

WHISTLE STOP

Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

P. O. Box 432, Jonesborough, TN. 37659

(423) 753-5797

www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 46 No. 6

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This interesting scene was taken by Dr. S.D. Marty between the concrete railing of the Mary Street Bridge in Bristol, Virginia, featuring Norfolk & Western 4-8-4 #613 (Class J) and Southern Railway F3A #6702 awaiting the "Tennessean" during the 1950's. (American-Rails.com)

MEETING DATE CHANGE: Please note that the May meeting will be moved up one week to May 18th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

May 18th General Membership Meeting

The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will have our next General Membership Meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 18th, 2026 at the Chuckey Depot, 110 South Second Ave., Jonesborough, TN. The program will be on the 1st Revenue Train in The Old Fort Loops since Hurricane Helen. Join us for an exciting evening of railfanning with your friends.

MEMBER NOTES

Concerns: Please keep the following folk in your thoughts and prayers: Fred Pfohl, Lois Tilley, Gary Price, and Jack Maloney. If you wish for one of our members or family member to be reported for various concerns in the *Whistle Stop*, email a request to wataugavalley.membership@gmail.com.

WVRHS&M Uniforms. If you would like to order a Watauga Valley uniform, email wataugavalley@gmail.com; an order form will be sent to you.

PROGRAMS STILL NEEDED FOR 2026. Howard Orfield & Brad McCroskey, WVRHS&M program directors, continue to ask for Membership Meeting programs for 2026. We are looking for speakers on a railroad-related subject. And as always, we're looking for DVD and slide shows. Please email wataugavalley@gmail.com if you have an interest in offering a program this year.



FALL FOLIAGE SPECIAL

The Fall Foliage Special will be operated to Summerville Ga out of Chattanooga, TN. Excursion date is October 24th. WVRHS&M has the right to sub motive power if needed. Tickets will be going on sale soon.



HISTORIC JONESBOROUGH TRAIN SHOW

Friday and Saturday

July 24 and 25 2026

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Held in Jonesborough, Tennessee's oldest town!
At Jonesborough Elementary School Sponsored by Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum/Chuckey Railroad Depot/Museum
Tables are available to purchase go to www.wataugavalleynrhs.org



Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum Received \$15,500 Heritage Grant

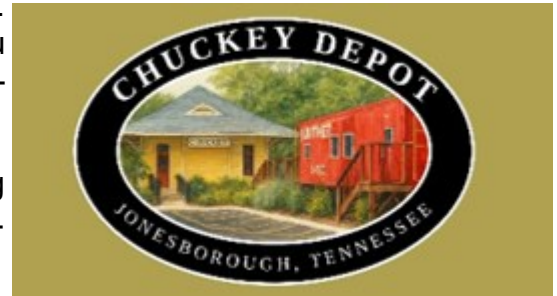
JONESBOROUGH, TN - The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum (WVRHS&M) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$15,500 grant from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust in support of the preservation of CRR #100.

Please See press release letter on page 9 on of the Newsletter.

CHUCKEY DEPOT

Attendance at the Chuckey Depot continues to improve each week as the weather is getting better. We still are in need of volunteers to host at the Chuckey Depot. If you would like to get trained as a host, please email wataugavalley@gmail.com. Rick Chinouth will hold a 45-minute training class and you will be ready to start hosting. All our hosts enjoy volunteering at the depot.

Visit the virtual rail fan camera at the Depot by visiting [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and entering Jonesborough Rail Cam or entering www.wataugavalley.org in your browser.



Chuckey Depot Hats and Mugs

Hats - \$20.00

Coffee Mugs - \$ 20.00

These items can **only** be purchased at the
Jonesborough Visitors Center.

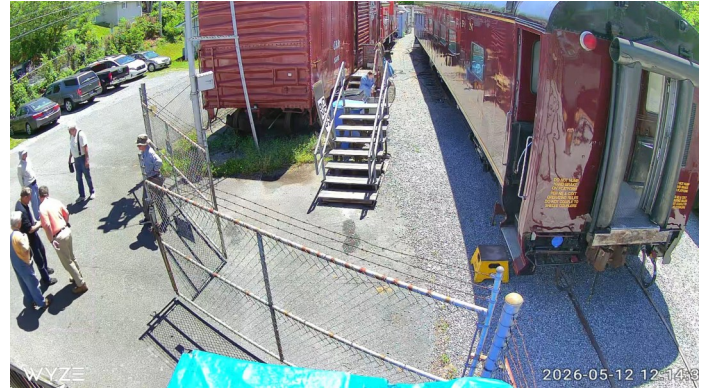
No Sales at the Chuckey Depot Museum

Don't forget about the Chuckey Depot Hats and Mugs. Tell all of your railroad friends about these souvenirs. As stated above, these can only be purchased at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center. However members can get these at the monthly meetings only so you can get your discount. \$15.00 for the Hats and mugs. **Get yours today!**

MECHANICAL REPORT

BY ART DEVOE

The weather has been good to the Watauga Valley Mechanical Team and there have been a lot of good working days at the yard the last several weeks. Looks like summer is knocking on our door and we can finally get some work done. If you would like to help out at the Jonesborough Coach yard on Tuesday's between 9am to 5pm or Saturdays 9am to 12noon., please call the WATV Office at 423-753-5797 or e mail Wataugavalley@gmail.com



Crew talks over plans for the day.

ROLLING STOCK:

539 Powhatan Arrow Coach – Located in the Jonesborough Coach Yard for engine generator up grade.

500 St Augustine Coach—In service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.



400 Moultrie Diner— Located in In the Jonesborough Coach Yard for Upgrades.

2351 Crescent Harbor Sleeper/Lounge - Prepared for its next assignment.

100 Clinchfield - In service at the North Carolina Transportation Museum

6219 Seaboard Coach—Located in the Jonesborough Coach Yard, is moving right along with the major restoration project. Work sessions on Tuesday and Saturday, please sign up for the mechanical team. **We need more help.**



Hard Work on Tuesdays and Saturdays

IN THE NEWS ...

UP Big Boy tour hits Ohio

(Facebook) The legendary Big Boy 4014 — America's most powerful steam locomotive — is coming Ohio next month. This may be our best and closest opportunity see this historical locomotive. That massive, thundering 1.2 million pound beast with her headlight blazing is about to shake the rails all across our state.

Here's the schedule:

June 6: Fort Wayne → Continental → Fostoria

June 7-8: Bellevue, Lorain, Euclid

June 9: Conneaut

Then she returns for the big public display (9am–3pm).

This isn't just a train rolling by. This is living history you can feel in your chest — the deep whistle, the ground shaking, sparks flying, steam exploding into the sky. The kind of moment that fills you with pride and creates memories your family will talk about for years.

Tag your family, your friends, every railfan you know — we're showing up big for this one!

UNION PACIFIC BIG BOY TOUR
AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE IS ROLLING THROUGH OHIO!

SATURDAY, JUNE 6	
★ FORT WAYNE, IN NO PUBLIC ACCESS	DEPART: 9:00 a.m. EDT
● CONTINENTAL, OH Near Oak St. and Main St.	ARRIVE: 11:45 a.m. EDT DEPART: 12:15 p.m. EDT
● FOSTORIA, OH Fostoria Iron Triangle Railroad 469 S. Poplar St.	ARRIVE: 2:00 p.m. EDT DEPART: 2:15 p.m. EDT
SUNDAY, JUNE 7	
★ BELLEVUE, OH NO PUBLIC ACCESS	NO PUBLIC EVENTS
MONDAY, JUNE 8	
★ BELLEVUE, OH NO PUBLIC ACCESS	DEPART: 9:00 a.m. EDT
● LORAIN, OH Near W. Tenth St. and Reid Ave.	ARRIVE: 1:15 p.m. EDT DEPART: 1:30 p.m. EDT
● EUCLID, OH Chardon Road Crossing, north of Euclid Ave.	ARRIVE: 2:30 p.m. EDT DEPART: 3:00 p.m. EDT
TUESDAY, JUNE 9	
★ CONNEAUT, OH NO PUBLIC ACCESS	DEPART: 9:00 a.m. EDT
THE BIG BOY RETURNS!	
TUESDAY, JULY 14	
★ FOSTORIA, OH Fostoria Automotive Distribution Center 3901 North Township Road 47	ON DISPLAY: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT ONLY
NO PUBLIC ACCESS outside of these hours	

★ THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING RAILROAD HISTORY WITH US! ★

UP/NS Merger News

(Trains.com) WASHINGTON — Union Pacific will walk away from its proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern if federal regulators order widespread trackage rights or line sales as part of their approval of the \$85 billion deal.

The only exception: If the combined railroad is required to spin off one of its duplicative main lines between Kansas City and St. Louis. If the merger is approved, UP would have a pair of K.C.-St. Louis routes, including its former Missouri Pacific via Jefferson City, Mo., and NS' former Wabash via Moberly, Mo.

The information from the railroads' merger agreement was disclosed on Thursday in the revised merger application they filed with the Surface Transportation Board.



UP would be willing to accept overhead trackage rights that would allow a Class I railroad to serve shippers and short lines that would see their post-merger rail options drop from two carriers to one or three carriers to two. [Full article on trains.com]

SCENES FROM THE PAST ...



Posted on Ted's Johnson City Time Warp on 9-3-24 by Ted Bowers, The Southern Railroad Station in downtown Johnson City, Tn. The walkway ran from North Roan to West Market, razed during the early 70's.

(Ted's Johnson City Time Warp) The Johnson City Southern railway Depot I would say sometime in the 60's. It was demolished in the early 70's for what was termed as progress.

(Ted's Johnson City Time Warp) This Mason-Dixon truck found it tough going as it passed under the Clinchfield Railroad bridge traveling out West Walnut Street as the caption says below on its way to Klopman Mills. This photo appeared in the Johnson City Press around June of 1969.



(Staff Photo)

TIGHT SQUEEZE - In fact, it was so tight this Mason & Dixon truck simply was stuck. Driver Gary Miller was delivering yarn to the Klopman

plant on West Walnut Street at noon when the vehicle became stuck in the underpass near the university.

DISPLAY IN THE BLOCK

BY LES BILLINGS

Well, it's almost Summer and time for the best Railfanning of the year. Warm and long days and lots of sunshine. Although sometimes, I would rather photograph on a cloudy day. I have gone back in my archives about three years ago and dug out some shots that I took in June of that year. I am afraid that these photos are looking too much cookie-cutter. With the railroads cutting back on traffic, it is getting harder to achieve the variety and photos that make interesting presentations. Hope you enjoy.



WHISTLE STOP

Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum

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Opinions or viewpoints are those of the writer and may not necessarily reflect those of the organization members, officers or directors. Items of interest are welcome and will be credited to the author; however, because of space constraints, all submissions are subject to editing. Permission to reprint *Whistle Stop* articles with the exception of photographs is granted if proper credit is given. Reuse of photographs must receive permission by the editor and the photographer.



Watauga Valley RHS & Museum

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2026

Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum Receives \$15,500 Heritage Grant

Award from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust to fund preservation of historic CRR #100

JONESBOROUGH, TN — The Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum (WVRHS&M) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$15,500 grant from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust in support of the preservation of CRR #100.

The grant will fund painting and patching of CRR #100, a project designed to remediate weathering and corrosion and ensure the long-term integrity of this historic piece of railroad equipment. The work will be carried out at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, North Carolina.

"We are grateful to the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust for this recognition and support," said Mike Tilley, President of the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum. "This funding allows us to protect and preserve an important piece of our region's railroad heritage for future generations to enjoy."

Founded in 1980, the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating railroad history in the region. The organization operates excursion programs and maintains a collection of historic rolling stock, welcoming thousands of visitors each year.

The John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust provides grants to organizations working to preserve North American railroad heritage. More information about the Trust can be found at emeryrailheritagetrust.org.

MEDIA CONTACT

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www.wataugavalleynrhs.org

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WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HS&M

— TRAIN SHOW —

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 24TH & 25TH, 2026

8:00AM—5:00PM

- New 2 Day Show & Larger Venue

- 90 Tables Available

- To be held at the Jonesborough Elementary School - 720 N. Cherokee St, Jonesborough, TN 37659

- Visit beautiful Jonesborough, (Tennessee oldest town)

- Show set-up 10am to 6pm Thursday, July 23rd, 2026

- Free parking

- Reserve your tables early, the vendors tables will fill up fast.

- Hotel information please call the Visitors Center [423] 753-1010

- Additional information concerning set-up will be emailed to you.

- Sorry no refunds on vendor tables.



TRAIN SHOW VENDORS

Please complete this form to register as a vendor for Train Show, July 24 & 25, 2026

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

_____ Number of Tables Requested @ \$30 each [8ft] tables Total enclosed \$ _____

Completed applications and payments by checks should be mailed to Watauga Valley Railroad Museum, PO Box 432 Jonesborough, TN 37659

You also may reserve a table on our Website: www.wataugavalleynrhs.org

For information call [423] 753-5797 or email wataugavalley@gmail.com