



# The Highball



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
of the

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OLD DOMINION CHAPTER

Volume 58

November 2018

Number 12

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual whose byline appears on the article and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Old Dominion Chapter – NRHS.

---

## Chapter Meeting

Bill Todd

On October 19 at 7 pm at the museum. Richard Todd will present the program entitled **Richmond - my first 4 years. A look at both CSX and NS from September 2014 to present.** Refreshments will be served, so come and bring a friend.

---

## Notice of Annual Meeting

Ned Krack

**Official Notice:** Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS. The meeting will be held on Monday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Richmond Railroad Museum prior to the normal November Chapter meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year and vote on any other business that may come before the meeting.

Five seats are up for election, three for a one-year term and two for a three-year term ending in 2021.

The members selected by the nominating committee to run for election are as follows:

One Year term ending in 2019: Steve Tarrant, Carl Steiner, and John DeMajo

Three year term ending in 2021: Calvin Boles and Tim Torrez

All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ned Krack, Secretary / Treasurer at 804-239-4067 or nedrdgfan@msn.com.

---

## October Archives Photo

Charles Curley

N&W class K1 4-8-2 #114 is taking water at Phoebe VA in the 1950's. while handling a local freight. Phoebe was the location east of Lynchburg where the main line which ran through downtown Lynchburg met the Lynchburg Belt Line. The main line and the Belt Line came back together just to the west of Lynchburg at Forest. Photo by Evan Siler.



---

## 2019 Memberships

Kim Young

The 2019 membership form is included in this issue. There will be one major change to the procedures this year. A recent audit of the roster has shown that some information is outdated or just plain wrong. Therefore, ALL payments for 2019 MUST be accompanied by a renewal form. This will be made available at the museum. If you plan to pay cash at a meeting, which is fine, please bring a completed form with you or plan for time to fill one out on meeting night. Leaving same for me in the membership box will work as well. For those of you who receive **The Highball** by snail mail, this MUST be completed by 1/1/19 in order to continue that.

---

## Gift Shop Promotion

Greg Hodges

During the months of Oct, Nov, and Dec a free TEE SHIRT promotion will be in effect for those folks who volunteer to host on a Saturday or Sunday at the Richmond Railroad Museum. A person can select a railroad tee shirt (adult or child) of their choice from the gift shop rack if they volunteer at least two (2) days during a calendar month. One can potentially garner three shirts during this three-month promotional period by volunteering at least twice during each calendar month. Whether you claim one, two, or three shirts, here's an easy way to expand your railroading wardrobe. Never hosted before? It's a snap. Just be willing to welcome our visitors with a smile and escort them about the premises to the various exhibits and displays. No extensive RR knowledge is required!

To sign up, just contact Ned Krack (NEDRDGFAN@msn.com) (804 239-4067) or Greg Hodges (junehodges@verizon.net) (804 376-7979) ..... we'll get you on the schedule. All aboard!

---

## Museum Report

Bob Dickinson

Visitors: 172 (2122 year to date)

Donations: \$90

Volunteer hours 207

Gift Shop sales: \$493.51

Tour October 20th: 20

Chapter meeting: 22

Thanks to all that volunteered at the museum during October – some doing double and triple duty due to the BB trips! Still need hosts – especially a few new “faces” to work in the gift shop. Contact Ned Krack or Greg Hodges if you can help. Upgrades – we are working on several upgrades to the museum. The first is installation of an intrusion alarm system. If you need access, please contact Calvin Boles so he can make sure you have an entry code and know how to operate the system. We are also working to replace the exterior door that was damaged during the break-in that occurred in September. There are still a few “dark spots” at night on some parts of the outside of the building that will be eliminated. Planning is now being done for upgrading the electrical system in the freight room to provide

additional outlets for the displays so extension cords and outlet strips can be eliminated. A “master” switch to turn everything on and off is to be included along with additional outlets both inside and outside to provide power for future security cameras. Door hardware on several doors in the building to be either repaired satisfactory or be replaced. Some new shelving has been installed in the ex RF&P #185 baggage – express car. This shelving will be better suited to hold “local” books relating to history of railroads in the Richmond and Virginia area.

---

## From the Gift Shop

Greg Hodges

The museum gift shop has recently stocked several Christmas items that might be of interest to members. We now have a colorful 'garden type' flag with a jolly St Nick standing in front of a steam locomotive. There is also a metal caboose photo holder with room for 2 children's snapshots on its side. Additionally, there are some hanging tree ornaments, including a flashing, LED-style , with battery included. . Due to the seasonal nature of these items, they will not be reordered when gone.

Our friend, Larry Simpkins, has donated a couple of boxes of British Railroad magazines that are available to members at no charge. These magazines are of excellent quality and give a taste of railroading 'across the pond'. All of these items can be found in the gift shop.....visit the shop soon.

---

## Trip Reports

Ned Krack Photos: 10/13 & 10/20 Kim Young, 10/27 Carrie Brown

10/13

9:30 a.m. trip

Sold = 203 Includes three trackside sales

Pulled = 183 - includes the trackside sales and tickets from the October 27 trips

Operational issues – None

1:30 p.m. trip

Sold = 201

Pulled = 181

Operational issues – Those in the commissary car noticed a rough spot in the track west of MP 16.0.

Also, the generator on car 706 suffered overheating issues just before the conclusion of the afternoon trip

Food Service

\$536.25 Gross sales

\$302.80 net income before donations

Souvenir sales

\$686.49 gross sales

\$308.92 net income

Donations = \$26.60

BB Crew – Bernard Patterson (Engineer) and Adam Carter (Conductor)

ODC Trainmaster – Fred Terry

ODC Trip Director – Dave Coldren

Car 706 - Kim Young, Richard Todd (AM) and Tim Torrez (PM)

Moo 1 – Marge Todd (AM) and David Coldren

Food Service – Tom Hardesty and Marge Hardesty

Souvenirs – Ned Krack

Moo 2 – Chuck Taylor and Alexia Campbell

Car 1006 – Laird Ramsey and Bev Karangelen

Announcer – John Estes

Parking – Bob Dickinson, Jonah Collins

Mechanical - Devin Gray

Steve Powell, President of the Buckingham Branch, was aboard the outbound portion of the morning trip. He drove back to the station to take part in the 25 anniversary and LOVE sign celebration. Our passengers also enjoyed those festivities between the morning and afternoon trains.



10/20

9:30 a.m. trip

Sold = 202

Pulled = 185

Operational issues – A leak in the 706 water tank was detected about 20 minutes before departure. Mechanical Lead Kevin Frick was able to temporarily patch it and the supply was adequate for both trips. A more permanent patch will be applied prior to next trip (permanent repairs to come). One stop at the wrong spot for the entertainment. No impact to the schedule as we arrived back in Dillwyn before 12:30.

1:30 p.m. trip

Sold = 203 Includes three trackside sales

Pulled = 188



Operational issues – Trip departed about 10 minutes late due to 4 passengers who were reported in transit at scheduled departure time. There was also a brief unexplained stop on the return trip near MP13. Minor impact to schedule as we arrived back in Dillwyn just after 4:30.

Food Service

\$591.25 Gross sales

\$134.44 net income before donations

Souvenir sales

\$343.50 gross sales

\$154.58 net income

Donations = \$48.00

BB Crew – Zane Craig (Engineer) and John Barnham (Conductor)

ODC Trainmaster – Laird Ramsey

ODC Trip Director - David Coldren

Car 706 – David Coldren and Ed Fielding (AM)

Moo 1 – John Estes

Food Service – Tom Hardesty and Marge Hardesty

Souvenirs – Ned Krack

Moo 2 – Chuck Taylor and Bev Karangelen

Car 1006 – Kim Young and Bill Sheild

Announcer – Greg Hodges

Parking – Ned Krack, Jonah Collins, and Robert Biehler

Mechanical - Kevin Frick



10/27



9:30 a.m. trip

Sold = 201

Pulled = 174

Operational issues – Overnight rain ended just in time to load up. A stop was made outbound at Alpha for a late arriving passenger who was delivered by BB President Steve Powell. No impact to schedule as we arrived back before 12:30.

1:30 p.m. trip

Sold = 208 Includes three trackside sales

Pulled = 189 Includes the three trackside sales and four from the AM trip  
Operational issues – Stopped at Alpha to pick up four late arriving passengers. Stopped again to drop them off at Alpha on the return trip. Still able to return before 4:30. Afternoon weather became sunny during the trip.

#### Food Service

\$545.75 Gross sales

\$339.55 net income before donations

#### Souvenir sales

\$437.00 gross sales

\$196.65 net income

Donations = \$22.25

BB Crew – Andrew Bernier (Engineer) and John Barnham (Conductor)

ODC Trainmaster – Fred Terry

ODC Trip Director - David Coldren

Car 706 – Calvin Boles and John Williams

Moo 1 – John Forsythe, David Coldren and Tim Torrez (pm)

Food Service – Tom Hardesty and Marge Hardesty

Souvenirs – Ned Krack

Moo 2 – Chuck Taylor and Bev Karangelen

Car 1006 – John Estes and Ed Fielding

Announcer – Greg Hodges

Parking – Bob Dickinson and John McKenna

Mechanical - Devin Gray



### **Railroading Today**

Gerry Grosshans

In the past month or so, I have noticed some interesting movements through the area starting with a month ago, when I had just passed on the submission for the last month's issue. As I was heading home, I noticed a train sitting on #2 track, waiting to go north through the Meadow crossovers, so I headed there. In short order Amtrak 125 (for Norfolk) went south, after which the northbound train crossed over. It was two big GE units and a long string of mostly FURX coal hoppers, empty. What surprised me was what was at the end of the train, a new 'ET' locomotive as a DPU the first train-end northbound train with DPU power. A couple of things...trains can have quite a number of locomotives on the headend, usually



only 2 or 3 are working, the rest are not operating. I have seen as many as 9 units on one CSX train. If a locomotive is mid-train or at the end, it is operating, often in idle, since it takes a unit a while to reach operational temperature, so it is fired up before departure, DPU units not being necessary at all times during the trip. Also note that the FURX-leased hoppers are from First Union Leasing, a part of Wells Fargo. That outfit also leases locomotives, making some money for the bank.

Back to unusual movements. The following Sunday, I went over to my son's place in Chester and left there about 1. Going by Centralia I noticed favorable green signals for both tracks and was rewarded by an eastbound long train, mostly doublestacks. In about 10-15 minutes a westbound doublestack, shorter and with a considerable "baretable" cut of cars. In all of my train watching days, this was the first westbound "stacker" I have ever seen! I was not able to get a train number on either, but the runs were much like Q 135 and Q 136 before the doublestack era, so maybe they are also nightcrawlers. Finally, at the end of the week I was back at Meadow, when the Tropicana train went south, with a very long intermodal consist trailing the reefers, and to my surprise, an older GE unit in the tricolor scheme was a DPU on that train, in the middle of the intermodal. It must have been a survivor from the Clinchfield and was very loud, backing off the throttle at the Bassett Ave. crossing.

I mentioned the crossovers (Meadow) between Jahnke Rd and Bassett Ave, which seem to be used quite a bit. I have a hunch that the trains for Acca get on track 1 to go left at the yard, and trains ending up a Fulton use track 2 for a right hand turn to go by way of the old SAL and C&O trackage. I wonder if the FA crossovers (at Walmsley) get the use the one at Meadow gets. By the way, now that work appears to be done at FA, the area south of the crossing has been leveled and there is now room to park at least a half dozen vehicles, and you don't have the almost a foot drop off at the edge of the pavement. One can always see trains stopped at some location, too. I recall going from Old Lane via Hopkins and Turston, to see a drag stopped at Thurston on Track 2 and in short order local 712 from Collier took off down the Bellwood for the Fanshaw area. and the stopped train resumed its trip south.

---

## Museum on "Virginia Currents"

Dave Coldren

The Richmond Railroad Museum will be featured in a story that was videoed in September during the Museum's annual Train Day celebration. If you were there, you might even see yourself!

This episode of Virginia Currents will air at the following times/PBS stations:

Monday, 11/12 – 7:30pm – WVPT, Harrisonburg

Monday, 11/12 – 11:30pm – WCVE/WHTJ

Tuesday, 11/13 – 1:00am – WCVE/WHTJ

Tuesday, 11/13 – 5:30pm – WHRO-DT2 (World), Norfolk (Cox 107)

Thursday, 11/15 – 5:00pm – WHRO-DT2 (World)

After 11/15, the show will be available online at:

[ideastations.org/virginiacurrents](http://ideastations.org/virginiacurrents)

---

## Santa Express trains headed for sellout – Volunteers needed

Dave Coldren

Even with 6 additional trips this year, it's looking good for a sell out all 24 runs of The Santa Express. Marge Hardesty has all of our Santa's lined up to be sure our youngest passengers take home a special memory. New for this year, Roger Reynolds will be aboard as The Singing Conductor to be sure there is holiday spirit throughout.

That means all we need to complete the crew is **you!** If you'd like to serve as Car Host or assist in decorating the train, just email Dave Coldren @ [Trainday@yahoo.com](mailto:Trainday@yahoo.com).

This year, our Santa Express runs on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with hourly departures from Dillwyn Station from 9a-4p. Tell your friends to order their tickets online @ [www.odcnrhs.org/excursions](http://www.odcnrhs.org/excursions).

Editor's note: We need some high-quality pictures of all aspects of the Santa trains, from both on-board and the ground, for the January **Highball**, and promotional purposes. Because of adjustments that have to be made depending on the use, files need to be at least 1.5mb and need to be emailed to Dave or me. Downloading from Facebook, etc. does not yield the quality needed.



**Membership Application/Renewal Form - Old Dominion Chapter, National Railway  
Historical Society**

Please type or print legibly

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family member(s) (if joining): \_\_\_\_\_

Special talents/interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership**

Regular \$11 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$1 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Surcharge for snail mail newsletter through Dec. 2019 \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter donation \_\_\_\_\_

Designated purpose (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to the following or leave in the membership box at 102 Hull St.

ODC Membership

PO Box 3131

Chester VA 23831

*I agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Old Dominion Chapter*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised September 2018 Membership valid through 12/31/19