



# Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

## Southeast Chapter

### Newsletter No. 105 – February, 2008

### Southeast Chapter Annual Meeting

**January Banquet along CSX's "Folkston Funnel" main line,  
at the Trestle House - By Reid Adams**

The R&LHS Southeast Chapter's Annual Banquet was held this year at the Trestle House on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Several members decided to spend Friday night at the house (the house can accommodate up to 6 people) and watch trains throughout the evening. Jim and Ann, Reid Adams, Bill Howes, and Barry Baines (visiting from Boston) stayed at the house, and also enjoyed a nice seafood dinner at a local establishment in Folkston, GA. All of the trains that pass through the "Folkston Funnel" also go by the Trestle House which is located off US Route 1, on the Florida side of the St. Mary's River about four miles south of Folkston, GA. It is approximately one hour's drive from the Jacksonville area. Barry Baines was kind enough to bring his laptop showing his unique computer program that displays trains in the area on a screen, similar to the screens that dispatchers have. The program allowed the group to know when trains were passing by so that cameras and recorders could get set up in plenty of time. The House is situated on the banks of the St. Mary's River, within a few hundred yards of the ACL steel Trestle. – Continued on page – 2.

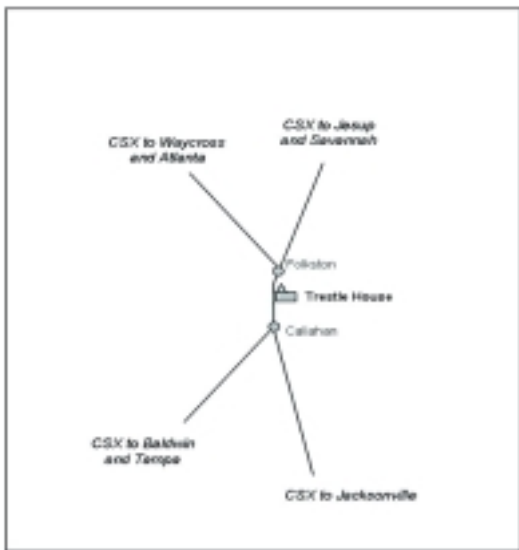


**At our annual meeting the new officers for 2008 were installed.**

**They are from left to right:**

**Robert Van Nest – Treasurer, Bill Howes – President,  
Reid Adams – Secretary, John Leynes – Vice President**

*Southeast Limited*



Chapter members and guests started arriving at about 8:00 am Saturday morning. Sixteen people attended, including Ed Mellon and his wife Dianne from Tallahassee. Although the weather was cloudy with periodic light rain, the group had a great time socializing on the porch while waiting for trains. The indoor den had an expansive glass window where you could see the trestle, so people could watch trains from inside as well. Part of the old ACL trestle is in the den, and is part of the house foundation. Another brick trestle across the river is still standing, and some of the members were wondering when the ACL re-aligned the railroad and built the newer steel bridge. During a typical 24-hour period, train watchers may see an average of 60 trains, depending on the movement of freight into Florida. A wide variety of trains can be seen during the 24-hour period. Continued on page – 3.

### Southeast Chapter - Meeting Minutes Recap:

The November 8, 2007 meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Howes with seven members present. Treasurer, John Leynes reported that there was approximately \$9,000 in our treasury accounts. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2008: Chairman - Bill Howes, Vice Chairman - John Leynes, Secretary - Reid Adams, Treasurer - Robert Van Nest. Since only four members were “running” for four officer positions; the slate will be installed by Acclamation by Proclamation to eliminate the cost of sending individual ballots. Also, the Trip Committee will now be handled by Reid Adams and Paul Newtonson. Chairman Bill Howes reported that the 2008 R&LHS convention will be held in the Lancaster, PA, area in early June.

The December 13, 2007 meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Howes with nine members present. Treasurer, John Leynes reported that there was approximately \$9,000 in our various treasury accounts. Under Old Business, it was agreed that the 2008 slate of chapter officers would be installed at our January 12th Banquet to be held at the Trestle House on the St. Mary’s River near Folkston, GA. New Business included a discussion regarding the February 23rd Jacksonville train show. We agreed to reserve four tables for various members who will also seek to find new members for our chapter. The program was presented by Ed Rock, who made a video presentation of NBC railroading news clips.

**Announcements:**

- March 13th - Regular SE Chapter meeting, 3rd floor CSX GOB, Jacksonville, FL 6:30PM
- March 15th - SAM Railroad trip - contact Paul Newtonson at [Paul\\_Newtson@csx.com](mailto:Paul_Newtson@csx.com)
- April 5th - Annual Folkston, GA Railwatch event.
- April 10th - Regular SE Chapter meeting, 3rd floor CSX GOB, Jacksonville, FL 6:30PM
- April 12th - Model Train Show, Deland, FL

**SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**William F. Howes, Jr.**            **President**  
**John A. Leynes**                **Vice-President**  
**Reid Adams**                    **Secretary**  
**Robert Van Nest**              **Treasurer**

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*From the Deck – View of a Southbound Freight - Chris Frank photo*



*Members watch a Northbound Freight – Jim Smith photo*



*Northwest side view of trestle house – Robert Van Nest photo*



*Southbound CSX Intermodal - Chris Frank photo*



*Southbound Silver Meteor early in the morning – Reid Adams photo*



*We had fun and talked business – Robert Van Nest photo*



*View of trestle from lower deck – John Leynes photo*



*Bill Howes advises new members – Robert Van Nest photo*

# Baldwin Steam Locomotive No. 43



1910 Negative No. 3243  
Baldwin Locomotive Works.  
Class 10 36 D 565  
Road No. 43 Built for  
Seaboard Air Line Railway Co.  
Class T - 80 - K  
Cylinders 21" x 28"  
Driving Wheels 72" Passenger  
Engine Weight 173,700 #  
Total Weight 295,000 #



*Multiple images joined for a panorama off the deck at the Trestle House & St. Mary's river, left/west, right/east - John Leynes photo*

*R & L H S - Southeast Chapter - Southeast Limited*

Feb 2008 Photo Insert - Copyrighted



*View facing east from below the trestle house. Robert Van Nest photo*



*View facing west from below the trestle house. Robert Van Nest photo.*

Six Amtrak trains pass daily, including the AutoTrain, which runs from the nation's capital to Florida and back. Some of the guys also walked towards the tracks to get a closer view of all the trains. There is a short trail through the woods to reach the tracks. Food was provided by several members, and Ann Smith helped to set up the tables and prepare the ham and accompaniments. Each member and guest contributed for the dinner, and a special thanks goes to Ann, Becky, and Vanessa for taking on the burden of bringing and preparing the majority of the dinner. The banquet was outstanding, and everyone especially enjoyed the desserts later in the day as they continued to watch the trains.

The chapter conducted a quick business meeting before the 3:00 pm adjournment. Paul Newtson, the trip coordinator, spoke about the Chapter's first field trip of the year: an excursion on the SAM shortline, in Cordele, GA, for Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>. There was great deal of interest in the trip from the members. Paul requested a response by the end of January, so he could reserve the tickets. Then, the four new officers were inducted: Bill Howes as President, John Leynes as Vice President, Robert Van Nest as Treasurer, and Reid Adams as Secretary. The banquet was a great success, and we hope to make use of this wonderful facility many more times in the years ahead. Again, special thanks to Jim and Ann Smith for reserving the house, coordinating the details, and for preparing all that wonderful food.

## **Have you recently read any good railroad books?**

### **Well I have and here they are! - By Jim Smith**

Here are three books that I personally recommend for your railroad library. Although they cover a wide range of railroad subjects, they are all so interesting that once you start, you won't be able to put the book down. None of them are "picture" books, but they are all great reading. Enjoy!

#### **Stealing the General, by Russell S. Bonds**

This book is very well written and is also well documented with source and descriptive notes. Although sparse on photographs, it did a great job detailing 1) the story of stealing the General, 2) the history and saving of the General and the Texas, 3) the raiders themselves - who they were, what they went through while captured, their attempts to escape, the awarding of the first Medal of Honor, and for those who survived, what they did after the Civil War, and 4) the actions of William Fuller and those who helped him. In my opinion this is the best book I've read about "**Stealing the General**". With regard to photos, I used two books that I already owned to provide ample photos of the story: **The General and the Texas** by Stan Cohen and James Bogle, and the magazine **Blue & Gray**, July, 1987, *The Great Locomotive Chase or The Andrews Raid*.

#### **The Men Who Loved Trains, by Rush Loving, Jr.**

This book is based on much of the working life of Jim McClellan (a former NS officer). It provides a lot of history about early mergers and very detailed information regarding the decision by CSX and NS to make a bid for Conrail. It was an interesting read even though it did not have specific "notes". Having worked for CSX, I had the benefit of actually knowing a number of the people mentioned in the book. But, I think you too will find it interesting reading and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in the history of railroad mergers and the story behind the Conrail buyout.

#### **The Boomer, by Harry Bedwell**

First, I admit to enjoying railroad fiction stories. Railroad Magazine used to have a fiction story in just about every issue and I loved it. Some of the absolute best stories were written by Harry Bedwell about a boomer lighting slinger named Eddie Sand. Mr. Bedwell was a lifelong railroad man and a boomer himself, so he had plenty of knowledge about railroad people handling both mainline and branch line operations. His main character, Eddie Sand, is unsurpassed in portraying a quality that ultimately brought all sorts of problems to a happy ending. So pull up a chair and let one of the greatest railroad story tellers put you right next to Mr. Sand as he works as a lighting slinger on the railroad.



**Southeast Chapter members pose for the official photo on the deck of the Trestle House**



There was lots of steam to be found at the Northeast Florida Live Steamers and Railroaders Inc. 2008 Winter Meet, on the West Toco and Bostwick 7 ½ inch and 2 foot gauge railroad near Bostwick, Florida. February 9th & 10th was their biggest attended event to date with over a dozen live steam engines. Their website is: <http://neflsri.com/> Also check out the North Florida Railway Museum at: [www.nfrm.org](http://www.nfrm.org) The NFRM is located in Green Cove Springs, Florida, at the Reynolds Industrial Park.