

THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

Issue No. 1

January 2024



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11th, 2024. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and will be held at The Museum's East Annex. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

January Meeting Agenda

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

Cover Image: A former N&W unit leads a brace of former Southern units southeast of Harmon on Feb. 9, 1985. This is a Norfolk Southern train but today these tracks are part of the Wheeling & Lake Erie. Robert Farkas Photo.

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.
P.O. Box 9088
Fredericksburg, VA 22403-9088

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

Hello members and friends: Good News the Rappahannock Railroad Museum INC. Survived 2023. Yes we did hit a few pot holes but pulled our way out and made good progress for the year. We added rolling equipment, improved our displays even added Harold the horse, upgraded security with full time cameras and even had our parking lot resurfaced. No bad for a small group of volunteers.

As we enter 2024 we are still very busy installing electric service to containers #3 an #4, building new passenger cars for LYT, restoring a Fairmount crane and looking to expand our operating hours.

I would like to invite others who enjoy the Railroad Hobby to come and JOIN us. You can help with any planned projects we have or if you are not able to attend but would like to just keep up on all the action and support us thru donations at RRM that would be fine .

For more info on our Museum visit our web site at rrmuseum.org. We support all types of local 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 copywrite laws).

Thank you all for your support.

Jim Keehner
Editor
Rappahannock Railroad Museum



Leo & Jake lower boom on Fairmount crane while checking it out.

“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:

Jan. 11, 2024

Feb. 8, 2024

Mar. 14, 2024

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2024 Long Beach August 4 - 11, 2024 Westin Long Beach 333 East Ocean Blvd Long Beach, CA USA. <https://surfliner2024.org/>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

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

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Jan 6-7 - Monroeville, PA

Jan 13-14 - Oaks, PA

Jan 20-21 - Richmond, VA

Feb 24-25 - Wilmington, DE

Mar 9-10 - Edison, NJ

Mar 23-24 - Wilmington, MA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

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

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

February 10-11 FXB Kid Fest, Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center

March 9-10 Boy Scout Troop 964 Show, Lake Ridge Middle School

April 27 Ashland Train Day, See website

May 18 Open House, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

July 26 - Aug 4 Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, Fairgrounds Home Economics Building

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.*

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

12-02-2023 - GOOD MUSEUM CHECKOUT DAY. Very low visitor count 2 in morning and 3 more in afternoon. We did make one run to Main line. We did have 16 members attend , so members got to checked out (crane, 401, security cameras, welcome desk and layouts) so it was a good work day that was needed. Thanks All. We will be having other slow visitor days during winter so let's make sure all members get to enjoy updating all areas of Museum as we work TOGETHER.

Train Show at Eagles club this weekend (Dec. 8,9 & 10) remember if you have volunteered don't let Chip down. Also remember our Museum will be open and operating, lots of things we can do there, yes may be low attendance with "Eagles show and Santa trains running" but WE have a great railroad presentation also.

Christmas Dinner & Monthly Meeting Dec 14. Space Reserved at Scafa's Italian Restaurant for the 14th of December 2023, starting at 6:30 PM. The restaurant is at 10349 Courthouse RD. , Spotsylvania VA, 22553. Phone is (540)898-7819. This will be our December Christmas Monthly Meeting. It is located in the shopping strip on the east side of courthouse rd (RT 208) across the street from Giant super market in Hilltop shopping center. I have reserved for 26 people to start and we can adjust that # as we get closer to the date. We can order off the regular menu with each person/couple having a separate check. Their menu is mostly Italian and also Pizza and various subs. Any questions email, Leoz01@aol.com.

Membership renewal: A good number of members have renewed already. Please mail in or hand in your renewal soon if you have not renewed yet. 2023 membership ends December 31 at Mid night. Don't get left at station, get your ticket for a exciting trip thru 2024. Enjoying , presenting history to others with friends.

12-09-2023 - A GOOD DAY! Saturday was a good day as we had est of 37 guest stop by, some had been to the train show in town and some were going there, also VRE Santa trains were running. I am glad we were able to have a display at train show all weekend as well as operating the museum. We did good with all the competition that was happening in the area at the same time. Think we had 16 members helping at museum or at train show on Saturday. Thanks to our members who helped at the train show Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So many of our members put in a lot of extra time for their Museum that you never hear about. THANKS for making our Museum a success !

Note: Our parking lot is scheduled to be resurfaced, this Monday or Tuesday (weather permitting) please do not park in lot or leave any vehicles in lot during time contractor will be working. He will be working from potties to south end of N&W caboose. If you stop by while contractor is working do not get in his way. Thanks.

Monthly meeting. Space Reserved at Scafa's Italian Restaurant for the 14th of December 2023, starting at 6:30 PM. The restaurant is at 10349 Courthouse RD. , Spotsylvania VA, 22553. Phone is (540)898-7819. Short business meeting, results of officer election, Brass lantern presentation and good social time meal. Note: elec. contractor will soon be upgrading elec. to Containers 3&4. They are getting permits at this time and will be working soon. Please stay clear for safety as they will be lifting poles and working with the eclectic service. Thanks

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! Many have already renewed but for those who have not, Please send/bring in your dues for 2024. your Museum has grown and has a very busy year ahead, so sign up and enjoy your main hobby. Please fill in membership form so we have up to date info.

I hope members enjoy knowing what is happening at Museum thru these updates even if they are not able to attend Saturdays. I want each member to feel they are part of operations at the Rappahannock Railroad museum.

12-16-2023 - Good Catch up DAY. Chilly start to morning but nice for a mid of December. We had est. of 33 visitors and 16 members on site. Made three trips to CSX main line. Trip one meet the Auto Train (running very late) and trip three saw a NB long freight. Visitors really enjoyed seeing the trains pass. With 16 members attending we were able to put show displays neatly on top shelf of box car for next year and moved potties up to new pavement now much better for wheel chair access and we have more parking room. Members made changes and updates to model trains in north annex also still chasing an elec problem in HO layout. If you get a chance visit our web site it has been updated and really looking better.

Renew your membership for 2024 if you have not already. Attachment #4 is the renewal form, please feel free to print it and mail it or bring it to Museum on your next trip. If for some reason you cannot print it out I will email you one or you can pick up one at Museum.

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

Heat/AC in annexes: Please do not try to adjust heat or A/C in the North or East annex They have been programmed to come on automatically as needed. Thanks.

Parking Lot: There will be a tool under steps of B-60 that you can use to level any damage to lot that you may see, Let's try to keep pavement neat as long as we can.

Membership renewal for 2024: Time getting close, 2023 RRM membership ends on December 31. RRM has many plans and updates for 2024 and we need all the help we can get in person or with donations, If you have not renewed for 2024 (many have already) renew as soon as you can.

Dec. business meeting Christmas Family dinner was a great success with 21 attending good food and great social time. All reports given. Election results presented and all officers will continue to serve for 2024. Dennis Overcash awarded the "Bill Jerow Volunteerism Award" for 2024. RRM board awarded James & Ellen a plaque naming east annex the "James and Ellen Taylor Annex". We have a wonderful dictated Museum Family. Merry Christmas to All!

12-23-2023 - MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! Yes, I know several thought we should have been closed Saturday but I am glad we were open as we all had a good social time, worked on a lot of little projects and were able to discuss progress on several ongoing projects. I logged 16 members being present, great number for Christmas eve eve.

We only had 11 visitors come by and one of the families were from Vermont. Word is spreading on our Museum, glad we were able to give them a ride to CSX main line and even saw two Virginia deer on way out and still in woods on return.

Personal: I know several of our members will be traveling distances during this season, I hope all will be safe and return with good memories.

Membership renewal for 2024: Time getting close, 2023 RRM membership ends on December 31. RRM has many plans and updates for 2024 and we need all the help we can get in person or with donations, If you have not renewed for 2024 (many have already) renew as soon as you can. Even if you are not able to attend Museum because of health or distance please feel free to renew as you can still support RRM with you donations and telling others about us.

12-30-2023 - OUTSTANDING END TO 2023! Saturday was a great way to end a very positive year, yes a couple of hiccups along the way. But we learned how to better serve our guest with each experience. Saturday we had and est. of 82 visitors attend and 15 members on duty helping visitors enjoy the morning. Even had a family from England. Our LYT made three full trips to CSX main line and a short trip mostly full to Tide Water trail.

We have several projects in planning for 2024, I hope each member will try to give their best and enjoy your Museum. A few have not paid their dues for 2024 yet. Now that the holiday rush is over sit back and take time to mail in your dues. It is not a big expense as only \$15.00 for voting membership and a \$1.00 for non voting family members for the total year of 2024. Renewal forms are in this update and in the Mail pouch, copy and send/bring it in. We also have forms at welcome desk.

Personal: We have had a lot of health issues during the year and now. Let's keep these members in our thoughts and prayers for quick healing and safe traveling on trips.

Museum closing: We do not plan on closing due to bad weather year round. BUT do not come if roads bad in your area, you decide what is safe for you. SAFETY FIRST! See you next year.



LYT approaches Rt.2 passing the just opened CDL Driving School

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

RAILROAD PROHIBITIONS

At one time, these were (and sometimes still are) actual laws or railroad rules.

West Virginia law required that if a railroad passed within one mile of a community with 100 or more people, then it was required to build a station and stop there regularly to pick up and drop off passengers.

A Chicago, Illinois law once prohibited eating in a place that was on fire. After much discussion, a 1912 amendment exempted dining cars on steam trains.

Texas law once said: When two trains meet each other at a railroad crossing: each train shall come to a full stop, and neither train shall proceed until the other has gone. Huh??

A New York City Ordinance prohibited the shooting of rabbits from the rear of a Third Avenue street car if it was in motion.

Believe it or not, putting salt on a railroad track in Alabama was once punishable by death.

It is considered a misdemeanor offense to throw pickle juice at a trolley in Rhode Island.

In West Virginia, it was once illegal to sleep on a train.

In Seattle, Washington, women who sit on men's laps on trains without placing a pillow between them would face an automatic six-month jail term.

It is against the law for a railroad to remove itself from a town of more than 500 people in South Carolina.

In Washington state, a dog must have accompanied the cowcatcher to scare livestock from the tracks.

If you attack a train in Indiana, you're gonna be jailed!

In South Dakota, it is illegal to place firecrackers on railroad tracks. The fine doubles if they are lit.

In Rhode Island, it is illegal to operate a passenger car between a locomotive and a load of dirt.

The state of Minnesota enacted a law that defined all railroad cars as buildings and, as such, were subject to the same rules and restrictions listed in state building codes.

It is illegal to place soap on railroad tracks in Mississippi.

In Wisconsin, it was once illegal to kiss on a train.

In South Carolina, railroad companies may be held liable for scaring horses.

A Gary, Indiana, ordinance once prohibited anyone from attending a movie house, theater, or riding on a public streetcar within four hours of eating garlic.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS



Top Left: Jimmy & David follow LTY with the 401 while doing maintenance and check out on it.

Top Right: LYT passing Air Port on return to Museum.

Center Left: The RF&P #43 and RF&P #401 on Maintenance Track for Check out.

Center Right: Member Corey doing checkout on MR 43 while Treasure Virginia observes.

Bottom Right: Dennis & Phil at train show with our display



“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS

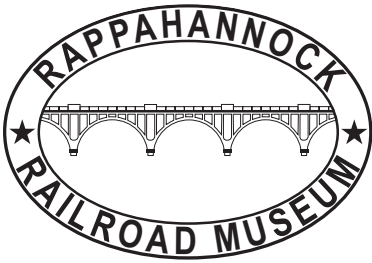


Top Left: Our newly resurfaced parking lot. Top Right: CSX shifting at Deep Run station Dec 13, 2023. Center Left: Kids of all ages love to play in the snow, December 26, 1909 Don with the m1892 near Rt.2. Center Right in the yard (what a change in back ground). Bottom Left: LYT leaving yard rounding curve on Deep Run branch line. Bottom Right: Visitors and crew observe long NB Freight at MP 57.



“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 _____

Family \$1.00 each _____

Museum Donation _____

Total: _____

Please mail to the following address or hand in at meeting.

Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 9088
Fredericksburg, VA. 22403-9088

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”

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday January 6th 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 January 11th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE EAST ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday January 13th 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 January 20th 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 January 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.

Old St. Nick has come and gone,
Already the New Year is moving along;
Riding the Yellow Train can be a little chill,
The growth of the Museum continues to thrill.

“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.*