

Talk Among Friends



February 25, 2024

Norfolk and Western Historical Society

2024 Board of Directors

The Society elections will soon be upon us. We will be selecting an election chairperson who seeks nominations for election to fill seats on the Society's Board of Directors beginning at the Board Meeting in June 2024. We elect three Directors every year, and in 2024, the seats held by Frank Bongiovanni, Glenn Fisher and Mike Rhodes will be up for election. Frank and Glenn are term limited and cannot run again, Glenn Fisher has said he can no longer serve. Each of these positions is important in the operation of the Society.

The future of the Society requires that we have a competent and committed group of officers and directors in leadership positions. It is also essential that there be new participants in this process to ensure fresh ideas, relief for those currently serving, and the spread of the responsibilities necessary for the smooth functioning of the organization.

The Board meets at least three times yearly, with meetings in the Fall, late Winter, and at the annual convention. Occasionally, they will also meet at additional times as needed. In addition to a review of the Society's finances, the schedule includes various relevant topics. The Board meets virtually (via Zoom) and, when possible, in person.

The future and continued health of the organization make it essential that more members step forward and

"get involved!" We have a roughly 850-member organization with less than 20 members carrying the load to make things work. Why not you? Have you considered standing for election to the Board of Directors in 2024? Would you like to sit on one of the Board of Directors meetings to understand what's involved? If you are interested in "getting involved" and would like more information, don't hesitate to contact us via email at info@nwhs.org or by mail at P.O. Box 13908, Roanoke, VA, 24038-3908.

Description of the Duties of a Director

The Board of Directors collectively assumes fiduciary, legal, and philosophical responsibility for all N&W Historical Society activities. The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing society policy, approving the Society's finances, and determining the goals of the Society per its mission statement.

A Director should be very interested in the Society's purpose and goals and in serving the membership. In addition, a member's experience in or knowledge of administration, finance, program development, marketing, media communications, railroad, regional history, and railroad modeling is a valuable strength that easily applies to the administration of the Society and its projects and plans.

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2023 Convention Report

The theme of this year's N&WHS Convention, held June 8-11 at the Country Inn & Suites in Beckley, WV, was coal, and since we had not met in four years due to COVID, the program was purposefully designed to create fellowship in a relaxed, non-rushed environment. Forty-eight people registered. As intended, members had many old friendships renewed, and other members established new relationships.

Carpooling proved adequate, unlike the now almost impossible bus rental fees (the cheapest quote is nearly \$5,000!). The carpooling was especially handy during an impromptu tour of the Sophia Laundromat (lots of VGN pictures and rail/mining, among other things) after the Saturday afternoon session at the Affinity mine.

A Ruby Tuesday was just off the hotel premises, and it proved to be handy on Friday evening in treating Jim and Hazel Nichols to dinner on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. During the Saturday tour of the Exhibition Mine, Honey Baked Ham lunch was graciously picked up by the West Virginia Coal Association, and those who had already paid supplemented the Society's general fund.

The educational mine tour proved highly interesting: I ensured that by tipping each motorman \$20. The N&WHS bunch learned about everything from breast augers to the dreaded "kettle bottoms." The explanation of the Affinity operation from a bluff overlooking the complex proved equally popular.

During the convention, interesting presentations were made by Alex Schust (mainly on the USS Steel Gary operations of the Pocahontas Coalfield and his Hungarian ancestry), Jim Nichols, Grant Carpenter (didn't know there were THAT many curves on the Pokey!), Everett Young, Virginian Crazies, Modeling Committee led by Steve Summers, Tim Hensley (Ohio Extension/Kenova District of the Scioto Division) and others.

Members only brought three entries for the modeling contest, so prizes were not awarded. Committee chairman Steve Summers promises to solicit more for the next convention.

The banquet was held Saturday night at Pasquales Italian Restaurant, across the street from the hotel. No one was underfed.

The keynote speaker was Jason Bostic, an N&WHS member (C&O too!) and executive vice president of the West Virginia Coal Association; his background and remarks about coals' continuing—and surprising—strength are presented nearby. On behalf of WV Coal, Bostic also offered to pick up the dinner cost, but I declined.

During the festivities (I was already standing), founder Rick Stone, Laura Hughes, and Jim Nichols were asked to

rise. I pointed out that we four, among those able to attend, are what's left of the founding members of the N&WHS.

Also, Myra Lindsey was drafted to draw the door prize tickets during the banquet. Since there was nothing Virginian, I presented convention co-chairman Steve Summers with a hand-colored picture of Shawsville Elementary boys playing baseball with the Class J-drawn Powhatan Arrow passing in the background for his efforts. How many Americans can you get?

The convention ended with the annual business meeting on Sunday morning, as Chairman Frank Scheer did the honors. We conducted a question and answer session about the Society's goals, objectives, and accomplishments.

But sometimes, the best is saved for last. As I was leaving the parking lot, Kurt Reiswber called me over to his car. He presented the N&WHS with several big boxes of photographs and negatives taken by the late Roger Armstrong, N&W's assistant Pocahontas Division engineer. They now repose in the Society Archives.

— Tim Hensley, *President, Convention Co-Chair*

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Society News - February 25, 2024

Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign is continuing. To all the folks who donated thus far, a huge thank you! You will get thank you letters for your tax purposes, dated December 2023, but that has been delayed due to health issues—many thanks for your generous contributions to our capital campaign. While the campaign has done remarkably well thus far, we will still need a fair amount more. Our Archives are vitally important, and ensuring their continued operation and housing them in proper space is critical to our mission.

Our building search committee had high hopes for a successful bid on a former Norfolk Southern office building, but we came up short. The committee has searched the Roanoke area high and low for suitable space. Thus far, there is a drastic shortage of suitable space for our needs at a reasonable price. The committee has determined that we need somewhere between 12,000 and 20,000 square feet to house the collection we have or expect to acquire. Our building is 7,000 square feet, and our leased space in the Shenandoah Avenue Annex is roughly 2,800 square feet. We need at least half of the proposed space to be conditioned, i.e., environmental control for the material. We feel we need stay within roughly a five-mile radius of Route 460 to be convenient for members/volunteers and simply to have the place accessible for those who might want to come research. Handicapped access, parking, and office space are requirements as well. The committee welcomes suggestions/ideas.

Feel free to email suggestions to info@nwhs.org, which will sent on to the Board and committee.

Nickle Plate and Wabash Material

As you all may know, we decided that with the limited volunteers available, the cost of storage space, and the interest in making the material more available, the Board agreed to send the Nickle Plate (before the N&W merger) and Wabash (again, before the merger with N&W) material to new homes, who have folks more interested in those respective roads; the NKPT&HS and Wabash Historical Society. Both groups have even more limited storage space available than N&WHS, but both have gladly taken a wealth of materials; we hope once winter is over, the Wabash folks can come and get the remaining materials. Remember, this is all material ONLY on the predecessor roads, not post-merger. The N&WHS has a very limited group of volunteers, and their interest is primarily focused on the original N&W and Virginian. Sending this material to the respective groups seems an excellent way to work with the groups and get materials of interest to them out of being stored for decades and make it more available.

The Arrow

The *Arrow* schedule for the last half of 2023 needed to be revised. The editor, also laying out the new Ed King book, spent a tremendous amount of time preparing the book for print, which delayed the *Arrow* issues Three and Four. Issue

three arrived in your mail in early November, and issue four is coming to you now. Issue One for 2024 is in the works and hopefully will bring us closer to schedule, and issue Two will be close behind.

As you may have already read or noted, the *Arrow* is now returning to 32-page and possibly one 48-page issue yearly. We realize we did 48-page magazines more often, but the economy has not been kind to our *Arrow* cost-wise, going up in double digits in the last two years. Cutting back to a 32-page issue helps save us some money, both in printing and postage. The US Postal Service has gone to twice-yearly rate increases as of 2023, which also dramatically factors into our mailing costs. The Board is searching for solutions to the cost problem but is unwilling to decrease the magazine's quality. One suggestion made is to go to a more extensive, three-times-a-year publication, i.e., 64 pages, giving you 192 pages per year, compared to 3-32 page and 1-48 page issue, totaling 144 pages. Our members can send suggestions, ideas, and commentary to thearrow@nuwhs.org.

While the *Arrow* does have a moderate amount of material on hand, magazines consume things at a rapid rate. Please consider writing a piece on an N&W, VGN, or NS subject close to your heart. Even if you do not think you can write, don't hesitate to contact the editor, and we can discuss your interest. Simply writing down your thoughts may turn into an article. Personal memories and research topics can all generate some exciting material. Your editor can guide you toward material that can make your essay complete.

As you know, our *Arrow* depends heavily on archival materials for illustrations and content. There is always a need for articles covering the N&W, particularly from west of Williamson and eastward from Lynchburg. We indeed have a very heavily Appalachian coal fields-centric publication. That is where a lot of interest lies, but materials for other parts of the railroad are always welcome.

Membership

As we have often said, we need to increase membership and bring in younger members. Yes, we all realize that the N&W, for all practical purposes, has been gone for 40+ years, and other groups continue to thrive with their roads gone even longer. We must do this with younger members. Many of the various rail groups are aging and face similar issues. Yes, I get it. Younger folks have families, work issues, etc. But we all did go through that time in our lives. When I was more of a railfan than I consider myself now out shooting photos, I look back and wonder how I did it then.

I no longer consider myself a day-to-day type of railfan. I was 40 some years ago, I am still interested. But on the few occasions I go out, particularly with 611 operating or moving, it continually amazes me how many younger folks are out, many with costly cameras and producing excellent materials, but they do not want a magazine they pay for.

I'd be happy to have their materials in the *Arrow*; I don't think most of us go, "Yawn, just another 611 shot!" but are interested in seeing what is done today. Our members must recruit younger folks to join us and learn about the great N&W and Virginian.

Another area that we are not reaching is modelers. I see some fantastic work, including 3D printing of N&W subjects. While we have been printing Bob Chapman's series on the N&W head-end cars to acclaim, we need more material like this. We will not turn the *Arrow* into a modeling magazine, but a feature or so in every issue is more than welcome.

Modeling is how I originally got into this hobby. We all had toy trains when we were young, and I loved seeing the real thing. But with the dramatic lack of N&W books and features in the magazine (not to mention the very few N&W or Virginian-lettered models), I could not study the subject as I wished, so I turned to models first. Building a room-sized model railroad was challenging and fun, but I hungered for more information. That led me to study and seek more information, but I still needed help finding it. I studied old issues of *N&W Magazines*, which I discovered at a Roanoke junk shop when I was about 12. Those magazines, which I purchased over time with my lawn mowing money, was a lot of my education, but it was still limited. I continued to model, although poorly, but it continued my interest, and going out to watch the real thing was always a treat.

Then, in the summer of 1981, on being involved in the 611's pending return to service, I felt like I had to decide between the prototype and the models. My logic was pretty simple: models would always be around. I don't believe that anyone at the time, much less I could imagine the vast leaps forward, such as DCC, sound, and detail that would be the future. I still would like to learn more about the modeling side of things, and having that in our *Arrow* will only bring about better models and perhaps even more interest in the N&W and Virginian.

The Commissary

The Society is looking at items we stock for sale in our Commissary. At one time, in the past we purchased models and ran pre-sale offers on many things. But for the most part, the lack of participation of our membership made these an exercise in futility, with some members ordered but not paying when the models came in.

Since we are not a large volume dealer or a brick and mortar storefront, we cannot get huge quantity deals, nor offer discounts like some internet retailers. So, unless things improve, we simply cannot sit on a huge inventory of models that take several years to sell.

Unfortunately, in the past year, several of our vendors went out of business, and we are searching for replacements.

— Ken Miller, Editor

Board of Directors Minutes

Questions have arisen about what your Board of Directors does over the year.

With this edition of the *Talk Among Friends*, we decided to include a summary of the minutes of the four BOD meetings held in 2023. For space and interest level, the minutes have been condensed to minimize a report of discussions that were made moot by subsequent happenings, some internal issues, and some material that is very uninteresting to most of the membership. Also, please recognize that with e-mail and phone contact, discussions and informal or urgent decisions were made between meetings. As Secretary, Ken Miller has documented all significant Board decisions.

Minutes of the Meeting of N&WHS Board of Directors January 28, 2023 –Virtual

Board Chairman Frank Scheer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attending: Chuck Akers, Tim Hensley, Glenn Fisher, Rick Musser, Frank Scheer, Ken Miller, Stephen Warren, Ryan Merrill, Brent Stevens, Mike Rhodes, and Frank Bongiovanni.

Not attending: Sam Phillips.

Reports:

President

Tim Hensley reported that he had picked up the negatives from Bob's Photo and delivered them to Roanoke. Tim then discussed the upcoming Beckley convention; some details will be in the forthcoming TAF. Tim reported that the charter bus would be extraordinarily costly and is looking for some alternatives. There was some discussion regarding the bus cost situation and possible options. There was a discussion regarding the potential of working with other groups.

Tim has recently talked to David Goode, and things are proceeding with a possible building. Tim has also spoken with an NS official about getting in to see if any material remains at GOB East.

Capital Campaign

Ken Miller reported that he had sent out a detailed report on multiple issues, including capital campaign details, and his detailed reports are incorporated in the official minutes.

Building

Here also, Ken referred to his report previously submitted to the BOD. Frank Bongiovanni had sent out an e-mail with his concerns about a building. Ken responded with a link to the Google map of the NS office building under discussion and an explanation of potentially available space. The BOD continued the discussion regarding the specific

building and its value to us. Stephen Warren made a motion that the building committee, chaired by Tim Hensley, work with NS to negotiate with a potential offer of \$250,000. Frank Bongiovanni seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Akers and Brent Stephens stated they want to participate in the building committee, and Brent also wishes to participate in the Richmond meeting. Tim made a motion to add Chuck Akers and Brent Stephens to the building committee, seconded by Stephen. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 Convention

Frank Scheer asked if we have a convention committee. If not, should we? Tim updated the Board on the plans for the Convention in Beckley. He and Steve Summers are working on setting up the schedule so that the presentations are consistent with the tours. June 8-10. The membership meeting is to be on Sunday morning before checkout. The Committee is Tim, Steve Summers, Frank Bongiovanni, and two others who worked with the canceled Cleveland conventions.

After this meeting, a Convention Committee was set up to be chaired by Steve Summers. It is set out in the mandate for this Committee that the Convention Committee will advise, provide parameters, etc., for the local convention committee and that the BOD Convention Committee is not substituting for a local Convention Committee and local Convention Chairman.

Nominating Committee

We needed a nominating committee of one or more to get candidates. Frank Scheer's, Ryan Merrill's, and Sam Phillips's terms are expiring. Ron volunteered to head the Committee. Stephen suggested including Christine Williams. Related to this was a discussion of a succession plan and help for Ken.

Contact with Virginia Historical Society:

We were awaiting a return call from the head of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Bruce Harper raised the question.

Other Items

Rick Musser reports that 53 member surveys have been returned. Only a tiny percentage of the members had either attended a convention or had any interest in such—some discussion of costs of survey software.

Stephen asked if our IT folks could find some form of open-source code for doing our surveys.

Ken suggested we approve the minutes from the previous meeting for the last two meetings. He sent the minutes via e-mail; we will review and approve/correct the minutes.

Ken suggested a virtual meeting between this meeting and the Convention—a general agreement on doing such

in April. Directors should e-mail Frank Scheer with date preference.

Ken made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Rhodes. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**Minutes of the Meeting of N&WHS
Board of Directors
April 15, 2023 –Virtual/Archives**

The meeting was held in hybrid form. Board Chairman Frank Scheer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attending: Chuck Akers, Tim Hensley, Rick Musser, Frank Scheer, Ken Miller, Brent Stevens, and Frank Bongiovanni. Also attending was member Jim Overholser.

Not attending: Mike Rhodes, Stephen Warren, Sam Phillips, and Ryan Merrill.

Reports:

President

Tim talked with David Goode a few weeks ago. Goode said he had made a call to Mr. Shaw on our behalf about the division office building. The call has yet to be returned. Tim suggests we write a formal letter and offer on the building.

2023 Convention plans are progressing.

2023 Convention

The convention brochure was out, and registrations are coming in. Frank Bongiovanni reported that he and Steve Summers will be providing some further suggestions and details to Tim on the upcoming Convention. He also reported on the modeling contest Mike Rhodes is interested in serving on the modeling committee (Mike's appointment was made after this meeting).

Nominating Committee

Ron Davis reports that the three members up for reelection are Ryan Merrill, Sam Phillips, and Frank Scheer. Thus far, only Frank Scheer has responded with an affirmative answer. Nominations may be allowed from the floor.

President's Report

Tim reported he had spoken with David Goode a few weeks previously, who will make a call on our behalf about the Kimball Avenue building. He mentioned that they are very busy with the NS issues in East Palestine. Tim proposed writing a formal letter to NS Realty with an offer for the building.

Convention planning continued; speakers and presenters have been lined up. Chris Hamilton, President of the West Virginia Coal Association is keynote speaker.

Tim reported that Bob's Photos has found another batch of negatives, a total of 81 Virginian and 398 N&W negatives, a total of 479 at \$5.00 each, or \$2,395.

Tim has been working with Ken on illustrations for the Ed King book.

Frank Bongiovanni reported that C&OHS is still open to working with us on a dual event. Frank said it should be announced at the Convention where next year would be, which is the Roanoke schedule. Frank still thinks a New River Valley convention would be good if we can find some people to lead such.

Regarding Bob's photos, Ken reminded us that our original purchase authorization was roughly \$2,000 less than the total we had authorized earlier. Tim suggested we proceed with getting a check cut for \$2,395.

Capital Campaign

Ron Davis reported that we have raised over \$200,000 thus far. Some discussion occurred about offers to NS on the building, various issues of such a building, and the best approach for moving forward. Frank Scheer said Tim will write a letter to the NS person to be determined with an expression of interest in Kimball Avenue. No motion is deemed necessary for this action.

Tim talked about how he was pleased with the money raised and suggested we need a point person to lead the campaign into a more formal phase. Chuck Akers is willing to take the lead in heading this up. There was further discussion on fundraising and how it works, including some grants.

Rex Teese Film Digitization

The films are complete and available to download online. Films have been returned. Ron will work with Rex to produce a teaser on our website. Ken added that it was in the last Talk Among Friends article, which is to be in a near-future Arrow. Rex stated that he had been disappointed in the online response and reconsidered further film projects.

Minutes and Reports of Prior Meeting

Frank Scheer made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Tim. Motion passed.

Frank Scheer made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Rick Musser. Motion passed.

Rick Musser reported that 611 would run the last two weekends in May at Strasburg, then return to Virginia. And pending NS approval, some operations in Virginia will occur in the fall.

Rick Musser made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chuck Akers. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

**Minutes of the Meeting of N&WHS
Board of Directors
June 7, 2023 –Virtual/Beckley Convention**

The meeting was held in hybrid form. Board Chairman Frank Scheer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There

were numerous technical issues for folks signing in.

Attending: Ken Miller, Tim Hensley, Frank Scheer, Ken Miller, Ron Davis, Stephen Warren, and Michael.

Not attending: Brent Stevens, Chuck Akers, Rick Musser, Frank Bongiovanni, Sam Phillips and Ryan Merrill.

Chairman Sheer had proxies from Brent Stephens, Frank Bongiovanni, and Rick Musser.

Reports:

President

Tim had been focused on the Convention, working with Steve Summers. The Convention is progressing OK but needs a reasonable bus service. The Banquet speaker will be from the West Virginia Coal Association. Tour of the Affinity Mine will be the next day.

Frank Scheer, Ron Davis, and Tim all went to Strasburg and, between the two weekends, sold roughly \$4,300 total. This was a good total for the two weekends.

Tim has drafted a letter to Alan Shaw regarding the building. Tim will send the letter to the Board soon after the meeting for suggestions. (The result of this discussion and the related correspondence was provided to the BOD without waiting for the next formal BOD meeting. In essence, the offer to NS for the purchase of the office building, \$200,000 down, the rest to be financed, was nicely but firmly rejected by NS).

Tim hopes several of us should visit the Virginia Museum of Culture and History. And Mr. Goode would like Tim and Ken to interview him for a possible book.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ken reported the minutes of the previous meeting have yet to be completed at this point, but hopefully will be prepared for the next directors meeting.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday morning, June 10, and will be limited to in-person attendees. Participants will take notes and send them out to Ken for compilations. There will be no attempt to do a Zoom meeting due to lack of notice and Ken and Stephen's unavailability.

Ken's Various Reports

Ken reported that he had sent out a report on various things, including the capital campaign details, and they are part of the minutes.

Nominating Committee

Ron reported that the three members up for reelection are Ryan Merrill, Sam Phillips, and Frank Scheer. Frank Scheer and Sam Phillips have agreed to serve. Christine Williams has decided to serve.

Tim made a motion that we vote for the slate as presented, and Stephen seconded. Motion passed.

Frank Scheer asked if the officers were willing to continue. Michael Rhodes made a motion to maintain the officers as

presently stated, and Frank Scheer seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Reports

Ron reports a deficit of roughly \$35,000 in membership compared to the cost of the Arrow. This statement led to a lengthy discussion of the costs of the Arrow vs. raising dues. Questions were raised about procedures to reduce costs. Ken said we could consider several things; one would be to go with a lighter paper weight, which saves in two ways, reducing mailing and printing costs, restrict issues to 32-page issues only, or reduce to black and white inside, which is not a desired solution, and may not be a significant factor. Further discussion at the next meeting.

Next Board meeting will be determined at a later date. The date will be set after the Convention is over.

Tim Hensley made a motion to adjourn, and Michael Rhodes seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of N&WHS Board of Directors November 11, 2023 –Virtual

The meeting was held virtually. Board Chairman Frank Scheer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Attending: Tim Hensley, Frank Scheer, Frank Bongiovanni, Ken Miller, Ron Davis, Rick Musser, Stephen Warren, Chuck Akers and Christine Williams

Not attending: Glenn Fisher, Mike Rhodes, and Sam Phillips.

Chairman Sheer has a proxy from Glenn Fisher, who cannot attend.

Minutes of Previous Director's Meeting

Ken had submitted the minutes for the two previous meetings by e-mail before the meeting. Stephen Warren moved acceptance of minutes, Chuck Akers seconds. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ron had submitted via e-mail before the meeting. Christine Williams motioned to accept the treasurer report, seconded by Rick Musser. Motion passed.

Membership Report Summary

This report was submitted by e-mail before the meeting.

Archives Report Summary

Stephen had submitted a report via e-mail before the meeting. Stephen reported a summary of his written report. Christine asked if we had contacted someone in the Brewster/Sugar Creek, Ohio area on the W&LE material that the NKP folks have discarded. Some discussion on the NKP discards material.

Publications Report Summary

Ken submitted this as part of his overall report via e-mail before the meeting.

Future Archives Location Report

There was some discussion of a potential site in conjunction with Roanoke Chapter NRHS. This possibility is in the extremely early planning stages, but the Board agreed that it is well worth pursuing as we understand the Chapter's plans.

Membership Costs vs. Dues

Ron had sent out a report showing a loss in membership over the last few years—a discussion of raising dues over losses of members with loss of members with higher costs. There was a lengthy discussion of this matter, with further discussion to continue.

2024 Convention

Steve Summers has joined the meeting and reports on his efforts at the Convention in Roanoke in 2024. Steve visited several months ago to check out hotels and the potential banquet situation. The schedule is proposed, with a lunch at VGN station on Friday and a BBQ at VMT on Saturday evening. As previously expected, the bus costs have increased, so we are looking at alternatives. There was some discussion of a possible keynote speaker for the membership meeting. Frank Bongiovanni suggested possible C&OHS involvement. There is a possible trip on Thursday to the C&OHS in Clifton Forge. Steve suggested that we also invite Roanoke Chapter members as well.

2024 Nominating Committee and Election

Ron has volunteered once again to Chair.

Capital Campaign

Christine suggested we need transparency on the numbers of both Capital Campaign and Membership costs, what we are planning, and where we are going. Ron discussed a plan to consider an architectural service to begin preliminary design for a new building and made a motion to allocate up to \$30,000 to do design work; Christine seconded. There is some discussion over whether we are giving up on an existing building. There would be a Constant Contact and Talk Among Friends separate mailing. Frank requested that the motion be tabled and that we further explore Roanoke Chapter potential.

Brent Stephens volunteered to assist in architectural services for this project. There was a lengthy discussion about the availability of space in the area. Ron commented that warehouse space everywhere is at a premium. Ron also asked how much a new place would cost compared to purchasing and fixing an existing place.

Tim suggests a meeting in Roanoke on Saturday, January 27, 2024—at 9:00 a.m. at the Archives Building. (Note: In an e-mail discussion post-meeting, the availability of most could have been better for that date. Instead, a date of February 10 was proposed.)

Chuck Akers expressed that it would be better if we could

own the property, making more grants possible. He also has a contact with a potential for us to use a construction company he has dealt with to get a better price. Frank Bongiovanni raised his questions about owning a building and property. Frank Scheer suggests tabling further related discussion until January.

Presidents Report

Tim motioned that the Society should not turn down any material donation, regardless of our specific interest in that material, as it may result in a further donation; Ken seconded. The motion passes with Christine Williams voting no.

Christine made a motion to adjourn, Tim Hensley seconds. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ken Miller, Secretary

Note: Special thanks to Frank Bongiovanni who edits the minutes for publication and helps simplify them for readers. Please note, that reports (mentioned) are available on request via email, send your request to info@nwhs.org, with the specific report(s) you are interested in.

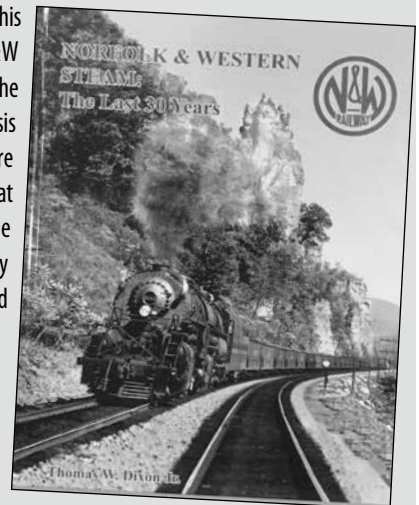
**Books Make Great Gifts! • Lots More
Books, Merchandise and Photos On
the Website
Please Check www.NWHS.org/
Commissary**

Great Photo Reference Book!

Norfolk and Western Steam -The Last 30 Years

112-Page Hardcover Book. N&W perfected its operation of steam locomotives in the 1930s-40s and was so efficient with them that it resisted dieselization longer than any other railroad. This book gives an overview of N&W steam locomotives operating in the period 1930-1960 with emphasis on the three classes that were the backbone of the fleet in that era: J-class 4-8-4s, A-Class simple articulated 2-6-6-4s, and the many Y-classes of 2-8-8-2 compound articulated.

Stock No. 138.166
\$29.95 Special Sale Price
Only \$19.95



The Commissary



Norfolk and Western Historical Society

Issue February 25, 2024

**American Model Builder's Shut Down on February 24, 2024
AMB KITS IN STOCK Ready to Ship AS OF PRINTING DATE!
Only Available for a Limited Time.**

Don't be disappointed, order early, once these are gone, they are gone!

HO Scale N&W Standard Second Class Station No. 2

As most modelers may have heard, American Model Builders, the manufacture of our Standard Station kits, closed up suddenly in late February. We had, after several years, finally gotten a shipment of this fantastic kits in late January. AMC closed with no notice, and we have no indication that the business will continue or what has happened to the inventory. This is unfortunate information, but after several years, the Society had just been donated the rights to the kit from member Sam Putney, and we managed to get the one order in before AMB closed.

This is a Society exclusive! N&W Standard number 2 combination station. HO scale, is not a craftsman kit, but not a "shake the box" kit, either. It does take some skill to build one of these kits. In studying many photos of stations, you will see many similar to this one. This plan is believed to be the first actual standard Norfolk and Western station design, The first iteration of the plan for the combination station was issued in 1895, and was updated in 1904. To their credit a number of these survive, in some form, to this day. Possibly the best know example of this style depot was at Blue Ridge, but examples can be found across the entire original N&W.



Stock No. 134.32 \$114.95 (member price \$105.95)



Cullen Station (HO Scale)

Cullen Station is based on a structure once standing at milepost 133.9 on the Virginian Railway'. Consists of a building housed the agent's office, a 9'4" x 12'0" freight room with loading dock, and an attached open shed "waiting room". Photographs suggest it remained in service after the Virginian's merger in to Norfolk and Western in 1959 on through the early 1970s. This is an HO scale laser cut kit.

Stock No. 134.29 Retail: \$29.95 (member price 26.95)

Cullen Handcar Shed (HO Scale)

Complimenting the Cullen Station Kit above, this shed is a replica of a standard design Virginian two-bay Handcar/Maintenance Shed. Measures 3.125" long x 1.75" wide x 2" high.

Stock No. 134.30 Retail: \$18.95 (member price \$16.95)



N&W's Class CF Caboose (N Scale) (Sorry, HO is sold out!)

With their wood side sheathing and white lettering, these cabs served the N&W from their construction in the early 1900s to the 1960's. Now, you can have an accurate model of this car from American Model Builders. This laser-cut wood constructed caboose body kit comes ready for detailing. Innovative engineering and the precise fit that is a trademark of AMB products is amply used in this kit. Trucks and couplers are not included.

Stock No. 134.31 Retail: \$46.95

Members Save on all prices shown unless otherwise noted!

Lots More Merchandise And Photos On The Website Please Check www.NWHS.org/Commissary for the latest items!

Norfolk and Western Historical Society • PO Box 13908 • Roanoke, VA 24038

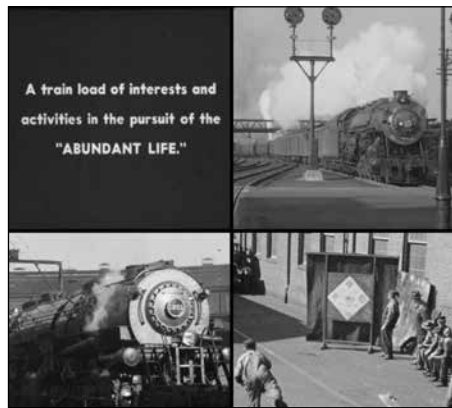
Restored Steam Era N&W Films available for viewing!

Filmmaker Rex Teese has been working over the past year to restore the famed N&W films and make them available for rental. He is working in conjunction with the N&WHS to make these newly-restored films available for the first time in high-resolution and color restored versions.

Look for a full article on the films and their restoration in an upcoming Arrow!

Rex says: Over the course of the last year, I have spent about 500 hours restoring the films of the Norfolk & Western Railway, "Modern Coal

Burning Steam Locomotive," "Operation Fast Freight," "The Power Behind the Nation," and one you may not be aware of, "Abundant Life." Using prints provided by The Norfolk & Western Historical Society, the films were scanned at 6.5K,



color corrected, much dust and dirt hits were removed, and the audio was cleaned up. New 4K hi-res masters were then created.

In addition to the films, seventy-five minutes of out takes from "Modern Coal Burning Steam Locomotive" were scanned from the original camera negative.

All of this material is now available to rent on-line. In appreciation for their assistance, a portion of the proceeds from the rentals of the films will be returned to the N&WHS, and the restored masters will be added to their archives.

<https://thecompanystoreondemand.vhx.tv>

The film rentals can also be "gifted". Someone can purchase a rental, then have the access link sent as a gift.



HO Scale 2-story Section Foreman's House!

In 2017 we introduced the single story section foreman's house (below) to rave reviews. A totally new laser-cut kit that filled a true missing link in the N&W modeling world. Now we have yet another N&W structure. Carefully crafted from original plans from our Archives is the 2 story section foreman's house. Hopefully, in 2024, we will be adding another N&W structure to our inventory.

The section foreman's house was a common structure along the N&W in many places, and the single story version may be slightly more common, but the all new kit features the 2-story variety that was also common. Every N&W layout should have at least one of these structures, if not more, make a few varieties, customize them for your era and layout. There are varieties of these buildings, and if nothing else, use them as regular residences on your railroad. What a true way to get an N&W flavor to your railroad. In stock, shipping immediately!

Stock No. 133.51 \$70.00 (member price \$65.00)

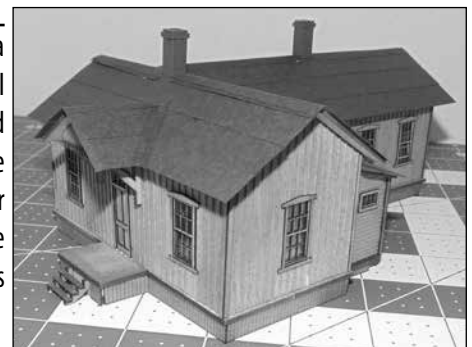
Photos of actual completed kits.



N&W Section Foreman's House - HO Scale!

This is an N&W Historical Society exclusive. In the days prior to mechanization, track gangs would maintain a specific section, usually 10-15 miles long. Each section was lead by a section foreman. The foreman had to be on call all the time, and the company provided a home along the right of way, near his section to live in. Like all railroad structures, nothing is totally standard as modifications were made over time to meet changing needs. These were used system-wide and many still stand to this day, often modified, but still recognizable. This is a beautiful HO laser cut wood kit. This will be appropriate on any N&W or even NS layout from the 1910 era to today. The photo is the actual kit. The Winston-Salem Southbound also had these. NOTE: There are plans to make an N scale version of this kit, but the schedule is unknown.

Stock No. 133.49 (HO Scale) \$45.00 (member price \$41.00)



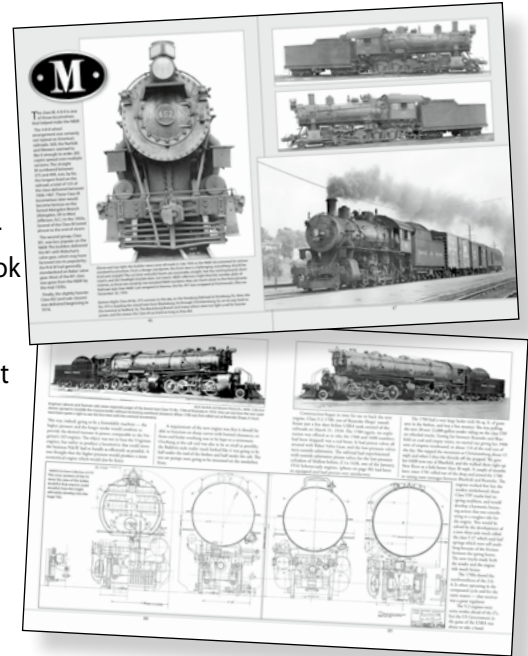
Please remember, buying from the N&W Historical Society helps keep our Society strong! Come visit our N&W (and VGN) Archives Facility in Roanoke, see what your purchases help keep operating! Every purchase is appreciated! Look for Special Pricing on Certain Items!

NOW IN STOCK! New Book from Ed King Thirteen Scoops Around the Box Memoirs of an Appalachian Railroad Man



A brand new book from the Society by well-known steam authority Ed King. As railroad books go, this is a different take than other books. Ed has written a fictional but very authentic "memoir" by another Ed King, who was hired out in engine service on the N&W in 1903, and it follows his career through May 1950 when he retired. While it may be fictional, it is genuinely based on reality, using authentic

The reviews we've heard are all positive and well-received. We think every N&W fan should have this in their library. Take a look at the sample pages below for an idea of what it entails.



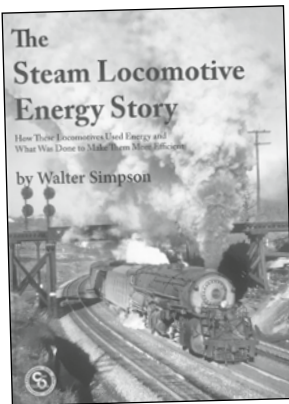
N&W places, locomotives, and descriptions.

Most readers have found this a fascinating book, beginning with the young man coming out of Bristol, Va., traveling to Roanoke, and hiring as a fireman on the Radford Division. The tale rings authenticity all the way around, but as Ed said, "It is fiction in case I don't get a place or location or time frame exactly right." It is not a real person, at least at that time. Regardless, this will be a tremendous addition to your N&W library! As you read, you will forget that this is not an actual story.

208 Pages Hardcover

Over 225 Photos/Diagrams/Drawings Maps and Timetables

Stock No. 150.53 Member Special \$59.95/Retail: \$64.95

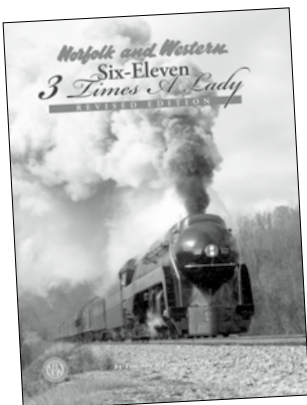


Hardcover Book from our Friends with the C&O Historical Society with N&W materials: The Steam Locomotive Energy Story

144-page hardcover • Many black and white and color illustrations

Our friends at C&OHS have produced this fantastic book from noted Author Walter Simpson who had previously addressed the Steam Turbines (also available from the Commissary). Walter's new volume covers the steam locomotive energy story, how the railroads sought to make steam power more efficient. There is much N&W material as well as other roads in this volume with ads, photos and charts. The very readable text is a must for your steam library.

Stock SKU Member Price of \$38.95 Non-Member \$44.95



Norfolk and Western Six-Eleven, 3 Times a Lady

128-page hardcover, over 200 illustrations

Signed and numbered edition of 1,000 copies. This book was originally published in 2015 as a 96-page book, but sold out quickly in 2016, completed revised and expanded in this edition. It is the complete story of famed Class J No. 611 with background material on the Class J itself and after her birth in May 1950, to her retirement in 1959. The struggle to save her in 1959 with final arrival at the then new Roanoke Transportation Museum in 1963. The story continues with her rebirth as a mainline excursion locomotive in 1982 until another retirement in 1994. Followed by another break before resurrection for her third career in 2015!

There are numerous photos of 611 and her sisters, many never previously published, drawings from our archives, and additional text to cover her career to date.

Stock No. 150.53 Members Price \$49.95/Retail: \$54.95



NORFOLK & WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Convention 2024

June 13-15, Roanoke, West Virginia

Holiday Inn Airport, Roanoke, VA

The N&WHS and your convention hosts would like to invite you to the 2024 N&WHS convention in Roanoke, VA, this year. We will return to Roanoke this year after a long absence due to Covid. The convention will return to the Holiday Inn Airport Convention Center on 3315 Ordway Drive, NW, Roanoke, VA 24017, located just off the Hershberger Road exit on I-581. As with all conventions, please book early, before June, to ensure the best rate and availability of rooms. ***N&WHS room rate is \$129 plus tax with free parking. Please contact the hotel directly.***

As we did last year, our focus is on fellowship and getting together, we will try and organize some outings later, but likely those will be decided at the time.

I want to ask everyone to bring models to the contest.

Last year, we only had four models in total.

If we do not have at least two entries per category, the contest will not occur in that category. So please consider bringing models. Otherwise, the contest will become a bring-and brag exhibition in the future. If you wish to bring models to display and not enter the contest, there should be room, but I urge you to enter your models.

I have added complete street addresses to the Friday and Saturday events. Bus rental prices have continuously increased, and as with last year, we need to transport ourselves to the events. I also urge everyone to try to carpool.

Roanoke, the Norfolk and Western headquarters, was the epicenter of N&W activities. It was also an essential location for the Virginian, being the eastern end of the electrification. Both railroads maintained huge yards in Roanoke. Sadly, time has continued to reduce and reduce much of the railroad activities in today's Norfolk Southern. But there are still many N&W structures, and most of the tracks remain. We'll be visiting the Virginia Museum of Transportation located in the former N&W freight house and the restored Virginian Roanoke Station at the convention this year.

There are other locations to visit in the area. For instance, you should visit if you haven't seen the O. Winston Link Museum in the former N&W Roanoke passenger station, you should visit.

This year, I have extended an invitation to both the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society, as both groups share a common interest in railroad history in Virginia. To facilitate that, I have offered everyone the same convention prices.

Thursday, June 13

Morning: 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. N&WHS Board Meeting will occur this morning.

Afternoon: The afternoon is open for you to railfan around Roanoke on your own or with others arriving early.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room.

Friday, June 14

Morning: Registration desk will be open from 9:00 to 10:30 for Friday morning arrivals.

Lunch: We have a special lunch planned at the Virginian Station at 11:00. The station is located at 1402 South Jefferson Street, Roanoke. Several active NS tracks are close, so arrive and watch for trains while enjoying a bite to eat. It is suggested that people meet at the registration table at the hotel to carpool to the station, although there is some parking at the station if you wish to drive separately.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

There is the Modeling Committee meeting at 9:00 PM
There is the Virginian Interest Group meeting at 10:00 PM

Saturday, June 15

Morning: Registration for latecomers will be open from 9:00 to 10:00 AM

The annual Membership meeting will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room.

Afternoon: Seminars run from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

Dinner: There will be a barbecue on the back platform of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, 303 Norfolk Ave SW, Roanoke.

We had such a good time last time we had a convention in Roanoke, so we decided to do it again.

As with the previous time, Wildwood Smokehouse will provide the food. Arrive after 4:00 and tour the museum. The food starts at 5:00.

Evening: Seminars begin at 7:00 PM in the Grove Ballroom – Elk Room

Sunday, June 17

There are no formal activities on Sunday – railfan the area on your way home.

— Steve Summers, Convention Chair

**Holiday Inn Airport Convention Center
3315 Ordway Drive NW, Roanoke, VA 24017
1-540-362-4500, Use Code NWS**

Please print and completely fill out the form below.

Event	Price	Quantity	Total
Registration (Family)	\$40.00		
Friday VGN Station Lunch (per person)	\$25.00		
Saturday Evening Banquet (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 (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 _____

Please mark Group: N&WHS C&OHS Roanoke NRHS Other

E-mail _____

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

Name(s) of family members attending with you _____
