



Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

Southeast Chapter

Newsletter No. 110 – December, 2008

Southeast Chapter 2009 Elections

In the October newsletter, we sought members willing to run for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. No responses from the membership were received. Since only four people applied for the four positions, and therefore there was no contest, the volunteers were elected by Acclimation by Proclamation at our January 2009 banquet.

The new officers for 2009 are Reid Adams – Chairman, John Leynes – Vice Chairman, Robert Van Nest – Treasurer and Paul Newtonson – Secretary.



“Annual Banquet”

The Southeast Chapter Annual Banquet was held Friday, January 9th aboard the Georgia 300, a private business car owned by a Florida businessman. He is a long time friend of many railroad enthusiasts around the country. He allowed the chapter to use the car at the request of our previous chairman W. F. Bill Howes. Here is a brief history of the car. The passenger rail car was built in 1930 in Chicago, IL, as a full sleeping car. The original name was the “General Polk”. It was assigned to service from Atlanta to New Orleans. The GEORGIA RR acquired the car in 1949, and converted it to a business car, and renamed the car to its present name. The GA 300 served the executives and guests of the railroad until it was retired in 1982. Following 4 years of storage, it was purchased by the current owner, and was placed back into service in 1987.

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We boarded the car for the banquet at 6:00 pm, followed by drinks and snacks in the lounge. A Buffet-Style Dinner was served at 7:00 PM.



**Exterior view (left), and interior view (right), of the GA 300. It was a most unique banquet setting.
Photos by Reid Adams.**

Southeast Chapter - Meeting Minutes Recap:

Meeting of November 13, 2008

The meeting on November 13th of the Southeast Chapter of the R&LHS was called to order at 6:40 pm by Chairman Bill Howes. There were 8 members present.

Secretary's report: The minutes for the November meeting were distributed and approved by the members present.

Treasurers Report: Robert Van Nest handed out a treasurer's report showing the balances. The treasurer's report was approved by the members present.

Committee Reports:

- Trips: Paul Newtson and Reid Adams discussed the upcoming trip and will work out details for the next meeting. They will have all the details at the next meeting. (Continued on next page.)

Announcements:

(Our regular meetings are 2nd Thursday's of the month @ 6:30 PM, in the CSX Bldg., 500 Water St. Downtown Jacksonville, FL)

Next Meeting with the new 2009 Officers: February 12th

June 18-21st, 2009 - R&LHS Convention, Portland, Maine

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS

W. Reid Adams,	Chairman	206-604-2736
John A. Leynes	Vice-Chairman	904-287-1044
Paul Newtson	Secretary	
Robert Van Nest	Treasurer	

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Old Business:

- Preservation of ACL 1504: Art Towson went to the Meeting on 10/23, and said it was unproductive. Larry Shughart mentioned the Chapter helping with a plaque as a project.

New Business:

- Website: Reid Adams and Larry Shughart agreed to update the information about the SE Chapter on the National website.
- Bill Howes gave a report on the Sacramento activities in November.
- Upcoming Programs
 - January – Annual Banquet TBD (Adams). A flyer to be distributed at the next meeting
 - “15-Minute” Locomotive – December: Jim Smith

The program tonight was a series of videos from Art Towson, on the last days of the Western Maryland RR.

Meeting of December 14, 2008

The last meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the R&LHS for 2008 was held on December 11th. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chairman Bill Howes. There were 9 members present and two guests: Chris Giannetto was a guest of Larry Shughart, and Frank Defalco was a guest of Paul Newtonson.

Secretary's report: The minutes for the November meeting were distributed and approved by the members present.

Treasurers Report: Robert Van Nest handed out a treasurer's report showing the balances. There is \$2019.62 in the balance. The CD has made \$60 to date. The treasurer's report was approved by the members present.

Committee Reports:

- Newsletter: Working on the last issue for the year.
- FLARR Trip: Paul Newtonson and Reid Adams handed out a trip detail packet. Some of the members had suggestions about places to stay, so Reid and Paul will work on that and send out updated information. They need commitments by January 15th. Trip is Saturday/Sunday Feb 7th - 8th.

Old Business:

- John Leynes updated the group on the Henry Plant Video and described the sections, introduction, and how they will be narrating the video. John will get together with interested members about participating.
- Website: Reid Adams and Larry Shughart will update the information about the SE Chapter on the National website.

New Business:

- Bill Howes gave a report on the Sacramento activities in November.
- Upcoming Programs
 - January – Annual Banquet will be on Friday, Jan 9th on the private rail car, GA 300. Reid Adams prepared a flyer with the information. Cost: \$20 pp. Deadline to RSVP: Jan 3rd.
 - “15-Minute” Locomotive – February - Reid

The “15-minute” Locomotive program tonight was given by Jim Smith on the famous PRR GG1. The main program was given by our guest, Frank Defalco, on Signal Training and how to read them. He prepared a fantastic slideshow and gave an excellent presentation. We look forward to Part 2 of the program! Thanks to both Jim Smith and Frank Defalco.

R&LHS upcoming trip “Tracing the Florida Railroad”

Southeast Chapter members Reid Adams and Paul Newtson have planned an exciting trip to trace the path of the original Florida Railroad, Florida’s first significant railroad. The route was from Fernandina on the Atlantic coast, to Cedar Key on the Gulf coast. Construction began and was completed prior to the Civil War. The war destroyed much of the road, but was put back into service after the war. David Levy Yulee was the president of the line during its early existence. The trip is planned for February 7th & 8th. The trip will begin in Fernandina on Saturday morning, with several stops planned along the route, with an overnight stay at Cedar Key. Sunday’s activities are to include a visit to several historic locations in Cedar Key, and “back tracking” to Archer to visit the Historical Society Museum located in the old SAL depot. A lecture has been tentatively scheduled for us at the depot, to be given by Mr. Harold McGee, a noted local historian in Alachua County. A few other special stops are planned, and will be reported on in the next issue of the “*Southeast Limited*.” A portion of the original right of way is still in service today as part of the CSX S-Line, specifically, the sections between Fernandina and Yulee and Callahan, Baldwin and Waldo Florida. The tracks were taken up years ago between Yulee and Callahan, and Waldo to Cedar Key. Our current Vice Chairman John Leynes re-incorporated the old Florida Railroad company name, and has a website with historic information on the line as well as much other information about Florida’s railroads. The website can be viewed at: <http://www.flarr.com>. Be sure to visit the company store page to see informative productions



The Florida Railroad depot building at Fernandina circa 1987. The original line provided a quicker and much safer route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. This route avoided the treacherous Florida Straights and saved many days travel time required by ship. As was typical of most railroads, it came under receivership and changed names many times over its existence.

The tracks at both Fernandina and Cedar Key were placed out onto the piers in order to facilitate the efficient movement of passengers and freight between rail and ships. Cedar Key is a shallow water port and required the use of “lighters”, small vessels, to transfer cargo from the pier to larger vessels anchored in deeper water.

