

THE MAIL POUCH



VOLUME 38

Issue No. 02/023

February - March 2026



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12th 2026. 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.

March Meeting Agenda

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

Cover: Burlington Northern rotary plow No. 972561. Supplying power for the plow is B-unit BN No. 972577. BN Nos. 2972 and 2736, and leased unit EMD No. 792 are providing power for the push. Trailing the power was Jordan Spreader BN No. 972665 and BN No. 10037 (caboose) with the two flatcars and front-end loader. Plowing into downtown Coulee City, Wash., Jan. 12, 1993. Michael Sawyer image. Editor Note: This is what we needed to dig us out after the heavy winter weather!

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:	Andy Sentipal	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

Welcome to March members, not sure what happen to January and February Think they were just a bad memory. As you know they were COLD, snowy and we had a lot of problems at museum with track being out of service to main line but Members worked hard planning other routes for visitor rides. Maybe that will soon just be one more hole that our Museum has worked thru, as county has OKed the money to repair the washout. No time set for the repair yet.

There has been a lot of TALK, planning and some updates to inside displays. NOW Is time to put those plans in action on the many outside needs. Some being, cleaning, Painting, repair station platform, set signal, replace old info signs, service rolling stock, And get the Sylvania Plant Display built with new design that has been set. We need to Be ready when wash out is completed and we fully operational.

Looking to future using history

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 copyright laws).

Thank you all for your support.

Jim Keehner
Editor
Rappahannock Railroad Museum



Lego layout added to our displays, Thanks Mike C.

“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 12, 2026

April 9th, 2026

May 14th, 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.45thngc.com

HARRISBURG NARROW O SUMMER MEET

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

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Mar. 14-15 - Rochester, NY

Mar. 21-22 - Wilmington, MA

Mar. 28-29 - Edison, NJ

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

Jan 31 - Feb 1, 2026 Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

February 7 & 8, 2026 - Fredericksburg Kids Fest

Dear fellow NRHS Chapters and friends. DCONRHS is pleased to announce it will be hosting a special, rare mileage excursion over the Buckingham Branch Railroad to Doswell, Virginia, in cooperation with the Virginia Scenic Railway on Sunday, April 26, 2026. From our own research, it appears that this will be the first scheduled public passenger train on this line to Doswell since the early 1980s. DCONRHS extends an invitation for all to participate. A trip flier is attached, please feel free to circulate this to your members and friends. Reservations may be made online at www.dcnrhs.org.

Thank you!

Kevin J. Tankersley

Trip Committee Chairman

The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc.

www.dcnrhs.org

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.

The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc. (DCNRHS) presents

The Doswell Special

Sunday, April 26, 2026



Photo by Jim Fitchner

It has been 50 years since the last Amtrak passenger train traveled the Chesapeake & Ohio rail line between Doswell and Gordonsville, Virginia! Now you can ride this freight-only line for the first time in decades on Sunday, April 26, 2026 departing at 10:00AM out of Louisa, Virginia!

Join us as we board our special Virginia Scenic Railway train in historic Louisa. Louisa was where the C&O first got started as the Louisa Railroad, which was chartered in 1836 and began operations in 1850. Currently operated by the Buckingham Branch Railroad, you can travel with us through Louisa and Hanover Counties to Doswell, the famous junction with the RFP (now CSX) Railroad and the site of several Civil War battles and operations. We will pass through the beautiful towns of Beaverdam, Hewlett and Noel as we travel through the gentle-rolling fields, farmlands and forests. Lunch will be served during our trip and if the weather permits, we hope to be able to make at least one or more photo stops. At Doswell we reverse direction and head back to Louisa and continue west through Louisa County via Bumpass, Frederick Hall and Mineral before arriving in Gordonsville in beautiful Orange County. After our locomotive changes ends we return to Louisa to finish off a great day of railroading!

PER PERSON FARES

Includes rail transportation from Louisa to Doswell to Gordonsville and return and your preselected lunch served while enroute (see reverse side of flier for menu choices).

DCNRHS Members: **\$269***

Nonmembers: **\$299***

*Includes nonrefundable \$8 online reservation convenience fee.

CONDITIONS:

1. The Washington D.C. Chapter, NRHS makes every effort to accommodate the physically challenged; however, the Virginia Scenic Railway's rail cars as historic railroad cars are not wheelchair accessible. Operator requires those physically challenged passengers requiring special assistance from others to travel with someone who is able to assist them.
2. Those with special dietary needs such as food allergies or vegetarian/vegan meals must notify the reservations agent in writing at least two weeks in advance of the trip. Please include a note in the comments line when placing your order or send an email to reservations@dcnrhs.org.
3. No refund or credit of purchased tickets other than by operator's cancellation of the trip or reselling of the space. The operator suggests that passengers obtain trip insurance to cover cancellations resulting from personal emergencies, illness or other causes.
4. No transportation to / from Louisa VA is provided; participants must make their own way to the excursion starting point. No overnight accommodations are included; tour participants must make their own arrangements if they plan to stay overnight in the area.
5. Persons wishing to sit together must order their tickets together on the same order.
6. The General Conditions for tours, trips, excursions, and events as published on the DCNRHS web site (www.dcnrhs.org) apply. By making a reservation, participants agree to be bound by both the General and these specific Conditions.



Virginia Scenic Railway photo

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION/BUY ONLINE NOW at www.dcnrhs.org

on our secure online reservation system which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week using your VISA/Mastercard credit or debit card.

To receive the member discounted fare, a valid DCONRHS member number is required to be entered for each member in your order.

Reservation confirmations are sent by e-mail. Please ensure your spam filter is set to accept e-mails from reservations@dcnrhs.org. Contact us at reservations@dcnrhs.org if you do not receive email confirmation within one week of booking.

For questions or assistance, call 202-627-6978 (calls will be returned by a volunteer reservations agent within 48 hours) Or, e-mail to reservations@dcnrhs.org.

NOTICE: As of January 1, 2026, all DCONRHS trip, tour and event reservations must be made online. No mailed in orders will be accepted.



"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

01-03-2025 - GOOD START TO 2026. A little chilly but we had very good attendance with total estimate of 71 stopping by. Equipment ran with no problems, did have to look for full train crew once but all worked out fine. LYT made two trips (full). Updates continue on walkway, stoves, store and future outside displays.

Remember we have a Birthday party scheduled for next Saturday (Jan. 10) Let's make sure they have a good experience. Make sure cabooses are ready (open, clean, reserved, warm & elec. Power). Nice weather but maybe Showers if so we may need to get the 401 and ODC car out. Use tank car For cabooses.

Membership time NOW! Most have but a few of you need to renew for 2026. New mailing list is being prepared, Hope to put your name on it.

KEEP Museum neat and clean ! Please pick up trash, don't leave cups sitting around, make sure you don't block aisles that visitors take. We have a vacuum (dump container if needed). Dump trash cans if needed and put big bags Outside to be removed at end of day. What people see and hear can influence if they return with friends. Preparing for a Great 2026.

01-10-2025 - Good Saturday & Good Rain. It was chilly and RAINING! Members gathered and prepared Museum for visitors and they CAME. With a total est. of 64 stopping by Museum. Families enjoyed displays and small kids really enjoyed our Thomas the Tank corner. Members worked on projects, plans for future updates and discussed contacts with Spotsylvania County.

Our Thursday Business meeting went well. Wish more members could Attend. Our program on "LYT rust to rail" enlighten members on how we Restored our MofW equipment. We talked about "Spring Pizza Parties" that we held years ago. We are now planning "Spring Family Picnic". Still in planning stage but maybe a Saturday evening in late April at Museum for Members and their families. Including an "after dinner Train excursion". More details later.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026 if you have not already. I am making up email file for 2026 it will only contain those who have renewed for 2026. Will put it in Service real soon.

2026 is going fast, half of January already gone, let's make sure each of us use our Talents to support RRM plans for Future. Attend, take part in operations and Spread information about your Museum where ever you go. Visitors keep saying "I did not know you were here". Talk about it to others and keep area looking GREAT. Presenting History to All.

01-17-2025 - Still ICKY WEATHER BUT! Yes, weather was icky until about noon then sun came out. BUT Visitors Still came and enjoyed cold ride (like track crew experienced back then). Train Made two full runs and one short run. We all enjoyed our heated inside Displays. Attendance not bad with total est. of 48 attending. Guess what They calling for light snow (?) this coming Saturday. We advertise being open each Saturday, so if safe come on out and make visitors happy with our inside Displays, Maybe take train out ?

Renew Membership for 2026. This probably be last Update you get if you Have not renewed. Finishing up 2026 email file now.

Embroidered Hats, Embroidered polo shirts, Member T-Shirts, and Safety vests and name tags. Time to reorder and get everyone up to date with any items they want. T shirts will probably be about 12 to 17 dollars, caps about \$20, Polo (collared V-neck short sleeve shirt with name and our logo probably 30 to 45. Safety vest logo applied to your vest about \$10 or less. You don't need to provide a vest. We can get one and have the logo applied if you like. Just send an email or text to Dennis Overcash with the items you want. Email is dovercash31@gmail.com and Text is 301-653-7983. We will get current quotes for the items and get back with you before we and you commit to the order. Stay Warm and Safe

01-24-2025 - Members MUSEUM CLOSED TOMORROW JANUARY 24,2026. Due to extreme cold in morning and heavy snow in Afternoon. All take time to prepare for week of cold Please be careful as they are predicting ICE also.

This includes Board Meeting. Mike will give update On that meeting and reschedule date. All Board needs to Meet very soon.

WE DO PLAN ON OPENING MUSEUM NEXT SATURDAY! If anyone would like to clean steps and walking area around Museum sometime during the week, feel free but be VERY CAREFULL. They say temp will not get above freezing all Next week. Make sure someone will be with you for safety Reasons.

MUSEUM CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER! Did not want to close as weather did not get real bad until afternoon. Glad we did as the ICE has been unbelieve Est. 3 inches ice on top of snow. I was by Museum yesterday (1/27/2026) and

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MONTHLY RECAP

could only make it to mail box every thing Lot, ramps, steps all covered in thick ice. Doors frozen shut. Don't think it can be removed with out doing damage to Wooden steps, walkways and doors. Rail crossing piled high with frozen snow and ice. Unless there is a HEAT WAVE between now and Saturday we will be closed Saturday (31) for safety reasons and let members to continue digging out of their homes and cars .

ALL be careful (young and seniors) a fall or accident will will make February difficult also. Maybe Ground hog will not see his shadow. Need you in good shape so we can make up loses from January.

For the few who have delayed sending in membership Renewals for 2026 now it the time to do so. I have made Up 2026 mailing file and will put it in use next week. Will Gladly add you in this week if I get your renewal in time. Looking for warm weather.

01-31-2025 - Just confirming: Museum will be closed this Saturday. I was by there about Noon today and every thing covered in SLICK ICE! I was able To enter Taylor Annex for a look thanks to Curtis and David clearing those steps. Cold in there (48) the lights were very slow blighting up.

Sure hope we can be operational next Saturday. All stay warm and safe.

CLOSED ONCE MORE! As all who live anywhere near the Museum the ICE just won't Go away. Don't like to close Museum but really no choice. I am Hoping things will get better before Saturday and we can at least Have parcel opening, sure LYT won't come out, road crossing have LARGE piles of snow on them from plowing trucks and all flanges are solid ice.

Noticed sun yesterday afternoon soften ice just a little. If any Member has dug out of neighborhood and still has a little strength maybe you could stop by Museum in afternoon and try to clear A couple of paths and walkways. Please be careful and not damage Wooden walkways trying to break up ice. Also no big snow plows As they would tear up our paved parking lot. But a few small clear Areas in lot would start the melting process. Main thing BE SAFE, Have someone with you or someone will be checking on you. VERY SLICK IN ENTIRE AREA!

Guess could say more but maybe some of us can meet This Saturday check things out. Please be careful as things start to Clear up, It is still very dangerous on highways and walking. Stay upright!

02-07-2025 - NORTH TO ALASKA! We were closed once more and I was glad we did the cold, ice with wind was just too much. Weather person finally calling for a warm up this week may even hit 50 degrees. That should melt some of the ice and we can return to Museum this Saturday. Not sure what they call warmer I had 8 here this morning.

MONTHLY MEETING THIS THURSDAY! Feb. 12th at 7:00 PM at the museum. Let's try to attend! Not only the normal reports but we need to discuss how And what we need to check on and how we are going to make up lost time. Not all has been lost time as several members have been stopping by museum moving snow and ice, reports have been completed, government forms have been sent in and some model building has been done.

Business post good work we did. Go to this site to see something familiar. <https://www.shellscale.com/Prototype%20Lettering.html>. Having Fun even in cold.

02-14-2025 - GREAT RECOVERY DAY! Back in business, with a good total estimate of 56 attending. Members worked hard checking everything checked out. Set up new displays, cleaned left over snow from walking areas. Members welcomed visitors and thanked family for artifacts they donated to museum. Track inspector team took 1892 out cleaned all crossing flange ways and checked track. The LYT did make one full run loaded. Lot of visitors decided to return on warmer day for ride.

We did hold our monthly meeting on the 12th. Six members showed up reports given and program on restoring crew cars NA1869-70. Parking lot was still covered with snow and starting to refreeze as we were leaving. Thankfully no falls at meeting Lots of stories during social time. Remember your safety is number one. Be safe and You will be able to attend next meeting.

It was really great seeing so many members taking part and working together Getting Museum back in order. We have a museum and family to be proud of.

02-21-2025 - GETTING BACK TO NEAR NORMAL! Weather was good we had a good turnout of visitors enjoying our displays and Riding train (LYT made three runs) total est attending 64. It was a long day for some as the Board had their meeting that lasted until four. There was a lot to discuss as it was their first meeting of the year due to the weather. Looking forward to report at next business meeting on March 12 mark your Calanders.

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MONTHLY RECAP

Warmer weather is just around the corner, time to start on projects that could not Be completed during winter. Such as repair/paint walkways, finish work on station Platform, set up signal by container #2, repair signs and add more info and directions Signs for our visitors. Make sure visitors see a professional Museum as they enter area. Displays and personal.

This can be a good year if we all work together and donate our talents and time.

02-28-2025 - REALLY GOOD DAY! With weather getting better much more fun at museum now and We got a lot done. We had a total estimate of 81 stopping by of all Ages. Our train made three full trips around back. With help we turned and locked switch to short siding in back. Track manintance team should check and clean flange ways in that siding. Do not try to throw switch it is doubled locked and spiked. This change will give conductor better walking area when giving information talk. Follow all safety rules.

We may return to Main line trips before to much longer. The county approved money for repairs. (\$286,157.94) No date set for repair of wash out yet. But BIG positive step!

Now with good weather we need to start now on all those plans we talked about while inside past few months, so we will be standing tall we get back to normal operations to CSX main line.

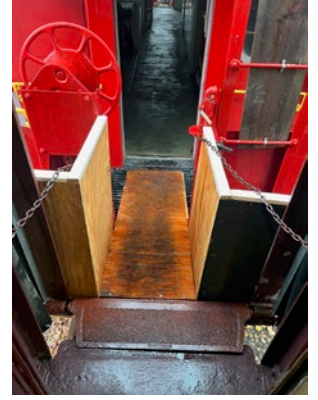
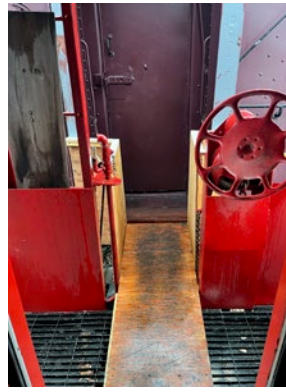
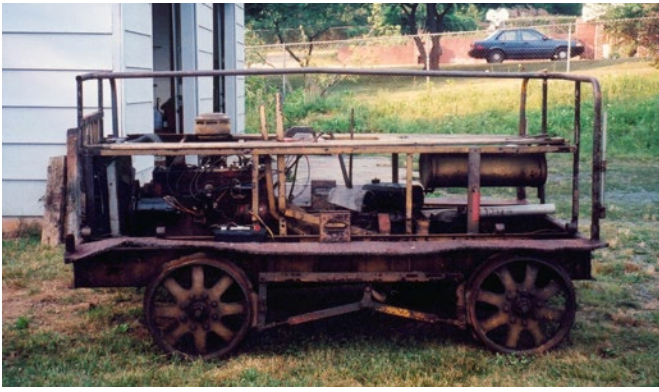
Just in case you forgot some projects include painting, repair walkways, set signal, Repair old info signs, add directional signs and getting Sylvania Plant operational Display unit built buy new directions for the modeling section to build. Future looking better now, Lets get ready now.



FLASH BACK: JAN 25, 2026, So don't be surprised this Saturday as we have Done this before.

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PHOTOS

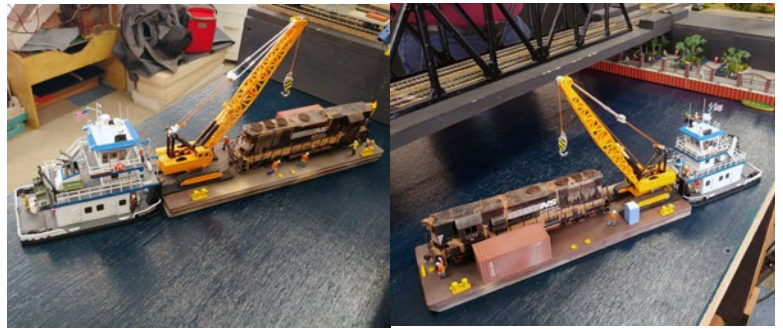


Top Left: Preview photo of program Thursday Evening. Top Right: One project worked on Saturday was completion of walkway From B-60 to Caboose. It is completed except for painting (waiting for warmer Weather). Thanks Greeg & Luke. Upper Center Left, Right and Lower center Left: Area at Museum after the snow/ice storm, Thanks Curtis & Dave. Lower Center Right and bottom Left: A military train made it's way across the museum's HO display. Bottom Right: The RRM contacted the Short Blue Line Co. for a tug to move The barge with the recovered loco that went in river. They are sending tug "Miss Shelly" with Captain Phil Miller. Scheduled to arrive Saturday morning.



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PHOTOS



Top Left: Inspection Cleaning crew returning to Museum, Thanks Don and Bob. Top Right, Upper Center Left and Right: Tow boat arrived and Hooked to barge while people watched from shore accompanied by music from the stret band, Thanks Capt. Miller and crew. Lower center Left: This is south end of box car some are talking about putting layout in. Lower Center Right: An image of a NS track crew working over the Rapidan River in Rapidan, VA on a foggy morning. Photo by Dave W. Bottom Left: The next time you take a look at the railroad bridge over the Rappahannock River, just imagine it looked like this during the record flood in October 1942. Submitted by Phil M. Bottom Right: Museum train returning to Museum with full load in sunshine.



“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS



Dave W. provided these pics of a NS track crew working over the Rapidan River in Rapidan, VA on a foggy morning.



“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

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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FEBRUARY/MARCH MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	February 7th	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	February 12th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
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Saturday	February 28th	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.
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Additional work days may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

**The month of love and togetherness,
Many changes and alot of progress;
Keeping the Museum fresh and new,
Allowing visitors a different view.**

“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.*