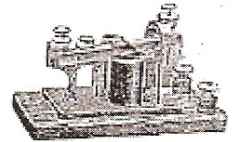


Tarheel Telegrapher



Volume 51 — Issue 1

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

1 January 2013

SANTA TRAINS ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS!

Take a look at the on the left photo below and you will see the main reason we do all we do at the *North Carolina Railway Museum* and on the *New Hope Valley Railway*. Only Santa could see the look in that little girl's eyes at that moment, but we have all seen similar expressions from



other children as we have gone about our jobs running **Our** railroad.

Operating the *Santa Trains*, other special events, and indeed our regular operations throughout the year takes a lot of work, but doing it brings a lot of satisfaction as well.

Look at the photo below this, and you will see the train all decorated for the holidays and rides with Santa. That does not happen by magic, although some of our volunteers seem to have a magic touch with all they do. Still, all of this takes plan-

ning and execution, and we are good at that as well. We are sure you saw it during your annual Christmas visit. You did come, right?

Want to see more dedication? Look at the photo on the right below. That is our Kevin Hooks and Jim Meade flanking Santa as his helpers aboard the train this year. They did a great job along with all our other volunteers to make this season of *Santa Trains* one of the most successful ever. Word is we carried record number of pas-



sengers this year, and that is always a good thing since we cannot do all this without the revenue received. Running even a small railroad is expensive!

We now begin the New Year of 2013 and with that in mind, the leadership of the NCRM (and your Editor) would like to wish you and yours all the best for this year and many more to come!



AMTRAK SETS THANKSGIVING RECORD *Progressive Railroading*

Amtrak's ridership and ticket revenue reached record highs during the Thanksgiving Day period, running from 20-26 November. Amtrak transported a record 737,537 riders, up 1.9%. In addition, on the day before Thanksgiving, Amtrak posted the single-busiest day in its history at 140,691 riders. Ticket revenue in the period soared 8.4% to a best-ever \$56.1 million. Amtrak served the same number of riders as a year ago in the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak accommodated additional riders by operating extra trains in the Northeast Corridor, Chicago hub, Pacific Northwest and California. Also, the railroad added capacity to many other trains in its forty-six state national network. In addition, Amtrak partnered with VIA Rail Canada Inc., which provided several rail cars to make additional seats available on Northeast Corridor trains and on the Albany-Montreal segment of the *Adirondack Service*.

FROSTY WAS THERE TOO!

We must not forget our good friend *Frosty the Snowman* was at Bonsel all through the four days of *Santa Trains* as well. The weather may have been a tad



warmer than he might like, but he did not let that dampen his spirits. *Frosty* spends his time at the Bonsel Depot, entertaining children of all ages between trains.

THANKS FOR THE HELP

We would like to issue a special thanks to Robert Middour and others for providing us with the photos you see here throughout the year. We could not do without them!

PAINTING THE TRIM

Last month we showed you a picture of the Bonsal Yard Office with its new coat of gray paint. We guess that looked rather dull so our volunteers have added dark green



trim to the colors. That is Dr. Bob Majors sprucing up the back door to the office. Thanks for the help, Bob!

**CSX DEEMS NC INDUSTRIAL AREA
A SELECT SITE**
Progressive Railroadng

CSX has designated Kingsboro Industrial Sites in Edgecombe County, NC, as the first recipient in the state to be chosen as a "Select Site." Through the Select Sites program, CSX reviews manufacturing and distribution development sites along its network able to use freight-rail service. The designation confirms standard land-use issues have been addressed and a site is ready for development. "Through Select Sites, we can provide increased speed to market and lower up-front development risk for companies seeking industrial property for manufacturing operations," said Clark Robertson, CSX's assistant vice president of regional development. CSX introduced the Select Sites program in January. The Class I partnered with site selection and certification consulting firm The Austin Co. to screen candidate sites, and assist communities with the application and certification process. CSX previously certified six other locations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and South Carolina as Select Sites.

LUNCH AT BONSAL

Lunch at Bonsal on workdays is a communal affair as you should see below. Everyone brings their own, and then gets to eat *alfresco* with all the other volunteers in the beautiful sunshine. This is a great time to meet your fellow members and share a few



railroad stories as well. Put on your work clothes, pack a lunch, and join them any Saturday, Sunday, or Wednesday. You will soon be hooked on the fun and become a regular.

TIE SEASON BEGINS

If you are wondering what we have left to do now we are done with the Operating Season for 2012, think of Tie Season! Yup, it is that time of year again. This is when we



clean up the line and replace worn cross-ties from Bonsal to New Hill. If you are interested in helping, we are sure Roadmaster Jim Meade will be eager to hear from

TIE PRODUCTION EXCEEDS PURCHASES
Progressive Railroadng

Crosstie production in October climbed 9.1% to 2.3 million units while purchases fell 7.7% to 1.8 million units compared with October 2011 levels, according to the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) latest monthly market report. Inventories rose 2.7% to 18.5 million ties. Production, exceeding purchases in eight of the past twelve months prior to October, again bested purchases, this time by a margin of 27%. Through 2012's first ten months, production jumped 14% to 21.7 million units and purchases rose 7.5% to 20.3 million compared with the same 2011 period. Meanwhile, twelve month rolling data showed production (at 25.4 million ties) continued a "long-winded climb" in October, reaching an "annual pace" of 14%, but purchases, having peaked in July, retreated to March-April levels (23.1 million ties), yet at a "still growing" 6%. Inventories in the twelve month rolling period climbed 14% and the inventory-to-sales ratio rose from 0.74 to 0.80. In September, the ratio stood at 0.77.

NCRM ANNUAL DINNER

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday - 19 January 2013

Time to get ready for still another special event in the NCRM and NHVRy calendar of events! The *Annual Dinner* (actually lunch) will be held:

Saturday

19 January 2013

11:00am to 3:00pm

The Loft

Anna's Restaurant

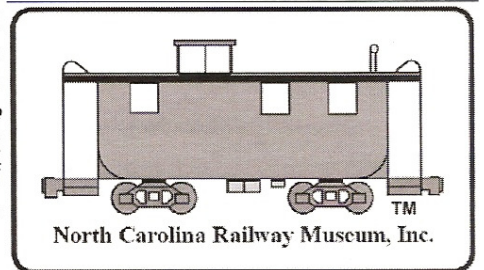
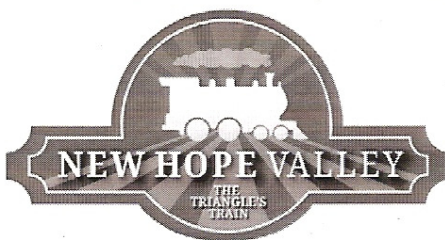
100 North Salem Street

Apex, NC 27502

Cost: \$12.00 per person

We have a full and formal announcement included along with this issue of the *Tarheel Telegrapher*. The cost shown is to cover lunch.

This will be another in our series of gatherings each year when we can just enjoy each other's company. Highlights of the day will include the usual informational sessions from our officers and department heads, induction of the next two members of the *Order of the Rusty Spike*, and a special guest speaker. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this important event. You never know who might show up!



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 Bonsel. All crew members are required to be aware of bulletins posted in the Book.

NCDOT LETS CONTRACT FOR FREIGHT-RAIL PROJECT *Progressive Railroading*

The NCDOT has awarded a \$10.9 million contract to Fred Smith Co. for a rail safety improvement project in Durham and Wake counties. The project calls for realigning 3.8 miles of North Carolina Railroad and Norfolk Southern tracks from north of Interstate 40 to McCrimmon Parkway, and building a railroad bridge over Hopson Road to accommodate the future widening of the road. In addition, two grade crossings will be closed. The project will bolster highway and railroad safety, and improve rail operations, NCDOT officials said. "Realigning the railroad tracks means trains are able to maintain a higher rate of speed, reducing travel time and improving reliability," they said. Work on the project is slated to begin as early as 31 December. The track portion is expected to wrap up by 31 August 2014, and roadway work should be finished by 1 July 2015. The contract is one of 22 awarded last month, totaling \$67.1 million, for highway and bridge projects in the state.

NORFOLK LIGHT-RAIL KEEPING CARS OFF ROADS *Progressive Railroading*

About 44% of the people using Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) *The Tide* would be driving their cars if the light-rail service did not exist, according to survey results. *The Tide* is also attracting a higher percentage of choice riders than local bus service. The results underscore the ability of light-rail transit to attract riders who have several travel choices each day. "In just over a year, light rail has demonstrated its importance to the commuting public," said William Harrell, HRT's president and CEO. "This critical investment in our transportation network will pay for years to come." About 45% of survey respondents are under 30 years old.

FRA TO ADDRESS HOURS-OF-SERVICE RECORDKEEPING AND ENGINEER CERTIFICATION AS PART OF USDOT INITIATIVE *Progressive Railroading*

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) has announced six new actions it plans to take to eliminate out-of-date or duplicative paperwork. The actions are in response to a presidential order issued in May 2012 instructing federal agencies to continually examine all existing rules and requirements to ensure they're necessary, streamlined and current. To be implemented across a wide range of transportation areas, the actions could reduce the amount of time spent on paperwork and reporting by more than 450,000 hours. Three of the actions involve the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

For one, the agency plans to allow some smaller freight and commuter railroads to use a simplified electronic record-keeping system for hours-of-service (HOS) records. The action would encourage a

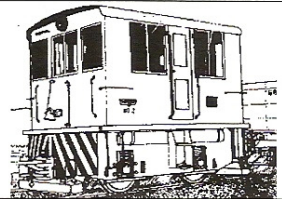
greater number of railroads to adopt electronic HOS recordkeeping systems and save small railroad operators more than 200,000 hours of paperwork.

The FRA also plans to revise HOS regulations to help small railroad operators who continue to use paper recordkeeping systems. The revision would enable those operators to manage their reports internally instead of submitting every report to the FRA, reducing the time required for each individual report by an estimated 30 minutes.

Under a third action, the FRA plans to revise regulations that would streamline the process for certifying locomotive engineers. The revisions would eliminate unnecessary redundancies by allowing engineers to use a single medical certificate for both the conductor and engineer certification processes.

CHARLOTTE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STREETCAR LINE *Progressive Railroading*

US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood joined city and local officials in Charlotte to break ground on the first phase of a \$37 million, ten mile streetcar line. The first one and a half mile section of the Charlotte Streetcar Line will include six stops along an east-west transit corridor making it easier for riders to board a local bus or LYNX light-rail train heading north and south from the Charlotte Transportation Center. "The streetcar project moves Charlotte a step closer to building a truly connected transit system that will enable commuters, students and visitors to travel seamlessly in and out of downtown," LaHood said. The project is being funded with \$25 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Urban Circulator Grant Program. The city is contributing \$12 million. Charlotte has benefited from federal investment in local transit in recent years. Since 2007, the US Department of Transportation committed \$797 million for the LYNX Blue Line light-rail project. The investment includes \$580 million announced in October to double the length of the Blue Line from uptown to the city's University of North Carolina-Charlotte campus, and an \$18 million grant announced in December 2011 through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program.



NCRM 2013 SCHEDULE

- 17 January - NCRM Board Meeting
 - 19 January - NCRM Annual Dinner
 - 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 Bonsel, NC unless otherwise noted.

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.

NORTH CAROLINA RAILWAY MUSEUM, INC.

NHV

New Hope Valley Railway

Tarheel Telegrapher

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