

Carolina Conductor



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Monthly Newsletter of the Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.

August 2014

**Preserving the Past.
Active in the Present.
Planning for the Future.**

Meeting Site:

Woodmen of the World
721 East Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29651-6404
Third Friday of the Month at 7:00 pm

Hub City Railroad Museum:

Magnolia Street Station
298 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29301-2330

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B&O Railroad Museum announces the transfer of Chesapeake & Ohio #1309 steam locomotive to Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for restoration and operation.

The B&O Museum of Baltimore, MD, Western Maryland Scenic Railroad and WMSR Foundation are going full steam ahead with even more exciting news of rail preservation! The transfer of C&O steam locomotive 1309 (2-6-6-2) to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad of Cumberland,



Courtesy of the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society

MD will be an incredible milestone for steam operations in the USA! With this transfer, the B&O Railroad Museum and Western Maryland Scenic Railroad will be preserving steam locomotive history for generations to come. As one of the largest steam locomotives in the USA, this locomotive will be restored to its former glory and will be in operation on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. The Baldwin Locomotive Works built #1309 in September of 1949 as its last commercially built steam locomotive for use by a railroad in the USA.

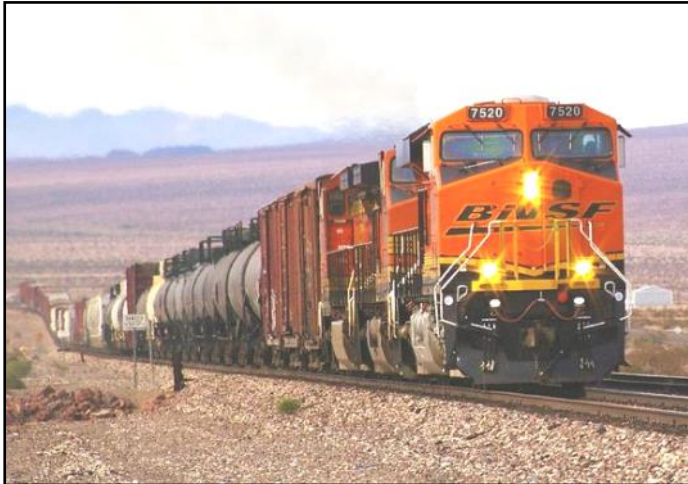
C&O steam locomotive #1309 arrived at the B&O Museum in 1972 and has been preserved and displayed for generations of families to en-

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Arrivals

LNG Could Save Railroads Billions of Dollars

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and CSX Corporation are betting on liquefied natural gas.



In 2012, the seven largest freight railroad companies spent \$11 billion to guzzle more than 3.6 billion gallons of diesel fuel. But new government projections point to massive savings if corporations like BNSF Railway and CSX Corporation can make the switch from diesel to LNG.

Here's what you need to know. LNG is in. Ever since steam engines went by the wayside in the 1940s and 1950s, diesel has been the freight train fuel of choice. So much so, that current freight rail consumption accounts for a whopping 7% of all diesel fuel consumption - and it's not hard to see why. Diesel is readily available, cheaper than most alternative fuels, and prices have proved relatively predictable over the past decades.

But booming natural-gas production is paving the way for a cheap competitor: liquefied natural gas (LNG). According to new projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), LNG could account for up to 95% of freight rail fuel consumption by 2040 - an astronomically larger amount than its current near-zero percentage.

According to the EIA, the expected difference in costs between diesel and LNG are more than enough to offset the approximately \$1 million in additional costs for building and running a LNG locomotive. Even in the EIA's "Low Rail LNG" case, the new fuel will still account for 16% of total freight consumption by 2040.

And for those worried that the increase in LNG demand might ironically push prices higher and dump diesel back in the competition, the EIA also notes that even if 95% of freight trains switched to LNG, the overall demand effect on natural gas would clock in at less than 1%.

Blue Ridge Southern Railroad

The **Blue Ridge Southern Railroad** (reporting mark **BLU**) is a Class III shortline railroad operating over 91.8 miles (147.7 kilometers) of track in Western North Carolina.



Photo: Tom Watson ©2014

The railroad is owned by Watco of Pittsburg, Kansas and operates three lines that connect in the Asheville area that were previously owned by Norfolk Southern. The railroad is based out of Canton, NC and utilizes 10 locomotives. Operations began on 26 July 2014. www.watcocompanies.com

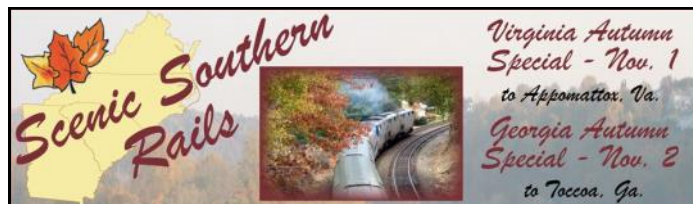
Greenville & Western Gets Two More GP-30 Locomotives

The ATSF performed the GP-30u upgrade in its own Cleburne, Texas shops, stripping the locomotives down to bare metal and rebuilding with new equipment. The 567D3 engines were upgraded to a 2500 horsepower rating by the use of 645-series power assemblies. The generators and traction motors were upgraded and control and electrical equipment was replaced. The trucks received Hyatt roller bearings and single-clasp brake systems. Rooftop air conditioners and new horns were added.



GRLW units, 4203 and 4204, at the Belton yard.

Departures



The Virginia Autumn Special Appomattox, Va. – Saturday, Nov. 1st

Civil War history will be all around for those traveling to Appomattox, Va. Nov. 1. Departing from the museum grounds in Spencer with additional passenger pick-up in Greensboro, passengers will arrive in one of the nation's most historic towns around noon.

Passengers will disembark at the restored Appomattox Station, once a stop for the South Side Railroad in the late 1800's and now home to the Appomattox Visitor Information Center. This charming small town holds claim to one of the most significant moments in U.S. History -- the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to end the Civil War and reunited a divided nation.

Virginia Autumn Special passengers can enjoy the historic shops and restaurants of Appomattox's quaint downtown, or, for a nominal additional fee, explore either the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, or the Museum of the Confederacy's newly-opened Appomattox site.

The Georgia Autumn Special Toccoa, Ga. – Sunday, Nov. 2nd

The CRHA will be again participating with a stop at the Spartanburg depot for loading and unloading of passengers.

The Georgia Autumn Special will depart from Spencer, N.C., with additional passenger pick up at the Spartanburg Amtrak Station. Nestled into the foothills of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the historic town will be bustling with activity during the 38th annual Harvest Festival. Passengers will have approximately three hours to enjoy the festival, which features handmade, handcrafted and home-grown items from more than 200 vendors, as well as delicious regional foods, great entertainment on two stages, children and youth activities, buggy rides and much more.

Toccoa Falls, named for the Cherokee word "Toccoah" meaning beautiful, is a must see. Located on the campus of Toccoa College, the 186-foot falls are 26 feet taller than Niagara Falls.

TVRM Railfest

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is inviting you to our 53rd Anniversary celebration, *Tennessee Valley Railfest*, September 6 & 7, 2014. The Tennessee Valley Railroad Mu-

seum is the largest operating historical museum in the Southeast and a must visit this summer during *Railfest*.

A ticket to the *Tennessee Valley Railfest* features *Missionary Ridge Local* train rides, live musical entertainment, demonstrations, petting zoo, children's activities, and plenty of food. There are activities for all ages and unique gifts to purchase for your favorite train enthusiast.

A *Railfest* version of the *Chickamauga Turn* excursion will operate on Saturday to Chickamauga, Georgia, and return. Purchase of a ticket on this trip will give access to the entire *Railfest* event. On Saturday evening, our weekly *Dinner on the Diner* train will run.



What is *Railfest*? It is a great opportunity to visit the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and see the railroad history which has been preserved over the last 53 years! Trains will be running throughout each day: *Missionary Ridge Local* and other special excursions. Special exhibits and displays highlight *Railfest*! Visit during *Railfest* and enjoy equipment not normally open for inspection, operating model railroads, magic shows, live music, moon walk, coloring pages, play tables, petting zoo, pony rides, blacksmith demonstrations, and more.

North Platte Railfest

The heritage of the men and women of the Union Pacific Railroad has long been a catalyst in moving North Platte forward. For the last 150 years, the Union Pacific Railroad employees in North Platte have contributed to the building of our city and our community.

Nothing symbolizes 'Railroading' more than the sound of steam powered locomotives. "Live Steam" is the hallmark of railroad history and heritage. It symbolizes the strength and the importance of days gone by. Steam was the power that transformed our nation. Updates will follow as to which steam powered giant will be visiting Rail Fest 2014.

A tour of Bailey Yard is the ultimate railfan experience. An opportunity to see the scale and the efficiencies involved in processing over 150 trains and 10,000 railcars a day. There is only one place in the world this happens, and it's Bailey Yard.



Rare Mileage



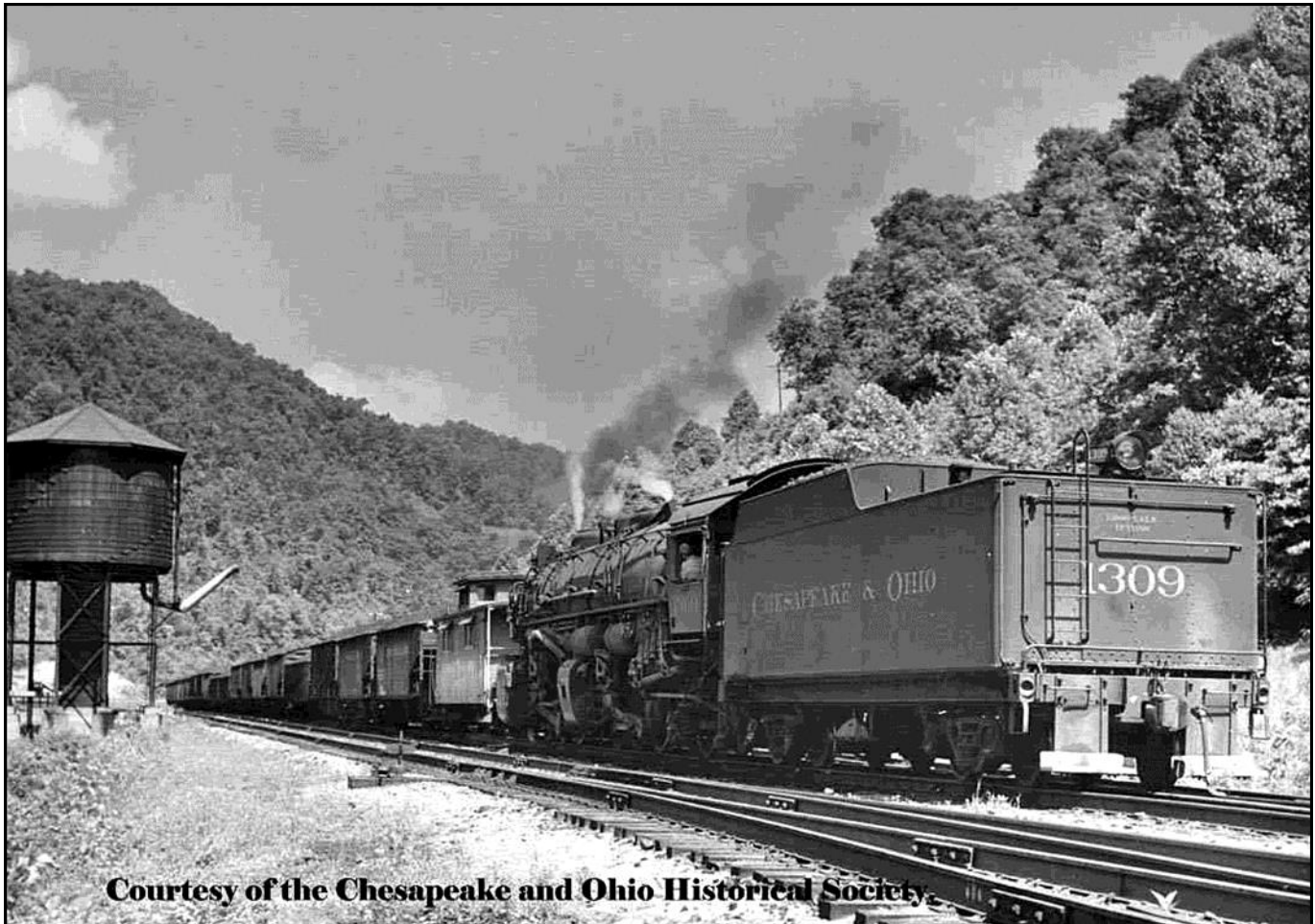
Southern Railway locomotive #4501, a 2-8-2 Mikado type, on a fan trip in Tennessee.



Piedmont and Northern #2102 at the Spartanburg depot

Manifest

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joy. Today, May 6, 2014 at 1:09 pm Western Maryland Scenic Railroad announced the transfer of #1309 for restoration and operation.

Courtney B. Wilson, Director of the B&O Railroad Museum said "This historic agreement is a win-win for railroad preservation. It ensures the long-term preservation and restoration of an important steam locomotive which is central to our mission."

Mark Farris, President of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Board of Directors said, "With the full support of the Board of Directors, the continued efforts of the executive directors, staff and employees of the WMSR have allowed for the growth and prosperity of our wonderful tourist attraction in Western Maryland. These efforts have provided the resources to give the WMSR the opportunity to acquire locomotive 1309, restore it, and place it back into service in a wonderful mountainous setting where thousands of people can enjoy the sights and sounds of a bygone-era."

The locomotive has been moved to the B&O Railroad Museum's restoration facility in preparation for shipment to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad shops. Once this is complete, the locomotive will travel by rail on specialized flat cars pulled by CSX.

Don't miss out on this incredible historic venture unfolding at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad in Cumberland, MD. Make sure you join the WMSR Foundation and are following our Facebook page for all of the most up to date info. If you would like to donate to the restoration of C&O #1309 you may contact the WMSR rail preservation group, WMSR Foundation, the where you can join, volunteer and donate to rail preservation projects. For more information go to our website or call 301-759-4400 Ext 130 or 800 TRAIN50 Ext 130. Enjoy the history at Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.



Marker Lights



Refrigerator Magnets at the Hub City Railroad Museum!

The pictures on this page are just a sample of the new refrigerator magnets being sold in the gift shops at the museum and caboose. Stop by sometime to inspect the complete collection. The magnets are nominally 3.75" x 2.5" in size and sell for \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. Proceeds go to the support of the ongoing operations of the museum and caboose.



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CAROLINA CONDUCTOR



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