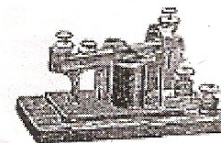


# Tarheel Telegrapher



Volume 51 — Issue 7

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1 July 2013

## CHRISTENING CRRC #110

Were you there for the official christening and dedication of *Cliffside Railroad Company* #110 at Bonsal on 2 June 2013? If so, did you recognize the young lady wielding the bottle of sparkling grape juice we broke over the locomotive's pilot (bow?) that day?



She has a long history with #110 so we thought it very appropriate she do the honors for the ceremony. Let us share one other photo of Janice and the #110 with you and you might understand better.



We are not sure of the year this photo was taken, but it does serve to illustrate the subject of this story, and give the reason for Ms Swing's *swing* of the bottle. (Sorry, we could not resist the pun.) We hope to continue this association for a long time to come.

## STOP AMTRAK DISHING UP

### "LAVISH" MEALS *Progressive Railroadng*

He may no longer be chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, but Representative John Mica (R-FL) is showing no signs of backing down from his critiques of Amtrak spending. Mica's latest beef is Amtrak's gourmet chefs. "Despite Amtrak food service losses over the past eleven years now topping \$906 million, master gourmet chefs continue to dish up recipes for costly gourmet train cuisine," Mica said. Amtrak lost \$72 million on food service in 2012, according to Mica. As a result, he intends to ask the House Subcommittee on Government Operations as well as Rail Subcommittee Chairman Jeff Denham (R-CA) to investigate. "With a total \$1.4 billion Amtrak taxpayer subsidy for just the last year, extravagant chef-designed dishes need to be considered for the chopping block," Mica added. While chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mica held multiple hearings on Amtrak spending. In the last Congress, Amtrak's food service expenses were a frequent target of his criticism. Mica's latest comments followed media reports issued last week Amtrak hired some of the nation's top gourmet chefs to advise the railroad on its food service. The Washington Post reported 11 June Amtrak hired the chefs in exchange for frequent traveler miles.

## NC CURVE REALIGNMENT CONTRACT

### *Progressive Railroadng*

NCDOT has awarded a \$1.2 million contract to Faulconer Construction to realign a curve along the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) mainline in Davidson County. The curve is located under Interstate 85 bridges recently built over the Yadkin River. The project is slated to begin 1 July and conclude by 1 June 2014, although reforestation and vegetation establishment work might continue through November 2014. The curve realignment is part of the Piedmont Improvement Program (PIP), a series of rail projects designed to improve safety and mobility on a corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte. Primarily funded by \$545 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, PIP projects are scheduled for completion by 30 September 2017. Program partners include NCDOT, NCRR, CSX, NS, and the Federal Railroad Administration.

## AMTRAK TO HIRE MORE VETERANS

### *Progressive Railroadng*

Amtrak officials have announced an employment goal calling for military veterans to comprise 25% of new hires by 2015. To help reach the target, the railroad will partner with recruiting groups that focus on veteran hiring, including the US Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes, the Wounded Warrior Project, and RecruitMilitaryband Army PaYS. In addition, Amtrak's human resources department will participate in more than thirty military job fairs across the nation. Due to retirements and new projects, Amtrak anticipates hiring more than 3,000 employees over the next year. In fiscal-year 2012, more than 14% of Amtrak's new hires were veterans. "The leadership, reliability and high-tech skills veterans bring to the job are a great resource to the operation of America's railroad," said Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer Joseph Boardman, a veteran of the Vietnam War. In setting the goal, Amtrak joins other US railroads having announced commitments to hiring more veterans.

## REMEMBER OUR #17

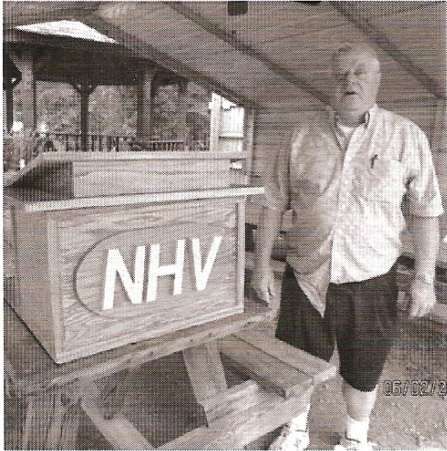
With all the excitement over *Cliffside Railroad Company* #110, we should not forget our own beloved #17. She is still around and doing her duty of hauling folks through the woods between Bonsal and New Hill.



The photo shows her at Bonsal next to the work platform built to keep our crews out of the muddy drainage ditch seen in the foreground. Come out to see her when you are in town.

### THE OFFICIAL NHV PODIUM

By the way, when you attended the dedication of *Cliffside Railroad Company* #110 in June, we trust you noticed the new official podium used for the various speeches and presentations. If you missed it, look at the picture below.



That podium is the handiwork of NCRM volunteer John Betz, shown posing with the unit at Bonsal. The podium is all blonde wood and looks really great! We want to thank John publicly for doing this, thereby helping us to make a really professional showing for all the dignitaries and guests attending the event.

We are sure the podium will get a lot of good use in the future as well. We can see it being used for special events, membership meetings, and at the annual dinner of the organization.

### TRACK CLEANING

Many of us are model railroaders so we know the task of track cleaning all too well. We get out our *Brite-Boy* pads spend an hour or two making the rails shine to our prize locomotive does not stall on a bit of grit when hauling our own version of *The Southern Crescent* over our tracks. Did you know we have to do almost the same thing on our own *New Hope Valley Railway* as well?



The picture shows volunteers from our Maintenance-of-Way Department clearing pine straw and other debris from the tracks. We do not do this to ensure electrical contact, of course, but too many "*leaves on the line*" can cause wheel-slip and delay trains. This is just one of the many tasks needing to be done at Bonsal. Come out to give us a hand on **YOUR** railroad.

### PUBLIC SUPPORTS USING TAXES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

#### *Progressive Railroading*

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) says nearly 74% of respondents to a recent survey by the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) indicated they would support using tax dollars to increase investment in public transportation, a sign the American public increasingly supports efforts to improve and expand transit in their communities. The survey, released at the APTA Rail Conference in Philadelphia, showed the number of respondents supporting the use of tax revenue for public transportation increased from 69% in a survey taken a year ago. "We are experiencing this surge in support because citizens can see, touch and feel the economic impact of investing in public transportation," said APTA Chairwoman Flora Castillo during a press conference to announce the survey results. "We look forward to sharing these great results with Congress," said APTA President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Melaniphy. "In most political circles, receiving nearly 74% in favor of increased investment would be considered a landslide."

The survey also found 80% of respondents agreed with the statement public transportation can help create jobs and boost the economy. In addition, when asked about affordable transportation options, nearly 88% agreed public transit expands opportunities and provides access to jobs and careers, as well as medical care, schools and colleges, APTA officials said in a press release. APTA officials also noted the public is showing support at the ballot box for public transportation. In 2012, 49 out of 62 public transit ballot initiatives were passed, which represents a nearly 80% passage rate.

### FALLEN TREES

Yes, it does happen. You may have noticed we send a motor car with a small track crew out to inspect the line early in the morning of each operating day. This is not a joy ride for them. We need to be sure the right-of-way is clear and safe before we

take our precious cargos of passengers out for a pleasant train ride in the woods. The photo below shows the sort of thing the track crew is looking to find and move before we bump it with a train. They are experts at handling situations like this.



### FRA DELAYS ADJACENT TRACK RULE

#### *Progressive Railroading*

The FRA has delayed the final rule on adjacent track worker safety. The rule now will go into effect 1 July 2014, instead of 1 July 2013. In November 2011, the FRA published the final rule, originally scheduled to take effect on 1 May 2012. The rule requires roadway workers to comply with specified on-track safety procedures railroads must adopt to protect those employees from train or other equipment movements on adjacent controlled track. The rule aims to further reduce the risk of serious injury or death to roadway employees performing work with potentially distracting equipment near certain adjacent tracks. In response to the final rule, the FRA received two petitions for reconsideration raising substantive issues and requiring a detailed response from the administration.

# 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.

### SAFETY SUMMIT ON RAIL FATALITIES

*Progressive Railroading*

The NCDOT hosted a rail safety summit on 20 June in Chapel Hill to address an unusually high number of vehicular and trespasser fatalities having occurred along rail lines in the state since January. Fifteen people have been killed in grade crossing accidents or trespassing incidents so far this year compared with eighteen fatalities in all of 2012, according to NCDOT data. During the summit, more than one-hundred community leaders and law enforcement groups from across the state discussed ways to improve rail safety education and discourage distracted drivers and trespassers on and around tracks. Speakers included NC Transportation Secretary Tony Tata, Amtrak Police Chief Polly Hanson and NC Department of Public Safety Secretary Kieran Shanahan. "Safety is always our top priority, and these tragedies are absolutely devastating, especially because in most cases they could have been prevented," said Tata. "We must work quickly to help curb these tragic occurrences and find more effective methods to get the word out to everyone to stay off the tracks." The ideas and suggestions generated by summit participants will be considered by NCDOT Rail Division staff members while they develop an overall rail safety plan. The summit was part of a collaborative effort beginning with a rail safety roundtable led by Tata in February.

### NC WOOD PELLET EXPORT FACILITY

*Progressive Railroading*

The NC Council of State has approved a lease agreement to enable the NC State Ports Authority to enter the highly competitive wood pellet industry. The agreement between the authority and Enviva Holdings calls for Enviva to build a wood pellet export facility at the Port of Wilmington. The facility is designed to receive, store and load wood pellets for export to Europe.

### FOXX UNANIMOUSLY CONFIRMED AS NEXT US TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

*Progressive Railroading*

In a unanimous vote, the US Senate has confirmed Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx as the next US Transportation Secretary. Foxx will succeed Ray LaHood, since LaHood decided not to serve a full second term as secretary. "Anthony knows firsthand that investing in our roads, bridges and transit systems is vital to creating good jobs and ensuring American businesses can grow and compete in a twenty-first century global economy," said President Barack Obama after the Senate vote. "I look forward to working with him as we aim to modernize the infrastructure that powers our economy."

Foxx will play a pivotal role in providing critical federal investments for advancing intercity and high-speed passenger-rail projects, said Amtrak Chairman Tony Coscia and President and Chief Executive Officer Joseph Boardman in a joint statement. "We also welcome Secretary Foxx to the Amtrak board of directors where he will help shape the future of America's railroad and further improve our record-breaking financial and operational performance," they said. Other rail and transportation industry officials also praised Foxx's confirmation.

"As mayor of Charlotte, Mr. Foxx established a record that strengthened the transportation sector, and demonstrated his understanding that the nation needs a strong transportation network to create jobs. We look forward to working with him and ensuring America's freight rail network remains the best in the world." - Association of American Railroads President and CEO Edward Hamberger.

"Foxx understands how critical it is for a city to have a multi-modal transportation network that includes a strong public transportation system. He knows the connection between transportation, jobs, economic growth and economic competitiveness." - American Public Transportation Association President and CEO Michael Melaniphy

"We are committed to partnering with Secretary Foxx to advance long overdue, large-scale investments in transportation that will improve quality of life, expand the economy, boost our competitiveness and put people back to work in a still slow economic recovery." - Transportation Trades Department AFL-CIO President Edward Wytkind

"Secretary Foxx has been a strong defender of transportation safety and as mayor of Charlotte worked steadfastly at keeping pedestrian and driver safety at the

forefront while meeting the growing demands for public transit, passenger and freight rail services. We trust that he will continue to champion safety at the national level, and we look forward to productive cooperation between Operation Lifesaver and the Department of Transportation." - Operation Lifesaver Inc. President Joyce Rose

"Through his support of the Charlotte Regional Intermodal Facility, the Southeast High-Speed Rail corridor, Charlotte street-car project, LYNX Blue Line light-rail system and 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan, "Secretary Foxx demonstrated an understanding of the crucial role that transportation plays in the economic vitality of this country, and particularly the critical role that both freight and passenger rail play as part of our multi-modal transportation system." - OneRail Coalition Director Anne Canby

"As an industry association focused on shipper advocacy issues, NASSTRAC looks forward to working with Foxx and the DOT on supporting common-sense initiatives that improve our nation's infrastructure, and reforms that enhance the safety and productivity of the transportation industry." - Mike Regan, chairman of the National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council's advocacy committee.

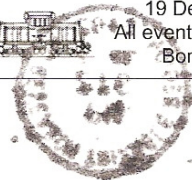
### WHERE ARE YOU?

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.

### NCRM 2013 SCHEDULE

- 7 July - NHVRy Operating Day
- 18 July - NCRM Board Meeting
- 19 July - NHVRy Group Day
- 20 July - NCRM Member Meeting
- 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
- 12 October - NCRM Member Meeting
- 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*

Published by the North Carolina Railway Museum, Inc.  
operating the historic *New Hope Valley Railway*.

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Published twelve times per year. Subscription is included with membership.

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