The Mail Pouch

VOLUME 38 Issue No. 11

November 2026



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Dece,ber 10th, 2026. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30pm and will be held at Scafa's Italian Restaurant 10349 Courthouse Rd, Spotsylvania VA 22553. 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.***

- ***Annual Christmas Party.***

Cover: Our New Switch stand display set up at it's permanent location.

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 22408

Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Curtis Tammany	Museum Liaison:	David Wujick
Secretary:	Pending	Newsletter Editor:	James Keehner
Treasurer:	Virginia Smith	Registered Agent:	Mike Thomas
Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	James Keehner		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS 1/2 PAGE

No Message for this month

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



REMINDER FLASH BACK! Feb 2,2010 SNOW, We gather and have fun in all weather (if you feel safe). This for those who complained about the heat, soon will be complaining about the cold!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along FMC Plant facility 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:
December 10th, 2026
Jamuary 14th, 2027
February 11th, 2027
March 11th, 2027

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma Washington, Tuesday, August 10, 2027 - 9:00am to Sunday, August 15, 2027 - 10:00pm https://2027.nmra.org/

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION
47th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Hickory, NC Sept. 1-4, 2027, https://47nngc.com

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS
Dec. 5-6 - Timonium, MD*
2027 Shows
Jan 9-10 - Oaks, PA
Jan 16-17 - Richmond, VA
Jan 30-31 - Grayslake, IL
Feb 13-14 - Hampton, VA
Feb 20-21 - Monroeville, PA
Mar 13-14 - Edison, NJ
Mar 20-21 - Wilmington, MA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org
Dec 9 -12 (tentative) - Manassas Community Center Christmas Show.
Jan 21-23, 2027 - Bull Run Library, Prince William County.
Feb 2027 TBA - Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, MD.
May 13-15, 2027 - Chinn Park Library, Prince William County.

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS
December 12-13 - RMR Christmas show at Eagles Lodge All gauges

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.*

MONTHLY RECAP

10-03-2026 - RAINING & CHILLY. Due to weather low attendance we only had a total estimate of 46 attending. Did not take train out, did give tours and info to visitors. Did updates to model scenery, did inspect track and drove a few loose spikes, planned repair to tank car, discussed needs at museum and had social time.

10-10-2026 - NORMAL OPERATIONS. The morning went well , Curtis and Don arrived early opened building and started setting up LYT. Soon others started arriving and started setting up for the day. Really it takes time and work preparing Museum opening (also closing). Members are invited to arrive early and help. If Museum is opened early members can have their coffee and donuts and be ready to welcome visitors.

Welcoming visitors has priority over coffee. Attendance was a little low, with only total est. of 58. Train made three trips with no problems. Had good donations, both money and items.

Museum Area: Please everyone keep the museum area (inside and outside) neat, clean at all times. Make sure your project is stored safety when you leave. You never know when someone may visit museum to look it over. At the October business meeting lot of updates on future was discussed. Election time (Phil Miller, Chairman), Christmas show and December meeting to be held at 5:30 PM at Scafa's Restaurant Dec 10. Leo will give Any update or changes. Same restaurant as past years.

Yes, update a little different but we all need to continue planning and supporting future operations of RRM. See you Saturday!

10-17-2026 - RAIN UNTIL NOON. Saturday was one of those days, it rained rather hard all morning and the sun came out at 12:00. No, we did not get train out But we did have good turnout, with a total Est. of 48 attending for the day. We even had a family drive from West Virginia in the rain to visit us. Over all we had a total est. of 48 attending for the day. The board met for their regular meeting at 1:00. It was a good meeting with a full report on future of rail spur. Board will give report at Monthly meeting.

This is a good time to get the many projects done That we have talked about all summer. Do a check of projects in your area and be ready to help others with their projects. Having Fun.

10-24-2026 - VERY GOOD DAY! The weather was great we had a lot of visitors. Little short on members. Operations went well Saturday, we had a total est of 78 attending Saturday several from out of state. The LYT left station four times. Updated some of museum signs (thanks Dan) scheduled birthday party. Added inspection form for LYT (Hanging in container #2.)

Phil talked with some possible officers for 2027. Remember, you should contact Phil if you want to be on ballot for 2027. Oct 31 last change you have.

EXPECT heavy traffic next Saturday 31ST ! The Airport will be having their celebration with candy drop. THERE WILL BE GRID LOCK ON ROADS, PLEASE COME EARLY TO MISS GRID LOCK.

BIRTHDAY PARTY Saturday 31ST for six year old with his scout group. Make sure they have good time. They Reserved the RF&P caboose from 9 to noon with a train Ride as a group.

Welcome visitors, answer their questions, advise them about history and safety. Those 12 and under are to have adult with them at all times. HAPPY HOLLOWEEN TO ALL BE SAFE and don't eat to much candy.

10-31-2026 - A VERY GOOD DAY! I can not think of anything bad for the day, the weather was fine. The Birthday party was a great success, lots of Cub Scouts , lots of sweets, the ride went well and they got a full guided tour of Museum. We also had good number of families that were not with the birthday party. Traffic was very heavy on RT.2 for the Air Port candy drop but did not interfere with our operations. We had a total est. of 69 attending the Museum.

Members got to use our restored C&O crane for first time, to move the donated and restored tall switch unit. Thanks Bill. Manual est 350 pounds but it seemed much heavier. The crane operated well, members worked well with crane but we need more practice on learning how to operate it properly. Also, we need to maintained it on it regular as it is setting outside (needs regular oiling and greasing.) The RRM is very lucky to have two restored operational cranes. When new they were rated at 4000 lbs. Now we rate them at no more than 1200 lbs. for safety reasons.

Members we need make sure our Museum is neat and clean at all times. Also make sure everything is ready for visitors and operations when you leave for the day. You never know when there may be a special tour.

MONTHLY RECAP

Time to start renewing your membership for 2027. Forms should be on welcome desk this Saturday. Remember anyone joining us now get a bonus of up to 2 months.

Remember November and December are very busy months for US and January we start preparing for 2027. Let's all have fun helping to make spring of 2027 ready for visitors, Bring your ideas, items and elbow grease. Preparing the future with History.







Left: Flash back to Oct. 2007. We restored and set up our first signal light. Top Right: The signal during restoration. Center Right: Don K. bolting the signal to a crosstie base. We have added others since then and have several more to install and have lights working. We need to add items to museum displays so visitors will continue coming to see what's new.

PHOTOS









Top Left: Another scene of the Feb 02, 2010 snow event. Top Right and Center Left and Right: Flash Back 10-10-2009. Some members ask about the trailer we have behind box car. It was donated to RRM by Floyd Swiggett. At that time it was used to haul our layouts to train shows. Now it is use for some storage. Photos: Don, Floyd and I inspect trailer for first time at Floyds home. Bottom Left: witch unit being move to display location on The LYT. Bottom Right: Members work to set unit safely, #3 It is in position. We have a good area to display large heavy items, hard to take out and covered by cameras. HINT!





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, 2027 to December 31, 2027

Signature: _____ Date: _____

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

NOV/DEC MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	November 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	November 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.
Thursday	December 5th	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	Dec 10th	**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SCAFA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 5:30pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	Dcember 12th	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.

Holidays are rapidly approaching,
Cold Weather is finally encroaching;
Displays continue to have updates made,
The Museum continues to make the grade.

"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.*