

Tarheel Telegrapher



Volume 50 — Issue 10

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1 October 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION—13 OCTOBER 2012

As is specified in the NCRM Bylaws, each year we elect three (3) members to the Board to serve as Directors for a term of three (3) years. These elections are held each year as part of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation at the October Membership

Meeting. A paper ballot has been provided to you as an insert to this issue of the *Tarheel Telegrapher*. Please use it to cast your vote as shown. Statements from the candidates for office are shown in the four boxes below:

Chris Boli (incumbent):

I have been a member for ten (10) years, serving on the Board as a Director for the past three years. I have campaigned to get the Board to set aside "untouchable" money for #17's 2017 service and will continue to campaign for advancement of the North Carolina Railway Museum, especially in the areas of the educational experience for visitors on operating and non-operating days.

Billy Brooks (incumbent):

I have been involved with the organization for almost thirty (30) years. I currently serve as Superintendent of the NHVR, and have been a professional railroader for seventeen (17) years. I take pride in taking time to help all of are volunteers become the safest railroaders possible.

Robert Connor:

I have been associated with nonprofit organizations other than the NCRM for the past thirteen (13) years in areas such as historical interpretation, historic artifact restoration and keeping the spirit of yesteryear alive. I have served on the board of another historical group as its Vice-Chair and oversaw a fundraiser to preserve Civil War artifacts. Additionally, I coordinated with several committees including recruiting, membership guidelines, and preservation projects. I would like to bring the experience and knowledge I've gained to the NCRM.

Robert Middour (incumbent):

I have been a member since 1986, and served on the Board of Directors, the By-Laws, Facilities Planning and Membership Committees. I have worked as brakeman, conductor, and infield coordinator during our train rides. Since I am now retired, I also work with the Wednesday Crew, serve on the Board of Directors, and currently chair the Membership Committee. During the past 26 years I have seen many positive changes for our organization. I would like your vote so we can continue to grow this organization for the future of those who love to visit and ride our trains.

MEMBERSHIP DAY LUNCHEON SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2012

On the Museum Membership Day, our neighbor Cindy Kerley is providing lunch for us at 1:00pm. This is her thank you gift to the museum, for building the very nice fence separating our properties.

She is providing hamburgers and hot-dogs and also making the coleslaw, baked beans, and potato salad. We are providing the chips and drinks. Members are encourage to provide the desserts.

Also on this day, at 9:00am we will hold a regular FRA-mandated Rules Class. If you are an operating crew member and have not taken this class in the past two (2) years, you are required to attend the class. This is an FRA regulation, and as such, no exemptions can made for any crew members not attending the Rules Class if they require recertification.

At 3:00pm we will hold the regular Quarterly Membership meeting and conduct the election of new Directors.

Plan to attend these activities and enjoy the day with your fellow museum members.

R.R. MORRISON ILL

R.R. Morrison, one of the founders of our group in Greenville, NC is in the hospital recovering from removal of a cancerous kidney. He was the long time editor of the *Tarheel Telegrapher*. Many of our current members may not know him, but he would get a great boost if everyone would take the time to send him a get well card. Just sign it with your name, and something like "one of your fellow railroaders at the North Carolina Railroad Museum" or whatever else you may think appropriate. Send your cards to:

R.R. Morrison
Apartment 432
4400 NW 39th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32606

NCDOT ALTERS GRADE SEPARATION PLANS

Progressive Railroading

NCDOT will not to proceed with design and construction of a grade separation at 24th Street in Kannapolis after considering local concerns and re-evaluating the project's budget. Instead, the department will conduct a study to determine the best location for the grade separation with the fewest effects on residents, business owners and the environment. The project would build a three-span bridge over NCRR and NS tracks. NCDOT initially planned to let a contract for the grade separation next year. Kannapolis city officials believe 22nd Street offers a more direct east-west connection.

USDOT AWARDS FUNDS

Progressive Railroading

The USDOT has awarded \$26.5 million to the NCDOT to improve reliability and reduce delays on lines impacting Amtrak service in eastern North Carolina. The improvements are targeted at infrastructure between Rocky Mount, NC, and Petersburg, VA, impacting service for the Amtrak Carolinian line operating New York City and Charlotte as well as long distance trains that run between New York City and Florida. The project will include installation of new track and ties, crossovers and signals to alleviate rail congestion in the area, and allow freight- and passenger-rail traffic to move more "fluidly," USDOT officials said.

CHARLOTTE RECEIVES \$18M FEDERAL GRANT

Progressive Railroading

The City of Charlotte has received \$18M to expand the LYNX Blue Line. The grant will increase capacity on the southern corridor of the Blue Line. "Expanding the capacity of our South Corridor line helps lay the foundation for the Blue Line extension and for other parts of our transit system, including the Red Line and streetcar," said Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx.

NON-RAIL EQUIPMENT

Most people have no idea how much it takes to run a railroad. The operating train is obvious, but we have all sorts of auxiliary and ancillary equipment as well to allow us to do all the other tasks necessary.



Take the seemingly simple task of keeping the grass mowed so it does not overtake the entire property and looks nice for visitors. That cannot be done with a locomotive, so we have acquired appropriate equipment to that job. One of the more recent acquisitions along that line is the "industrial grade" riding mower shown above. It makes short work of keeping the grounds neat and tidy, and now allows members bent upon joy-riding to perform some useful work at the same time. It could be fun once you are qualified.

BURRO CRANE PAINTED

Although you cannot see the lovely bright yellow color on the Burro Crane pictured below, rest assured in gleams in the sun almost as nicely as it did the day it left the factory.

The Burro Crane is one of those indispensable pieces of equipment we must have to keep the *New Hope Valley Railway* in top operating shape. We have other cranes with larger lifting capacities, but the sturdy, little, go-anywhere (almost) Burro is a workhorse for jobs out along the mainline and many tasks in the yard as well.

We thought it was time for this valuable piece of equipment to be treated to a fresh coat of paint. You can see the results in



full-color the next time you visit Bonsal, and with the holiday trains coming up, that is a great idea. See you there!

TANK CAR STENCILED

All the way up at the north end of our line sits a tank car. Most people passing probably think it is either abandoned or just acting as a sort of bumper to mark the end



of the line. They do not realize it serves an important function, holding 10,000 gallons of water for use by our steam locomotive or as a water-point for the *Apex Fire Department* as even might be necessary.

Recently, we thought it needed a new coat of paint and new lettering, so it was moved to Bonsal temporarily for that task to be completed, and above you see the many hands of our volunteers making light work of that.

The car is now back in place on station at the north end, ensuring steam runs do not get caught short of water and protecting the area in its duty for the fire department. Drive by on New Hill-Olive Chapel Road and have a look sometime.

STAYING IN INDIANAPOLIS

The next time you are in Indianapolis, you might want to consider staying at the *Crowne Plaza Hotel*. Not only is it built into part of Indianapolis Union Station, they have incorporated thirteen (13) passenger cars into the building. Each car is divided in half inside, making up the twenty-six (26)

suites offered by the hotel. Your Editor recently had the opportunity to do this, and found it a pleasurable experience. Unfortunately, one cannot watch the existing trains directly from the hotel, but they are just around the corner.

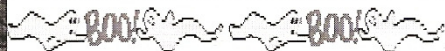


HALLOWEEN TRAINS ARE COMING!

The first 2012 NHVRy Halloween Train is only about twenty (20) days from now and the planning is already underway. The rides this year will bring back old favorite scenes and add two new ones: a Haunted House and a Mummy March. Also, a bottomless mine shaft will be added to the area leading up to the rides.

We are always looking for people to assist with set up and tear down, plus assorted witches, grave robbers, vampires, monsters, etc. The goal, as always, is to give the public the best experience we can, keep them coming back for more, and bring new friends and neighbors with them. If you are willing to help in any manner, please contact:

SHANNON CURTIN - CHIEF GHOUL
 CELL - 919-671-1093
 EMAIL - MOUSEWARE7@AOL.COM



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.

FULL FUNDING OF RALEIGH STATION

Progressive Railroading

FRA, State, and City of Raleigh officials marked the full funding of a \$60 million project to build Union Station in Raleigh, NC. About \$15 million from North Carolina's \$545 million in federal stimulus funds will be used for the project, as well as \$466,000 in federal dollars and a \$250,000 match from both the city and state. In June, a \$21 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery IV grant was announced for the project. The city also is working with the FRA, NCDOT and Triangle Transit Authority. The city also has partnered with NS, Amtrak and the NCRR. State officials anticipate project design will begin in January 2013 and construction will be completed in January 2017. The existing Raleigh station served nearly 200,000 riders in 2011, a 17% increase compared with 2010. The year-over-year gain is expected to be even higher in 2012. Station usage far exceeds its waiting area and parking capacity, therefore preventing growth in passengers and revenue across the state.

BEALL NOMINATED AS AMTRAK DIRECTOR

Progressive Railroading

President Barack Obama nominated Christopher Beall to serve on Amtrak's board. He is a partner at Highstar Capital LP, an infrastructure investment firm specializing in the transportation, environmental services and energy sectors. From 2003 to 2004, Beall served as chief financial officer for Asian Group where he directed capital and human resource optimization efforts, and oversaw the company's entry into the environmental services business. Prior to joining Asian, Beall was an associate in the Global Natural Resources division of Lehman Brothers Inc.



NS CONDUCTOR SHOT HIMSELF

By Kate Coil - Bluefield Daily Telegraph

Grundy, VA - A Norfolk Southern locomotive conductor, who reported an unknown assailant had shot him, may now be facing charges in Buchanan County. Charges of giving false information to a police officer during a criminal investigation are pending against Mark D. Jarrell, 41, of Canada, KY, after he claimed he was shot on Sept. 20 by an unknown assailant in the Weller Yard near Hurley, VA. Sheriff Ray Foster said Jarrell later admitted to investigators the gunshot wound was accidentally self-inflicted. "He talked to our investigators after he was released from the hospital," Foster said. "We had evidence and when this evidence was presented to him he admitted the gunshot was self-inflicted. He did not say why he originally claimed someone else had shot him."

According to Foster, Jarrell did not indicate why he had shot himself. Foster said the investigation into the shooting continues. "There are other charges that may be pending as well," Foster said. "We will be consulting with the Commonwealth's Attorney. A lot depends on the results of the investigation."

Foster said officers had prepared for the worst when they were dispatched to the shooting scene. He said a similar shooting incident in March 2011 cost the lives of two Buchanan County deputies and severely injured two others. "The last time we received reports of shots fired from an unknown assailant was last year, and we lost

two very good men," Foster said. "Our officers were not sure if they were going into something like that again. People do not realize the seriousness of these situations sometimes." Foster said he would like to thank the community for their support and patience during the investigation.

Robin Chapman, a spokesperson with Norfolk Southern, said the company was cooperating with law enforcement and any charges would come from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office not the Norfolk Southern Police. "We will be doing an investigation in conjunction with the sheriff's department," Chapman said. "We are doing whatever we can to cooperate with law enforcement. Mr. Jarrell is still presently employed with Norfolk Southern. I cannot speak to any disciplinary action as that is a private matter between the company and Mr. Jarrell."

Jarrell was taken to Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, TN, where he was treated and released for his injuries. A Norfolk Southern spokesperson previously told the Daily Telegraph Jarrell was finishing separating three locomotives from a train when the shooting occurred. The Buchanan County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Response team conducted a sweep of the area but was unable to locate any assailant immediately after Jarrell was transported to the hospital. The Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and members of the Norfolk Southern Police continued searching the area for the gunman throughout the night. The Hurley High School and the Hurley Elementary-Middle School Complex were closed the following day as a precautionary measure.

SRAMEK TO RETIRE

Progressive Railroading

Operation Lifesaver Inc. announced Helen Sramek, the organization's president, will retire on 1 November. A search is under way to find her successor. OLI officials lauded her contributions to the organization. During her tenure as OLI's leader, Sramek helped:

- Develop "ProDriver Challenge," an interactive online tool that teaches professional truck drivers safe driving behaviors at grade crossings;
- Raise awareness of distractive behaviors that cause crossing and pedestrian incidents;
- Introduce new technologies to reach younger audiences and strengthen the role of community-based volunteers;
- Streamline organizational processes and procedures to expedite the development of new outreach materials; and
- Implement a national online database used by volunteers and trainers to track presentations and more effectively target activities in each state.

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

7 October	- NHVRy Operating Day
13 October	- NHVRy Rules Class
13 October	- Membership Meeting
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.