



THE MAIL POUCH

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November\December 2023



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Reservations for 25 at Scafa's Italian Restaurant, starting at 6:30pm. The restaurant is at 10349 Courthouse RD., Spotsylvania VA, 22553. Phone is (540)898-7819. Please R.S.V.P. in person or via email with Leo Z if you plan to attend. leoz01@aol.com. For directions or additional information, please contact James Taylor at (540) 295-2974.

December Meeting Agenda

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

Cover Image: Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Locomotive number 55.

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 Friends and Members: The Rappahannock Railroad Museum Inc. has made it thru the busy Summer Season. We had a few hic ups along the way but overall it was a good year for us. We are now getting ready for a slower time with visitors but still we will be busy with train show, Christmas party, making many important updates to Museum operations and security. We must have fresh displays at Museum and improvements to our Little Yellow Train (all weather). Our Board of Directors have set some high standards for next year's operations, safety and security. As we grow our needs expand. Let's make sure we all work as hard for the Museum as the track crews worked years ago that we tell and show in our living history at Museum.

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 to Nov. 11, 2013, this is where we meet and kept warm. That was the only heat we had but it did a great job. "Home away from Home"

"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:

Dec. 14, 2023 - Reservations for 25 at Scafa's Italian Restaurant, starting at 6:30 PM. The restaurant is at 10349 Courthouse RD., Spotsylvania VA, 22553. Phone is (540)898-7819. Please R.S.V.P. in person or via email with Leo Z if you plan to attend. leoz01@aol.com

Jan. 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

Dec 9-10 - Hampton, VA

Dec 16-17 - Chantilly, VA

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

We are located at: 406H Hudgins Road in Fredericksburg, VA

December 9-10 - Annual Train Show Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4123

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.



Flash back to Oct. 10,2007. #1 Don K. bolting signal in place

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

MONTHLY UPDATE

10-07-2023 - ANOTHER RAINY DAY! Yes, it rained until closing time, then the sun came out making rest of day real nice. But guess what weather person in already predicting 80% chance for rain this coming Saturday. Oh well we now have great inside displays and plenty of projects to work on inside, see you Saturday.

We had an estimate of 19 visitors in the rain Saturday and maybe picked up a couple of new members. Thirteen members attended Saturday, gave tours and worked on model layouts and several other projects, some even stayed after hours doing things.

OFFICER ELECTION TIME! If you want to run for an office please let the nominating committee members know! If you want to continue in your office also let the committee know, real soon! Before they make up Ballots.

PERSONAL: Several of our members have contacted Covid lately. If you have Covid please follow suggested rules by government. Some are having other health issues please also keep them in your thoughts and prayers for quick recovery and safety. Let's keep the home fires going!

10-14-2023 - Another RAINY DAY AT MUSEUM! How lucky we are getting all this rain, as we really need it in local area. Guess what, 7 day weather forecast all ready calling for rain next Saturday. Maybe we should change to a boat museum, HA HA.

But the 12 members who attended today had a good social time, enjoyed talking to the est. of 16 visitors who stopped by. We did not run LYT but did take the "92" out and moved the crane from main street siding and put in on Caboose track where it belongs. Some info signs were updated, some necessary clean up of area was done, and update plans were discussed in north annex. So really we had good day.

Next Saturday most all our normal operators in North Annex will be on leave, so be paired to help in North Annex if needed. Museum Weather Closing: At Thursday night monthly meeting, we agreed that it would be hard to announce Museum closing at last minute to all. So if weather or some other event is bad in your local area, Do not come out if there is a safety issue for you traveling to Museum. Yes, we still tell visitors we are open year round, as that is our gold.

Personal: As stated above a lot of our members are on travel and some are having health problems, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for safe travel and healing.

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 seperate check. Their menu is mostly Italian and also Pizza and various subs. Any questions email, Leoz01@aol.com. Rain does not stop experiencing History or friendship!

10-21-2023 - NO RAIN TODAY, COOL SUNSHINE. We finally got a dry Saturday, It was a little cool at first but this is Fall. We were very short on member attendance with only 9 members attending. Guess members were taking last vacation to see fall leaves. But if they had stayed here the leaves seemed to be at max color in the area. The LYT made three trips to main line and a short trip to Rt.2 carrying the est. 46 happy visitors.

The nine members did a fanatic job of operating Museum, they all seemed to know what needed to be done and where they could help the most. No complaints and there were no breaks. GREAT JOB TEAM !

Note: the thermostats have been preset in both East and North annexes for both heat and cooling, please do not change setting unless you first talk with Mike T. Thanks

Future: We have a lot of projects planned that need to be completed soon. I hope members will help with these as projects mangers need your help. Christmas shows and dinner, display updates, elec. feed to south containers, officer election, cleaning and putting storage area in order. ect. We have a Museum to be proud of and a great group of members, Let's keep it up.

10-28-2023 - WHERE WERE YOU, HELP! A really great day, we made four trips to Main Line with LYT. The weather was great and the leaves were at Max. We had an est. of 56 visitors who had a great time.

BUT one problem, we only had nine members present and some came later, some left early and some of us could not help as we wanted to. So members present had a very tiring day, as they got NO breaks and had to keep filling in where needed and they worked together as a fine tuned watch and no grumbling. FINE JOB FAMILY!

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MONTHLY UPDATE

A member even dropped off a box of "PAUL'S" tasty donuts and most members never got chance to enjoy them. Traffic was total congestion on Rt2 due to fall show at Shannon Airport, it was great advertizing for us as we safely crossed Rt.2 each time, many people got to view us.

Nov. 4 suppose to be rather cold, "OK winter is close", May be to chilly to make many runs with LYT. BUT we have lots of projects to do inside. One being getting Thomas layout down and start checking it out (need several to help getting it down safely). Also annexes could use some cleaning.

We need to continue opening Museum each Saturday and running LYT when we can. We are lucky to have many inside heated areas to welcome visitors in and also keep updating displays and projects. Let's have FUN with our favorite hobby! History was made in cold months, let's keep telling it, in the cold.

11-04-2023 - GREAT DAY LOTS OF VISITORS & MEMBERS. November off to a good start. With estimate of 79 visitors to Museum. 17 members attending and helping visitors enjoy time at museum, cleaning area and working on needed projects. Four trips made to MP57 and LYT meet three trains. Board held quarterly meeting at 1:00 and made many decisions for future of Museum. You are a member of best little Railroad Museum on east coast.

NOTE: We are looking for a member to work with updating our web page and face book, If you have any experience with this and would like to help with this please contact Mike Thomas soon.

Memberships expire December 31, 2023. Consider renewing your membership for 2024 now. Don't wait until Christmas and New Years rush. Membership form attached, will be at welcome desk and on our web site. Please use form so we can have up to date info. Feel free to mail in or hand in. Also good time to invite new members to join, anyone joining now get bonus of Nov. & Dec 2023. Your dues and any donation will help pay bills we have for Museum in coming months. Planning for a great 2024 year all ready, don't be left at Station.

11-11-2023 - NICE NOVEMBER MORNING. Saturday went well, first trip by train was rather cool but then sun came out and rest of day was good. Three trips made to CSX Main line. We had an est of 26 visitors tour Museum. Fifteen members were present which was good. Some got breaks and others were able to work on projects, Planning for new electric service, preparing for Christmas show, meeting with contractor concerning parking lot update and updating our security cameras. Note we are a very busy Group all year.

Membership renewal, It was amazing to see so many members handing in their dues for 2024 the first week. I hope others will follow their example so we can all be ready for an exciting 2014 year at your Museum.

Christmas Show we will be presenting our Thomas layout and info about our Museum at the Rappahannock Modelers Show located in the Eagles Lodge #4123 on Cool Spring Road Fredericksburg. We will need help on Friday Dec. 8th for setup after 12:00 (Chip will set time). We need two members to be with display Dec. 9th from 9:00 to 5:00 and Dec. 10 from 10:00 to 4:00. Please contact Chip if you can help. They will give workers at display passes. If you are only visiting show, sorry but you will have to pay. Also we still need members to operate our Museum that Saturday, So if you are not assigned a time at their show, please still attend our Museum as normal. Thanks

Ballots for 2024 officers have been mailed. Please vote and return ballot you may mail to address on ballot, hand in ballot in east annex or last chance hand in ballot at our Christmas party on Dec. 7th Before 7:00 PM.

Personal: Several of our members are having health issues, mostly colds and Misc. Let's try not to share these colds. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers for quick healing and return to normal, whatever that is now days.

Hope Update not to long, but I like to keep all members up to date on activity at Museum. Even if you cannot attend as you would like, maybe you can help Museum with finances, donation of artifacts, ideas on projects or your time during off hours. Presenting living History to ALL!

11-18-2023 - ANOTHER FINE NOVEMBER MORNING. The morning did start windy and chilly but soon we were leaving station with a full load. We did have an est. of 74 visitors today and did our normal three trips to main line and one to Tidewater trail.

We did have 17 members stop by and ever where I went people were busy operating museum and tending to visitors.

Leo, Mike and I got to meet the new county construction manager and had a very pleasant discussion with him on operations at Museum.

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MONTHLY UPDATE

Officer election for 2024: You should have received your ballot by now. Please take time to vote and mail it back. You can put it in ballot box at welcome desk or bring it to Christmas dinner BEFORE 7:00 pm, why wait put it mail while you are thinking about it.

Christmas dinner and December Meeting, Mark your calendar! 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 .

Christmas Train Show, Friday Dec. 8th for setup after 12:00 (Chip will set time). We need two members to be with display Dec. 9th from 9:00 to 5:00 and Dec. 10 from 10:00 to 4:00. Please contact Chip if you can help. REMEMBER WE NEED A FEW MEMBERS TAKING TURNS WITH DISPLAY, but we also plan on operating our Museum as normal so we will be looking for you at normal time. Think the VRE Santa trains may be running on December 9, very small chance we may get photo of VRE and LYT ????

I am glad to see 2024 memberships coming in, think we are going to have a good year. Things like parking lot update, eclectic added to containers 3&4, Security camras added and the list goes on. I am sure you will find a place and way to enjoy another year, as we all have fun together.

11-25-2023 - VISTORS ENJOY COLD DAY AT MUSEUM! Amazing, WE have built a fantastic Railroad Museum of living history and People are coming, even in cold weather so far. Saturday thinking not many visitors would come by we only put on two passenger cars for first trip but added third car on return to station for second trip. We did have est. of 49 visitors and 18 members stop by, not bad for temp in the 30's.

The train crews earned a big "Thank You" for taking train out as it does get cold when meeting the wind. Members please dress proper for cold weather. I am sure we will reduce number of trips per Saturday but just one trip can be cold.

Members please continue to attend on Saturdays as we have a lot going on during this time of year. Plans continue at a good pace for elec to containers 3 &4, parking lot update plans, displays in B-60, train show, officer elections and Christmas Dinner to list a few.

Ballots & renewal dues. We want to show support for those who lead us and the 2024 dues & donations help us thru winter bills.

Personal: Many of our members are taking extra trips this time year and several are having health issues, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Note: I had to rebuild the Update address file due to hitting wrong key, my bad. Hope it is correct and I did not leave anyone out. Let me know if see any corrections that are needed. Stay warm and be safe.



Member Alan watched SB loaded coal train bound for Newport News with Mid train helpers when he was unlocking switch.

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PHOTOS



Top Left: Notice how much has changed in 16 years. What a great group of Volunteers!

Top Right: train leaving station to view fall leaves.

Middle Left: train passing thru the woods of color.

Middle Center: train passing color as it rolls thru the train yard.

Middle Right: removing nice bike left in center of track, guessing it was stolen, we turned it over to Sherriff Dept.

Bottom Right: Our train traveling thru the color full leaves, think they were at peak.



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PHOTOS



Top Left: NB Amtrak traveling thru Virginia's fall colors.

Top Right: full load leaving Deep Run station on a sunny November morning.

Middle Left: SB Amtrak with one of new paint.

Middle Right: Amtrak's meet just south of MP57

Bottom Right: view engineer Don has as he moves train out of Station.



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PHOTOS



Top Left: VP Leo gives train a visual safety inspection as it leaves the area.

Top Right: FLASH BACK to Nov. 5, 2012 winning pole to needed area.

Middle Left: digging hole for pole.

Middle Right: setting pole with transformer while local works area.

Bottom Right: LYT returns around curve on a very chilly morning.



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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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DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	December 2nd	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	December 9th	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	December 14th	Annual Christmas Party
Saturday	December 16th	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	December 23rd	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	December 30th	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.

Winter has finally arrived and temps are colder,
Each of us have gotten another year older;
The museum continues to grow and mature,
The developement of the museum is up to us to nurture.

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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.*