



The Highball

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
of the
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OLD DOMINION CHAPTER



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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual whose byline appears on the article and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Old Dominion Chapter – NRHS.

Chapter Meeting

Bill Todd

On October 15 at 7 pm at the museum, Kim Young will present a Power Point entitled “2018 – Summer Steam” which will include photos from Cass, the Durbin Rocket, and Strasburg. Refreshments will be served, so come and bring a friend.

Reprint: Volunteers Urgently Needed

Calvin Boles

We all joined the Old Dominion Chapter because of an interest in railroading and the desire to preserve railroad history and artifacts. The ODC has a number of outlets for accomplishing these goals - Hallsboro, the Museum, the Archives, and the excursion train - but it takes members volunteering to serve in any or all of these areas to keep our organization viable.

It requires 24 volunteers per month to staff the Museum if each person only works one shift per month. We currently have 16 volunteers available.

It requires 20 volunteers per month just to maintain Hallsboro, much less do meaningful restoration work on the equipment. There are less than a dozen who routinely volunteer.

It takes at least 12 volunteers to staff an excursion train run and it is sometimes a struggle to make that minimum number. Most times, the volunteers working the train are the same ones who normally work the Museum or Hallsboro.

The above doesn't address manpower needed to handle special assignments such as serving on the Board and committees, performing maintenance on the properties, or working in the Archives.

We need approximately 60 volunteers devoting one or two days a month to chapter activities. We currently have approximately 40 members or less who are trying to cover all of the bases. We have approximately 100 members in the chapter. Not all of them are physically, or for other reasons, able to volunteer for assignments, but surely there are 20 members not currently involved who could help us out.

IT'S YOUR ORGANIZATION – PLEASE HELP!!

Editor's note: I am rerunning this because the situation has become critical. As you can see from the schedule below, we are nearing the point of having to close some days because of lack of volunteers. With 3 weeks of fall trips in Oct. and 3 of Santa in Dec. we are going to be stretched to near if not beyond the breaking point. **We have to have some help!** To volunteer at the museum contact Ned Krack at 804-239-4067 or nedrdgfan@msn.com. To help on the trips, contact Dave Coldren at david.coldren@cbre.com. To help at Hallsboro, contact Kevin Frick at ckfrick@hotmail.com.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Ned Krack

Official Notice: The Annual Meeting of the ODC will be held on 11/19 at 7 pm at Hull St. Station. We will be electing members to the Board as well as taking care of any other business that needs to come before the membership. At stake are three seats for a one-year term and two seats for a three-year term ending in 2021. Interested in helping to shape the future of the Old Dominion Chapter? We have a need for candidates and for those who wish to serve on the nominating. To serve on the board, one must be a member in good standing for at least one year and be at least 18 years old.

If you are interested in running for the Board or serving on the nominating committee please contact Ned Krack at 804-239-4067 or nedrdgfan@msn.com.

October Archives Photo

Charles Curley

The William Stratton collection is again featured this month. Here we see Southern 0-6-0 #1601 switching the Lucky Strike cigarette plant's power house in Tobacco Row in Richmond. The buildings still exist and are being used as apartments, but they are no longer served by rail. The photographer is unknown.



Museum Host Schedule

Ned Krack

| | | |
|----|---------------|-----------|
| 6 | Greg Hodges | Gift Shop |
| | Bob Stevens | Host |
| | Calvin Boles | Host |
| 7 | Ned Krack | Gift Shop |
| | John McKenna | Host |
| | Vacant | Host |
| 13 | Greg Hodges | Gift Shop |
| | Wayne Poates | Host |
| | Vacant | Host |
| 14 | Ned Krack | Gift Shop |
| | Chuck Taylor | Host |
| | Stanley Clark | Host |
| | Floodwall | |
| 20 | Carl Steiner | Gift Shop |
| | Calvin Boles | Host |
| | Bob Dickinson | Host |
| 21 | Greg Hodges | Gift Shop |
| | Steve Tarrant | Host |
| | Bill Todd | Host |
| 27 | Vacant | Gift Shop |
| | Vacant | Host |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Ray Potter (11:00 - 1:30) | Host |
| | Jack Newsom (1:30-4:00) | Host |
| 28 | Ned Krack | Gift Shop |
| | Bob Dickinson | Host |
| | Charles Curley | Host |

2019 Memberships

Kim Young

The 2019 membership form is included in this issue. There will be one major change to the procedures this year. A recent audit of the roster has shown that some information is outdated or just plain wrong. Therefore, ALL payments for 2019 MUST be accompanied by a renewal form. This will be made available at the museum. If you plan to pay cash at a meeting, which is fine, please bring a completed form with you or plan for time to fill one out on meeting night. Leaving same for me in the membership box will work as well. For those of you who receive **The Highball** by snail mail, this MUST be completed by 1/1/19 in order to continue that.

Gift Shop Promotion

Greg Hodges

During the months of Oct, Nov, and Dec a free TEE SHIRT promotion will be in effect for those folks who volunteer to host on a Saturday or Sunday at the Richmond Railroad Museum. A person can select a railroad tee shirt (adult or child) of their choice from the gift shop rack if they volunteer at least two (2) days during a calendar month. One can potentially garner three shirts during this three-month promotional period by volunteering at least twice during each calendar month. Whether you claim one, two, or three shirts, here's an easy way to expand your railroading wardrobe. Never hosted before? It's a snap. Just be willing to welcome our visitors with a smile and escort them about the premises to the various exhibits and displays. No extensive RR knowledge is required!

To sign up, just contact Ned Krack (NEDRDGFAN@msn.com) (804 239-4067) or Greg Hodges (junehodges@verizon.net) (804 376-7979) we'll get you on the schedule. All aboard!

Organ Concert

John DeMajo

On Sunday, November 11 at 3:15 PM, the museum, in cooperation with the American Theatre Organ Society, will present a concert featuring the Jazz and popular music stylings of organist Tedde Gibson. Tedde is a nationally recognized jazz performer, originally from Washington State, who now makes his home in Maryland. He began his studies at age four, and now performs on the national circuit as a director of the American Theatre Organ Society's national board. In this recital, he will be playing the museum's recently acquired three-manual Rodgers theatre organ. The recital will be held in the museum's Freight Room/auditorium, and will last from 3:15 until 4 PM. There is no additional charge for the concert.

Amtrak in Roanoke

Charles Curley

Almost a year ago, Amtrak extended service to Roanoke. The Amtrak Regional train lays over in this storage track which is positioned off the Winston Salem line near the crossing with the old Virginian.



Thanks to Our Field Day Car Hosts

Steve Tarrant

Many thanks are due to the 17 Chapter Members who served as Car Hosts and Supervisors aboard the 1923 Pullman heavyweight 10 Sec/Obs sleeping car "Mt. Foraker" (a sister to our own "Dinwiddie County") on permanent display at Field Day of the Past on Sept. 21, 22 & 23. These Members were Calvin Boles, John Burmeister, Nancy Carter (2 shifts), Dave Coldren, John Estes, Wayne Hays (2 shifts),

Greg Hodges (S) (2 shifts), Ned Krack, Brandy Martin, John McKenna, Robin Shavers, Bill Shield, Steve Tarrant (S) (4 shifts), Chuck Taylor (2 shifts), Tim Torrez (S), Bob Williams, and John Williams.

Weather was excellent Friday and Saturday, but the concurrent RIR Races this same weekend pulled down attendance from last year. It misted and drizzled all day Sunday, which put a severe damper on things. We still had a steady stream of visitors aboard the car all day, just not nearly as many as usual. Nevertheless, we were able to hand out a very great many promotion sheets during the weekend for both our October Dillwyn trips and our 2nd Annual Train Day event at the Museum Sept. 29.

Overall, it was a successful effort at historical presentation and promotion of our Richmond Railroad Museum activities.

Fosburg #6 in Vaughan NC

Brandy Martin

Fosburg Lumber Co 3 ft gauge # 6 near Vaughan NC circa 1902-1915. Former Norfolk U& Virginia Beach # 6. Baldwin 1883. If questions or want more details - see me.



Update on Chuck

Greg Hodges

Chuck Breeden is still recuperating from the serious stroke that he suffered several weeks ago. He is now living at Envoy on Forest Hill Ave., where he receives regular therapy for the paralysis that has affected his left extremities. Chuck is keeping a positive outlook and tries to look on the bright side

of things, though his mobility has been severely constrained.

It seems that Chuck has now become the facilities' expert on all things railroading, and he will gladly discuss trains with anyone within earshot....whether they want to hear about trains or not ! Recently, several railroad tee shirts have come Chuck's way as gifts, and he proudly wears them. He's especially proud of his N&W 611 shirt.....nice fit, Chuck ! As you might imagine, the days in a nursing home can be long and tedious. If your schedule allows, stop by to visit with Chuck...several ODC members have. He misses his old friends and relishes the visits that come his way. (Envoy, 4403 Forest Hills Ave.)



Railroading Today

Gerry Grosshans

More about some of the train-watching places I have mentioned...If you are going to Meadow (Jahnke Road) and go by way of Hightop (next street east of the tracks) you will come to a bend in the road, where Schutte runs into Hightop. The other side of Schutte is listed as a dead end/no exit. It isn't. That short portion of the street is a lead to a city alley which runs beside the tracks. There is a neighbor there who is interested in the rail operations and has been after CSX and the city to remove the old track and other remaining scrap from the edges of the right-of-way and the alley. After this is done there is to be regrading and drainage installed. All of this may change some of what I earlier stated.

The heavy work at FA (Walmsley) is apparently done, and all that remains is the electrical work and

the official relocation of the north-bound signals. With all of the work there the crossing has been improved, and one can drive an ordinary car off of the roadway immediately south of the crossing itself. Prior to the work, there a drop-off of nearly a foot existed between the pavement and the parking area.

By the way, I recently read that the tracks further south in North Carolina received these updated crossovers in 2016, at at least three locations: What with the recent flooding in North & South Carolina, there have been fewer trains, I guess AMTRAK did not run for almost a week, excepting the Norfolk service, but we are now having extra runs of gravel and ballast. I have also seen longer Tropicana trains, one of which had general freight attached to the rear, not intermodal. I have also seen grain trains both loaded and empty with one "heavy" unit for power.

I have some questions about some things I have recently read about the first being long Vanderbilt tenders behind several classes of steamers, both large and small. Many have a three-axle wheelset/trucks at each end, but I have seen several photos of tenders with two two-axle trucks at the end and a third in the middle. How did they get these around curves as there appeared to be no mechanism for lateral (side to side) movement of the center truck and we know the B&O was not a straight water-level route? Speaking of three-truck/wheelsets, Baldwin built several carbody straight electrics (for Pennsy) with a middle truck where a diesel fuel tank would normally be. There was also GM10B, a three-wheelset, straight electric with large wheels and in this case some vertical coil springs along the walkway above the center wheel set. All of this was to put out 10,000 hp. to the rails. That is the only three-wheelset locomotive where there was a hint of a lateral motion set up for the middle truck.

I would like some help with a DVD and a CD. SCL Historical Society has one about CSX signaling in north Florida. Would that information apply to CSX here? I have been using an article, several years old, from TRAINS but that does not cover what I have seen, especially at Meadow. Also, I am asking assistance about is a CD by the Locomotive Historical Society of California which plays sound tracks of steam locomotives, including a 3-cylinder SP 4-10-2 and a UP 4-12-2 also a 3-cylinder. I

heard the latter when growing up and nothing else sounds like 3-cylinder power. I have been unsuccessful in finding out about where one could acquire this. By the way it is supposed to be remastered from old material by Stan Kistler a railfan of considerable note. Years ago, the local library had a phonograph record of some 3-cylinder power, but it has either been removed from circulation or just "disappeared" as I have repeatedly tried to check it out.

By the way, I have been having telephone problems, so if anyone calls me, be sure to dial 804-233-7170 and most importantly, LEAVE A MESSAGE for me. I am not on line but still get all sorts of Spam calls.

1309 Passes Fire Test

Trains via Kim Young

Some long overdue good news came out of Ridgeley WV on 10/3. 1309, still without her cab and running gear, passed her fire test with only a few minor problems.

Museum Report

Bob Dickinson

Paid visitors: 180 (Year to date 1950)

Train day visitors: estimated 1500

Donations: \$375

Volunteer hours: 378

Gift shop sales \$1431.83

Chapter meeting was cancelled due to severe weather forecast.

Thanks to everyone that hosted during the month and also to those that worked to make Train Day a big success! Dave Coldren and his team put in long hours several days getting everything ready. Thanks also to Randy Ridgely for painting the 0-4-0 David M. Lee Co. steam locomotive. Many children enjoyed getting in the cab and playing engineer on train day. Someone - still unknown - did an excellent job cutting grass and weeds around the entire site of the museum! Someone decided to kick in the exterior door to the stationmasters' office and severely damaged the door. They also broke 2 door panels on the modelers' room doors and knocked out one of the windows of the gift shop. With the exception of the stationmasters' door most everything has been repaired. Total out of pocket cost for repairs so far - \$2.68 for 1 pane of glass for

the gift shop window. What did they get? \$6 out of the donation jar - and they dropped one of them on the floor on the way out! The BOD is considering ways to upgrade security. Several of the regular museum hosts will be hosting on the ODC BB trains during October. Since they will not be available for the museum please let Ned Krack know if you can help fill in as host for the museum. Archives - During the relocation of material to new shelves it was noticed that there are a few books that seem to be missing. If you have borrowed any from the archives please return as soon as possible.

Train Day Pix

Kim Young







**Membership Application/Renewal Form - Old Dominion Chapter, National Railway
Historical Society**

Please type or print legibly

New _____ Renewal _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Family member(s) (if joining): _____

Special talents/interests: _____

Membership

Regular \$11 _____

Family \$1 ea. _____

Surcharge for snail mail newsletter through Dec. 2019 \$10 _____

Chapter donation _____

Designated purpose (if any) _____

Total _____

Please send to the following or leave in the membership box at 102 Hull St.

ODC Membership

PO Box 3131

Chester VA 23831

I agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Old Dominion Chapter

Signature _____

Date: _____

Revised September 2018 Membership valid through 12/31/19

**ODCNRES
PO Box 3131
Chester VA
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