

THE MAIL POUCH

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May 2025



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8th, 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.

May Meeting Agenda

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

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO #1309 FEBRUARY 2023

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

THE PRESIDENTS 1/2 PAGE

We made it to May and hoping May will be smoother than April. Although April did have several positive points . We finally got green light to return to MP57, now just need to comply with regulations. Returning to 57 took lot of time that we had set aside for many projects. We now have to work quickly and catch up on these projects. I request that all members work together and clear up the work load. Do expect some hick ups and confusion but that comes with growth (growing Pains). Work with others as you would want them to work with you. This way we will have a good year for all. Running under Yellow looking for Green!

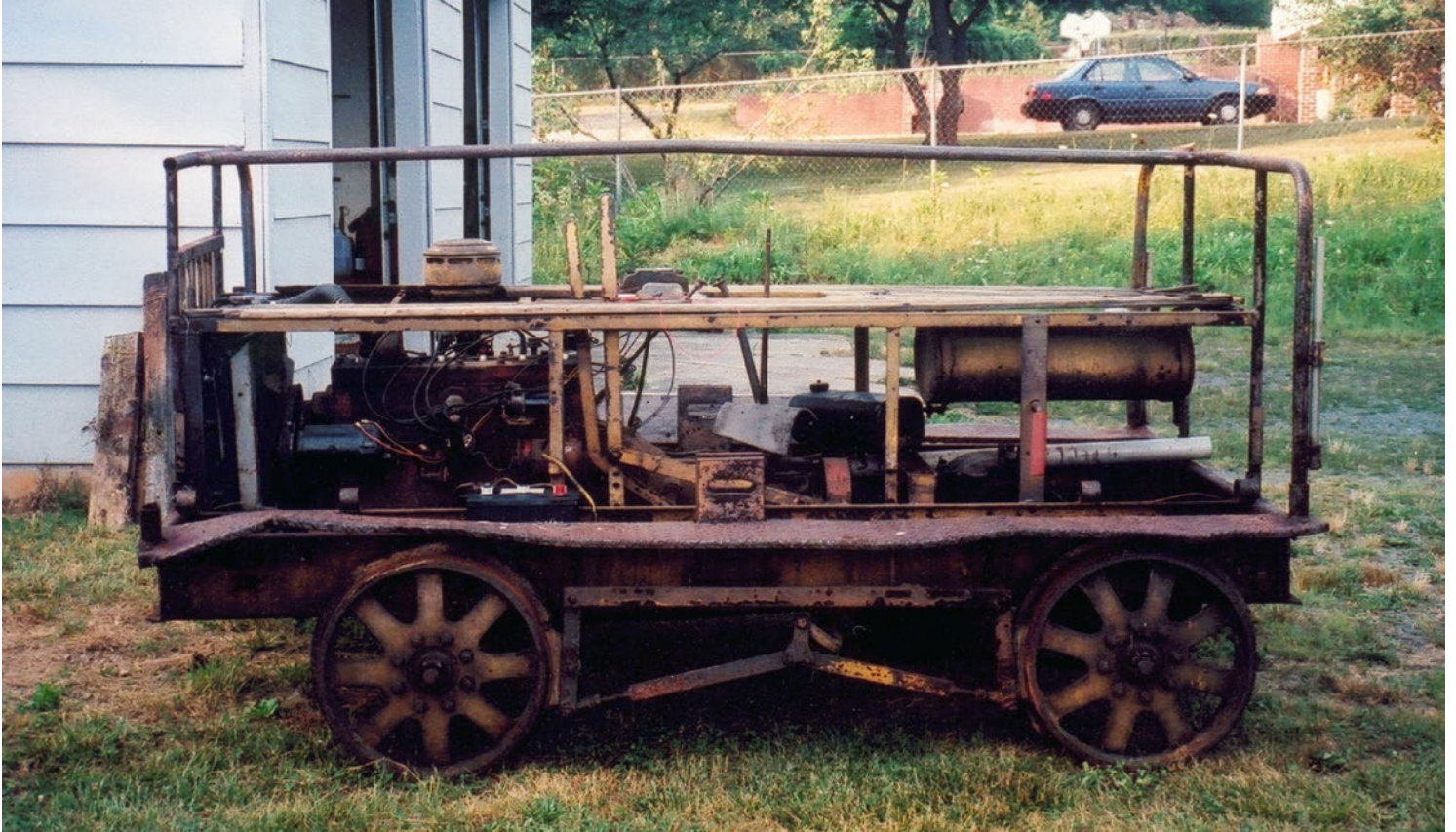
James (Jake) Taylor
President
Rappahannock Railroad Museum

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



Remember what things looked like years ago. When we started building History.

“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

May 3 & 4, 2025 Great Scale Model Train Show

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

Tribute at the Glen, May 16 & 17, 2025

June 7, 2025 Manassas Railway Festival (tentative)

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

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

04-05-2025 - LONG DAY FOR SOME. Normal Morning with estimate of total people attending of 48, Three excursions given in park as we start changing operation rules.

The Museum Board held a rather long meeting as officers continued putting together the new operation regulations that are being put in place. There has been a lot of long hours put in by several members, we are blessed to have such dedicated members. Some regulations will be new to us but they will get us back to full operations and we will follow them as required by County, State, Fed and CSX. All this shows we are growing and our future will be secure as we all work together.

Also we will have less parking spaces while the main street construction works its way thru our area. We want to give visitors as much local parking as we can. We will be checking on extra parking nearby for members. Will inform membership as soon as we can confirm. Please do not block parking for other business across the street. Parking will be better after pipe line completed.

04-12-2025 - GOOD LEARNING DAY. Little chilly day but good number of visitors and members had time to start putting some new operations in practice. LYT was staged and ready to leave station on time and we had a little time to plan for proper signals and train orders. We had an total est. of 49 people attending.

We spent a lot of time planning how, where to store derailer, test fit derailer at 57 and found problem with installing it on worn rail. Officers are working on corrections. Also a learning time on properly securing track in the park, while moving our equipment. All this info will be passed on to members.

Yes, a lot of changes are being made but it will improve our operations as we learn how to interface with those who require it.

Join Us Saturday morning , no two days are the same, you never get bored and always learning. Also think you would enjoy Thursdays (2nd of month) business Meetings, yes formal reports but lots of info given and questions answered. Then a short Program.

04-19-2025 - UNDER GROUND RAILROAD! We had a busy morning lots of people at Museum, a total est. of 67. We had a lot of projects planned as we are behind on many of them. Lot of Time spent doing paper work on getting back to MP57.

We are getting visitors from all over I talked with people from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey Saturday and several had traveled a distance in Virginia for train ride and tour of our Museum. We must attend to our Visitors, we had train out at station and people waiting to go but members were working on several projects, including new paper work. We must do all safety checks and fill forms but we need to get train rolling, families did not come to sit and watch us work. We are doing much better getting train ready but it has to leave station when a group of passengers are on board.

We did get a lot of projects done in many areas of Museum and I send out a BIG THANK TO HARD WORKING MEMBERS .

Personal: We seem to have a lot of members who are having health issues, we wish them well for past, present and future issues. Let us know if we can help you in your recovery.

KEYS; I am updating our collection of keys for members, hope they will be easier to find the right key for the right area when finished. Bigger job than I thought, please be patience.

OH you forgot this is APRIL. "April Fool" digging is for new sewer line. No fooling if we all continue to work together for the Museum. We can have the best Museum in the state.

04-26-2025 - GOOD INSIDE DAY. Yes, we got some much needed rain and the train got a break. There was rather good attendance for a rainy morning with total estimate of 56 stopping by. Lots of social time with visitors, updates made on "N" layout out, "O" layout was neaten up, other gauge layouts ran well with great looking trains. Operational plans were discussed for safety and records. Couple of members stayed late working on record storing space on Motor car. crew training scheduled for return to MP57 next Saturday, we hope.

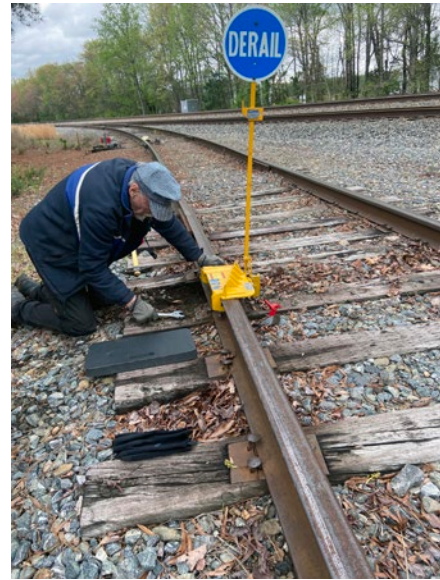
So even with rain it was a productive morning as we prepared for sunny days.

The sewer line project is causing a lot of traffic problems, so be careful as you drive on Main street and in the area. Train crew must be very watchful at all crossing, during this construction. Hope things will clear in a few weeks.

We are very close to returning to NORMAL operations BUT it will be a NEW NORMAL. There will be a lot of records, forms to fill out, safety track mandates, personal training and ect. Most of us would rather not follow this but WE MUST ! It will improve our operations to a new level. Over the years we have evolved from just a group meeting in basements, to an group enjoying building models and shows to a full operating Museum. This is just one more step in our growth. Keep pulling for your Museum don't let a few hic-ups slow you down.

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PHOTOS



Above Left: We just have a yellow signal now, we will soon get a another high green. Make sure you are on board for more adventures.

Above Right: Don testing setting derailer on track.

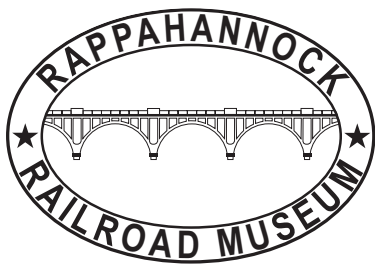
Center Left: Don and Curtis making adjustments and checking for proper installation.

Center Right: track being laid for new underground routes

Bottom Left: Tunneling looking north under main street. Work expected to take about 6 weeks.

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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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MAY MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	May 3rd	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	May 8th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	May10th	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	May17th	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	May 24th	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	May 31st	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 returniung to normal,
Requirements have become very formal;
Visitors word is spreading about the ride,
The Museum can carry on with great pride.

“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.*