



# NORFOLK & WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Annual Convention 2025

### June 12-15, Radford, Virginia

The N&WHS and your convention chairman/society president would like to invite you to the 2025 N&WHS convention in Radford, Va.

The convention will be at the Highlander Hotel, affiliated with Radford University and located 600 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA 24141.

As with all conventions, please book early, long before June, to ensure the best rate and availability of rooms. **The N&WHS room rate is \$129 plus tax with free parking.** Please contact the hotel directly at 540-513-3064.

Radford has a long history with the N&W, dating back to the Virginia & Tennessee days. Beginning as “Central (perhaps the first midway division point on predecessor systems),” it has served the railroad with a roundhouse, car shop and system Tie Treatment plant; it has also been a hub for the fabled Blacksburg and Potts Valley branches and the sprawling Radford Arsenal that evolved early in the World War II years. Nearby Walton Tower, where

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



the Bristol Line diverted from the Norfolk/Columbus-Cincinnati main also contributed to the local flavor, as did the Vicker coal & water facility. The North Carolina Branch juncture was in nearby Pulaski. Today, the Radford Yard continues as a marshaling point for Norfolk Southern-served industries.

As we have the last couple of years, the focus will be on fellowship and getting together. We are in the process of organizing some interesting outings, which may change as we get closer to the date. Buses continue to be too expensive for our group and car-pooling will continue to be the usual procedure.

Modeling Committee Chairman Jim Cochran asks everyone to bring their latest entries. So far, presenters include: Bruce Harper, Jim Nichols, Sam Phillips, Alex Schust, Ken Miller, Frank Scheer and Tim Hensley.

**A tentative schedule – some events very much subject to change – is listed as follows:**

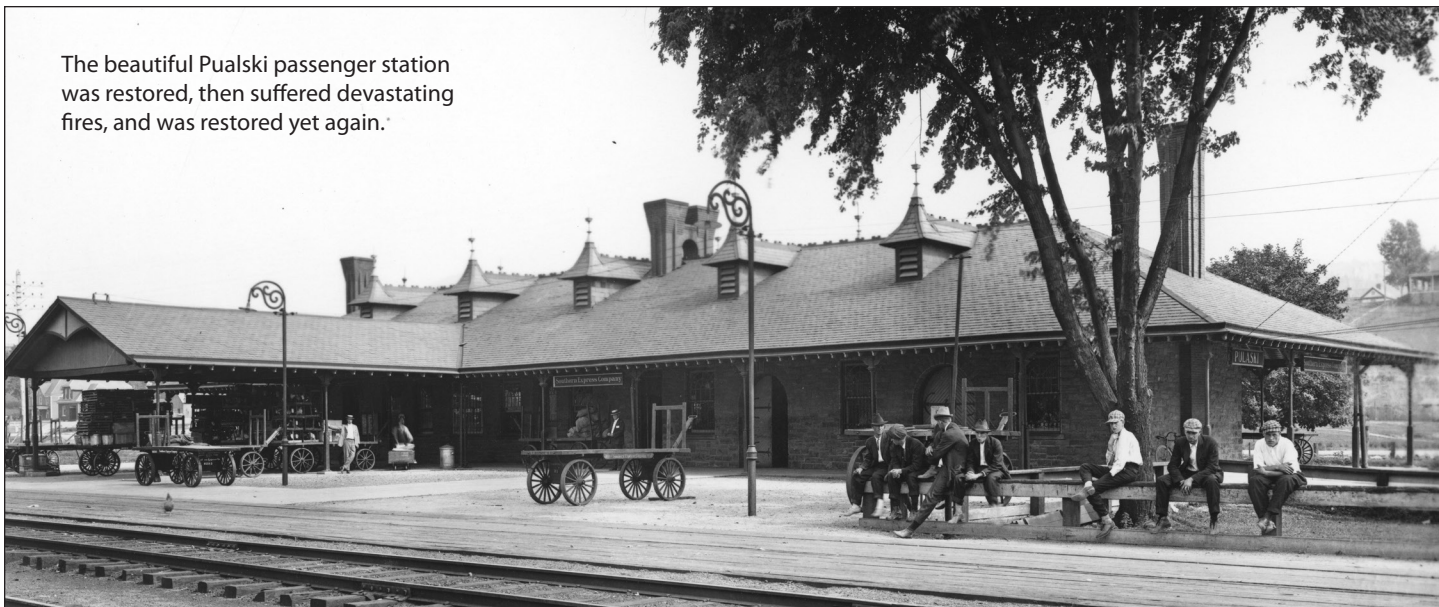
#### **Thursday, June 12**

*Morning:* Registration begins outside the conference rooms at 9:00 a.m. 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.





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



Also at 9:00 a.m., the N&WHS Board Meeting will take place.

*Afternoon:* The afternoon is open for you to railfan around Radford if arriving early.

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

### **Friday, June 13**

*Morning:* 10:00 a.m. Overview of NS Radford Operations By local Trainmaster at former N&W Radford Station.

*Afternoon:* 1:00 p.m. Depart for Pulaski

1:40 p.m. Tour of Radcliff Memorial Transportation Museum and former N&W Station

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

4:00 p.m. A late lunch at Draper Mercantile (*right*), which is one of the network vendors now marketing N&WHS Commissary items, their culinary experts are cooking up a fare from N&W dining car recipes.

If able, we hope to have an address from a venerable N&W sage to aid our digestion. Return to the Radford hotel on own.

*Evening:* 7:00 p.m. Seminars Begin in the Conference Rooms.

9:00 p.m. Modeling Committee Meets

10:00 p.m. – Until? Virginian Interest Group Meeting

### **Saturday, June 14**

9:00 a.m. Depart For Huckleberry Trail Ride/ Inspection New River Valley Amtrak Station

Although many of our older members may no longer be able to physically endure it, we have arranged



bicycle rentals along the former right-of-way of the Blacksburg Branch.

We'll stop by to see how Amtrak renovations at the former Christianburg station are coming along.

- 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Archives open in Roanoke
- 2:00 p.m. Tour Radford Arsenal
- 7:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour & Banquet

**Sunday, June 15**

9:00 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting

There are no other formal activities on this day – railfan the area on your way home. In closing, we have attempted to schedule significant tours; as of this writing several are still pending. If you are heading home east, consider stopping at Hale's restaurant at Shawsville on Route 460. Hale's is one of our Commissary vendors and we've provided some display photos for their back room.

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

**Please print and completely fill out the form below.**

Event	Price	Quantity	Total
Registration (Family)	\$40.00		
Friday Draper Mercantile Late Lunch (per person)	\$35.00		
Saturday Evening Banquet (per person)	\$40.00		
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			

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

Check    Money Order    VISA    MasterCard   Enter card number below

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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.

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

Name(s) of family members attending with you \_\_\_\_\_

# Please Consider Joining with a Sustaining Membership or a donation which will help with operating funds.

*The vision of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society is to be the recognized authoritative source for information about the history of the Norfolk & Western and Virginian and predecessor railroads.*

As a Society member, you will receive our nationally recognized quarterly publication, *The Arrow*, filled with historical data, stories, and photographs about the history of the N&W and Virginian (and how to model the railroads).

N&WHS Membership is your ticket to discounts at the N&WHS Commissary—a treasure trove of material produced exclusively by and for the N&WHS, as well as dozens of items from other

sources. The Society is actively engaged in publishing original books about the N&W and Virginian.

Our Website is chock full of photographs, drawings, and documents on members two favorite railroads. Our search engine provides access to over 210,000 data items. Join our history and modeling discussion lists and read our electronic newsletter. [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org)

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Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you have areas of interest or skill which you would like to volunteer to the Society, please check the appropriate box:

- Research
- Publishing
- Accounting
- Photography
- Writing
- Archival Experience
- Virginian Ry.
- Model HO scale     Model O scale
- Model N scale     Model other

### Membership Classes And Dues (Check One)

	One Year	Two Years
USA Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
USA Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180
Foreign Regular*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Foreign Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180

Regular Memberships provide all regular N&WHS benefits for one year. A Sustaining Membership includes all regular N&WHS membership benefits, plus additional support for the work of the Society. Any amount over the annual \$50 basic membership fee is considered a donation.

\*Foreign dues include a subscription to the *Arrow* via downloadable PDF only. If a mailed copy is desired, an additional foreign postage fee will be added based on actual postage cost. Please email us at [membership@nwhs](mailto:membership@nwhs) for the current rate. This form and prices expire 12-31-2025.

You may join online at [www.nwhs.org](http://www.nwhs.org), or send this application with check or money order payable to N&WHS to:

**Norfolk & Western Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 13908 • Roanoke, VA • 24038 • USA**

# Talk Among Friends



November 10, 2024

Norfolk and Western Historical Society

## 2025 Board of Directors

The Society elections will soon be upon us. We are seeking nominations for election to fill seats on the Society's Board of Directors beginning at the Board Meeting in June 2025. We elect three Directors every year, and in 2025, the seats held by Chuck Akers, Rick Musser, and Brent Stevens will be up for election. Chuck has said he can no longer serve and Rick Musser is term-limited. Each of these positions is important in the operation of the Society. Therefore, we have three seats to fill

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 at the annual convention and on two other occasions, that are randomly scheduled occasions. 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, if at all 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 700-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 2025? 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](mailto:info@nwhs.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 13908, Roanoke, VA, 24038-3908. **We need your expression of interest and a filled-out form no later than March 7, 2025.**

Candidates will be provided a form to fill out, and returned to for publication in a *Talk Among Friends*. These forms will not be edited, polished or corrected, you must keep that in mind for publication.

### 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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## Board of Directors Minutes

### *Minutes of the Meeting of N&WHS Board of Directors, Zoom as well October 19, 2024 – Virtual/Archives*

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

Attending: Frank Scheer, Tim Hensley, Ron Davis, Ken Miller, Ken Musante, Rick Musser, Brent Stevens, and Jim Cochran.

Welcome by the Chairman, who introduced President Tim Hensley who proceeded with an overview of his report

### **Reports:**

#### *President*

President Hensley summarizes his report by stating that we have had a lot of increased public visibility. Ron asked about the Roanoke College meeting. Tim reported on the meeting and its results. The meeting was cordial but offered little helpful information to our cause.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Brent Stevens made the motion to approve, which Rick Musser seconded. The motion passed.



### *Membership*

Rick Musser had little to report and asked if there was any feedback on his editorial in the last *Arrow*. Ken Miller reported that he had no input thus far. There has been some discussion about the dropping of membership numbers. Then there was a discussion with the sales report about all items, books, etc. Ken Miller reports that sales are down overall, not only us.

### *Archives and Building*

There is not much new to report on a new location; see Ken Miller's report for some commentary. There was some discussion of the Wabash material, which was picked up two weeks ago. The NKP reject material is still being sorted for usability, and the total rejects are being removed.

### *Sales/Publications*

Ken previously sent out reports.

### *2025 Convention*

Radford Hotel at Highlander Inn, scheduled details to follow.

### *Modeling Committee*

Jim Cochran proposes including material on the current NS, including the logo on the cover. Ken Miller says NS is particularly difficult to work with when using the logo officially. Ken also noted that NS material would have to be provided to him as he has no interest in the current railroad but added that he would have an NS article in a near future issue.

Jim also suggests we lower the price of digital files to make them more available; he thinks modelers will buy more. The pricing structure and reasons for this will be discussed. Jim

will produce a proposal for our next meeting.

### *Modeling Committee Report*

Jim Cochran reports that the VGN Purdy station is well underway in design, and we expect to see that project completed in November. H-35 hoppers will ship shortly, probably in the next week or so. Brent Greer and Jim are doing a small run of BI custom-decorated boxcars and offer to send them, free of upfront cost, to Society to sell. If successful, the Society will repay actual costs to Brent and Jim. Jim is talking with a 3D printer about making N&W dual signal masts for sale.

Rick offers compliments to Jim Cochran for making the modeling committee active again. Agreements all around.

### *Recordings to the N&WHS website:*

Tabled to next meeting

### *Archives Building*

This subject will be discussed until the next meeting.

### *Next Meeting*

The next meeting is on Saturday, December 7, 2024. 9:30 am in person, if possible, at Salem Avenue. (*Note: Meeting was rescheduled until January 11, account of members availability.*)

Motion to adjourn at 10:46 am. The motion was by Rick Musser, seconded by Tim Hensley. Motion passed.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Ken Miller, Secretary*

## **Society News - January 15, 2025**

### ***New Norfolk and Western Material***

Even though, the Wabash material cleared out six pallets worth of space in our Shenandoah Avenue annex, less than two months later, we received six pallets of material from Norfolk Southern! That material is awaiting warmer weather to explore, but that will start happening this spring, as well as continuing to deal with getting rid of the NKP discard materials. Thanks to Stephen Warren for persevering on the disposition of NKP and Wabash items.

### ***The Arrow***

While your editor has a bunch of ideas and photos awaiting writing, he has to keep up with many other things, and articles do not always get written in a timely manner. While the *Arrow* has a moderate amount of material on hand, magazines use content at a rapid rate. Please consider writing a piece on an N&W, VGN, or NS subject close to your heart. If you think you cannot 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 article 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. Most certainly, we have a very heavily Appalachian coal fields-centric publication. However, that is where a lot of interest lies, but materials for other parts of the railroad are always welcome. The editor is most familiar with this territory and is his personal preference, and he really cannot produce material on parts of the railroad he is not familiar enough with nor has enough reference material to cover, such as the former NKP and Wabash territory.

## Membership

While we continue to emphasize that we need to increase membership and bring in younger members, we have been very limited in our success. Our members must recruit younger folks to join us and learn about the great N&W and Virginian.

## The Commissary

First order of business: we appreciate your orders for digital materials, like drawings and photos. While we appreciate every order, so many orders of a single \$4.00 drawing have been coming in, which makes for more work and, more importantly, credit card fees; we have had to institute a minimum \$15 order before shipping charges. While we hate having to do that, we need the funds to maintain our archives and equipment, and eating up the already small profit on a small order is taking its toll.

We've added a few new items to our Commissary in model forms, such as the BI boxcars, which have sold remark-

ably well. The Society may well have the initial Commissary offering sold out before this reaches you. Fear not; we are working on a second edition with a different paint scheme this time. The Society is still looking at items to stock for sale in our Commissary. At one time, we purchased models and ran pre-sale offers on many things. But for the most part, a distinct lack of participation from our membership made these an exercise in futility, with some members ordering but never paying when the models came in.

Since we are not a large volume dealer or a brick-and-mortar storefront, we cannot get quantity deals or 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. That being said, of course, see the following on several new kits that our modeling committee has worked up. Please support these efforts, as they can and will lead to more in the future.

— Ken Miller, Editor

## New Models Announced!

### Virginian H-15, Norfolk and Western H-35

In 1953, the Virginian Railway received 1000 55-ton hoppers from the Bethlehem Steel Car Company. These cars had a rated capacity of 100,000 pounds, a light weight of 43,700 pounds, and a cubic capacity of 2,306 cubic feet, including a 10-inch heap.

When the Virginian Railway merged with the Norfolk & Western Railway in late 1959, the N&W received 1489 of these hoppers and added 20 to their Virginian class to form the N&W class H-35. Over subsequent years, wear and tear and accidents began to take their toll on the H-35s. By the year 1965, their numbers had dropped slightly to 1483, and the next five years saw a slight drop to 1453. By 1975, a couple hundred more cars had exited the roster, and by 1980, only about 400 of these hoppers were left in active service. This number dropped to 232 in 1983, and after this, the remaining cars were either scrapped or put into maintenance of way service.

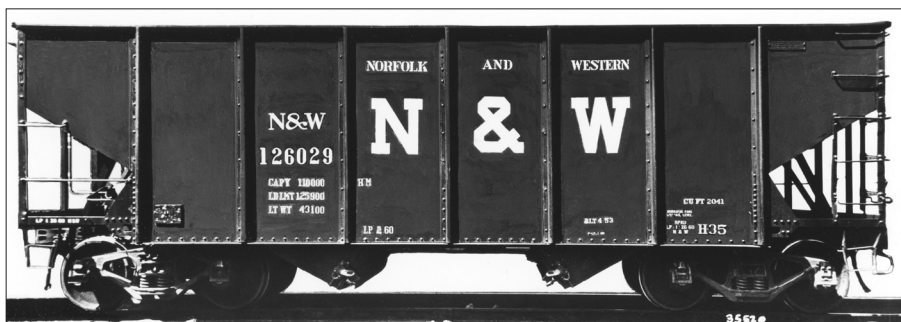
The model committee of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society is pleased to be able to offer HO scale models of these hoppers decorated and numbered for

their debut on the N&W's roster. Accurail has decorated these cars using photos and diagrams from the N&WHS database. We offer two kits from the factory lettered with two different road numbers, 126073 and 126489. Each kit comes with additional complete side and end number decals for six additional car numbers. These decals can also be cut in sections that make any road numbers possible. The decals are printed directly on a substrate of the paint used on the cars for an exact match, making the result virtually indiscernible. A video on our website shows how to use these decals and the outstanding results that can be achieved.

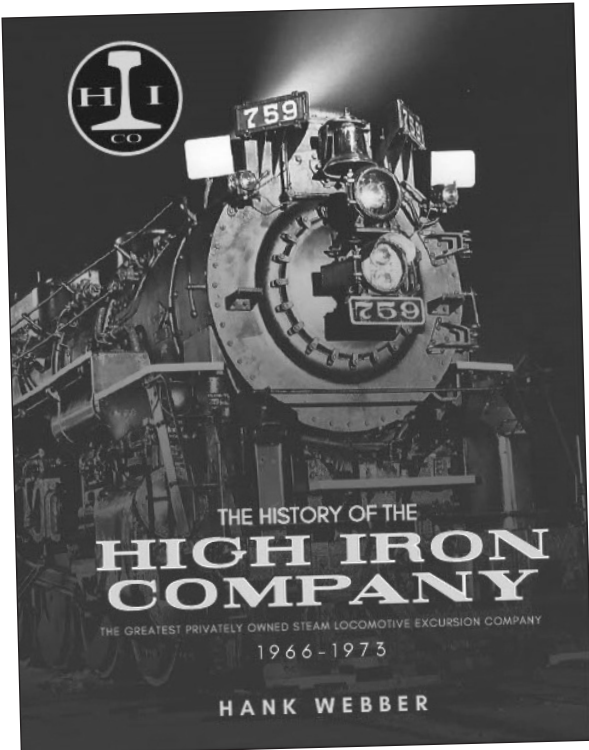
A single kit is priced at \$25.95, and \$23.95 for society members. They are also available in six packs for \$138 and twelve packs for \$260.

*Note: Much of the historical information presented here was taken from the book "Norfolk and Western Coal Cars from 1881 to 1998" by Andrew Dow.*

*N&WHS Archives Collection, Norfolk and Western Photo*  
This photo is the only company view specifically of an H-35. It shows the typical lettering scheme of the cars beginning in 1960 after the Virginian merger in December 1959.



# NEW BOOK IN STOCK Ready to Ship!



## ***The History of The High Iron Company*** ***By Hank Webber***

*128-page hardcover, over 200 illustrations*

N&W fans cannot forget that the NKP No. 759 ran some very memorable excursions on N&W trackage, including the very first trips after restoration in 1969 out of Conneaut, Ohio, trips out of Roanoke in November 1968, and of course, best known, the last *Pocahontas* out of Roanoke to Norfolk on May 1, 1971. Crew member Hank Webber has published an expansive, personalized history of The High Iron Company, leader of more than 80 steam locomotive excursions in the Northeast, including the Golden Spike Centennial Limited round trip from New York City to Utah in 1969 (also over part of the N&W). There is excellent coverage of NKP 759, other engines, Horseshoe Curve, and more. This volume includes narrative memories and more than 200 historical photos from those who were there during the height of the HICO steam locomotive excursions. Order your copy today! This book should be in every N&W fan's library  
Stock No. 138.223 ..... Members Price \$59.95/Retail: \$64.95

