



# THE

# MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 37

January 2025

Issue No. 01



---

---

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan 9th, 2025. 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.

---

---

## January Meeting Agenda

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

---

---

*CSX 5423 Doswell, A wheelwright coal train heads south down the A line past the RF&P signal mast at Doswell, VA.  
Photo by Justin Ross*

---

---

## 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 22401

---

---

## Museum Officers and Staff

President:	James F. Taylor	Chief Mech Engineer:	Donald Kirkpatrick
First Vice President:	Curtis Tammany	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](http://www.RRMuseum.org)

---

---



---

---

## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Happy New Year All! I think a new year is a time to think back to the many great things the Rappahannock Railroad Museum completed. 2024 was a really good year for us. We added rolling stock, received many nice artifact donations adding them to our display area, did an outstanding job of painting our B-60, updating the inside displays and insulating the total inside. Our models in the north annex were expanded and updates for much improved operation of all gauges. We also got to meet a lot of fine families who visited us. Yes we had a few hiccups but together we overcame them.

I am looking forward to continued growth in 2025. Starting with a 25th anniversary of our rolling stock entering the Spotsylvania Business Park on January 11, 2000. Then the tracks were weed covered, lots of junk/trash in area with flat bed trailers stored there. But it was first time we could really work on our cars safely and restore them. Thru a lot of work we were able to develop the Living History rail Museum that is a real plus to County for families touring the east coast and living in area.

I hope anyone reading this will stop by and visit. We enjoy your visit as we also learn from stories that people pass on during their visit. Be Looking for your Visit.

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



*Flashback Dec.12, 2014 B-60.*

---

---

## **“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:**

**January 09, 2025**

**February 13, 2025**

**March 13, 2025**

**NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

2025, July 14-19, 2025, Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375. <https://nmra2025.com/>

**NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION**

Collinsville, IL / St Louis, MO • September 3 - 6, 2025, [www.45thnngc.com](http://www.45thnngc.com)

**GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS**

**Jan 4-5 - Monroeville, PA**

**Jan 11-12 - Oaks, PA**

**Jan 18-19 - Richmond, VA**

**Feb 8-9 - Wilmington, DE**

**Mar 15-16 - Rochester, NY**

**Mar 22-23 - Wilmington, MA**

**Mar 29-30 - Edison, NJ**

**Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org**

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

**RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS**

**No Updates at this time.**

**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 Dec.13,2008 at 11:45 Floyd, Don and Larry started the M-1892 for first time.*

**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

---

---

---

---

## MONTHLY RECAP

**12-07-2024** - LOW ATTENDANCE and “COLD”! Many things going on today, Christmas Parades both Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg. Also very cold to start day. Lowest number of attendees since Jan. 20, 2024 with only 21. But Members that arrived enjoyed social time and got to check out things in the North annex, Improve displays, check out old engines. The Thomas layout was reposition and enlarged. Staged layout and needs for Show next weekend. Station area was cleaned up. Due to cold and very few visitors the train never came out containers.

Membership Renewal time for 2025: We have applications at visitor desk and in Update please fill out neatly and mail in or hand soon so you don't forget or spend all your money on the Holidays. Your renewal is important to the Museum as the renewal and any donations really helps pay the bills during winter months when visitor donations are less.

Dec. 14, 2024, remember we will have members at the Rappahannock Model Railroaders Annual Christmas Train Show so please come and help at museum if you can, to help with Museum operations. Thanks to the members who volunteered to help with their time.

December monthly meeting on Dec. 12, 2024 will be at Scafa's Italian Restaurant starting at 6:30 PM. Short business meeting, review of past year and then lots of social time. Remember your officer ballot MUST be handed in by 6:30 that night to be counted. Also a good time to hand in your 2025 membership renewal. Looking to future thru History.

**12-14-2024** - LONG WEEKEND. Members gathered Friday afternoon, loaded up Thomas layout and set it up at train show, Saturday several members monitored layout and also on Sunday bringing layout back in rain, storing it back in Boxcar. We also operated the Museum Saturday as normal low attendance as visitors were maybe at the local train show. Things went well did give some short rides using only the 401, It was just to cold to give the normal rides. We got a few things checked out in area, replaced broken boxcar door opening cable, Chased a ghost electric short in B-60 but it disappeared on its own while checking it out (will it return ??). Train layouts are great on these cold days, it is warm in there. THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO PUT IN THE EXTRA TIME AT SHOW.

Security: Last couple of members leaving at end of day please feel free to recheck any and all locks (building, containers and all cars) A second person checking locks is ok, it is just good Security. Checks are good during week, If problem found text me so it can be recorded if needed.

Officers for 2025: Report from Election Committee at Dec. meeting.

President: James Taylor

Vice President: Curtis Tammany

Secretary: Chip Schimmenti

Treasure: Virginia Smith

Chief Mechanical officer: Don Kirkpatrick

Board of Directors: Gregg Robinson, Chip Schimmenti and Mike Thomas

Board member completing Justin Duffus term: Leo Zerhusen

Document any project you work with or update: Drawing, marking, color coding. This way next Member checking out a problem will know where to start. Post write up near project and/or in Operations Manual.

Renewal of Memberships are coming in nicely, if you have not please do so before Jan 1. You don't want to be left at station as train pulls out. Wishing you a safe happy Christmas Season!

**12-21-2024** - MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL! Sorry for late update, but I have had an unusual week at home. Did not make it to Museum Saturday so I am sending what members passed on to me. Think everything went well, it was way too cold to take train out. We did have a good number of visitors stop by and they a good social time at museum (also Visitors toured all inside displays). North annex was busy and lots of discussion and ideas for future operations by members. I am told we had a total est. of 48 people show up. Also items from last week's train show were stored in their proper place.

Membership Renewal: We have had a great response with renewals but a few have forgotten to send in for 2025. 2024 membership ends Dec. 31, 2024. Don't be left standing at station as train departs. Hope all have a good Christmas with family and friends. Beings thankful for all the Blessing we have. See you Saturday.

---

---

**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

---

---



---

## MONTHLY RECAP

**12-28-2024** - GOOD ENDING TO 2024! It was damp, drizzly and cold, I did not think we would take to train out. But to my surprise out in the yard there arose such a clatter that we ran to the door and saw many visitors coming to visit. Train crew sprang into action taking full train out and made several runs in the park, while other members enjoyed time with visitors showing and explaining our displays. We had good donations and members brought in their renewals for 2025 good time had by all.

MAILING ADDRESS: Remember we have new mailing address now, Mail is suppose to be forwarded for a while but there has been a problem and all paper work is being filed, mail is not being forwarded at this time.

Use This address : Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc.  
11700 Main St.  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22408

I will be building the 2025 membership mailing list very soon, Hope you have renewed for 2025, if not do it real quick.

Next week we will start our 25 year at this location, we have had good times and troubling times but what a outstanding Museum we have built. I am sure we will have good and bad times in the future but as we ALL work together the good days will outnumber the few bad ones. Welcome to 2025



*Flashback: M-1892 Moving on rail on Dec 27, 2008. Start of rail operations at Museum.*

**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

---



---

# G&W TAKES OVER LOCAL

Article submitted by Justin Duffus



G&W short line to take over local service from Union Pacific in Eugene, Ore.

By Bill Stephens | December 10, 2024

Genesee & Wyoming short line Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad will take over local service from Union Pacific's Eugene Yard in Oregon, in a move the railroads said will improve service for local customers.

The change allows UP to reduce the number of times a railcar is handled and create greater efficiencies, while providing more flexibility and agility for both railroads to meet current customer needs and anticipated growth, the railroads said today.

"G&W has a proven track record in operational flexibility and providing excellent customer service," Union Pacific Executive Vice President of Operations Eric Gehringer said in a statement. "Those strengths, combined with Union Pacific's unmatched franchise and access to critical markets nationwide, position us to provide customers with the service we sold them and grow together."

The 306-mile Central Oregon & Pacific interchanges with UP in Eugene.

"Union Pacific can count on CORP to operate their Eugene, Ore., yard safely and efficiently," G&W CEO Michael Miller said in a statement. "In partnership with Union Pacific, our team is ready to deliver the customer-centric first- and last-mile rail service that customers have come to rely on from G&W railroads so that we can grow together."

The deal is reminiscent of one between Canadian National and Watco in Louisiana. In 2021, CN handed off local switching at a nine-plant petrochemical complex to the new Watco short line Dutchtown Southern. Thanks to Dutchtown Southern providing service seven days per week — up from five — and offering customers multiple switches per day, traffic grew 47% in the 1.76-mile short line's first year of operation.

Union Pacific and G&W say they are working with customers to ensure a smooth transition once the plan takes effect following approval from the Surface Transportation Board. Their regulatory paperwork was filed with the STB today but has yet to appear on the board's website.

Union Pacific says it has been in contact with employees impacted by the change, including providing information about continued employment opportunities at UP, CORP, or other G&W railroads.

Union Pacific road train crews will continue to work out of Eugene Yard.

---

## **"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"**

---



## PHOTOS



*Top Left: Flash backs to 11/27/2008 #1 Mr. & Mrs. Clause (Jake & Ellen) at our train show.*

*Top Center: Entrance to that show. Think we gave a good program then but was a lot of work. Former Member Don L. is checking things out.*

*Top Right: New flash back only five years: Dec. 31, 2019 Container #3 is being set in place.*

*Upper Left: Jake, Mike & Leo discuss building second transfer table. Chip exams inside of container.*

*Lower Left: Construction Crews have been hard at work clearing the back left corner of this module for road realignment.*



*Bottom Left: Progress might move a bit faster if the job Foreman would not have taken several "Liquid Lunches" at the nearby pub.*

*Bottom Center: The new road alignment makes traffic flow much better and provides more parking space for our model townspeople.*

*Bottom Right: An overview of the mostly finished rework of this area. Even small changes like this on the HO display gather quite a bit of public interest, generating questions about materials and techniques. Hopefully work like this will inspire new membership.*



**"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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

# JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	Jan 4th	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	Jan 9th	<b>MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.</b> Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	Jan 11th	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	Jan 18th	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	Jan 25th	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.

**Another year has arrived with a wintery blast,**  
**Resolutions and changes will hopefully last;**  
**Our train ride might be clipped,**  
**However our patronage has not slipped.**

## **“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.*