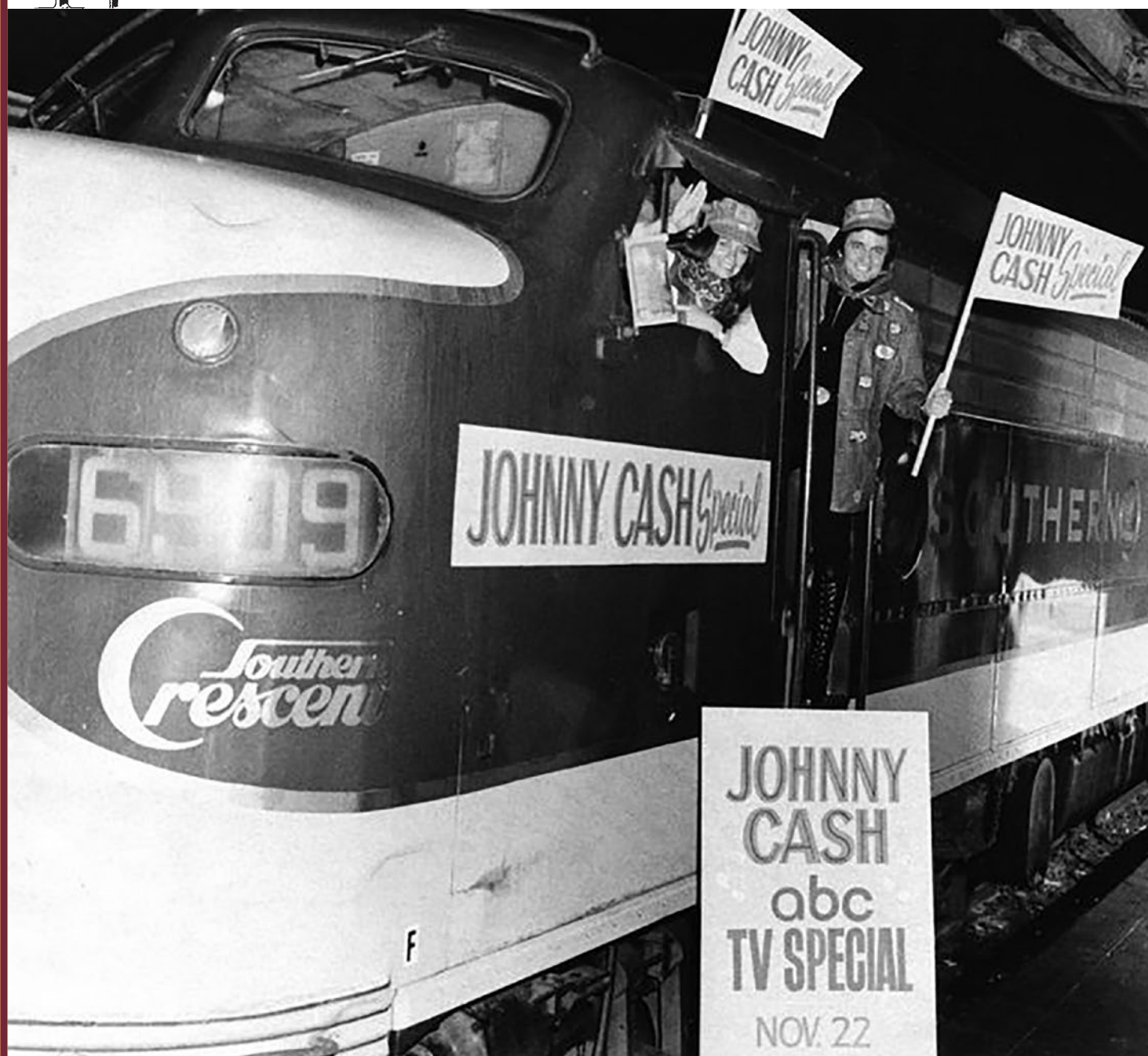


THE MAIL POUCH

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MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th, 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.

June 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: On November 22, 1974, ABC aired a television special, Johnny Cash: Ridin' the Rails—The Great American Train Story. Southern Railway cooperated with the production, and renamed its premier passenger train, the Southern Crescent, the Johnny Cash Special for a trip from Washington, D.C., to New Orleans. Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, are pictured in this photograph from the NS archives. Cash's love for trains was well-documented in song.

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

April showers brought May Flowers for us and May was the best operational month we have had in a long time. We are now back to 98% full operation. Our members are better trained, visitors are enjoying time on full excursions and we are now working on a back log of updates to our Museum that were delayed during a challenging time for us. We cannot rest as there will be other situations coming as they always come with progress. But TOGETHER members will continue presenting the best Rail/local history Museum anywhere as we serve families from all over.

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



Certified crew signing forms for test run to MP57, note green flag on station.

“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:

June 12, 2025

July 10, 2025

August 14, 2025

September 11, 2025

October 9, 2025

November 13, 2025

December 11, 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

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

June 7, 2025 Manassas Railway Festival (tentative)

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

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.*

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

MONTHLY RECAP

05-03-2025 - RETURN TO MAIN LINE, AT LAST! Weather was fine today, we gathered, did all checkouts as required, Derailler was in position, Green flag in place. Certified crew made a test run with no passengers, all went well and it was great to get back to CSX main line. All went well except we had to remove a dead tree covered in Poison Ivy, done carefully. Don't think anyone will be itching tomorrow. We then did three trips to MP57 with happy passengers. We had an total est. of 61 stopping by Museum.

LYT crew training: All who want to be part of official LYT crew, will have to attend certification classes given by Jimmy Baird & David Dutton. I will post date and time of class as soon as I get word from Jimmy. Probably be on Saturdays at 1:00. Guessing 2 hours.

KEYS: Our Museum keys have been marked, tagged, hung in key cabinet with lanyards. MEMBERS who need a key to locked area, check number on lock, find matching numbered key in cabinet. Use only the key you need then RETURN it to cabinet. DO NOT LOSE, LEND OR COPY. There are a couple of ASSIGNED KEYS THAT ARE NOT IN CABINET. Members with assigned keys are responsible for security of those keys at all times. Never leave any RRM key unsecured at any time. Repeating do not lose, lend or copy any key.

If you have any questions about the above come to Monthly meeting and we will answer your question.

05-10-2025 - GETTING BACK TO NEAR NORMAL, NEW NORMAL! This Saturday went well, the weather was great, we had lots of visitors, train made three trips to 57 and lots of catch up was done all around the Museum. We are getting better at following our new requirements. But we still a little slow opening Museum, setting up train and getting out of station. Our visitors seem to be arriving earlier. Do not plan on opening earlier but just being ready to welcome visitors at 9:00am. We did have a total est. of 81 attending Museum Saturday. We received good donations. Lot of cleaning, pick up trash, including flanges and gauge. Some visitors were please at how clean our potties were, let's make sure they stay clean.

Thanks to members who helped me move out my Gang car safely and Don return his pump car. We need to be careful of these unusual movements. These cars are heavy and MUST be moved safely .

We will be hosting a Birthday party on the 17th for a six year old. They will have use of RF&P caboose and close area on West side of caboose. Expecting est. of 20 in party. Train to move at reduced speed when passing caboose. Presenting living History

05-17-2025 - VISITORS RETURNING AFTER COLD WINTER. I see attendance growing due to nice weather and our improved operations. We had a total estimate of 68 people stopping by Museum Saturday. We were a little short on members, all were tired at end of day, with train making four trips to MP57. Now that more members are certified , try to give all crew members a break at times, swap out crew members when you can. Tour guides in (AC) B-60 and annexes maybe could help in HOT weather. We do need guides in B-60 and annexes at all times. Watch out for all.

We seem to be getting along well with our new regulations, as more members take classes. Be sure you follow new operations, you never know who maybe around and it is always safety first. We are about to start on several projects that were side tracked during the misunderstanding. We must continue upgrading Museum displays and area must by clean at all times. We are doing better on securing locks at end of day but please remember to give caboose windows a check when closing for the day. Back on track and Picking up Speed

05-24-2025 - REALLY GOOD DAY! Very Busy time as visitors were attending from 9 to pass noon. We made three full trips to MP 57 and a short trip to Rt.2 for the large number of visitors who arrived at or pass noon. There was good attendance of Members operating Museum also. We ended day with a total est. of 91 people. A couple of members even stayed late working on updates to Motor car. The North annex layouts were well attended and Thomas area continues to be a big hit with the younger visitors.

Museum; We are really improving operations, I was glad to see trash being picked up in area, trees and weeds being cut, Trash cans dumped and members planning projects (also working on projects) we need to make sure when visitors see Museum it is neat and well planned with friendly members. But make sure they stay safe and respectful to all. Also we need at least one member in B-60 at all times also in caboose if possible. With HOT weather coming watch out for all members health. I am so glad we are back to full operation. Lets continue to work together so we will be ready for next hick up. Whatever or whenever it comes.

05-31-2025 - EVERY SATURDAY DIFFERENT. Always something new waiting for us. That's what makes operating our

Museum so much fun. Saturday was a prime example of how together we use the many talents our members to solve problems quickly. It was another growing day with total estimate of 72 people attending.

The problems that we have worked thru lately has made us stronger and ready for the future growth in the area. I encourage all members to continue sharing their special talents needed to complete planned projects and growth. We are on the right track, see you Saturday for another family day of presenting History to all.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS



Top Left: Certified crew signing forms for test run to MP57, note green flag on station.

Top Right: Train arrives at MP57 at 09:55 AM. Motorman prepares to return to station. Note the RED derailler is not ours. The blue one is RRM.

Center Left, Right and Bottom: Hint & Flash back to July 31, 2009. Some of you remember setting up the signal by container #1. We learned a lot and got it done safely but it took some time and planning. We have signals to put up, let's start planning on setting up signal laying by box car at north east corner of container #2 and have it working with our new flag system.

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PHOTOS



Top Left: Mrs. Watts serving last of goodies as she starts putting party favorites away from a very successful and fun birthday party.

Top Right: Flash back to May 15, 2010 Members enjoy spring picnic.

Center Left: Conductor Mike gives info talk to visitors at MP57 as Motorman Don waits for signal to start back to Museum.

Center Right: Train on way back to Museum on a Sunny Morning.

Bottom: Surprise for first run Saturday, storms at end of week caused tree to fall across tracks with LOTS of Poison Ivy.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

PHOTOS



Top Left: Train crew assesses options, tree was later removed only causing short delay of second train.

Top Right: A Norfolk and Western (N&W) 1943 built class A articulated locomotive number 1218 visits the Rappahannock Railroad Museum's HO display. It appears to be preparing to pull the cuts of 55 ton hoppers out of the mine tipple.

Center Left: The Norfolk Southern veterans commemorative locomotive was spotted running on the HO display during the Memorial Day weekend. It is seen here passing the newly realigned Rappahannock Mining company town of Jerow, station and First Timer Bar.

Center Right: N&W 1950 built class J number 611 is seen pulling an HO scale excursion in honor of her upcoming 75th birthday. Seen here passing through the old Rappahannock Yard.

Bottom: Rufus Rockbottom, former owner of the Rappahannock Mining Jerow Tipple has abandoned his hilltop mansion above the mine. Thank you Phil M. for your beautiful work on this model.

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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: _____

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	June 7th	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	June 12th	MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX. Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	June 14th	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	June 21st	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	June 28th	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.

June has arrived and we are at the mid-year,
Sunny days and heat are here;
New standards of caution and training rule the way,
The Museum continues to operate through the day.

“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.*