

Elkins - 2011 Annual Meeting



Railway & Locomotive Historical Society 2011 Annual Meeting West Virginia Rails Elkins, West Virginia, June 2-5, 2011

Highlights: There will be a ride to the top of Bald Knob, the third highest point in West Virginia at an altitude of 4,700 feet, behind double-headed Shay steam locomotives, on the Cass Scenic Railroad on Friday, June 3. In addition, we will have a locomotive repair shop tour, and visits to the museum, showcase gallery, and the gift shop. On Saturday, June 4, we will take two rides on the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad. First, we will ride the Rocket steam train using a Climax locomotive down the Greenbrier River from Durbin. Second, we will take the Salamander, behind a Western Maryland diesel, from Cheat Bridge back to Elkins, with a stop at Cheat Falls. Our banquet speaker will be Tom Dixon, the Chief Historian of the C&O Historical Society and the breakfast meeting speaker will be Bruce Elliott, of Cass. And, for your entertainment, there is the optional American Mountain Theater show right next to the hotel on Thursday and Friday night. This show is West Virginia's only Branson style music and comedy variety show. Tickets are on your own. Further information, maps, and videos concerning the railroads and the AMT are available online on their websites.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 50 Martin Street, Elkins, West Virginia 26241. The hotel is right in the old Western Maryland yard in the center of Elkins, next to the Elkins depot, the Railyard Restaurant, and the American Mountain Theater. The R&LHS rate is \$89.95/night, continental breakfast included. For reservations, call the front desk number at 1-304-630-2266 and mention the R&LHS. Reservations must be made by May 15, 2011 to guarantee the R&LHS conference rate. The hotel is currently accepting reservations.

Transportation: There is no Amtrak or air transportation close by to Elkins. The Capital Limited has stops in Pittsburgh, Cumberland, and Washington, DC. The closest major airports are in Charleston, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, or Washington, DC. Car rentals from these sites are

on your own. As a result of the lack of significant interest in a bus from Pittsburgh or Washington, DC, in the survey in the last newsletter, we are anticipating that attendees will be driving to Elkins. If you want to attend the conference and if you absolutely cannot reach Elkins by car, please let us know at the time of registration.

Registration Fee: \$200.00 per person, \$150.00 under the age of 18. This includes the bus during the meeting, two box lunches, all rail excursion fees, the banquet, and the breakfast membership meeting. For further information concerning the conference, please contact David Pfeiffer at 703-425-4685 or dnpfeiffer@gmail.com. Or please access the R&LHS website at www.rlhs.org.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 2

- Convention registration at the Holiday Inn Express, Elkins.
- 7:30 pm – Country music/comedy show at the American Mountain Theater (optional)
- 7:30 pm - R&LHS Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 3

- 7:30 am – Bus leaves for Cass Scenic Railroad
- 9:15 and 10 am – Shop tour at Cass
- 11 am to 3:30 pm – Ride Cass Scenic Railroad up to Bald Knob (box lunch included)
- 4 pm to 5:30 pm - Bus returns to Elkins
Dinner on your own
- 7:30 pm – Country music/comedy show at the American Mountain Theater (optional)

Saturday, June 4

- 8:30 am – Bus leaves for Durbin
- 10 am to 12 noon – Ride on the Durbin Rocket (box lunch on the train)
- 12:15 pm – Bus to Cheat Mountain
- 12:30 pm – Ride Salamander to Elkins with a stop at Cheat Bridge
- 4:45 pm – Arrive in Elkins
- 6 pm – Cocktail hour and banquet at the Railyard Restaurant, Elkins - Tom Dixon, C&O Historical Society, speaker

Sunday, June 5

- 8 am – Annual breakfast membership meeting at Railyard Restaurant - Bruce Elliott, Cass, speaker

Other Railroad Sites in West Virginia

For the railroad buff, historian, scholar, official, or just plain railfan, there are several other railroad-related sites in West Virginia or nearby that are of interest. There are two excellent excursions in the area:

1. The historic Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad is one of America's most beautiful train rides. For three hours enjoy a

narrated excursion through a tranquil and pristine mountain valley. The train can be boarded in either Romney or Petersburg, West Virginia.

2. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad travels between Cumberland and Frostburg, Maryland. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad round trip excursion, originating from Downtown Cumberland, Maryland, is an exciting mix of mountain scenery and rich transportation history. It's an entertaining and educational experience riders of all ages and interests with interpretive history and lively Main Street Districts at both ends of the trip.

There are also many railroad historical sites that are well worth a visit. A few of these are:

1. In Grafton, West Virginia, there is the B&O (now CSX) station and yard. Two of Grafton's most prominent landmarks are the imposing stone railroad station and the Willard Hotel, the latter a relative skyscraper that marks the northern end of downtown's Main Street. The railroad station, now the B&O Railroad Heritage Center, has recently reopened and offers a glimpse into both the magnificence and significance of the railroad.

2. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Heritage Center in Clifton Forge, Virginia. This Center is a railway heritage museum,

interpretive, educational, and visitor's center that tells the story of the C&O Railway: the people, the places, and the technology. The complex includes a new vintage Amtrak station, a signal tower, the freight station that includes the museum and gift shop, a garden railroad, the Gatsby's Tavern dining car, a couple of restored cabooses, and other rolling stock.

3. And last, and certainly not least, Roanoke, Virginia, boasts two excellent railroad museums adjacent to the world class Hotel Roanoke. Hard by the Norfolk Southern tracks in the center of town is the O. Winston Link Museum in the old N&W passenger station. The Collection of the museum is focused on the last days of steam operation on the N&W Railway that Link captured on black and white film in the late 1950s. Also, in the old N&W freight station is the Virginia Museum of Transportation. A visitor can experience the only remaining examples of the N&W's legendary success at the VMT: The N&W Class A 1218 and the Class J 611. In the rail yard, you can explore other historic locomotives, cabooses, and other rail equipment as modern trains rumble past. Inside the museum, one can enjoy model trains, hands-on exhibits, and stroll past antique automobiles, truck and

WEST VIRGINIA RAILS 2011 REGISTRATION

Your Name: _____
(All names should be as you wish it to appear on convention name badge)

Companion Name: _____

Guest 1 Name: _____

Guest 2 Name: _____

Guest 3 Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please register _____ guests for the full program @ \$200.00 each \$ _____

Please register _____ guests for the full program (under 18) @ 150.00 each \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed form with check payable to Railway & Locomotive Historical Society to:
West Virginia Rails, Robert Holzweiss, 4027 Austin's Estates Drive, Bryan, Texas 77808-7301

** Registration form and payment must be received no later than May 1.**

For further information concerning registration, please contact David Pfeiffer at 703-425-4685 or dnjppfeiffer@gmail.com.