



Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.
Southeast Chapter
Newsletter No. 128 – December 2011
www.rlhssec.org

Knoxville Gathering

The Fall 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee of the R&LHS

The meeting was held in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 9, concurrent with the November 9-12 annual meeting of the Lexington Group in Transportation History. In addition to me, Southeast Chapter members attending some or all of the events included Paul Barnes, Joe Elliot, Lyle Key, Ed Mellon and Gordon Mott.

I attended the R&LHS Executive Committee meeting. Key among the topics discussed and actions taken at the meeting were (1) upcoming annual meetings of the Society, (2) 2012 membership renewal procedures as they impact the chapters, (3) use of “Friends” contributions for chapter-based projects, (4) a possible future relationship between the 20th Century Railroad Club and our Chicago Chapter, (5) insurance, (6) R&LHS organizational sponsorship of the Annual Conference of the Center for Railway Photography and Art, and (7) budget and membership development issues.

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Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum’s special dinner train on November 7 to Chickamauga, Georgia was handled by TVRM GP7 No. 1829 when former Southern Railway 2-8-0 No. 630 was temporarily sidelined with a broken spring.

Southeast Limited



No. 630 was back in service for the November 8 run over the Norfolk Southern with NS equipment to Knoxville. The 2-8-0 "Consolidation" was built in 1904 for Southern Railway freight service by the Richmond (VA) Works of the American Locomotive Company (ALCO). It was sold to the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad in 1952, becoming that road's No. 207. Southern reacquired the locomotive in 1968 for its steam excursion program, renumbering it 630. NS donated the 630 to the TVRM in 1999.



No. 203 was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1925 for the Washington & Lincolnton Railroad in Georgia. It was resold several times among shortlines in the Southeast before ending up in Knoxville in the late 1990s. Originally, a coal burning locomotive, it has been converted to an oil burner. It was restored by the G&O for the *Three Rivers Rambler* excursions.



The two trains on November 10 sponsored by the Gulf & Ohio Railroads holding company over its Knoxville & Holston River Railroad route of the *Three Rivers Rambler* excursions were operated with 2-8-0 Nos. 154 and 203. No. 154, seen here, was originally East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad No. 466 built in 1890 by the Schenectady Locomotive Works (later part of ALCO). It is believed to be one of only ten preserved Schenectady-built locomotives still in existence. After the ETV&G became part of the newly formed Southern Railway in 1894, it was renumbered 154.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS

John A. Leynes	Chairman	904-287-1044
Paul Newton	Vice-Chairman	904-296-7340
Bill Howes	Secretary	
Robert Van Nest	Treasurer	

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Plans for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society in Birmingham May 17-20 are complete. Details and a registration form are included in the current Fall R&LHS *Quarterly Newsletter*. Planning is also underway for the 2013 meeting to be held at Madison, Wisconsin. The feasibility of Ely, Nevada as a site for the 2014 Annual Meeting is being explored, and Poughkeepsie, New York and Altoona, Pennsylvania are being considered for future meetings.

All of the chapters have agreed to the 2012 membership renewal procedure whereby national and chapter dues are submitted to the national Membership Secretary who will, in turn, remit the chapter portions to the respective chapters. To improve the timely transfer of funds to the chapters and to insure that they have funds on hand at the beginning of the year, an amount equal to 80 percent of each chapter's 2011 dues receipts will be sent by the national Treasurer by December 1, 2011, with any balance due being paid as the monies are collected.

Solicitation of contributions to "Friends of the R&LHS" will include funds for specific chapter-based projects.

In view of expressions of interest by both the 20th Century Railroad Club and our Chicago Chapter for some type of affiliation, a letter will be sent to 20th Century inviting them to consider a membership relationship with the Chicago Chapter.

It was decided that the national R&LHS would continue the recent practice of securing liability coverage for the annual meeting events. Further, an insurance committee was appointed to look into other insurance needs.

The Society will become an organizational sponsor for the Annual Conference of the Center for Railway Photography and Art.

The Society is in sound financial health with a small operating surplus expected for 2011 and projected in the 2012 budget. The 346 new members for 2011 more than offset attrition, bringing total membership to 2259. This is a reflection of the active solicitation of new members by many chapters and individuals in the Society.

Many R&LHS members are also members of the Lexington Group and took part in a full program of events sponsored by the Lexington and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM) with additional participation by Norfolk Southern and Gulf & Ohio. Activities got underway Monday, November 7, when TVRM arranged charter motor coach transportation to their facilities in Chattanooga (Grand Junction) for persons arriving in Atlanta on Amtrak Train 19, the Crescent or in Knoxville. In addition to Museum events during the day, approximately forty people rode a special dinner train that evening operated by the TVRM, enjoying a superb meal and fine service en route to Chickamauga, Georgia and return. Overnight at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel was followed by Tuesday's trip on Norfolk Southern to Knoxville behind the TVRM's former Southern Railway 2-8-0 No. 630.

Lexington events got underway on Wednesday with three days of interesting and informative presentations on various aspects of railroading, past and current. Included, was a talk by Southeast Chapter member Lyle Key titled "The Southland - Direct to Florida's West Coast" about one of the South's most notable and interesting passenger trains. Thursday also featured a round-trip over the Gulf & Ohio's Knoxville & Holston River Railroad to "Forks-of-the-River" involving two trains handled by 2-8-0 "Consolidations" Nos. 154 and 203 that terminated at Calhoun's Restaurant for a BBQ rib dinner. It having been previously noted that nine of the attendees had at one time or another been in a management training program of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, a special table was secured for this group so they could reminisce into the evening.

Norfolk Southern hosted a diesel-powered inspection trip on Saturday to Asheville/Biltmore, North Carolina and return. Sunday, an optional trip was operated behind engine No. 154 from Knoxville to Alcoa and with No. 630 on the return. Needless to say, it was a busy and enjoyable week.

— Bill Howes, December 21, 2011

Chapter Minutes for the November 10, 2011 Meeting:

The meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society was called to order at 7:15 PM. by chairman John Leynes. There were 9 members present.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Van Nest reported that the savings balance is currently \$5,760. There is \$225 in the checking account. In addition to this amount, we have the two CD's. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Committee Reports:

- Newsletter: The latest issue of *Southeast Limited* has been e-mailed and mailed. Costs to print the newsletter continue to rise. Cliff Vander Yacht will be reimbursed for his costs regarding the last three newsletters, totaling \$209.
- Trip Committee: Trip planning has been tabled until 2012.
- Website Committee: Cliff Vander Yacht will use the editor email address to send the electronic copies of the newsletter.

Old Business:

- The organization will focus on the website as the main platform for preserving & presenting information.
- The group continues to focus on documenting Larry Brennan's railroad history work electronically.
- The chapter banquet will take place January 21 at Larry Shughart's home.

New Business:

- John Leynes will communicate with National president Bob Holzweiss regarding our group's agreement with the dues payment issues recently brought up by the national chapter.
- The narration of the railroad music DVD is complete.
- Jim Smith and Art Towson are on the nominating committee for 2012. They have nominated Bill Howes as Chairman, Art Towson as vice-chair, Robert Van Nest as treasurer, and Steve Vertescher as secretary.

Upcoming Program:

- Banquet - January, 21st, from three to six PM.

Announcements:

- Centennial Celebration of Flagler's Overseas Railway, Pigeon Key, January 14.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Newtonson

Chapter Minutes for the December 8, 2011 Meeting:

The meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society was called to order at 6:35 PM by vice-chairman Paul Newton in the Acosta Conference Center at CSX headquarters at 500 Water Street, Jacksonville. There were ten members present, plus guest speaker Rudy Bartelt. It was announced that chairman John Leynes has resigned to pursue other interests.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November 10, 2011, meeting were distributed, revised to accurately reflect the future role of Cliff Vander Yacht with respect to the website and newsletter, and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Robert Van Nest reported that the Chapter has received \$941.00 from national as its "80% Advance" on 2012 Chapter member renewals. The savings account balance is currently \$6007.44. There is also \$500.00 in the checking account. In addition, the Chapter has two certificates of deposit. The report was approved.

Committee Reports:

- "Southeast Limited" Newsletter: Jim Smith is now serving as editor and is seeking material for publication. Cliff Vander Yacht is assisting with layout.

- Trip Committee: No report. (Jim Smith and Larry Shughart serve on committee).

- Website On-line: Cliff Vander Yacht is continuing to update with features and announcements.

Old Business:

- Railroad Music DVD: Ed Mueller reported that production is nearing completion and copies may be available before Christmas. The case will include a promotional statement about the R&LHS. Motions were presented and passed to (1) pay \$250 to Robert DeGroat for his production services, (2) purchase 50 copies of the DVD at cost (approximately \$3 each), and (3) establish a retail sale price of \$10.

- Expand and enhance Larry Brennan's documentation of Northeast Florida rail history: Committee of Bill Howes, Art Towson and Robert Van Nest will progress. Bill will coordinate with Larry.

- Annual Banquet: Larry Shughart will host at his home on Saturday, January 21, from 3 to 8 PM or later. Larry will provide a ham, rolls and lemonade. Members will be asked to indicate if they will attend and what meal item(s) they will bring. The Annual Banquet replaces the Chapter's regular monthly meeting.

New Business:

- Election for 2012 Officers: There having been no additional nominations from the membership, it was moved and approved to accept "By Acclamation" the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee: Chairman - Bill Howes; Vice-Chairman- Art Towson; Secretary - Steve Vertescher; Treasurer - Robert Van Nest.

- Jacksonville Train Show February 11. Bill Howes will arrange for a Chapter table and member tables.

- Access to CSX A/V Facilities: Bill Howes will discuss with Chapter member John Holmgren of CSX.

Announcements:

- Former member Alta Rose "Arby" Vandenbossche died November 27 at age 90. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 PM, December 15, at St. Paul's By The Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach.

- Train Shows in DeLand (Volusia County Fairgrounds) January 7-8 and April 14.

- Centennial Celebration of Flagler's Overseas Railway, Pigeon Key, January 14 (10 AM to 4 PM).

Next Southeast Chapter Meeting: February 9 - Video: *Chessie Safety Express* with C&O 614 (Howes)

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Program: An illustrated presentation on the National Railroad Museum at Green Bay, WI by Rudy Bartelt.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Howes, Secretary

Southeast Chapter Annual Banquet

The chapter's annual banquet will be held on Saturday, January 21st at Larry Shughart's home located at 5216 Lourcey Road (off Sunbeam Road). We'll have our meeting and dinner between 3:00 and 8:00 PM. or later, as follows:

3:00 - 5:00 PM. Trains layouts

5:00 - 6:00 PM. Social hour

6:00 - 7:00 PM. Dinner

7:00 - 8:00 PM/ Brief chapter meeting and fun activities (contests, etc.)

8:00 - whenever: Train layouts, camp fire, etc.

A notice will be sent to Chapter members asking each to indicate if he or she plans to attend, how many will be in their party, and what meal dish they will bring.

Election Notice

Nominating Committee members, Jim Smith and Art Towson, presented the 2012 slate of officers at the November meeting.

Chairman - Bill Howes

Vice Chairman - Art Towson

Secretary - Steve Vertescher

Treasurer - Robert Van Nest

Since there are four people running for the four positions, the new officers will be installed using the "Acclamation by Proclamation" process at our January 21st, 2012, banquet meeting.

Announcements

- January 7-8, 2012 - Deland, Florida Rail Fair at the Volusia County Fairgrounds.
- January 21, 2012 - Southeast Chapter annual banquet at Larry Shughart's home.
- February 11 - Jacksonville Rail Fair, Prim Osborn Convention Center.
- April 14 - Deland, Florida Rail Fair at the Volusia County Fairgrounds.
- May 17-20 - R&LHS Annual Convention, Birmingham, AL.

Happy Holidays

The officers and staff of the Southeast Chapter wish all our members a joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"For Sale"

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Contact Jim Smith at (904) 276-2972.