



Working Trackside

Moving

No, we are not physically moving, but as an organization we are moving to establish goals for the next year. I would like to think we are moving forward, while others

may argue we are moving backwards, and still others may argue we are just moving sideways. So for the time being we will just say we are “moving”.

Our first step in moving is the survey, which is running until October 31. We have a preliminary report on the survey on Pages 7 and 8. We will publish the entire survey responses on November 1 in PDF form at www.nwhs.org. We are using the survey to see what our members like about the NWHS, and where our members would like us to place our efforts. As a way to increase interaction among members we will host an open house at the Archives on Salem Avenue in Roanoke. See the announcement below. Come and meet the officers and directors and tell us what you think.

Our second step in moving is developing plans to implement the NWHS Vision Statement, which is posted at www.nwhs.org and says:

“Over the next 20 years we intend to implement the steps necessary to establish and maintain the Society and its Archives as the recognized, authoritative sources for information about the history and operations of the N&W and VGN railways and their respective places in the development of the Central Appalachian region and in the development of rail transport in general. As our resources permit, we intend to put in place up-to-date, proven research technologies to make our collections available to the wider history and research communities.”

The BoD is working on a NWHS 5-Year Plan that considers all parts of the organization (membership, commissary, convention, building, archives) and how each part contributes to the vision. The NWHS Archives Committee is working on a 5-Year Strategic Plan for the archives. Two of the goals of the archives plan are to have 100,000 items in the data base by the end of 2014 and add two volunteers to our consistent cadre of 16 members who show up at most of the archive work sessions.

The third part of moving is keeping everyone informed about what is happening.

NWHS Directors and Officers

The NWHS, History and You

The NWHS Mission Statement and Vision Statement are posted at www.nwhs.org. You can read about us by clicking on the right-hand box, “About the Society.” Our Vision Statement is posted to the left. The NWHS Mission Statement says:

“The Society exists to serve the interests of its Members and the public at large in the Norfolk & Western and Virginian railways. To that end, it shall, among other activities, acquire, preserve, archive, and make available to the public, historians, museums, and other railroad historical groups, the historical documents, including drawings, photographs, and other graphics, of the two railroads. As an aid to general education about the role the Norfolk & Western and Virginian railways played in the industrial development of the Central Appalachian Region, the Society shall promote the history of the two railroads through the publication of a magazine and other materials for its Members, books and articles, via web media, and by participation in appropriate events.”

As part of carrying out both our Mission Statement and Vision Statement we are going to increase the history content in *The Arrow* by adding a recurring column on the history of the N&W and Virginian.

These will be one or two-page articles that discuss the who, why, what, when and where of the railroads. We contemplate articles such as who was Frederick Kimball, why was the Cripple Creek Extension built, what is “coke,” when did the building of the Ohio Extension take place, and where is Clarks Gap.

The “You” part of this effort is your opportunity to write a one or two page article about what interests you in N&W and Virginian history. What is that one special thing or place or idea that you want to make sure that it is highlighted in the history of the two railroads.

Send your article to:

history@nwhs.org

We will edit your article, perhaps add a photograph, and then send it back to you for your final approval before it is published.

NWHS Open House
November 9, 2013 3 PM to 5 PM
2101 Salem Ave SW Roanoke, Virginia
Join us for Pizza and a cold soft drink
Watch a video, tour the Archives, tell a Story
Meet NWHS members, officers and Directors

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NWHS Calendar of Events

2013

Oct 5	Joint SRHA/NWHS Mini-Con, Winston-Salem, NC
Oct 5	Boyce, VA Station Centennial Celebration
Oct 10-13	Archives work session
Oct 19	GOB East work session
Oct 26	NWHS BoD Meeting (Princeton)
Oct 31	Last day to participate in NWHS Survey
Nov 7-10	Archives work session
Nov 9	NWHS Open House
Nov 9-10	Pocahontas NRHS train show (Bluefield)
Nov 23	GOB East work session
Dec 12-15	Archives work session
Dec 28	GOB East work session

2014

Jan 4	The Arrow mailed
Jan 9-12	Archives work session
Feb 6-9	Archives work session
Mar 6-9	Archives work session
Jun 26-29	NWHS Annual Convention Roanoke

NWHS 2014 Convention will be held at the Hotel Roanoke June 26 -29, 2014. Details will be sent with the January 2014 Arrow.

Implementing the Vision

As was noted on page 1, the NWHS Vision is to “... establish and maintain the Society and its Archives as the recognized, authoritative sources for information about the history and operations of the N&W and VGN ...” To meet this vision we offer an online information service, respond to many e-mail requests, and we also meet with visitors during the archive sessions.

Carol Lacy and Judy Robertson from the Bedford Genealogical Society, Inc. visited the archives to recruit a speaker for the September 14, 2013, genealogical fair in Bedford. Over the last three work sessions, Ron Davis, Louis Newton and Harry Bundy located appropriate photographs and developed a NWHS presentation on Bedford County railroads that was presented in the morning and afternoon at the fair. Ron, Louis and Harry all attended the fair to represent the society.

We were also visited by Peg McGuire (Director of Communications, VMT) and Chris Henson (Creative Director, Access) in June. Peg and Chris were searching for materials to develop promotional material for VMT’s Fire Up 611 project. Dave Stephenson, Harry Bundy and Bob Cohen looked up relevant items (timetables, ticket holders, photos, drawings, etc.) throughout the collection. We found plenty of items for them to consider.

Wayne McKinny was also at the Archives in June, July and August as he continues to work on his book about the East End Shops. Several Archives volunteers helped Wayne with his research.

George Lane, Norfolk Southern consultant located in Roanoke, visited the Archives in August looking for information on an N&W/NS building in Bluefield that was undergoing renovation. He found two drawings that may be useful.

Roger Link and Ron Davis provided drawings and photos for a school mural project in Coal Grove, Ohio.



Ron Davis helps Wayne McKinney search for information at the July 2013 Archives works session. *Alex Schust photo*

2101 Salem Avenue

The NWHS is headquartered at 2101 Salem Ave SW in Roanoke, Virginia. The NWHS-owned building houses part of the NWHS Archives, the commissary, meeting space, a warehouse, and storage space for NWHS-owned equipment. At the request of the NWHS BoD, Ben Shank accepted the position of building supervisor. Keeping the NWHS building up to code and functional requires considerable effort.

Ben has been working on a sink replacement project in the ladies rest room and has installed a counter top and back splash. He is working on the plumbing in between his other building upgrade efforts.

In June Ben worked on the two dehumidifiers in the warehouse. After disassembly, both were found to be defective. Four new dehumidifiers were purchased in July for use in the warehouse. Ben also added a humidistat to monitor these new dehumidifiers.

A new gas meter was installed by a city contractor, however, the entire building supply locked out because of a leak. Gordon Hamilton got the contractors back to the site, and the leak was found to be a line that goes to an unused gas light in front of the building. The problem was solved by locking out this line, and the building's gas supply was turned back on.

Ben met with the fire department and a building inspector to check the facility for code violations and get a new occupancy permit. The fire extinguishers needed to be recharged, and code requires us to install a personnel door in the warehouse. Our new design will substitute hinged doors for the large roll-up door and incorporate a personnel door in one of the new doors. We are getting contractor estimates for the work.

Ben is currently working on a new building use plan to allow us to more effectively use the space we have.



Ben Shank, Gordon Hamilton and Joe Shaw spent part of their time at the September 2013 Archives work session installing a hand-rail for the steps leading into the NWHS building. *Alex Schust photo*

The Commissary

The NWHS commissary is the major revenue generator for the NWHS. The commissary profits fund many of the NWHS activities. The following are some of the Frequently Asked Questions about the commissary.

Q1: How will the items I ordered be shipped?

A1: Almost all orders are shipped via USPS Priority Mail service. Sometimes, because of weight vs. distance, we may elect to use UPS. Overseas orders are shipped USPS Priority Mail that may take 7 to 10 days. Surface is no longer available.

Q2: How can I check on the status of an order?

A2: The preferred choice is to send an e-mail with your concerns and/or questions to **commissary@nwbs.org**. E-mail is normally answered within a couple of days after research is completed on your request. If you do not see a timely reply, be sure you look in your spam area. Also if you have an e-mail blocker, please put us on your list. You may also use the secure phone answering system at 540-342-0575. However, calls can be very costly and time consuming. Normally, if you do not receive a return phone call within 4 days, you may assume there is not a problem. You may also inquire via Fax 540-342-7439. You must include a fax number to receive a response. Never use more than one contact source for a response. Multiple contacts may cause delays, over shipments and/or other problems.

Q3: Why the "Allow 4 to 6 weeks" for shipping?

A3: Most of the time is used for processing the order. We usually pick three to four times a month for packing and shipping orders. Overseas orders are normally shipped at the end of the month as these orders require special handling and customs forms. Certain items such as T shirts, heralds, Archive drawings, photographs, etc. are manufactured to order and shipped the following month.

Q4: Why can't I find membership pricing on the web site (www.nwbs.org/)?

A1: Our shopping cart programs only support one level of pricing per item. The site was originally intended for non-members to purchase items. If the member will simply be sure and check the block "MEMBER YES? NO?" you will be processed at the member pricing after your membership status is checked.

COMMISSARY NOTICE

The NWHS Commissary is open between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday and Friday of the archives work session. With prior arrangements orders may also be picked up Saturday between the same hours. You may place your order by calling 540-342-0575 or on the NWHS website. Please note your choice of day for pick up. No shipping charges apply when you pick up your order at the Archives.

Roanoke Activities

The NWHS is uniquely situated because our headquarters is located in Roanoke, Virginia. Many of our members also belong to or support the other N&W-related activities in the Roanoke area such as the O. Winston Link Museum, the Virginia Museum of Transportation, the National Railway Historical Society Roanoke Chapter, and the Virginian Station Restoration project. With other groups managing the museums, stations and full size equipment, the NWHS is able to concentrate on its Mission Statement of acquiring, preserving, archiving, and making available the historical documents of the N&W and Virginian.

The following is excerpted from Skip Salmon's "Takin' Twenty" report that appeared on July 18, 2013 on the NWHS Mailing List.

Lerro Productions held another photo shoot July 12-14 at The Virginia Museum of Transportation. N&W 611, 1218, and 6 as well as other VMT rolling stock were used. There were photographers from all parts of the country and overseas attending. Roanoke Chapter NRHS repositioned the equipment for Friday night, Saturday morning and night, and Sunday morning scenes. There were several "actors" from Roanoke Chapter NRHS, NWHS, VMT, and owners of period autos. The setting was in the forties and fifties complete with 'Rosie the Riveter', 611 passing a 'wig-wag' road crossing signal, passengers boarding N&W/Roanoke Chapter's coach No. 512 from a City Bus, and interior scenes of the coach.

Skip left out the part about his appearance in various photographs as the conductor. One photograph is shown below. A image of Skip was also posted on railpictures.net. Skip is on the left standing in the aisle as the conductor.

<http://railpictures.net/photo/443766>



NWHS Communications

The NWHS has multiple methods of communicating with and between members.

Our quarterly news letters *Talk Among Friends* (TAF) and electronic *Talk Among Friends* (eTAF) are ways the NWHS Officers and Board of Directors communicate to the members what is happening within the NWHS. TAF is packaged with the Commissary and inserted with *The Arrow* that is mailed to all members. *The Arrow* includes contact information for all of the Officers and Board of Directors so that any member can contact them. Our eTAF is normally published on-line at www.nwhs.org on the first day of January, April, July and October similar to *The Arrow* publishing schedule.

Our survey indicates over 77 percent of members joined the NWHS because they were interested in N&W history. History happens every day on the NWHS mailing list, and the service is free to anyone who wants to join the discussion or start a discussion of their own. Sign up by going to www.nwhs.org and clicking on "**Join the e-mail discussion Group**" in the upper left.

The NWHS mailing lists allow members to communicate with the society and with each other, and post pictures or other items. We maintain two moderated mailing lists. The NW-Mailing-List covers historical and prototype questions concerning the Norfolk and Western, the Virginian Railway and related railroads. The NW-Modeling-List discusses such things as upcoming product releases and modeling of the N&W and Virginian Railways.

The mailing lists are one of several communication services provided by the NWHS for both members and non-members. It is a way that nearly 500 people interested in the N&W exchange information about railroad history, operations, signaling, locomotives, cars, services, exchange pictures, ask questions, etc.

As you can see in the excerpt from Skip Salmon's "Takin' Twenty" report that was sent out through the NWHS mailing list, the mailing list is also used to communicate what is happening around Roanoke. Many postings on the mailing list are real time with what a person is seeing on the rail cams in Roanoke.

The NWHS mailing list is one of many ways you can increase your participation in the NWHS simply by signing up and watching the messages go by. There is no action required on your part. You can read the messages or delete them, and you can reply or forward them. Often you can take part in history as individuals recall how the N&W was operated on different parts of the system. During the last week of August there were on-going discussions about signals, how United States Steel routed coal from Gary, West Virginia to Gary, Indiana, and how to interpret signals at different locations.

In case you missed out on some of the message traffic, all of the messages are archived back to 2004 on the discussion group site.

NWHS also maintains a Facebook page.

Archives Report

June - July - August Work Sessions

We had 16 attendees in June and July and 18 in August. We had a cadre of 16 members who made two or more of the work session at Salem Avenue. This cadre included Jim Blackstock, Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Larry Hill, Chris & Harold Hunley, Roger Link, David Lugar, Louis Newton, Skip Salmon, Charlie Schlotthober, Ben Shank, Joe Shaw, and Dave Stephenson.

Six of our members made at least one of the three archive work sessions. These members were Hunter Atkinson, Bob Cohen, Dick Fisher, Rob Fisher, Dick Kimball, and Alex Schust

All NWHs members are welcome to attend the Archives work sessions, which are held on the second weekend of each month. Session hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Specific Research Requests

Jim Blackstock, Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Dick Fisher, Skip Salmon, and Dave Stephenson worked on specific research requests during the May through August work sessions. Collectively they fulfilled 24 research requests over that four month period, with many of the requests being handled outside of the regular work sessions.

One request of particular interest was an electrical diagram for a former N&W GP9 still in service. As of this writing Skip Salmon is trying to locate an alternative source for the N&W GP9 wiring diagram.

General Archives Activities

Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory processed rolled drawings for inclusion in the HS series.

John Swann added book locator numbers and other identifying information to the library data base working from home. John completed database entry of remaining PRR books



Louis Newton checks track charts at the July 2013 work session. Alex Schust photo



Jim Blackstock spent the July work session entering data. Alex Schust photo

Dave Stephenson worked in the library updating the library inventory, attaching locator tags to more of the N&W books, entering new books, and checking railroad locator designations/shelf order with information entered by John Swann. He worked on research requests that required direct access to archives materials. He also entered several N&W-related articles from Mainline Modeler magazine into the database. He reviewed a new DVD, *Northeast Steam*, and put its description in the DVD box. He added a backup master disc, original draft and unprocessed CD of *Time Freight* (new recording released by the Link Museum) to the vault. Dave also accessioned several items donated to the archives and updated the lists of missing magazines.

Charlie Schlotthober and Larry Hill continued processing the large M-Class drawing order for Strasburg Rail Road, as well as scanning other drawings and making prints to fill orders.

Jim Blackstock worked during all three sessions on entering VGN and Tidewater Railway standard drawings into the database. These drawings were mostly VGN standard B-size drawings of track and signals.

Dick Kimball entered 163 slides from the Egan and Dumwald collections into the database.

Skip Salmon handled a multitude of tasks during the three work sessions. He copied a Tidewater Signal Tower base drawing for the architect of the VGN station project. He entered Virginian standard drawings (structures), freight car and locomotive data into the database. Skip checked VGN hopper slides for a member, identified and corrected photo and slide errors on some data, and entered Conductor's and Brakemen's Assignment Circular No. 2 for Mullens.

Joe Shaw continued organizing freight car drawings, working mostly on gondolas. Joe and Robb Fisher entered caboose and freight car slides from the Glen Bole collection, and maps, engine service building drawings, and other engineering drawings from the Library of Virginia donation into the database. Joe also

entered HS series drawings into the database including several drawings of the Williamson Freight Station circa 1949, a map showing the purchase of the PRR's Columbus-Sandusky line, and several drawings of the Virginia Anthracite Coal and Railway Co.

Gordon Hamilton worked on a series of articles for *The Arrow* describing his early N&W experiences.

Roger Link entered slides from the Milwaukee Road Historical Association donation into the database and continued with the Glen Bole collection. Roger completed scanning and data entry for the Glen Bole collection of slides in August. Roger also entered C size drawings of passenger and freight cars from NRHS Roanoke Chapter's collection and 8x10 photos from the John Krause collection into the database.

Ron Davis and Joe Shaw worked on entering HS-series drawings from the Library of Virginia donation and C-size drawings from NRHS Roanoke Chapter's collection into the database

Hunter Atkinson continued to work on bills, statements and invoices. This project has grown from a few boxes to many related cartons of material in the warehouse.

Alex Schust completed indexing a ninth box of *Field Note Books*.

Dick Fisher completed tagging N&W/VGN articles in *Railfan* and *Railroad* magazine. He also reviewed a carton of RMC magazines. All were surplus.

GOB-East Archives

GOB-East work sessions during the June-July-August work periods were centered on sorting paper drawings from linen drawing, flattening the drawings, and getting the identified drawings entered into the data base.

Archive Equipment and Work Space

The KIP Starprint 200 laser printer we used for over 10 years became increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. The lack of an operating printer at the Archives meant that orders for drawings had to be sent out to a local print shop. Lead times to fill orders increased by 5 to 10 weeks and there were a number of errors in filling orders.

The NWHS BoD authorized a new printer for the Archives at the June BoD meeting. A new wide-format



Roger, Link, Joe Shaw, Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory separate paper drawings from linen drawings on August 24, 2013, at GOB-East. *Ron Davis photo*

HP DesignJet T790 printer was purchased, and Charlie Schlotthober, Larry Hill, Roger Link and Ron Davis got the new printer into operation in July. Our new printer is capable of printing drawings and other documents up to 42 inches wide and almost unlimited length. Unlike its predecessor, the new printer can print in color. The printer is accessible from any workstation at the Archives. Our Archives volunteers can now scan and print orders for drawings at one time instead of waiting for jobs to come back from the print shop. The new printer should reduce both the time to fill drawing orders and the potential for errors.

In July Dave Lugar delivered and assembled three Ironrite mangle presses that were purchased at auction. One was serviceable, the other needed a few parts, the third could furnish parts. Unfortunately, the Ironrite models have a pedestal which blocks the drawings from feeding out through the back of the press. After watching a training film on the Ironrite we were not sure this approach would work for our drawings. Thus, in August, Dave delivered another mangle rotary press and returned the three that we got the previous month. The Ironrite models with their double-end roller support were unsuited for the type of work we are doing, which requires single-end or cantilevered roller support.



Larry Hill, Charlie Schlotthober and Rob Fisher get their first look at the new printer on June 29, 2013, prior to the July Archives session. The printer was soon operational as we tested a variety of document outputs. *Ron Davis photo*

NWHS Survey Highlights Hot Topics for Members

Fascination with the history of railroading is the common interest that draws most people to the Norfolk and Western Historical Society, according to our ongoing survey.

The survey was launched on July 1 at www.nwhs.org to identify key interests, convention preferences, member satisfaction and other topics with both members and friends able to take the survey. Following the posting of the survey on the NWHS website, a printed version of the survey was included with the July-August-October edition of the *Talk Among Friends* that was sent out to 1266 members. As of September 2, the Survey had drawn 470 complete and partial responses from 34 states and 15 international locations. The most responses have come from Virginia with 119 responses, followed by Ohio with 27, North Carolina with 19, Maryland with 15 and Florida and Tennessee round out the top five with 14 responses each. We had received 413 electronic responses and 57 paper responses as of September 2. Thirty-six of the paper responses have been hand-entered into the data base and we are working on the remainder.

"We are gratified that so many people have taken the time to respond," said Alex Schust, Chairman of the NWHS Board of Directors. "The Board is keenly interested in giving members what they would like to have from the association, and this is an important step in finding out exactly what that is."

In identifying key areas of interest respondents cited railroad history most frequently, followed by locomotives, railfanning, modeling and historic preservation. Passenger service, freight rail and photography also drew wide response.

As expected, widest interest was shown in the Norfolk and Western Railway, but respondents also indicated interest in the Virginian and the Norfolk Southern.

Survey respondents gave high marks to *The Arrow*, with more than 50 percent rating the content of *The Arrow* as either high or very high. One third of the replies indicated interest in a digital version of the magazine.

Respondents suggested a wide range of topics for future articles, including modeling, steam era operations, diesel operations, and the history of the development of the N&W and well as the Virginian. "I look forward to every issue and always find something of interest," said one response. Interest was expressed in a modeler's section of the magazine or an online modelers publication. Nearly 60 percent of the respondents identified themselves as model railroaders. Most model N&W lines, with the greatest concentration in the 1950-1960 era. One third currently have a model railroad layout, with HO gauge being the most popular scale.

More than half of the respondents had read *Talk Among Friends*, with one-quarter reading the newsletter online.

Publications proved to be the primary source of involvement of respondents with the society. While some 10 percent of the respondents had attended five or more conventions, 53 percent reported that they had not attended any. Similarly, while 25 percent of the survey responders had visited the NWHS Archives in Roanoke, another 56 percent had not.

The survey response suggested a number of locations for future conventions. With most members residing in Virginia and with the preponderance of the N&W located in that state, Virginia locations ranked high in preference, including Norfolk and Roanoke. Other locations suggested included Cincinnati, Williamson and Bluefield, West Virginia and even such distant locations as Atlanta and Sebring, Florida.

One of the most valuable portions of the survey are the 688 comments that were posted by individuals. The largest group of comments (227) posted as of September 2, 2013, were the ones posted in response to the question, "Are there any specific topics (modeling, locomotives, history, infrastructure, operations, etc.) and/or specific railroad eras that you would like to see in the *The Arrow*?" The second largest group of comments (129) were posted in response to the question, "Do you have any other suggestions for the NWHS?" The Board of Directors began a review of *The Arrow* content in June and the survey comments are being added to the review.

Responses to the survey will be accepted, in both electronic and paper form until October 31. The electronic version of the survey is posted at www.nwhs.org. Survey results will be an agenda item at the Board of Directors meeting in October. The planned NWHS open house scheduled for November 9 at the archives in Roanoke is a direct result of some of the Survey comments.

The complete survey responses will be published on November 1 at www.nwhs.org.

Casey Cinders

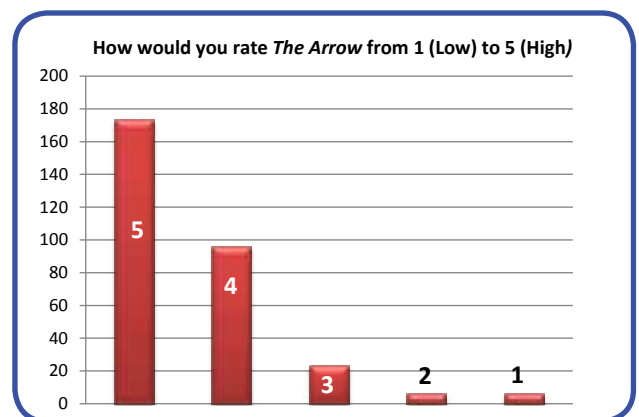
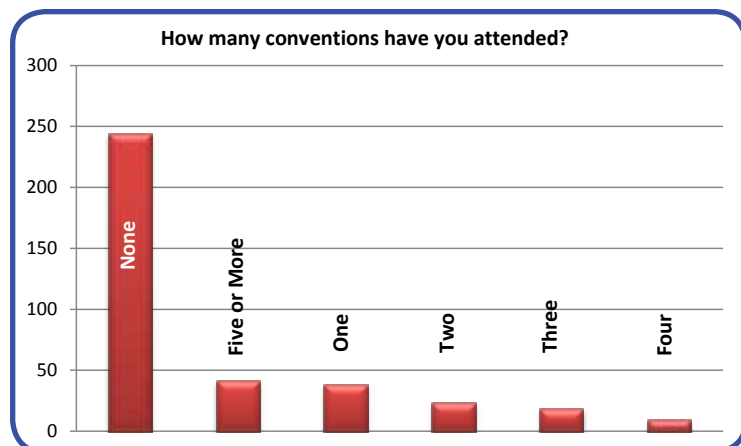
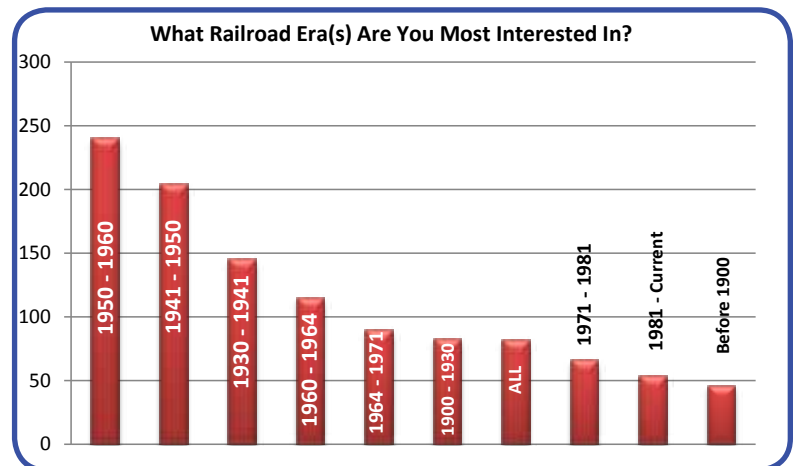
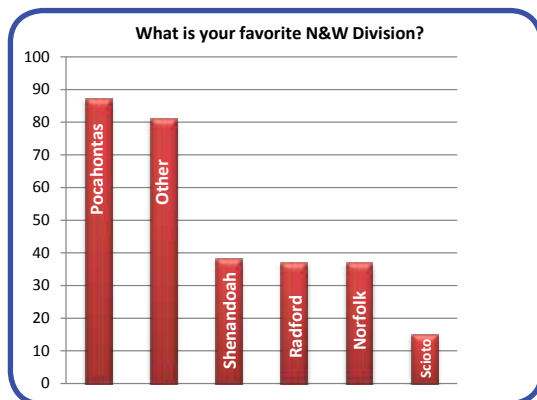
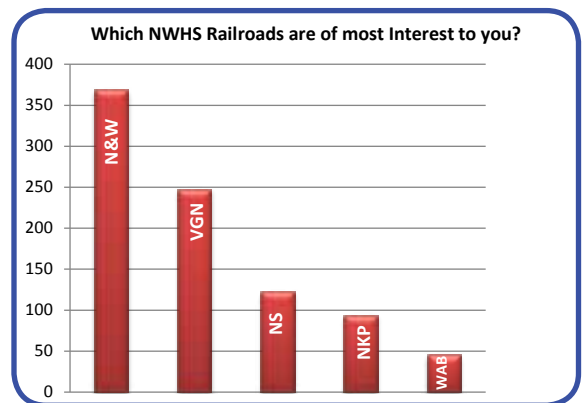
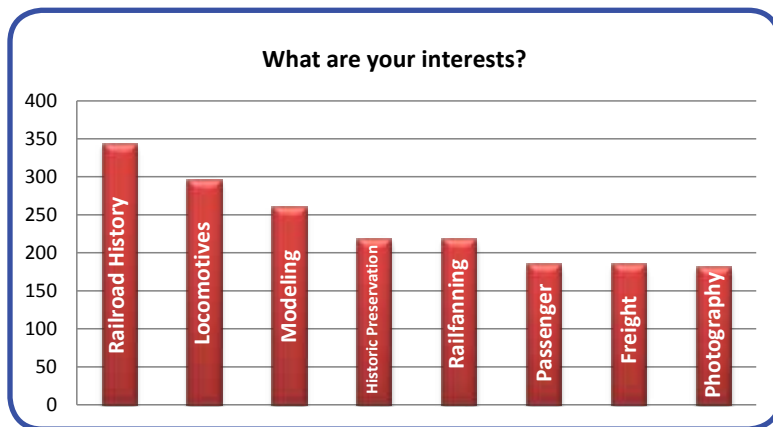
Shown below in graphical form is some of the information the Survey is providing us. The response count is shown on the vertical axis. The large number of responders who listed "Railroad History" as their major interest in the NWHS is the reason we are adding the dedicated history articles in *The Arrow*.

The "Other" bar on the "What is your favorite N&W Division" chart includes all of the responses that were not included in the top five divisions. Some were divisions, some were places, some were the fact that the responder listed more than one division.

The "What Railroad Era(s) Are You Most Interested In?" may reflect the age demographics of the responders. We had 350 responders who checked an age group and 38 percent of those responders were over 65. That 1950 to 1960 era is what we grew up with.

The Convention chart and *The Arrow* chart provide interesting information.

You will be able to make your own assessment of the Survey when we post it on November 1, 2013.



NWHS 2013 Convention Highlights

This year's convention was held at the Twin Falls Resort State Park, near Mullens, West Virginia. We experimented with our traditional convention format in an effort to keep attendees' costs down. We eliminated the usual banquet, decoupled the Sunday morning membership meeting from breakfast, and had the formal convention beginning on Thursday night. Although the convention formally opened Thursday night, members of the Convention Committee were available at Twin Falls Wednesday night to provide informal welcomes and provide railfanning information for the folks who wanted to go out and chase trains Thursday.

The formal opening Thursday night included the welcome by Steve Summers and a showing of the West Virginia PBS documentary "The Winding Gulf: Stories From West Virginia's Coalfields." A bonus with the showing of the DVD was the presence of Jessica Lilly and Russ Barbour, the folks who produced the DVD, who provided additional commentary and answered questions. A donation of \$181 dollars was made to WV Public Broadcasting in the name of the NWHS from money collected after the presentation.

Friday was predominantly the tour of the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, and with the return to Twin Falls by way of the Winding Gulf, Mullens, Elmore Yard, and Covel. A stop was also made at the Virginian C-10 caboose no. 307 on display at Mullens.

Friday night we were treated to a presentation by Aubrey Wiley on the Virginian Heritage Trail. This was followed by an excellent clinic from Jim Nichols on modeling/detailing/bashing N&W and Virginian steam locomotives. The night ended with the annual meeting of the Virginian Interest Group.

Saturday included the tour of the Whipple Company Store, one of the last remaining large company stores in Southern West Virginia, Virginian's Oak Hill depot and the town of Thurmond.

Although there was no formal banquet Saturday night, our members had been invited to come to the Mullens Opportunity Center's fundraising banquet in downtown Mullens. A high percentage of the conventioners took advantage of this, and we got a lot of favorable comments about the food, the hospitality, and the opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause, without having to dress up banquet style. Instead of a banquet speaker, our own Tom Salmon gave an abbreviated edition of his seminar on the real origins of the Virginian railroad (a full version of this seminar is expected next year at our convention in Roanoke). Music was provided by a local bluegrass band which included NWHS member Bill Johnson on banjo.

After our return to Twin Falls, we were treated to a seminar by Gerry Albers taking us on a slide show tour of his very impressive (Virginian) Deepwater Division model railroad and a slide show shot on the ex-Virginian in the 1960-70's by the ever popular Everett Young.

Sunday morning's membership meeting provided the membership with updated information about the Society, and provided the officers and directors there some immediate feedback on the convention from the membership.

Frank Bongiovanni



Roger Link photographed the outside of the Whipple Company Store and Ron Davis photographed the inside

There are 122 convention photos posted at www.nwhs.org. Click on "Convention Photos" button near bottom of left menu column.

NWHS 2014 Convention will be held at the Hotel Roanoke June 26 -29, 2014. Details will be sent with the January 2014 Arrow.

What is an Archive?

A dictionary will define an archive as documents or records relating to the activities or business dealings of a person, family, corporation, association, community, or nation. The definition can be extended to state that an archive is a place where public records or other historical documents are kept. A simpler view is it is a bunch of stuff. The value of an archive comes about when you begin to sort through the stuff and come to understand what is there. It takes on increased importance when you are able to take what is there and turn it into comprehensive information of some type. Information like an *Arrow* article, a book, a drawing for a model maker, or any use that an individual or company finds is important to them.

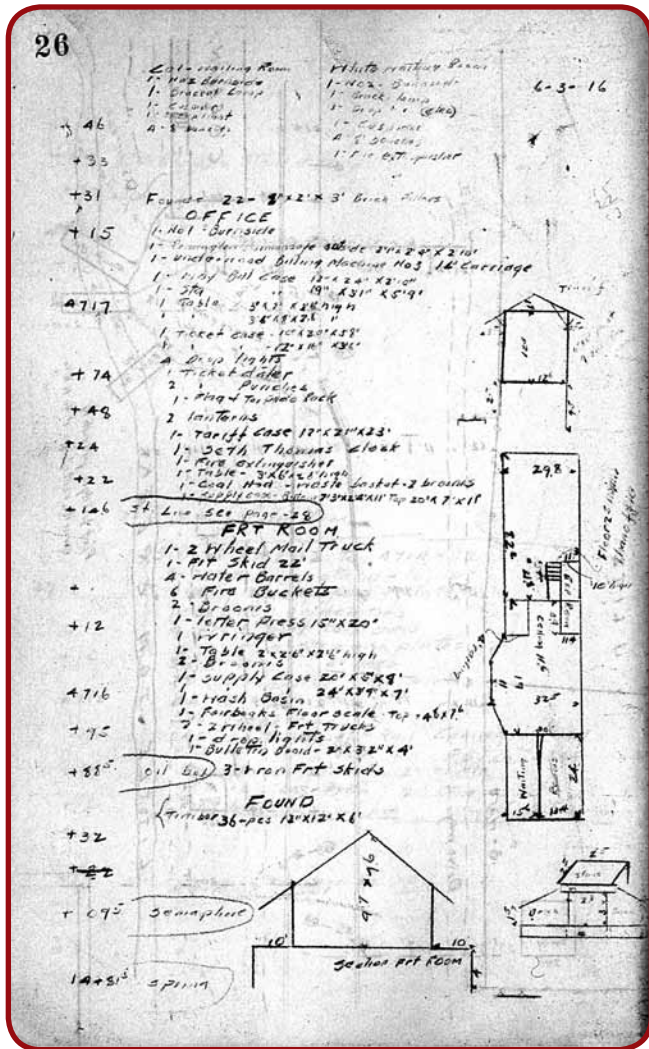
NWHS volunteers spend many hours reviewing material in the NWHS Archives, determining what the material is, accessioning the material and entering data into the data base.

Me, I used to wander around the archives and ask, "What is this stuff?" Over the years I have learned what a lot of the stuff is, but knowing that is only a start.

The picture to the left is part of page 26 from Field Note Book No. 32 of the 1916 Resurvey of the Clinch Valley District. Field Note Book No. 32 is titled, "Topography Notes from Station 4618 to Station 4723." This particular page, recorded on June 30, 1916, records notes about Coeburn Station.

I have known about the boxes of Field Notes at the NWHS Archives, because some years ago I asked Dave Stephenson, "What is that stuff?" Now I spend time cataloging the Field Note Book boxes. We have about 110 boxes of Field Notes with about 80 books per box, so we have about 9,000 Field Note books and we have cataloged about 10%.

While cataloging a Field Note box, I noticed I was finding more and more copies of the 1916 Resurvey of the Clinch Valley District. By the time I was finished I discovered that I had 69 Field Note Books, which completely covered the Clinch Valley District in 1916.



Among the other stuff we have at the NWHS Archives are the ICC Valuation Books that list the buildings, bridges, tunnels, and other structures along the right-of-way. This valuation was performed over the 1917 to 1920 time period. Part of our ICC Valuation collection is the information on the Clinch Valley District. We also have at the Archives the N&W's 1916 Shippers and Industrial Guide. The Archives also house the original Clinch Valley Construction Ledgers from 1887 to 1895. With so much data at hand, I dropped the project I was working on to pursue the development of a book about the Clinch Valley District.

The book is about 50 percent complete and combines data from the aforementioned documents along with other information available at the Archives. This information includes drawings and agreements from our collection of "Chief Engineer Contracts and Agreements" books. There are about 175 of these books in the Archives, with about 150 agreements per book. That is over 26,000 agreements that the N&W had with on-line industries. To date we have only managed to index some of these books by time period.

We also have about 24 volumes from the N&W's 1902-1914 Betterment Program. These volumes are in chronological order, list the costs of projects underway on a monthly basis and generally relate the projects back to a Presidential Authority. These volumes are not indexed, but if you have an idea of the time period you can normally find what you are looking for. We also have some Presidential Authorities. While they are not indexed, they are generally in chronological order.

The other major source of information that I use is the over 95,000 data items that have been indexed and are searchable at www.nwhs.org.

The question I started with, was "What is an Archive?" My own answer would be that the NWHS Archive it is a vast treasure chest - some of it is explored and some of it is not. Some of it we just have an idea of what is there, but that idea is enough to allow us to develop and publish information. After all, the Archives has a lot of good stuff.

Alex Schust

Places Along the Virginian

The Virginian Railway's Roanoke passenger station was built in 1909. The brick depot served Virginian passengers until January 1956, when passenger service stopped on the Virginian. The passenger station stood vacant for a number of years and was nearly destroyed by fire in January 2001. The Norfolk Southern Corporation transferred station ownership to the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in 2005. For the past few years the Roanoke Chapter NRHS, in partnership with the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, has been working to restore the depot.

After a few years of fund-raising, construction for Phase I (Brownfield cleanup, building stabilization and roof replacement) commenced on February 22, 2012 and was substantially complete by July 31, 2012. The final report on the Brownfield cleanup was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on July 10, 2012 and was approved by the EPA on December 31, 2012. EPA approval completed Phase I of the project.

Once the overall approval process was completed, a Request for Proposals for Phase II was published in December 2012, and four proposals were received on January 11, 2013. Spectrum Design team was selected for the contract, which is still in the approval process. The goal is to have the restoration completed in the summer of 2014.

Any restoration project requires both vision and plans. Roanoke Chapter NRHS plans to lease the larger former depot building to a commercial tenant and use the smaller former baggage/express building for a display area to explain, honor and remember the Virginian Railway and its employees. Part of the baggage/express building will also be used for Roanoke Chapter NRHS purposes.

The plans for the restored baggage/express building call for the building to house a display of Virginian Railway artifacts in the east room. These artifacts will include some of the items now on display at the Virginia of Transportation plus many others that have been collected and are in storage. Items in storage include the clock from the yard office of South Yard; lanterns; locks and keys; Virginian Time Tables; models of steam, electric and diesel locomotives; models of rolling stock and passenger cars; maps; drawings; tools; photographs and other items.

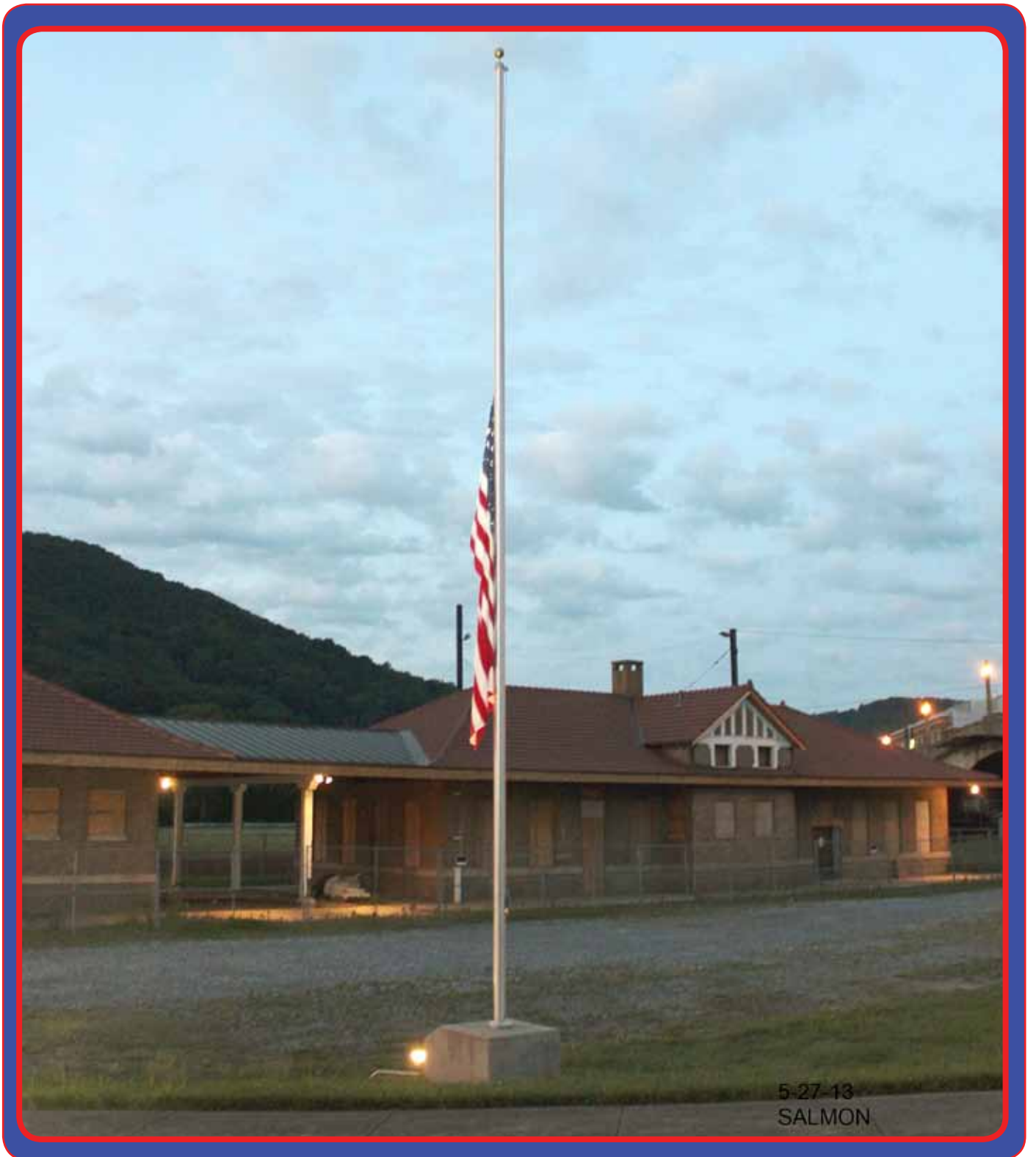
A dispatch panel will be programmed with a video of a modern train traveling from Demuth, Virginia to Altavista, Virginia. Other audio/video resources will include Skip Salmon's interviews with many former Virginian employees, as well a stream of Virginian DVDs. Computer terminals will allow visitors to research the Virginian Railway by direct accessing of the NWHHS Archives.

The middle rooms of the baggage/express building will be used as the office and board room of the Roanoke Chapter NRHS. Rest rooms will be housed in the west room of the baggage/ express building.

The Virginian's Roanoke passenger station is shown below circa 1960.

Skip Salmon





The restored Virginian Railway Roanoke passenger station at dawn on May 27, 2013 - Memorial Day
Skip Salmon Photo

Along the old N&W in the 21st Century



Auville Yard on Dry Fork Branch



Keystone, West Virginia



Lark, Virginia - Big Creek Branch - Clinch Valley District

Jim Cochran went on a N&W signal safari in July/August 2013. On July 31, 2013, he posted his first signal photographs. Those signal photographs started a discussion on N&W signals on the NWHS mailing list that is still on going at:

NW-Mailing-List@nwhs.org

You can find all of the messages on signals and all of Jim's photographs of signals by going to:

www.nwhs.org

and click on "Join the email discussion group." Click on:

NW-Mailing-List Archives

to see all of the messages in the thread. Jim's messages will include a link to the photographs.