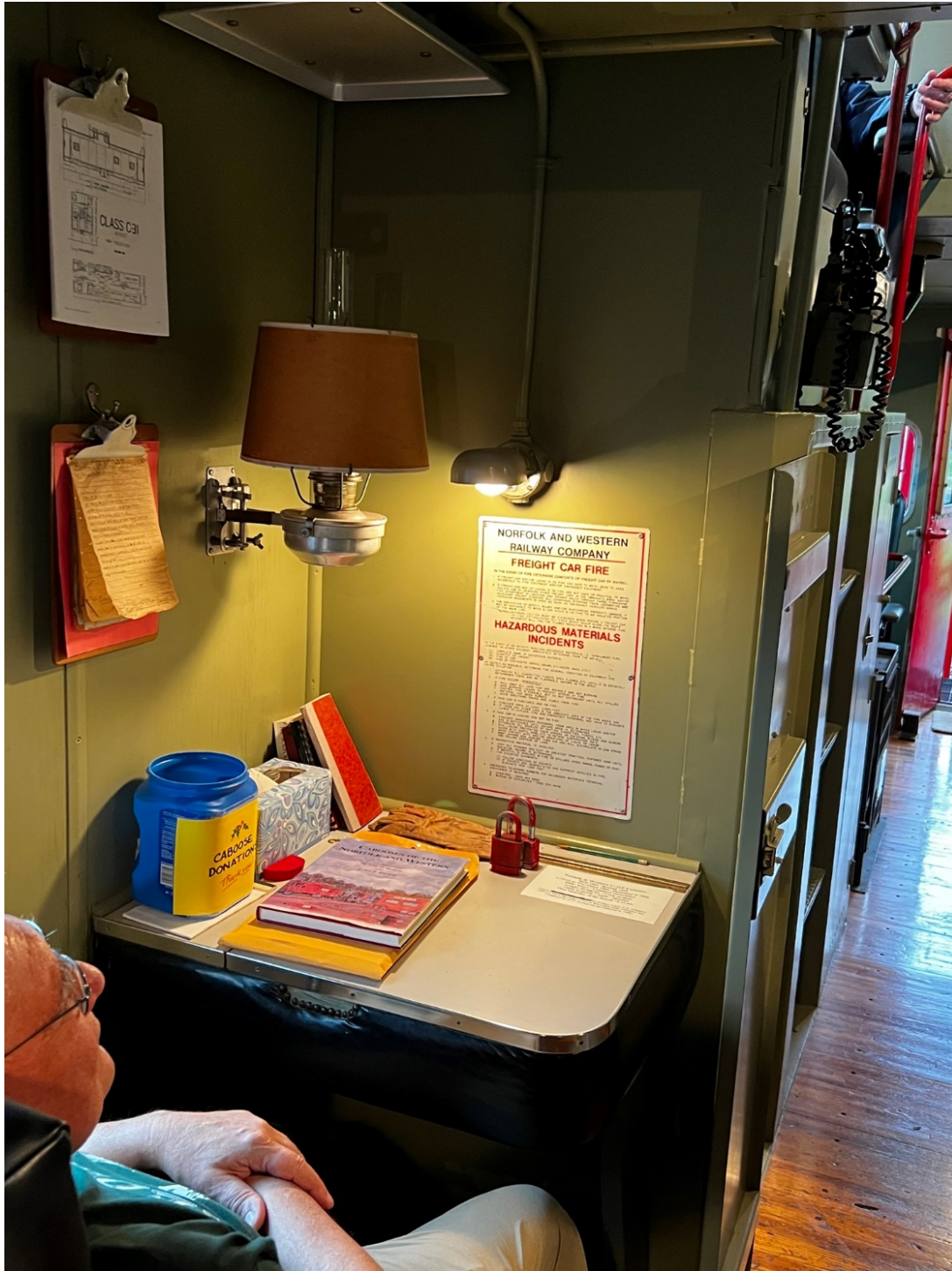


Piedmont Railroaders, Inc.
Warrenton Caboose Event
June 22, 2022 at 7 pm

We had an excellent presentation and tour by Ken Wilson, the Warrenton Caboose Coordinator, of the 1969 Norfolk and Western Railroad caboose, the shanty, and the signal lights. Although we did not have a quorum for a meeting, the four of us (David, Jimmy, Tony, and Todd) had a great time with Ken who show us the detail preservation of the caboose and shanty. We were fortunate to have good sunny weather at that time, as the storm had passed on by 7 pm and we had blue sky and some sun peeking through.

Ken described the interesting history how the 1969 caboose was acquired with Piedmont Railroaders back in 1998 and how it was preserved. He demonstrated the use of a spring frog on the track by using a pry-bar to move an inside rail from outer rail that allows a train car switch tracks one-way. Ken then showed us the shanty with many historical items including coal tender pole, luggage cart with vintage suitcases, and the use of signal switches for the signal light pole. Jimmy and David pulled the cable and wired the switch panel for the signal switch. All indication lamps are valid signals, per N/W charts. Ken showed us the rail in front of the shanty stamped 85 lb. This is the weight per yard.

At the caboose, David showed where the air brake release lever is on outside. Ken pointed out the linkage underneath that shows a second lever was attached that ran inside for the train brakeman/conductor to use. This was in the kitchen area. Inside the caboose, we were shown the brakeman/conductor's desk, kitchen, and tool cabinets. In the caboose cupola section above the walkway, Ken showed us the pressure gauge with lamp that directs the light on it for easy viewing. The brake emergency valve was there also, where you could dump the air (go into emergency braking. Several of us climbed the steps for the view. Ken described how the caboose was repainted with special thick paint. He described the renovation process with photos of the original, followed by the meticulous detail lettering by Ken's watchful eye. Lot of great work can be seen was done by Ken, and many others to maintain this caboose in Smithsonian-like condition. Piedmont Railroaders members have also helped in this endeavor, and will continue to work with Ken on the Warrenton caboose. Thank you, Ken, for your presentation and continuing work on the preservation of the Warrenton caboose.



Brakeman/conductor's desk. Nice restoration.



Ken demonstrates the operation of a spring frog at the Warrenton Caboose.



New paint job on the Warrenton Caboose. Looks great for Ken's presentation.



Coffee, anyone??