



Talk Among Friends

October-November-December 2016

Talk among Friends and you.

by Ken Miller (miller@NWHS.org)

Hello everyone. I'm the new editor of Talk Among Friends. Welcome to our unfortunately delayed edition.

First, I'd like to offer a big thank you to Alex Schust who handled the TAF for more years than he'd probably like to count. He did a great job and put together some really interesting materials.

Talk Among Friends is exactly what the name implies, it is for Society news and happenings, and information to share. However, all this needs to come from a variety of sources, not just us folks in Roanoke. We are looking to expand our coverage with a wide variety of subjects, current operations on the Norfolk and Western, photos, modeling and whatever folks can think of. This is not just for TAF, but for the Arrow as well. Naturally, some material fits TAF better than the Arrow, but we will work to make that determination. Don't think you have a big article in you? Not a problem, shorter articles, product and model reviews, we'd love to have them. This is YOUR newsletter, we want to have material that you like to read or look at, we can only do that if you contribute. We cannot always promise that it will be in the very next issue, but we'd like to have material on hand for the future, in case something immediately newsworthy comes in.

So, to sum it up, we can make this an even better publications, but it really depends on what you, our members, can help us produce. Even if you don't think you are a writer, we'll do what we can to help make it polished. Don't have photos? Perhaps we have them in our wonderful archives, you might be amazed at the variety of materials there.

Even your memories of something specific N&W that participated in, or saw might be the only account of it. It might be small, might be large, but if it goes unrecorded, we all lose! •••

Archives Reports

by Dave Stephenson

Report No. 230

Work Session: August 11-14, 2016

Attending: Jim Blackstock, Bob Bowers, Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Dick Fisher, Robb Fisher, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Larry Hill, Chris and Harold Hunley, Cecil Jones, Dick Kimball, Roger Link, Skip Salmon, Charlie Schlotthober, Alex Schust, Ben Shank, Joe Shaw, Dave Stephenson

Next Session: Sept. 8-11, 2016

We had 20 attendees at the work session this month. Work session hours are 8:00a-4:00p Thurs-Sat and Sunday (starting 12:30p).

The card table by the front door for incoming donations has been moved to the end of the railing. They will be processed from there to the work areas.

Be sure to fill out a donation form when accepting materials. The form is on the web site at

<http://www.nwhs.org/archives/DonationForm.pdf>.

This month's archives report was written using contributions from many of the volunteers.

Specific Research Requests

The reporting of completed requests reflects the previous 12 months instead of work-session-to-work-session:

Aug 2015	3
Sept	7
Oct	14
Nov	4
Dec 2015	6
Jan 2016	6
Feb	7
Mar	7
Apr	7 (estimated)
May	8 (estimated)
June	3 (estimated)
July	3 (estimated)
..... Total: 68	

Ron Davis, Cecil Jones, Roger Link, Joe Shaw, and Dave Stephenson worked on research requests.

Ron and Roger are designing a new system to replace the

former manual and overly time-consuming process. It was tested for the first time during the August work session. It appears to work very well and will eliminate much of the manual work that hobbled the previous system.

Database Entry

Fred Boettner - N&W, Chesapeake Western, and Illinois Terminal caboose slides (N&W Classes C18c, CF) from the Robert G. Bowers collection

Dick Kimball - misc. slides, mostly Southern Ry. Many of the slides were not N&W-specific but were already assigned a number. Dick volunteered to go back and try to put in something to replace the "unknown" description during a previous work session. Further discussion suggested that what he did earlier was an appropriate method. Even if there is not much information, using a general description for a series of slides that were part of a training presentation or similar grouping was considered an improvement. Ron hopes to get to a point where we scan the slides first and then do the data entry by viewing the scan on the screen instead of squinting at the actual slide.

Joe Shaw - HS-S series, box cars, floor plans of M/W cars, boiler details for VGN US, MB, MC and AE classes, right-of-way and track maps, Clinch Valley District

Roger Link - photos and negatives from the Bruce Meyer collection, HS-G series drawings, track maps

Jim Blackstock - HS-E series drawings, various structures, navigation survey maps (Tug Fork)

Harry Bundy - drawings from the HS-H series, right-of-way and track maps (Levisa Branch)

General Archives Activities

Charlie Schlotthober and Larry Hill scanned drawings for orders and continued working on scanning mechanical drawings for the collection.

Robb Fisher pulled drawings to scan for orders, and re-filed those and other drawings.

Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory worked on drawings that were primarily from N&W suppliers (Fairbanks-Morse for one) and highway departments of various states. These had been side-lined to expedite handling of higher priority N&W drawings.

Harry's choice for drawing of the month is HS-B00198, a Virginian table dated August 25, 1921 and revised Nov. 15, 1957. This is a one-page index to Virginian's motive power, electric and steam. It shows road number, class, number of units, weight on drivers and weight of tender.

Bob Bowers worked on the web site data for diesels, cabooses and MofW equipment.

Cecil Jones printed out a research request but did not have time to do much research on the issue. He discussed setting up a simple Project spreadsheet for attendees to use

in describing the work accomplished at each monthly meeting with Ron Davis. The spreadsheet (Excel xlsx format) would be placed on the master server for the facility for all members/attendees to access and use on a regular basis. This would aid the ability to track what is being worked on and who is doing the work, so duplication of effort would be avoided. It would be a convenient, quick way to track various ongoing projects by the society and show the status/completion. This suggestion is being reviewed.

Alex Schust completed his research on coal mining siding agreements on the Buchanan /Levisa/ Dismal Creek Branches. He also completed indexing the N&W's Chief Engineers Contracts and Agreements Books by start and stop dates and number of pages. Based on Alex's last 10 years of research in the archives we expect to have separate discs of the coal mining siding agreements for McDowell County, Mercer County, Clinch Valley District and Buchanan/Levisa/Dismal Creek Branches in Hollinger boxes by the end of 2016. He also plans to put all of the branch line book research data, less photographs or low quality photos, on disc for archiving. This will be similar to Prince's book notes in the archives. For example, Alex has over 5GB of newspaper articles collected for Buchanan Branch book.

Joe Shaw continued sorting freight car vendor drawings. He scanned drawings on Sunday. He also handled digital delivery of several drawing orders.

Dick Fisher checked books in the library general railroad section vs. the database through Mountain Mainlines of the West, GEN.MOU.002) This brings the library shelving order up to date with the information in the database. In addition, he implemented transferring some of the railroad parts and maintenance manuals from 3-ring binders to a different style binder that would take up less shelf space. The manuals are mostly three-ring binders and take up a lot of shelf space because of their design. It was thought that using a different binder style would improve this. Dick tried the new style binder and determined that it would work.

Visitors

Skip Salmon helped Steve Summers on Thursday and Friday research VGN passenger cars for a book he is writing at the Archives this month.

Lewis Foster brought a passenger car drawing that showed the electrical wiring. He needed to send a copy to the car's current owners so they could update the car's wiring.

GOB EAST (from Joe Shaw)

We had four attendees at the July 2016 GOB East work session.

Ron Davis scanned drawings. Rob Ervine sized and repaired drawings. Roger Link flattened drawings. Joe Shaw performed data entry on rolled drawings.

Here are the dates for future GOB East work sessions:
Aug 27 • Sept 24 • Oct 29 • Nov 26 • Dec 31

Outside Activities

The O. Winston Link Museum is preparing a display of large format N&W photographs from the NS Goode office building in Atlanta. This photo collection is currently located in the NWHS archives, and the photos for the Link display are being loaned by NWHS. Gordon Hamilton, Harry Bundy and Ken Miller assisted in determining the locations of the photos.

From the Virginiafirst.com website – “Train lovers took over the Boonsboro Ruritian Club for the 38th Annual Rail Day in Lynchburg. More than 300 people came from up and down the east coast to see and buy model trains and railroad memorabilia. The Blue Ridge National Railway Historical Society sponsors the event for train enthusiasts.” NWHS had a table at the event, manned by Dean Taylor and Doug Andre.

Archives Report

July 31, 2016

Report No. 229

Work Session: July 7-10, 2016

Attending: Jim Blackstock, Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Larry Hill, Chris and Harold Hunley, Roger Link, Skip Salmon, Charlie Schlotthober, Dave Stephenson, John Swann

Next Session: Aug 11-14, 2016

We had 13 attendees at the work session this month. Work session hours are 8:00a-4:00p Thurs-Sat and Sunday (starting 12:30p).

The card table by the front door for incoming donations has been moved to the end of the railing. They will be processed from there to the work areas.

Be sure to fill out a donation form when accepting materials. The form is on the web site at

<http://www.nwhs.org/archives/DonationForm.pdf> .

This month’s archives report was written using contributions from many of the volunteers.

Specific Research Requests

The reporting of completed requests reflects the previous 12 months instead of work-session-to-work-session:

July 2015 - 9	
Aug	3
Sept	7
Oct	14
Nov	4
Dec 2015	6

Jan 2016	6
Feb	7
Mar	7
Apr	7 (estimated)
May	8 (estimated)
June	3 (estimated)
.....	Total - 81

Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Gordon Hamilton, Roger Link, and Dave Stephenson worked on research requests.

Ron Davis and Dave Stephenson discussed new directions for research request administration and operation. Ron and Roger are designing a new system to replace the former manual and overly time-consuming process.

Database Entry

Fred Boettner - N&W and Illinois Terminal cabooses (N&W Classes C9, C9P, C34) from the Robert G. Bowers collection

John Swann - books in the library general railroading section (Lionel Collectors Guide, GEN.LIO.01.01 to Mountain Mainlines of the West, GEN.MOU.002)

Joe Shaw – right-of-way and track maps, Clinch Valley District

Roger Link -scanning and entering VGN negatives from the Bruce Meyer collection, stenciling drawings from the Mark Faville collection

Harry Bundy – drawings from the HS-G series, right-of-way and track maps

Jim Blackstock - HS-CC series drawings, various structures

Gordon Hamilton – Technical booklet: Instructions for Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Stone-Franklin [passenger] Car Lighting equipment

Skip Salmon - photos of restored Virginian station in Roanoke

General Archives Activities

Charlie Schlotthober and Larry Hill scanned drawings for orders and continued working on scanning mechanical drawings for the collection.

Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory revived some “basket case” drawings from the back room which required extensive taping and some required flattening with the hand-held iron.

The drawing of the month was HS-G00633, showing joint facilities with the Clinchfield Railroad at St. Paul, VA. At one time, CRR had trackage rights on the Clinch Valley District from Boody to Carbo in order to reach their Dumps Creek Branch.

Dean Taylor has agreed to replace Gordon on the archives grass mowing chore, but Gordon will continue spraying the archives grounds for weed control.

John Swann relocated the Locomotive Roster Standard Reference booklets (Kerr, 1990-1996, 2005, 2006) from the library shelves to Hollinger boxes (Hol-01034.01-.Hol-01034.09).

John Swann and Dave Stephenson discussed future directions and priorities in the library. Loose magazines, currently stored in Hollinger boxes and accordion files in the library, should probably be stored in file cabinets instead of on the library shelves (if space and \$\$ can be found). They take up over 25 ft. of shelf space and could be stored in about 12 file cabinet drawers. They also discussed the feasibility of culling some general topic books (e.g., fiction, limited interest, general modeling) from the General Railroading section. The new influx of railroad-related and historic reference books from Roanoke Chapter has made shelf space more critical than it has been in the past.

Visitors

None this month

GOB East (From Joe Shaw)

There were six attendees in June: Ron Davis, Rob Ervine, Gordon Hamilton, Bruce Harper, Roger Link, and Joe Shaw.

Ron scanned HS-G and HS-R size drawings. Rob flattened, sized, and repaired drawings. Gordon and Bruce Harper continued research on their respective projects. Roger flattened and sized drawings. Joe entered data on rolled drawings.

Here are the dates for future GOB East work sessions:
Aug 27 • Sept 24 • Oct 29 Nov 26 • Dec 31

Outside Activities

A meeting of the Link Museum Advisory Committee was scheduled at the Archives and included a tour of the facilities.

Report No. 231

Work Session: September 8-11, 2016

Attending: Jim Blackstock, Bob Bowers, Harry Bundy, Bob Cohen, Harold Davenport, Ron Davis, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Larry Hill, Chris and Harold Hunley, Cecil Jones, Roger Link, Eddie Mooneyham, Charlie Schlotthober, Ben Shank, Joe Shaw, Dave Stephenson

Next Session: Oct. 6-9, 2016

We had 18 attendees at the work session this month. Work session hours are 8:00a-4:00p Thurs-Sat and Sunday (starting 12:30p).

This month's archives report was written using contributions from many of the volunteers.

Specific Research Requests

The reporting of completed requests reflects the previous 12 months instead of work-session-to-work-session: Total - 75

Ron Davis, Roger Link, Dean Taylor and Dave Stephenson (admin only) worked on research requests.

Database Entry

Fred Boettner - N&W side dump cars, track geometry cars, gondolas (crossties) from the Robert G. Bowers collection

Roger Link - photos and negatives from the August Thieme collection and Wade Stevenson collections. One photo showed Class M no. 484 still equipped with inside valve gear as late as 1947.

Joe Shaw - HS-E series drawings, NKP station maps, misc drawings,

Jim Blackstock - HS-E series drawings, Roanoke freight depot foundation plans, proposed boiler house in Portsmouth, OH, proposed Columbus terminal (1892)

Harry Bundy - map and profile, Big Sandy line.

Gordon Hamilton - group picture of N&W car repair unit (1927), with many of the men identified and located on the photo.

General Archives Activities

Charlie Schlotthober and Larry Hill scanned drawings for orders and continued working on scanning mechanical drawings for the collection.

Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory continued work on large drawings. The majority of Harry's work was doing research for the Rockbridge County Historical Society, specifically determining date of the last passenger train to serve Natural Bridge and facts about the Natural Bridge depot and Bridge #428 which crosses both the James River and C&O at that location.

The drawing of the month was selected by Jim Blackstock, NS-E00717 dated 8/21/1939. It was drawn for the Virginia Holding Corporation and covered Alterations to the Press Box at Maher Field. Maher had been one of N&W's presidents.

Bob Cohen copied an employee timetable for donation to the archives, with the assistance of Jim Blackstock.

Harold Davenport was there was to pickup an "O" scale passenger car that Charlie Schlotthober had repainted. While he was at the Archives he got a print of a VGN tender truck drawing recently added to the NWHS collection.

Ben Shank continued work on the AAR photos and negatives. He also worked on getting the air conditioning system for the middle room repaired. It will need a new A-coil for the air handler inside and a new compressor unit outside. This was completed the week following the archives

work session.

Cecil Jones helped scan and file G size drawings.

Eddie Mooneyham re-filed drawings for Charlie and had a few EMD electrical drawings scanned as the originals were fading.

Joe Shaw continued worked on data entry, digital order processing (even took a phone order), and other various tasks. He also scanned drawings for data entry, defrosted the fridge, and helped unload the third wave of mounted photos from NS's Atlanta office via TVRM.

Dave Stephenson did the final sort of material and printed labels for folders in two Hollinger boxes. He also filed magazines in the library.

GOB East (From Joe Shaw)

We had four attendees at the August 2016 GOB East work session. August GOBE: Four attendees:

Ron Davis scanned drawings. Rob Ervine repaired drawings. Bruce Harper continued research. Joe Shaw rolled drawing data entry, and hand-ironed some drawings (a couple sets of 'mile sheets' for the Winston-Salem line that were rolled too tight to flatten well).

Here are the dates for future GOB East work sessions:
Oct 29 • Nov 26 • Dec 31

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Ron and Dean's BIG Adventure Or two men in a truck

by Dean Taylor

On Sunday August 18 Ron Davis spoke with Jeff Combs of Wheelersburg, Ohio about acquiring some 150 boxes of files saved from the Norfolk and Western Railway. Jeff wanted to know if the society would be interested in having. Generally speaking, of course we were. However, the only catch was that the rental space where they were stored, was only paid through the end of the month. Like an older ninja Ron fired up the old trusty Commodore 64 that we keep for just such an emergency and quickly secured a U-Haul or Ya-Haul if you are from anywhere south of Roanoke.



The collection of metal file boxes in the storage locker at Wheelersburg, Ohio. Bottom: Member Larry Evans with Ron. Ron Davis photos

I flipped open my phone and called member Matt Crouch, the ticket agent for Amtrak in Charleston, WV and purchased tickets on the Cardinal to from Clifton

Forge, VA to Huntington WV.

We were to leave on Friday the 23rd at 4:31 p.m., detrain in Huntington and spend the night with member Larry Evans, who made the mistake of answering the phone!



On Friday, we began setting operation Pandora's Box in motion. So as to not to call attention to ourselves, we chose to wear regular clothes and attempt blend in with "normal people." We do this as I have found that traveling wearing a T-Rex costume keeps people with small children from sitting anywhere near you.

We visited the C&OHS Archives in Clifton Forge while waiting for the Cardinal. Once we arrived in

Huntington Larry was there to pick us up and head off to his house for 5 hours of some much needed rest. It was only then that I realized how nice it was not to have to repair my T-Rex tail that usually gets caught in the doors when walking between coaches.



Above: Well, it ain't quite the Batmobile, but it sure got the job done. Below: Safe at Salem, Avenue. Ron Davis photos

Bright and early we headed off to get the U-Haul and got to see some really nice railroad country includ-



ing the path of the old DT&I. The truck was an hour from Huntington and another 45 min. from where we needed to be. We made it to the storage place where we met the parents of Jeff Combs and began loading the truck with the eagerness of kids at Christmas. Soon afterwards, we were on the road with a truck full of history. On arrival in Roanoke we met Joe Shaw who also made the mistake of answering his phone and volunteered to help unload the truck.

Once again Norfolk and Western history was safe! Okay, okay maybe it was not quite THAT dramatic but it was that much fun. It is not just a society; its an adventure.

If you would like to be involved in the next spinciter-tighting mission, let us know. We are looking forward to it as well. Ron Davis and I would like to thank the following members and people for helping out and stepping up. Thank you everyone!

Matt Crouch • Larry Evans
The Combs family • Joe Shaw

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Ridin' That New River Trail

by Daniel Ridenour

As one who has always been an avid biker and train enthusiast, I have always loved biking rails to trails lines. The New River Trail has quickly become one of my favorite rides.

The scenic views from Galax to Foster Falls were breathtaking on this former N&W North Carolina branch, but I think what made this ride so remarkable to me was the company kept on it. As a new member of the Norfolk and Western Historical Society, still just short of a year, riding with the society was a new experience.

Getting to meet fellow members and guests alike with similar interests as myself made the day memorable and full of great conversation. Every question we could come up with was quickly answered by our very knowledgeable guide, Dean Taylor. The day culminated with a recap at Foster Falls, in which we all commiserated in the ride and new found friendships.



Doug André Photos

The Norfolk and Western Historical Society will always be known, not just for our archives, but for our educational community activities and ever-expanding network of members and friends.

Come on out and join us for our next adventure! You never know what we might see or find. If nothing else, enjoy the great fellowship with other members.



A Note From One of Our New Members

Just a short note to let you know that I received my first copy of the N&WHS, "The Arrow", and I also want to thank you for inviting me to join the N&WHS.

"The Arrow" is a very fine magazine, well written and well edited plus it's filled with many beautiful photos of N&W locomotives.

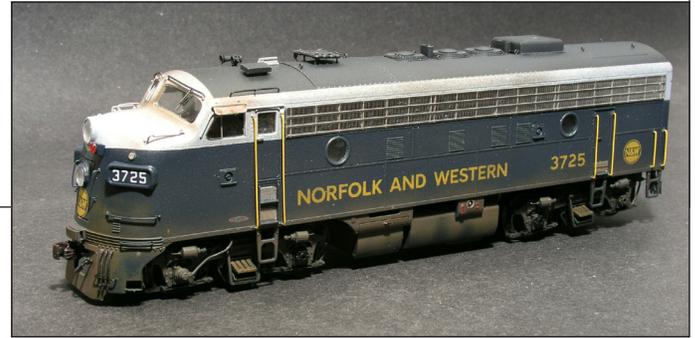
I must say that the cover stood out to me as well with the fantastic photo of 3725 leading the 3666 and it's train. I had just finished building a model of the 3725 a couple of weeks before the magazine arrived here and I was pleased to see the resemblance between the model and the prototype.



The model was built using a Highliners shell and powered with a Genesis chassis. I also used detail parts from Details West, Detail Associates, Hi-Tech and Evergreen styrene products. Scalecoat II paints were used for the Blue and Gray base coats and then weathered with Floquil colors.

Again, thank you for the invitation to join this fine historical society.

Bob Harpe, Savannah, Ga.



Future GOB East Work Sessions for 2016 October 29 • November 26 • December 31

Related News

Roanoke's Virginian Station will have its long awaited public opening on Saturday, November 12 with an open house. The project that began almost 16 years before is finally done! The open house is for everyone, please try to carpool, as parking will be limited. The hours are from noon to 4:00 PM.

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The Board of Directors met on October 22 in Roanoke. A variety of topics were discussed.

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The 611 returned to Roanoke on Monday, October 24, leaving Spencer near midnight for early morning arrival. She will be stored on display at Virginia Museum of Transportation until sometime in January, when she will run back to Spencer to have some more work done at their facility. The October 24th date was significant, as it marked the 57th Anniversary of her first "final" trip in 1959.