

CALENDAR

January 10-11, 2015

Winter Conference
Advisory Council and Board
of Directors' Meetings
Roanoke, VA
Roanoke Chapter

April 15 - 19, 2015

Spring Conference
Advisory Council and Board
of Directors' Meetings
York, PA
A joint conference of the
NRHS & ATRRM

June 14 - 21, 2015

2015 Convention
Rutland, VT
www.nrhs.com
Tickets now on Sale online

July 7 - 10, 2015

RailCamp East
University of Delaware
Newark, DE

August 2 - 9, 2015

RailCamp West
University of Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA

October 23 - 15, 2015

Fall Conference
Utica, NY

NRHS Dues Collection & Reporting for 2015

This is an update on how the NRHS intends to deal with dues collecting and reporting information back to the chapters on their paid members.

By now, NRHS members in good standing have received their notices that their dues for 2015 are payable to NRHS. Unlike recent years, for 2015, NRHS is collecting the National dues directly from our membership. We are encouraging everyone to renew as soon as possible, and to use the online option with a credit card instead of sending paper checks to Fernley & Fernley. When the member uses the credit card option, we avoid paying Fernley & Fernley a processing charge for each paper check that they have to manually handle and deposit. The online option leaves more of the dues revenue available to NRHS and its programs rather than paying for additional outside administrative support.

Along with the direct payments of dues, NRHS and Fernley & Fernley have discontinued the process of having the chapters designating Electronic Billing Contacts (EBCs) and having the EBCs sending checks and spreadsheets periodically to Fernley & Fernley to report who has paid their NRHS dues. Instead, NRHS Vice President Joe Maloney will periodically pull dues receipt data down from the chapters' records in the NRHS membership database, and provide the individual chapters with Excel spreadsheets showing which of their members have paid their NRHS dues, and remain in good standing through December 31, 2015. Mr. Maloney will send those spreadsheets to the chapters' former EBCs or current National Representatives (NR) to the Advisory Council.

Mr. Maloney will start this process sometime later in December 2014 once he sees that Fernley & Fernley has posted his 2015 dues which he paid in late November 2014. To date (Dec. 5, 2014) that has not yet happened.

Mr. Maloney will provide monthly updates to the chapters through April 2015. After March 31, 2015, NRHS will drop any member who has not renewed his/her dues for 2015.

While this is not an efficient means of passing along this sort of information to the chapters, this process will avoid many hours of contract labor from Fernley & Fernley at \$75/labor hour. Mr. Maloney works for free, so efficiency is not as critical with this approach! This process will be unique to the 2015 dues campaign, and will not be repeated next year.

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Synopsis of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Submitted by Bob Ernst – NRHS Secretary

The NRHS Board of Directors met in Johnson City, TN on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, 2014.

President Al Weber presented **Greg Molloy** a plaque along with a card signed by the Board of Directors in appreciation of his efforts and his service over the years as NRHS President. Al also expressed his gratitude and thanked all of the ex-Directors and volunteers for their service to the Society.

Vice President Joe Maloney reported on the **NRHS Film Digitization Project**. The project is running as scheduled. It recently received nine films which were donated by the son of the late Jim Bistline.

Joe reported that the **2015 Membership Awards** will include one 75 year, twelve 60 year and forty 50 year pins. The pins will be distributed starting in January.

Treasurer Bob Bitzer gave an overview of the financial status of the Society. Available funds are very tight and he noted

the need for the 2015 dues collection to start. President Weber is working closely with Bob on vendor contracts.

NRHS Fund President Greg Molloy reported that the **NRHS Fund** is operational and that it has officially received 501(c)3 status. The Fund Trustees met on Friday, November 14, 2014 and completed some housekeeping functions as required by the Fund Bylaws. The Trustees also made some changes to the Bylaws to clarify and correct wording within the Bylaws.

RailCamp Chairman Bud Thompson stated that two sessions of **RailCamp** are scheduled for 2015 and that his committee is reviewing the application forms. The tuition for RailCamp is being increased for 2015 to better cover costs.

Conventions – The **2014 NRHS Convention** held in Springdale, AR was successful. Greg Molloy stated that all of the events ran as scheduled and overall the convention was profitable.

Sales for the **2015 NRHS Convention** are under way. Convention Chairman Walter Zullig reported that currently 124 people are registered with about 30% of the hotel space booked. Premium service on the trains is near capacity but coach seating is readily available.

Conferences – A **Winter 2015 Conference** is scheduled for January 10 & 11, 2015 in Roanoke, VA. The Board of Directors and the Advisory Council will hold meetings at the conference.

The **Spring 2015 Conference** will be held April 16 – 18, 2015 in York, PA. This conference is being held jointly with ATTRM.

The **Fall 2015 Conference** will be hosted by the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter on October 23 – 25, 2015 in Utica, NY. Events will include a trip on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

The charter of the **Lake Shore Chapter** was revoked by the Board due to zero membership renewals for 2014 and no communication with the NRHS.

Settlement Achieved

Al Weber, NRHS President

We now have a final settlement over the 2012 accident involving Barry Smith at RailCamp in 2012.

This is a public document under Docket No. 30702230 filed with the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

The accident involved Barry Smith, a camp counselor and a camper. Barry was driving a rental vehicle and had a serious accident injuring the camp counselor. Barry was also injured in the accident but the camper was not injured.

The NRHS has been involved with the lawsuit for several years. This ends all claims over the accident.

We should not disparage Barry Smith in any way. In the agreement we have with Barry Smith he will not disparage the NRHS in any way.

Advisory Council Meeting Synopsis Fall Conference, Johnson City, TN

The NRHS Advisory Council met in conjunction with the NRHS Fall Conference in Johnson City, TN on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

Newly elected NRHS President Al Weber addressed the council emphasizing that all members of the council and the NRHS as a whole are needed to carry the National organization through the present financial crisis.

The Winter Conference is on schedule to be held in Roanoke, VA the weekend of

January 10-11, 2015 at the historic Hotel Roanoke.

In accordance with previously adopted changes to the National By-Laws the Advisory Council elected a Chairman and Secretary to serve for a two year term. Presently serving Chairman Pro Tempe Scott Andes was nominated for Chairman and was elected by acclamation, there being no further nominations. Presently serving Secretary, Fred Kurtz was nominated for Secretary and was also elected by acclamation since there were no further nominations.

There was a brief discussion of what portions of the "New Business Model" (NBM) should be implemented. Since this is a lengthy document and members of the Advisory Council had not had an opportunity to study it there was a motion made to table this discussion until the Winter Conference. This motion was approved and copies of the NBM and the proposed new National By-Laws which would be required have been distributed to the members of the council for their study and ideas.

The NRHS needs active participation of the chapters and members. All chapters are asked to please send their National Representative to the Winter Conference in Roanoke.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred B. Kurtz

Secretary, NRHS Advisory Council

President Appointments As Of November 15, 2014

President Al Weber made the following appointments.

Executive Committee

Bob Ernst, Wes Ross, Larry Dyer, Jack Hilborn, Walter Zullig.

Membership Committee

Skip Walters – Chair, Becky Gerstung -
New Member Welcoming, Tim O'Malley,
Del Kittendorf, John Goodman, Richard
Shulby.

Assistant Secretary

Ellen Pinsky.

Historic Grants Committee

Ed Berntsen – Chair, Neil Norkaitis, Roy
Wullich II, David Huelsing, Steve Wasby,
Don Bishop II, Mia Mather, Robert
Kornreich.

Historic Plaques and Best Practices Subcommittee

Walter Zullig Jr., Daniel Conway, Larry
Dyer, Kenton H. Forrest.

RailCamp

Bud Thompson – Chair, Bill Chapman,
Carl Jensen, Becky Gerstung, Alex
Polimeni, Kevin Scheyer, Erica Bauer, Mike
Muldwoney, Janice Bauer.

Bulletin

Jeff Smith.

Elections Committee

Jeff Smith, Steve Barry, John Goodman.

NRHS News Editor

Charles Williams.

Audit Committee

Volunteers welcome and needed.

Convention Committee

John Goodman, Duane Durr.

Telegraph Editor

Valli Hoski.

General Counsel

John Fiorilla.

Comptroller

Bob Heavenrich.

Membership Awards

Joe Maloney – Director, Rick Davidson -
Assistant Director.

Emblem Sales

Dave Baniewicz, Peggy Sweigart.

Discount List

Wess Ross.

Library Slides and Films

Mitch Dackelman.

Railway Heritage Grants

Applications Being Accepted

Stephen Wasby for the NRHS Railway
Heritage Committee

The National Railway Historical Society will
once again award NRHS Railway Heritage
Grants in 2015. Applications are now being
accepted for the funding. Several individual
awards will be made this year for amounts up
to \$5,000. The NRHS reserves the right to
fund grant requests partially. The NRHS, the
nation's largest rail enthusiast organization, is
a leading advocate for rail preservation in the
United States.

NRHS Railway Heritage Grants have
leveraged millions of dollars in materials and
labor in support of preserving our threatened
railway heritage. Moreover, the NRHS grants
have brought thousands of people — young
and old — together around the places and
things that matter to them. Engaging diverse
communities in this common cause of
stewardship, the grants are an investment in
the future of our past. Projects involving the
preservation, restoration, re-use,
interpretation, or stabilization of historic
railroad resources and materials will be
considered eligible, as will projects that plan
for same.

Projects that support publication, research,
outreach, and education are also
encouraged. Applications should indicate how
a project will catalyze community
involvement, coordinate multiple sources of
support, and produce long-lasting outcomes.
New components of ongoing projects which
were the subject of a previous NRHS grant
are also eligible.

All grants require a 50/50 or 1:1 match with at
least half of the required match being cash.
Up to one-half of the required match may be

in-kind expenditures of labor and material directly and specifically benefitting the project. Labor expended on the project, whether paid or volunteer, can be counted toward the in-kind portion of the match at a rate of \$15 per hour. Materials may be valued at their retail price.

Projects not eligible for funding are routine maintenance of restored vehicles, running maintenance or repair of restored artifacts that exhibit wear from regular use or inadequate protection, or have reached the end of their service life. Purchase of computer equipment and software is also not eligible for funding. Funding is not available for work already completed before receipt of the grant and for work undertaken elsewhere.

Eligible projects must be submitted by nonprofit 501(c)(3) history organizations such as museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, or other history organizations that are located in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia that actively engage in railway history and operations. Proof of 501(c)(3) status is required. Entities that do not have 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service should seek fiscal sponsors as co-applicants who are municipalities, municipal entities, or 501(c)(3) organizations whose missions are in keeping with the work the applicant proposes. Fiscal sponsors who have 501(c)(3) status whose missions are in keeping with NRHS-funded projects often include local NRHS chapters, historical societies, preservation advocacy organizations, and church, youth, and civic organizations. Grants applied for in partnership with NRHS chapters are encouraged.

Eligible applicants may only submit one grant request per calendar year. Applicants who have received a Railway Heritage Grant for two consecutive years must wait a period of one year before submitting another application.

Grant awards will be based upon the manner in which the proposed project:

- Contributes to the preservation of, and increases the general knowledge and understanding of railway history.
- Is original in scope or a new component of an ongoing project for which a grant was previously received. Duplication of past efforts must be avoided.
- Will catalyze community involvement, coordinate multiple sources of support, and result in long-lasting positive outcomes.
- Has a realistic project timeline outlined, based on the proposed budget.
- Satisfies the required match.
- Includes plans for maintaining the restored artifact(s) or building.

Membership in the NRHS is not a prerequisite but will be strongly considered as a tie-breaker between two equally acceptable proposals that are finalists.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a signed, scanned grant application electronically to nrhsgrants@railheritage.org. Acceptable alternative submission is to instead mail two paper (“hard”) copies of a completed application, individually stapled, to: NRHS Grants, P. O. Box 340, Tacoma WA 98401-0004. For more information, phone 253-225-8401. If this option is used, be sure to use U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail, Express Mail or First Class Mail with a tracking number. Do not use Federal Express (FedEx), United Parcel Service (UPS) or other commercial delivery service. Applications cannot be submitted via the NRHS website <<http://www.nrhs.com>> this

year. Applicants for and recipients of NRHS Railway Heritage Grants must adhere to the Application Instructions, and the terms and conditions enclosed with the application form. Applications may be downloaded from the NRHS website at <<http://www.nrhs.com/program/heritage-grants>>. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

2015 RailCamp Schedules Set, Sponsors Needed

Bud Thompson

At the Johnson City Fall Meeting November 15-16, RailCamp Director Bud Thompson announced the schedule for next year:

- **RailCamp East** will be held July 5 -10, based at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE..
- **RailCamp Northwest** will be August 2 - 9, headquartered at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA .

Applications will be available to download on the NRHS website within a few weeks. Meanwhile, those interested can request an application by email addressed to RailCampNRHS@yahoo.com. The tuition in 2015 will be \$1,290, a slight increase from 2014. Early application is strongly encouraged and final deadline to apply is April 15, 2015.

Scholarships are available

Chapters or other groups interested in either sponsoring a camper from their area, or willing to have NRHS choose a candidate, should make their desires known as soon as possible. This will greatly aid the RailCamp committee in determining how many scholarships will be available from various sources.

We ask that chapters or other potential sponsors contact us at the email address above and advise:

- (1) Your chapter or organization's name, email and mailing addresses
- (2) The name of a candidate who wishes to apply and for which you will pay tuition
- (3) If you would permit the NRHS to select a candidate for which you will pay tuition
- (4) The name, telephone number and email address of the responsible person in your organization with whom we can communicate.

RailCamp candidates may be an incoming high school freshman to graduating senior, ages approximately 14 to 18.

All candidates must complete the NRHS RailCamp Application. The final decision to accept a candidate for RailCamp will be at the sole discretion of NRHS.

Donations Needed To Support

Discount List

Wes Ross

A total of approximately \$1,000.00 needs to be raised to support the publication of the 2015 NRHS Discount List. This list has been published annually in the June issue of the *NRHS News*. The list includes free museums and rail attractions offering discounts to members and many times their families.

At the present time, NRHS does not have the funds necessary to support this worthwhile project. The list is compiled by volunteers Wes and Shirley Ross; but funds are needed for postage, printing and other expenses related to the publication of the list.

A total of \$250.00 was collected for the project at the recent Board of Director's and Advisory Council Meeting in Johnson City, TN. More donations from chapters or individuals are needed within the next 30 days for the project to move forward and be on schedule.

Both chapters and individuals may donate to this project. All donations should be sent to the following address:

The NRHS Fund, Inc.
c/o Ralph Robert Bitzer
7617 Woodbine Dr.
Laurel, MD 20707

Please be sure to specify that your donation is for the Discount List.

Winter 2015 NRHS Conference Roanoke, VA. January 10-11, 2015

Hosted by Roanoke Chapter

P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke VA 24032

Headquarters

Hotel Roanoke, A Doubletree by Hilton

Located adjacent to downtown Roanoke our hotel was owned by Norfolk & Western Ry. before donation to Virginia Tech University. Following a multimillion dollar renovation and the addition of extensive meeting facilities it is now the premier hotel and meeting facility in the Roanoke Valley. We have arranged special room rates of \$104 per night single or double. Taxes are additional. These rates are available for two days before and one day following the meeting. You must make your own room reservations. Cutoff is December 18. Call the hotel direct toll free at 1-866-594-4722 or the Hilton reservation center 1-800-445-8667 Group code NRHS 2015.

The hotel provides free shuttle service from Roanoke airport. With advance notice they will also pickup from the special *bus service operated* direct to the Roanoke Civic Center from the Amtrak Lynchburg, VA station connecting with the Amtrak's Northeast Direct train daily. This bus service is shown in the Amtrak reservation system and can be booked

along with the rail connection. See current Amtrak timetable for details. The hotel does charge for parking private automobiles.

Although the Chapter does not plan any special activities there are several attractive nearby railfan attractions. Chapter members will be available to assist you. The Hotel is directly across the street from the famous O. Winston Link Museum (in the former N&W passenger station) and four blocks from the Virginia Museum of Transportation. A glass fully enclosed pedestrian bridge spans the entire Norfolk Southern mainline connecting Hotel Roanoke and downtown Roanoke. Numerous eating places are nearby in Downtown. This is an excellent location for train watching and photos as NS's three lines (to Hagerstown, Norfolk and Winston Salem) all pass under and divide at this point. If you use the connecting bus from Amtrak at Lynchburg Thursday (Arrives Roanoke 10:25 pm) you can spend a full day railfanning on Friday, January 9. Or stay over Sunday afternoon and ride the Amtrak Connection bus early Monday morning to Amtrak Lynchburg on.

A chapter Registration Desk will be set up beginning Friday morning at 9:00 AM.

We are arranging discount admissions to both the Link Museum and the Virginia Museum of Transportation. Information on restaurants in the downtown area and other attractions will be included with your registration packet.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Sanders, President.

Carl S Jensen, Advisory Board Rep.

Questions? Call 540-774-0611

Email csjensen@rbnet.com.

(See Meeting Registration form on p. 8.)

NRHS WINTER CONFERENCE – JANUARY 10-11, 2015

Meeting Reservation Form

PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT NOTICE BELOW ABOUT MAILING ADDRESS

Mail with payment to Roanoke Chapter P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke, VA 24032.

Make checks payable to Roanoke Chapter. Deadline for reservations January 2, 2015

REGISTRATION FEE \$40 PER PERSON attending the meeting. Nbr.: _____ @ \$40 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ \$ _____

(Please indicate your position below)

Position: BOD _____ Advisory Board _____ National Staff _____ Member _____

CHAPTER OR BOARD REGION YOU REPRESENT _____

NAME (first) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____

(NUMBER AND STREET)

CITY, STATE, POSTAL CODE/ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MAILING ADDRESS

FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO RECEIVED THE *ORIGINAL INFORMATION FORM* DISTRIBUTED AT THE JOHNSON CITY, TN. MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15-16.

THE MAILING ADDRESS WAS INCORRECT

WE REGRET THIS AND ASK YOU TO USE THE ONE SHOWN ABOVE. CONTACT US IF YOU ALREADY SENT IN REGISTRATION TO THE WRONG ADDRESS, AND RECEIVE NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR RETURNED MAIL

NRHS *Telegraph* is published by the National Railway Historical Society. It is published as news warrants.

Send all submissions to: **TELEGRAPHVAL@gmail.com**

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