

The *EAST COAST CHAMPION*

August 2003

PRESIDENT'S MEMO TO STOCKHOLDERS

I regret to say that while I was in Western North Carolina I was unable to get any pictures of the Pickens S.C. Railroad. As I mentioned before, this one-time Southern branch looks like "Where old Baldwins go to die".

On the other hand, my wife and I DID go to the "Cradle of Forestry" museum in the Pisgah National Forest just outside of Brevard, N. C. They have a neat little logging train there.....a Climax engine, several flatcars, and a steam-powered American Log Loader. Well worth seeing, The last Climax I saw was at the short-lived Magee transportation museum in Bloomsburg, PA. The Hurricane Agnes flood of 1972 wiped the museum out and I have no idea what happened to the loco. I also saw a Climax sitting at it's birthplace in Corry, PA next to the ERIE mainline on the North side of the tracks. You couldn't miss it as you passed by. It's probably still there.

This months program will be a tape I purchased from A&E which has an overview of some trainwrecks with computer enhancement giving a re-enactment of just what happened after the derailment or impact. Very interesting and scary. It should be shown to every RR employee. While working at TRI-RAIL, I had the opportunity to attend the BNSF excellent school in Kansas City. They had photos of wrecks and explanations of what caused them.....little things like forgetting to set the brakes on engines when you were cutting a unit out to leave at a yard.....then you look back and here comes the train with the trailing units. There was a huge photo of a wreck in Wyoming where about 50 coal cars piled up.

See you at the meeting.

Regards,
Walter E. Smith

MINUTES OF THE JULY 2003 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM July 14, 2003. Vice President Hal Greenlee presided in the absence of the President. Jim Gillin introduced his guest, Roxanne Fromm.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Selle gave the Treasurer's report. Bob Robinson moved to approve the report with a second by Dave Klein. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There were no additions or corrections. Dick Alkus moved to approve the minutes. Bob Selle seconded the motion that passed.

OLD BUSINESS – Because of Jerry Sheehan's absence, there was no further discussion of Walt Smith's proposal to loan the chapter archives to the Field Tebeau Library.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Chuck Billings has updated the chapter membership roster. A draft was submitted to Bob Selle for review. Chuck plans to mail a copy of the roster to the members in the next newsletter.
- Tom Hammond reported that the NHRS headquarters requested an update on our chapter's status. Tom indicated that he reported no change.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Bob Sowden reported that the next Fred Rose train show will be September 6 at the Eau Gallie Civic Center. It will be the last show at that location. That show will be followed by a show December 6 at the Azan Shrine Temple on Eau Gallie Blvd.
- Hal Greenlee reported that there would be a show at the Volusia County Fair Grounds on July 26.
- Rich Nordstrom observed that there was a scarcity of sources of rental railroad videos in Brevard county. He went on to comment that he had a number of videos that he would loan to club members and that he would like to borrow videos from other members. Rich brought several videos with him for loan to club members. Chuck Billings commented that he had two boxes of videos that had been donated to the chapter that are available for loan. Chuck also commented that the Brevard Central Library has a good collection of railroad videos though not well organized. The writer commented that the chapter's assets need to be cataloged and the catalog published in the newsletter. Chuck agreed.
- Robbie Robinson brought his Bachman HO model Hog Wart Express (of Harry Potter fame) and several other English Passenger coaches for the chapter's enjoyment.
- Chuck Beckner brought his new N & W class A HO locomotive. The model was very well detailed and equipped with a digital sound system.

PROGRAM – Chuck Billings brought a video from the chapter's library

AUGUST BOOK RAFFLE -- TITLE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING

THE ELECTRIC NOTEPAD

by Dave Klein

During the last two months your intrepid reporter returned to the Big Apple to help celebrate a family birthday and Father's Day for my brother the same weekend. Nieces and cousins were in attendance, so a Good Time was had by all. Spring in the Big Apple was rotten (sorry). It rained probably at least one of the two days of just about every weekend. My brother and his golfing buddies wanted to play a round at a course about two hours drive north of the city. A quick look at a map showed that we'd be passing Kingston, NY. If the weather was good, I'd have the car to return to Kingston and the Trolley Museum of New York; I've been a member of that group for over forty years and helped scrape paint when they were on Staten Island, but have not been to their new site in Kingston. The weather was not good; *it poured*. Needless to say, Kingston still remains a destination.

Searching the Web for info on the Airtrain linking the JFK airport terminals, I found their website (www.panynj.gov). A few facts: the cars are standard gauge and have an outside third rail with 750 volts dc on it. Onboard inverters convert the dc to ac as the cars are propelled by linear induction motors. The cars can run singularly or trains of up to four cars with max speed of 68 mph. If you look at certain traffic camera sites monitoring the Van Wyck Expressway (www.nyc.gov), you'll see the elevated guideway. I looked at the site a few weeks ago and saw one car pass by; still testing, I guess.

Would you believe that the Japanese kids can play a dedicated, hand held, electronic game, that is about a train?....*The Wall Street Journal* reports that the children's book, *The Polar Express*, may be out next year as an IMAX movie.

I see it is time for school again and you know what that means: Lionel Christmas ornaments from Hallmark are out again. This year's N-scale ornaments are an SP Daylight GS-4 engine (\$15), tender (\$13), heavyweight coach (\$13). The Z-scale engine is the Blue Comet (\$13 for engine and tender set). Two displays will also be available: a Platform 9 3/4 for Harry Potter fans and a three unit Christmas set for Santa fans.

It might still be too early for 2004 calendars. Books-a-Million had only one when I last looked, but Space Coast Hobbies in Palm Bay had three: real railroads, scale models, and tinplate. A check in the RR magazines will list others. The Merritt Square calendar kiosk wasn't there yet.

Trolley news reported in *Scale Model Traction and Trolleys Quarterly* include Skoda (Czech) cars arriving in Seattle and may be operating now if not real soon. Real Soon may also include down Canal Street in New

Orleans. In Arkansas, Little Rock is planning a two-mile route that has a loop in that city, a loop in North Little Rock, and across the Main Street bridge, linking the two. In Fort Smith, their small line has a 720 foot extension of the overhead wire and plans are set for an extension to the city's convention center, over a mile away. In Atlanta, city fathers are considering trolleys running again on Peachtree Street. Things are looking good for the New Millennium.

If you have a yen to have lunch in a railroad dining car without leaving NYC or getting on a train, for that matter, there's a "secret" restaurant that will fulfill this for you. One of the restaurants that are *inside* Bloomingdale's Department Store (3rd Ave. and 59th St.) is *Le Train Bleu*, a long, narrow room duplicating such a car. That yen will cost some yen as well: a hamburger costs \$15. I ate at a Scottish restaurant (McDonald's). The money saved was spent on trolley books, of course! See you next time.

INTERESTING RAIL NEWS FROM JULY

from trains.com "NewsWire" (www.trains.com)

BNSF SKIPS GALESBURG RAILROAD DAYS, CITES LIABILITY AS THE ISSUE (JULY 2)

GALESBURG, Ill. - A pilgrimage for fans throughout the Midwest for more than a quarter century, Illinois' Galesburg Railroad Days, held annually on the fourth full weekend in June, has always had the support of the hometown railroad. However, this year, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, usually a participant with displayed equipment and yard tours by train, as well as employee excursion trips, was a no-show. BNSF is a major employer in the city, with a large yard and small shop facility. Seven BNSF routes radiate from the city.

"We offered to participate as we have in previous years, providing the city would pick up the liability costs," explained BNSF spokesman Steve Forsberg. "In the past, we carried that responsibility on our own. Since 9-11, we've been a lot more conscious of the risks involved, particularly from a security standpoint. An enterprise such as ours, with our infrastructure, can never be ruled out as a potential target."

In regards to Galesburg Railroad Days, Forsberg said the railroad contacted the area Chamber of Commerce in July 2002, explaining that it could no longer be responsible for carrying the cost of liability. "We proposed for 2003 that we could move display equipment into the city and offer train rides if the city could relieve us of the liability costs," he added. The railroad was extremely helpful in trying to work around this," said Bob Maus, president of the Galesburg Chamber of Commerce, adding that city fathers knew the railroad was not going to show up. "Unfortunately, our Railroad Days council was not in a financial position to make that happen." Maus said that the Chamber looked at a number of insurance carriers, to no avail. "The railroad has stood by us for 25 years," he said. "They have always been very good to work with and couldn't have been more gracious."

NORFOLK SOUTHERN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TAKE DOWN ORGANIZED THEFT RING

TRENTON, N.J. - "Operation Conrail Boyz," a two-year, multi-agency investigation which targeted the theft and trafficking of millions of dollars in stolen merchandise from railroads, trucking companies and shipping outlets culminated in the indictment of 24 defendants Thursday and, according to state officials, represents the "takedown of an entire criminal network allegedly engaged in hijacking freight and consumer goods."

The joint investigation, which was initiated by the Norfolk Southern and eventually involved New Jersey's Division of Criminal Justice - Organized Crime & Racketeering Bureau and the Union County Prosecutor's Office, uncovered and identified a sophisticated, organized gang operating from Bayonne, Elizabeth and Newark ports through the north New Jersey area.

The investigation alleges that members of the gang would leap onto freight trains while they were moving at a relatively slow speed and, using bolt cutters and other devices, break into truck trailers and shipping containers. The merchandise was thrown off the train onto the side of the tracks as the train continued moving. Accomplices on the ground gathered the now stolen items. The stolen merchandise was then moved to a secret collection point where it was staged and sold. Typical commodities stolen included high-tech electronics, computers, designer clothing and cigarettes.

The indictment charges that from 1992 through March 2003, the gang was responsible for committing hundreds of cargo thefts totaling millions of dollars in stolen merchandise, including the theft of 17,496 Sony PlayStation electronic game consoles valued at more than \$5 million; Tommy Hilfiger clothing valued at more than \$140,000; more than 1,000 Jones of New York brand women's blouses valued at more than \$49,000; 1,800 cartons of Wave brand cigarettes valued at more than \$500; approximately \$7,000 in cash from the Metro Freight Line; and numerous tractor-trailers for use in transporting stolen merchandise.

Officers from the Norfolk Southern police developed information that the "Conrail Boyz" would utilize scanners and infrared binoculars to locate and monitor police patrols, issue walkie-talkies and cell phones to communicate amongst themselves while on the trains and to warn of police presence. Stolen Conrail cargo vans were used to avoid detection while driving in the usually desolate areas.

During the two-year probe, state investigators posed as businessmen interested in purchasing stolen merchandise, resulting in the successful purchase of thousands of dollars worth of stolen clothing, cigarettes and other merchandise.

Charges include first degree racketeering, conspiracy, money laundering, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, burglary, fencing, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, unlawful possession of illegal weapons, and tax law violations.

KINZUA VIADUCT COLLAPSES IN HIGH WINDS

MOUNT JEWETT, Pa. – The center section of the 93-year-old Kinzua Viaduct, including 11 of its 20 support towers, collapsed yesterday, a victim of age and winds of up to 80 miles per hour. The structure was most recently used by the Knox, Kane & Kinzua Railroad, a seasonal excursion operation affiliated with the Knox & Kane Railroad headquartered in Martenville.

The viaduct was last used by the Erie Railroad on June 21, 1959, and in 1963 was designated part of Kinzua Bridge State Park. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks in 1977, and in 1987 was reopened to rail traffic with the first KK&K excursion train from the south (the ex-Erie to the north had been abandoned).

Constructed of iron in 1882 and considered the tallest and largest railroad bridge in the world at the time, the 2053-foot-long, 301-foot-high bridge was rebuilt with steel in 1900. Until yesterday it was still considered the fourth tallest railroad bridge in the United States.

State officials closed the bridge to rail and pedestrian traffic in June 2002 for repairs when it was feared that strong winds might bring it down. The excursion operation, denied access, stopped its trains at the south end of the bridge to allow passengers to get a first-hand look at the structure. Built in just 94 days, the viaduct was under repair when it collapsed. There was no immediate announcement on a possible decision to rebuild it, or the projected cost of possibly doing so.

NINE CARS OF FLORIDA EAST COAST FREIGHT DERAIL

KORONA, Fla. - Nine cars of a 52-car Florida East Coast freight train bound from Jacksonville to Miami derailed at 11:40 p.m. Thursday about 15 miles north of Daytona Beach. The derailed cars included three tankcars loaded with sodium hydroxide, five hopper cars with cement powder, and one empty boxcar. There were no injuries or hazmat spills. FEC spokesman Husein A. Cumber said the incident is under investigation.

EARLY GAS-ELECTRIC CAR TO BE DESIGNATED A MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

NORTH FREEDOM, Wis. - Montana Western gas-electric No. 31, a 1925 Electro-Motive Corp. product, will be designated a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers August 16 at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum here during a ceremony from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The gas-electric, built as Great Northern No. 2313, is considered the oldest surviving piece of equipment from the Electro-Motive Corp. of Cleveland, Ohio, the predecessor of the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors. In 1940, Great Northern sold the car to the Montana Western. In 1965, GN traded a combination coach to the short line so it could re-acquire the gas-electric in order to donate it to the museum, located near Baraboo in central Wisconsin. The gas-electric, which has serial No. 130, is considered close to as-built condition with its power plant, baggage area, smoking compartment, passenger area, and opposite-end control area largely intact.

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM ESTABLISHES ROUNDHOUSE RESTORATION FUND

Donations being sought to rebuild roundhouse damaged during winter storm. The B&O Railroad Museum has established a fund to help offset the costs of rebuilding the 1884 Baldwin roundhouse that was damaged during a President's Day 2003 snowstorm. If you would like to help rebuild this national treasure, you can learn more by visiting their website by searching for 'B&O Railroad Museum' on the Internet.

NEW BOOK TITLE

A short History of Florida Railroads by Gregg Turner is a new title from America's leading publisher of local and regional history. 160 pages, 100 photos \$24.99, ISBN: 0-7385-2421-2. Order from www.arcadia.com or call 1-888-313-2665.

PROGRAM MANIFESTS

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

AUGUST – MONDAY the 11TH, 7PM. – Walt Smith's A&E trainwreck video.

SEPTEMBER – MONDAY the 8TH, 7PM. – Program to be announced.

CURRENT & UPCOMING FLORIDA EAST COAST EVENTS

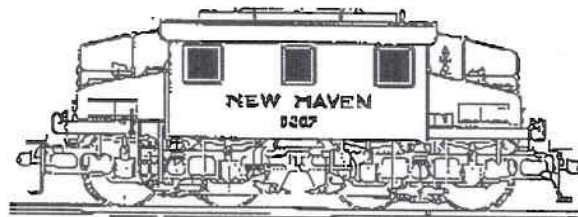
SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY the 6TH, 9am - 2pm. Train & Toy Show, Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave, Melbourne. Admission - \$3.00. Children under 10 free with parent. (321) 453-4125.



<http://www.ribbonrail.com/art/images/lantern.gif>

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|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
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<http://www.ribbonrail.com/art/images/frthouse.gif>

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.
Central Brevard Library & Reference Center
308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa (321) 633-1792
PROGRAM: Walt Smith's A&E trainwreck video.