

Ringling Circus Car Is Reborn in Venice, Florida

By ROD SMITH, Suncoast Chapter NRHS

It started as a dream. The dream became a possibility. The possibility became a reality in December of 2014 when a restoration project was initiated by the Venice Area Historical Society (VAHS) of Venice, Florida headed by George Miller, Mary Huber and a team of VAHS volunteers.



THE PULLMAN STANDARD CAR THAT IS – Purchased in 2016 by the Venice Area Historical Society, the restored car has a variety of exhibits open to the public.

The car selected was built by Pullman Standard and put in service in 1953 for the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad. They named it the **Short Leaf Pine**. After Amtrak took over passenger service in 1971, it was sold to the original Auto Train and used as a dormitory.

In 1978, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus purchased the car and made it part of their fifteen car Gold Unit, the Monte Carlo Circus. It was used as a residence for a circus band leader for a time after which it was refurbished and used for various activities.

The car has a history with the circus and with Venice. It was used to transport circus performers from and to their winter quarters in Venice. (Continued on page 3.)

NRHS NEWS – FEBRUARY 2024

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Announcements

NRHS 2024 Election

- **Deadline to nominate candidates: March 31, 2024.**
- All NRHS members, in good standing, as of April 11, 2024, will elect the Vice President and nine (9) Directors. Members must be 12 years of age as of June 13, 2024, to be eligible to vote in this election.

RailCamp 2024

- **Deadline to apply is April 1, 2024.**
- **RailCamp East is June 23 to June 29, 2024.** Headquartered at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE.
- **RailCamp Northwest is August 4 to August 11, 2024.** Headquartered at the University of Puget Sound Tacoma, WA.
- Application available at <https://nrhs.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024RailCampApplication.pdf>

NRHS Convention & Conferences

NRHS Annual Convention - August 26 thru August 31, 2024, in Harrisburg, PA

- The hotel is the Hilton Hotel in downtown Harrisburg, PA.
- Hotel rate, parking and reservation details will be announced soon.

NRHS News Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submit by</u>
March 2024 (mailed issue)	February 20, 2024
April 2024 (online pdf issue)	March 10, 2024

Ringling Circus Car Is Reborn in Venice, Florida (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1.)

It is said to be the last circus car to leave Venice. The car received its last brake check in Venice in 1993 which is recorded on the wheel housing. Not long after the brake check, it was sold to the Florida Rail Museum in Parrish (FL) where it languished on a siding.

The Venice Area Historical Society purchased the car from the Florida Rail Museum on December 9, 2016, with plans to restore it to its original circus specifications. It was to be the centerpiece of the Venice Area Historical Society's (VAHS) efforts to "preserve the Venice Depot's circus train heritage". The restored car was designed to illustrate the lodging of wild animal tamer, Gunther Gebel Williams, Boss Clown, Chuck Sidlow and Clown Peggy Williams, all of whom resided on the car. Their rooms are available for viewing by the public. Exhibits in a central reception area provide information about the circus and its performers between 1960 and 1991 when they wintered in Venice. It also provides information about the historic relationship between the circus and the railroad, both in Venice and across the nation, with both histories being very intertwined since about the mid 1800's.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus was not the first circus to establish a winter home in Venice. Fourteen years prior to the arrival of Ringling Bros., the Sparks Circus negotiated a lease with the city for a winter home. Signed in November 1946, the lease included use of three former military buildings at the airport, along with adjacent open grounds where Ringling Bros. would later build its circus arena campus in the 1960's.

After spending the winter at its new home, Sparks planned a farewell benefit performance in Venice before pulling out for its seasonal road shows in early 1947. As an omen of things to come, heavy rains hit the area just prior to show time, forcing a cancellation. That season, the circus encountered many problems, including legal issues over animal care and severe weather on tour, which ended its operations. The Sparks Circus was not seen by Venetians that year, as the circus folded and never returned to the city.

Restoration history

The cost for this project was approximately \$225,000 which was funded by grants, fund raisers and private donations. After restoration, the car was added to a track at the historic Venice Train Depot which already contained a restored caboose. The Venice Area Historical Society, while maintaining responsibility for its maintenance and providing public tours, donated the car to Sarasota County.

On December 22, 2016, the *Short Leaf Pine* arrived in Venice to begin its restoration. This move was facilitated by Johnson & Sons House Moving Company. They moved the 85-foot train car weighing 100,000 pounds some forty-three miles over land by truck as they would a house.

Prepping for the move took place on December 21, 2016, and the actual move took place on the next day. Jacks were used to raise the car and remove the wheels which were delivered to Venice later.



MOVING TOWARDS VENICE – Prepping and transporting the car occurred December 21-22, 2016.



GETTING CAR READY – Some assembly required.

The trip was expected to take about three hours but took less than two hours to complete. It was delivered to Uni-Glide Trailer Company in Venice, where the car was refurbished.



ROOF AND BODY WORK – Exterior repairs included replacing car sides and roof.

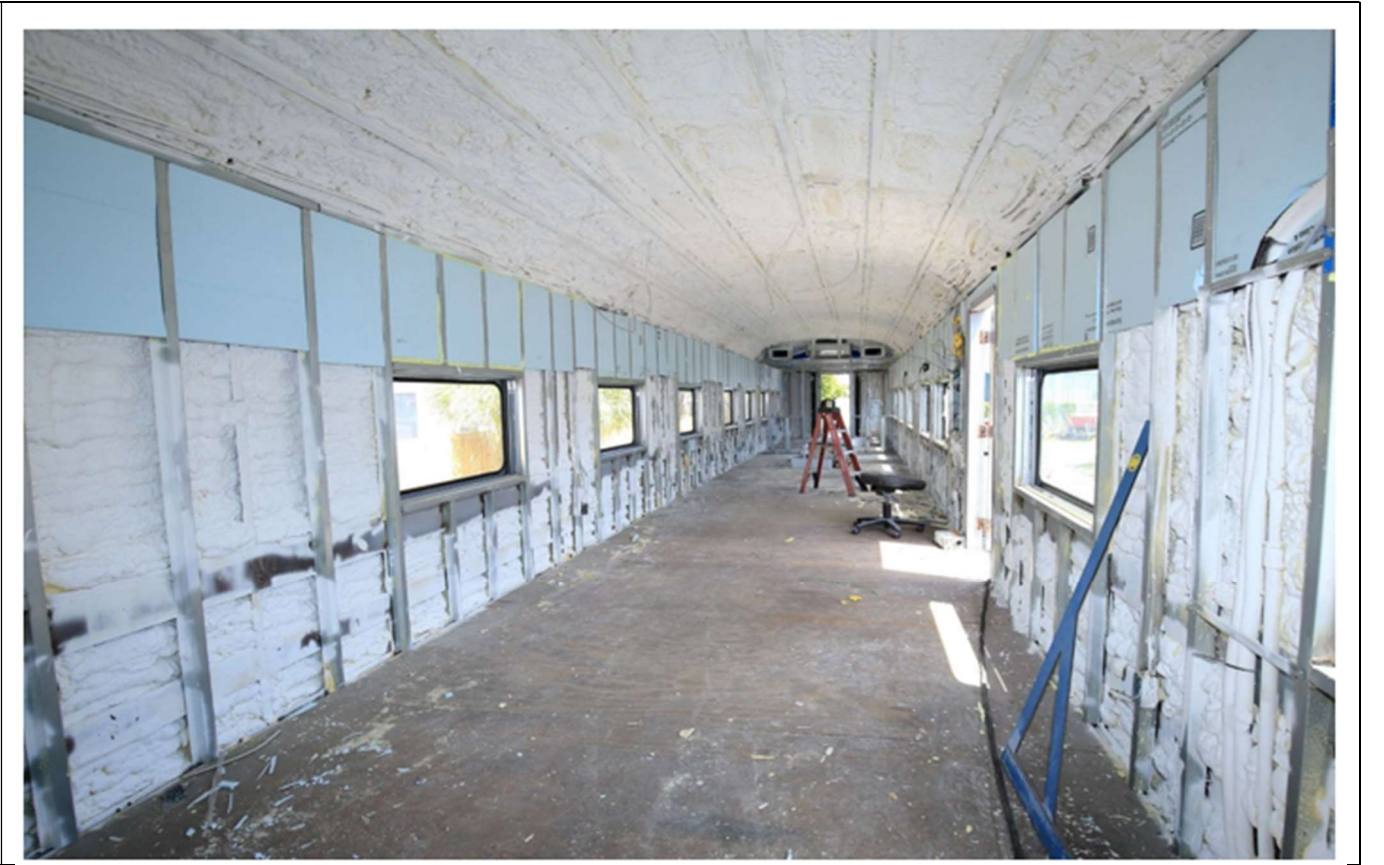
By November 2019, the exterior repair and painting were completed including the replacement of several steel sheets on the side of the car and the vinyl covering on the steel roof. The windows and doors were also installed and the wheel trucks were restored. Painting weather delays caused the timeline for the external restoration of the car to be extended.

Interior restoration by Uni-Glide began in February 2020. HVAC units and ducts were installed along with electrical wiring and insulation in the ceiling and walls. The ceiling and walls were also installed along with the designated living quarters.

The affixing of the Ringling decal was the final step with the car now being ready to move to the Venice Depot. During this same period, site work was being completed at the depot for the car arrival and placement with this being completed by December 2020. This included track and electrical work.



INTERIOR UPDATE 1 – Included HVAC and electrical work.

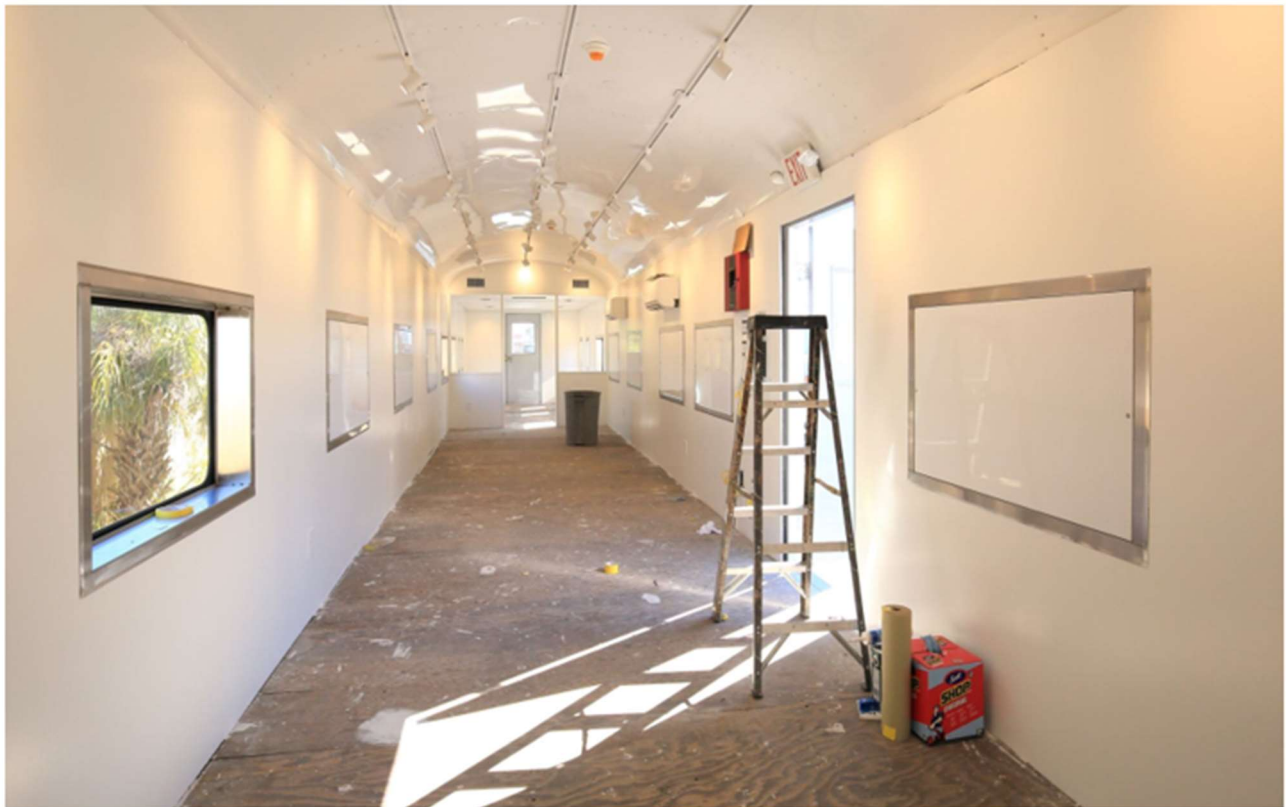


INTERIOR UPDATE 2 – Insulation was added to ceiling and walls.



INTERIOR UPDATE 3 – Finishing the clean-up before adding interior rooms.

After refurbishing by Uni-Glide was completed, the car was moved to the Venice Rail Depot on January 28, 2021, where the interior exhibits were completed.



INTERIOR EXHIBITS – January 2021, work on exhibit in progress.

The summer of 2021 saw the final interior work being done. Window coverings were made and flooring installed.



INTERIOR WORK – Finishing the details.

Three exhibits of performer's rooms were done as well as the following displays:

- Arrival of Ringling Bros. Circus in Venice
- Construction of the Venice Circus Arena
- Innovations in the circus during the Venice years
- Profile of Clown College
- Special stories about the Venice/Circus relationship
- Venice Circus legacy

By the fall of 2021, site work was completed with the installation of a new deck connecting the existing caboose to the Ringling car.



INTERIOR COMPLETED – It's all in the details.



EXHIBITS SETUP IN INTERIOR – Ready for viewing.

By the summer of 2022, the internal restoration was completed. The Venice Depot also reopened after being closed for eighteen months for Covid-19 and for repairs for another nine months.



READY FOR THE PUBLIC – All is in place and ready for official opening.



EVERYONE IS ALL SMILES FOR OFFICIAL OPENING – Don't drop the ribbon!

On February 23, 2023, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open the car to the public. For more information, visit "The Depot Campus" under the website: <https://veniceareahistoricalsociety.org>.

NRHS 2024 Election

By Bob Ernst, Chair, 2024 NRHS Election Committee

Dear Fellow NRHS Member:

The National Railway Historical Society, Incorporated (NRHS) is conducting its national elections in 2024 under the procedures outlined in the NRHS Bylaws as revised and adopted September 26, 2020.

Per the revised Bylaws of the NRHS, the NRHS Board of Directors consists of eleven members. Two (2) members hold the office of NRHS President and NRHS Vice President; nine (9) members are Directors.

The upcoming 2024 election is the second election being conducted under the revised NRHS Bylaws.

Nominations for candidates are open through March 31, 2024. In this election, the Vice President has a four-year term, and each Board member will be elected to a two-year term. We have provided you the details about the election process on the NRHS Admin web site <https://admin.nrhs.com>

The qualifications for candidates are contained in the NRHS By-laws, also found on the NRHS Admin web site.

All NRHS members, in good standing, as of April 11, 2024, will elect the Vice President and nine (9) Directors. Directors represent the entire NRHS membership. Members must be 12 years of age as of June 13, 2024, to be eligible to vote in this election.

Why should you run for office? Simply stated: to better guide the future direction and programs of your society.

The Electoral Committee is now soliciting members who wish to run for these offices. All NRHS members who meet the qualifications and wish to run should contact the committee so that they may be placed on the ballot. If you have any questions regarding qualifications for office, please contact John Fiorilla at gc@nrhs.com .

Please note that all nominations for any NRHS office must be received no later than March 31, 2024.

Send your completed nomination forms to: NRHS 2024 Elections, c/o Bob Ernst, 5246 S. Newland Ave. Chicago, IL 60638-1125 or as an email attachment to gc@nrhs.com

The electoral committee for the 2024 election consists of Bob Ernst and Patti Webb with legal support from John K. Fiorilla, NRHS General Counsel. The committee is responsible for the entire election process which includes the approval of qualifications of candidates, and oversight of the election process to assure that schedules and procedures adhere to the NRHS Bylaws and laws of the State of Maryland.

Bob Ernst - Chair

2024 NRHS Electoral Committee

Baltimore Chapter Holds Its First Holiday Gathering

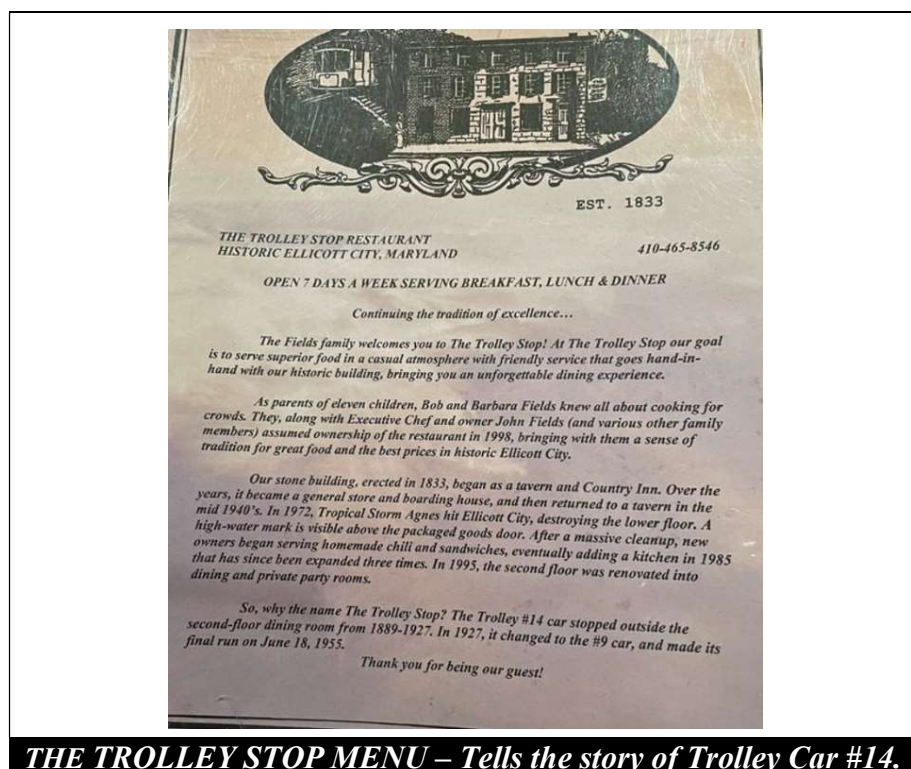
By Cynthia Atwood, Chapter Secretary & Programs Co-coordinator, Baltimore Chapter NRHS (All photos by Teresa Renner unless indicated otherwise)

The Baltimore Chapter, NRHS, held its first Holiday Gathering on December 12th at The Trolley Stop in Ellicott City, Maryland. A total of twenty-five members and their guests attended.

After dinner orders were placed, Chapter Secretary and Program Co-coordinator Cynthia Atwood gave members a presentation on the history of this historic setting.



LIVING HISTORY – The Trolley Stop.



THE TROLLEY STOP MENU – Tells the story of Trolley Car #14.

In addition to the information about The Trolley Stop provided by the owners on their menu cover, Cynthia shared notes on the history of the building of the Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville Ellicott City Electric Railway, which began in 1895.

According to the Old Ellicott City “About Our Town” website, construction was completed in 1899 with the completion of the trolley bridge over the Patapsco River. “The Ellicott City Trolley Line ran from the terminus at Fels Lane to Catonsville Junction...The trolley system (was) dismantled in Ellicott City due to the congestion on Main Street with the increase of automobiles.” The presentation notes, with photos, were passed around the table for everyone to read and enjoy during the meal.

No business meeting was held, but the mail-in ballots were counted while the group waited for dinner to be served. The slate of officers and directors for 2024 were elected unanimously, with no write-in votes.

President Garry Pace thanked Cynthia for coordinating the event and presentation. The President also told everyone he hopes this will become an annual event.



Photo courtesy of Alex Mayes
Chapter President Garry Pace said he hopes this will be an annual event. Beside Garry is one of our newest Chapter members, Kunal Jha.



Cynthia Atwood offered the history of Catonsville Ellicott City Electric Railway. Board member Michael Cook (right), Bryan Cook and Michelle Cook (to Cynthia's right) studied the history printed on The Trolley Stop menu.



Chapter Treasurer Charlie Plantholt (left), with former Chapter Director Bob Parks and his wife Sharon.



Chapter Director Mel Ginsburg (left) makes a fine point with Michael Cook.



Happy diners, particularly Chapter 1st Vice President John Amrhein (smiling, right).

SVRHS Celebrates Donald Jilson and His 50 Years of Membership

By BOB GONGLESKI, Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter NRHS

In May 2023, Donald Jilson, SVRHS Chapter member, celebrated his 50th Year Anniversary as a member of both the Susquehanna River Railway History Society and the National Railway Historical Society.

In celebration for his membership with the NRHS/SVRHS, we recognized Don's NRHS Award and honored him with our **SVRHS Certificate of Appreciation** at our History Symposium. It also was a great honor having Tony White, president of the NRHS, attend and be part of the presentation ceremony.

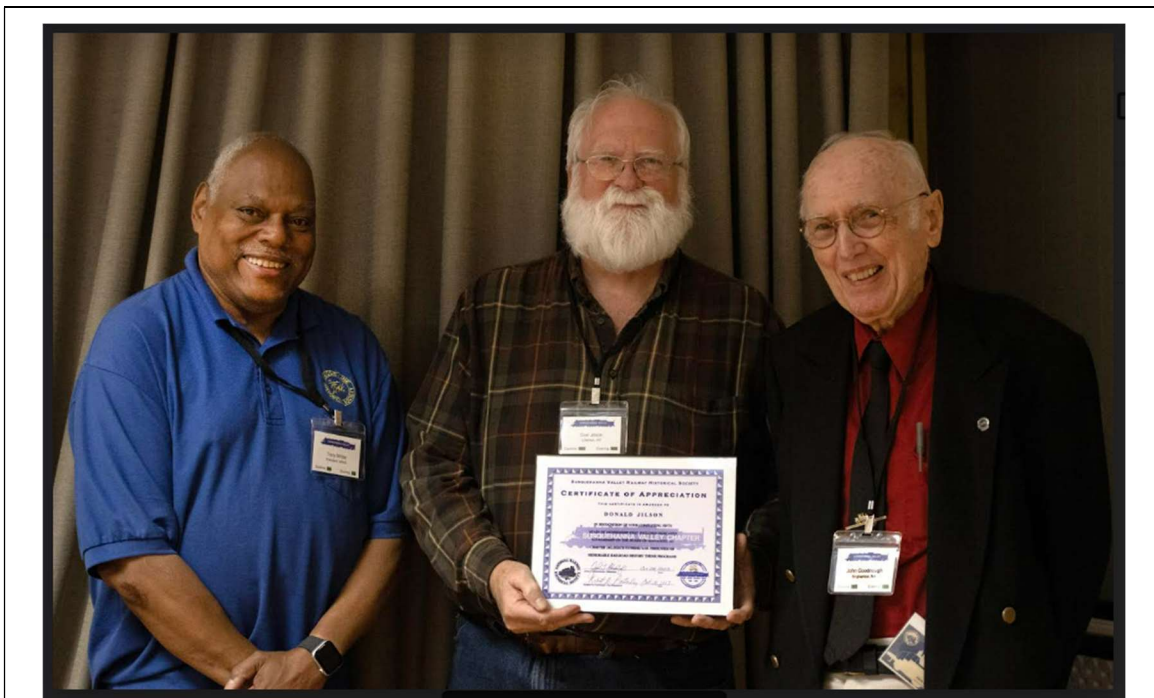


Photo courtesy of John Young, III
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SVRHS AND NRHS - Donald A. Jilson of Susquehanna Valley Chapter received the NRHS Award for 50 years of faithful service as an officer and committee member in both organizations. This was presented during the SV group's Regional Railroad History Symposium held at Binghamton, NY attended by nearly ninety people on Saturday, October 28, 2023. NRHS President Tony White and SV Chapter President John Goodnoug made the presentation.



Railway Historical Society

Binghamton, New York -- Home of Malfunction Junction

Photography Collection of Edward Ridolph Donated to the NRHS

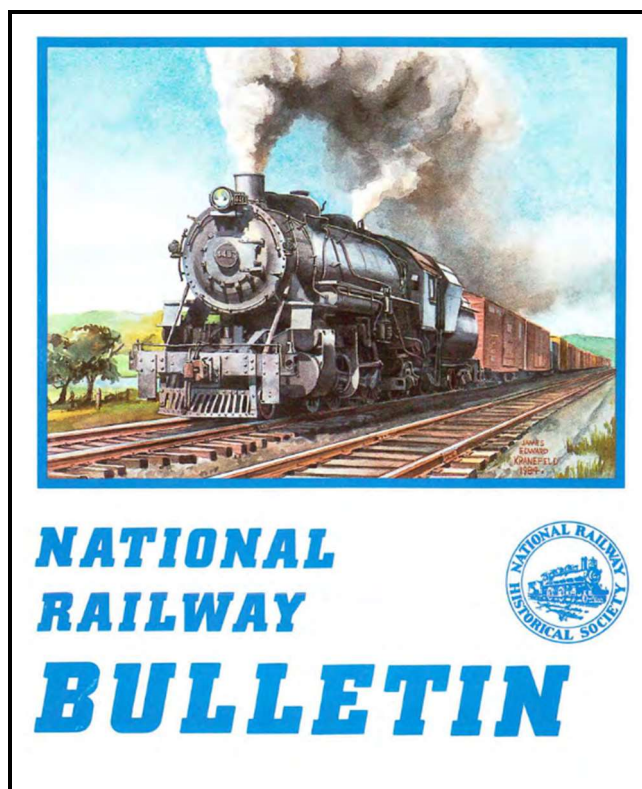
By Jeff Smith, Editor NRHS Bulletin

Edward Ridolph, an NRHS member for more than 50 years, passed away in October 2021. This fall, Sara Ridolph, his widow, reached out to plan for us to receive Ed's extensive photography collection. It was his wish that it be donated to the NRHS. In November 2023, we completed the transition of the material to the NRHS and it is currently in the possession of *NRHS Bulletin* Editor Jeff Smith. After the holiday season, the material will be transferred to our archive facility in Philipsburg, New Jersey.

Edward is no stranger to members who have been reading the *NRHS Bulletin* as he was a frequent contributor of traction and interurban articles. Additionally, he authored nine books and countless articles in other publications. His area of interest and expertise was trolley and interurban lines and he traveled and photographed them extensively throughout the United States. The donation includes three boxes of original negatives from 220 different streetcar and interurban lines throughout the United States, most long out of business. Additionally, there are a few thousand black-and-white photographs that are carefully preserved and cataloged covering the 1920's through the early 2000's.

During the last 25 years, I personally worked with Ed on several articles published in the *NRHS Bulletin*. He was a pleasure to work with and extremely knowledgeable about trolley and interurban operations throughout the United States. I frequently consulted him when I had questions on manuscripts that other individuals sent to me and Ed was always interested in helping.

It will take some months to sort through the collection. Ed's work will make an appearance in our new "From the Archives" feature in the *NRHS Bulletin* in the coming months.



L&WV RHS Chapter Celebrates 50th Anniversary, November 2023

By Kenneth Kertesz, NRHS



**Lackawanna
& Wyoming Valley
Railway Historical Society**

The Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley (L&WV) Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was chartered on November 11, 1973. On November 11, 2023, chapter members celebrated the chapter's 50th Anniversary with a Dinner at the Lackawanna Radisson Hotel. This historic building was the original DL&W RR Passenger Station and General Office which on the same day celebrated its 115th Anniversary.

Keynote Speaker was Mr. Carl Belke, a well-known and respected railroad leader. One hundred guests joined the festivities with special visitors US Congressman Matt Cartwright and NRHS President Tony White. Thirteen Founding members started the Chapter and five living members, Don Banks, David Ide, Jim Kilcullen, Carl Packer and Bob Young were honored that evening with a plaque recognizing the achievement.

Chapter President Vee Pauli was provided three Proclamations from Matt Cartwright and State Senate and House representatives signifying this milestone. More information will be available in the Chapter's *Laurel Lines* newsletter. See more details about the Chapter at <http://lwvrhs.org/>.

Final Train Ride: Phil Bush

By Clay Moritz, Potomac Chapter NRHS

Phillip Brooks Bush II

Phil Bush, a long-time member of the Potomac Chapter and the NRHS, passed away in January 2024. Phil's enjoyment of trains and railroad history is best stated in his Obituary in the *Washington Post* issue of January 26, 2024.

No one loved trains and railroads more than Phil. His lifelong hobby took him all over the continent, collecting thousands of rail miles on Amtrack and enjoying hundreds of excursions on steam trains, diesel engines, and electric-powered locomotives. His beloved obsession led to a lifetime of collecting model trains, memorabilia, historical artifacts, books, photos (including thousands he took himself), and paintings that filled his three-story row house just blocks from the U.S. Capitol (where his neighbors over the years included senators, house members, and attorneys).

Phillip Brooks Bush II is interred at Arlington National Cemetery. This resting place was particularly important to him. Donations in Phil's memory may be made to the Caldwell Heritage Museum (Lenoir) or the N.C. Transportation Museum (Spencer), anything that keeps the history of trains alive.

North Carolina Railway Museum – Heritage Grant Update

By James Jatko, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, North Carolina Railway Museum NRHS



On behalf of all members of the North Carolina Railway Museum, Inc. I wish to thank Charles Webb and the Heritage Grants Committee of NRHS for the 2023 Heritage Grant of \$5,000 we received last April for repairs to doors and interior of Atlantic Coast Line Baggage and Express Car #714 (car number corrected).



PRE-GRANT WORK SITE - Prior to receiving the grant, our volunteers were working in an open, very weathered baggage car with non-functioning doors as pictured above.

In May 2023, we received four (4) new fabricated doors at a cost of just over \$11,500 to match the existing doors that were severely rusted and inoperable. After removing the old doors and hardware, cleaning, refurbishing and painting the door pockets, hardware and tracks, we have begun to re-attach the hardware and remount the doors.

As of January 2024, three doors were mounted with refurbished hardware and work continued to progress on scraping, priming, and painting the interior walls as electrical wiring was sorted out for lighting and ventilation. Approximately 710 hours of volunteer labor (and a couple of gallons of primer and paint) have been spent on this project since moving the car back to our yard in Bonsal.



WOOD STAIRWAY CONSTRUCTED TO ASSIST VOLUNTEERS - We anticipate moving this car adjacent to a newly completed platform at the Goldston Depot (just to the right of the steps) where it will have full handicap accessibility for the public.

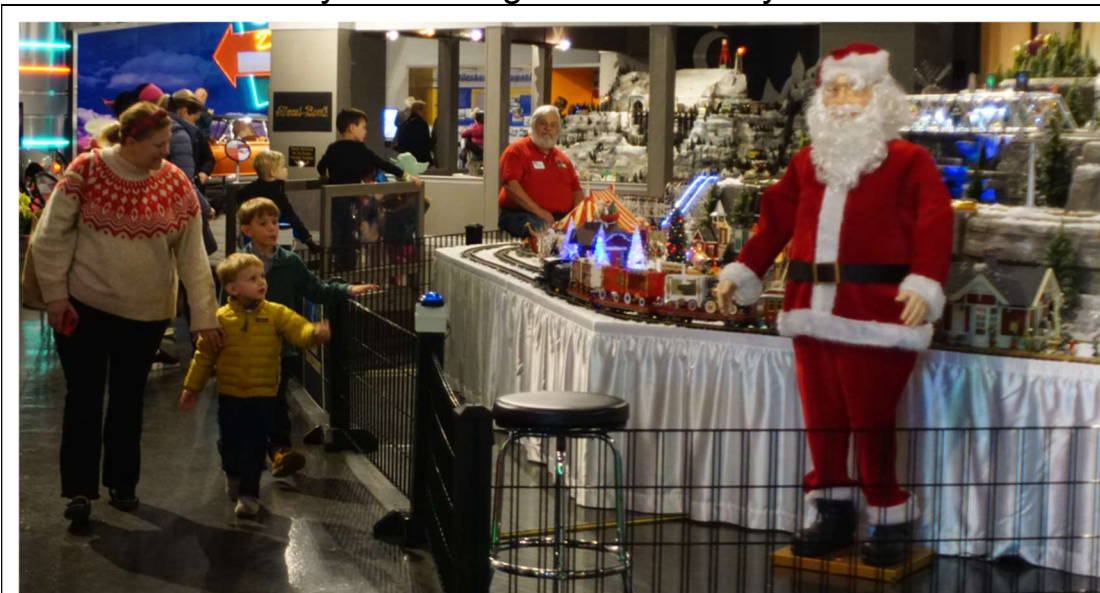
Thank you very much.

James Jatko, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
Board of Directors, North Carolina Railway Museum, Inc.

Holiday Trains at The National Museum of Transportation

By Al Weber, St. Louis Chapter NRHS (All photo credit Al Weber)

In December 2023, The National Museum of Transportation (TNMOT) in St. Louis, Missouri made the holiday train magic happen again. Festive, bedecked train displays welcomed visitors for a holiday railroading tour and trolley ride.



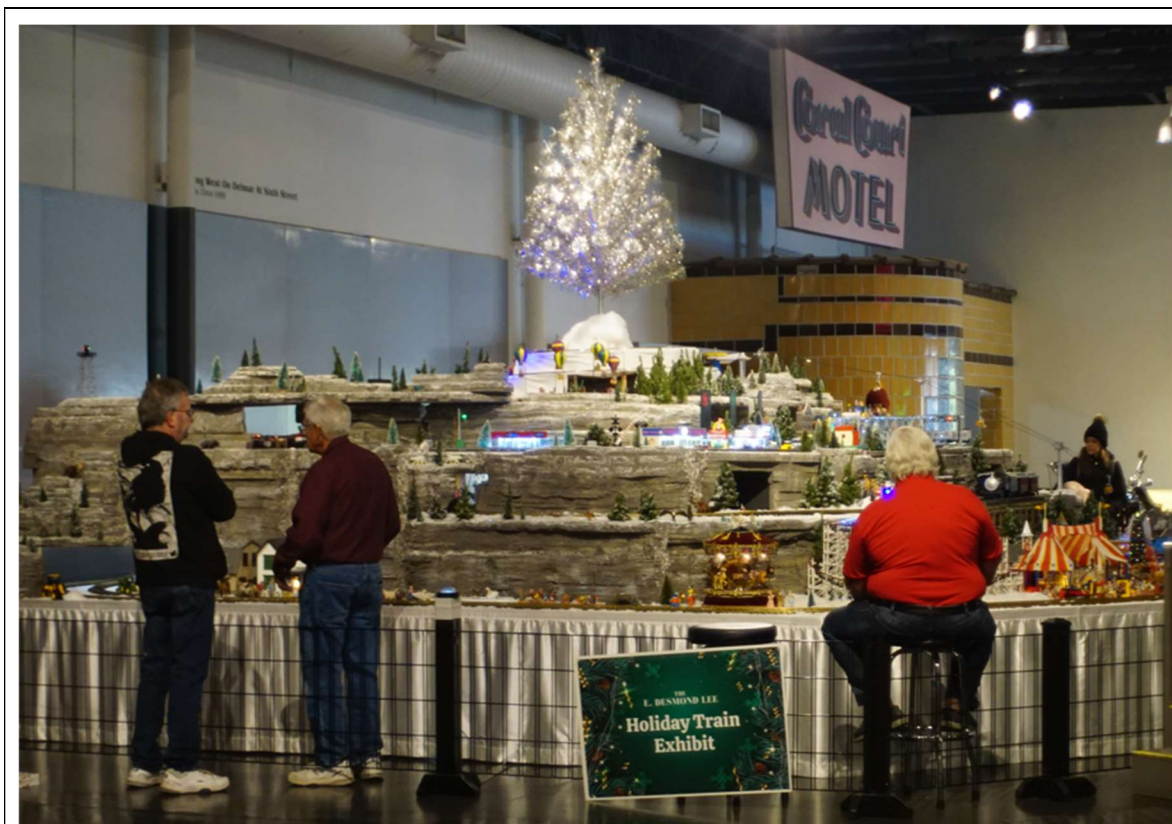
IS IT SANTA'S TRAIN? – Where is Rudolph ????



RUNNING THE HOLLY JOLLY TROLLEY – Running a Chicago Elevated car for the visitors at the TNMOT.



DREAM BIG, DREAM TALL – Yes young man, there is a Santa train.



LIGHTS ON FOR THE HOLIDAY TRAIN – Who puts the train at the top of the tree?

Winter Reflections of the Florida Convention

By ALEX MAYES, Potomac Chapter NRHS (All photos by Alex Mayes unless indicated otherwise)

There were no trips or other such events on the first and second days (Sept. 1 and 2). Only meetings, registration and evening seminars were held on those days.

The second day of the convention, September 2nd, was devoted mostly to registrations, National NRHS Meetings and three evening seminars at the Double Tree Hotel. The first seminar was presented by Walter Zullig, which was a history of Amtrak and other passenger railroads in Florida, followed by Doug Scott's photo show with sound presentation of *Trains* 2022 charter on the U.S. Sugar Railroad with their restored 4-6-2 No. 148. The evening's presentations concluded with Mike Yuhas' "I Cover the Waterfront" - photos and videos with sound of BNSF and boats on the Upper Mississippi. The previous day's evening seminar was a history of the Florida East Coast Railway presented by noted FEC expert Seth Bramson.

The third day of the convention, September 3rd, was an **all-day event on Brightline**. The day began with a visit to Brightline's running repair facility at West Palm Beach where participants were allowed to explore the facility on their own. Brightline employees were present to explain the work done at this facility and answer questions.

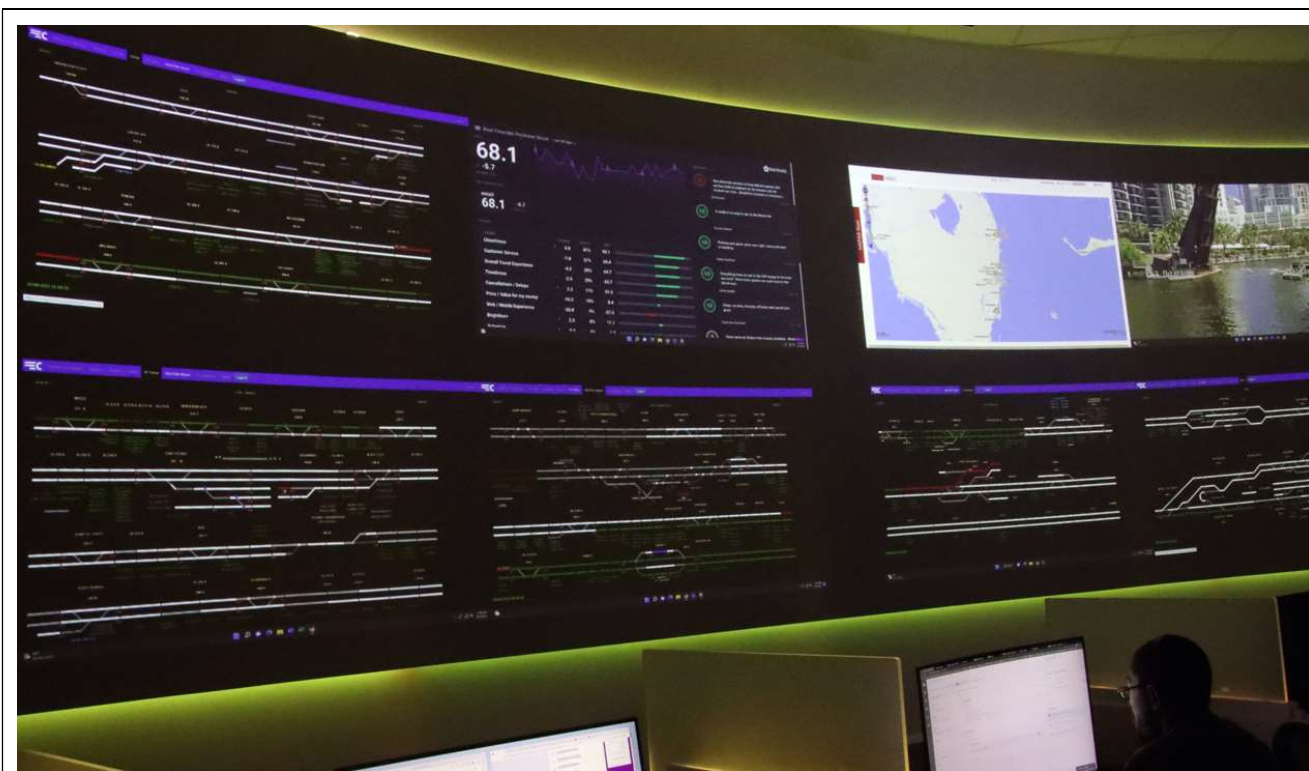


A BRIGHTLINE TRAIN AT THE RUNNING REPAIR FACILITY AT WEST PALM BEACH. - NRHS visitors were permitted to explore Brightline's running repair facility at West Palm Beach.

Following this event, buses were reboarded and took participants to the West Palm Beach Brightline station where they boarded a southbound Brightline train to Miami.



WEST PALM BEACH STATION - Our train just prior to departure for Miami.



BRIGHTLINE OPERATIONS CENTER - During a brief layover at Miami NRHS members were treated to a tour.

The fourth day's event was a chartered steam excursion with **U.S. Sugar Railroad's "Sugar Express"** powered by ex-Florida East Coast 4-6-2 No. 148.

The 148 was built by the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) in April 1920 at their Richmond, Virginia plant. Buses took participants to U.S. Sugar's headquarters at Clewiston where releases were signed before boarding the six-car train.

The steam special went north on a fifty-five mile long former Atlantic Coast Line branch to Lake Placid. U.S. Sugar's EMD GP11 No. 310 led the train northbound with the 148 coupled to the rear. The 148 led the train on the return trip.



EMD GP11 NO. 310 - US Sugar's No. 310 led the train northbound with the 148 coupled to the rear. This shot was taken as the train was heading back to the second photo runby location to pick up photographers.



FORMER FLORIDA EAST COAST 4-6-2 NO. 148 - The power for the south-bound leg of the trip was No. 148, seen here at Clewiston just prior to boarding.



ENJOYING THE RIDE - Interior view of NRHS conventioners heading north to Lake Placid aboard U.S. Sugar Railroad's "Sugar Express".

Two events were conducted during the day on September 5th, the fifth day of the convention, which were a **guided transit tour of the entire Tri-Rail system and the Metrorail system or a visit to the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum**. Conventioneers had to choose between these two events. The Annual NRHS Banquet was held later that evening. The Tri-Rail event began at the Deerfield Beach Tri-Rail station where Mr. David Dech, executive director of Tri-Rail, provided an interesting accounting of the history of Tri-Rail and recent developments.



TRI-RAIL NO. 614 - Tri-Rail train No. 614 arriving at the Deerfield Beach station at the beginning of this day's events.



BOARDING TRI-RAIL - Tri-Rail train No. 614 was then boarded and went to the north end of the line at Mangonia Park.

Following a brief layover Tri-Rail train No. 621 was boarded and went south to the Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station where riders boarded a Metrorail train north to the Palmetto Station, then boarded another train south to Government Center.



SILVER METEOR AND TRI-RAIL AT THE TRI-RAIL/METRORAIL TRANSFER STATION – At the Mangonia Park station there was a 25-minute layover before NRHS riders boarded this south bound Tri-Rail train (on right) to the Tri-Rail/Metrorail Transfer Station. During the layover Amtrak’s north bound Silver Meteor passed through the station, is seen here next to our train waiting for departure.



PALMETTO STATION THEN ONTO GOVERNMENT CENTER STATION - The first trip aboard Metrorail went to the Palmetto station, where there was a brief layover to explore the station and take photos before boarding this train to Government Center Station.

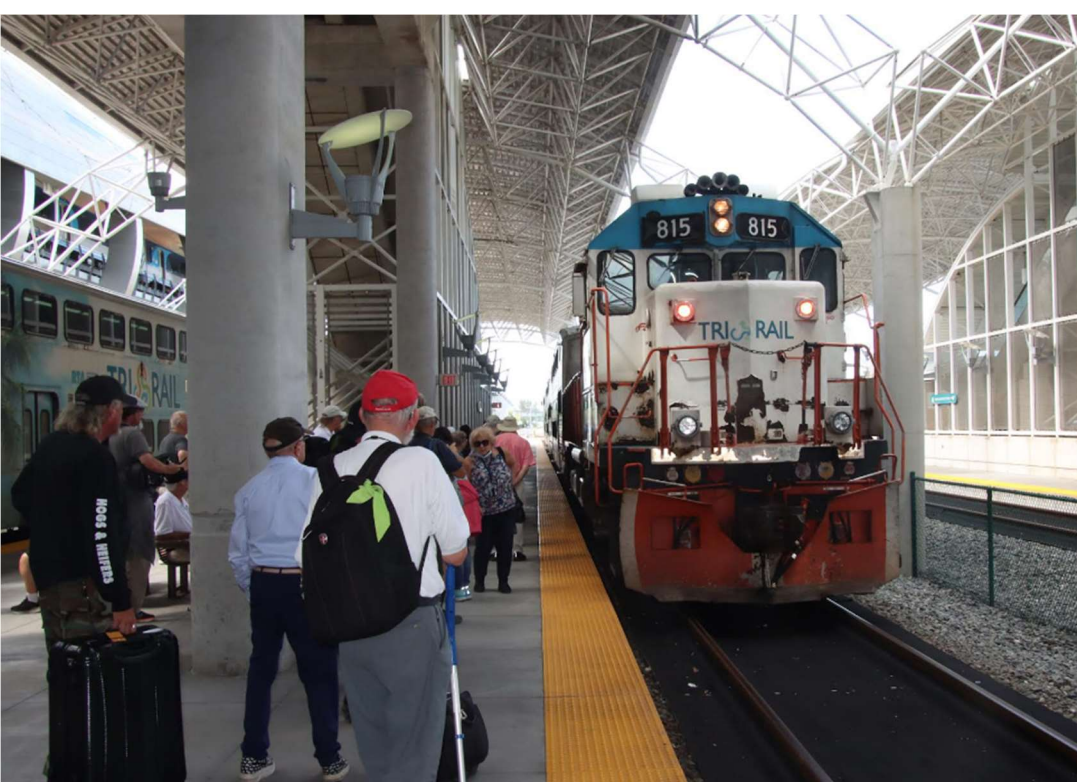


GOVERNMENT CENTER STATION – Group photo of NRHS participants at the rail event.

The next trip was to the Oakland South Station and then Brickell Station. The final trip on Metrorail was aboard an Orange Line train to Miami Airport where another Tri-Rail train was boarded for the trip back to Deerfield Beach. Today's rail excursions covered the entire lines of Tri-Rail and Metrorail.



METROMOVER – After lunch at Government Center NRHS riders boarded a Metromover train and rode a few lines. This Metromover train is approaching the Miami Airport station.



FINAL TRIP OF THE DAY – Riding Tri-Rail from Miami Airport Station back to Deerfield Beach

Walter Zullig spent a significant amount of time researching this day's trips to create an interesting and enjoyable event, and his efforts paid off well. All participants thank you!!

The **NRHS Annual Banquet** was held in the DoubleTree Hotel's Grand Ballroom on the evening of September 5th.



BANQUET WELCOME - Convention Chair John Goodman made opening comments.

Opening comments were made by Convention Charman John Goodman, who welcomed guests and thanked the many Committee members who worked tirelessly to plan and run the convention.



After dinner NRHS President Tony White recognized the members of the Convention Planning Committee and provided progress reports on major NRHS programs.



Walter Zullig (left) held a question-and-answer session with guest speaker Mr. Patrick Goddard, Brightline Corporation President.

Walker Zullig then took the podium and introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Patrick Goddard, Brightline Corporation President. Mr. Goddard and Walter then held an interesting question and answer session regarding the origins of Brightline, its early days and future plans.

John Goodman concluded the banquet with comments about the next day's events and announced that next year's convention will be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The final event of the convention was a trip to the **Gold Coast Railroad Museum** in Miami on September 6th. The museum's collection includes over forty vintage freight and passenger cars, eight diesels and three steam engines. A mile-long ride on museum trackage in an ex-FEC coach powered by an ex-NASA SW1500 was included.



FERDINAND MAGELLAN CAR - One of the museum's most prestigious railcars is the Ferdinand Magellan Pullman car served as Presidential Rail Car, U.S. Number 1 from 1943 until 1958.



EX-FLORIDA EAST COAST 4-6-2 NO. 153 - No. 153 is one of three steam locomotives in the Gold Coast Railroad Museum's collection. This engine worked in Key West-Miami service from 1922 to 1935 when the Great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 destroyed the line to Key West.



EX-GULF, MOBILE AND OHIO F3 NO. 800A - One of the museum's notable passenger diesels is No. 800A, now wearing a Seaboard Air Line paint scheme.



100-YEAR-OLD EX-FEC COACH - A mile-long ride on museum trackage in an ex-FEC coach powered by an ex-NASA SW1500 was included. NRHS visitors are lined up to board the 100-year-old ex-FEC coach at the boarding area.

NRHS Chapters – Upcoming Events and Celebrations

North Carolina Transportation Museum - February & March events

Tickets, times and more are at <https://www.nctransportationmuseum.org/events-calendar/>

February
29 -
March 2,
2024



March 9,
2024



March 9,
2024



March
16 -17,
2024





Washington D.C. Chapter - Spring Events

For full details and to reserve online, please see the DCNRHS web site at www.dcnrhs.org.

<p>Washington Terminal Walk</p> <p>March 16, 2024</p>	<p>Learn a mix of Washington DC railroad and streetcar history on a two-mile, two-hour guided walking tour along the Metropolitan Branch Trail. This “archeological” tour focusing on the Washington Terminal Company will begin at the Rhode Island Avenue Metro Station. We’ll stroll to and stop at multiple locations to discuss the significant railroad sites that once existed in this area of the District of Columbia, view a few remaining traces, and glimpse some of the current CSX and Amtrak operations.</p> <p>Washington Terminal Company was established in 1901 by the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroads and served all of the passenger trains that came to Union Station. The walking tour will conclude at approximately eleven-thirty o’clock at Washington DC’s Union Station.</p>
<p>Blue Ridge Rambler</p> <p>May 19, 2024</p>	<p>Washington DC/Alexandria VA/Manassas VA to Roanoke and return.</p> <p><i>Dover Harbor</i> will make a day trip from Washington DC, Alexandria and Manassas through the scenic Blue Ridge foothills to downtown Roanoke VA for a three-and-a-half-hour visit before the return trip departs back northward. Brunch and dinner are included aboard the car while enroute. For full details and to reserve online, please see the DCNRHS web site at www.dcnrhs.org.</p>
<p>Berkshire-Hudson Wayfarer</p> <p>May 21-22, 2024</p>	<p>Northeast from Boston to Albany and Albany to New York.</p> <p>The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc. (DCNRHS) presents the Berkshire-Hudson Wayfare. Settle in for a Pullman lounge rail travel experience aboard the classic 1930's Pullman car <i>Dover Harbor</i>.</p> <p>On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, <i>Dover Harbor</i> will make the run west across Massachusetts through the scenery of the Berkshire Mountains with a mid-day departure from Boston’s South Station with Amtrak’s Lake Shore Limited. Lunch will be served enroute before a scheduled early-evening arrival at Albany-Rensselaer, NY.</p> <p>For the second segment, <i>Dover Harbor</i> departs Albany-Rensselaer, NY mid-day on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 with Amtrak Empire Service train #238. Enjoy the many scenic vistas along the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains; and, while enroute, savor lunch served at table while heading southward to a mid-afternoon arrival at New York’s Moynihan Train Hall.</p>

President's Column – Have a Happy 2024 'On the Rails'

By Tony White, President NRHS

Happy New Year!

The brand-new year of 2024 is off to a roaring start. In late December 2023, we had an emergency board meeting where we approved spending up to \$125,000 for Heritage Grants. Also, we accepted a new chapter into the NRHS. Western Wisconsin Chapter, located in Darlington, Wisconsin is our newest chapter. Welcome to the NRHS!

On January 14th at the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance in Cordele, Georgia, the attendees showed their care for the future of railroaders and car owners by donating enough money to sponsor one male and one female to attend the 2024 Rail Camp program.

Applications are already coming in for RailCamp. The East camp in Newark, Delaware will run from June 23rd to 29th. The West camp in Tacoma, Washington will run from August 4th to August 11th. Applications must be received by April 1, 2024. Earlier applications stand a better chance of acceptance. Chapters or anyone wishing to sponsor a camper, please send an email to info@nrhs.com. Be sure to include RailCamp in the email title.

Some NRHS mail is being returned as undeliverable, such as the mailed *News* and the *Bulletin*. If you know of anyone who has not received any mailings from us, please have them contact us at info@nrhs.com or nrhsmembership@yahoo.com with their correct address, phone number and email address. We always try to reach anyone who did not receive a mailing, but often find that there may be an apartment number missing, no forwarding address or misspelling of a street. When trying to contact a member we try emailing and calling them only to find a full mailbox, a mailbox not set-up or incorrect email, or no email address to contact them. You have paid to be an NRHS member. Please make the corrections so we can send you the benefits of that membership. Chapters, please check with your members to see if someone is not receiving mailings and let us know.

Lastly, if any of you go to train shows or railfanning, take NRHS Membership Brochures with you. They are helpful in attracting new members for your chapter and the NRHS. You can request them at info@nrhs.com. Thank you and stay safe! Tony

Editor's Notes: Spring is Near, Geese are Here

By Valli Hoski, Editor NRHS News, member Harrisburg Chapter NRHS

Flowers are looking up; geese are honking hello. Where will your rail adventures find you this spring? Several chapters are celebrating anniversaries, others are prepping, polishing, and fine-tuning their chapter museum, exhibit space and equipment. Speaking of chapter museums, another way to help chapters help them is to get word of their activities out will be coming this spring. Suggestions include a new plan to add chapter museums to our rail attractions publicity as well as possible tools and templates to make customizing your chapter flyers easier. Enjoy spring, travel safely. Best regards, Val.

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The Back Page

Photography by Roman Chávez, member NRHS

Roman Chavez is this month's featured photographer. Roman attended RailCamp and shares his rail experiences in the *NRHS News*.



LIC STATION – A view from Long Island City.

Photo courtesy of Roman Chavez

About the NRHS News

The *NRHS News* is published nine times a year by the National Railway Historical Society. Six full-color issues are published in even-numbered months. Each is available as a pdf file on the NRHS web site. The three remaining issues are printed black-and-white and mailed to members across the year.

Valli Hoski, Harrisburg Chapter NRHS, Editor. Alex Mayes, Potomac Chapter NRHS, Content Assistant. Elizabeth Guenzler, Central Coast Chapter NRHS, Editorial Assistant. Eileen Weber, St. Louis Chapter NRHS, Editorial Assistant. Email submissions to News@nrhs.com or mail to NRHS News, c/o Valli Hoski, P.O. Box 234, York Springs, PA, 17372.

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Membership information changes should be sent to Patti Webb at Membership@nrhs.com. Membership dues should be mailed to NRHS - Membership, PO Box 31074, St. Louis, MO 63131-0074.