

THE

MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 38

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Issue No. 08



MEETING NOTICE

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

September Meeting Agenda

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

Denver & Rio Grande Western train (Narrow Gauge), engine number 361, engine type 2-8-0, leading a westbound freight with 12 cars leaving Sapinero, Colo., June 29, 1944.

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 22408

Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Curtis Tammany	Museum Liaison:	David Wurick
Secretary:	Pending	Newsletter Editor:	James Keehner
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Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	James Keehner		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS 1/2 PAGE

No Message for this month

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 only ten years to June 2016. Take a good look at these two photos see what we have accomplish . 2016 No building, all displays in B-60. 2026 B-60 now has heat and AC all New displays. We have added equipment, operate larger trains. Added two building and four shipping containers.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along FMC Plant facility 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:

September 10th, 2026

October 8th, 2026

November 12th, 2026

December 10th, 2026

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma Washington, Tuesday, August 10, 2027 - 9:00am to Sunday, August 15, 2027 - 10:00pm <https://2027.nmra.org/>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

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

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Oct. 17-18 - Fredericksburg, VA*

Nov. 7-8 - Monroeville, PA*

Nov. 21-22 - Wilmington, MA*

Nov. 28-29 - Edison, NJ*

Dec. 5-6 - Timonium, MD*

2027 Shows

Jan 9-10 - Oaks, PA

Jan 16-17 - Richmond, VA

Jan 30-31 - Grayslake, IL

Feb 13-14 - Hampton, VA

Feb 20-21 - Monroeville, PA

Mar 13-14 - Edison, NJ

Mar 20-21 - Wilmington, MA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

September 12 – RMR Open House All gauges

September 19 – Disability Resource Center Fall Festival at Fredericksburg Fair Grounds N gauge layout

September 26 – Museum of Culpeper History HO confirmed, N and O gauge invited

October 10-11 - Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival N gauge layout

October 24 - Shannon Airport Harvest Festival All gauges

November 7-8 – Spotsylvania Town Center Holiday kickoff O, N gauge layouts

December 12-13 - RMR Christmas show at Eagles Lodge All gauges

RF&P HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Historical Society, Inc. will hold their next quarterly meeting on Saturday, August 29, 2026. The meeting will be held at the Salem Church Branch Library at 2607 Salem Church Road. The library will open at 9:00 AM. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

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

07-04-2025 - ENJOYABLE 4TH OF JULY! Opening Museum on the 4th worked out very well, Yes it was HOT but members were able to set in A/C, have relaxed social time, work on and enjoy inside projects. Train crews were able to talk with visitors as we did not take train out. We did have visitors stop by some had traveled a distance. There was a total est of 39 people who attended museum.

RRM SECRETARY POSITION: On June 25, 2026, secretary Andy S. stepped down as RRM secretary. I will appoint a member to finish out his 2026 term after discussions with BofD. If you would like to be considered for this position please email or contact me. Also think about 2027.

Don't let this heat stop you from enjoying your museum and presenting history to others. Soon it will be COLD, remember, Trains run year-round.

07-11-2025 - NOT AS PLANNED! Saturday was unusual in that there were lots of projects planned well in advance but they went undone as many members had other events come up at last Minute and could not attend Museum. Those that were Able to attend did a great job of making the morning a success, visitors did get rides on LYT, got good tours, classes were given and several old projects were reviewed. Overall good morning as we did have an est total attending of 48.

Saturday, July 18 remember we have a birthday party scheduled. Be sure caboose open, area neat, reserve sign out by caboose And party members are safe. Sorry for late and short update but the week continues to be challenging for me. See you Saturday.

07-18-2025 - SURPRISE A GOOD HOT DAY! Never boring on Saturday morning at Museum. We had talked about not opening this Saturday due to the HEAT and SMOKE also the birthday party had been canceled due to the heat. A few of us did show up and opening was well worth it. All told we did have a total est. of 52 attending, braving the extreme weather.

We did get train out and made two runs and a short run. We did get visitors from WV., Mass. and some drove a distance in the state for the visit and ride. We made some good contacts and got rather good donations. A good Morning.

I do have to give a BIG THANK YOU to train crew who braved the extreme heat also member "PM" who did a major job of cutting weeds around the Museum. Hope all OK have rested And cooled off.

TRAIN CREW MEMBERS NOTE: Jimmy plans on being at Museum This Saturday (July 25) and will be giving crew test to some. If you have not taken crew test for 2026, contact Jimmy as soon as you meet him this Saturday and get on list for test then. He will be giving test in morning and maybe afternoon. Let's ALL crew members get test over for 2026. Test for 2027 will be better controlled as we have learned so much this year. This is mandatory don't fight it.

Continue to support your Museum we have worked thru many problems over the years and new problems will appear but WE will work thru them together with success.

07-25-2025 - VERY BUSY DAY! Visitors started arriving at 9:00 and just kept coming right up to closing. We meet some in parking lot and had them go directly to train for last run of day. They were given time to tour museum while members stored train for the day. We ended the day with a total est of 91 attending Museum for the day.

Several members took time to be tested for operating LYT. This meant other members had to operate the busy Museum. They did a great job being short handed with the large number of visitors. WELL DONE AND A BIG THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE !

See you August 1st , catching up on things you hoped to do in fast July.

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POTOMAC CREEK TRESTLE APPROACH

This is a fascinating image because it is not the famous timber trestle bridge that most people associate with Potomac Creek. Instead, it appears to show the approach to the bridge, with the railroad descending through a deep cut toward Potomac Creek. The actual bridge is just beyond the visible portion of the track, partially hidden by the embankment and terrain.

Here is what is known about the photograph: The Library of Congress says “Military railroad bridge across Potomac Creek on the Fredericksburg Railroad.”

The image is an original Civil War Era albumen photograph in the Library of Congress’ Civil War collection. Unlike some of the more famous Potomac Creek photographs, the photographer is not identified in the record.

Where was it taken: The location is Potomac Creek, in what is now Stafford County, approximately 10 miles north of Fredericksburg. The railroad was then known as the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad (RF&P), one of the Union Army’s most important supply routes during the Civil War.

What you are seeing: The railroad descends through a deep man-made cut towards Potomac Creek. A long timber structure crosses the creek ahead. Only part of it is visible because the approach embankment blocks the remainder. Beyond the bridge are numerous tents, wagons, supply depots and military activity. The broad cleared landscape reflects the Union Army’s occupation of the area and where trees were cut extensively for construction timber and firewood.

This wasn’t simply a railroad, it was the logistical lifeline feeding the Army of the Potomac.

Date: The photograph was almost certainly made between late 1863 and 1864. Several clues suggest this. The Union Army occupied the Aquia Landing after 1862. Massive railroad reconstruction began immediately afterward. The landscape has already been heavily cleared by military activity. Large supply camps are visible beyond the bridge.

The military importance: Following the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, and again during the Overland Campaign of 1864, virtually all supplies for the Army of the Potomac came by ship to Aquia Landing and then by rail over this line to Falmouth and Fredericksburg. Thousands of tons of food, ammunition, forage, artillery, hospital supplies and troops crossed Potomac Creek every week.

The Famous Bridge: The best known Potomac Creek bridge was rebuilt by Herman Haupt’s U.S. Military Railroad Construction Corps after the Confederate forces destroyed the original.

It became famous because it was erected with astonishing speed using rough-hewn timber cut nearby. President Lincoln reportedly remarked “That man Haupt has built a bridge four hundred feet long and eighty feet high ... there is nothing in it but cornstalks and beanpoles.”

Despite its crude appearance, it safely carried fully loaded military trains for months.

Why this photograph is unusual: Most published images show the completed trestle from the side, emphasizing its incredible height. This photograph is much less common because it documents the railroad approach, the deep excavation leading to the bridge, the military encampments beyond and it gives a much better sense of the surrounding landscape.

For historians of the Fredericksburg area, it is one of the more informative views because it places the bridge within its operational setting rather than isolating the structure itself.



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CHASING THE 4014

Article and Photos by Andy S.

When I learned that the Union Pacific's 4014 Big Boy was coming across the country for the 250th anniversary celebration I knew I wanted to see her. In reviewing the schedule, I noted that she would be spending several days at Steamtown in Scranton, Pennsylvania for servicing. The plan was to place 4014 next to her sister locomotive 4012 that is on static display at Steamtown. This was to be my first stop to see not one but two Big Boy locomotives. A never to be repeated event for sure. Luckily I was able to see her during the day but also acquired a spot for a night photography event featuring both Big Boys with WWII era reenactors staged on and around them.

I talked to the Superintendent of Steamtown. He stated that they have about 60K visitors a year. During the 17 day stay at Steamtown the Big Boy brought in 110K visitors. The first day was 29K. Wow !!

The Big Boy originally had a name selected by the Union Pacific Railroad for that class of locomotives but a shop worker at ALCO, where she was built, had a different idea. He wrote on the front of the Boiler BIG BOY with a V for victory under it in chalk. It was 1941 and WWII had already begun. The name stuck.

Next was to plan a second trip to see 4014 under steam. After consulting with several friends in Pennsylvania, we selected the Hershey/Lebanon area for a several runbys. I was amazed at just how many folks were at every possible trackside location to see and photograph 4014. We were very lucky to have found a spot alongside a farmers corn field with a large group of Mennonites. A very friendly group who came by farm wagon and enjoyed a large picnic while they waited. Once she passed we and just about everyone else was on to the next location to photograph her again. Modern railfanning has come a long way. The Big Boy has it's own website that gives you up to date locations and the speed that the train is travelling.

Our group then headed to Enola Yard where the train parked for the night. They lit up the entire train so the road adjacent to the yard was flooded with people. It was so nice and everyone was having a ball. After scouting areas for the morning shoot we were done for the night. Early the next morning I saw her one more time steaming through Duncannon, Pa. She did not disappoint and the crowd of 100 plus people included toddlers to retirees. A great location for any PRR fan to photograph steam.



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CHASING THE 4014

Article and Photos by Andy S.



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BUY SELL or TRADE

This is a new section of the newsletter and will also be added to the Museum webpage (if there is the option to do so, I will make this a members only access page of the Website). It's purpose is to give the Museum and members the opportunity to offer items they do not plan to use to other members. This page will not be included in copies of the Mail Pouch shared with other organizations.

If you have items you wish to get published in this section, please email the editor clear pictures of the item, a brief description and your asking price. Your name will be included in the listing, if you wish to have other information included such as contact info, please include that as well.



This is a very loose representation of the Rappahannock River Bridge in Fredericksburg. The name has been removed from the bridge structure. The track is supported with risers hidden by the bridge. The track is code 100 Atlas flextrack. The structures are a mix of kits from multiple manufacturers. The ground cover and ballast are Woodland scenics. This module has legs available. ASKING PRICE is simply Best Offer!



Left is the “Old Man of the Mountain” module and right is “The Holler” both are meant to represent vacation spots where folks can relax and enjoy nature. The track is code 100 Atlas flextrack. The structures are a mix of kits from multiple manufacturers. The ground cover and ballast are Woodland scenics. This modules DO have legs available. ASKING PRICE is simply Best Offer for each!

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PHOTOS



Top Left; members enjoying July 4th (note hand is Richard)

Top Right and Center Left: we displayed flag over the weekend for first time (yes it had a spot light at night).

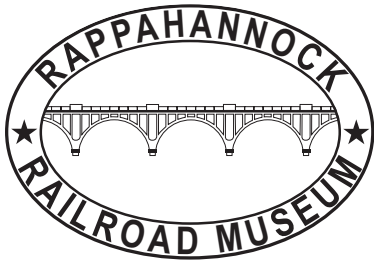
Center Right: July 7, 2009 painting, building transfer table

Bottom: Don checking out first move after painting.



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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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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	August 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	August 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.
Saturday	September 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	September 10th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	September 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	September 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.

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

The seasons are turning again,
Fall and cooler weather is about to begin;
New operating format is the plan of the day,
The Museum continues to build the way.

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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.*