

CHAPTER EXCURSION

CABOOSE RIDE ON THE WHITEWATER VALLEY RAILROAD

Story and Photos By Scott Andes

The Cincinnati Chapter National Railway Historical Society sponsored a caboose on the Banta Rails Caboose Ride that was operated on the Whitewater Valley Railroad on March 21, 2010.

Our chariot for the day was a steel EJ&E caboose, in a bright orange paint scheme and located at the end of the consist for the southbound trip from Connersville to Metamora. Seven cabooses of various vintage and design made up our train. Our motive power was number 9339, a 1948 Alco/GE S-1 in New York Central black with white trim. The 9339 ran cab-forward for the southbound trip and hood forward for the northbound trip.

Heading south from the Connersville station about 9:00 am, our first stop was the restored Dearborn Tower at the south end of our South Connersville Yards. We had a chance to go inside the Rushville Depot which is under restoration, and had the opportunity to photograph a photo run-by at the Tower.

We continued on with stops along the river, Laurel for a restroom stop, other stops along the river, and another rest room stop at Metamora. At the twin-arch bridge we ventured out into the middle of the river (the water level was fairly low and there was ample room on the sandbar) to photograph our train on the bridge. We continued south and had a run-by at the covered aqueduct and then ran to the south end of the line.

We then headed back to Laurel for a wonderful meal at the Laurel Inn. All bought whatever they wanted from the menu or made a trip to the buffet. After lunch we all got back on the train and headed back to the Grand Central Station at Connersville.

Thanks to our friends at the Whitewater Valley RR, as well as Brian Banta and the trip organizers, for a great event.

