

THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 35

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October 2023



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023. 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.

October Meeting Agenda

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

Cover Image: No. 610 is taking on coal while it's operating on the Norfolk and Western railroad.

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

Members & Friends: We made it thru September with good attendance and we made a lot of updates to Museum displays and have plans for more in October. Members have been very supportive of their Museum with time and donations. Now as weather starts to cool our attendance may slow some but that may be good in a way that we can catch up on projects that were delayed due to time with visitors came first and visitors tours and safety will continue to be top priority as we continue to update our Museum.

The Alco 526 left museum on Oct. 3, this was not unexpected as it was always known that it was being stored at Museum while waiting for it's next assignment. Now that more companies have noticed us better things should be in our future.

If you have not visited the Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc. I invite you to check us out. If you have been to Museum come back and enjoy time with us and see what we are doing, you may like to join us.

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



Lyt meets NB CSX at MP 57

“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:

Oct. 12, 2023, B.O.D. meeting Oct. 21, 2023

Nov. 9, 2023

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

November 5 Great Midwest Train Show - Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

Nov 18-19 - Wilmington, MA

Nov 25-26 - Edison, NJ

Dec 2-3 - Timonium, MD

December 3 Great Midwest Train Show - Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

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

September 16 - Open House

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

October 28 - Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in Shannon Airport

November 11-12 - Spotsylvania Towne Centre Next to the Food Court

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.

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY UPDATE

09-02-2023 - Sept. off to a great start! Wow! What a day we had a train load of visitors waiting at 8:50. We rush around (Safely) and got train out we made four trips to CSX main line seeing trains twice. Even made short run to Rt.2 with late arriving family. We had an est. of 113 visitors. Visitors saw we were loaded and enjoyed touring museum while waiting next train.

We had 16 members present for most all of morning. I was real proud of members as they worked together where ever needed and I never hear any grumblings and I know some were very tired. THANKS FAMILY !

By the way we do have a few members working on several projects during the week (in paires). Thank you and I think we are going to need a work secession soon as some projects cannot be done when visitors present.

PERSONAL: We do have SEVERAL members who are having health problems and test. We also have several on travel. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prays for healing and safe traveling. Hope to see you Saturday and we continue presenting living history!

09-09-2023 - BUSY START TO DAY. We had a rush of early visitors and we all worked together an got LYT out and made three trips to Main line. At 11:00 there was almost no visitors on site. This gave us time to talk about projects and future operations. We did have a good number of visitors as the est. was 59 visitors and 19 members present for the day

MONTHLY MEETING THIS THURSDAY AT MUSEUM STARTING AT 7:00 in EAST ANNEX. Yes the normal reports and discussion on operations and projects. Also Alan will have a program on Model railroading. Be looking for you as it is also a good social time.

Sorry for late and short Update but now that days are getting shorter, I seem to run out of time when trying to catch up on all that I should. See you Thursday and we can talk more.

09-16-2023 - WE BUILT IT AND THEY ARE COMMING! Weather was fine, parking lot full and all trains ran with no problem. Three trips made to MP 57 and short trip to Rt.2 with estimate of 85 visitors and 13 members all working together. Real nice day at the Rappahannock Railroad Museum.

All seems to be going well. But there is talk about having a scheduled Saturday work afternoon to catch up on some needed upkeep of museum. Lets plan work time soon before cold weather creeps in. We need some outside painting and you don't paint at 50 degrees or lower. We close at noon take one hour for lunch and then work until.

Sept. Monthly Meeting was one of best in a while. We had 11 members present, monthly reports were given and lots of good questions and answers by all present. We had a nice video on Model railroading with more to come next month, divided video so we could close meeting at 8:30. Think all enjoyed the meeting. Maybe more members will attend next month, it is a good social time and you can ask question and learn better all projects we have going at our Museum See you on Oct. 12.

Having fun presenting HISTORY.

09-23-2023 - GOOD RAIN MAKES INSIDE JOBS FUN! Museum opened in the rain and had a good morning, Est. of 14 visitors stopped by and were given inside tours by 12 members. Did not take LYT train out. But members were able to catch up on some projects inside and had some good social time.

SECURITY! Note we are getting more visitors in area during closed hours. Tuesday morning we had two visitors attempt to break into the N&W but when they were confronted from a distance they left. If you are in area and have time ride by museum and do a security check. Do not confront a troubled person, do not enter museum area alone. Call for help if situation continues to grow. If you find damage contact a Museum officer and we can check our cameras and make a report. DO NOT ENDANGER YOURSELF.

Be proud of your museum, we are always improving our displays, operations and members are really enjoying time together. The future really looks good for continued growth and expansion of operations. Pulling together to preserve history and family.

09-30-2023 - BOO! OCTOBER IS HERE. For last Saturday of September we had good weather and 51 visitors stopped by to tour Museum. Three trips were made to Main line. We only had 12 members stop by and we were really short on engineers so the old guy did a short refresher run gathered a good crew and made the three safe runs.

It was a very busy morning , major repaired were made to HO layout, even staying after closing to complete update. There was discussion on a main street switch and cameras were checked out. A very busy morning by all.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

MONTHLY UPDATE

SECURITY: Our cameras are working as they should, upon checking we did capture video of the two people who attempted to break into the N&W caboose last Monday. Reminder, if you open a combo lock dial combo numbers off lock before putting it down. Make sure all windows and doors are locked before leaving Museum. If you notice a visitor possibly casing the area, let a RRM officer know. The two last Monday may have done this.

Future looks good for museum, of course we will have a few ups and downs but with good members working together we will have a future that we and the county can be proud of.

Personal: We do have a LOT of members who are having health issues and several on travel, let's keep them in our thought and prayers for healing and safe return.

Lots happening at museum come when you can to help and enjoy time with others, as we present local history.



Justin gives Velocipede one more test run before putting it in B-60,

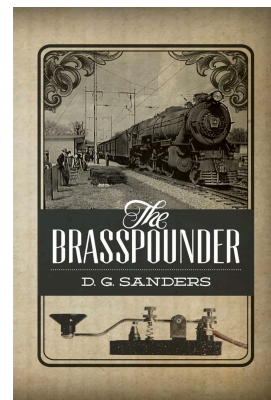
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IN THE PRESS

Books and Articles reviewed by Andy Sentipal

Here are a few lesser known PRR related books with first hand accounts by railroaders of the steam era.

1. *The Brass Pounder* by D.G. Sanders. The author became interested in telegraphy after hearing the click of the sounders in his hometown Ohio station. He decided telegraphy was his focus after finishing school and he signed on with Western Union. At age 17, he became a telegrapher with the PRR and was trained on the Marietta Division. His first solo job was at RA (Randles) tower on the night shift. The author shares many interesting stories of working alone in the middle of nowhere. The book includes a story of how the brightness of the new electric headlights on steam locomotives helped solve a murder. Stories include those during both WWI and WWII. The author moved to several different towers during his career and he retired in 1965 after 50 years of service. 177 pages



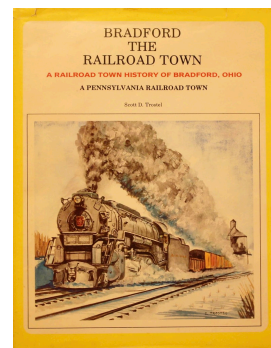
2. *Memories of the L&T Branch at Lemont "MN"* by J. Andrew Dale. A short but interesting story about working in the small Pennsy station at Lemont, Pennsylvania from 1915 to 1928. The author learned telegraphy while working at the station. He was taught by the station agent's daughter. He talks about the details of how telegraphy abbreviations worked with various codes used as shortcuts. The author describes how the semaphore system worked and the process of handing up orders to passing train crews. During WWI unionism spread to telegraph operators and he joined the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

All the duties that were required of a small town station agent are discussed in great detail. How freight waybills were handled and all the precautions needed to make sure everything was right was quite the chore in the early railroading days of the 20th century. All the extra work for handling students at the nearby campus of Penn State and building materials for expanding the

university are shared too.

At the end of the book, the details of the area passenger train service are shared with the reader. Also how personnel were bumped out of their jobs by co-workers with more seniority. Only 30 pages long but it makes you want to hear more.

3. *Bradford the Railroad Town* by Scott D. Trostel. This interesting and photo filled book discusses in great detail the rise and fall of a busy PRR town in Ohio. The mid to late 1800s railroad experience is covered. The time period of 1900 to 1931 was especially interesting to me. The specifics of how a pay car was used to pay employees, how the wreck train service worked, call boys looking for railroaders and a lot more railroading topics are covered in this book. Several large wrecks are presented as well. The huge railway YMCA that sprung up for all the workers is described in great detail with photos, drawings and stories. Sadly it's demise is covered too. I found it very interesting how the railroads improved during the WWI era takeover of the nation's railroads by the Government. The tracks, facilities and wages (76% increase) were greatly improved to handle wartime traffic demands. Hoboes and the railroad police are covered as well. For continuity between all the books, the telegraphers job is covered here too. Who knew how closely the railroad and town fire departments worked together in times of emergency? I never knew that single freight cars on fire were parked under the water tower and doused with the water from the spout. Some great tower photos, roundhouse and other facilities photos and employee photos are in this book. The end of service at Bradford is shown with J1 photos and early Pennsy diesels. Sadly the train that pulled the rails up is shown too. 154 pages.



The good news about these three books are they can be found on Ebay or used book sellers for around \$10 to \$20 each. If you like first hand accounts of steam era railroading these are for you. If you know of any other similar books please share them with the group

In the next issue of *Railroad History*, the semiannual journal of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, an article by author Charles Bogart focuses on the Timken Roller Bearing Co.'s campaign to replace plain bearings (which it termed "friction" bearings) on American railroads with its roller-bearing products.

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IN THE PRESS

Books and Articles reviewed by Andy Sentipal

Timken (and others) developed roller bearings for automotive use in the early 20th century, then adapted them for railroad use in the 1920s. The Milwaukee Road equipped passenger cars with them in 1926, and soon most of the streamlined passenger cars of the 1930s were being built with roller bearings.

The Timken Co. in 1930 commissioned an all-roller-bearing-equipped Alco 4-8-4 steam engine, No. 1111 (the “Four Aces”), for a demonstration tour on 15 American railroads. For a fine account of the engine’s performance on a passenger run from Altoona to Pittsburgh (after earlier tests in PRR freight service), see the Pittsburgh Press of July 29, 1930, page 7, at a local library or via subscription at www.newspapers.com.

Timken tried to cajole, and then shame, the American railroads into making the switch, but the cost of a plain bearing wheelset was \$40 vs. \$750 for a roller bearing.

The Association of American Railroads finally allowed their use on freight cars in 1954, but the changeover took decades. Timken kept up the drumbeat with ads and cartoon gags, placing them in popular media to leverage public opinion toward railroad managers and investors. Charles Bogart’s article describing the campaign is illustrated with many of these gag cartoons, which seem campy and quirky by today’s standards.

AAR finally “banned” the use of plain bearings in revenue interchange service in 1995, but this is a recommended practice and not a government law or regulation, as is popularly and erroneously believed. Some present-day railroad officials cite this AAR rule as a convenient excuse to decline to handle historic equipment in moves to, from, or between museums. But such moves aren’t carrying revenue freight, and there’s nothing illegal about the practice.

The issue of Railroad History (Fall-Winter 2023, No. 229) will be mailed in November. To join R&LHS (\$40/year) or to purchase that issue after it has been printed (\$15/copy), see www.rlhs.org.

Dan Cupper, Harrisburg, Pa.



Velocipede in B-60 display will be updated

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PHOTOS



TOP LEFT: SB Amtrak passing LYT at M.P. 57, note engineer has arm out window waving, Think Amtrak crews look forward to seeing us.

TOP RIGHT: LYT departing Deep Run Station on route to CSX Main line at MP 57.

MIDDLE LEFT: Wet morning at museum, but if you remember water runs off better now than when we first started.

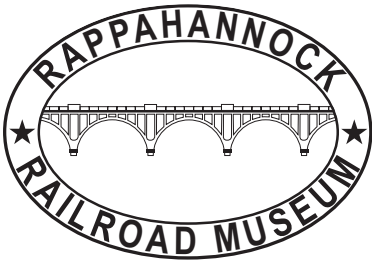
MIDDLE RIGHT: One of the new updates to displays.

BOTTOM RIGHT AND LEFT: Remember members have worked night and day to get us where we are today, make sure you do your part to keep things growing. Pictures at our box car on Oct. 10, 2007.



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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, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Signature: _____ Date: _____

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday October 7th 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 October 12th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE EAST ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday October 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 October 21st 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 October 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.

Leaves are turning all colors and shades,
winter is fast approaching as summer fades;
The word is out and our Museum is on the map,
The yellow train is running at max cap----acity.

“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.*