

THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

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March and April 2024



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th, 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.

April Meeting Agenda

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

Cover Image: Uncredited image of an Atlantic Coast Line F series locomotive crossing a lift bridge. Photo is from an article on 1950's railroading by Philip Gerard.

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:

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Fredericksburg, VA 22403-9088

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Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Members and Friends: Moving into March we are hoping for a little warmer weather as we prepare for spring operations. We have made a lot of improvements during winter months and the Board leaders are planning several projects that will increase visitor interest in our displays and increase our capacity of our train. We continue to work with other organizations, companies and county to insure proper growth. At this time our future looks good as we all work together. We are lucky to have many good members with talents that help us over those little bumps in the track as we enjoy presenting living history to others.

Welcome to April Members and Friends. I think and maybe hope March used up some of Aprils showers as it rained rather hard most every Saturday in March. But as normal our Museum did well. Yes, several Saturdays our train did not run but over the years we have developed the ability to give good tours inside for our visitors. Also many improvements were made, repairs made and Lessons learned on how we will do better with our presentations. I look forward to enjoying time with members and talking with our visitors about rail operations, local history, and Safety. I believe we are going to have a busy year. Yes there will be a few bad spots in the track at times but we can repair them.

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, Feb. 15, 2014 - 8:39 in morning, always amazing how much we have changed and grown. We should keep growing if we all help.

“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:

April 11, 2024

May 9, 2024

June 13, 2024

July 11, 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

Jul. 13-14 - Oaks, PA

Aug. 3-4 - Monroeville, PA

Aug. 10-11 - Edison, NJ

Aug. 17-18 - Chantilly, VA

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

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.*

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MONTHLY RECAP

02-03-2024 - A NICE FEBRUARY MORNING AT DEEP RUN STATION! We had a good day in that repairs to were made to the 401, some members got instructions on running the HO layout with DCC, Train made three trips to Main Line. Had and total estimate of 54 people at Museum.

Monthly Meeting is THIS Thursday February 8 at 7:00 PM at our Museum. Museum reports will be presented and updates on Many ongoing projects. Alan will present a railroad related video. This is time for members to talk to others in person on changes at Museum and let new members (also us old Members) understand more about operations and safety at Museum. See you this Thursday.

Note: Main street rail crossing is to be repaired on Feb. 10 or Feb. 17. We should still be able to run LYT then but will have to get clearance to pass work area I am sure (safety Rules must be followed). It will cause traffic problems. Do not interfere with contractor, we have worked hard to get this done. Spotsylvania County in Charge of project.

Members: We have had several new members added recently, please make sure they are invited to help with operations and that they are aware of OUR SAFETY OPERATING RULES.

02-10-2024 - PRODUCTIVE DAY AT MUSEUM. Weather was good for an almost mid February day. Members got train out quickly and started first of three trips to main line. We had a total estimate of 58 people at museum. The small rain shower waited until we were putting our train back in containers.

We turned power on in container #4 for first time with our new electrical. drop, will be a big help now when working in Containers #3 & #4, no more long electrical cords with flash lights. No excuses for not working on projects in that area.

We pulled maintaince on The MR-43 and the big Northwestern gang car now runs like it did years ago. We are very proud of it as it came from the RF&P and was the largest one they had. I have only seen one photo of it in service and it was very poor shot with the 43 in far background. IF you have or know of another photo of it please consider sharing it with us. It normally pushed a shop made single axle crane that connected to frame of gang car.

Note: CSX has just come out with an RF&P heritage locomotive. Look for it as I am sure it will pass thru our area. Have you noticed how the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, inc. is growing. We are in the right place at the right time for more fun and growth with railroad/local history!

02-17-2024 - No Update

02-24-2024 - GOOD DAY PREPARING FOR BUSY SPRING. Saturday was a good day as we had a good number of visitors and members so rides/tours were given. Members were able to catch up on several projects that had been put on back burner. With members attendance up we are able to prepare Museum for rush of spring and summer visitors.

Contractor did not start repairing main street crossing until about 5 PM Saturday, worked most of night then finished job Monday. Note photo of work our new camera took that night in Attachments.

We have several new members lately, be sure to make them feel at home and help with our planned projects and operations. Be sure they are aware and follow OUR SAFETY RULES. Remember there are NO Accidents only not following safety procedures! See you next Saturday for another fun day of presenting history.

03-02-2024 - RAINEY & CHILLY BUT FUN DAY. Once more we had light rain that ended about noon. Our train stayed in the dark container. Hope it will be out next Saturday. We did have good attendance with an est. of 57 total stopping by. Visitors enjoyed our displays. Both visitors and members enjoyed social time together. Visitors seen to really enjoy the family atmosphere at Museum, and not just a cold train museum. Let's make sure we continue to welcome the entire family with friend ship.

I was glad to see a good number of members present, makes it easier to welcome visitors and discuss ongoing projects, work on planned projects and have fun.

Members in north annex are doing a great job with improving displays and operation of trains. Remember if you have not run trains for some time please read updated operations form, also talk with regular operators first. (Chip, Jim, Phil) model operations are very important especially on bad weather days.

We have gotten several new members in recent months be sure and include them in our operations. Invite them help with what you are updating , I am sure they have talents that can help us, BUT make sure to remind them of safety at Museum and you also follow safety rules.

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MONTHLY RECAP

Our Museum continues to grow, due to the hard work and planning over the years by many. We cannot let them down, we have a high green signal, do your part crew.

03-09-2024 - REPORT FROM SHIP MUSEUM? We were so dry for long time now the rain just keeps coming on Saturdays, maybe we should change from train to ship museum. Oh Well, We had fun today with social time, planning/adding displays, running model trains and talking with some real nice visitors. What more could you ask for on a rainy Saturday morning. Estimated that 43 people were at Museum this morning.

Monthly Meeting this Thursday March 14 in East Annex 7:00. Yes all those boring but important reports. Time to ask questions and discuss what we are doing so you will know how to better enjoy your Museum. Alan will present a Railroad subject on our TV. Remember time changed Saturday night so it will be light longer and maybe be warmer.

Noticed again today visitors like to talk/ask question of us on train subjects. Let's keep it up. I am sure you have been to museums where you walk in a large building and no one welcomes you and you just walk around and read a few signs. But with us someone talks to you about how tools work and trains operate. Remember this is only time most people can get near to a train safely. Welcome visitors and answer their questions. This is real import especially on rainy days when our train does not run. If you don't know answer to question ask another member, that way WE all learn history.

03-16-2024 - GREAT SATURDAY MORNING, ALMOST. Saturday started off real fine, Lots of visitors and first train left about 9:30 with a full load in bright warm sunshine. When train returned another full load of passengers were waiting same for train #3. We had an est. of 93 people stopping by Museum riding train and enjoying tour of area. Members in Model annex were very busy running trains and talking with visitors. All was fine until call came in saying Train had stalled near far end of run and needed a tow. Rescue plan was put in place as planned. Train was manually moved to safe area for visitors to disembark. The rescue engine also failed after arriving. So all visitors did disembark and were safety transported back to Museum in private cars. Their safe return was our #1 concern. After passengers were safe we worked thru several unplanned situations. It was a very learning experience, but with members working together all equipment and personal were safely returned to Museum. WE will update our operational plans right away, using what we learned during this recovery mission.

We are very thankful NO ONE was hurt and NO EQUIPMENT was harmed, just very embarrassing. This was only the second time in all our years that this type of thing has happen, Let's make sure it does not repeat.

03-23-2024 - ANOTHER RAINEY DAY, LOT OF HAPPY DUCKS. We are learning to enjoy history in the rain. We estimate about 34 attended Museum and had a good time as we are lucky to have inside displays and working area.

Visitors were greeted/toured in east Annex then moved to North annex where they could watch members checking out model layouts and ask questions on how they could enjoy their own layouts. Several members did maintance on motor cars and even took a couple of short test runs. Several of us had a meeting in B-60 on future plans at the Museum. Just proves there are no bad days at our Museum just working, learning and enjoying time with your favorite hobby.

Enjoy all this time in each department, BUT make sure everything is documented in writing so others can operate Museum if you are not there. Keep a log book and label everything enjoy together. Otherwise don't complain if something goes sideways when you are not there.

03-30-2024 - GREAT ENDING TO MARCH AT MUSEUM! Wow, no rain on Saturday, think we can stop planning the ship museum. With good weather & Easter holiday visitors showed up with friends visiting the area. We had a total estimate of 73 at museum, everything operated just right, made three runs to main line and one to Tidewater Trail. The 401 followed the 89 on two trips as backup and check out. Also the extra movements looked good to visitors, as they rode back in time. Visitors were welcomed in east Annex then over to north annex to watch model trains run while members made updates and answered questions about operating model trains from guest, thru the B-60 where youngsters were invited to look for Easter eggs, while waiting for next train to leave Deep Run Station. Great Job Members.

Members Now that we are operating a great Museum, remember to document everything, label everything and write instructions. So others will know how to keep operations top notch when you cannot be present. Together we have fun.

Note if you hear a 2024 member is not getting updates, let me know.

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MONTHLY RECAP



A very long NB freight meeting our train, yes, it did have mid train power.

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ELECTRIC PORTER

Submitted by Justin Duffus

THE ELECTRIC PORTER REVOLUTIONIZES TRAVEL

“Electric cars have only recently returned to prominence, but at the turn of the 20th century they were the best-selling automobiles being produced. They were quieter, cleaner, easier to drive, and more efficient than gasoline vehicles -- traits that account for some of their rising popularity today. Though the first electric vehicle was believed to have been built in the 1820s, it was in Detroit and Cleveland in the late 19th century where the electric vehicle industry truly began -- and where Elwell-Parker Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio was ready to take part.”

“In 1899 Elwell-Parker designed its first motor for the Baker Motor Vehicle Company, one of the early producers of electric cars. Within the year Elwell-Parker was also building the motors for many of the biggest automobile manufacturers in the region, and by 1903 it was producing motors and controllers for both passenger and commercial vehicles.”

“It was in 1906, however, that Elwell-Parker began building the machines that would come to dominate modern materials handling.” One of the company’s first challenges in this field came from the Pennsylvania Railroad. It started with a problem at the Pennsy’s “Jersey City Terminal. Baggage routinely piled up at the station during peak travel times, leading to bottlenecks that created system-wide delays. Tracy Buckwalter, superintendent of motive power for the railroad, came to see the company Elwell-Parker to see if it was possible to make processing luggage more efficient.”

Elwell-Parker’s solution was a battery-powered baggage transport first known as an electric porter and later advertised as a Trucktor. “The first model was essentially an ordinary hand truck with batteries and an Elwell-Parker motor installed below the deck. It was easy to start and move but difficult to stop, and soon other features such as an operator platform and a mechanical brake were added. Efficiency at the Jersey City Terminal quadrupled overnight.”

RF&P Railroad published a photo of an electric porter in use on the front cover of its Feb/Mar 1935 Employee Bulletin. It is shown being operated by Porter Marshall Burton, loaded with baggage, milk, and supplies, enroute to loading on southbound train 89 to Florida.

In 2014, the Toronto Railway Museum in Canada restored a 1929 electric porter to operating status. Its drive system is 36 volts DC, with a single motor driving one pair of wheels via a worm-drive differential. All four wheels steer making the cart very maneuverable despite its length.

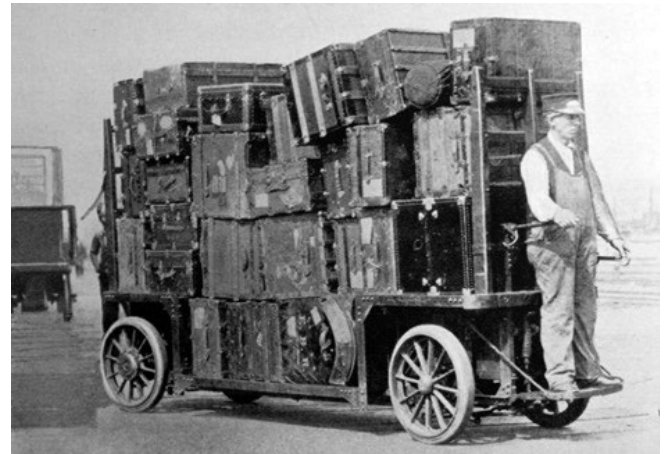
*Information in quotes courtesy of Ewell-Parker



(Left) RF&P Porter Marshall Burton operating an “electric porter” (Feb/Mar 1935 RF&P Employee Bulletin)

Porter Burton entered the RF&P service in 1925. Prior to his employment at RF&P, he worked for the Pullman Company as a Pullman porter. Marshall was also private-car porter to Ned Doheny of Teapot Dome fame. He was also porter to the late Calvin Coolidge when he was Vice-President, to Henry Ford, R. J. Reynolds, Ignacy Paderewski during his famous concert tour of the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and to many other notables of the United States and foreign countries.

(Right) Picture Courtesy Ewell-Parker



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PHOTOS



Top Left: next trip our train saw NB Amtrak, great train watching day for visitors. Top Right: Night time view from our new security camera of Main street crossing being repaired, it does cover 360 degrees! Middle and Bottom: Cherry blossoms are blooming right on time at RRM.

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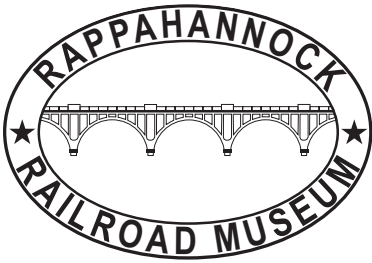
PHOTOS



Top Left and Center: Flash Back to March 1, 2014 board meeting in RF&P caboose. Top Right: Flash back 15 years to March 6, 2006 as the RF&P MR43 crew meets the C&O M-1892 crew at the diamond in the park. One switch locked to diamond now, maybe one day we can recreate this scene. Upper Center Left: Busy morning at station with full parking lot and people at station preparing for excursion. Upper Center Center: The MR43 rescue engine arriving to tow train back to Museum, all passengers have been safely returned to museum. Upper Center Right and Lower Center Left: Flash Back 15 years to March 21, 2009 at train show in Central park. Just think less work and more fun now. Lower Center Center: excursion train climbing grade through cut. Lower Center Right: Members present history/safety talk at MP57, 401 followed during checkout. Bottom Left: 401 staging at Tidewater Trail as 89 approaches with flagman and signal controls.

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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 _____

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: _____

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APRIL MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday April 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 April 11th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday April 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 April 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 April 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.

This year is really zooming away,
here we are very close to May;
Growth and continual improvements abound,
Come see what's new and hang around.

“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.*