

## Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	<b>January 13, 2024</b>
Meeting Location:	In the spacious Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	John Foote, Chapter Secretary, and Carl Stephanus
Attendance	27 members and 8 guests

*Carl Stephanus contributed valuable assistance to production of the January 13, 2024 minutes. His assistance is here acknowledged and appreciated.*

The monthly Meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Van Welton

### President's Report:

Van Welton recognized visitors and new members of the Chapter.

### Treasurer's Report:

Carl Stephanus announced total Chapter membership is 52. Carl noted that membership has increased 100% in the past two years.

Carl emailed his report of 2023 budget/expenses and the proposed 2024 budget to members on Jan. 12, 2024.

At tonight's meeting, he described current financial status, with comments from President Van Welton and Chapter members.

There were no objections or corrections to the expense portion of his report and the report was accepted.

The 2024 Budget was reviewed and approved by the Administrative Committee on Jan. 8, 2024. A motion was made to accept the proposed 2024 Budget. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Secretary's Report

John Foote indicated that medical issues prevented his attending the December Chapter meeting. December minutes will be available on the Chapter website.

Regarding meeting minutes, the Administrative Committee agreed, on February 5, 2024, that minutes will be emailed to all regular members —USPS mailed to non-email users.

### National Representative's Report

Jim Cashell said no new details are available at this time regarding the 2024 NRHS Convention. More details will be announced later.

Jim reported on local/regional railfanning activities:

- Engine 1309 is at present out of service
- The East Broad Top will not have a Winter Spectacular this year.

### Nominations for 2024 Chapter Officer Positions

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of nominees for the 2024 officer elections that will take place at the February meeting:

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President: Van Welton  
Vice-President: Jeffrey Summerlin  
Secretary: Kevin Horn  
Treasurer: Carl Stephanus  
National Representative: James Cashell

Additional nominations from the floor were solicited. There were none. Additional nominations from the floor will again be entertained just prior to voting by members present (i.e., no proxies) at the February meeting.

### New Business

*Motor Car (a/k/a "speeder. "section car," et al)*

*Swap Negotiations with the Ma & Pa Railroad Preservation Society:*

Carl Stephanus reported on the negotiations between the Chapter and the Ma & Pa RR Preservation Society involving a possible trade of the Chapter's inoperable motor car for an operable one owned by the Ma & Pa Society.

After acquiring our motor car as a donation, chapter members determined this Fairmont ST2-H1 built in 1949 was originally owned by the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad. Also, Alex Haines and Carl determined it needed missing parts replaced and repairs to be operable.

It is apparent the M&P RR Preservation Society wants this car (which they are willing to restore) and in trade for the car they would provide the Chapter with one of its working cars.

While their swapped car may not have a known ownership connection to any Winchester region railroad, it would represent region-appropriate equipment and would provide a working car for future use by the Chapter.

With the approval of the Administrative Committee, Carl prepared a motion for approval of Chapter members of the car swap and mailed a copy to members on Jan. 11, 2024.

Van Welton called the proposed car swap a "win-win" for each organization in his summation calling for the vote. The following motion was approved by the members present—

"Considering the condition of our 1949 Fairmont ST2-H1 motor car, Winchester Chapter-NRHS approves the donation of our motor car, in as-is condition (except for minor repairs to facilitate transport) to the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society, in exchange for a newer motor car in operating condition."

It is noted that Carl has joined NARCOA to train for, and obtain, rail car operator certification. Carl hopes other Chapter members will also join and obtain certification so the Chapter can participate in potential Winchester & Western (and other regional) motor car trips.

### *Annual Chapter Banquet –March 9, 2024*

The Banquet will be held Saturday March 9, 2024, in the spacious Fellowship Hall at the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church. A professional caterer recommended by the Church has been chosen.

The guest speaker will be Scott Lindsey, Chief Mechanic of the Norfolk & Western #611 steam engine.

Information for reservations, banquet costs, and other details are on the Chapter website and on flyers available now and emailed to members and many other potential attendees.

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### *New Business from the Floor*

To save time and effort, members are encouraged to present new business to the Administrative Committee (Van, Carl, John, Jeff, James, Kevin) for their discussion prior to the Monday before each monthly meeting.

### *Service Opportunities*

The next Junior Railroaders Club event will be just before the February 2024 Chapter meeting. Additional volunteers are sought and encouraged to help with the presentations to the junior railroaders.

### *Website News ([www.WinchesterNRHS.org](http://www.WinchesterNRHS.org))*

In addition to payments for dues and banquet reservations, donations to the Chapter are now possible using PayPal, by clicking on “Donate”.

Also, members and guests can click on “Shop” to access the “Railfan Supply Shop” for

buying various Chapter items. These sales are handled entirely by a separate vendor, with a portion of the sales proceeds given to the Chapter.

### Monthly “Railroadiana Spotlight”

In September, 2023, Jeff Jordan began a planned series of monthly short presentations in the realm of American and Canadian “railroadiana”—also known as various aspects of, and artifacts from, historical and traditional railroad operations and traditions. Jeff’s first presentation introduced the members to signaling tools -flags, flares (a/k/a fussees), and “torpedos” and a special metal carrying case—typically carried by railroad brakemen.

For tonight’s meeting, Jeff spotlighted—and demonstrated—a rare car inspector’s torch, previously used by Baltimore & crews.

### Meeting Adjournment, a Look Ahead to February, and This Month’s Program

Next month’s Chapter meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Junior Railroaders Club.

A highlight of both the February Chapter meeting and Junior Railroaders meeting will be a presentation about Norfolk Southern Railroad’s “Operation Lifesaver.”

Tonight’s meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM, followed by this month’s program: “*The Last Days of the Sandman*,” presented by Chapter member Greg Dahbura.

Greg treated the membership and guests to a fine (and unique) set of pictures of operation in “the Sandman Train” territory from Winchester to Gore. Greg was able to get beautiful shots from vantage points on normally inaccessible, private property.