THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2025

## 2025 Spring Conference – Rails of Rocky Top

By CARSON SAILOR,, George L. Carter Chapter, NRHS. Photos courtesy of Carson Sailor and Scott Stodola (George L. Carter Chapter, NRHS) as well as Elizabeth Guenzler, Central Coast Chapter, NRHS and Christopher Guenzler At-Large member, NRHS.

### May 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025, The Rails of Rocky Top, Johnson City, Tennessee

When you think of great railroad towns in the United States a lot of incredible places come to mind. New York City, Boston, Chicago, Roanoke, Washington DC are just some examples. Johnson City, nestled next to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Northeastern Tennessee, would most likely not be on the first-round hall of fame ballot for Railtown USA, but solely for lack of exposure and certainly not for lack of merit. From May 1st to May 3rd the George L. Carter Chapter welcomed over 75 NRHS members from twenty-two states for the annual spring conference to help raise the curtain on the unsung railroading center of Southern Appalachia – welcome to Johnson City!! (Continued on page 3.)



Photo courtesy of Carson Sailor RAILS OVER THE RIVER – Come ride with George L. Carter Chapter!

NRHS News <NRHS.COM> May 2025

### NRHS NEWS - MAY 2025

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### **Announcements**

### NRHS 2025 NRHS Annual Convention – July 12-17, 2025. Lansing, Michigan.

- 2025 NRHS Annual Convention July 12-17, 2025. Lansing, Michigan. Sponsored by the NRHS with the help of our members. More details on page 12 of this issue.
- 2025 NRHS Fall Conference October 3-4, 2025. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter.

### Submission Deadlines for NRHS News

• June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, deadline – **July 2025** 

### **About the NRHS News**

NRHS News is published nine times a year by the National Railway Historical Society. Six full-color issues are published usually in even-numbered months. The three remaining issues are printed in black-and-white and mailed to members across the year. Issues are available (pdf file) online at <a href="https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/">https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/</a>

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## 2025 Spring Conference – Rails of Rocky Top (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1.)

Johnson City itself would not exist without a man by the name of Henry Johnson building a water tank in the 1850s with a strong guess that the new railroad stretching down from Virginia would pass through his farm. It did and it led to Mr. Johnson becoming a restaurateur, a hotelier, and the mayor of a city that bore his name. The railroad would eventually be purchased by industrialist George L. Carter and renamed the famous Clinchfield, which hauled coal to South Carolina from the Clinch mountains of eastern Kentucky. Carter would be responsible for the modernization of Johnson City including donating land and convincing the state to build a teacher's college in town, now East Tennessee State University. By the time Carter passed away, there were three major players in the railroad game, all heavily trafficking through the downtown yard, which is where State of Franklin Road is today.

Perhaps the most interesting of these three railroads is the plucky little narrow gauge known officially as the *East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad* and known locally as the *Tweetsie*. This railroad was built by many of the key players at East Broad Top who helped tackle the challenge of mountain railroading in the tight confines of the hollers of Appalachia. When construction began the original goal was to haul iron ore out of Cranberry North Carolina but eventually in 1918 the railroad would stretch sixty miles to Boone, NC hauling modernity up the mountain one box car at a time.



Photo courtesy of Christopher Guenzler

HERE TO THERE – The railroad opened faster

ways of how to get from here to there and beyond.

For mountain communities on the route, the railroad was the first instance that they had access to efficient travel as well as global goods. You could hop on a train in the western North Carolina mountains and within a few hours board a train in Johnson City and get anywhere in the world you wanted to. Previously these people's only other transportation choice was walking the steep mountain grades.

The railroad flowing to and through Johnson City established it as the cultural center of the region, bringing folks from everywhere through this corner of Appalachia. One of the more colorful frequent visitors was Al Capone who would hide out in Johnson City when the gaze of law enforcement started to linger on him a little too long in Chicago. This illustrates how Johnson City was simultaneously an easily accessible rail hub, but still far out of the way to go largely unnoticed. The Carter Chapter jumped at the opportunity to share the story of our neck of the woods with the rest of the NRHS.

**Thursday May 1st** was the first day of the meeting with several activities. Before check-in, NRHS Meeting attendees were welcomed to Doe River Gorge to have an extra excursion on the original ET&WNC right of way, and tour the new narrow-gauge attraction that is being put in. Check in was held at the host hotel, the Carnegie, which is a 4-star former railroad mansion reimagined after its unfortunate demolition.



Photos (top, bottom) courtesy of Scott Stodola WELCOME TO THE 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE – A bright and shiny greeting for all attendees.



THE CONFERENCE HOTEL'S LOBBY AREA – A comfortable space for railroading conversations.

The events of the meeting officially kicked off with a reception held at the Johnson City Railroad where Mike Yuhas took home a beautiful painting of Clinchfield No.1!

**Friday May 2nd** came early as it was excursion day! We departed by motor coach to head to Knoxville, Tennessee to tour the Knoxville Locomotive Works (KLW). At KLW the staff talked about how they are converting aging locomotives to fit higher EPA standards. The modern railfans in the crowd had a blast snapping shots of all the diverse road names and liveries in one location.



Photo courtesy of Scott Stodola THREE LOCOMOTIVES READY FOR SERVICE.



Photo courtesy of Scott Stodola THE KNOXVILLE LOCOMOTIVE WORKS SWITCHER.

From KLW we traveled to board the Three Rivers Rambler and enjoyed a 90-minute scenic train ride along the Tennessee River through the heart of downtown Knoxville as well as the University of Tennessee's campus.



Photo courtesy of Christopher Guenzler THREE RIVERS RAMBLER TRAIN - At Knoxville station.



Photo courtesy of Scott Stodola UNIQUE EQUIPMENT ON A SMALL SCALE – Colorful markings and small design.



Photos (left, right) courtesy of Scott Stodola STARTING TO TRAVERSE THE THREE RIVERS TRESTLE – Also known as the Forks of the River Bridge and built in 1913, where the Broad River and the Holston River come together to form the Tennessee River.



LOOKING BACK AT THE BRIDGE OVER THE HOLSTON RIVER – With the Tennessee River at the upper left of photo.

The train traveled out of town into the country where we could see the University's research farms and stopped at the point where the Holston and French Broad Rivers combine to create the Tennessee River.

On the way back into town the train disembarked us at the Star of Knoxville River Boat dock.





(left, right) Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Guenzler THE STAR OF KNOXVILLE – Provided a unique excursion after the morning's train ride.

SCENIC VIEW - Attendees enjoy the scenery from the front of the boat.



Photo courtesy of Carson Sailor

STAR OF KNOXVILLE RIVER BOAT CRUISE –

After the train excursion, the lunch cruise provided good views and photo opportunities along the shore.

Once onboard, we enjoyed a lunch cruise along the Tennessee River taking in views of downtown Knoxville as well as the incredibly photogenic railroad infrastructure along the waterfront.



Once back at the dock the motor coaches returned the party to the Carnegie Hotel for an NRHS Fund Board of Trustees Meeting.

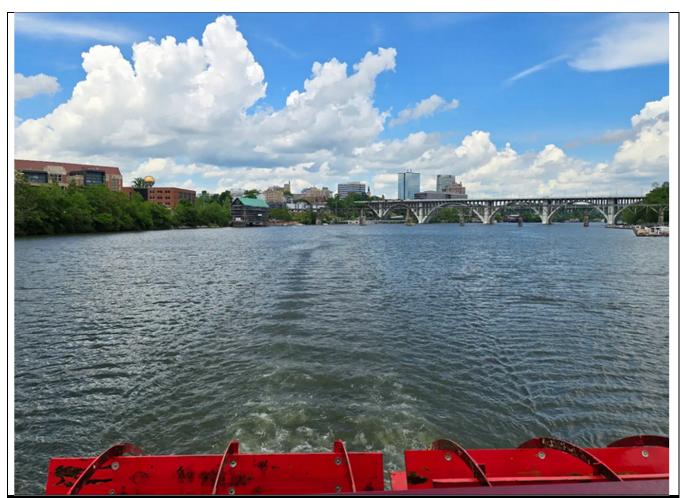
**Saturday May 3rd** was packed with all the meetings commensurate with a business meeting of the NRHS, hosted in wonderful accommodation at the Carnegie Hotel.

After the closing of the meetings for the weekend attendees were invited to attend a brief railroad infrastructure walking tour and pub crawl organized by Carson Sailor. An enjoyable time was had by all as we enjoyed snacks and drinks in multiple historic train stations turned into breweries and restaurants. We were even able to enjoy multiple train runbys on the Norfolk Southern mainline from both historic stations.



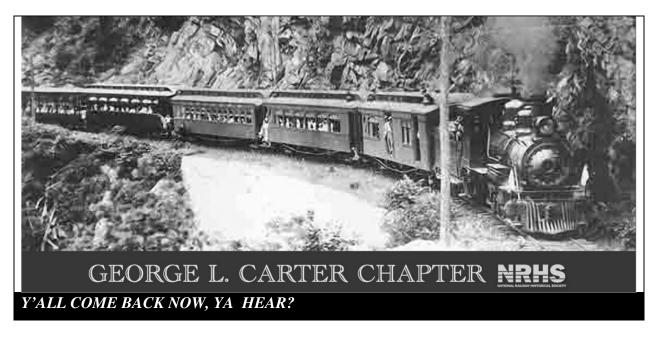
Photo courtesy of Carson Sailor LET'S MEET UP AGAIN, REAL SOON!

Carson would like you to believe that he expertly arranged these "fly overs" but the reality is that Johnson City is a great spot for railfanning. Between frequent trains, historic buildings, and lush green spaces it is easy to take a good, scenic picture in the downtown area.



LOOKING BACK AT KNOXVILLE WHILE CRUISING THE TENNESSEE RIVER - The two bridges are the Norfolk Bridge and the Henley St. bridge which is the arch span bridge.

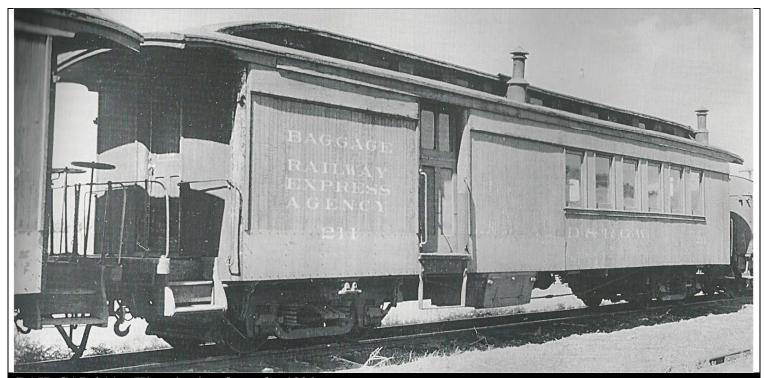
The Carter Chapter would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the NRHS Board of Directors and all of the attendees of the Spring Meeting! Planning events like this are so much more enjoyable when you are putting them on for a group as friendly, encouraging, and excited as all those in attendance were. We would also like to thank Bob Bitzer and Mike Yuhas for all the guidance we received while planning! We look forward to seeing you all at future conventions and meetings!



## Hinsdale County Historical Society & Rail Car 211

Text and photos courtesy of Glenn Heumann (gtheumann@aol.com) Hinsdale County Historical Society of Lake City, Colorado.

Hinsdale County Historical Society of Lake City, Colorado is pleased to report on the completion of another phase of restoration of its narrow gauge combine **Rail Car 211**. With grant funding from the *National Railway Historical Society* and successful local event fundraising and donations, work has been completed to restore the flooring and sub-flooring of this historic rail car.



RAIL CAR 211 – Historic view from the 1920s.

Rail Car 211 was first manufactured as Coach 74 by Jackson & Sharp in 1881. After being renumbered as Car 298 in 1885, it was briefly retired and rebuilt as the current combine (passenger/freight) car in 1900 and given car number 211. Such combine cars instrumental in serving small communities and following the construction of the Lake City Branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, Car 211 later serviced that branch, hauling passengers, mail, commodities, mining ore and lumber between Sapinero and Lake City, Colorado. Restoration of Rail Car 211 has been a multi-year project requiring numerous grants and significant fundraising. All restoration work is being done by Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in Durango, Colorado. Since Car 211 sat in an open field, stripped of most metal since WW II, weathering had severely deteriorated the car.



RAIL CAR 211 – Exterior view of its degraded condition.

Having acquired the car for viewing and interpretation at the Hinsdale County Museum, this Society sent Car 211 to Durango in 2022 for restoration. Since then, Car 211 has received new framing bolsters, end platforms, couplers, steps and railing, a new wooden and duck-bill metal roof and external siding. Windows and now, flooring have been restored.



EXTERIOR VIEW - November CAR 211, EXTERIOR VIEW - January 30, 2025. 15, 2024.

Future restoration plans include restoration of interior siding, ceiling panels, restroom and shelving while adding lighting, stoves, Bunton seating and swapping out current trucks for correct passenger trucks before stenciling the exterior of Car 211.



We are excited that Car 211 will then take several runs on the D&SNG Railroad in the Fall of 2025. Then Car 211 will be returned to the museum in Lake City. Car 211 has been designated as a historic property and added to the Lake City Historic Register. At the museum, it will be accessible to visitors and be open to small lectures by historians and periodic school history lessons.

## Lady of the Northwest Returns to Steam!

Text and photos courtesy of the OREGON HERITAGE RAIL CENTER & THE FRIENDS OF THE SP&S 700 (PRPA) at https://orhf.org/blog/oregon-rail-heritage-sps700-joint-press-release/



LADY OF THE NORTHWEST - After a decade of determined work, more than \$500,000 invested (not including thousands of hours of volunteer labor), and the steadfast support of donors, grantors, contractors, and volunteers, the legendary Spokane, Portland & Seattle 700 has officially come back to life.

On May 9, 2025, the SP&S 700—affectionately known as the *Lady of the Northwest*—was ceremonially fired-up for the first time in over 10 years. This marks a major milestone in the locomotive's restoration and is a moment of pride and celebration for all who have helped bring her back to life.

"This wasn't just a repair job—it was a comprehensive restoration," said Randy Woehl, President for the Friends of the SP&S 700. "We undertook an ambitious effort to rebuild and replace major and minor components, install new superheaters, fabricate new copper appliance lines, and complete an extensive list of mechanical upgrades. Every bolt and bearing was carefully evaluated and addressed to ensure the long-term reliability and preservation of the locomotive."

"This kind of work doesn't happen in a vacuum," added Pat Tracy, President of the Friends of the SP 4449. "It takes all of us - organizations, volunteers, donors, and supporters - pulling together to preserve and maintain these incredible machines. We're proud to have lent a hand with the restoration of the seven hundred. Helping each other ensures the continued operation of all these locomotives, and that benefits everyone who loves railroad history." The result is a locomotive in the finest condition it's been in since it left regular service. The SP&S 700 now stands among the best preserved and most operationally sound mainline steam locomotives in the country.

"The 700 is a crown jewel in the Oregon Rail Heritage Center's collection," said Rick Franklin, President of the Oregon Rail Heritage Center. "This return to steam is more than just mechanical success—it's a living, breathing connection to the Northwest's railroading past and an inspiration for future generations."

The Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation and the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association (Friends of SP&S 700) are deeply grateful to the individuals and institutions who made this achievement possible - including grant funders, private donors, technical advisors, and the tireless volunteer crews who worked week after week, month after month.

Please join us in celebrating this historic moment. The ceremonial lighting of the SP&S 700 is a symbol of revival, resilience, and the enduring power of steam.

Long live the Lady of the Northwest!

## Trains Photo Contest 2025 – Submit by June 1, 2025

By NRHS PRESERVATION AWARD COMMITTEE

The theme of the 2025 *Trains* Magazine photo contest is 'The Last Mile'. The contest is sponsored by the NRHS. Submit up to three of your Railroad Photographs that illustrate the theme to: <a href="mailto:trainscontest@nrhs.com">trainscontest@nrhs.com</a> by June 1, 2025. Prizes include cash, *Trains* products and NRHS memberships.

For more information, go to: <a href="https://www.trains.com/trn/railroads/photography-tips/trains-photo-contest-2025-the-last-mile/">https://www.trains.com/trn/railroads/photography-tips/trains-photo-contest-2025-the-last-mile/</a>

## Need a 1943 Plymouth Model ML-8 Switcher?

By Becky Gerstung, Niagara Frontier Chapter, NRHS

The Niagara Frontier Chapter has decided to de-accession our Plymouth locomotive. It is a 1943 Plymouth Model ML-8, 35-ton gasoline powered four-wheel switcher, powered by 8-cylinder LeRoi motor. Spare parts included. "As is, where is", North Tonawanda, New York. If interested, please contact us. Our next option is to contact the scrapper.



YEARNING TO DRIVE A PLYMOUTH? - Give me a new home, please!!

### Meet the Locomotive

Text and photos courtesy of the Oregon Rail Heritage Center (ORHC)



#### The Queen of Steam

Built in 1941 as a 4-8-4 GS-4 locomotive, SP 4449 is 110' long, 10' wide and 16' tall. With the locomotive and tender weighing 433 tons and a boiler pressure of 300 psi, its eight 80" diameter drivers and unique firebox truck booster can apply 5,500 horsepower to the rails and exceed 100 mph. The only remaining operable "streamlined" steam locomotive of the Art Deco era, this grand Lady of the High Iron pulled Southern Pacific "Daylight" coaches from Los Angeles to San Francisco over the scenic Coast Route and then on to Portland until 1955.

When it was retired to Oaks Park in 1958 for static display, many thought the engine would never run again. In 1974 it was completely restored specifically to pull the 1976 American Freedom Train throughout the United States to the delight of over 30 million people.

ORHF is introducing a new monthly piece where we will follow SP 4449 as it served as the steam power pulling the American Freedom Train until its last stop in Miami, Florida, in December 1976.

In December 1974. SP 4449 was selected for the monumental excursion. It was moved into Southern Pacific's maintenance facility at Hoyt Yard near Station. Α vouna Union from Ohio to McCormack moved oversee restoration, and by spring of 1975 the engine was ready to go. Fifty years ago, on April 20, 1975, the locomotive steamed up for the first time since it was shut down!

Throughout the month of May, it completed a couple test runs in the Willamette Valley before being put on display briefly at Swan Island in Portland, Oregon.



## NRHS 2025 Convention - Registration, Brochure Available

By ERIC FOGG AND MIKE YUHAS, Convention Chairs



Here's an update about the 2025 NRHS convention. **The complete** <u>convention brochure</u> is online at the NRHS website, and <u>registration is now open!</u> The event, headquartered at the <u>Graduate by Hilton</u> in East Lansing, Michigan, will feature four days of trips, a day of NRHS business meetings... and a whole lot of fun.

- Saturday, July 12: Registration begins at 2:00 pm. The opening reception starts at 5:00 pm, with short presentations from NRHS leaders and an informative talk by former Trains magazine editor Kevin Keefe, who will discuss early Pere Marquette 1225 preservation efforts. Hors d'oeuvres and a drink (wine/beer) provided.
- Sunday, July 13: Diesel-powered rare mileage excursion on Great Lakes Central between Clare and Owosso, operated by Steam Railroading Institute. Runbys and lunch included.
- Monday, July 14: Steam-powered excursion behind Little River Railroad 4-6-2 110 from Coldwater, Michigan, to Quincy. Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 765 takes over for the trip to Hillsdale and thence to Ray, Indiana over Indiana Northeastern. Little River Railroad and the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society will operate the train. There will be runbys enroute and a lunch stop in Hillsdale.
- Tuesday, July 15: Three special events in Elkhart, Indiana. First, we will visit the Adams & Westlake factory, then visit the National New York Central Railroad Museum, followed by a tour of Norfolk Southern's Elkhart Yard. Breakfast and lunch will be served.
- Wednesday, July 16: Visit to Greenfield Village, including a showing of the giant screen movie "Train Time," and a 35-minute steam-powered ride around the campus; followed by a tour of the restored Michigan Central depot in Detroit. Lunch is included.
- Thursday, July 17: NRHS Advisory Council, Board of Directors, and Annual meetings at the Graduate.

#### All events are subject to change.

New this year: Book by June 11 to receive special discounted early bird rates. Prices go up on June 12. There's plenty of detail in the <u>convention brochure</u>.

Amtrak serves East Lansing (LNS); the Blue Water from Chicago arrives daily at 8:55 pm. Delta Air Lines and American Airlines Lines fly into the Capital Region International Airport (LAN).

The Graduate by Hilton offers convention attendees a very attractive room rate of \$134 (plus taxes) per night. Free valet parking is included in our group rate. <u>Use this link</u> to reserve your accommodations. The group rate is valid for arrivals from July 10 and check-outs through July 19. The link will expire on June 21, or when space is sold out.

The hotel does not provide a shuttle but rideshare services such as Lyft or Uber can whisk you from the airport or train station to the hotel in a matter of minutes.

We are excited about our Michigan-Indiana Rail Adventure, and we're confident you'll enjoy the experience! Sincerely,

Eric Fogg and Mike Yuhas Convention co-chairs

### Chapter Events & Activities

### Celebrate Dad On A Steam Locomotive – Saturday, June 14th

By Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation



Kick off Father's Day early with a memorable train ride, which the whole family will love!

Save the date for Saturday, June 14th, for a special celebration.

Train rides will depart at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm.

Grab the whole family and climb aboard for a 45-minute scenic journey along the stunning Willamette River, traveling down to Oaks Park and back. Whether you're looking for a fun family outing, a unique way to celebrate Dad, or just love the charm of rail travel, this is the perfect experience.

### Train ride tickets will be available online soon.

Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation provides for the preservation, operation and public enjoyment of Portland's historic locomotives, railroad equipment, and artifacts, and educates the public about Oregon's rich and diverse railroad history.

### Learn more at <u>orhf.org!</u>

ORHC provides for the preservation, operation and public enjoyment of Portland's historic locomotives, railroad equipment, and artifacts, and educates the public about Oregon's rich and diverse railroad history.

#### PicnicRail' 25

By Pottstown & Reading Chapter, NRHS

A fundraising event to sponsor a camper to the NRHS Railcamp East.

We invite all local chapters and societies to help with this effort.

#### \*\*\* PRESENT \*\*\*

### PICNICRAIL' 25 - SATURDAY JULY 26, 2025

1 P.M. UNTIL?

- MAIER'S GROVE BLANDON, PA
- EVENING SHOW BY STEVE BARRY RAILFAN CHIEF EDITOR

The Pottsville and Reading Chapter hosting group and guests will have some of their fundraising items for sale during the afternoon prior to the show.

Arrive early and enjoy the action on Norfolk Southern's busy East Penn Main, adjacent to the grove.

Included are snacks and beverages during the afternoon and a buffet meal with BBQ chicken served promptly at 5 PM.

The grove is located on Grove Drive in Blandon diagonally across from Stoney Creek Rentals (the old Agway), you've shot trains from here before now get out and enjoy the action along the East Penn under the grove's trees or in case of inclement weather we'll have a good time under the pavilion. (Picnic is rain or shine.)

Location map: <a href="https://www.mapquest.com/us/pennsylvania/maiers-grove-378623305">https://www.mapquest.com/us/pennsylvania/maiers-grove-378623305</a>

Prices: Adults \$20.00

Children 3-12 \$10.00

Under three free, but let us know how many

For tickets send SASE and check payable to: P&R Chapter NRHS

c/o Philip Reppert

17 Adele Ave

Blandon, Pa. 19510

Directions and a map will gladly be sent with the tickets (if requested) **order deadline is July 12th**.

After July 12th, we'll hold your tickets for pickup at the grove.

The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc. (DCNRHS) presents the

### **NOLA Special**

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 to Thursday, July 31, 2025



Pullman Dover Harbor at New Orleans, photo by Scarlett Wirt

Experience Pullman travel, aboard the Washington, DC Chapter's historic rail car, Dover Harbor, on a trip to New Orleans. You'll see varied scenery as Dover Harbor travels with Amtrak's Crescent on an arc across the South from Washington DC through Atlanta to New Orleans with a changing mix of passengers just as it was in Pullman's heyday.

The adventure begins at Union Station in the early evening on Wednesday, July 30th with the departure Amtrak's southbound Crescent. Visit with your fellow passengers while savoring cocktails and dinner prior to a night's slumber in a classic Pullman double bedroom. The next morning, begin the day with Georgia scenery and breakfast.

At Atlanta's Peachtree Station day passengers may board for a scheduled departure at 9:08AM on Thursday, July 31st as the car comes southbound with Amtrak's Crescent. As the train travels through the Deep South, nosh on lunch, and later, a freshly prepared dinner by our chef and served by your Your train sails across Lake Pullman porter. Ponchartrain to an evening arrival in New Orleanswhere the delights of this trip's terminus await for you to

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

All passengers may enjoy the comforts of Dover Harbor's lounge. En route sleeping accommodations for overnight passengers are Dover Harbor's classic Pullman bedrooms, which sleep two persons in an upper and lower berth. Each room has a washbasin and toilet; a shared shower is available to all

#### PER PERSON FARES (FIRST CLASS)

All fares include one-way travel on Dover Harbor including snacks, onboard meals, beverages, wines and spirits while en route. ALL FARES ARE PER PERSON for the listed occupancy.

Option 1: One-Way, Washington or Alexandria to New Orleans, July 30-31, 2025: Includes one-way travel on Dover Harbor between Washington or Alexandria and New Orleans with meals, snacks and beverages and overnight accommodations while enroute only.

Per Person Fares: DCNRHS Member: Nonmember: One Way, Double Occupancy \$779.00 \$929.00

Option 2: One-Way, Atlanta to New Orleans, July 31, 2025: Includes one-way travel with a daytime parlor seat on Dover Harbor between Atlanta and New Orleans with meals, snacks and beverages while enroute only.

Per Person Fares: DCNRHS Member: Nonmember: One Way, Parlor Seat \$269.00 \$319.00

#### CONDITIONS:

- 1. The Washington D.C. Chapter, NRHS makes every effort to accommodate the physically challenged; however, Dover Harbor as a historic railroad car is not wheelchair accessible. Operator requires those physically challenged passengers requiring special assistance from others to travel with someone who is able to assist them.
- 2. Those with special dietary needs such as food allergies or vegetarian /vegan meals must notify the reservations agent at least two weeks in advance of the trip. Please include a note in the comments line when placing your order or send an email to reservations@dcnrhs.org.
- 3. No refund or credit of purchased reservations after June 15, 2025 other than by operator's cancellation of the trip or reselling of the space. The operator suggests passengers obtain trip insurance to cover cancellations resulting from personal emergencies, illness or other
- 4. Package does not include hotel accommodations, gratuities, personal incidental charges, tours, admissions, local transportation or meals at the origin or destination. No meals or overnight accommodations are included except enroute aboard Dover Harbor as described above.
- 5. Fares are per person, double occupancy. Single spaces may be purchased at double occupancy fares; however, shared accommodations will be assigned at the discretion of the reservations agent.
- 6. The General Conditions for tours, trips, excursions, and events as published on the DCNRHS web site (www.dcnrhs.org) apply. By making a reservation, participants agree to be bound by both the General and these specific Conditions.



#### RESERVE YOUR PLACE ONLINE NOW AT <u>WWW.DCNRHS.ORG</u> (Handling Fee Applies) Questions? E-mail reservations@dcnrhs.org or call 202-627-6978.

| NOLA SPECIAL: July 30-31, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Please reserve the following spaces (please check boarding location):                                                                                                         |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| I'm ready to go! My reservation and payment are enclosed:                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Opt. 1 -ONE WAY   Washington or   Alexandria to New Orleans                                                                                                                   |  |  |
| Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | July 30-31, 2025                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | #DCNRHS Member(s) at \$779 = \$                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| City, State, Zip:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | # Nonmember(s) at \$929 = \$<br>Opt. 2 -ONE-WAY: Atlanta to New Orleans, July 31, 2025                                                                                        |  |  |
| Telephone: □ day □ evening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | # DCNRHS Member(s) at \$269 = \$                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
| Mobile phone (day of trip):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | #Nonmember(s) at \$319 = \$                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |
| E-mail:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | TOTAL AMOUNT: \$                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |
| Reservation confirmations are sent by e-mail. Please ensure your spam filter will accept e-mails from $\frac{reservations@dcnrhs.org}{dcnrhs.org}; contact us at this address if you do not receive confirmation \frac{within\ one\ week\ of\ booking}{dcnrhs.org}.$ | ALL PASSENGER NAMES (Required) / DCNRHS Member No.                                                                                                                            |  |  |
| PAYMENT METHOD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| ☐ Check payable to Washington D.C. Chapter, NRHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DCNRHS Member Number is required for discounted Member Fare.                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| ☐ Charge to my Visa/Mastercard:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Comments:                                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |
| Card No.:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | PLEASE NOTE: DCNRHS is not responsible for delays to orders sent vi                                                                                                           |  |  |
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Mail to: WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NRHS, c/o Kevin Tankersley, Reservations Agent, 103 E. Mason Ave., Alexandria VA 22301-1709

### Fall Foliage Special – October 11, 2025

By Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum Chapter, NRHS

The "Fall Foliage Special" (previously reported as the "Hiwassee Loop Excursion") has been planned for Saturday, October 11th, 2025.

The Special will offer a scenic ride through the famous Hiwassee Loop and delight riders in a 50-mile roundtrip journey through the stunning lower Hiwassee River Gorge.

This 4.5-hour adventure will take passengers to the apex of the renowned Hiwassee Loop with the tracks intriguingly crossing over themselves as they spiral up the mountain. Notably, there are only six such loops in North America, with this one being the sole example east of the Mississippi River. Note that there is no layover on this trip; passengers will enjoy the entire duration on the train.

The rails over which this train travels were formerly part of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad's Atlanta Division stretching between Etowah, TN, and Marietta, GA. More information to follow.

A fundraising event to sponsor a camper to the NRHS Railcamp East.

We invite all local chapters and societies to help with this effort.





### Contact Us

Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum P.O. Box 432 Johnson City, TN 37605-0432 Email: wataugavalley@gmail.com Phone: (423)753-5797

## Harris Tower Needs Your Help! Please!

By Harrisburg Chapter, NRHS



### HARRIS TOWER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need to replace the roof on our 1929 Pennsylvania Railroad Harris Interlocking Tower Museum because leaks have developed in three of the four corners, greatly damaging the walls and ceiling. Inspection by three qualified bidders confirms that the leaks cannot be repaired with patchwork. Rain, snow, ice, and wind threaten the crown jewel of our public outreach. Thousands of visitors have marveled at our interactive control of the mechanical and signaling technology of a century ago. We must preserve Harris Tower for future generations.

#### Wind and water damage

Drone-camera views, followed by visual inspection from a ladder, shows that the current faux-slate shingle material lacks an "adhesion line." As a result, there is wind-induced buckling of the roofing material, and also evidence that the fasteners have begun to pull out of the roof decking. The vibration noise we hear inside on windy days is the faux slate "flapping." Currently available faux slate still lacks an adhesive line and would not be recommended for a new roof. For evidence of interior damage, see attached photos.

#### Cost to replace and repair

If you've had a home roof replaced, you know that it's crazy expensive. It will cost at least \$24,000 to replace our roof with GAF 50-year architectural shingles, repair existing damage, and prevent future damage. The NRHS Harrisburg Chapter Board of Directors is asking you to make a tax-deductible donation to help fund this work.

#### Matching gift challenge

An anonymous chapter member is challenging the rest of us to step up by matching each contribution, dollar for dollar, to a maximum of \$5,000. Your financial help is paramount in preserving Harris for the future.

#### Investing in the future

Our dedication to Harris Tower, backed by 30 years of volunteer time and money already spent toward restoration, demands that we take action to protect our investment. For questions about details of the structural damage, contact Bob Killoran at 717-919-8936 or Chapter President Mark Eyer at 717-574-1035.

#### Your part

Please consider the need, then use the form below to make your tax-deductible contribution. All donors will receive a written acknowledgement and will be recognized in the chapter newsletter. Thank you in advance for your commitment and generosity. To donate on-line, click or visit <a href="https://harrisburgnrhs.square.site/">https://harrisburgnrhs.square.site/</a> and check "Harris Tower Roof Repairs."

Harrisburg Chapter, National Railway Historical Society - a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for a new roof and repairs at Harris Tower.

| Enclosed is my              | tax-deductible deflation for a new root and repairs at rights fewer.   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                       |                                                                        |
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| City. State, Zip:           |                                                                        |
| Email:                      |                                                                        |
| Amount enclosed \$          |                                                                        |
| Make checks payable to Harr | isburg Chapter NRHS, and mail to Dick Crow, Treasurer, 412 Ricky Road, |

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Or visit https://harrisburgnrhs.square.site/ and check "Harris Tower Roof Repairs."



The main beam is cracked at the lower section due to stress from water, fatigue of the rafters, and weight, probably due to snow buildup. It is sagging by about 2 inches and will need to be bolstered to restore its structural integrity.



NRHS News



Above: Damage to walls in the tower's first floor, southeast end, near the diorama area, showing how water seepage has discolored the bricks.

Right: Buckled ceiling plaster above the second floor, the room most seen by visitors. Water seepage also has damaged the southeast-corner wooden window frame, which is OK for now but eventually will need to be repaired or replaced.



This attic view shows the stress in a rafter, the only one that's damaged so far. It's in the southeast corner, where most water is entering the property.



Water damage in a corner of the attic. The dark coloration of the brick shows where water has been penetrating from the roof line.



< NRHS.COM > May 2025

The National Railway Historical Society, Washington, D.C. Chapter, Inc. presents

# Narrow Gauge to Ragtime

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Join the Washington, D.C. Chapter, NRHS for one-day narrow gauge tour including East Broad Top Railroad's new track aboard their M-1 motor car, a shop tour, trolley ride, and a musical ragtime dinner train.

Participants will have the rare opportunity to ride the EBT's 1927 J.G. Brill gas-electric M-1 south to the end of the newly installed track. We'll also tour the historic functioning EBT shop facilities. Next up in the afternoon, enjoy a ride on the Rockhill Trolley Museum's Shade Gap Electric Railway. The day culminates with a trip aboard the 3.0 hour Ragtime at the Railroad Dinner Train & Concert to EBT's Colgate Grove for dinner and music by Grammy award winning performers. This special train is part of the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival (see www.rockhillragtime.com for more information and other events not included in this tour). A box lunch as well as dinner is included in this tour package (see the menu options in #6 to right).

This day tour begins at 11:00 in Rockhill Furnace, PA; participants must make their own way to/from this tour. The day concludes with dinner train returning to the EBT station by 9:00pm. Directions for free parking will be provided with tour instructions.

### PER PERSON FARES:

DCNRHS Members: \$249 Nonmembers: \$279





Photos courtesy of EBT

#### CONDITIONS

- 1. No refund or credit after June 16, 2025, other than by operator's cancellation of the trip or reselling of the space. Reservations are not transferable and may not be resold without the consent of the operator.
- 2. The Washington DC Chapter NRHS makes every effort to accommodate the physically challenged; please discuss your needs with the DCNRHS reservations agent. This tour includes portions of an active railroad facilities. Tour participants must be able to walk and stand for times in places without seating, walk over gravel and hard surfaces, transit over rails, and climb aboard the M-1 motor car which is not handicapped accessible. Operator requires those physically challenged individuals to be accompanied by someone who is able to assist them.
- 3. All participants must be dressed appropriately, wearing closed, hard soled shoes (no flip flops, sandals, open shoes, athletic shoes, sneakers or high heels permitted). Participants not properly dressed will be denied entrance; no refund will be provided.
- 4. The General Conditions for tours, trips, excursions, and events as published on the DCNRHS web site (www.dcnrhs.org) apply. By making a reservation, participants agree to be bound by both the General and these specific Conditions.
- 5. No transportation to/from Rockhill Furnace is provided; participants must make their own way to the tour starting point. No overnight accommodations are included: participants must make their own arrangements if staying overnight.
- 6. Participants must select one of 6 meal options when making their reservation:

Option 1 - Lunch: Chicken Wrap, Dinner: Roast Beef

Option 2 - Lunch: Chicken Wrap, Dinner: Pasta Plate

Option 3 - Lunch: Mediterranean Wrap, Dinner: Roast Beef

Option 4 - Lunch: Mediterranean Wrap, Dinner: Pasta Plate Option 5 - Lunch: Coal Country Club, Dinner; Roast Beef

Option 6 - Lunch: Coal Country Club, Dinner: Pasta Plate

Note: The Mediterranean Wrap and Pasta Plate are vegetarian choices.

7. Reservations for this tour must close on August 16, 2025; reserve your place soon!

### RESERVE/BUY ONLINE NOW at www.dcnrhs.org: HANDLING FEE APPLIES. For information, call 202-627-6978 or e-mail to reservations@dcnrhs.org.

| NARROW GAUGE TO RAGTIME, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 I'm ready to go! My reservation and payment are enclosed:                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| City, State, Zip:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Telephone: □ day □ evening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mobile phone (day of trip):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| E-mail:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| (Reservation confirmations are sent by e-mail. Please ensure your spam filter is set to accept e-mails from <a href="mailto:reservations@dcnrhs.org">reservations@dcnrhs.org</a> ; contact us at this address if you do not receive confirmation <a href="within one week of booking">within one week of booking</a> .) |
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WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NRHS c/o Kevin J. Tankersley, Reservations Agent 103 E. Mason Ave.

Alexandria VA 22301-1709 NRHS News May 2025