule to be determined.

Schedule above applies to both days. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children in advance and \$30 for adults and \$20 for children the day of the event. Children 2 and under are free. NS employees and retirees will be eligible for a \$5 discount. Tickets can be purchased at the [NCTM's website](#) or by calling 704-636-2889, ext. 237.

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



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**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**