



HIGH GREEN



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Santa on the Rails



Photo via Bob Lewis

In a scene that will likely never take place again on these rails, a Bay Coast Railroad crew poses with Santa and his helpers at Cape Charles, VA, in 2012. For years the railroad hosted a Santa train pulling the *Fairfax River*, a two-drawing room/14-roomette car built for the RF&P Railroad in 1950 for runs between New York City and Miami. Converted and used as a MoW car from 1966 to 1980, it was purchased by the Tidewater Chapter NRHS in 1984. John Bates bought it in 1994 and restored it to its former glory, and on this occasion it departed Cape Charles at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of December to allow Santa to visit children at all of the towns along the line up to Parksley, VA, arriving at this last stop at 4:30 p.m. For the rest of the year the *Fairfax River* resided at the Eastern Shore Railway Museum in Parksley. The operations were sponsored by the BCR, the Greater Parksley Association and the Delmarva Chapter NRHS. The train didn't run in 2017 due to bad wheels on the *Fairfax River* and on May 18, 2018 the BCR made its last freight run. Built as an EMD GP9 in December 1958 and numbered Illinois Central Railroad 9383 with frame number 5591-14, BCR 2000, rebuilt as an EMD GP10, now sits forlornly in Cape Charles, out of service and apparently without a compressor. Now most of the BCR tracks lie dormant and their future is in doubt. Read about it in this High Green!