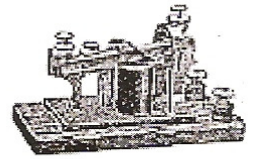


# Tarheel Telegrapher



Volume 50 — Issue 5

Editor: R.T.Crowley - NCRM.NHVRy@GMAIL.COM

1 May 2012

## USDOT OPENS BIDDING FOR USA-MADE PASSENGER CARS

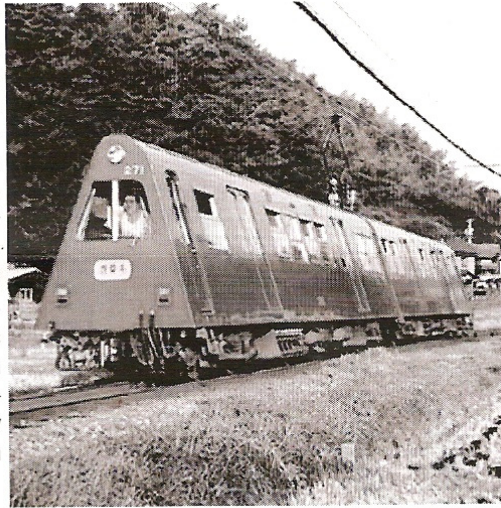
### *Progressive Railroading*

The USDOT is soliciting manufacturers to submit bids to build the first US-made, standardized passenger-rail cars as part of the federal "Buy America" provision. The \$551 million request for proposals (RFP) to manufacture 130 new bi-level cars in the United States is the result of a new, multi-state effort to jointly purchase standardized rail equipment to be used on Amtrak's intercity routes in California, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, and potentially, Iowa.

USDOT has partnered with the *Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership* to connect large car builders with more than 34,000 domestic suppliers to help them retool their plants to meet demand. "We've laid a solid foundation in bringing rail equipment manufacturers and suppliers together so we can make these cars in America and create American jobs," said Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo. "Building standardized rolling stock will provide an unprecedented opportunity to leverage Buy America requirements, ensuring maximum economic benefit for taxpayer-funded transportation investments." The RFP's Buy America provision requires all components of the new cars are built by American workers, with American-produced materials.

## THE TRIANGLE TRAIN?

Last month we shared the new look for the NHVRy marketing with you, and mentioned the motto, "*The Triangle's Train*," being adopted as a part of this. Well, our good friend, Robert Middour, found a real Triangle Train running on what is apparently a light-rail system in China. Those cars do not appear very roomy, but humans are adaptable enough to get used to just about anything. The engineer seems comfortable from what we can see in the cab. Maybe we should make an offer to buy one of these trains. It could be just the thing for operations on *The Old Line* along Beaver Creek Road.



## NEW RADIOS FOR NHVRy

By: Gray Lackey

The Federal Communications Commission (Yes, we are regulated by them too.) has issued a decree for all radio systems in the frequency band we operate to change transmission bandwidths by 1 January 2013. This affects all railroads, many cities, fire departments, and anyone operating in our frequency band. We are not alone. We have known this was coming and have been consulting and acting already with a communications company specializing in railroad radio operations. Our operating license and newer radios have already been modified to the new standard.

Most of our radios, both museum and privately owned, though are older and cannot be modified to meet the new standards. The museum has budgeted for new radios and is getting ready to place an order no later than mid-June.

In an effort to offer our members an opportunity to buy a personal radio at the same time as the museum, the museum has obtained pricing for radios.

The museum will be purchasing Motorola CP200 4 channel radios complete with battery, charger, belt clip, ready to go for no more than \$375 each. We are actively pursuing more purchasing options we hope will result in a much lower price. Optional lapel speaker mikes, which are highly recommended, are available for an additional \$71 (maximum) or can be obtained later from several sources.

If you are interested, please contact Gray Lackey (NHVRy67@Triad.RR.com) ASAP for further information or acknowledgement.

## STARBUCKS COMING TO CHICAGO EL

### *Progressive Railroading*

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) will open the first-ever *Starbucks* on the El later this year at the North/Clybourn Red Line station. The addition of *Starbucks* marks the largest national retailer to lease a CTA-owned space. "The high customer traffic on the Red Line in addition to foot traffic near the Apple store is an attractive opportunity for any concession retailer and we are pleased Starbucks will be our latest tenant," said CTA President Forrest Claypool. CTA received a total of 32 bids for the 776 square-foot location. Annual rent for the first five years is projected at \$75,000, with 10% increases at year six and at the beginning of the first- and second-year options. The third and fourth option terms will be determined by appraisal. The Board's approval of the lease brings the total number of leased spaces across the transit system to eighty-nine.

## DURANGO & SILVERTON TAKES DELIVERY OF OBSERVATION CAR FEATURING UNIQUE TRUCKS

### *Progressive Railroading*

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad recently took delivery of a new observation rail car from Melcher Brothers, a heavy steel fabricator located in Durango, CO. Dubbed the *Knight Sky*, the 50-foot, 30-seat open car features a glass roof and fully covered observation ends. The car also is equipped with Timken roller bearing trucks fabricated by Melcher Brothers, a first for the railroad. The trucks will dramatically simplify maintenance and reduce rolling friction compared with the typical journal-box trucks used on other cars operated on the narrow gauge line. Minus the trucks, the car weighs 29,000 pounds. The Durango & Silverton is a scenic narrow gauge railroad operating 45 miles of track between Durango and Silverton, CO, running in the San Juan National Forest.

## HAMPTON ROADS TRANSIT REACHES 1 MILLION RIDES

### *Progressive Railroading*

In mid-April, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) marked 1 million rides on *The Tide* light-rail service. Virginia's first light-rail line, *The Tide* began operating in August 2011. Initial projections estimated ridership at about 2,900 average daily boardings, but today, *The Tide* averages about 4,900 daily boardings. The higher average helped the agency reach the 1 million mark about 150 days earlier than expected. "This threshold in less than a year of operation shows the strong support that light rail has in the region," HRT President and Chief Executive Officer William Harrell said.

### NS HERITAGE LOCOMOTIVE ROSTER *Railway Age*

NS has added the Monongahela Railway to the legacy railroads the company is honoring, bringing to twenty the number of predecessor roads to be so recognized. The locomotive will be a GE ES44AC. The NS heritage program will include a total of eighteen legacy railroads with nine locomotives in predecessor livery thus far: Central of Georgia Railway, Conrail, Interstate Railroad, Lehigh Valley Railroad, Nickel Plate Road, old Norfolk Southern Railway, Norfolk and Western Railway, Pennsylvania Railroad, and Southern Railway. All 20 are expected to be delivered by the end of June, when NS marks its 30th anniversary. These locomotives are now and will be operating on the NS system in revenue freight service.

### NCDOT REVIEWS BRIDGE AND CROSSING PROJECT *Progressive Railroading*

NCDOT held a public informational workshop on 24 April in McLeansville to review a rail safety improvement project. The proposed project calls for building a bridge over NCR and NS tracks on McLeansville Road; closing public grade crossings at Frieden Church and Carmon roads; and closing private crossings between McLeansville and Carmon roads, and providing alternate access. NCDOT expects to acquire right of way in 2013 and launch construction in 2014. The project will reduce the risk of vehicle and train collisions, improve safety for motorists and rail passengers, ease vehicle and train traffic congestion, and reduce train horn noise in McLeansville.

### NARP GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD *Progressive Railroading*

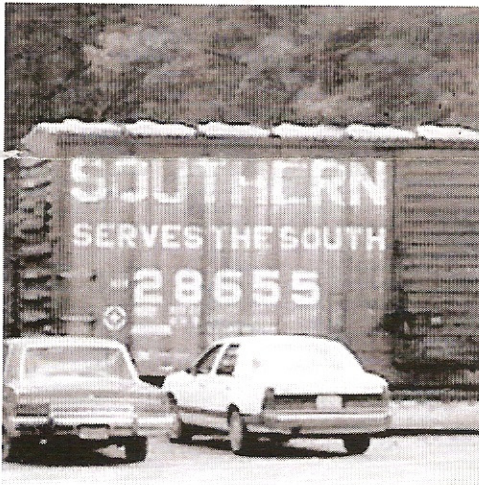
The National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) has presented Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA) with the Golden Spike Award for the congressman's "outstanding work in supporting intercity passenger rail, commuter rail and transit." NARP noted Meehan's effort as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and specifically the railroad subcommittee, to ensure the committee finds the "right balance between the pressing investment needs of US infrastructure and a tight fiscal environment." The association's Golden Spike Award honors individuals who support a fully developed passenger-rail network and demonstrate leadership in promoting rail development.

### RESURRECTION OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY BOXCAR 28655

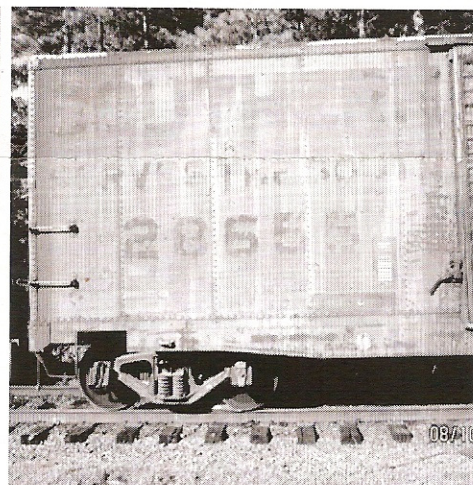
You have probably seen at least a few of the photos below before, but we thought we would put them all together this way so you can understand the progress made in the restoration of Southern Railway boxcar 28655 as it progressed over the last couple of years. The dates below each photo, except for the first and last, shown are "approximate" at best and some are simply wild guesses based upon when we received them. The point of this is not that level of accuracy but rather a demonstration of the process. Come on out to Bonsal and see for yourself. Bob Majors and his crew have done a really ***GREAT JOB!***

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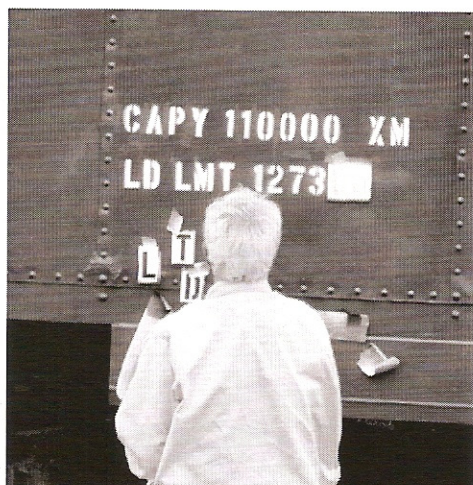
10 JUNE 2011



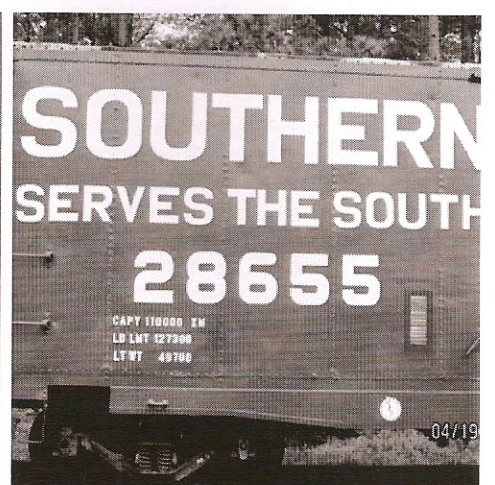
28 FEBRUARY 2012



11 APRIL 2012



18 APRIL 2012



19 APRIL 2012

## 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.

### USDOT UNVEILS NEW LOCOMOTIVE SAFETY RULE

#### *Progressive Railroadng*

USDOT has crafted a final locomotive safety rule aimed at eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens, facilitating the use of new technologies, and incorporating current best practices. To take effect 8 June, the final rule modernizes and streamlines the FRA safety regulatory program for locomotives by consolidating existing regulations and addressing technological advancements, USDOT officials said. Some provisions of the existing rule had not been updated the past 30 years, while many technologies, industry standards, and best practices continue to evolve, they said.

The rule addresses reliability and performance criteria for the design, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, and record keeping for various mechanical and electronic components, as well as certain safety appliances and control systems. Many of the rule's requirements are based on existing waivers granted by the FRA's safety board to address railroad or geographic specific conditions; the rule eliminates the need to complete a waiver process. For example, the rule requires new and remanufactured locomotives be equipped with a secure cab lock to prevent unauthorized intrusions and an air and heating cooling system inside the cab to control the climate.

"Ensuring that railroads operate and maintain locomotives safely is a cornerstone of federal rail safety oversight," said Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo. "We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Locomotive Safety Standards Working Group for providing valuable input across the board and reaching consensus on sev-

### AMTRAK RIDERSHIP GREW IN FIRST HALF FY2012

#### *Progressive Railroadng*

Amtrak is on pace to set another new annual ridership record based on passenger counts across its national network for the first six months of fiscal-year 2012. From October 2011 through March 2012, ridership rose 3.7% compared with the same period in the prior fiscal year. All routes registered growth in the first half, Amtrak officials said. Among the gains, the *Northeast Corridor's* (NEC) ridership rose 5.2%; long-distance train usage increased 3%; and ridership on state-supported and other short-distance routes climbed 2.7%. The ridership growth continues a long-term trend leading to eight records in the past nine years, including 30.2 million riders in FY2011. "Amtrak achieving ridership records is important, but it is more critical that the right infrastructure be in place to continue this trend in the years to come, and to provide safe, efficient and reliable rail transportation for all current and future passengers," said President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Boardman. NEC ridership is expected to increase significantly as population in the region grows, highway and airport congestion worsens, and gas prices continue to climb. Amtrak is working on the Gateway Program, a comprehensive, long-term plan to improve the NEC and expand high-speed rail service, such as by increasing tunnel, track and station capacity into New York City for intercity and commuter trains.

In the East, ridership during the first six months of FY2012 increased 8.2% on the *Northeast Regional* service between Washington and Boston; 4% on the *Keystone* service between New York City, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg; 9% on the *Ethan Allen* service between New York City and Rutland, VT; 5.5% on *The Adirondack* be-

### NCDOT TO GAUGE INTEREST IN GATEWAY STATION PROJECT

#### *Progressive Railroadng*

NCDOT and the City of Charlotte have issued a request for expressions of interest from developers with experience in urban mixed-use projects to partner on the proposed Gateway Station district development in uptown Charlotte. To be built near *Bank of America Stadium*, the development would serve as a central hub for Amtrak, Greyhound, Charlotte Area Transit System buses and streetcars, future North Corridor commuter-rail service, and Mecklenburg County's greenway system. "Gateway Station is designed to be Charlotte's Grand Central, a one-stop connection to all forms of transportation available in the Charlotte region," said Deputy Secretary for Transit Paul Morris.

tween New York City and Montreal; 3.6% on the *Empire Service* between New York City and Albany, NY; and 3.3% on *The Downeaster* between Boston and Portland, ME.

Virginia services posted sizable gains, with Washington-to-Lynchburg ridership up 27.4% and Washington-to-Newport News ridership up 16%. Also, passenger counts on the *Piedmont* service between Raleigh and Charlotte climbed 15.1%.

Meanwhile, in the West and Pacific Northwest, ridership continued to increase on the San Joaquin service between Sacramento, Oakland, and Bakersfield with 11.5% more riders registered during the six-month period. *Capitol Corridor* service between San Jose, Oakland, Sacramento, and Auburn posted a 6.7% gain, and Amtrak *Cascades* service between Vancouver, BC, Seattle, Portland and Eugene, OR, logged a 0.5% gain.

In the Midwest, the Chicago-St. Louis corridor served by *Lincoln Service* trains and the *Texas Eagle* reported a combined ridership gain of 10%. The highest percentage hike was in the Central US, where ridership on *The Heartland Flyer* between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth rose 10.6%.

### 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 2012 SCHEDULE

- 6 May - NHVRy Operating Day
- 18 May - NHVRy Group Day
- 17 May - NCRM Board Meeting
- 3 June - NHVRy Operating Day
- 15 June - NHVRy Group Day
- 21 June - NCRM Board Meeting
- 1 July - NHVRy Operating Day
- 20 July - NHVRy Group Day
- 19 July - NCRM Board Meeting
- 5 August - NHVRy Operating Day
- 16 August - NCRM Board Meeting
- 17 August - NHVRy Group Day
- 2 September - NHVRy Operating Day
- 20 September - NCRM Board Meeting
- 21 September - NHVRy Group Day
- 7 October - NHVRy Operating Day
- 18 October - NCRM Board Meeting
- 19 October - NHVRy Group Day
- 20 October - NHVRy Halloween Trains
- 27 October - NHVRy Halloween Trains
- 15 November - NCRM Board Meeting
- 16 November - NHVRy Group Day
- 1 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 2 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 8 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 9 December - NHVRy Santa Trains
- 20 December - NCRM Board Meeting

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

