



THE MAIL POUCH

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February/March 2025



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Mar 13, 2025. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and will be held at The Museum's Taylor Annex. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

February/March Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
- Discussion of future projects and needs.*
- Entertainment TBD.*

July 17, 2024 NS V93 waits to do switching in Harrisonburg yard with RF&P 101 leading. Photo by Brady Shifflett

A monthly publication of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum

Opinions expressed in *The Mail Pouch* are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.. Please send all correspondence to the following address:

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main St.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Curtis Tammany	Museum Liaison:	Theodore Barker
Secretary:	Frank Schimmenti	Newsletter Editor:	James Keehner
Treasurer:	Virginia Smith	Registered Agent:	Mike Thomas
Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	Dennis Overcash		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

The Rappahannock Railroad Museum is moving towards spring, there is a lot that needs to be completed before we start our busy 2025 summer operations. Weather has held up some projects and we have had a few unplanned obstacles. But our members using their special talents we will be ready to present all local history to our visitors by spring with the support of Members and Friends. We present safe living history to All.

James (Jake) Taylor
President
Rappahannock Railroad Museum

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Museum and the Editor can use your help to fill the pages of the Mail Pouch. If you have a subject you would like to share, photos or just about any other information, please consider submitting it for publication in our Mailpouch. There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Museum, I would be glad to publish personal notes from those who are making the changes and updates at the museum. All submissions will be included in the Mail Pouch (unless restricted by copywrite laws).

Thank you all for your support.

Jim Keehner
Editor
Rappahannock Railroad Museum



RF&P 401 Leaving Deep Run Station with a very short train.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along Historic Deep Run Creek in Spotsylvania Co. on open rail maintenance cars and experience how the railroad workers of the mid 20th century rode to their worksites. Every Saturday 9AM to Noon – weather and conditions permitting. To ensure you get aboard the last train run, please be at the museum by 10:30AM. We attempt to board all parties on a first come basis but boarding is conducted on the platform by our station conductor and train crew so first come first aboard may not always occur. All children under 12 or those needing intensive supervision must be accompanied by a responsible adult. They must be seated together. Departing from the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, 11700 Main Street, Fredericksburg, Va. 22408. Donations accepted.

Monthly Meetings:

March 13, 2025

April 10, 2025

May 8, 2025

June 12, 2025

July 10, 2025

August 14, 2025

September 11, 2025

October 9, 2025

November 13, 2025

December 11, 2025

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2025, July 14-19, 2025, Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375. <https://nmra2025.com/>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

Collinsville, IL / St Louis, MO • September 3 - 6, 2025, www.45thnngc.com

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Mar 15-16 - Rochester, NY

Mar 22-23 - Wilmington, MA

Mar 29-30 - Edison, NJ

July 26-27 - Oaks, PA

August 2-3 - Monroeville, PA

August 9-10 - Edison, NJ

August 16-17 - Chantilly, VA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

1st Saturday of each month - Open House Quantico Railroad Station

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

March 8-9 - Scout Troop 964 Show O, N, Lake Ridge Middle School

April TBD - Open House, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

April 26 - Ashland Train Day, O, N, HO

May 24 - Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser, Kid's area and small layout, Eagle's Lodge 21 Cool Springs Rd, Fredericksburg, VA

June 18-21 Caroline County Agricultural Fair, TBD

July 26 - Aug 4 - Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, O, Fairgrounds Home Economics Building

September TBD - Open House, All Gauges, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

October ?? - Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival (N gauge only)

October TBD - Marine Corps Museum, O, Lego

October 25 - Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in, All Gauges, Shannon Airport

November 8-9 - Spotsy Towne Centre Holiday Kickoff, O, N, Next to the Food Court

December 13-14 - Annual Train Show, All Gauges, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge, 21 Cool Springs Rd, Fredericksburg, VA

Editor's Note: *If anyone has any other Organizational information that they would like to see in the "Upcoming Events", please forward that information to the Editor for inclusion. I try to get a spread of regional and National events, but I cannot research every organization that is out there, so if you belong to or are interested in something that is not included here, please send me the information.*

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

01-04-2025 - COLD BUT GOOD START TO 2025. Very chilly but we had good attendance and a long day, there was a long Board Meeting that ended at 4:00. Lots of discussions on operations for 2025. Mike Thomas elected as Chairman, Alan McCleaf as Secretary. The morning was well attended with total est. of 58 people stopping by. Train crew did take out 401 and one car and made four short trips. Thanks crew members for facing the cold. We also did rearranging of displays in Taylor annex. We do plan on updating displays in the annex, more displays and information on them. There was a lot of documentation of donations done. We will be cleaning some storage areas, please be careful not to remove any artifacts that are needed for displays. If you not sure of item ask someone.

2025 Renewals: Most everyone has renewed for 2025 . I hope the few of you who have not ,don't get left out, I am making up the 2025 update mailing file. Steaming into our 25th year at Spotsylvania Business Park.

01-11-2025 - Update for 01-11-2025. Museum closed Saturday January 11, 2025 due to snow & ICE. The snow is not real bad but lot of ice covering it and a small snow predicted Friday night, could make for very slippery walking. SAFETY FIRST!

Museum last closed on January 8,2022 for snow and ice. So think we have a good record.

January 11 is a day to remember as our cars moved into park on January 1, 2000 by local shifter CSX engine #6152 with our B-60,RF&P caboose, N&W caboose, a private car and a load of lumber. We have be around since the 80's but that day was really the Start of building the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc. Looking forward for the next 25 years to be continuing growth.

01-18-2025 - OPEN BUT COLD & ICEY. Cold but about normal for this time of year. There was a lot of snow and ice around rail yard and station, so no train today. But we opened and had a good turnout for the weather conditions with a total est. of 29 stopping by and enjoying time with model layouts and social time. Train watching: On Thursday the 16th, word got out that the RF&P Heritage engine was in Acca and crew called for 1:10 PM. So there was a lot of quick moves as members and others made quick run to track sites (hope all safe places off Railroad property). Four of us meet at MP57 and WAITED and WAITED. But it was worth it we saw VRE, CSX, NYC heritage and finally RF&P heritage. Think that was first daylight passing of RF&P at MP57. A big thank you out to all who posted updates on train, Did not have that in my younger days of train watching.

Museum Mail address: BE Sure ALL Museum mail is addressed to 11700 Main Street , Fredericksburg, Va 22408. All paper work has been filed for the change and forwarding with Post Office BUT Process may not have cleared all channels.

Renewals for 2025: we have had at least 95% of members renew. Next week will be last Update if you have not Renewed by then.

House cleaning: We have gotten lacks on keeping Museum as neat as we should. Pick up trash, dump trash cans, put things in their place and clean if you see a need. Do Not throw any thing away unless you are sure it is trash "Ask someone if you are not sure of its importance. " Both Inside and Outside." Together we can do anything!

01-25-2025 - COLD BUT THEY KEEP COMMING! Another very chilly morning but good attendance. There was an estimate of 31 total at Museum. There was still some snow and ice in area but train crew cleared ice from platforms and got train out. Made two runs one was Work train for the RRM track gang to check and clean crossing and the other was a passenger train. Right we are presenting Living Railroad history. We also operated layouts in our warm building and visitors enjoyed all. Members also made some needed repairs in area and worked on needed filing of paper work. A good Winter Morning. I want to thank the several members who put time and work for their Museum during the week. This extra time and donations is necessary for Saturday operations of our Museum. THANK YOU !

Layout operations: Due to many changes and updates to our layouts, please don't try to operate them unless you have been working on them regularly. Ask and talk with Chip before making any changes to layouts or rolling stock on Saturdays or during the week. The normal operators will GLADELY teach you how the layouts work, what is not working at this time as they are working on known problems on Saturdays if no visitors in building. We are also planning on scheduling classes for anyone who would enjoy operating layouts (maybe Saturday after closing or on a Thursday night). Let Chip know if you would be interested in talking " class 101 layout operations."

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MONTHLY RECAP

02-01-2025 - Low people count, good work day. Chilly but got train out and made Maintenance run and two visitor runs. We had total est. of 35 attending today. Yes, there were visitors after hours, got to talk with them. With low visitor count we were able to get a lot of catch up done inside, improved track and wiring on "Z", worked on scenery for "N", Discussed updates to "HO", made changes to displays in Taylor Annex. Had training and operated the LYT. It was good seeing so many members working together and planning our future.

January was cold and tiring at times but we got a lot done. February is going to be quick as only 28 days but with all of us working on the many parts of Museum February will be a good month, yes there will be hiccups but together we will be even better in 2025. We will make improvements in all departments during the year. Let's keep working together for our Museum. Train leaving Station with 2025 members

02-08-2025 - BAD WEATHER BUT MUSEUM OPENED! Saturday morning looked bad with light snow, hail and temp at 33 degs so things could turn bad on a dime. Most members did not want to get on the road and I don't blame them as I stayed home also. BUT I was real glad a few members did arrive and opened Museum. Some visitors did show up even a couple from Hagerstown, MD. Train stayed in the Round House (ok container), Visitors were given a good tour of museum and enjoyed some social time with Members. A big THANK YOU goes out to members who braved the weather. I did not have to log Museum Closed, that's not something I like to log.

"Safety" be sure and advise visitors to be careful in the Museum area. A little ice, a wet step, a wet rail head all can cause a bad fall. Be friendly when advising but feel free to advise visitors doing anything that may be harmful in a rail yard Museum. All be Careful if it does snow "if you think it is a bad idea it probably is"

02-15-2025 - GOOD PROJECT MORNING. Yes, it was a gloomy day but the rain held off until about one after we had left for the day, other than Don putting Pump car back in container. Visitors did show up for rides and tours of our displays. Most did get ride as train came out making several short runs. There was an est. of 36 people attending for the day.

Good part of low attendance we were able to work on several projects, installed a new window blind, set up new displays in Taylor annex and did some cleaning. Members worked together on projects but there is always more to do than members to get all done as needed. Train crew always need help putting train away and help needed making sure all areas are secured at end of day.

Note, Sale of any display items is not Museum policy. Ok for visitors to look over, talk about, measure, take pictures of items. Most items are donated by friends for use by Museum for viewing of all visitors to present history.

Document: While we are updating some of our displays, please remember to document what items are and maybe a little info on their use. This will help our visitors to understand what that funny looking thing is over there. Members be sure and ask another member if you happen not to know the story behind the item. Just set or hang an info card near the items. When visitors ask question give them the answer or find the answer. World changing fast, record it now, you will have memories too.

02-22-2025 - Very busy day! As normal families started arriving at 9:00. We invited them inside due to cold for tours, as it warmed up we did get train out and gave several short runs. We had an estimate of 36 attending.

Work continued in North Annex, the "Z" yard is now fully operational, the "N" covered bridge is all most ready for traffic. There is always something happening with our layouts and visitors really enjoy them. We are catching up on paper work and shorting displays in Taylor annex. We have to keep refreshing our displays.

Main Line, I know lots of you are wondering when we will return to MP57. This past week Museum officers made a lot of contacts, emails, phone calls and a meeting at Museum that seemed to have been all positive for us. We are still on hold but the future looks brighter. Will give formal report at next business meeting. Bringing past to the future.

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VRE NIGHT SHOTS AND QUESTIONS

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT



As many of you know, I service the VRE locomotives at night to ensure they are fully fueled for the next day's operation. In that capacity, the photos above demonstrate what is to be seen in the yard when the power goes out in the facility. On Wednesday February 26th, that is just what happened while I was working the yard. All of the security light went out leaving the trains under their own power for about an hour. Besides the prime movers for providing power to move the trains, each locomotive also has a Caterpillar diesel engine known as the HEP that provides lighting and power to the coaches of the trainset. The red glow you see in the photos are the warning lights for ground power units (GPU) that normally supply electricity and air to the trainsets when the prime mover and HEP are shut down. The ditch lights are actually glowing white, but the GPU is overpowering them.

Recently a question was posed to the editor regarding operations of the VRE. Justin D inquired as to why the trains are delayed during storms and particularly in the fall when the leaves are changing and falling? The short answer is Leaf Oil! As you can understand, steel wheels and steel rails are not meant to provide very much traction, and the weight of the locomotive provides just enough adhesion to get the locomotive moving under ideal conditions (this is a gross oversimplification of a very complicated equation and would be more involved than the purpose of this narrative). With that in mind, when conditions change, locomotives are equipped with wheel monitors and rail sanders that deposit fine sand on the rails to be crushed and help provide a small amount more of traction between the rail and wheel. The Federal Railway Administration regulations require that locomotives be equipped with sanders and that they are full and operational at all times.

Now enter Leaf Oil. This is the sappy substance within the leaf, when a leaf falls onto the rail and is crushed by the train wheels, Leaf Oil is deposited on the rails. Leaf Oil is super slippery stuff, more so than most lubricants in use and it does not dilute in rain as other lubricants would. The only way to disipate leaf oil is to let it dry due to direct exposure to the sunlight. To Railroaders, the Fall season and Leaf Oil are a dreaded combination. When Leaf Oil is present on the rails, a train that may top a grade at 50 MPH might only be able to make 25 mph at the top of the grade experiencing significant wheel slippage even with the use of modern electronics and sanders. This effects all trains operating on the line, therefore because other trains are delayed, the VRE is subsequently delayed as well.

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PHOTOS



Top Left: Guess we can say the Museum "local" operated Saturday in Deep Run Yard. Shifting guest went over very well. Short but visitors really liked it. Thanks for photos Curtis.

Top Center and Top Right: Museum snow yesterday. Jan 10, 2025.

Upper Center Left: CSX heritage New York central passing MP57.

Lower Center Left: CSX heritage RF&P passing MP57. Thanks for photos Curtis.

Bonus Insert: Next time you see the 501 think about this Picture taken in 2005.

Bottom Left: RRM track crew cleaning rail flanges at Mills Dr.

Bottom Center: RRM version of Polar Express.

Bottom Right: Our B-60 crossing RT. 2 Jan.11, 2000



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PHOTOS



Top Left: Flash back Jan 20, 2010.

Top Center: Don helping Dennis with repairs to B-60 floor. Dennis completing sub floor.

Top Right: Dennis making finishing repairs, he also made repairs to floor by north door. Member work like this made us what we are today.

Upper Left Center: Flash back Feb 2010. Work to have Fun.

Lower Left Center: Sitting in warm caboose.

Bottom Left: Push-Pull in the snow 401+501+ 89.



Below Center: January 11, 2000 local shifter delivering cars to park. Note the changes, Road with cross bucks in the curve. That was the back service entrance to FMC plant. All workers came thru front gate located where Bowen is now. Time card racks there. Buses came across dam dropped workers off, circled and parked to pickup off going shift. Then back out across the dam. There was a large parking lot out where Hardees is now located.

Below Right: July 2007 General Don K. spoke as he walked around MR43 with flag "I shall return" and I believe him.



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PHOTOS



Top Left: This little town area has certainly become a busy place after the road re-alignment, making for increased traffic through this area.

Top Center and Right: Another homage to a movie has appeared on the display, this time is the movie "Duel" based on a fellow traveling across the U.S, being terrorized by a road raging truck. At one point in the movie the truck nearly pushes the car into a passing train which works nicely with this area of the display.

Upper and Lower Left: Emergency personnel have finally arrived outside the Bates Motel and Mansion to provide assistance to the accident scene, little to they suspect what will happen at the motel later that night.



Bottom Left: What do you get when you mix Jurassic Park with the Circus? A parade like no other. This one has an orange dinosaur leading the parade of elephants.

Bottom Center: With reduced patronage to the games area of the circus display, management has chosen to re-pupose the area for Food Truck and Trailers, providing visitors with many culinary delights to keep them happy.

Bottom Right: Even the local farmer has decided to get in on the spirit of renovation and updates, displaying a "new" old tractor from his collection.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership Application/Renewal Form

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
Please type or print legibly

New Renewal if renewal Updated information Y N

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Family Membership(S) if Joining: _____
Membership

Regular \$15.00 _____, can Vote, can hold office

Family \$1.00 each _____, cannot vote, cannot hold office.

Museum Donation _____

Total: _____

Please mail to the following address or hand in at meeting.

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
11700 Main Street
Fredericksburg, VA. 22408

I agree to be a member in good standing and follow safety rules of
the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
Membership dues for January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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MARCH MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	Mar 1st	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Mar 8th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Thursday	Mar 13th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	Mar 15th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Mar 22th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.
Saturday	Mar 29th	Meet at our Museum Site 9:00am to 12:00pm for tours and train rides, construction and upgrades(weather permitting). Members continue to improve displays and area.

Additional work days may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Our train may be running under restriction,
The visitors continue to arrive by prediction;
Upgrades to displays continue to evolve,
The Museum is carrying on with resolve.

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SUBMISSIONS NOTE: Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted as a complete package, articles must have all supporting images and diagrams at time of submission. Items to be published that are “borrowed from other publications” must have the proper credits noted to avoid copyright violations. Any items that you wish to have published in *The Mail Pouch* must be submitted to the Editor in electronic format (Text Files for articles and separate Digital Photos) prior to the **20th** of the proceeding month. Items not in an electronic format (items needing scans or typesetting) must be submitted prior to the **15th** of the proceeding month. Articles, Photos and other items may be submitted in person on Saturday mornings at the Museum, or electronically at jkeehner67@hotmail.com, **subject line EDITOR.** *All items submitted after the deadlines of the month will be held for publication in the following months Newsletter.*