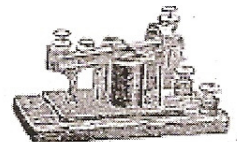


Tarheel Telegrapher



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RAIL INDUSTRY SAFEST EVER YEAR - 2012

Progressive Railroading

Last year was the safest year in the rail industry's history based on performance measures tracked by the FRA. For the fifth fiscal year in a row, the industry posted improvements for all six safety performance measures monitored by the FRA; the rate of grade crossing incidents, human factor-caused train accidents, track-caused accidents, equipment-caused accidents, signal and miscellaneous train accidents, and non-accidental rail hazardous material releases. The industry has also met the DOT's safety performance goal for rate of rail-related accidents and incidents.

"This year, we will continue to take proactive measures to prevent accidents and incidents by aggressively advancing Risk Reduction and System Safety Programs," said FRA Administrator Joseph Szabo. "We will also stay focused on our collaborative effort with industry and labor to eliminate electronic device distraction. Together, we can make 2013 even safer."

Meanwhile, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced the total number of US transportation fatalities declined about 2% in 2011 to 34,434 versus 2010, according to preliminary figures. Total rail fatalities fell from 823 in 2010 to 759

in 2011. Trespasser and non-trespasser deaths dropped from 542 to 499, and light-, heavy- and commuter-rail fatalities declined from 255 to 230. Grade crossing deaths fell from 261 in 2010 to 251 in 2011, but the deaths are not counted by the NTSB as a separate category, and instead are included in the rail and highway categories.

"Transportation accidents remain one of the nation's leading causes of death," said NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman. "We can do better, which is why the NTSB shines a light on key safety issues each year through the 'Most Wanted List' of transportation safety improvements."

CROSSING UPGRADES IN NC

Progressive Railroading

The NCDOT has awarded a \$7.6 million contract to Blythe Construction Inc. to improve safety at a grade crossing in Salisbury. The project calls for building a rail bridge over Klumac Road and an underpass at the crossing, and realigning 0.6 miles of the road. The project is part of the Piedmont Improvement Program, which includes a series of rail projects designed to improve safety and mobility on a corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte.

BONSAL IN THE SNOW

If the picture below looks rather gray, it should. It was taken on Saturday, 26 January 2013 when Bonsal was covered in a dusting of snow. Our crews are dedicated to their jobs, but we understand not a lot of work was done that day since the tempera-

ture made things feel more like Minnesota than North Carolina. Still, someone was out there on duty or we would not have this picture to document the weather conditions. Keep it in mind next July when we are experiencing a very different temperature.



MAN WALKS INTO TRAIN

A railfan friend of your Editor sent us this piece from the area around Johnstown, PA. We thought it interesting.

A man talking on a cell phone was taken to the hospital after he walked into a moving train crossing Ferndale Avenue in Ferndale near the Johnstown city line. The



FERNDALE AVENUE CROSSING

incident happened at around 1:15pm. "The train was going barely ten miles an hour," Ferndale police Chief Art Boring said. The name of the man who was struck was not available. "He was coherent," Boring said. The street was closed for a time. Cambria County Department of Emergency Services said the train was separated around 2:05pm. That enabled police to reopen the roadway to traffic while they continued their investigation, the department said. The man eventually lost his foot as a result of the incident.

SENATE CONFIRMS AMTRAK DIRECTORS

Progressive Railroading

The Senate has confirmed Christopher Beall and Yvonne Brathwaite Burke as members of Amtrak's board. Beall, of Oklahoma, is a partner at Highstar Capital, an infrastructure investment firm. Previously, he served as chief financial officer of Aslan Group and was an associate with the natural resources division of Lehman Brothers. Burke, of California, is a member of the California Transportation Commission and a former member of the US House of Representatives and California Assembly. Previously, she served on the Los Angeles County Board while she was a partner at

NCRM ANNUAL BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The NCRM held its Annual Banquet on Saturday, 19 January 2013, in *The Loft* at *Anna's Restaurant* in historic downtown Apex. The attendance at the event this year was one of the largest we have ever had with just over fifty (50) people enjoying the good food, good fellowship of other railfans, and a truly great speaker .

include non-members as well as members based on their contributions.

The two honored inductees for this year are:

Allan Paul
and

Robert. R. Morrison

We sincerely congratulate these fine gentlemen on receiving this honor and thank



MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

Guest Speaker:

Our speaker for the event was Allan Paul, Fleet and Facilities Manager for NCDOT Rail Division, and an old friend of the NCRM and NHVRy.

The talk covered the history of rail improvements in North Carolina, resulting in *The Piedmont* being number one in ridership growth of all trains in the Amtrak system for 2012.

We were also treated to descriptions of proposed improvements to increase capacity and safety on rail lines throughout our State, including locomotive rebuilding programs, and plans to upgrade existing passenger cars and purchase new such equipment. NCDOT also has plans to upgrade four more stations as budget funds become available.

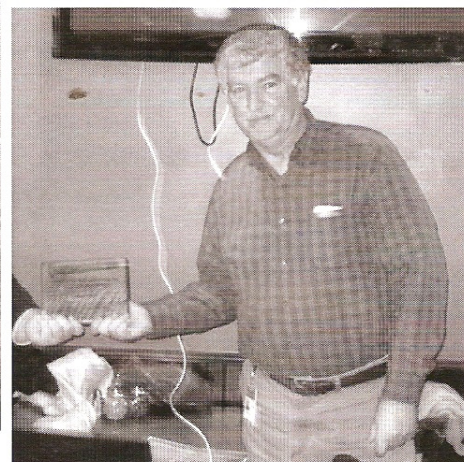
The presentation was very well received by the group with many questions asked during the follow up.

Order of the Rusty Spike:

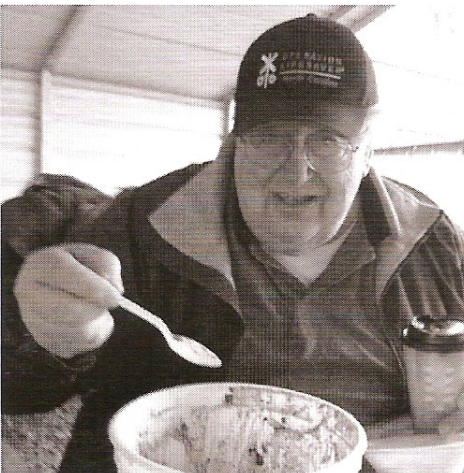
Another highlight of the day was the annual induction of new members of the *Order of the Rusty Spike*. This is the highest honor bestowed by the NCRM each year, and recognizes the contribution of individuals to the organization over and above the norm. It is awarded by vote of the Board of Directors each year, and may

them for all they have done for the NCRM and NHVRy.

WEEKDAY CHOW IS GREAT!
The crew at Bonsal on weekdays seems to eat well, and they deserve it for all the work they do. Here is Corporate



ALLAN PAUL INDUCTED INTO THE ORDER OF THE RUSTY SPIKE



Secretary Jay Horn digging in for his share.

TIME TO REPLACE TIES

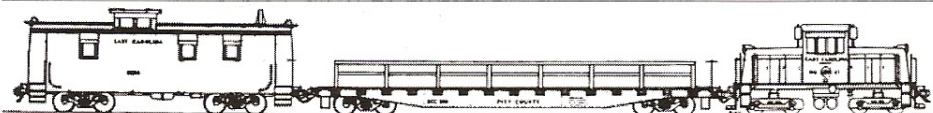
Did we mention we are now in the throes of tie season? We are, and the track crew, otherwise known as *The Bonsal Athletic Club*, is hard at work replacing old ties to ensure the right-of-way is as safe as possible for the crowds of visitors waiting to descend upon us this spring when the 2013



Operating Season begins. Here we see stacks of new ties at Bonsal waiting to serve their intended purpose along our line. Need to shed some of what you shoveled in at parties and dinners during the holidays? Just see Roadmaster Jim Meade, and we are sure he will help you find a way to work it off so you will look great at the beach when the weather turns warmer. We have something for everyone at Bonsal. Come down and see!

OPERATION LIFESAVER ELECTS BOARD
Progressive Railroadng

Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI) has named Cliff Stayton, director of community affairs and safety at CSX Transportation, chairman to succeed Reilly McCarren, chair of the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad. Stayton, a community outreach expert and former locomotive engineer, is a "passionate safety advocate" spurring OLI to communicate its message to a broader audience, said OLI President and Chief Executive Officer Joyce Rose. OLI also appointed Amtrak Police Chief Polly Hanson and Railway Supply Institute (RSI) Assistant Vice President Nicole Brewin to its board. Hanson is a veteran law enforcement professional having served with the Department of the Interior, the Washington Metropolitan Police and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Hanson fills a position formerly held by Roy Deitchman, Amtrak's former VP for environmental health and safety. Brewin, who joined RSI in January 2001 from Rep. Peter Vislosky's (D-IN) office, will fill a seat previously held by RSI President Thomas Simpson since 1988.



The Call Board

NHVRy Crew Operating News

TRAINING CLASSES

All members of the train operating crew will be required to attend one day of training. Next training will be listed in the Schedule below.

RULES QUALIFICATION TESTS

Rules tests must be renewed every two years in order to remain current. If you have not taken a rules test in the last two years, see the dispatcher on duty as soon as possible.

BULLETIN BOOK

The Bulletin Book is in the Yard Office at Bonsal. All crew members are required to be aware of bulletins posted in the Book.

FRA EXTENDS PTC COMMENT PERIOD

Progressive Railroadng

The FRA has extended the deadline for submitting comments on a notice of proposed rulemaking involving Positive Train Control (PTC) originally published on 11 December 2012. Written comments now will be received by the FRA until 11 March instead of 11 February, the originally scheduled due date.

The NPRM would revise regulatory provisions related to a *de minimis* exception to the installation of PTC systems and applications to yard-related movements. The proposed rulemaking also would revise existing regulations related to *en route* failures of a PTC system and discontinuances of signal systems once a PTC system is installed, and make additional technical amendments to regulations governing grade crossing warning systems and signal systems, including PTC systems.

In an April 2011 petition, the AAR requested that the FRA initiate a rulemaking to propose expanding the *de minimis* exception, and amend rules concerning the limited operations exception, en route failures of trains operating within PTC systems and the discontinuance of signal systems once PTC systems were installed. The AAR also asked the FRA to develop a new exception to allow unequipped trains associated with certain yard operations to operate within PTC systems. In response to the petition, the FRA has proposed several changes to the *de minimis* exception, such as modifying the specific exception to raise the number of freight cars containing poison-by-inhalation materials from 100 cars to 200 cars and revising the grade limitation to be more consistent with the definition of "heavy grade." The FRA also proposes to add a yard movement *de minimis* exception that would authorize movements by unequipped locomotives over PTC-equipped mainline track segments.

ROCKEFELLER WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

Progressive Railroadng

Senator John "Jay" Rockefeller (D-WV) has announced he will not seek re-election in 2014. Rockefeller, chairs of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and long has championed rail regulatory reforms, has served in the Senate since 1984. "As I approach fifty years of public service in West Virginia, I've decided that 2014 will be the right moment for me to find new ways to fight for the causes I believe in and to spend more time with my incredible family," Rockefeller said. "For the next two years in the Senate, and well beyond, I will continue working tirelessly on behalf of all West Virginians. Championing those most in need has been my life's calling, and I will never stop fighting to make a difference for the people who mean so much to me."

In late 2009, Rockefeller introduced the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization

NCCR AND NCDOT APPOINTMENTS

Progressive Railroadng

The North Carolina Railroad (NCCR) has named Jim Kessler vice president of engineering and planning. He will be responsible for planning and implementing the railroad's capital investment program, employing safety measures, and working with transit organizations, the NCDOT, and NS. (The NS is responsible for the operation and maintenance NCCR.) Kessler has 37 years of experience in managing and working on major freight and transit rail projects from inception to design to construction. He previously was a principal engineer with HNTB Corp. in Raleigh, where his duties included managing the firm's North Carolina rail practice. He retired from HNTB in 2010 after 30 years and joined Hatch Mott MacDonald as a rail engineering consultant.

Meanwhile, NCDOT has appointed La Nica Allison deputy secretary of intergovernmental affairs. She is the first African-American woman to serve as a deputy secretary at the department. Allison will be responsible for overseeing policy, transportation planning, and budget coordination. She has more than 17 years of experience in management and operations in private business, consulting and public-sector organizations, including a stint as a contractor for the Department of Health and Human Services. Allison also was a policy analyst for the governor's transition team.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Please ensure we have your correct address, telephone number, and **EMAIL address**, at all times. Send a note to the email address on the first page of this publication.

tion Act of 2009, seeking to increase rail competition, strengthen federal oversight of railroads, and improve rail shippers' access to regulatory relief. The bill was not enacted, but would have would required major railroads to quote "bottleneck" rates; set standards for reciprocal switching and terminal access rates; created a process for parties to challenge paper barriers; and increased STB scrutiny of future railroad mergers for competitive, service and environmental effects.

Rockefeller, 75, first came to West Virginia in 1964 as a worker for the national service program Volunteers in Service to America. He later served as a member of the state House of Delegates, secretary of state, president of West Virginia Wesleyan College and the state's governor.

Transportation workers will miss Rockefeller, said AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department officials in a press release. "Transportation workers ... can't fathom the idea that as transportation jobs are on the line, Sen. Rockefeller won't be there to fight for them as he always has," they said. "They can't imagine that when transportation safety reforms are being debated, Senator Rockefeller won't be in committee or on the Senate floor keeping his colleagues honest."

NCRM 2013 SCHEDULE

- 21 February - NCRM Board Meeting
- 21 March - NCRM Board Meeting
- 7 April - NC Science Festival
- 18 April - NCRM Board Meeting
- 19 April - NHVRy Group Day
- 5 May - NHVRy Operating Day
- 16 May - NCRM Board Meeting
- 17 May - NHVRy Group Day
- 2 June - NHVRy Operating Day
- 20 June - NCRM Board Meeting
- 21 June - NHVRy Group Day
- 7 July - NHVRy Operating Day
- 18 July - NCRM Board Meeting
- 19 July - NHVRy Group Day
- 4 August - NHVRy Operating Day
- 15 August - NCRM Board Meeting
- 16 August - NHVRy Group Day
- 1 September - NHVRy Operating Day
- 19 September - NCRM Board Meeting
- 20 September - NHVRy Group Day
- 6 October - NHVRy Operating Day
- 17 October - NCRM Board Meeting
- 18 October - NHVRy Group Day
- 19 October - NHVRy Halloween Trains
- 26 October - NHVRy Halloween Trains
- 15 November - NHVRy Group Day
- 21 November - NCRM Board Meeting
- 7 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 8 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 14 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 15 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 19 December - NCRM Board Meeting

All events listed here are held at the NHVRy in Bonsal, NC unless otherwise noted.

NORTH CAROLINA RAILWAY MUSEUM, INC.

NHV

New Hope Valley Railway

Tarheel Telegrapher

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