

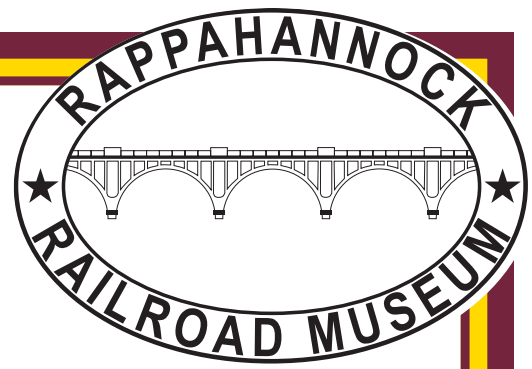
THE

MAIL POUCH

VOLUME 38

April 2026

Issue No. 04



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th, 2026. 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.

May Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
 - Discussion of future projects and needs.*
 - Entertainment TBD.*
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Cover: Virginian Railway No. 906 is a 2-6-6-6 class AG "Blue Ridge" type steam locomotive. It was originally built in 1945 by the Lima Locomotive Works for the Virginian Railroad. It was used on the Virginian Railroad and it was built to pull power coal trains from White Sulphur Springs, WV to Allegheny, VA for much of its career. The locomotive was retired from active service in 1955 and it was put in storage then later it was sold for scrap in 1960, 5 years later.

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:	Andy Sentipal	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

Members and Friends: I know a lot of rumors have been out lately about our Museum operation. FACT we are still open and operating our LYT each Saturday Morning. There have been a lot of changes, at this time we cannot cross Rt.2 and go to the CSX main line. There has been a wash out due to a stopped-up drain. We did a reroute in the park that worked for a while but now the county has put derailers on part of track, due to questions of ownership. We are now making shorter trips in park.

Many things have transpired to cause this reduction. The track maintenance company Rail Works contract ended and was not renewed, CSX as of last week does not inspect any private track but will make needed deliveries. Owners of track are now responsible for upkeep of track. There are discussions with Spotsylvania County about how track will be serviced, we are hoping one day to return to Normal operations.

In the meantime please let your friends know the Rappahannock Railroad Museum is OPEN, Giving Tours at Museum and operating train.

All are welcome to come by any Saturday Morning for official tour or any day light hours Just to take a private walk around (Safely). Presenting 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



“Bruce” the shark is after the barge crew! Looks like they may have him on the hook for his behavior.

“Bruce is the name of the mechanical shark used in the Jaws movie.

“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 14th, 2026

June 11th, 2026

July 9th, 2026

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION – CHATTANOOGA, TN JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2, 2026, <https://www.nmra2026.org>

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

Collinsville, IL / St Louis, MO • September 3 - 6, 2025, www.45thnngc.com

HARRISBURG NARROW O SUMMER MEET

Harrisburg, PA • June 12 - 13, 2026, More info to follow!

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS

Jul. 18-19 - Oaks, PA*

Jul. 25-26 - Monroeville, PA*

Aug. 8-9 - Edison, NJ*

Oct. 17-18 - Fredericksburg, VA*

Nov. 7-8 - Monroeville, PA*

Nov. 21-22 - Wilmington, MA*

Nov. 28-29 - Edison, NJ*

Dec. 5-6 - Timonium, MD*

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

April 11-12, 2026 Great Scale Model Train Show

Membership Meeting, Apr 14, 2026

Membership Meeting, May 12, 2026

June 6, 2026 Manassas Railway Festival (tentative) [Manassas Railway Festival logo](#)

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

April 18 – Register Chapel Block Party N gauge layout

April 25 – Ashland Train Day O, HO, N gauge layouts

May 16 – RMR Open House All gauges

June 10 – Art of Aging - Fredericksburg Convention Center N gauge layout, HO possible

June 17-20 – Caroline County Agricultural Fair O, HO layouts

July 21-24 - Private event (Stafford Junction) N, HO layouts

July 24 – Aug 2 – Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair O gauge layout

September 12 – RMR Open House All gauges

September 19 – Disability Resource Center Fall Festival at Fredericksburg Fair Grounds N gauge layout

September 26 – Museum of Culpeper History HO confirmed, N and O gauge invited

October 10-11 - Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival N gauge layout

October 24 - Shannon Airport Harvest Festival All gauges

November 7-8 – Spotsylvania Town Center Holiday kickoff O, N gauge layouts

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.*

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MONTHLY RECAP

03-07-2025 - BUSY MORNING. A little chilly, attendance a little low, with total of est. 59. LYT made two trips in the park. We did go back on the short siding in back for first time, It worked well and the conductor had much safer walking/standing area for his info talk. Track team did a lot of work cleaning flange ways. We are not to throw switch to that siding double locked (RRM& CSX) and spiked.

We had visitor from RMs, and we discussed ties and container they plan on placing at their site. Also talked about a complete Marklin layout that they wanted help with.

Painting done on B-60 new walkway. Safer and looks great. Several other projects were discussed. Modelers will be tasked with building the Sylvania Plant display using written plans and guide lines. Chip, Jim and Phil will build and complete project as soon as their time allows. Please help them if they ask. Hopely at a lower price than first discussed, using materials we already have.

MONTHLY MEETING THIS THURSDAY 7:00 PM in Taylor annex. Try to attend, Program to Be on history of RF&P by Ashland visitor center personal. About 23 mins. Let's get ready for summer visitors and excursions.

03-14-2025 - NICE DAY / LOW ATTENDANCE! Nice day but for some reason so many members had other plans, we were at the absolute minimum to operate Yes, understand we all Have busy lives and family comes first. I do thank those who gave us a heads up that they could not make it Saturday. It really helped with who volunteered to help where needed. I also thank those who worked outside their comfort zone. We did welcome visitors from all over the state with tour and rides on train. Yes, the two trips were in the park. We Had a total estimate of 51 attending Saturday. Only project worked on was painting on walk way between B60 and N&W thanks Gregg and Luke for taking time in you busy day.

FRIDAY 13TH, 2026, for those who may not have heard, eight of us met with Spotsylvania county officers at Museum at 11:00 A.M. We were told it was for a walking track inspection. It was and unusual request, our members got Train out so all could ride and they did accept the ride and we covered track from Rt.2 to back by tanks. We soon were told reason for visit. Deep Run Spur will be out of service permanently. Two rails will be pulled at MP57, Derailer will be installed on east side of Rt.2. Wash out will be environmentally repaired. Railworks contract will end Tuesday and there will be no new contract for the park track.

Obviously, we were all very disappointed but not totally surprised. We are still in place, we were given permission to run on any county owned track in park and we can still stay at our location. I cannot answer all your questions at this time as we are still digesting the situation. We ALL have to look at the positive points of this change and there are many. Really only thing we lost was trips to CSX main line, yes that was a great draw but we have so much else to offer public and we can still enjoy/share our favorite hobby with everyone. The county still supports our Museum. BUT WE MUST ALL WORK AND PULL TOGETHER, TO CONTINUE BUILDING THE BEST LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM. WE HAVE NOT CLOSED!

03-21-2025 - Really nice day, low number helpers. Yes, weather was great, good number of visitors, but very low number of helpers. Total est of those attending 65. Three trips made with train. Members attending did a great job of helping where ever needed. I hope no rumors start that we are closing, WE ARE OPERATING AS NORMAL, only not crossing Rt. 2 at this time. We do not want to slack off. Let's make sure Museum is OPEN at 9 A.M. sharp and the train is set up and ready to leave Station by 9:15 A.M. Come early if you want social time and Breakfast. Social time is important, Making our visitors happy and wanted is our main Purpose. Hope to see you Saturday, as we start our busy summer time tours.

03-28-2025 - HELP! For last month we have had low member attendance. Several of our regular members have had health issues, accidents and very busy with early spring projects. Members attending have been busy trying to keep operations on going. Please if you can set aside time on Saturday morning to help at your Museum, YOU ARE MISSED! We are still fully operational just not crossing Rt. 2 at this time. Weather is finally settling down and we need to be ready for visitors. See you Saturday !

REALLY COLD WINDY DAY. We opened as normal, track crew inspected track, got train out and opened all of museum. Visitors came but most took rain check on ride due to cold wind. Train crew did make three trips for those who had come a long way for visit. We had est total attendance of 50, some from Philly, Southern Virginia and far western Virginia. They did enjoy our inside heated displays and models.

GOOD News, Railworks company contract ended and was not renewed. We may need to check track more now and maybe do some oiling or very simple checks.

Several officers took walking inspection trip of all track, finding some track parts that were removed, wash out is a little larger but no track has been removed or locked out yet. Track in park in good shape for our use.

Looking forward to a good year. If we all work together for betterment of OUR Museum. Over the years from 1989 we have had ups and downs and things Have always worked out positive.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

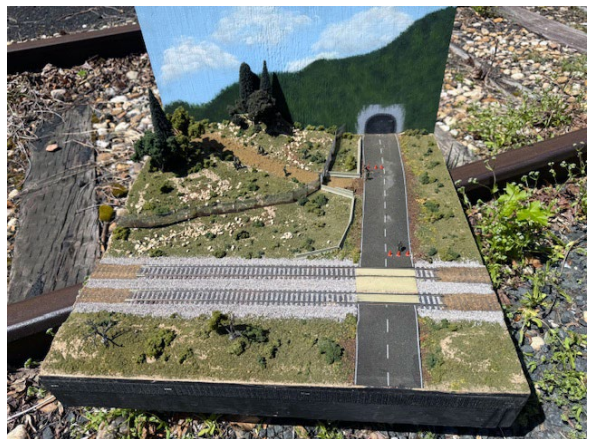
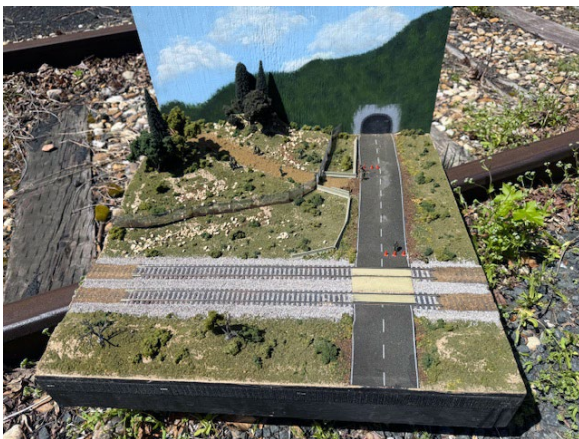
BUY SELL or TRADE

This is a new section of the newsletter and will also be added to the Museum webpage (if there is the option to do so, I will make this a members only access page of the Website). It's purpose is to give the Museum and members the opportunity to offer items they do not plan to use to other members. This page will not be included in copies of the Mail Pouch shared with other organizations.

If you have items you wish to get published in this section, please email the editor clear pictures of the item, a brief description and your asking price. Your name will be included in the listing, if you wish to have other information included such as contact info, please include that as well.



This is an industrial module once used as an extension lead to the old Rappahannock Yard on the HO display. This module would make a great start for someone looking to build a switching layout and would fit well into any era from the 1930's to the present. The track is code 100 Atlas flextrack and a #6 turnout with a hand ground throw. The structures are a mix of kits from Atlas, Design Preservations, Lifelike and Walthers. The ground cover and ballast are Woodland scenics. This module has legs available. ASKING PRICE is simply Best Offer!



This is a military base back gate module that is a 2 foot extension to the large 6 foot bridge module on the HO display (pictures of that module in the next issue of the newsletter or can be viewed on the website). This module can be used as a diorama for military equipment in HO scale and would fit well into any era from the 1930's to the present. The track is code 100 Atlas flextrack. The ground cover and ballast are Woodland scenics. This module DOES NOT have legs available. ASKING PRICE is simply Best Offer!

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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, 2026 to December 31, 2026

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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APRIL MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

- Saturday April 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 April 9th **MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
- Saturday April 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 April 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 April 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.

Spring blossoms and new life abound,
Members are having trouble coming around;
Events are forcing the Museum to change it's operation,
Now more than ever we need your support and participation.

“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.*