

THE

MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 37

November 2025

Issue No. 11



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11th, 2025. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30pm and will be held at Scafa's Italian Restaurant. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

December Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
- Holiday Celebration!*

Cover: Southern Pacific Locomotive No. 4247, one of the unique locomotives known as a "cab forward" which were only used by the Southern Pacific. Photo was taken on its run on "the Modoc", somewhere between Sage Hen and Madeline, bound for Wendel, California, and Fernley, Nevada.

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 1/2 PAGE

No message for this edition.

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



VRE, 2015 training for new company personal, we may see more of these as there are plans for planned Saturday trips, maybe this year.

“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:

December 11, 2025 Scafa's Italian Restaurant, 10349 Courthouse Rd., Spotsylvania VA 22553, Meeting begins at 6:30PM. Please RSVP with Leo Z. if you plan to attend.

January 08, 2026

February 12, 2026

March 12, 2026

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION – CHATTANOOGA, TN JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2, 2026, <https://www.nmra2026.org>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

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

HARRISBURG NARROW O SUMMER MEET

Harrisburg, PA • June 12 - 13, 2026, More info to follow!

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Nov. 22-23 - Wilmington, MA

Nov. 29-30 - Edison, NJ

Dec. 6-7 - Timonium, MD

Dec. 20-21 - Chantilly, VA

Jan. 3-4 - Monroeville, PA

Jan. 10-11 - Oaks, PA

Jan. 17-18 - Richmond, VA

Feb. 7-8 - Hampton, VA

Mar. 14-15 - Rochester, NY

Mar. 21-22 - Wilmington, MA

Mar. 28-29 - Edison, NJ

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

Richmond Science Museum, Nov 28-30, 2025

Prince William Library, Central Library, Dec 11-13, 2025

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

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.*

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MONTHLY RECAP

10-04-2025 - ATTENDANCE A LITTLE LOW, LONG DAY. Was a good day but total est. of those attending a little low at 58, train only made two trips, guess visitors miss full excursion, rides in park not as nice. Crossing gates are scheduled to be repaired on Oct. 6. Just in time for fall leaf runs, talk them up when you meet friends. We did have time to discuss projects and the Board did hold their meeting in afternoon.

Birthday party scheduled Saturday Oct. 11. Family has use of RF&P caboose from 9 to 12. Est. 15 +/- attending, make sure they enjoy their time safely. They do tour museum and ride as a group. Make it a good memory.

Suggest you not park close to box car. There are Yellow Jackets under rail and they get angry and confused when you block their flight plan. Curtis made a good attract on them Sunday and maybe destroyed them. but just in case be careful Thursday night.

Read your email often or you want be able to keep up and know what is happening at your Museum. It does not help to say I did not read about that. P.S. Just got word crossing gate repair delayed until Oct. 17 for completion.

10-11-2025 - CLOUDS TO SUNSHINE. Day started cloudy but turned out nice with lots of visitors, parking lot FILLED +. We made four excursion runs in park, there was a total est. of 104 people attending. We meet some really nice families. Signed up new member, request for another birthday party. Over all it was a good day.

Birthday party was a success. They had their cake and goodies, toured Museum and all of party rode train together. We are getting more request for parties, remember many of our visitors have never been in a train yard or near train operations. Make sure you look out for their safety and ours.

Please read your Updates, that way you will learn what is happening at your Museum. Read and remind others about our Monthly meeting. we have a good time, learn about projects at museum and have a good program. I know it is dark now but we are on way home about 8:30 normally. Crossing Gates are scheduled to be repaired this week (by Friday). Hope we can get back to full excursions, just in time for fall leaves colors. This is a busy time for Museum now to end of year, looking forward for your help.

10-18-2025 - BACK TO CSX MP 57! Great news the crossing gates are back in service and working well. We made three trips to MP57 with no problem, Someone had dumped a pile trash on side of track but did not cause a problem, yes we picked it up (with gloves). Attendance was REAL low Saturday both visitors and members. Total attending est. at 54. It's not a pretty sight of three 80+ members putting train back in containers. But a "big thank you" goes out to the members who attended and worked so hard especially when ask to help out of their normal confront zone. THANK YOU !

There were big shows in Bowling Green, Fredericksburg and at Field House. I hope more members can come this Saturday (Oct. 25) we will need HELP. We have a birthday party scheduled and the air port has their Halloween candy drop and show This Saturday.

THERE WILL BE MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION THIS SATURDAY! AIR SHOW. TRAIN CREWS MUST BE WATCHFULL FOR CARS, BUS, WALKERS AND THEIR OWN SAFETY WHEN CROSSING RT. 2 OR ANYWHERE IN THE AREA. PEOPLE SETTING IN TRAFIC WITH A GROUP OF KIDS WANTING CANDY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE HAPPY. ALSO YOU MAY WANT TP COME A LITTLE EARYLY TO TRY AND BEAT THE TRAFFIC. WE NEED YOU! See you Saturday, I hope?

10-18-2025 - ALL WENT WELL, almost. Morning started off cold but soon warm to nice level. The Birthday party group came in set up their party goodies, toured museum, rode train and left HAPPY. Maybe we can have more special groups in on Saturdays.

We had better attendance Saturday and it made operations Smooth. Made our normal Three trips to Main line and saw several trains. Members continued updating our Model layouts. If you have not been in north annex lately, I encourage you to go over and check it out. Lots of little things that made tour enjoyable. Also you may like to help the team as long as you not need in your normal position. The team Sometime works after normal hours and you may be able to help them then also.

Wash out on spur at cubit. County notified, they putting barricade in place no No trains or equipment will pass the wash out barricade. Until County completes repairs. They are making plans for repair.

Yes, we have growing pains but that means we are growing, no pain no gain, keep doing your best and we will be OK. We have lots of projects to finish and start. See you next Saturday , "NOVEMBER"!

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PHOTOS



Top Left: LYT returning thru the weeds.



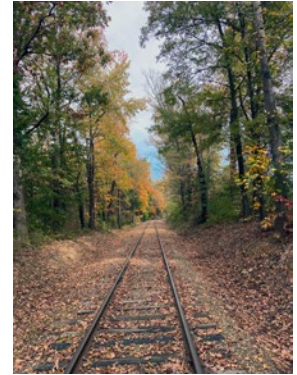
Top Right: LYT returning to station.

Upper Center Left: the wash out, small hole but big cavity below.

Upper Center Right: Think leaves at peak Saturday but due to dry conditions not as bright as hoped. But made for a great ride thru Spotsylvania woods in open cars.



Lower Center Right: Our Local Coast Guard Veteran Phil M. has mastered the creation of a barge for a new section of scenery on the HO display.



Lower Center Right: An overview of the new "Wood River" section of the display. This is a removable filler panel to enhance the now stabilized (Non Opening) duck under bridge for public viewing.



Bottom Left: Planned Pusher Boat for the barge and "recovered sunken Locomotive".

Bottom Center: New scene construction for Wood River Junction.



Bottom Right: An overview of the progress being made at Wood River Junction. The final scene will have working signal lights governing the quad diamonds.



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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, 2026 to December 31, 2026

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	November 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	November 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	November 13th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	November 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	November 22nd	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	November 27th	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.

Winter is bearing down on the Museum,
Colder temps outside but Vistors still want to see um;
The Yellow train keeps rolling along,
Helping to keep our Museum strong.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

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.*