

NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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BeRailSafe and Operation Lifesaver Share Rail Safety Information with Thousands at the N.C. State Fair

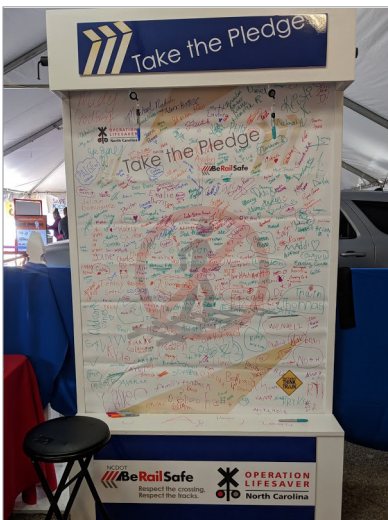
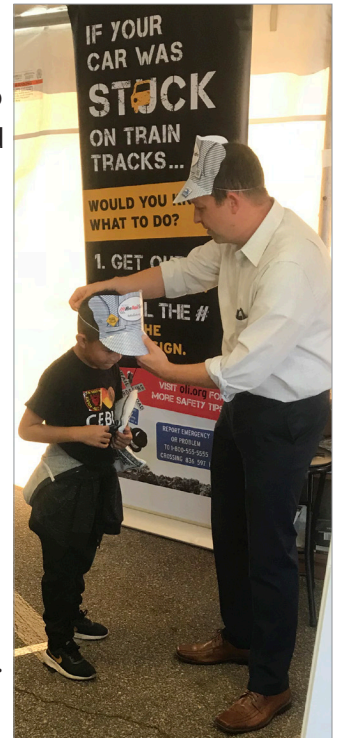


The BeRailSafe booth at the NC State Fair's Safety City was a huge success despite Hurricane Michael halting the opening day activities. Although attendance was slightly down this year due to inclement weather and widespread flooding throughout NC, more than 20,000 people attended the BeRailSafe booth for trespassing and crossing safety messages. Children were greeted with an opportunity to take photographs while

Out of a pool of several thousand entries, a mother and son from Cary were the lucky winners of two tickets to the Carolina Panthers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers football game donated by Operation Lifesaver. Two tickets for roundtrip transportation to Charlotte on NC By Train were included in the package.

North Carolina Operation Lifesaver partnered with BeRailSafe to operate the rail safety booth, staffed by more than 40 Rail Division and Operation Lifesaver volunteers during the 11 day event.

"The State Fair is the only venue in North Carolina that allows face-to-face rail safety messaging to reach tens of thousands of people and North Carolina Operation Lifesaver is thankful for the strong partnership we have with NCDOT and BeRailSafe," said Margaret Cannell, State Director of NC Operation Lifesaver.



operating the BeRailSafe train, sign a pledge to never trespass on railroad tracks and take a rail safety quiz.



December Railroad Trivia Question: We often talk about future "high-speed" rail operations in NC. One hundred and twenty-two years ago on Nov. 21, 1896, a "high-speed" rail record was set on what NC/VA railroad? *Answer on page 2.*



In October, Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway (ACWR) hosted an open house at their newly completed locomotive shop in Candor. The \$1M project to build the industry tracks which serve the shop was funded with a match of \$500,000 from the Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety program. Retrofitted from the former Commodore Homes building, this unique 91,000 square-foot service facility provides maintenance and repair services for locomotives, freight cars and passenger cars. Twelve restored rail cars that are used for business recruitment and special excursions were on display. Guests received an escorted tour through the rail cars which are equipped with a lounge, dining, bath, kitchen, and bedrooms, as local contractors such

as suppliers and tradesmen, electricians and replica furniture makers were hired for the restoration project.

The fleet was used during the 2014 U.S. Open to commemorate the historic Pinehurst train station.

ACWR's locomotive shop performs a wide range of service needs and repairs including: wayside power equipment set-up; passenger car components, emergency field replacement of a locomotive traction motor; turbo charger replacement; prime mover performance, and federal regulations and compliance.

ACWR's locomotive shop is just one more innovative example of how North Carolina's short line railroads provide economic development opportunities to our rural areas.



December Railroad Trivia Answer: Seaboard Air Line RR steam locomotive #540 and three passenger cars ran the 79 miles between Weldon, NC and Portsmouth, VA non-stop on November 21, 1896 at an average top speed of 85mph with a short burst of 90mph operation. This was nearly twice the normal operating speed of the fastest passenger trains operating in NC in the 1890s. This accomplishment is all the more impressive when one considers that the SAL 540 run was made over 60 pound jointed rail, ballasted with dirt, clay and coal cinders.

Out and About with NC By Train

NC By Train Customer Service had tables at four homecoming events this fall at Historically Black Colleges and Universities located along the route of the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* trains. Train schedules were shared and attendees were made aware of the additional Raleigh to Charlotte round trip that was added to the schedule this summer.

The schools were North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, Livingstone College in Salisbury, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, and North Carolina Central University in Durham.



Table at N.C. A&T Alumni Event



NC By Train Makes Special Stop at the 35th Lexington Barbecue Festival

For the 23rd year, NC By Train made a special stop for the Oct. 27 Lexington Barbecue Festival, with 421 passengers on board. The festival offered eight music stages, arts and crafts, racing pigs and plenty of Lexington-style barbecue.



The city provided a special Rail Passenger Hospitality Area inside the restored freight depot for passengers. It was stocked with coffee, hot chocolate, sodas, cookies and snacks. There were chairs for those who needed to take a break, and an area to check coats and items.

Ridership for Special NC State Fair Stop Strong Despite Visit by Hurricane Michael

Even with the opening of the NC State Fair delayed one day due to Hurricane Michael, many took advantage of the special NC By Train stop offered for the fair. The number of passengers getting on and off the trains at the fair this year was 3,176, surpassing the previous year by 227. The train stopped just across Hillsborough Street from Gate 1 of the fairgrounds, providing passengers with a stress-free way to get to and from the fair.



Score a Touchdown by Riding NC By Train to the Carolina Panther's Last Regular Season Game

Passengers headed to the 1 p.m. game on Dec. 23 can take *Piedmont* Train 73 from any of the eight stations along the corridor to arrive in Charlotte at 9:40 a.m. *Piedmont* Train 78 departs Charlotte at 7 p.m.

Train tickets can be purchased at NCByTrain.org.

Ridership & Revenue on NC By Train Service – August 2018 vs. 2017

| | RIDERSHIP | | | REVENUE | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | % +/- | 2018 | 2017 | % +/- |
| <i>Piedmont</i> | 17,155 | 12,630 | 36% | \$398,653 | \$262,355 | 52% |
| <i>Carolinian</i> | 25,029 | 26,633 | -6% | \$1,823,999 | \$1,789,926 | 2% |

1,096

Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in August supporting NC By Train onboard and at events

There were no service modifications or annulments impacting *Piedmont* or *Carolinian* trains in August 2018. Average gasoline prices remained low in August but were \$0.37 per gallon higher than in August 2017.

NCDOT and the Carolina Coastal Railroad Make Crossing Safety Improvements

NCDOT Division 4, the Carolina Coastal Railroad, and the NCDOT Rail Division partnered to rehabilitate a three-track crossing at Corbett Road in Nash County near Nashville. The asphalt in all tracks was badly deteriorated, requiring motorists to slow to a crawl through the crossing. The new crossing surface is asphalt and rail seal, providing a smooth and safe crossing surface. The NCDOT has received positive feedback from residents on Corbett Road who say they are quite pleased with the new crossing.

Additionally, Division 12, the Alexander Railroad and the NCDOT Rail Division upgraded a crossing near Scotts in Iredell County

on Scotts Creek Road. This crossing was asphalt with additional pieces of rail on each side providing the flangeways. This was replaced with a concrete tub crossing, providing a better ride for motorists and the crossing will be maintenance free for many years.



Corbett Road before improvements



Scotts Creek Road before improvements



Corbett Road after improvements



Scotts Creek Road after improvements

Rail Division 2019 Service Awards

Keeping with tradition, staff members were recognized for their excellent years of service to the State of North Carolina at the Rail Division's Annual Thanksgiving Lunch. Awards are given at five year milestones and five employees received awards.

From left to right: Richard Mullinax (30 years); Earline Richardson, Administrative Assistant (15 years); Rail Director Jason Orthner; Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard; Kyle Anderson, Program Manager, Rail Operations (5 years); Kumar Trivedi, Engineering Coordination Manager (25 years); and Arthur Petteway, Data Analysis and Inventory Manager (30 years).

