

THE MAIL POUCH

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December 2024



MEETING NOTICE

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

December Meeting Agenda

- Brief Update on recent progress at the Museum's cars and displays.*
- PARTY TIME!*
- Entertainment TBD.*

CSXT 579 CSX Transportation (CSXT) GE AC4400CW at Dossett, Tennessee by Peyton Gupton

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

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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

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

What happened to November? I thought October was short. Guess time going fast means you are busy, We had gotten behind on several projects and had to really push to get outside projects completed before winter set in. Members put in a lot of extra time during the push, We got the B-60 painted and lettered, the station platforms were replaced with trek boards, the ODC car had major work done on it now ready to roll and the C&O crane was restored to display operation. All this while still operating Museum and updating displays. Now we have our own Mail Box right at the Museum, no more post office box and to help with donations we now have Venmo available at Museum.

We are not finished and we will always have a few Hic ups but they are good for learning. Already planning for good year in 2025. Merry Christmas to All

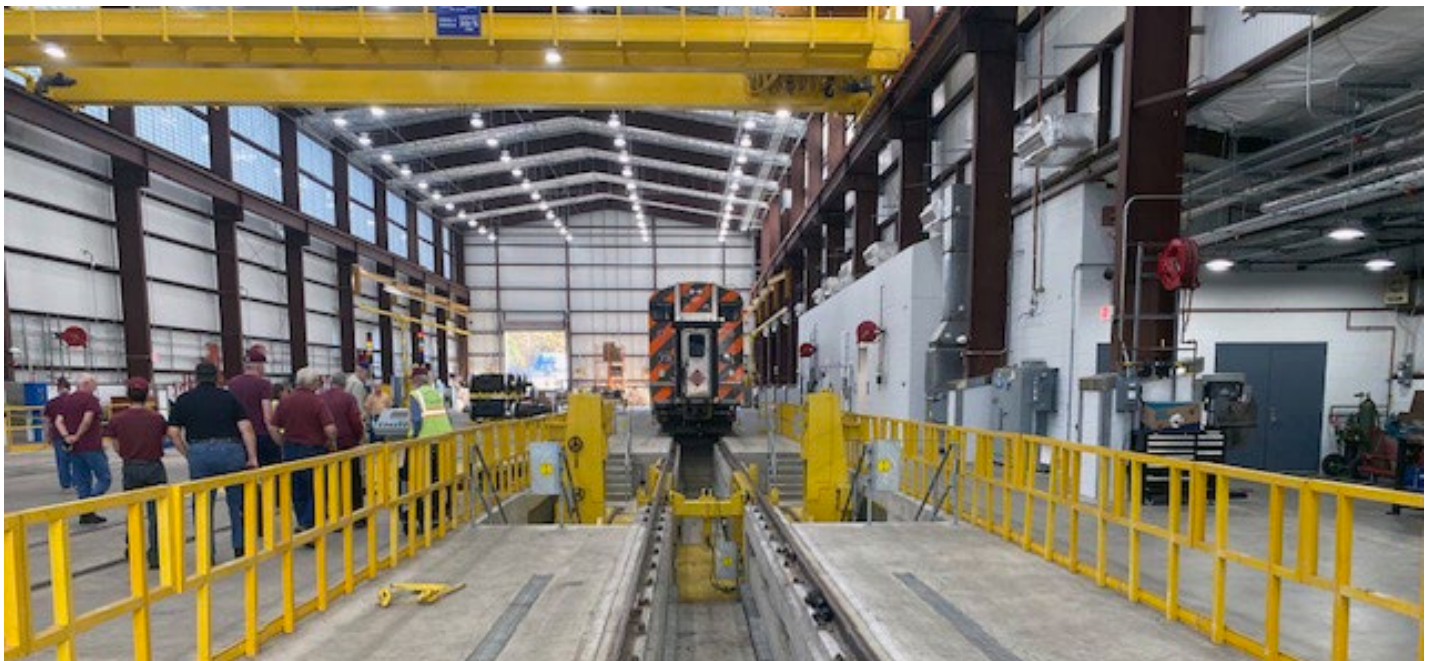
James (Jake) Taylor
President
Rappahannock Railroad Museum

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



Members walking thru one of building at VRE

“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:

December 12, 2024

January 09, 2025

February 13, 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

Dec 21-22 - Chantilly, VA

Dec. 28-29 - Hampton, VA

Jan 4-5 - Monroeville, PA

Jan 11-12 - Oaks, PA

Jan 18-19 - Richmond, VA

Feb 8-9 - Wilmington, DE

Mar 15-16 - Rochester, NY

Mar 22-23 - Wilmington, MA

Mar 29-30 - Edison, NJ

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org

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

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS

No Updates at this time.

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.*



Curtis & Dan work on replacing station decking. Dan & Danny Hicks worked during week removing screws from deck.

“Promoting Railway History and Preservation”

MONTHLY RECAP

11-02-2024 - SUPER SATURDAY! Saturday was an unusual day, visitor attendance a little low but member attendance was high, est. 76 in attendance. We had to make changes to our operations routes and station area (short term). Sounds like troubling morning but we made great progress on Many projects around the museum. Some being Cleaned flange ways, worked on sound reduction of ODC car, great progress on repairing station platforms, safety checks of back tracks in park, posted track safety flagman as required with new routes (Thanks Richard, sorry for dusting). BUT the outstanding part of day was the tour of the local VRE Maintenance facility. We were like kids in candy shop. We learned so much, now we can answer our visitors questions correctly. THANK YOU VRE!

We are having our officer elections. So make sure when you mark it and send or drop it off at museum. They are in Post Office hands somewhere! Our officers need your support.

Membership renewal time. Start saving your penny's. Anyone joining now will be for 2025. That could be a two month bonus. Please use RRM form to renew or join. Forms will be in welcome desk.

We are working hard to present living railroad life to guest back then. Thanks all for your help. Some of our members are going thru family health issues, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

11-09-2024 - ACTIVE DAY. We had a good turnout (est. total of 82 attending) who enjoyed their ride on LYT and or our displays. We gave three trips to back of park and one short run, posting flagman (Thanks Dennis & Leo). We hope to be back to normal operations before long. We did work on many projects while visitors enjoyed touring Museum.

MONTHLY MEETING this Thursday Nov. 14,2024 starting at 7:00 P.M. in the Museum Taylor Annex. Tie string around your finger so you don't forget. Yes, normal reports but also information on projects you have been working on and a program of railroad interest. See you at meeting and bring rain.

Membership Renewal time for 2025: We have applications at visitor desk and in Update please fill out neatly and mail in or hand soon so you don't forget or spend all your money on the Holidays. For new members you get two month bonus (Nov & Dec) now. Tell your friends.

Mail address changed, Thursday I officially closed our post office box 9908. all mail will be received by OUR mail box at Museum. Note we have a drop box for large parcels by entrance steps.

We are getting some great projects completed by our very talented members working together. Makes for a great future. THANKS ALL!

11-16-2024 - LOW ATTENDANCE SATURDAY. It was a nice day and we were able to get some things done but attendance was low (est. of 52). Not sure why, BUT the Field House near main line had a HUGE attendance for some activity. That could have been reason for our lower attendance. We did continue to put Trek board down at station. Really starting to look good. We did shifting to put C&O crane back in it proper place. We made several runs around in back of park with LYT. The sewage line project is really making a mess near/on tracks and expect it to get worst this week.

We will be taking our Thomas layout to the Christmas Show on the weekend of Dec. 14 and 15. Chip will head it up PLEASE help him as layout is checked out for the show and he will need help Friday setting it up, Saturday and Sunday will need volunteers to stay with layout and bring it back Sunday after show. Don't hesitate helping with this project.

Package returned: If you sent an order to RRM by UPS it was returned to sender due to needing signing, they would not use drop box because we were considered a business. They did not indicate that in their note. Supposedly problem now corrected and they will use drop box. I was not told who sent package. If you sent package SORRY AND PLEASE RESEND.

Notice: ALL RRM Derailers will be locked at all times. At this time still locking blue stop sign to rail with flag and cone, south of switch one for now.

December Meeting: Don't forget to sign up for meal. Signup Sheet at Welcome desk, Let Leo know so you will be counted.

Thanks to all Members who have renewed membership for 2025 using forms neatly and THE extra donations really help. Don't wait, Keep renewals' coming we looking for to a good 2025 year.

We have a LOT of things happening at Museum look around and ask working member if you can help the person with project. You can rest and talk later. We have to work TOGETHER!

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MONTHLY RECAP

11-23-2024 - GOOD CATCH UP DAY. It was a chilly morning but good working weather. We were able to finish putting trek boards down at station, finished sound deadening project on the new passenger car, it should be ready for service soon after final checkout. Made progress on Thomas layout for use at Christmas show. Train crew ran several excursions using back siding. Attendance was a little low, with est. of 59 total stopping by. One family visiting from Korea.

Chip has signup sheet on welcome desk for help at show (Dec, 13-14-15).

Leo has signup sheet on welcome desk for reservations at Scafa's Italian Restaurant starting at 6:00 PM on December 12th. It's our Christmas Monthly meeting.

Remember your officer ballot MUST be handed in by 6:30 that night to be counted.

Sewer Line project working in park, Be care when you enter park not sure how they will handle traffic. After inspection Saturday the CSX inspector took all track out of service due to way track has been damaged. We can still use track (as we have last two Saturdays) but need to be VERY Watch full. Will make decision Saturday if we run train .

Great Job members we have really been pushing hard to finish some outside projects. We did it by all working together. You have built a Museum to be proud of!

11-30-2024 - COLD MORNING, BUT TRAINS ON TIME! Feels like winter is starting as it was 24 when I left home this morning. But guess what tomorrow is December 1st. Time to be chilly. We had a good day in the cold. LYT made several trips out with passengers and the 401 made a complete test run of new Passenger car. Car now rides much better, looks good and is quieter. May use it with passengers next week. We had a good turn out today with total estimate of 69 attending. We had a family from Holland today. Word is out and we are drawing Visitors from ever where. MEMBERS, We have a Railroad Museum to be very proud of, let's make it even better. It was really good to see members move from one project to another as needed with no complaints.

Leo has a signup sheet on welcome desk for reservations at Scafa's Italian Restaurant starting at 6:30 PM on December 12th. It's our Christmas Monthly meeting. Check with Leo, I know more of you want to come than have signed up. Let me know and I will let Leo Know or please just sign up this coming Saturday. Leo would like to give a near correct reservation number to restaurant.

Chip has a signup sheet on welcome desk for help at show (Dec, 13-14-15). Check with Chip he needs more help! We need help setting up and taking down at show. also need couple more to talk with people at show. This is good PR for us. Best you talk with Chip but if all else fails email me and I will pass message on to Chip.

Note: A person was hit by train in Fredericksburg Saturday evening. There will be people in area investigating the death, If you at Museum be sure you follow all safety rules as you normally do.

There were a lot of good photo action scenes Saturday. I was not able to get any. If you take any great shots at Museum, you are welcome to send them to me and I will put some of them in Update. Enjoying History.



Test train leaves station for safety run in back of park (no visitors on board).

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Andy Sentipal



PHOTOS



Top Left: Group shot during VRE tour.

Top Center: Sarah Higgins VRE Director of Mechanical Operations and GREAT tour guide many THANK.

Top Right: Our C&O crane is back at Museum after good cleaning and servicing, Now ready as a display and LITE lifting.

Center Top Left: Our N&W caboose has been lettered and now on display in our N&W caboose with its history (thanks Phil).

Center Bottom Left: Stations platforms replanking finished (small park of station will be replaced before long).

Bottom Left: Crew working on sound deadening in Car. May have finished Job.

Bottom Center and Right: Flash backs December 2, 2011, Crane masters rebuilding Mills Drive Crossing.



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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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DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

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

Christmas time is here plus the end of the year,
Politics change and create alot of fear;
Our Museum is established and stable,
Our presentations bring alot to the table.

“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.*