

THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

Issue No. 8 & 9

August/September 2024



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12th, 2024. 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 upcoming Projects.*
 - Entertainment TBD.*
-
-

On a beautiful Easter afternoon, an empty CSX ballast train heads south over the Rappahannock River, southbound on the CSX RF&P subdivision through Fredericksburg, Virginia. Randall Hampton

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:	Leo Zerhusen	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

Welcome to August and September. All seems to be going well at the Rappahannock Railroad Museum as we improve and present history and safety to ALL. This is all good but there is something else I am concerned with as we meet Railroad personal and watch / photo rail action, WE need to be sure we don't become an irritant to those we meet or cause any type of safety problem. Just because you like train operations don't try to tell the workers how to do their job, or get in their way (Do not trespass). To many company personal the word RAIL Fan is the same as a four letter word. Enjoy you railroad hobby but don't cause problems with the very ones your hobby depends on. Enjoy presenting Rail history , Don't cause doors to close in your face.

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



CSX staged a load of lumber for a business in park on track close to us. That's not a problem for us as we can use the run around track for our movements and visitors would get to see railroad operations up close.

“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:

July 11, 2024

August 8, 2024

September 12th, 2024

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

44th National Narrow Gauge Convention September 11-14, 2024 — Pittsburgh, PA. <https://www.44nngc.com>

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Nov. 2-3 - Monroeville, PA

Nov. 16-17 - Wilmington, MA

Nov. 23-24 - Edison, NJ

Dec. 7-8 - Timonium, MD

Dec 21-22 - Chantilly, VA

Dec. 28-29 - Hampton, VA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

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

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

September 14 Open House, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

October TBD Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, (N gauge only), See Festival Website

October 14 - 15 National Museum of the Marine Corps, 1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle VA, See USMC Museum website

October 26 Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in, Shannon Airport See 10th Annual Harvest Festival Fly In at Shannon

November 9-10 Spotsylvania Towne Centre, Next to the Food Court

November 22-24 46th Annual Model Railroad Show, Science Museum of Virginia (N gauge only), See WRIC publicity for event

December 7-8 Annual Train Show, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4123, See 2023 RMR Christmas Train Show highlights

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.*



Visitors get a close view of new AMTRAK colors.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

MONTHLY RECAP

07-06-2024 - AND THE HEAT CONTINUES. Yes, another very hot Saturday morning but guess what the visitors keep coming. Crew sets train up and ready to go with a load by 9:30. It was hot on train even when moving but thru the woods and stopped in shade watching trains pass makes trip well worth it. We had a total est. of 92 people at Museum. Some coming a long way as some had traveled from Michigan, Alabama and New Jersey. Visitors and members were very thankful for the three A/C areas we have.

After closing board members grabbed a bit to eat and then held their scheduled Board meeting for a little over two hours. They plan on giving a report at Thursdays meeting.

I am glad to see more members attending lately, this really helps in extreme weather, members outside can get needed breaks. Let's keep working together.

07-13-2024 - STILL HOT. Yes, Saturday HOT once more. Oh well we will soon be complaining about the cold, good thing about Virginia you can always look for a change. Attendance was down a little as we only had estimate of 69 people stopping by. The train did run several trips last one only to Tidewater Trail. Visitors as normal did enjoy the A/C areas which continues doing a good job. We did work on ODC car preparing it for safe service. Members went to Lowe's and picked up enough trek to rebuild the west station platform the wood one has some rough spots. We continue planning a second "N" layout in North Annex. We updated our Venmo code and posting it, I will post it as soon as I get copy of the new one.

I am impressed how our Museum continues to improve. It is obvious if you watch how members work together and the donations of time, material and finances on Saturdays and many hours during the week. We have a great family who like to enjoy presenting history to families nationwide. Word is spreading on our living history Museum. Great fun members!

Our monthly meetings are gaining in attendance, next one on Aug. 8th. Hope to see you there.

BE SAFE in this hot weather, take breaks, move slower and drink lots of water. Stay out of sun as much as you can. Looking for cooler weather

07-20-2024 - WELCOME TO THE RRM. One picture worth 1000 words and this photo does just that. As it shows how much we are improving. Note fence painted, flower pots installed, flowers and shrubs planted been watered and all blooming, our new mail box is receiving mail, parking lot updated and we are in process of painting our B-60. Not included in photo are many other large projects we are working on. This is just some of the great projects ongoing at Your Museum. Having FUN presenting History!

Saturday was another very busy morning, with an est. of 106 people attending, made at least three runs of train, carrying Seniors and the very young on train and tours thru out the Museum. It was very enjoyable exchanging info between visitors and members, we all learn.

Monthly meeting on second Thursday of month is growing with the added special presentations, if someone would like to give a +/- 30 minute program on a railroad Subject please contact Alan Mc. News: Yes, the CSX derailment was only about one mile north of our area, in the local yard. Five cars, no spills, no injuries a sound wall buffer was knocked down and crushed some garages. Mostly cleaned up already. Enjoying best HOBBY of all.

07-27-2024 - BUSY SUMER SEASON CONTINUES. July has been busy and good for us this year. Once more the broke the 100 mark with est. of 107 people attending Saturday. All equipment ran find and train was loaded each run. Several projects were improved, ODC car received window molding and some insulation in roof. Limbs trimmed off top of container #1 and weeds cut at switch on mills drive and also around switch at MP 57 now better site line for arriving train crew. Even had a drone over the area. Model layouts are a great hit with all while waiting for next train.

At our monthly meeting on August 8th Mrs. Carolyn Berry will be visiting us. She writes children's activity books and would like to discuss some things that set us apart for children that she could include in her next book. Members please be thinking about what you would like to see in the book also remember copy right laws. This would be one more way for word spreading about our Museum. See you Saturday.

08-03-2024 - HOT and MUGGY! The heat seemed worst today even though temp down a little the humidity was BAD. It seemed to get to all, we were down in numbers of members and visitors but think I understand. We need more help putting train away at noon, the crew has mostly run out of energy by then, help them then have your social time.

MONTHLY MEETING THIS THURSDAY AUG. 8TH. at 7:00 PM. Normal business, Mrs. Berry will attend looking for ideas on children's activity book she is writing and wants to include us in the book. Alan will have a short presentation on railroad a subject. Be looking for you. Remember we have A/C and building does not leak if it happens to rain.

It seems a red fox has set up an apartment under our annex. It has been seen several times, looks healthy and not aggressive. It's trying to stay cool, Best to leave it alone at this time. We do watch for wasp nest in area and we destroy them as soon as we find them. If you find a nest keep all away from them and prepare to destroy them.

It is important for members to attend on these hot days so members can swap out jobs and get a break from the heat. Especially the train crews have to take breaks and need help setting up and putting away the train. We all have to work together, safety includes health of members.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

MONTHLY RECAP

08-10-2024 - A GOOD DAY. Weather was just a little warm, We had an est. of 72 attending and train made four trips to Main line and saw several trains. Several out of state visitors even one family visiting from Canada. Not many projects worked on but members did get track switches working on the "Z" layout. Much better than hand throw when that size. Our Thomas layouts got a good work out.

Saturday Aug. 17 several members have other commits and cannot attend. Please others try to attend and help. We were short handed on the 10th but members worked hard and all went well. But lot of tired members at noon. Members you did GOOD!

We did have our monthly meeting on the 8th with 11 members present. Due to weather it was a business meeting only no program early dismissal. The high light of meeting was when all phones went off with "Tornado Alert". At that moment it was HEAVY rain so we set it out. When meeting dismissed we went out to a LAKE (remember lake Bowman) but no damage was seen. Yes we had a good business meeting lot of information passed. So glad members braved the weather but remember if any type of weather is unsafe in your area, come only if you feel safe attending.

Note: we have updated membership forms at the Welcome Desk. Right Address.

Maybe back to thinking about a boat Museum. ONLY Kidding! See You Saturday.

08-17-2024 - VERY BUSY LEARNING DAY! We had a very busy start to the day. Many of our regular members had other appointments. Members present did a good job of trying to fill in. But we were reminded that we need more training for members and documentation of our operations. Members share your knowledge for operating Museum with others, new members ASK and learn. We did have a total est. of 83 attending Saturday.

KEYS: Some of Our keys seem to have been misplaced, lost or put in wrong place. I will try to put them in order hopely this week. Remember if you use a key put it back when finished, If you have keys issued to you bring and use them. Remember look for number engraved on lock, there should be a matching number on the right key. Please don't make your own keys, as I have found keys without numbers on them and that only adds to confusion. This will be worked out but only with your help and patience.

Receipts: Remember if you are authorized to purchase something for Museum be sure to keep receipts for Treasure when you need to be reimbursed. It is all about keeping accounts straight. Remember our treasure is a volunteer also, don't confuse her job, THANK YOU.

Remember we all must pull together for our Museum, See you Saturday.

08-24-2024 - WHAT A BUSY DAY! We opened as normal and train left station about 9:40 with a full load. We ended the day with an estimate of 115 attending the Museum and making four full trips to Main Line. All went well.

it with its number and a lanyard attached. They are being put in a temporary key location. Still have more unknown keys. If you need a key look for number on lock find matching key number. When finished "PUT IT BACK" from where you got it. I have not finished yet plan on having a Key locker for all when finished. Thanks for your patience.

WORKING WITH OTHERS . At times we work with or ask to help other companies in the park, be sure you are professional, safe and answer questions as needed. Do not try to tell others how to do their job just watch and learn. There have been several accidents lately on the railroad (not us). You never know who you may meet inspecting the area. Don't trespass and follow safety standards at all times. Wear safety vest when locking/unlocking switch and all train crew members are to have yellow vest on.

Sorry for long Update but we are very busy lately and have a lot of projects on going. Thanks to all working together and making the Museum a success.

08-31-2024 - WHAT A FANTASTIC DAY! The morning started normal a little cloudy but nice (no rain). First train left on schedule at 9:35. Visitor attendance was down a little but not bad for Holiday weekend. We had an estimate of 88 attending today. Several from out of state after we closed while were painting, gave them at least part of tour and tried to make them welcome.

We did normal upkeep, got in training on model layouts and operating our train. Did major rearrange of displays in N&W caboose. But after we closed members gathered at 1:00 and started putting primer coat on the B-60. They finished the primer coat at 5:30. It was work but 10 members enjoyed the time rolling and brushing on 4 gallons of paint, while having fun talking and discussing things that are going on at Museum and just having a good time together. We have a membership to be proud of.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SECOND PAINTING PARTY ! Next Saturday Sept. 7,2024 at 1:00 P.M. We will be putting the coat of Tuscan on car. ALL ARE INVITED, the more the better and quicker party will be over, all supplies provided. Come ready to paint and have fun. If convent you can bring your ladder we could use an extra one or two. Be looking for you!

Note: We have several projects going on now, so if you use keys, fuel, tools, ect. PLEASE put them back where you got them when you finish for the day. This will help others from having to go on an Easter egg hunt and waste time on their project. Really great job team. Preserving History and having Fun!

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

RAILROAD CHRISTMAS ADVERTISEMENTS



HOLIDAY HOMECOMING . . .

There's nothing quite so pleasant as coming home again . . . Especially when it's "home for Christmas" . . . and when you take the train!

This is the happy season when Pennsylvania Railroad's great fleets of trains between East and West, North and South, assume a particularly festive air.

By Pullman, by coach, joyous families are going to visit the folks at home—carefree, comfortable, relaxed as they speed on their way.

For your holiday travels Pennsylvania Railroad offers a wide choice of daily trains . . . conveniently scheduled to fit your plans.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

HOLIDAY HOMECOMING . . .

There's nothing quite so pleasant as coming home again . . . Especially when it's "home for Christmas" . . . and when you take the train!

This is the happy season when Pennsylvania Railroad's great fleets of trains between East and West, North and South, assume a particularly festive air.

By Pullman, by coach, joyous families are going to visit the folks at home—carefree, comfortable, relaxed as they speed on their way.

For your holiday travels Pennsylvania Railroad offers a wide choice of daily trains . . . conveniently scheduled to fit your plans.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

1948 Pennsylvania Railroad Christmas Advertisement, to the right is the same text in a slightly different format from the same Ad Campaign. The Image Above was submitted by Andy Sentipal

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

CSX INCIDENTS



Above: Train crashes into a Niagara Falls home garage — for the second time

CARLA SINCLAIR 4:46 PM MON JUL 22, 2024

A freight train jumped its tracks and crashed into a home's garage while traveling through Niagara Falls this morning. Weirdly, this is the second time a train has crashed into the same garage. The first time was around 50 years ago.

"The whole house shook," the resident of the home, Lori Morreale Harris, told USA Today. Her destroyed garage sits about 10 feet away from her home. (See photo of the aftermath below, posted by 7 News WKBW.)

The crash reminded Harris of the first time this happened in the 1970s, when a train jumped the tracks and hit the same garage that, at the time, belonged to her grandparents.

The CSX locomotive reportedly jumped the rail at about 8:15 a.m. Monday, striking a garage behind the home ...

Marcus Gillebaard, a North Tonawanda resident and former CSX locomotive engineer who retired in 2019 after 41 years of service, stopped by to survey the scene on Monday afternoon. He said the area in question is where the railroad has a "y-shaped" section of track, which is used to maneuver engines and cars back and forth. At the back of the property, there is a steel bumper, which is designed to prevent rail cars from running off onto residential property.

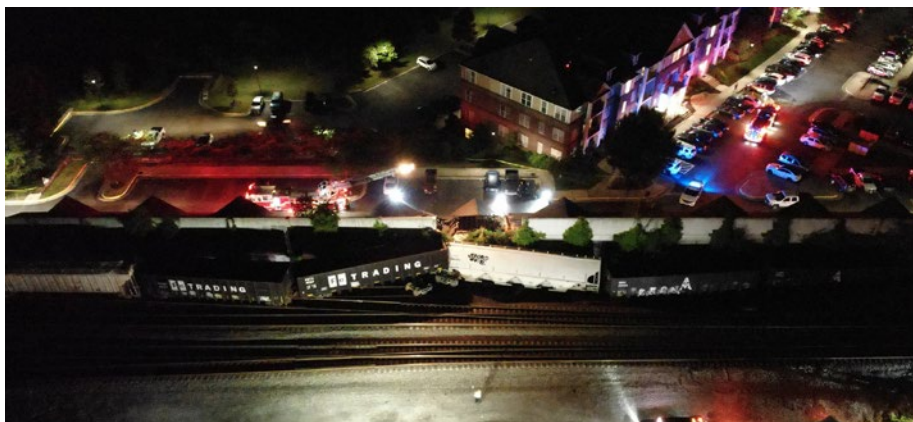
Gillebaard said it appeared as though they were attempting to use the Y-track area to maneuver the locomotive so it could move in the opposite direction when, for whatever reason, it did not stop.

Gillebaard said the locomotive in question was likely being operated via "remote control" instead of an actual human engineer, which he said is a system that has been a point of contention for his former union for many years.

Fortunately, neither crash caused any injuries. But one bystander from the neighborhood, who was also around in the 1970s, said enough is enough. "This is the second time now... The same thing happened, the train went through and crushed the garage," Bob Kachurek said, via Yahoo News!. "If someone was in that garage they could have gotten killed. How important can 200 yards of track be?"

Below: CSX Train 3121 slides southbound on Track 2 as the cleanup from last night's derailment continues. It appears the black gondola car on Track 3 beyond the cranes is being loaded with debris. The vehicles and equipment are being staged from VRE Lot G on Frederick St.

Photo taken at 12:30 today from Blue and Gray Parkway bridge.



"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

PHOTOS



TOP LEFT: Also Amtrak regular colors, note a couple of extra cars due to July 4th rush. TOP RIGHT: The ODC car is looking much better. We continue adding safety equipment to car (chains & hand grabs), couple more upgrades and think it will be in service. CENTER LEFT: Very few get to look inside container #3 or 4 it is filling up but great storage area that is all ways changing (pump, NYC crane, flat car & Stuff) so glad we got the 9' height containers this time. CENTER RIGHT: CSX freight passed MP57 just before LYT arrives. BOTTOM LEFT: Amtrak passes LYT on track 1 at speed. BOTTOM RIGHT: HO model boxcar visits it's big brother, if you have not visited our Model area you really need to stop by (thanks Phil).



“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS

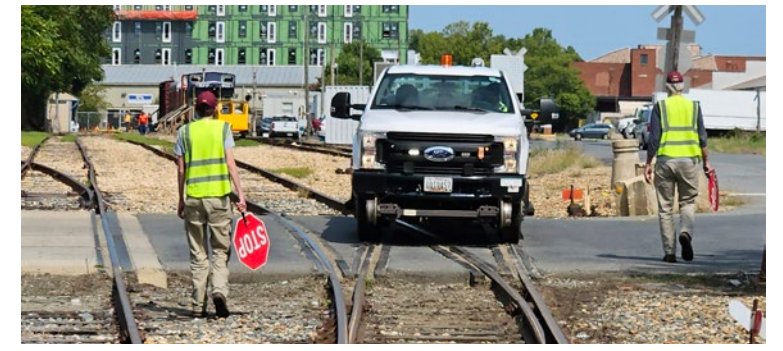


TOP LEFT: You never know what road name diesel will be passing the coal mine. Great displays modelers. TOP RIGHT: Once more someone did not stop in time at next light. It had nothing to do with our train, happen before we got there. CENTER LEFT: Fox laying in shade trying to cool down (panting). CENTER RIGHT: train eases up to 401 & new car after test on transfer table 'it did not fit'. BOTTOM LEFT: test train follows LYT out to MP57, BOTTOM RIGHT: NB CSX freight slows on track one and will hold for NB Amtrak to pass on #2.



“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS

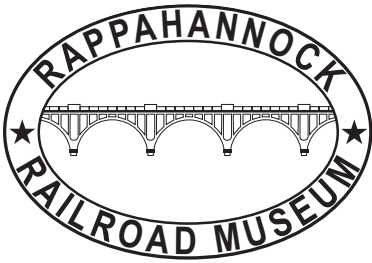


TOP LEFT: Rain during Aug. monthly meeting, parking lot only wet at start of meeting, Then "Tornado Alert". TOP RIGHT: As leaving note trees leaning. UPPER CENTER LEFT: Flash Back: Aug. 8, 2009 Members using our new transfer table, Lots has changed. UPPER CENTER CENTER: visitors on way thru woods looking for trains. UPPER CENTER RIGHT: Track inspector follows LYT thru the woods. LOWER CENTER LEFT: NB Amtrak on track three at speed. LOWER CENTER RIGHT: CSX getting off track after returning from MP57. BOTTOM LEFT: starting on east side, BOTTOM CENTER: working on west side, BOTTOM RIGHT: finished for day, the GRAY Ghost. See what happens when we together.



"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, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Signature: _____ Date: _____

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday Sept7th 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 Sept 12th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday Sept 14th 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 Sept 21nd 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 Sept 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.

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

The summer heat has begun to fade,
It's beginning to get cool in the shade;
Easing down the line on the Yellow Train,
Visiting the Museum is good for the brain.

“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.*