



THE MAIL POUCH

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MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10th, 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.

April Meeting Agenda

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

Norfolk and Western 611 pulling The American excursion on June 7, 2015

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
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Museum Curator:	James F. Taylor	Chairman B.O.D.	Mike Thomas
Webmaster:	Dennis Overcash		

Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS 1/2 PAGE

No Presidential comments 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



LYT making its way around back Saturday. Thanks for photo, I don't get a chance to take them lately, will try to post some of them if you send them in. Thanks Dave

“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:

May 8, 2025

June 12, 2025

July 10, 2025

August 14, 2025

September 11, 2025

October 9, 2025

November 13, 2025

December 11, 2025

CHAPTER TRIP: We will pick a Friday in May to ride the last VRE train into Union Station in the morning and visit the National Postal Museum next door. The highlight being their Railway Post Office car we can walk through and learn about. Following time there we will return to Union Station and walk around in order to explore the history of this grand building. After lunch, we will return on the first VRE train back to Fredericksburg. Please email Andy Sentipal at asentipal@gmail.com for further information or to sign up. I will contact all that showed interest and we can pick a Friday that works for the majority.

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

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

July 26-27 - Oaks, PA

August 2-3 - Monroeville, PA

August 9-10 - Edison, NJ

August 16-17 - Chantilly, VA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

Prince William Library, Chinn Park Library, Mar 21 & 22, 2025

Membership Meeting, Apr 8, 2025

May 3 & 4, 2025 Great Scale Model Train Show

Prince William Library, Haymarket Gainesville Library, May 9 & 10, 2025

Tribute at the Glen, May 16 & 17, 2025

June 7, 2025 Manassas Railway Festival (tentative)

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

April TBD - Open House, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

April 26 - Ashland Train Day, O, N, HO

May 24 - Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser, Kid's area and small layout, Eagle's Lodge 21 Cool Springs Rd, Fredericksburg, VA

June 18-21 Caroline County Agricultural Fair, TBD

July 26 - Aug 4 - Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, O, Fairgrounds Home Economics Building

September TBD - Open House, All Gauges, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408

October ?? - Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival (N gauge only)

October TBD - Marine Corps Museum, O, Lego

October 25 - Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in, All Gauges, Shannon Airport

November 8-9 - Spotsy Towne Centre Holiday Kickoff, O, N, Next to the Food Court

December 13-14 - Annual Train Show, All Gauges, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge, 21 Cool Springs Rd, Fredericksburg, VA

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

03-01-2025 - GREAT START TO MARCH! Weather was fine for March, visitors started arriving and never slowed up LYT made four runs. Members worked together on train, in north annex and updating displays in Taylor annex. Lots of training for new members. Good attendance with est. of 91 attending Museum.

Training: We have added several new members lately. Senior members be sure and talk with new members as they start enjoying time with us Make sure you inform them of our operations and SAFETY rules of the RRM. New members be sure and ask any senior member if you are not sure of any operation. We operate small maintenance of way equipment, that can get you hurt. Also learn how to keep visitors safe, Most visitors never get a chance to get close to a train or walk in a rail yard. Correct any unsafe action right away, politely. Keep on Track

03-08-2025 - WINDY DAY. We had low count today but we were able to fully operate our Museum. We got a lot of paper work done and planning for future operations. We had estimate of only 39 attending but I took one tour on LYT and the cold wind really reminded me of conditions that track workers had to endure, That means we are presenting living history.

Monthly Meeting this Thursday March 13, 2025 7:00pm at the Museum. All reports, update on projects and future operations, ending with program by Mike C. of photos of train operations near and far. Attend and learn how you can help and enjoy time at your Museum.

Spring is on the way let's get those little jobs completed around Museum that you did not want to do in the cold. What visitors see as they enter Museum is very important. ALWAYS MAKE AREA NEAT AND FREINDLY! Keeping on track.

03-15-2025 - BUSY DAY PLANNING RETURN TO MP 57. We had a good day but busy with plans for returning to MP 57. We went to UPS and picked up our derailer, checked it out and test fit it on maintenance track and had CSX stop by and give us proper instructions on using it. Officers and several members stayed late discussing what logs , what training we needed to comply with before we can return properly (legally) to MP57. We WILL be changing train operations that WE ALL will follow. Will take couple of weeks to finalize forms.

All these changes will make for safer and improved operations as our Museum grows. Growing pains means we are getting Better.

We did operate the museum during meetings and had an est. of 41 attending museum and some taking rides. We will be having more planning time on Saturday mornings so please help when you can with tours, displays and train. Motorman had to look for crew members several times before he could make runs.

Yes, we are starting to correct job titles. No engineers, now Motorman, conductor now Fireman and there will be more changes. You will be informed with updates during classes. We will be improving. Growing Pains are good tell you that you are learning and improving.

03-22-2025 - NICE WEATHER FOR OPERATIONS. We had a rather nice turnout for the day with a total estimate of 49 attending. Our train made three limited runs, only to Mills Drive due to pipe line construction and the defective switch on main street.

The pipe line construction will be disruptive to the area for next couple of weeks, If you see damage to our museum by construction crews please email me.

Museum operations: We are making almost daily changes to our operations, this is due to receiving permission to return to MP57 with LYT. But we have to make many changes to operations following county, state, FRA and CSX requirements, before we can return to 57. Several of our members are putting in a LOT of time and work making sure we understand and comply with all requirements. There will be changes each Saturday Morning concerning train operations for a while, be sure you understand "train operation" each Saturday morning. " If train excursions are given track clearance we need to have it ready to leave station by 9:20am. Do not leave station until you know what track you have clearance for and do not pass that point.

We all need to work together and have patience with changes that will be coming up. None of us like changes but we will grow stronger and our future will be much improved. Growing in knowledge of railroad operations.

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PHOTOS



Top Left and Right: Our C&O crane now has its identity back with new lettering and new correct builders plates. It has been restored back to operational DISPLAY status (no heavy lifting). This was possible due to photos taken over 15 years ago, members are reminded to take detailed photos of old equipment you may find setting around. You may be able to restore it correctly someday.

Center Left: Mike rereading instructions on installing our new derailer.

Center Right: Leo and Mike discuss test setting of derailer.(note derailer not set right)

Bottom Left: Motorman Don K. drives the 89 out of storage container for another day of excursions.

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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 _____, 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: _____

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APRIL MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	Apr 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.
Thursday	Apr 10th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	Apr 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.
Saturday	Apr 19th	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	Apr 26th	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.

Operations are changing every day,
Pretty soon we will have a clear way;
Our visitors will in heaven,
When our train can return to MP57.

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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.*