



NORFOLK & WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Convention June 12-15, 2025

Please Note: This is a Complete Revision June 12-15, Highlander Inn, Radford, Virginia

The N&WHS and your Convention Chairman/Society President would like to invite you to the 2025 N&WHS convention in Radford, VA. The convention will be at the Highlander Hotel, affiliated with Radford University and located 600 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA 24141. The phone number is **540-744-1500**.

As with all conventions, please book early, long before June, to ensure the best rate and availability of rooms. The N&WHS room rate is \$129 (plus tax and a municipal fee) with free parking. Please contact the hotel directly. A direct link to the reservation site is:

Highlander Inn Reservations

The Hotel is in the university area of town and not near any significant eating establishments. It boasts an upscale restaurant on the roof, which features fine Appalachian dining and a welcoming pub. For convenience's sake, it is suggested that all meals and late-night socializing be focused there.

Radford Virginia

Radford has a long history with the N&W, dating back to the Virginia & Tennessee days. Beginning as "Central (perhaps the first midway division point on predecessor systems)," it has served the railroad with a roundhouse, car shop and system Tie Treatment Plant; it has also been a hub for the fabled Blacksburg and Potts Valley branches and the sprawling Radford Arsenal that evolved early in the World War II years. Nearby Walton Tower, where the Bristol Line diverted from Norfolk/Columbus-Cincinnati main also contributed to the local flavor, as did the Vicker coal and water facility. The North Carolina Branch juncture was in nearby Pulaski. Today, the Radford Yard continues as a marshaling point for Norfolk Southern-served industries.

The original mainline crossed the New River just west of Radford on the graceful curving bridge. You can still see the piers of the bridge to this day.

As we have the last couple of years, the focus will be on fellowship and getting together. We have organized some interesting outings, which may be subject to change as we get closer to the date. Busses continue to be unaffordable and car-pooling will continue to be in vogue.

Modeling Committee Chairman Jim Cochran asks everyone to bring their latest entries.

Presenters we hope to include: Hunter Atkinson, Frank Bongiovanni, Grant Carpenter, Bruce Harper, Andre Jackson, Tim Hensley, Ken Miller, Rick Musser, Jim Nichols, Sam Phillips, Gary Price, Mike Rector, Frank Scheer, and Alex Schust.

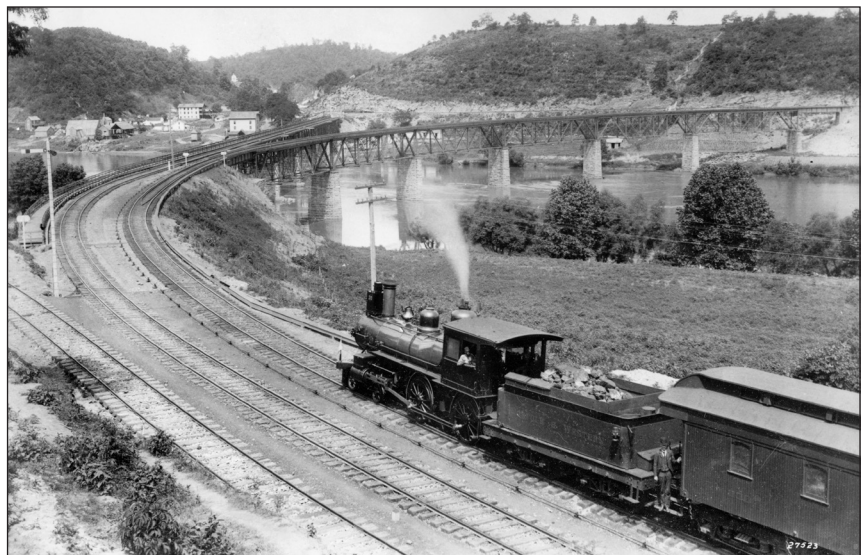
A tentative schedule, dated April 8, 2025 – again, some events very much subject to change – is listed as follows:

Thursday, June 12

Registration begins outside the conference rooms at 9:00 AM and should be staffed through the afternoon and early evening; however, there may be a break or two for meals, so if no one is there, check back later.

1:00 pm, N&WHS Board Meeting will take place this afternoon

New Directors will be seated. We thank outgoing



The beautiful Pualski passenger station was restored, then suffered devastating fires, and was restored yet again.



BOD representatives Rick Musser and Brent Stevens for their service.

Thursday Afternoon:

The afternoon is open for you to railfan around Radford alone or with others arriving early. Please be cognizant of NS safety and trespassing concerns.

Thursday Evening:

7:00-10:00 Evening Seminars/Presentations

Friday, June 13

Friday Morning

- 9:00 am Lecture About Radford Arsenal by Nicole Bruch, Senior Communications Specialist
- 10:15 am Depart for NS Radford Station
- 10:30 am Overview of Local NS Radford Operations by Assistant Trainmaster Travis Stauder
- 11:30 am Depart for carpool tour of old N&W main line, New River to Belspring, former Walton Tower location, remnants of Blacksburg Branch and old Cambria depot. There are good antique stores adjacent and new, extended Amtrak stop at Christiansburg station currently undergoing renovation). To be led by Roger Link, John Garner and Joe Shaw. Bicycle rentals for a Huckleberry Trail ride will be available for those who would be interested.

Friday Evening

7:00– 10:00 pm (or later)
 Modeling Night at the Hotel
 Three Modeling Seminars, introduced by Modeling Committee Chairman Jim Cochran.
 The modeling committee formally meets, and Virginian Crazies in late session.

Saturday, June 14

9:00 am – 12 Noon

N&WHS Archives Open In Roanoke

Presentations at the Hotel

1:00 pm Depart for Pulaski

1:40 pm Tour of Radcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum and Former N&W Station.
 Short Welcoming Address by Director April Martin on Virginia & Tennessee History

This little gem is one of the unsung tourism venues in Southwest Virginia. It features an overview of local history themes –heavy on N&W-served industry – and an O-gauge model layout that has to be seen and believed! N&WHS members Doug André, John Garner and Grandle Meador lent significant expertise and elbow grease to restore it to operating condition for our visit. Across the street, the Pulaski Station, a survivor of two fires – will be open for a walk-through inspection.

3:30 pm A Late Lunch At Draper Merchantile

One of our network vendors has its culinary experts cooking up an excellent meal for us, possibly prepared from N&W recipes!

If able, we hope to have an address from a venerable N&W sage to aid our digestion. If he cannot attend (account of family issues),



Ken Miller will talk about N&W Dining Service.

Return to the Radford hotel on own.

7:00 pm– 10 pm

Seminars Begin in the Conference Rooms.

Special Presentation:

7:00 pm Executive Producer Lisa Fenderson from Blue Ridge Public Television worked extensively with Ken Miller to produce their one-hour PBS N&W documentary: "Norfolk and Western Railway Steam, Steel and Storylines." Lisa and Ken will present the documentary and answer questions afterward. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, June 15

9:00 am Membership Meeting at the hotel. Dismiss thereafter.

On the way home or while in the area on any of the other days, you may want to stop off at Hales' Restaurant, just off U.S. 460 on the east side of Shawsville. Their country breakfast – with biscuits and milk gravy just like mama used to make – is highly recommended. Hale's has a great display of N&W photos (courtesy of the Society!)

See you in Radford!

Tim Hensley.

**Highlander Hotel • 604 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA 24141
Hotel: 540-744-1500 • Use Code NWS • Highlander Inn Online**

Please print and completely fill out the form below.

Event	Price	Quantity	Total
Registration (Family)	\$40.00		
Saturday Draper Mercantile Late Lunch (per person)	\$35.00		
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Order by Credit Card or make your check or money order payable to N&W Historical Society and mail to:

N&WHS Convention • P.O. Box 13908 • Roanoke, VA 24038-3908

If you have questions, please leave a message at our office at the archives at (540) 342-0575. Be sure to leave your telephone number and the best times to contact you. To place a credit card order by FAX 24 hours/day, (540) 342-7439.

Please do not send your credit card number via e-mail.

Note: Any personal information we collect is not used outside this organization. We use e-mail to communicate with you as necessary.

Check Money Order VISA MasterCard Enter card number below

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Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Your e-mail will allow us to send you a receipt

Name(s) of family members attending with you _____