The Mail Pouch

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MEETING NOTICE

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

November Meeting Agenda

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

Cover: GP-9 620 in Spencer N.C. "It ain't prototype". Yeah, but it's pretty. This late model GP9 is great looking in passenger colors, which it did not wear in service. N&W as it should have been I like to think. July 03, 2012 Photo by Sid Vaught

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 22408

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Web Site: www.RRMuseum.org

THE PRESIDENTS 1/2 PAGE

No Message for this month

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



Flash back Sept. 1,2007, sure miss this, maybe one day we can return to MP57. Track still there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rappahannock Railroad Museum EVERY SATURDAY MORNING TRAIN RIDE – EXCURSION. Ride the rails along FMC Plant facility 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:
November 12th, 2026
December 10th, 2026
Jamuary 14th, 2027
February 11th, 2027

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma Washington, Tuesday, August 10, 2027 - 9:00am to Sunday, August 15, 2027 - 10:00pm https://2027.nmra.org/

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION
47th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Hickory, NC Sept. 1-4, 2027, https://47nngc.com

GREENBERG TRAIN SHOWS
Nov. 7-8 - Monroeville, PA*
Nov. 21-22 - Wilmington, MA*
Nov. 28-29 - Edison, NJ*
Dec. 5-6 - Timonium, MD*
2027 Shows
Jan 9-10 - Oaks, PA
Jan 16-17 - Richmond, VA
Jan 30-31 - Grayslake, IL
Feb 13-14 - Hampton, VA
Feb 20-21 - Monroeville, PA
Mar 13-14 - Edison, NJ
Mar 20-21 - Wilmington, MA

Prince William County Model Railroad Club Schedule - PWMRC.org
Nov 12-14 - Bull Run Library, Prince William County.
Nov 28-29 - Virginia Science Museum, Richmond.
Dec 9 -12 (tentative) - Manassas Community Center Christmas Show.
Jan 21-23, 2027 - Bull Run Library, Prince William County.
Feb 2027 TBA - Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, MD.
May 13-15, 2027 - Chinn Park Library, Prince William County.

RAPPAHANNOCK MODEL RAILROADERS
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

RF&P HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Historical Society, Inc. will hold their next quarterly meeting on Saturday, October 31st, 2026. The meeting will be held at the Salem Church Branch Library at 2607 Salem Church Road. The library will open at 9:00 AM. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

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.*

MONTHLY RECAP

09-05-2025 - RAIN HELD OFF. We being watched over, cloudy and rain treating all morning, just as we started putting train away it started raining and we did have a heavy down pour, just after closing. Over all it was a good morning, LYT made four trips, some maintance pulled on equipment. We had a total estimate of 73 attendees for the day. LYT crew needs EARLY help. Visitors are arriving at nine some a little earlier. If anyone can come before 9:00 or so and help with opening Museum and setting up train. Curtis and Don could sure use the help. It is also a time you can learn more about how Museum operates.

MONTHLY MEETING THIS THURSDAY 10TH Sept. at Museum 7:00 PM. Come and hear how we doing Reports/updates, also help stop rumors. This Thursday Mike C. will present Program on member layouts. Family picnic committee Will probably give info on upcoming family picnic. CU Thursday at 7:00 PM.

09-12-2025 - SLOW VISITOR DAY! Members arrived early opened museum and set up the LYT ready for visitors but for some reason very few came, we had a total est. of only 27 attending. We did have time to make updates to train and displays, work on some projects and even relaxed a little so good day after all.

Thursday night business meeting was well attended. Good updates and great program of members layouts.

Rappahannock Railroad Museum Picnic! At last night's business meeting, it was announced that We would have our annual family picnic on Sept 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the museum after closing. It will be held in Taylor Annex. Museum will furnish chicken nuggets, Nancy will furnish cold slaw and bowl of cut up fruit ask to bring any side dish they like. There will be a signup list on welcome desk in Taylor Annex. You need to sign if you plan on attending with the number in your party (all members are welcome). If you cannot sign list email me at Jftaylor2025@gmail.com and I will put you on list. YOU MUST SIGN UP NO LATER THE 12:00 pm ON SEPT.19! So committee can plan amount of food to order or cancel if very low attendance. Any questions see Nancy or Virginia.

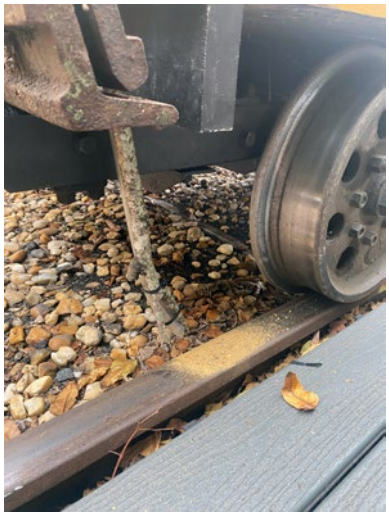
Natasha Bryant is a volunteer at local library. She sent info to member about a large donation to library (google address)of railroad items. She also came to business meeting and talked about it. If local you may want to stop by. One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Fri Sept 11 10-6
Sat Sept 12 10-6
Mon Sept 14 10-6
Tues Sept 15 10-6
We'd Sept 16 10-6
Sept 17 10-6

Having fun presenting HISTORY!

09-19-2025 - GOOD DAY BUT SURPRISING! Visitors were a little slow at beginning, but did have a good number attending, lot from out of state, and they liked our operation. Over all we had a total est. of 51 attending. We got in some training for new members, several members worked on the weeds in the area and things look much better. Thanks





Members testing new idea for sanders on the 92

to all who worked on cutting weeds, made it look better and safer for train crew observe the rails, THANK YOU! We did find a couple of rotten boards in our walk ways. There are plans to make repairs right away.

If you signed up for RRM family picnic, remember It is this Saturday Sept.29, 2026 at museum at 1:00 PM in the Taylor Annex.

Over the years we have climbed many hills and gone thru many valleys to get where we are , keep your boots on so we can get thru the next mud hole.

09-26-2025 - OPERATIONS AND PICNIC. Saturday was a good day. The weather was fine train left station on time, we had good turn out of people, total est of 62 attending museum for the day. Train made two trips. Everyone seemed busy, even got some weeds trimmed and along with several members working during the week we have the grass under control (looks really good). But keep eye on weeds still a few more weeks of growing left.

At 12:00 museum closed and members started Preparing for picnic. A large display of food was ready at one and 17 members set down to a good meal, great desert and great social time. Every one left full. We did not have after dinner





Top Left: Members testing new idea for weight on the 92. Top Right: Staged railroad worker (John). Thanks Curtis, David W. and Mike C. for photos





Bottom Left: Flash back sept. 9,2010, our meeting and display in B-60, Bottom Right: our model display & work area in the box car. WOW! We have come a long way and still picking up steam.

STEAMTOWN HISTORIC SITE

Article and Photos by Andy S.

The Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania is part of the National Park System. The focus is to interpret steam era railroading and is housed in the former DL&W roundhouse, yard and shop facilities. The roundhouse consists of three stalls built in 1902 and the remainder from 1937. The turntable is 90 feet long. Inside the roundhouse one finds a wide variety of both active and static steam locomotives on display. An elevated walkway allows a visitor to walk around the interior to view them all up close. Technology exhibits show advances in railroad history such as signals, communication and railroad safety for employees. A large model railroad is on display showing the DL&W's Scranton Yard.

You can take Park Ranger led tours around the site and shops or explore on your own. There are plenty of interpretive signs and artifacts to see. A history museum leads the viewer to displays depicting early railroads, working on the railroad, hobes and working with labor, business and government. In addition to all this, the entire parking area and tracks nearby the displays mentioned above are a wide variety of vintage freight cars and cabooses. The entire onsite collection consists of locomotives (including early diesels), rolling stock and maintenance of way equipment. The smallest locomotive onsite is a 1937 industrial switcher made for the Bullard Company to the largest being a Union Pacific Big Boy. The original collection that makes up the bulk of equipment came from the F. Nelson Blount collection that was amassed in the 1950s and 1960s. It was originally on display in New England and in the late 1970's when I saw it several of the Canadian Pacific locomotives were operating excursions with some of the passenger equipment. Sadly, a great deal of this collection is on the side of the park and is left open to the elements. The Park Service is hand picking individual locomotives and rolling stock pieces for restoration. For example, during my visit they were starting to restore a WWII Troop Sleeper.

There are steam and diesel led excursions that a visitor can ride when visiting. Although short they are well worth the ride as you will pass the beautiful Scranton Train Station. The operating steam engine is a 1929 0-6-0 switcher built for the Baldwin Locomotive Works. When not in excursion service, she can be found in the roundhouse. Plan on spending at least 3 to 4 hours to explore this large site. They also have a nice gift shop. Interestingly there is a ramp from the nearby Steamtown Mall to the museum. This long ramp is a great spot for photographs too.

An independent trolley museum sits on the edge of the parking lot and is very interesting too.



STEAMTOWN HISTORIC SITE















"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

PHOTOS









Top Left: during the week Dennis O. and Mike T. replaced all the wood on the walkway between B-60 & box car "A big thank you to them as it was a lot Of WORK and TIME, they also completed floor in station. Top Right: members having fun before picnic. Center Left and Right: members enjoying food and social time. Bottom Left: A Famous General has shown up on the farm scene of the HO Display. Bottom Right: Sometimes the models imitate the real thing, everything had been running perfectly all morning until visitors showed upat about 11:15am then "boom", a derailment and accident. The coal train was running 54 cars behind a 4-8-4 and a 2-8-0 helper, while the container hotshop was running 3 SD type locos and 38 double stacks.





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: _____

"Promoting Railway History and Preservation"

OCT/NOV MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday	October 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	October 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.
Thursday	November 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.
Saturday	November 12th	**MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETING IN THE TAYLOR ANNEX.** Monthly meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. Important discussion on Museum future activities.
Saturday	November 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.

Additional work days may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

The cold weather is here and leaves are falling,
Slick rails make it tough for the Yellow Train hauling;
Vistors continue to come from near and far,
The Museum is a place you just can't experience from a car.

"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.*