

## Norfolk & Western Class J No. 611's Spring Break

By ALEX MAYES, Potomac Chapter NRHS

Former Norfolk & Western Class J No. 611, which has been running as a visiting locomotive on the Strasburg Railroad since early June, suffered a broken leaf spring on its trailing truck on July 2, 2021. This serious defect was discovered during a routine check of the 611 by mechanical staff minutes before the 5:00 PM run was to depart.

Strasburg employees I spoke with said the rear end of the 611 was leaning to the side which indicated a major issue with its suspension system. The 611 was uncoupled from the passenger consist and carefully moved to the shop area.

Strasburg's former Norfolk & Western Class M No. 475, which was fired up and ready for service for most of the day, was then coupled onto the train and it powered the 5:00 run to Leaman Place and

return. The 475 also powered the 7:00 PM dinner train and the July 3rd and 4th trains.

To protect against any mechanical issues with the 475 Strasburg's ex-Canadian National 2-6-0 No. 89 was fired up for the following days. Kudos to the Strasburg Railroad for the foresight to have a back-up steam engine fired up and ready for unexpected mechanical issues with the 611 and the 475.

A press release issued by the Strasburg Railroad on July 2nd stated that mechanical crews of the Strasburg Railroad and the Virginia Museum of Transportation will work together to replace the spring as soon as possible. The accompanying photos were taken on July 2 of the 611's last run and at the shops on July 3.

*(Continued on p. 7.)*



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX MAYES  
NORFOLK & WESTERN CLASS J NO. 611 ROLLING IN LANCASTER, PA.

# NRHS NEWS - AUGUST 2021

## *Table of Contents*

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Norfolk & Western Class J No. 611's Spring Break.....	1
<i>Table of Contents</i> .....	2
<i>Upcoming Conferences and Conventions</i> .....	2
<i>Submission Deadlines</i> .....	2
Events and Ticket Update - NRHS 2021 Convention .....	3
Convention Hotel Location and Registration.....	3
2021 Rail Attractions Directory – New Addition.....	3
Pullman National Monument Opens Sept. 4-6, 2021 .....	4
Norfolk & Western J Class No. 611's Spring Break.....	7
Free Publicity Brochures Available from NRHS .....	14
Great Smoky Mountain Railroad Fall Excursion, Sept. 11, 2021!.....	15
Celebrate 'Tweetsie' Railroad at the Chuckey Depot .....	15
Restored Union Pacific Big Boy No. 4012 on Display .....	16
Steam Driving Girl .....	22
The Cape Cod Chapter Returns to Station Museum .....	24
Harrisburg Chapter Picnic - June 8, 2021.....	26
Point of Rocks – a Lot of Trains and History .....	27
President's Column – Summer Views & News.....	28

## *Upcoming Conferences and Conventions*

**August 23-28, 2021**  
**2021 NRHS Convention**  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**October 7-11, 2021**  
**2021 NRHS Fall Conference**  
 Ronkonkoma, New York

The NRHS convention registration form and information booklet are available on the NRHS web site at <https://nrhs.com/convention/>

**Please order tickets early, as space is limited on many of the venues.**

Thank you, and safe travels. John H. Goodman National Convention Chairman

## *Submission Deadlines*

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Print or online issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
August 2021	Online issue	July 15, 2021
September 2021	Print/ mailed issue	August 10, 2021
October 2021	Online issue	September 15, 2021
December 2021	Online issue	November 10, 2021

# Events and Ticket Update - NRHS 2021 Convention

*By John Goodman, National Convention Chair, NRHS*

We are receiving good numbers of orders for our offerings for **Green Bay Museum** and the **Illinois Railway Museum**. We still have space on these two trips.

We are also having very good response to our **East Troy Trolley Museum** day visit that includes the special lunch train offering and also the "buy your own lunch" lower price for all day rides over the 14 mile trolley line.

The Friday event up at the **Christopher Museum** in Sheboygan, Wisconsin still has a lot of space available. We can have up to 100 total on this special visit at this location. The railroad collection alone has a huge collection of railroad china and other collectibles. There is a 18" former park train that operates on a 1/2 mile of track. The gardens on the property are very beautiful and anyone will enjoy this event on Friday of our convention. We guarantee that you will be back at the hotel in

Milwaukee by the 4:30PM annual membership meeting.

The highlight of the convention will be the **Metra special train** that will operate from Fox Lake, Illinois to Antioch, Illinois and back on Saturday of the Convention week. We will have the special CMStP&P painted locomotive on this train, and we will have a photo run by enroute.

Box lunches will be included in the Green Bay Museum, Illinois Railroad Museum, Christopher Museum and Metra special trains.

Plan now to book your reservations for both the Hotel Double Tree and excursions that interest you. The convention registration booklet is now available online at <https://nrhs.com/>. It includes the registration form, schedule, excursion descriptions, ticket order form, prices and more. See you all in Milwaukee.

## Convention Hotel Location and Registration

The 2021 National Convention is August 23 through August 28, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The host hotel is the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milwaukee Downtown**, 611 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. The telephone number to use for our event is: **1-414-273-2950**.

The NRHS room rate is \$119 per night for up to two people in a room, taxes are extra. The discount code to receive the group rate is: **NRH**. Rooms must be booked by *11:59pm on August 2, 2021* to receive the special rate. The special room rate is available three days prior to and after the convention dates. There are a very limited number of ADA Accessible rooms available.

The link to the reservation web page for the NRHS group is below. Please note the link is very long and all of it is needed. Clicking the link will open the webpage in a new window.

[https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MKECCDT-NRH-20210822/index.ihtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MKECCDT-NRH-20210822/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

The hotel is in downtown Milwaukee, just three blocks away from the Amtrak station. It is also a ten-minute drive from the General Mitchell International Airport (MKE). Please note, there is no hotel shuttle.

## 2021 Rail Attractions Directory – New Addition

Below is a new entry to add to your NRHS 2021 Rail Attractions Directory.

### **COLORADO**

**DOLORES:** Galloping Goose Historical Society-Rio Grande Southern Railroad Museum, 421 Railroad Ave., Dolores, CO 81323. Phone: 970-882-7082. Free Museum. [www.gallopinggoose5.org](http://www.gallopinggoose5.org)

# Pullman National Monument Opens Sept. 4-6, 2021

By MIKE MATEJKA, At-Large member NRHS

## Pullman National Monument formally opening Labor Day weekend

The storied Pullman, Illinois workplace and community will celebrate the grand opening of the National Park Service-Pullman National Monument Visitor Center and Pullman State Historic Site Factory Grounds on Labor Day weekend, September 4-6, 2021.

The renovated Administration Clock Tower, now the Monument's Visitor Center, will be open for guided "sneak peeks" on Saturday and Sunday, along with portions of the factory grounds and the historic planned community. Saturday and Sunday will be varied public programs. A formal dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Labor Day morning (ticketed attendance only) will also be livestreamed.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will provide tours of the first floor of historic Hotel Florence, currently under restoration.

Multiple partner organizations are hosting various activities. The Historic Pullman Foundation will have their visitor center open and will offer neighborhood tours. On Saturday the Pullman Civic Organization will host a car caravan and Illinois Secretary of State's gymnastic team, the Jesse White Tumblers. The Illinois Labor History Society will offer labor-related tours and have historic re-enactors on Saturday, along with the Chicago and Cook Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and HIRE 360, which will display hands-on opportunities with the union crafts. The A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum is open throughout the weekend and will host their Urban Renaissance event on Monday afternoon. Artist Mitch Markovitz will unveil a commemorative poster for sale, commissioned by the Historic Pullman Foundation.

The entire event is free and open to the public.

President Barack Obama declared the National Park Service site on February 19, 2015. As President Obama wrote in his proclamation:

"The architecture, urban planning, transportation, labor relations, and social history of the Pullman Historic District have national significance. The Pullman Historic District tells rich, layered stories of American opportunity and discrimination, industrial engineering, corporate power and factory workers, new immigrants to this country and formerly enslaved people and their descendants, strikes and collective bargaining. The events and themes associated with the Pullman Company continue to resonate today as employers and workers still seek opportunities for better lives."

For more information, see <https://go.nps.gov/pullmangrandopening>.

## Learn more about the Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site through the links below.

- [History of Pullman site](#)
- [How to get here](#)
- [Things to do](#)

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Mike Matejka for sharing this important occasion with the **NRHS News**. Mike is a member of the Historic Pullman Foundation advisory committee, as well as vice-president of the Illinois Labor History Society*



# GRAND OPENING

LABOR DAY 2021

## Grand Opening of Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site

Fee: Please note that events taking place at Pullman National Monument Visitor Center and State Historic Site will be free. Events will be taking place throughout the broader community led by partners, and some of those activities may have a separate cost.

**LOCATION:** 11001 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago IL

### DATES & TIMES

Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 to Sunday, September 5, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### DESCRIPTION

Join us Labor Day Weekend 2021 for the Grand Opening of Pullman National Monument Visitor Center and Pullman State Historic Site Factory Grounds! We will welcome the public to attend a celebratory weekend of events on Saturday and Sunday, September 4 and 5.

See below for a full schedule of activities. Please note that timed tickets for a “sneak peek” of Pullman National Monument Visitor Center and tours of the first floor of historic Hotel Florence will be available on the day-of, on a first come, first-served basis.

### Schedule of events

#### **Saturday**

- 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Car caravan: Join a rolling celebration, hosted by Pullman Civic Organization. Line-up at 9 a.m. at House of Hope, kick off at 10:30. Register with PCO.
- 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Guided “sneak peek” of Pullman National Monument Visitor Center, hosted by National Park Service\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Guided tours of the first floor of historic Hotel Florence, hosted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Urban Renaissance, hosted by National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Programming at Historic Clock Tower and Administration Building\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours of historic Pullman-built rail cars, hosted by Amtrak, American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, Historic Pullman Foundation, Metra (tickets available from Historic Pullman Foundation)
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Demonstrations of skilled trades, provided by representatives from Illinois Building Trades Council
- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Walking tours of Pullman, hosted by Illinois Labor History Society; self-guided tours also available, with map provided by Historic Pullman Foundation
- 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food trucks and live music, hosted by Pullman Civic Organization
- 1 p.m.--Jesse White Tumblers, hosted by Pullman Civic Organization

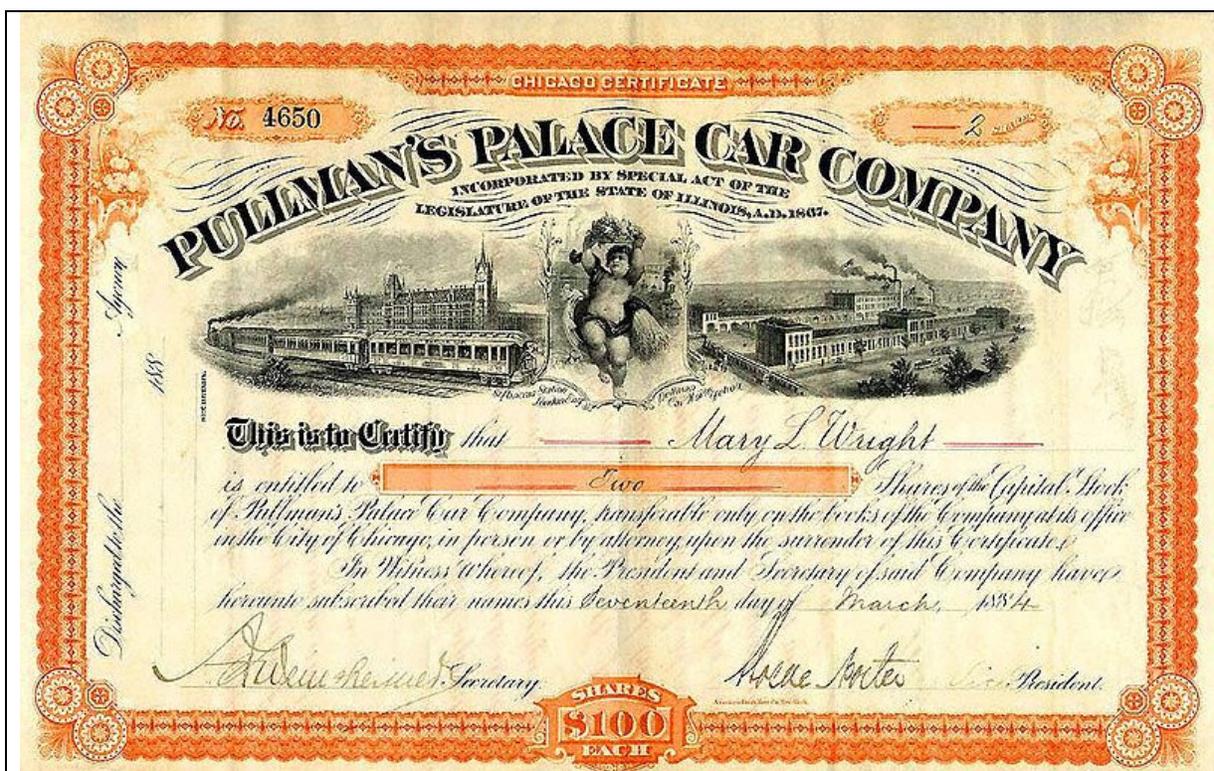
- 4-6 p.m. Pullman Partner Awards, including live music by the Mudcats and food trucks

## Grand Opening of Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site

### Schedule of events (continued)

#### Sunday

- 9 a.m. Chicago Police District Roll Call & First Responder Honor Ceremony
- 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Guided “sneak peek” of Pullman National Monument Visitor Center, hosted by National Park Service\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Guided tours of Hotel Florence, hosted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Urban Renaissance, hosted by National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum (Urban Renaissance continues the afternoon of Monday, September 6)
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Programming at Historic Clock Tower and Administration Building\*
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours of historic Pullman-built rail cars, hosted by Amtrak, American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, Historic Pullman Foundation, Metra (tickets available from Historic Pullman Foundation)
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Demonstrations of skilled trades, provided by representatives from Illinois Building Trades Council
- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Walking tours of Pullman, hosted by Illinois Labor History Society; self-guided tours also available, with map provided by Historic Pullman Foundation
- 1 p.m. Meet Mitch Markovitz, the artist behind a new, commemorative Pullman poster, hosted by Historic Pullman Foundation
- \*accessibility accommodations available



**STOCK CERTIFICATE FOR PULLMAN'S PALACE CAR COMPANY— 1884**  
certificate for two shares of capital stock in Pullman's Palace Car Company signed by  
its Vice President, General Horace Porter (1837-1921).

Attribution: Pullman's Palace Car Company, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## Norfolk & Western J Class No. 611's Spring Break *(Continued from p.1.)*



***THE 1:00 PM JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> RUN ARRIVING BACK AT THE STRASBURG STATION. – The 611 was uncoupled, ran around the consist on the track on the left and then coupled onto the rear of the consist for the 3:30 PM run. On the left is historic J Tower, built by the Pennsylvania Railroad and originally located in Lemoyne, Pennsylvania. In its later years of operation the PRR labeled the tower as “Lemo”. After the tower closed it was donated by Conrail to the Strasburg Railroad.***



***After the 611 was uncoupled from the front of the 1:00 PM train it ran around on the passing track and coupled onto the last car.***



*One of many events offered at Strasburg were visits to the cab of 611, which were very popular. Most visitors blew the 611's whistle multiple times.*



*The 3:30 PM train departing the Strasburg's yard.*



*The 3:30 PM train approaching the Paradise Road crossing at the Red Caboose Motel.*



*The 3:30 PM train arriving at Leaman Place.*



*The 611 running around the consist of the 3:30 July 2nd train at Leaman Place. On the right is Amtrak's high-speed Keystone Corridor, which runs between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, PA.*



*An Amtrak SUV, with Amtrak police officer, was positioned between the Strasburg RR and Amtrak's Keystone Corridor at Leaman Place.*



*As we were walking back to our car to resume the chase an east bound Amtrak Keystone Service train roared through Leaman Place. The Strasburg conductor performed the required inspection of the Amtrak train as it passed by.*



*The 3:30 July 2<sup>nd</sup> run approaching the Cherry Hill road crossing near Groff's siding.*



*After the 611 was withdrawn from service due to the broken leaf spring minutes before the 5:00 run. Strasburg's former Norfolk & Western Class M No. 475 was quickly placed in service. This is the 5:00 July 2nd run, with No. 475 leading, approaching the Cherry Hill Road crossing.*



*The 5:00 PM July 2nd run, with No. 475 leading, passing through Groff's siding west bound as it approaches the Cherry Hill Road crossing.*



*The 7:00 PM July 2nd dinner train preparing to depart Strasburg with former Norfolk & Western Class M No. 475.*

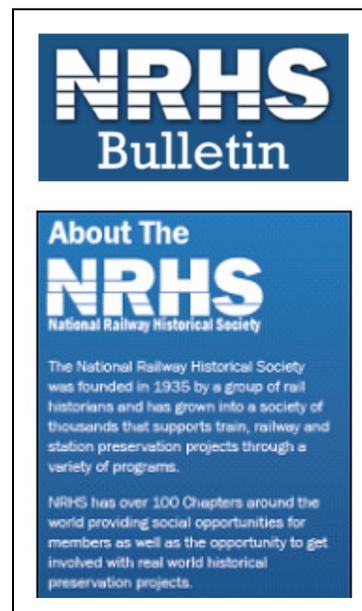
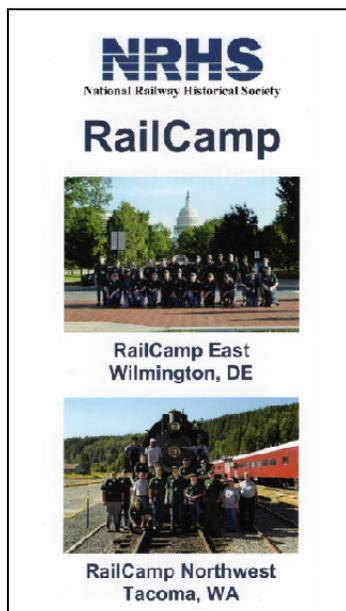
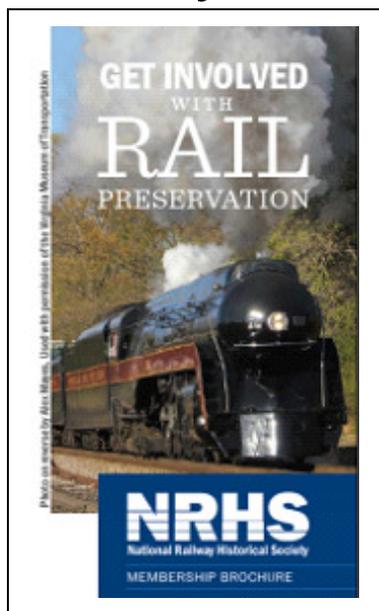


*Strasburg's former Norfolk & Western Class M No. 475 powered the July 3rd runs, pictured here in the Strasburg yard before the first run.*



*No. 611 in the Strasburg yard on July 3rd, temporarily sidelined due to the broken leaf spring.*

## Free Publicity Brochures Available from NRHS



- *NRHS Membership brochure* – In your email order, please include your name, the name of the chapter or organization, the quantity requested and the mailing address. The brochures will be sent out postpaid. Please email Jon Baake [jbaake@outlook.com](mailto:jbaake@outlook.com) to place the order.
- *NRHS RailCamp brochure* – Please contact Becky Gerstung [railcampnrhs@yahoo.com](mailto:railcampnrhs@yahoo.com) for brochures and the application form. The RailCamp application is available through Becky Gerstung or on-line at <https://admin.nrhs.com>.
- *NRHS Bulletin issues* – Please email Jeff Smith at <bulletin@nrhs.com>. Include your name, the name of the chapter or organization, the quantity requested, and the mailing address. The issues requested by a chapter are sent out postpaid. Single issues for personal use are available at a charge.

# Great Smoky Mountain Railroad Fall Excursion, Sept. 11, 2021!

By *CLAY MORITZ, Potomac Chapter NRHS*

## Tickets are on sale now!

On Saturday, September 11th, 2021, the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society and Museum will sponsor a beautiful train excursion - a ride on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad through the majestic mountains and beautiful countryside of western North Carolina from Bryson City, NC, and on to the Nantahala Gorge, NC, then return to Bryson City, NC. This trip covers a lot of the current operating trackage of the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad.



Tourist Coach Class



Open Air Coach Class

Passengers may choose to ride in comfort in **Tourist Coach** or **Open Air Coach**. All classes offer seating in vintage, restored passenger cars. Tourist Coach Class cars feature ceiling fans and windows that open and close for fresh-air viewing. Open Coach Class is great for taking pictures and seeing the beautiful scenery. All passenger cars are heated (except Open Air) and have restrooms throughout the train. Tourist Coach and Open Air Coach Class may purchase a box lunch which will be delivered to your car. For details and tickets visit: [www.wataugavalleynrhs.org](http://www.wataugavalleynrhs.org), then click on Excursions.

## Celebrate 'Tweetsie' Railroad at the Chuckey Depot

By *FRED WASKIEWICZ, Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum*

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, the Chuckey Depot Museum in Jonesborough hosted a reception for its newest exhibit "As Fast As Birds Can Fly: The ET&WNC (Tweetsie) Railroad". The ET&WNC Railroad ran from Johnson City through Elizabethton on its way to North Carolina. This narrow-gauge line only lasted from the 1880s through 1950, but it made a lasting impact on the region.



The exhibit originally debuted in March, but due to Covid 19, the museum was unable to have an opening reception. Now, we're celebrating the exhibit and the history of the "Tweetsie".

The exhibit includes several artifacts from the ET&WNC's storied history (for example, artifacts worn by Conductor Cy Crumley shown at left) as well as photographs taken by people who worked on and for the railroad line.

You can visit the museum Thursday, Friday, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm, as well as Saturday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. The ET&WNC exhibit will be on display through August this year.

# Restored Union Pacific Big Boy No. 4012 on Display

*By Dan Cupper, Harrisburg Chapter NRHS*

In its collection, Steamtown National Historic Site (<https://www.nps.gov/stea/index.htm>) located in Scranton, PA as part of the National Park Service, owns a Union Pacific 4-8-8-4 Big Boy locomotive, one of a fleet of 25 of -- by many measures -- the largest and most powerful steam engines in the world. Two years ago, the engine, No. 4012, was withdrawn from public display and given a \$1.5 million cosmetic restoration. The work was completed and the engine was returned to display on May 5, 2021.

It is one of eight surviving Big Boys built 1941-1944. Big Boys operated until 1959 primarily in Utah and Wyoming on UP's east-west main line. Six of the other remaining Big Boys are in museums in the Midwest, Southwest, and West.

This one is situated closest to the plant where all 25 were built, the American Locomotive Co. in Schenectady, N.Y. It was part of the Steamtown USA collection in Bellows Falls, Vt., which later moved to Scranton and became the core of the NPS museum.

The sole Big Boy that is not in a museum is No. 4014, which UP restored to operating condition in 2019 for the 150th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike to commemorate the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Normally kept in UP's roundhouse in Cheyenne, Wyoming, it operated numerous tours across the Midwest and West in 2019. In August 2021 it is scheduled for another tour through the Southwest.



*ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAN CUPPER*

***UNION PACIFIC BIG BOY NO. 4012 AND TENDER. – Both wait outside the Paint Shop at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pa., on May 5, 2021, prior to movement to a permanent display site.***



***AWAITING CONNECTION.*** - Drawbars at the rear of UP 4012 await connection to tender. Scranton, PA. May 5, 2021.



***STEAMTOWN'S NICKEL PLATE ROAD GP9 NO. 514 GETS READY TO POSITION THE BIG BOY.*** - This begins the staging of the engine and its tender for movement to a display site at the entrance to the park's visitor center. Scranton, PA, May 5, 2021.



***SPINNING TIME.*** - The 14-wheel tender of No. 4012 takes a spin on the Steamtown turntable.



***SOLAR SURPRISE.*** - Discreet solar panels allow the engine's headlight, number boards, and marker lights to be illuminated by a timer.



***MAKING THE TURN.*** - In a driving rainstorm, the crew turns No. 4012 on the 90-foot turntable to mate it with its tender, parked at Stall 16 of the Steamtown roundhouse.



***UP No. 4012 FACES FOUR SMALLER STEAM ENGINES FROM THE STEAMTOWN COLLECTION.*** - From left to right, E.J. Lavino Co. 0-6-0T No. 3, New Haven Trap Rock Co. 0-4-0T No. 43, Berlin Mills Railway 2-4-2T No. 7, and Illinois Central 2-8-0 No. 790.



**ALMOST READY.** - Volunteer and Park Service staff make final preparations to move the engine and tender off the turntable to their display site at the park's entrance.



**FINAL STEPS.** - UP Big Boy No. 4012 begins its final move from roundhouse area to the display track, passing the visitor center entrance en route.



*SHINY, LOOKING GOOD, READY TO BE ADMIRERD. After a lot of polish and hard work, the UP Big Boy No. 4012 is in its final position along the entrance driveway at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA.*

## **STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**



*FIVE IN THE ROUND HOUSE. Locomotives are (Left-to-right): NYS&W 142, Baldwin #26, CN 3254, CP 2317, and RBMN 425.*

*National Park Service photo from the Steamtown National Historic Site website.*

*Source: <http://www.nps.gov/stea/photosmultimedia/Steamtown-Scenes.htm>*

# Steam Driving Girl

*By Doug Scott, Cape Cod Chapter NRHS*

If it were not for the uncertainty of the COVID 19 restrictions, the weekend of June 25, 26, & 27 would have been the beginning of the 2021 *RailCamp East* activities. Having missed this event in 2020 and 2021 and the people involved, *RailCamp East* counselor Ellen 'MOM' Scott decided to head North anyway to revisit some locations and meet up with other staff and perhaps some former rail campers.

The first stop was at the Newark, Delaware History Museum. This building used to be the Newark station stop for the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. Several evenings during each week, the *RailCamp East* campers would visit this location, right along the busy Northeast Corridor, for some railfan time. Many of the campers have not had prior experience watching and photographing Amtrak's ACELA or Northeast Regional trains. Former *Rail Camp East* attendees Joey Carter and Nick Pautler were at the former PW&B depot taking photographs on the day Ellen stopped by. It was great for her to catch up on what they have been doing since their *RailCamp* days.



*ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUG SCOTT*

***AMTRAK NORTHEAST REGIONAL #174 – The northbound Amtrak train, passing the Newark Delaware History Museum, is a favorite railfan location for RailCamp East attendees.***

Following the morning in Newark, Delaware, Ellen drove up the well-known route 896 to the Strasburg Rail Road. Saturday, June 26 was spent visiting the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the Strasburg Rail Road where Ellen Scott met up with the staff of the museum and the staff of the railroad to talk about past years' fun with the rail campers. Later that day, several past NRHS *RailCamp* staff members Candi Dirian, Roy Wullich, Tim O'Malley, Tony White as well as Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania staff who helped the RailCampers when they visited and former rail camper Aaron Fried - now an employee of the Strasburg Rail Road - went for a ride in the President's car on the Strasburg Rail Road.

Sunday morning, June 27, Strasburg Rail Road employee Alex Merrill, who has been a great help with all the *RailCamp East* attendees, insisted the Ellen Scott have her turn at driving the live steam 15-inch gauge CAGNEY locomotive that also provides rides at the railroad. In past years, Ellen has avoided driving due to the proper task of keeping an eye on rail campers. This year she was alone with only Tim

O'Malley and NRHS director Doug Scott to keep an eye on her. This was MOM's chance to be a steam driving girl.



***DRIVING DOWN THE RAILS AT STRASBURG – RailCamp East senior counselor Ellen Scott finally has her chance to drive the Strasburg Rail Road's 15" gauge 'CAGNEY' live steam locomotive.***

After a late lunch on Sunday, Ellen Scott relaxed while Doug Scott went out to photograph the last Strasburg Rail Road train of the day as it headed back to the Strasburg station and yard from its run to Leaman Place alongside Pennsylvania's Keystone Corridor Amtrak route. Former N&W 4-8-0 locomotive #475 was on the point and looks great running past farm houses and fields of Strasburg, Pennsylvania.



***EBENSHADE ROAD CROSSING, STRASBURG, PA. – Locomotive N&W #475 is***

*on the point of the Strasburg Rail Road train as it heads back to the station and rail yard hauling the final passenger run of the day.*

## The Cape Cod Chapter Returns to Station Museum

*By LINDA Z. PEGNATO, President, Cape Cod Chapter NRHS*

Well, this past year was different for all of us!! After a thorough cleaning and organizing in early May 2021, members of The Cape Cod Chapter, NRHS officially opened our headquarters at West Barnstable Train Station & Museum, on Saturday, May 15, 2021 for the first Cape Cod Central Railroad Scenic Excursion train. It was a sunny, clear and high 60's temp day. We have steadily welcomed passengers every Saturday since for their ride up to the Cape Cod Canal.



*PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN GREENE*

***CAPE COD CENTRAL RAILROAD'S SCENIC EXCURSION TRAIN MAKES A STATION STOP AT WEST BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS – On Saturday, July 3, 2021, FL-9 2011 in its former New Haven Railroad livery brings up the rear of the excursion train. The railroad station was built by the New Haven Railroad in 1911.***

Taking a look back, all Chapter activities were cancelled until Massachusetts Covid-19 restrictions eased. The train station had been closed to the public and we did not have a Chapter business meeting from January 2020 until July 15, 2020 when the first virtual video meeting was held through Google Meet. We held these meetings until this past June 2021 when we were able to go back into our train station. Those that could not attend in person were still able to utilize the video conferencing for the business part of the meeting.

In the meantime, last August, our National Representative Ellen Scott advised that she was elected Chairman of the Advisory Council to fill an unexpected vacancy and she is currently in the National Secretary position.

Our Chapter thanks Cape Cod Central Railroad President Christopher Podgurski for funding the much-needed new station sign this year. We held a welcome back BBQ Social on June 16, 2021 for our members and their families at the train station. Cancellations were the Chapter's Annual Banquet usually held in June with a Guest Speaker and a community event that the Chapter participates in - the Spaghetti Supper usually held in April.



*Our first in-person meeting in the station since the Covid-19 closedown.*



*Chapter Secretary Bob Barat provides a presentation after the June 16, 2021 meeting.*



*ALL PHOTOS ABOVE COURTESY OF LINDA PEGNATO  
On June 16, 2021, we held a welcome back BBQ Social for our members and their families at the train station. Former Chapter President Jeffrey Foster surprised the Chapter with a special cake at the Chapter's BBQ.*

Good news to report is the West Barnstable Civic Association Festival Committee decided to run the Annual Festival on Saturday, August 21. The station will be open 10:00am to 2:30pm for passengers to purchase a reduced ticket for the Cape Cod Central Train Excursion up to the canal and return. Hopefully, everyone will all get back to normal this coming year. Many Cape Cod Rail Fans post on Facebook their wonderful rail photos and drone videos of the Cape Cod trains for all to enjoy. When you're on Cape Cod, stop by and visit! [www.capecodnrhs.org](http://www.capecodnrhs.org)

# Harrisburg Chapter Picnic - June 8, 2021

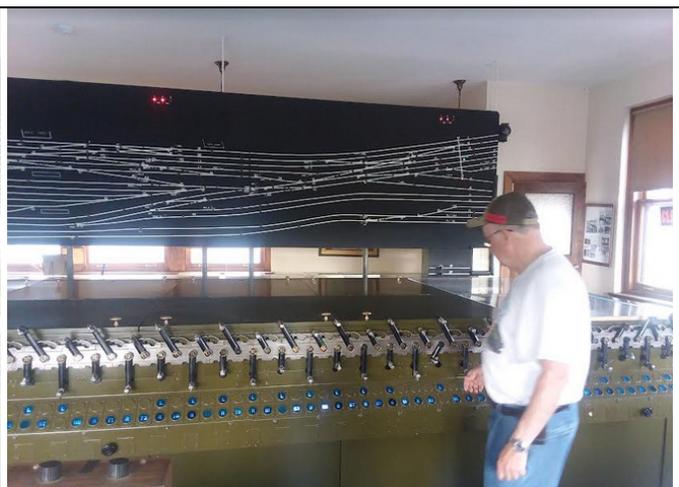
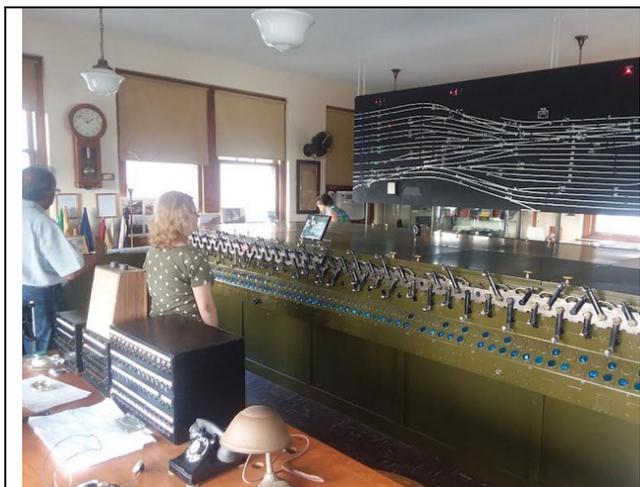
By CHARLIE WEBB, Harrisburg Chapter NRHS

The Harrisburg Chapter celebrated getting outdoors with a picnic at Harris Tower.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLIE WEBB

**HARRISBURG CHAPTER MEMBERS AND VISITORS AT HARRIS TOWER.** On June 8, 2021, members got together for good food, good company and some trackside action.



**HARRIS TOWER'S UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS.** Switching board always draws high interest from members and visitors.

# Point of Rocks – a Lot of Trains and History

By JOHN COWGILL, DC Chapter NRHS

## A great train watching spot with a little history. Enjoy!!

The town of Point of Rocks in the U.S. state of Maryland is a small town on the Potomac River that gets its name from a rock formation. It is a place with a historic train station, and it is known as a great train watching spot as it is at a junction of two rail routes. (They were original lines of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, but they are owned by CSX today.)



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN COWGILL

***THE TRAIN STATION, BUILT BY EPHRAIM FRANCIS BALDWIN IN 1876, IS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. Today the station serves as offices for CSX, and it is not open to the public.***

As the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was building the railroad toward the Ohio River Valley in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was being built to connect barge traffic between the Chesapeake Bay and the Ohio River. Both the railroad and the canal converged at Point of Rocks. Both wanted the passage along the Potomac River. The result was that the passage was shared by both the railroad and the canal. Originally constructed as a single line, a second line was constructed by tunneling through the mountain with two tunnels with the original line still on its original route around the mountain. The tunnels are still in operation today and can be seen from the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Tow Path.

The second battle at Point of Rocks and the railroad took place during the American Civil War. This war was led by the famous Confederate General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson who led the Confederate Army across the Potomac River to Point of Rocks attacking the railroad line and seizing 56 locomotives and 300 rail cars. During the war, the railroad line was attacked numerous times. Henry A. Cole was put in charge of what was known as Cole's Maryland Cavalry who was assigned to the town to protect the railroad from future attacks.

Today, the main action in the town of Point of Rocks, Maryland are the trains passing through the junction. The trains pass through safely, and many train watchers flock here to watch them roll by.

The Point of Rocks, Maryland is located where U.S. Route 15 crosses the Potomac River. The old train station is on Maryland Route 28 east of U.S. Route 15 beside the MARC Commuter lot. It is wheelchair accessible.

The next time you are in Point of Rocks watching the trains, remember that it is a quiet place where the railroad brought much turmoil.

*Many thanks to John Cowgill for graciously sharing his travel tales with the NRHS News. Find and read more tales at "John Cowgill: Stories of the Railroad" <<https://johncowgillstoriesoftherailroad.com/>>.*

## President's Column – Summer Views & News

*By AL WEBER, President, National Railway Historical Society*

I asked several volunteer members to come up with survey questions about what members wanted from their membership in the NRHS and a second survey for former members about why they were no longer members.

I sent out 500 surveys to current members and got back 195, not a bad return but I was expecting better. I also sent out 500 to former members and as of today I have back about 30 in the first week after the mailing. I will give a report at the membership meeting on both results.

The current member comments that were written on the surveys detailed many good points and some areas that members would like changed. Most were written in a constructive manner and if critical had ideas on how they thought changes should/could be made.

I have been getting emails and phone calls about NRHS mailings not getting to the members. The 2021 membership proxies were sent US mail with "Return Service Requested". This makes the post office return to us items that do not have a deliverable correct address. I only got back a few, about 20 out of the 4,500. It seems that some members have moved and not updated their NRHS membership mailing address. I was expecting many more back but it looks like our membership address database is up to date. If possible, I am re-mailing all the bad address proxies so you should get yours.

Please, if you are not going to attend the membership meeting fill out your proxy and mail it back.

Now for some much better news. Several chapters are getting trips approved by Amtrak and taking train trips. Private cars are traveling behind Amtrak trains again! Ride them while you still can and support the chapters doing trips. Also every day or so I see chapters having in person meetings again! I look forward to seeing you in person at the NRHS convention in August.

Union Pacific has a trip scheduled for 4014 this August. Please make an effort if it is in your general area to go and see it run. Take all your friends and make sure that children see what a magnificent sight a running steam train is.

The Wall Street Journal on 21/07/02 has an article that older Americans stockpiled a record \$35 trillion. And the time has come to give it away. Transfers to heirs and others are unleashing a torrent of economic activity, including buying homes, starting businesses and giving to charity. Notice the last part, "giving to charity"; donations to the NRHS and NRHS Fund, Inc help preserve railway history for future generations. Every little bit helps.

Everyone please stay well and safe. Thank you for helping preserve railroad history for future generations. Best, Al.

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