

JUNE 20 SOCIAL MEETING at 7 PM will be a tour of the WMSR rail yard in Ridgeley WV. Arrangements have been made with WMSR Executive Director John Garner for WM Chapter members and guests to be given a guided tour of the railroad maintenance facility and the rolling stock present there. This event is a follow-up to the interesting talk presented by Tyler Clayton on April 18. Among the recent equipment additions to be seen are the 1949 WM 26634 boxcar, the 1969 C&O 3264 caboose, and perhaps the 300-horsepower, 45-ton center cab diesel switcher. The staff of the WMSR shops is involved in several railroad equipment restoration projects. One major project is the work involved in returning to operating condition the 1949 C&O 1309 articulated 2-6-6-2 steam locomotive. An aspect of this project, for which an NRHS Heritage Grant has been applied, is the installation of a new boiler plate cover. An earlier NRHS Heritage Grant was used to repair the roof of the 1918 Pullman-built WM 204 business car. Of particular interest to WM Chapter members is the chapter's own 72-foot long heavyweight railcar that is being converted to a railroad exhibit car for static display of artifacts and photographs in front of the historic Western Maryland Railway Station in Cumberland.

Although no railroad workers are expected to be active during the evening, all visitors are asked to act in a safe manner while on railroad property. Please dress appropriately, and especially wear fully enclosed, comfortable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). When driving from Cumberland to Ridgeley, after crossing the double-span pale blue bridge over the Potomac River, follow Bridge Street south for two short blocks as it goes next to the WMSR tracks on the left side. Stop at the intersection where Knobly Street crosses the railroad tracks on the left, and Ridgeley Street goes down slope to the right. Turn right onto Ridgeley Street and travel only a hundred feet, then turn left onto William Street and proceed for about a tenth of a mile. This road initially runs next to the railroad tracks but then curves right, passing an open field and propane storage tanks on the right. Before the road ends at the river levee, turn left and pass through the open gate in the high chain-link fence. Drive another hundred yards and park near the metal shop buildings on the left, remembering not to block any other vehicle from being able to back out.