



# THE MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 36

Issue No. 7

July 2024



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## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11th, 2024. 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.

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## July Meeting Agenda

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

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*Various images of the 1975 and 1976 Freedom Train as it toured the U.S.*

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## A monthly publication of the Rappahannock Railroad Museum

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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

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## 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](http://www.RRMuseum.org)

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## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Hi! Members and friends we made it to July. If you remember we were planning for a busy summer during the winter and spring. Several things have tested us. LOTS of rain, remember the Boat Museum jokes then the heat set in and it seems it will be with us for a while. But with a lot of planning, good ideas and very dedicated members we made it. We have added equipment, improved model layouts, made several important operational improvements. Moved into the future with a onsite mailbox, web address, added VENMO, now have our own computer and brighting up the area with flowers and new paint projects on going.

Now as the summer rush starts we are ready. We have an OUTSTANDING family of volunteers that can stand tall with any other organization. By the way we are already thinking about improvements for summer of 2025.

All are welcome at the Rappahannock Railroad Museum Inc. as we continue to present living history.

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



*RRM Shop Crew Pull axle and wheels*

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**“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”**

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## 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:

**July 11, 2024**

**August 8, 2024**

**September 12th, 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

**Jul. 13-14 - Oaks, PA**

**Aug. 3-4 - Monroeville, PA**

**Aug. 10-11 - Edison, NJ**

**Aug. 17-18 - Chantilly, VA**

**Nov. 2-3 - Monroeville, PA**

**Nov. 16-17 - Wilmington, MA**

**Nov. 23-24 - Edison, NJ**

**Dec. 7-8 - Timonium, MD**

**Dec 21-22 - Chantilly, VA**

**Dec. 28-29 - Hampton, VA**

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

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

### RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

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

*September 14 Open House, 406H Hudgins Rd Fredericksburg VA 22408*

*October TBD Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, (N gauge only), See Festival Website*

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

*October 26 Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-in, Shannon Airport See 10th Annual Harvest Festival Fly In at Shannon*

*November 9-10 Spotsylvania Towne Centre, Next to the Food Court*

*November 22-24 46th Annual Model Railroad Show, Science Museum of Virginia (N gauge only), See WRIC publicity for event*

*December 7-8 Annual Train Show, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4123, See 2023 RMR Christmas Train Show highlights*

**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.*



*Car back on rails with straighten axel, borrowed wheel and corrected frame. That's not the end now checking other axel and wheels.*

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

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## MONTHLY RECAP

**06-01-2024 - NICE START TO JUNE.** Weather was nice and visitors started arriving early. A little short on members for opening Museum, first train left station after 9:45. Maybe more members could arrive at least by 8:45 and help with opening and setting up train. Our train crews are not getting many breaks, lets help them as summer heat sets in. Also help them put train away safely.

We are getting good attendance now, est. 79 people stopped by to enjoy time with families Saturday. I expect attendance to grow now that school is out. Be sure and watch out for safety of young visitors they need to be with adult that they came with. We need a member in the B-60 at all times for safety and security.

Train crews remember to watch out for switch points each time you approach one. We did update switch flags on one switch, This is very important as we now have more than one train moving in park at times.

Sorry for so many reminders but they are a must. We did have a good time Saturday with models running really fine, all train trips were completed safely. Many little house keeping jobs were completed. Update on B-60 continues, the ODC car is showing promise, county sprayed weeds last week, our planted flowers are blooming. Progress continues in so many ways.

Lets continue supporting our Members as some are going thru or healing from health problems. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers and support them if you can. Looking forward to supporting each other and the Museum.

**06-08-2024 - GOOD DAYS CONTINUE!** Operations went well Saturday with a total est. of 69 people attending. The normal three trips made to CSX Main line. Visitors saw trains and deer's while on excursion.

**MONTHLY MEETING** This Thursday June 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Taylor Annex. Tie a string around finger so you don't forget. Yes continue with boring reports, but also updates on several ongoing projects. Weather to be nice and we will be in A/C. Justin will continue with photos of rail places he has attended. We get a chance to discuss operations without operating Museum. **WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU!**

**HOT WEATHER!** We will be operating Museum during some HOT days now, remember to take breaks, drink water when outside. Train crews need help and breaks between runs. If you are inside remember to help crew setting up train and when train is being put away in containers, come out of your A/C and help. That goes for station master and visitor guides also, ALL be careful. We are very lucky to have so many members with great talents doing many projects during the week. **THANK YOU!**

**06-15-2024 - BUSY FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND!** Weather was just fine, a little warm for some but many families brought their Father's, Grandfather's and Great Grandfather's out to enjoy the day and reminisce about what they remembered growing up. All total we est. 101 people stopped by. Many projects updated, arms replaced on benches at station, the new crew car given a full rolling test of all track and now ready for passengers, of course we plan on adding windows and several other items to car for passenger comfort. not to much as we want visitors to experience the life of the railroad workers back then. We are a museum but we are moving into the modern world, with a web site, a Venmo code and our own Mail box on site "Rappahannock Railroad Museum, Inc. 1170 Main Street , Fredericksburg, Va. 22408.

We even met with track signal inspector and were given 'Signal maintaining lesson #101. We are lucky to have so many friends. remember Always respect your friends.

**SECURETY NOTICE !** anyone opening any combo lock at Museum **MUST** wipe numbers off lock before setting lock down.

We are improving OUR Museum on a regular basis, Our future looks good at this time. It is due to the great working friendship that has built up between members, friends and local business. Presenting Living History.

**EXTRA! - "EXTRA EXTRA"** read all about it HOT off press! Justin has planned and setup a couple of cool project morning at Museum and has gauchely invited members to join him and a couple of others.

Thursday June 20,2024 at 6 A.M. come prepared to help scrape and brush west side of B-60 (shade), you welcome to bring any tools you think may help (he has some).

Friday June 21,2024 at 6:M. come prepared to help power wash the B-60. Justin has lined up a power washer and water source. If you want you can bring a section of water hose just in case a little extra is needed. Justin will have the cleaner.

Come if you can, the more who come the quicker the job will be finished, and you can go set in a cool place.

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## MONTHLY RECAP

This Saturday it is suppose to be REALLY hot. We plan on being OPEN. BE SAFE! move slower, drink water, take a break as needed, keep doors closed to A/C areas. Also remember medal gets hot quicker, remind visitors to be careful when touching things. Members also.

This Saturday Scouts plan on painting the benches at station and entrance fence. They say they will arrive at 9:00 and hope to finish before it gets too HOT. Be sure visitors or members do not get wet paint on them.

The new passenger car has been checked out and ready to be used. If added to LYT please remove one of my cars from the consist. We probably need to keep new car on Maintenance track (locked to rail) for easy access. It will not fit in container. Be very careful as this first time it will carry passengers.

CORRECTION: last update I said new address was 1170 Main Street. oops! It is 11700 Main Street.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THESE PROJECTS!

**06-22-2024** - WHAT A WEEK! This was not just a busy Saturday mornings but the entire WEEK was full speed ahead. First of week lots of planning. Thursday scrapping and patching B-60, Friday Powering washing the B-60. All done EARLY in morning by members trying to beat the HEAT. Work done on "Z" layout, a Crew car moved to Dennis home for more efficient work time. Lots of smaller work projects preparing for Saturday.

We opened Saturday in severe heat, and visitors came early first loaded train left station by 9:25 followed by two more trips. Scout troop #173 did a great job painting station benches, entrance fences. Large number of members braved the heat for a very successful morning with an est. of at least 87 happy people/families attending and enjoying time at Museum.

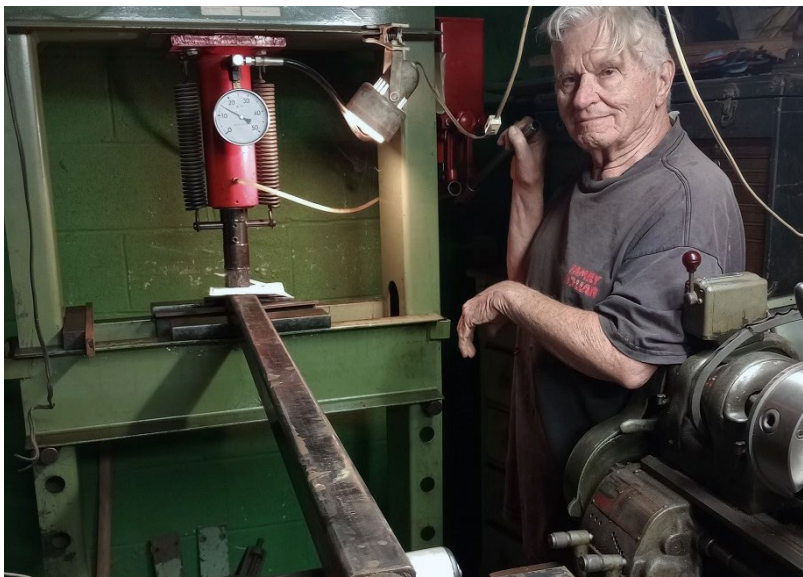
A Big THANK YOU GOES OUT TO MEMBERS AND SCOUTS for a very productive week at Museum.

We have so much happening at museum I am afraid we may miss something simple that will help visitors, so if you have an idea catch me and tell me your idea that will make your Museum even better. High Green

**06-29-2024** - GREAT END TO JUNE. Our busy summer months have started, all the work and planning that we have done and are doing is paying off. Today we had an estimate of 103 people at your Museum. Our LYT made four full trips thru the woods to the main line. Our train model room is something to be very proud of members have made great improvements to displays.

We have visitors coming long distances to see for themselves what they have heard. Members be sure to safely operated your section of Museum, but very important that you talk with visitors. Both visitor and members learn about railroad operations this way.

NEW Members let other members know you have joined the team and have a section that you would like to like to take part in. As you grow with us you are welcome to help with any part of Museum and share your talents. Yes, greeting guest as the arrive is real important but we plan on adding more signage so visitors can find their way to special sections of Museum. I will be asking ideas from you. Welcome July.



*How you correct bent axel.*

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## AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN

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*The American Freedom Train, powered by former Reading Company 4-8-4 2101 (renumbered 1 for its Freedom Train duties) passes the site of the Pennsylvania Railroad's 28th Street engine terminal as it arrives in Pittsburgh, PA, on July 7, 1976. photo by Ivan Abrams*

Time for another take on the American Freedom Train, this time dealing less with the politics and more with the overall concept and it's impact on the tourist railroad operations throughout the United States.

In the early 1970s, Ross Rowland Jr., a young, successful New York commodities broker and occasional steam locomotive engineer, had the idea to celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution with a traveling exhibition of unique and representative artifacts from the 200 year history of the nation.

It had been the most remarkable two centuries in human history. At no other time had so much happened so quickly: a nation founded upon revolution and wholly new principles had spanned a continent-sized frontier, and its people were individuals of mythic proportion who answered to no king that claimed to rule them by birthright. Instead, the people of the new Amerce Nation laid claim to their own birthright as free men. They set forth as trailblazers in canoes on unknown waters, then as woodsmen, settlers, gold seekers, buffalo hunters, cattlemen, farmers, and industrialists. In just 30 years, the Oregon Territory had created an undefined but continental nation of enormous size. In less than a hundred years after the Declaration of Independence, rails spanned from ocean to ocean, and cities rose from windswept prairies that would become the breadbasket of the world. Even as the ancient ways of Native inhabitants were lost - often savagely, and in contradiction with the American creed of individual rights and self-determination, America was building a beacon of hope for the tired, the poor, the huddled masses upon other shores who were yearning to breathe free. An industrial capacity would grow from American dreams and determination to create the capacity that would win two World Wars, halt conquerors bent on global domination, and spread the dream of freedom to the world.

At mid point on the journey, America had paused for an exuberant celebration of the nation's 100th birthday, the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. Incredibly, as its 200th birthday approached, it appeared the Centennial would have no Bicentennial counterpart. The Bicentennial, in the wake of Vietnam and the midst of Watergate, was about to pass with little note taken or any event to celebrate.

Ross Rowland and several of his friends and associates from past steam-powered excursion trains worked against the trend. They knew that the steam locomotive was a proven "people magnet," and they recalled the phenomenal success of the exhibit cars included in the Golden Spike Centennial Limited in 1969, powered by Steamtown's ex-Nickle Plate 2-8-4 Berkshire steam engine #759. The result of their efforts was eleventh-hour corporate sponsorship of a second Freedom Train. By the time the five corporate sponsors signed on, there was barely time to build the train or to find or restore suitable steam locomotion. It almost didn't happen. Its legacy is a lesson in never quitting when things don't look promising but you know you have a worthwhile dream.

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## AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN

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*Holcomb IL. BN 1776 an SDP40 8/24/1975 photo by Sam Beck*

The triumph of the steam-powered American Freedom Train was, indeed, the only nationwide celebration of the Bicentennial. It was pulled by steam locomotives in the age of the diesel, and would improve on the three display cars of its predecessor, the 1947 Freedom Train. The American Freedom Train would feature twelve display cars, ten that visitors would go aboard and pass through and two to hold large objects that would be viewed from the ground through huge “showcase” windows. The display cars were filled with over 500 precious treasures of Americana. Included in these diverse artifacts were George Washington’s copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland’s dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Joe Frazier’s boxing trunks, Martin Luther King’s pulpit and robes, and even a rock from the moon.

The American Freedom Train (AFT) was a 26-car train led by one of three enormous steam engines restored just for the occasion. Over a 21 month period from April 1, 1975 to December 31, 1976 more than 7 million Americans visited the train during its tour of all 48 contiguous states. Tens of millions more stood trackside to see it go by. It was by far the greatest event on rails since the end of the steam era, and the uniquely magnificent vehicle that brought America’s Bicentennial celebration to the people.

Railfans owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the AFT. The successful operation of its three steam locomotives on America’s dieselized railroads produced a rebirth of steam in excursion train service that flourished in the 1980’s and 90’s and continues today.



*Special Commemorative Motors pull coal train (HO)*

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## PHOTOS



*Top Left: Member Dan replaced rotten arm rest at station waiting area. Top Right: Train stopped and Leo sets big turtle free, we watch out for all our little friends, Center Left: loaded LYT and test train with new crew car at MP57. Center Right: scout troupe #173 painting entrance fence, Bottom Left: Scout members put finishing touches on painted station benches. Bottom Right: B-60 scrapped, power washed, patched ready for primer, painting and lettering.*



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## PHOTOS

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*Left: Godzilla sounds off while eating a car (Z).*



*Right: #401 returns to station after test run with passenger car.*



*Left: LYT arrives at Deep Run Station with another full load of guest.*

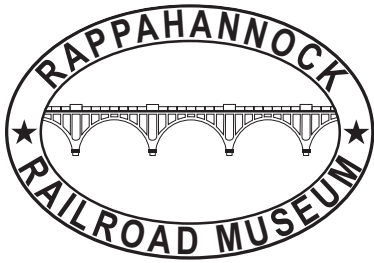
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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## 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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# JULY MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	July 6th	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	July 11th	<b>MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.</b> Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	July 13th	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	July 20nd	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	July 27th	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.

**The summer heat has arrived in force,**  
**We continue to open without remorse;**  
**The yellow train continues to run,**  
**Our visitors are flocking in for the fun.**

## **“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](mailto: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.*