

# THE

# MAIL POUCH

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Issue No. 07



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## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10th, 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.

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## July Meeting Agenda

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

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*Cover: Southbound RF&P intermodal train No. 171, the "Orange Blossom Special," crosses Quantico Creek in Quantico, VA on July 29, 1990 led by GP40-2 No. 141.*

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## A monthly publication of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum

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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

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## 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](http://www.RRMuseum.org)

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## 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



*Flash back (Personal) On June 24, 2010 I brought My first Motor car home in pieces*

**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

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## 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:

**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](http://www.45thnngc.com)

### GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

**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

**June 7, 2025 Manassas Railway Festival (tentative)**

### RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

**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.*

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**"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"**

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## MONTHLY RECAP

**06-07-2025** - Summer heat is on! We had a nice turn out of visitors Saturday but Member numbers were low. We did serve our visitors well but members were pulled from one place to another to cover train operation, leaving model display low on operators. But I was very pleased to see members fill in where needed. We did have an estimate total of 69 people enjoying a good day locally. A few of us stayed until about four discussing future operations of Museum.

Help keep Museum neat and clean. Anyone who would like to dump a trash can, pick up trash do some cleaning are welcome and you can even take it with you at end of day. Also you are welcome to cut grass, weeds or low limbs. Please be careful and not cut flowers or planted items out front. Visitors must be given a friendly welcome to a neat well kept area “inside and outside”. We have an active future but WE must all work together, share your talents and respect all.

**06-14-2025** - Normal Day at Museum. For once we had normal operations with no surprises. Cloudy but rain held off, train made three trips to MP 57. We had a total estimate of 63 attending, a few came late and were invited to return another Saturday. We were a little low on Members.

CSX delivered wood car on Friday and picked it up Monday, it was good seeing the local on our cameras. I understand track will be out of service for a short time so defective switch can be repaired and track sprayed for weeds. This will not effect our operations other than we can access containers 3&4 from station track while repairs are made. Remember to keep our Museum area neat and clean. See you next Saturday.

**06-21-2025** - NO FROST ON WINDSHEILD. Good morning, sorry for late update but several things have distracted me lately. Yes the heat but also phone line cut (no internet) and a few other things.

But back to Saturday. It was hot we did run train making three trips, rather good attendance with total estimate of 63 attending Museum. Inside displays were enjoyed, Parents enjoyed watching kids play with Thomas in the cool annex. Train crews did a great job in the heat, it is cooler when going thru the woods, glad we returned to main line.

There was a short meeting after closing to discuss plans for next 5 years. Lot of good ideas discussed. We will be discussing plans with county in the near future.

The county says parts for switch repair at Main and Mills should be in this week and be installed also they are scheduling weed spraying of the track.

This coming Saturday June 28 it will still be hot but a little lower temp. Lets continue giving rides but give crews good breaks and operate at slower speed especially on first run, watching for any track problem. If you can help crews put train away it is a job in this heat and they have more to do now retrieving derailleur and reports. Remember it is very hot putting cars back in containers. WE NEED TO ALL PLAY TOGETHER AND WATCH OUT FOR ALL!

**06-28-2025** - HOT AND MUGGY! Think this HEAT getting to visitors, we had very low attendance today. But also guess people getting ready for July 4 celebrations. Only had total estimate of 40 people attending, did have good turnout of members and were able to do lot of testing with operating two trains and check out of equipment. Made three trips to CSX main and saw train on two of them. The new covered passenger car performed well and it ready to haul visitors.

Crew training classes were given after noon. This ends grandfathered crew training classes. Recertification of all crew members will start in 2026 as required. Copy of Updated train operation rules will be placed on each motor car.

Track switch at Main and Mills has been replaced and working as required. In fact switches #1, #2 and #3 are all up to date. Blue sign and derailleur will be reinstalled on caboose track. Continue to us caution when using tracks on

east side of Main Street. Plans are to improve switches there. Also be aware of “stuff” in flange ways at road crossing. We need to correct used ties along Main Street (west side). Use them to mark parking lot neatly. All ways new history being made. What History will we be presenting to visitors in ten years ?

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## “Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

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## PHOTOS



*Top Left: I set it on track at Museum and took a ride. Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure. WARNING it is addictive. Note how museum area has changed in 15 years. Young Members you can catch the virus and have a good time at Museum also. But you must start now at Museum or you won't have a place to play with others and catch the virus also. There are many branches to the Hobby, pick yours.*

*Top Right: Visitors watch NB freight pass, note our new derailer.*

*Middle Left: Visitors given information on local area.*

*Middle Right: Member Mike C. caught Army train pass Leland VRE station at 6:30 on way to DC for Parade.*

*Bottom Left: last car of train.*

## **"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"**



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## PHOTOS

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*Top Left and Right: Talking about hot containers it was 15 years (6/17/2010) ago that we set container.*

*Middle Left: in place.*

*Middle Right: Showing upgrade to our train (covered cars) more are being built and we will still use the open cars as visitors really like them especially during fall leaf time.*

*Bottom Left: June 6, 2010 we saw a VRE, due to new company contract and crew training. VRE plans on starting Saturday runs soon so we may see them before long. Depending on what schedule they run.*

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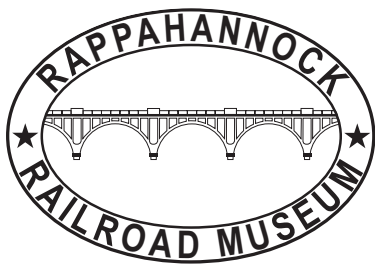
## **“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

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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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**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**



# JULY MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	July 5th	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	July 10th	<b>MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.</b> Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	July 12th	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	July 19th	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	July 26th	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.

**Celebrating the Independence of our Nation,**  
**Everything is ready for the train to leave the station;**  
**Visitors are commenting on the state of the museum,**  
**Commentary validates our displays for them to see-um.**

## **“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.*