

The Highball

The monthly newsletter of the Old Dominion Chapter
National Railway Historical Society

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October 2010



Photos by Kim Young of "The Rebel" taken at Hallsboro Yard. Thanks for sharing.

ODC CHAPTER OCTOBER MEETING

Time & Location: Monday, October 18, 7:30 PM

Richmond Railroad Museum

102 Hull Street Road, Richmond

Program: "Short Line Railroad Slide Show"

ODC member Randy Ridgely will present a slide show on "Short Line Railroads" over a three decade period. The first section will include a rail safari in the 1980's around the South, including some lines that no longer exist. The second section will feature a currently operating short line that's been around for more than a century. Please make a special effort to attend, bring a friend and enjoy our Chapter fellowship. Refreshments available.

AUTUMN LEAF RAMBLER TRIPS by Marsha Cox

Autumn Leaf Rambler Trips – October 9, 16 & 23, 2010 – 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – Dillwyn, Virginia!!! We're on the way to another great month of Fall trips. October 9 and 23 @ 9:30 a.m. have not sold out yet, but there's always hope!! Let me know if you would like to car host. We can always use a new face...it's a nice opportunity to ride and help passengers...come for half or all day. No experience necessary—will train!

All Santa trips are sold out!!!!

Many thanks to Sam Williamson for handling nearly all aspects of ticket sales. It's a big job. Sam has decided to retire...so we need a new ticket agent. We hope to have some sort of on-line booking tool available by spring for ticket sales.

See you on the Autumn Leaf Rambler!!

Photos by Kim Young of Autumn Leaf Rambler trips taken on October 9. Thanks, Kim.



*Above photos—going round the bend; on the rail bridge over the James River
Below photos—passengers getting in line for the ALL ABOARD CALL! Riding on the “Moo” car.*



Another photo of “Moo” car; 2nd photo—Tom Mix Cowboys in Action



OLD DOMINION CHAPTER, NRHS
Autumn Leaf Rambler Food Service Report
October 9, 2010
By Tom Hardesty

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$779.25	Total Cash
<u>380.00</u>	Less Start Up Till
399.25	Gross Sales
<u>131.75</u>	Less Cost of Goods Sold
267.50	Profit
<u>137.74</u>	Less Expenses
129.76	Net Profit Before Sales Tax
<u>19.96</u>	Less Sales Tax
<u>27.90</u>	Total Donations
\$137.70	NET INCOME

STAFFING—Jesse Bryant, Miranda Bryant, Jan Trainum, Marge Hardesty, Tom Hardesty

A big thank you goes to all our food service volunteers who did a great job their first time out. Without their help, Marge and I could not have pulled this off. Also thanks goes to Randy Ridgely for helping Ned out with souvenir sales.

Next week should do much better, as the only expenses should be ice (which was \$37.17 this week) and the train is sold out. Still, it wasn't the worst sales I have records for (that was spring of 2006 when we first went to microwave foods). Our biggest sellers were 45 bottles of bottled water (for the 84 degree heat) and 43 candy bars.

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Membership Chair Report by Nelson Burks

All 2010 memberships expire on December 31. Renewal forms for 2011 are scheduled to be mailed by National the week of October 3. Renewals should be submitted before the end of the year. As always, you should return your renewals to the Old Dominion Chapter mail box, as indicted on the form. For those making a donation to the chapter, please check that box on the form and, if you want to designate the donation for a specific purpose, please enclose the following form or write the information on your renewal card. Note that those new members who joined in September are already 2011 members and will not need to renew until this time next year.

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Please allocate my contribution to the Old Dominion Chapter as follows:

Archives and Library	\$____.00
General Fund	\$____.00
Hallsboro Yard and Rolling Stock	\$____.00
The <i>Highball</i> , Programs and Meetings	\$____.00
The Museum Renovation Capitol Fund	\$____.00
Other: _____	\$____.00
TOTAL	\$____.00

Please enclose this sheet with your dues payment and write the total amount shown above on the "Chapter Donation" line on the renewal form.

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ANNUAL RICHMOND AREA MUSEUM SHOPPERS FAIR

The annual Richmond Museum stores "Shoppers Fair" will be held this November 4-6 at the Virginia Historical Society. This represents an important museum sales opportunity for the ODC. All museum members (including ODC members) will have a preopening reception including a 10% discount on purchases made from any museum store that participates on Thursday evening, November 4, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. The Shoppers Fair offers Richmonders a chance to browse in one location all the Richmond area museum gift shops that participate and buy early Christmas gifts, etc. In addition to members only night on Thursday, November 4; the Shoppers Fair will be open to the public on Friday, November 5, and Saturday, November 6, from 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

We are restocking our Main Street Station ornament in brass. AND, hopefully, we will have our new Triple Crossing ornament in brass here in time for the Shoppers Fair!

In order to make this event successful (and profitable) for our chapter, I am going to need lots of help during the Shoppers Fair Weekend. We will need at least 3 people working in our booth when the Shoppers Fair is open. If you can help please call me or email me, Sue Rasmussen: 804-282-7852 (home), 804-339-4313 (cell), srasmussen@liphartsteel.com (work email)

Thanks!
Sue Rasmussen
Gift Shop Manager

Hull Street Station Report by Bob Dickinson

The contractor (Spacemakers) has just about finished the first phase of the building renovation. Presently they are working on completing the "punch list". What is a "punch list" you ask? It is a list of items such as touch-up painting, adjusting doors, etc. that the architect and building inspector has given the contractor to complete before they consider the job complete. At some point when we have received the final inspection and the Zoning inspection we will then receive our occupancy permit and will be able to open the building to the public.

What about the front room that was not completed? The committee recently met with the architect and reviewed the proposal submitted by the contractor to complete that room. It is anticipated that work will be underway on the room as the *Highball* goes to press. We are planning to use the room for an operating model train layout.

On September 21st the City of Richmond, department of public works utilized the freight section of the building to host a meeting to provide information about the engineering study being conducted on the Mayo Bridge. The study is expected to take about 16 months and will recommend to the city if renovations are appropriate or if replacement is necessary for the bridge. The Mayo Bridge was built around 1911 and was designed to carry streetcar, automobile, and other traffic. (Please see Carlton McKenney's book *Rails in Richmond*.. It has pictures of the bridge with streetcars!) There were around 40 attendees at the meeting. Based on that number and the space that was available the freight room should have no trouble handling a hundred or more!

The big question – **WHEN WILL THE MUSEUM OPEN?**

We still have some items to do yet. We need to move the fence along the track so we can mark the cobblestones and install signs for the parking areas. (Required for the zoning inspection.) We need to unload and move the container which cannot be done until the model railroad equipment is unloaded which will not happen until the front room is complete. And we need to do cobblestone replacement at several locations on the parking lot and driveway.

As soon as the building is officially turned over to us we can start outfitting the gift shop and other rooms to make them ready for the displays and exhibits. Most of the members working on the station are also involved working on trips and other functions so not a lot of this will get done during October. If you would like to help with some aspect of the museum please let someone on the museum or the gift shop committee know.

ODC CAR HOSTS FOR “FIELD DAY OF THE PAST” 2010

By Steve Tarrant

To all of you who served aboard the “Mt. Foraker” (sister to our own ex-“Mt. Angeles” DINWIDDIE COUNTY) and the coupled RF&P wooden caboose #918 on September 17, 18, or 19—

THANK YOU!

This was our 9th year of doing this. Without our railway historical knowledge and experience, the volunteer members of the Field Day organization [the Rockville-Centerville Historical Steam & Gas Association, a 501.c(3) nonprofit group like ours] would be unable to show people why this once-common example of well-done travel is so important now.

Those who served on board, and who had a very good time doing so, were: Francis Bare, Doug Bishop, Calvin Boles, Mike Bonner, Nelson Burks, Frank Deane, Ned Krack, Brandy Martin, Bob Stevens, Evelyn Taylor, Bob Timmins (co-chairman of our crew), Bill Todd, Tim Torrez, and me. Several served more than one shift, which extremely helpful.

The weather was clear, breezy, and very warm, and attendance was high. “Mt. Foraker” is the only air-conditioned exhibit on the entire 50+ acres, which helps us spread the good word about the excellent of past railway travel that should serve as a minimum standard of comparison for future railway passenger service proposals.

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Below photos—Ford tractor we sold to the Chapter, our N&W motor car—now part of the N&W Historical Museum in Roanoke; Hank on one of the trips in the 80’s.



Henry C. Staples, Jr.--Hank Staples – My Man (1929 – 2010)

By Betty Staples (His Wife) (note: this is written from a woman’s point of view).

By profession, Hank was an accountant. He was excellent in his trade and used his unusual talent of math in all the volunteer groups of which he was a member. Hank had a strong belief if one is a member of an association or group, he should give of himself in some way. For years he was the treasurer of the ODC Chapter; he served on the Board of Directors; hosted on most all train trips; worked at the Museum bringing our equipment to do heavy work; but his passion was working on the train equipment at Hallsboro and also at Dillwyn. In fact, the day he was critically injured from a rocking chair, Hank had been in Dillwyn working on the railroad cars for an upcoming trip. When he could no longer participate physically, we decided we would become co-editors of the HIGHBALL. It has been a pure joy to do the HIGHBALL, but I am retiring with the November issue. We have had it for 10 ½ years. Hank was injured in 1999.

First, let me say, the ODC Chapter members have been absolutely wonderful to us over the years since his accident. Back in the 80’s and 90’s, every Saturday, Hank was on the road somewhere involving trains, whether it was riding, working, chasing—you name it. I became a train widow (so to speak). I told him, he and I needed to spend some time together on a date. He said, OK—come join me with the trains!! So I did—at least I was with him. The next thing I knew I was hooked too—so off we would go to where the train action was. I would talk to the people, and Hank would be involved checking out the train situations. It was so super. We hosted on many, many train trips; the walls in our home are covered with O. Winston Link photos, and other handsome paintings of locomotives. The night Hank died, our son called and said he was riding Amtrak to Richmond. I said I will pick you up. I knew Amtrak was the place for me to go because that is where I could always find a friend. Indeed, yes!! What a blessing!! Alfred and his friend Mary were at Amtrak and for me it is just what the doctor ordered.

I was so comforted; knowing the world of trains was now also my passion! Thanks, Hank!