



The Chesapeake Dispatcher



Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.
Museum Telephone (410) 257-3892

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May 2011

Message From the President **Discovering a Ghostly Railroad**

By Kristen Scott

By John Riedesel



There are many things about the Museum that I love. It's charm is its intimacy and the dedication of the volunteers and employees.

There is "something magic" about a small town museum, as the original founders saw. It is a touchstone for many, both town residents and visitors alike. But most of the magic is in its people. Once a person becomes involved with the Museum, they stay.

Volunteers like Janet Bates, who has been with the Museum since before it began. Or our Volunteer Coordinator, Bette Quigley, who recruits new volunteers and manages the gift shop. The Curator, Harriet Stout, has given many hours of her time as a volunteer in addition to her regular duties. This is just a small sampling of the people who together, make sure that the Museum still exists.

I truly appreciate all our volunteers and workers. I hope they realize that, without them, the Museum, would not be the special place that we know and love.



Left: Train enthusiasts from left to right: Chuck MacDonald, Ed Haack, Betty MacDonald, Joanie Kilmon, Bette Quigley, Carmen Holt, Hilary Dailey, Anne Hawley, Sarah Kidwell, Kristen Scott and Harriet Stout. (not pictured: John Riedesel)

Below left: Shot of cut at Parran Rd. notice how the sides slope towards the right of way.

Below: Fill section in Owings, MD. The broad top section and the hill sloping down and away from the trail are giveaways to the trained eye.



How do you find parts of a 120-year-old right-of-way for a railroad that was never built? The answer is: you look for cuts

and fills. This past April 9, thirteen train buffs and Museum friends drove the

(Continued on page 2)



Message From the Curator

By Harriet Stout

Summer is a time to think of happy hours spent on the beach with children. The magic moments of our childhood may return, or the time spent with our own children may bring a smile. The smell of salt air, the splash of the waves, the shriek of delighted children, the pocketful of shells, the sand between our toes are all part of the treasured memories. Everyone has a special place in their heart for a time gone by and a day spent at the beach. Sometimes one can return to that place, but most often that place no longer exists in the real world. Our Museum offers a glimpse of that world in the photos and artifacts we share with our visitors. Come. Visit with us. Splash into summer with the "Beach Kids".

Discovering a Ghostly Railroad

By John Riedesel

length of Calvert County and did just that.

In a departure from our traditional Heritage Tour along the Chesapeake Beach Railway right-of-way, this year we decided to explore a portion of the route of the planned-but-never-built Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad (B&DP). The idea for a railroad from Baltimore to the tip of Drum Point in Calvert County was promulgated as early as 1867. Over the next two decades land was purchased, and in the late 1880s the right-of-way was constructed, complete with culverts and trestles. But because of corporate and economic difficulties, no rail was ever laid. The B&DP became an elusive ghost.

Armed with a couple of county maps from the early 1900s, the goal this year was to locate and even traverse about a dozen portions of the old Drum Point, still identifiable after more than a century. Terrain in Calvert County is seldom flat for long stretches, and trains can't tolerate excessive grades. So a railroad right-of-way has to frequently cut its way through hills and bring in fill dirt for the low spots. These "cuts" and "fills" allow rail history fans



Above: Janet Bates is sitting pretty in the van used to tour the sights.

Above right: Chuck MacDonald does his best impression of Cookie Monster—but he does share!



to determine the location of old rail lines.

The tour started just north of Owings, identifying the cut through which the B&DP entered Calvert County. Then we went to the most remarkable and well-preserved portion of the route, a long and high fill on the Doug Sisk property in Owings. That was followed by a view of the line through a subdivision off Hardesty Road; a walk along a portion of the roadbed that is now a private driveway off Plum Point Road near the bowling alley; another clearly-seen cut across Parran Road south of St.

Leonard; and still another near Middleham Chapel.

After lunch and socializing at Cove Point Park, the group drove to an identifiable fill and cut on the Nieman property in Chesapeake Ranch Estates, and finally to the approximate terminal point near the mouth of the Patuxent, about a half-mile west of Drum Point. On the return trip we viewed three sites in Prince Frederick, walking several hundred feet along a portion near Armory Road and Steeple Chase Drive.

It was a fun and instructive day as the participants on the Heritage Tour explored a little known facet in the history of this amazing County of ours.

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In Memoriam

Mary "Kitch" Eisenman

March 25, 1928—December 15, 2010



It with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mary "Kitch" Eisenman. She was an active member of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum for many years, in addition to her many other community activities. She and her husband, Dick

Eisenman, settled on the family farm in Dunkirk in the 1960's.

Kitch could always be counted on to lend a helping hand and assisted with Spring Clean-ups and outreach programs, just to name a few. She will be sorely missed by her friends at the Museum.



The Railroad Lantern: *Shining the Light on Volunteers*

By Hilary Dailey

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Volunteer John Riedesel happened upon the beaches in the mid-1970s. A family member familiar with the area had mentioned there was an old beach cottage in North Beach in need of some TLC that he might be interested in. Being open-minded, he took a look...and immediately deemed it "totally un-livable!" But, after mulling it over for awhile, he decided to take on the challenge. He bought the house, moved in, and started work. Thirty-five years later (including one major renovation in 1988), John now says, "it finally looks like a *real* house!"

Over those 35 years at the beach, John's easy laugh and likable smile have made him many friends. "Mildred Finlon and I went to church together," John says, "she was the one who invited me to volunteer with the Railway Museum." The CBRM was a perfect fit for John, a self-proclaimed life-long *Train Nut*. "In 7th grade, we had to write a letter to a local business. I lived in Seat Pleasant at the time, so I wrote to the president of the East Washington Railway since it passed close by my



Conductor John reads to children at one of the Summer Fun Programs held Thursday mornings on the Museum porch.

house. He wrote back to me and in his letter, mentioned that he had been involved in another railway some years back as well, the Chesapeake Beach Railway."

These days, John wears many hats (and one time, even a wig!) at our well-loved Museum including being a weekend Station Master, hosting our annual holiday reading of "The Polar Express" as *The Conductor*, and sitting on the board of the Friends for many years as Secretary. He also introduces the talent at the Bay Breeze Concerts, narrates our annual Heritage Tours, and even welcomes children of all ages to the

Museum's "Mad-Science" Family Fun Day as Professor Doktor Erik von Schlagenhopfer, complete with an Einstein-esque wild wig. "I really like volunteering at the Railway Museum, especially when I get to have direct contact with people. I think it's the retired teacher in me...I'm a big ham and love to have people hear me talk!"

In addition to enjoying trains and talking to people, John is very fond of traveling and often combines his love of trains with travel. "In May, as a birthday present to myself, I am going to take a train trip up to Boston...and

return home via Chicago!" John says with a twinkle in his eye. He goes on to explain that after a few days vacationing in Boston, he will take the "Lakeshore Limited" train west to Chicago so he can "eat in the dining car" and really enjoy the trip back. "I don't think traveling by airplane holds a candle to traveling by train. An air trip is over too soon, and you don't get to see the countryside up close!"

Let me be the first to say, "Have a Great Trip, John!" We'll be waiting for your return, our dear friend and fellow volunteer, so bring back lots of stories and we'll gladly sit back, listen, and share a smile!

Volunteer Workshop

By Janet Bates

Although anyone may visit the Museum all year by appointment, our daily season opens in the spring, and just prior to that, a workshop, hosted by our curator, is held for seasoned and new volunteers

This year's was held on March 12th, and Harriet, our Curator, gave us new information and handouts. Corrine E. Moore, her administrative assistant, also spoke and added some new thoughts. When the business part was finished, Janet Bates gave a talk, with a picture board, about the years from

1930 through 1941, at the Bay.

Included were pictures of the 1933 hurricane which drastically changed our shoreline, and 1941 which saw the end of carefree trips to the Bay and boating, until the end of World War II.

After very nice refreshments, we drove to the Cypress Swamp, which is an interesting place to visit. John Riedesel, Bette Quigley and Janet Bates, then continued on a fact finding tour for our Drum Point Railroad trip in April. Bette thought it would be nice to get some ice cream, and so we ended up in North

Beach and she then treated us to ice cream cones. What a great way to finish our day. Looking forward to next spring and new volunteers. Come on out!



Janet Bates did an excellent job at the Workshop.

Bayside Chats

By Mike Sweeney

Volunteer Mike Sweeney had the opportunity to relate his experiences of operating steam locomotives to others in Calvert and Prince Georges Counties recently. In addition to giving a Bayside Chat in February, he presented programs of "Running Steam" to the Prince Georges Community College Senior Citizen Outreach Program in Camp Springs in January, and the Calvert County Chapter of the American Antiques Art Association in March. Each multi-media presentation lasted about two hours, and covered the history of steam locomotion, steam propulsion theory, the mechanics of locomotives, safety, the operating environment, and the future of steam power. These speaking engagements



Mike Sweeney talks to audience member and volunteer Pat Tait after the meeting.

provided wonderful venues to not only showcase our Museum and our yearly activities, they also provided a chance

to recruit volunteers.

Mike is looking forward to more steam locomotive operating opportunities this summer and fall in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida and Nevada.

Additionally there was another Bayside Chat in March. Mary Owens of the Critical Area Commission provided an overview of the program and how regulations along with voluntary stewardship efforts are essential to restoring Maryland's wetlands. The discussion included projects that homeowners could do to help improve water quality, such as creating rain gardens. Both Bayside Chats were very informative and we look forward to the series next year.

Dolores Update

By Harriet Stout



Work continues on the Dolores project. We are now working on Phase II. This phase includes work on the restoration and conservation of the exterior and the

Work on the Dolores is an ongoing project. The booth attached to the eastern end of the Dolores will house the heating and cooling system while preserving the look of the Dolores.

refurbishment of the interior of the car. If you wonder what the little phone booth-sized construction on the ramp end of the Dolores is, don't worry. We are not planning to film another episode of Doctor Who.

It is, in fact, the room into which the HVAC system will fit. When complete, this will provide a big step towards making the Dolores suitable for programs throughout the year.

Celebrate Summer

By Harriet Stout

SPLASH INTO SUMMER WITH THE "BEACH KIDS" is the theme for our *Celebrate Summer 2011* Exhibit this year. We will focus on the story of children at the Beach throughout the years. We have lots of fun things to exhibit. If you have any items that you would like to share, we would be happy to have them for the summer. Toys, children's clothing, and fishing paraphernalia are welcome. We are interested in anything that you have

that would enhance the scope of the exhibit. Don't forget those cute photos that your folks took of you when you came to the beach as a child. Call Harriet at 410-257-3892 to make arrangements to loan any treasures that you wish to share.

Amanda Priester poses after combing the beach for treasures. Hanging out on the beach and looking for shark's teeth has always been a popular pastime.



Recent Activities



The Museum is involved in many activities throughout the year that do not always get mentioned in the Newsletter. Without the dedication of the volunteers and the generosity of the membership, these programs would not get done. I thank each and every one of you for your contributions. Clockwise from top: Eddie and Jack were a huge hit at the Christmas Parade; Children at the Sweet Treat Express making trains good enough to eat!; Kathleen Scott, Mike Sweeney, Nancy Young, Jeanie B. Morris and John Riedesel at the Holiday Open House; Sylvie Watkinson, Aurora (the Santa Dog), Anakin Watkinson, Dana Watkinson and John Riedesel pose at the Christmas Parade; Hilary Dailey at the Easter Festival, Kathleen Scott and John Riedesel at the Sweet Treat Express cutting out Rice Krispie trains.

Recent Acquisitions



The postcard above shows a group of men camping at Chesapeake Beach. The reverse side shows that the postcard was originally mailed August 20, 1915 with a note "having the time of my life. Come down soon." Something that we could still see on a postcard mailed today.

Curator Harriet Stout is always on the lookout for new and interesting postcards or other items that help tell the story of Chesapeake Beach and surrounding areas. Below picnickers arriving for a day of fun and relaxation at Seaside Park. Most are carrying box lunches while other have blankets and picnic baskets.



Celebrating a Rich Tradition

By Kristen Scott

National Train Day started in 2008 as a way to inform the general public about the advantages of rail travel and the history of trains in the United States. It is held each year on the Saturday closest to May 10th, the anniversary of the pounding of the Golden Spike in Promontory, Utah which marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

Events are held across the country. Commemorating the rich history of how trains transformed America, the Museum had its own celebration. After all, without trains, the Town of Chesapeake Beach would probably not exist.



The interactive train play set captures these children's imagination on National Train Day.

Several volunteers assisted in pulling National Train day together. Kathleen Scott and Kristen Scott set up the tables and made sure everything was

ready. Approximately 30 people came to the Museum to take part of the festivities. In honor of Mother's Day, which was celebrated the next day, kids were invited to make Mother Day cards using train cutouts. Also there was an interactive train set that kids and their parents used to create new outlines of train tracks. Conductor John Riedesel presided over the children's activities.

Inside Bette Quigley, Volunteer Coordinator, greeted every visitor with a warm smile. She also gifted them with a small token of appreciation, a key fob with a picture of a train and the Museum's name. It was a beautiful day outside for National Train Day and was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Concerts

By Betty MacDonald

Our Concert Coordinator, Betty MacDonald, with the assistance of Corrine E. Moore, has arranged a varied and innovative group of performers for the 2011 Bay Breeze Summer Concerts.

On Thursday, June 9th, the concerts begin with *Hangman's Faire*. Gary and Jackie will present a program of Celtic Isles, Colonial America, our maritime heritage and folk music of the 60's. Their acoustic guitar, banjo, mandolin, penny whistle and Irish drum will set your feet to tapping.

The ever-popular bluegrass band, the *Dixie Ramblers*, will return once again on Thursday, July 14th. This group is under direction of Mike Phipps and never fails to attract a large crowd of enthusiastic fans.

On Thursday, August 11th, *Two for You*, will be appearing for the second time in our concert series. Janet and Ralph are an energetic duo performing a wide variety of musical styles from the 40's thru today.

On Thursday September 8th, *The Dixie Power Trio* augmented with *The New Line Brass* will entertain with authentic New Orleans jazz and original compositions. This is a return performance including their rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In".

In summary:

June 9 - "Hangman's Faire"

July 14- "Dixie Ramblers"

August 11 - "Two For You"

September 8 - "The Dixie Power Trio"

Plan to join us for an enjoyable summer evening of music.

All concerts are outdoors on the Museum porch starting at 7:30 PM and are free to the public. Concerts are arranged months in advance and are subject to change. Please consult the Museum's web page www.cbrm.org or call the Museum at 410-257-3892 for confirmation.

This series of concerts is made possible

with the cooperation of the Calvert County Commissioners and the financial assistance from the HELP Associates, Inc., the Town of Chesapeake Beach, and our generous membership. We are grateful to all for their strong support.

Floral arrangements for your enjoyment are complements of the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club. Refreshments will be provided during the intermission.






Photo of the Dixie Power Trio and the New Line Brass Band.





Spring Family Fun Day

PEACE, LOVE, RECYCLE

-  Moon Bounce and Other Activities
-  Recycling Entertainer & Balloon Artist
-  Crafts
-  Spark your Brain on the Inspiration Train
-  Giveaways and More

Bring in 3 empty plastic water bottles to recycle and get a FREE reusable water bottle!



May 22, 1 pm to 4 pm at the Museum

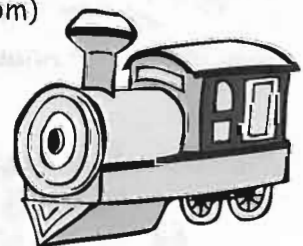
Thank you to Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Friends of Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, the Town of Chesapeake Beach, Mayor Bruce Wahl, Calvert County Recycling Division, Piper the Clown, Kathleen Jacobs, and Fantasy World Entertainment

CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

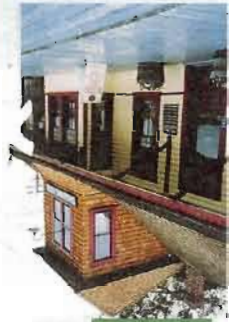
For more information on any of the following events call the Museum at 410-257-3892

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| May 22 | Spring Family Fun Day—see above! |
| June 5 | Annual Friends Meeting, 2 pm, at Hilary's house |
| June 5 | Volunteer Appreciation, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, at Hilary's house |
| June 9 | Founders' Day: <i>Celebrate Summer</i> exhibit opens: <i>Splash into Summer with the Beach Kids</i> |
| June 9 | <i>Hangman's Faire</i> (Free Concert at Museum, 7:30 pm) |
| July 14 | <i>Dixie Ramblers</i> (Free Concert at Museum, 7:30 pm) |
| August 11 | <i>Two for You</i> (Free Concert at Museum, 7:30 pm) |
| September 8 | <i>Power Dixie Trio</i> (Free Concert at Museum, 7:30 pm) |
| October 16 | Fall Family Fun Day, 1 pm to 4 pm, at Museum |
| November | Sweet Treat Express (date to be determined) |
| December 4 | Holiday Open House, 1 pm to 4 pm, at Museum |
| December | Polar Express (date to be determined) |



Don't forget our Summer Fun Children's Program start June 23RD on Thursday mornings at 10 am during the summer!

www.cbwm.org



Friends of the
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 1227
Chesapeake Beach, Maryland 20732

YOU ARE INVITED! COME CELEBRATE OUR VOLUNTEERS WITH A WINE TASTING*

Station: Hilary's House - **Sunday, June 5th**

2361 Cari Ct

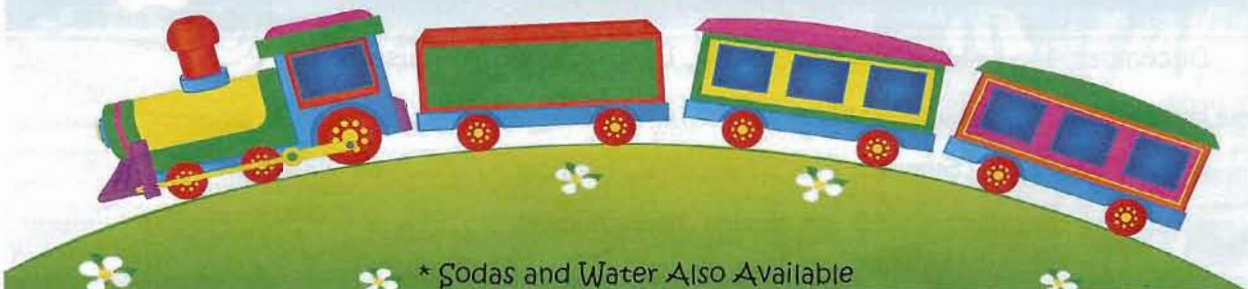
Huntingtown, MD

Arrival Time: 2:00 pm

Departure Time 4:30 pm

Please RSVP to Station Master Hilary at 301-855-4028

*** Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm—2:30 pm**



* Sodas and Water Also Available