



Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

Southeast Chapter

Newsletter No. 120 – August 2010

R&LHS 2010 Annual Convention, Ft. Worth, Texas by Jim Smith

The May convention included a number of trips to local rail facilities, including main line railroading, regional lines, light rail, tourist lines and railroad museums. The following photos highlight some of these locations and activities. Since the national Quarterly newsletter gave many of the details of the business meetings of the convention, we are spotlighting the photos of the actual outdoor rail activities. All of the photos that follow were taken by Jim Smith. SE Chapter vice chairman. We begin with our visit to the Ft. Worth & Western's Hodge Yard, North of Ft. Worth, and SD-40 #2015. On the right UP's Davidson Yard, from the hump tower.



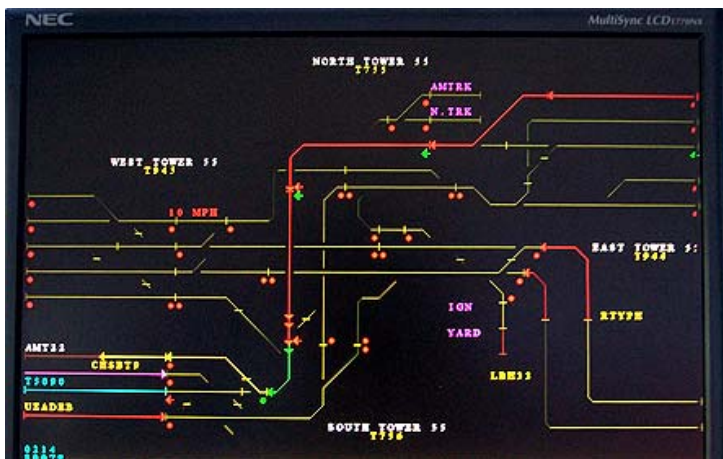
R&LHS President Bob Holzweiss is kneeling at center of photo, wearing a dark blue shirt. Chapter members Bill Howes and Henry Deutch are near center of the photo, with Jim Smith at far right.

Southeast Limited

UP Tower 55 has tracks connecting North & South and East & West at this junction, controlling UP, BNSF, FW&W, Amtrak and Trinity Railway Express. It is considered one of the nation's busiest diamonds.



On the left is the track diagram of Tower 55's double track crossing and rail connections of all four quadrants. On the right is a Union Pacific train going through the interlocking with Ft. Worth in the background. Tower 55 traffic is now controlled at Davidson Yard, where the track diagram photo was taken, while the actual tower is currently used by signal maintainers.



Announcements:

Our regular meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month @ 6:30 PM, in the CSX Bldg., 500 Water St. Jacksonville, FL.
 September 9th - September monthly meeting at the CSX building.
 October 14th - October monthly meeting at the CSX building.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS

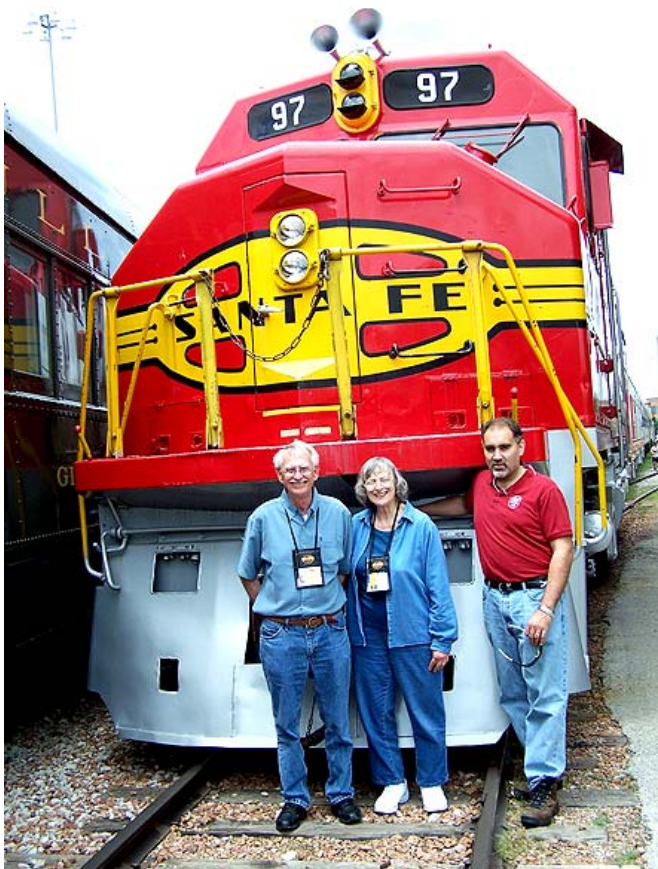
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Above left, shows a Trinity Railway Express locomotive with bi-level commuter cars, which run from the former Texas & Pacific passenger station in Ft. Worth, where the photo was taken, to the Union Station in Dallas. Above right, shows a Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail train which convention members rode from Union Station to the Museum of the American Railroad. Below left, is the ATSF FP-45, #97 with Mike & Sigi Walker standing next to R&LHS President Bob Holzweiss. Mike is the R&LHS Treasurer, and Sigi is the R&LHS Membership Secretary, and both are also Directors. Below right, is Southeast Chapter Vice Chairman Jim Smith standing by one of his favorite engines, the famous Pennsylvania GG-1.





The last train ride of the convention was on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, behind GP-7 #2199. Start planning now to attend the 2011 R&LHS annual meeting which will be held in Elkins, WV from June 2nd through 5th. It will include trips on the Cass Scenic Railroad (using logging engines) and on the Durbin Rocket behind their little Climax locomotive. You'll have a good time!

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AMTRAK/FEC CORRIDOR IN FLORIDA - FEDERAL STIMULUS PROJECT

Florida's local governments, regional planning councils, FDOT, Rail America (owners of the FEC railway) and Amtrak have been working together on a \$268 Million ARRA application/proposal to reintroduce passenger service, via Amtrak, on 326 miles of FEC railway between Jacksonville and Miami. The project will create 2,100 jobs through its three-year construction timeframe according to FDOT estimates.

Project Timeframe

- First ARRA application submitted October 2, 2009
(High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) program, Track 2 funding)
- Second ARRA application submittal - expected mid-to-late 2010
- Other potential ARRA funding sources currently under evaluation
- Expected project construction: 3 years

Project Scope and Operations

- \$268 Million dollar passenger rail project affecting 326 miles of Florida's east coast, between Jacksonville and Miami
- The new Amtrak/FEC corridor project will provide rail transit service to 11 Florida counties and 8.3 million Floridians. This population is projected to grow to over 10 million by 2020
- Counties served: Duval, St Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Indian

8 new stations to be constructed:

St. Augustine, Melbourne,
Daytona, Vero Beach,
Titusville, Fort Pierce,
Cocoa, Stuart.

- Rail interconnection constructed between CSX and FEC in the West Pam Beach area (will accommodate Tri-Rail extension north into northern Palm Beach County)
- 2 trains running northbound and southbound to start (could grow to 4-6 trains daily)
- Trip between Jacksonville and Miami should take roughly 6 hours
- Early ridership forecasts indicate more than 175,000 annual riders for this service

Statewide Project Support

- More than 130 resolutions and letters of support adopted by public and private organizations around the state (see attached). These include city and county commissions, MPO boards, regional planning councils, chambers of commerce, tourist development councils, merchants' associations, state-wide organizations, and others.
- Florida's only ARRA transit application in partnership with a national entity (Amtrak)

Economic Development Impacts

- The project will implement redevelopment plans, increase "stay-cations" (vacations within Florida for Floridians), increase local spending capture, and provide immediate construction jobs along the entire east coast of Florida
- Near-term job creation and economic stimulus for Florida's workforce, businesses, and national and international tourism
- Project is expected to create 2,100 direct and indirect jobs through service initiation (2013) and 6,300 jobs through 2025

Florida's Greener Future

- The Amtrak project is part of Florida's statewide transit network which will improve mobility, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce dependence on foreign oil
- Immediate traffic reliever for I-95
- Immediate reduction in GHG emissions and VMT in Florida

Politics of the Project

- This will be the first-time passengers have ridden on FEC rails since 1968
- This is a high profile, "green" project with loads of citizen support
- This entire rail project gets built for about \$750,000 per mile as opposed to most passenger rail projects which come in at the \$5 - 10 Million per mile range ~ this project is a bargain as far as rail goes
- Project "ribbon-cutting" opportunities present themselves at each of the new stations
- Amtrak's inaugural passenger train run on the FEC will become a significant media event
- Project will be completed within three years – immediate jobs and visibility

Minutes for the Southeast Chapter Meeting of July 8, 2010

The meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society was called to order at 6:40 pm by vice-chairman Jim Smith. There were 7 members present. The group welcomed member Steve Vertescher to the meeting. Steve is originally from Queens, NY.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the June meeting were read and approved by the members that were present.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Van Nest reported that the balance for June ended at \$5,164.61 . In addition to this amount, we have the two CD's. New account rules require \$500.00 balance in the checking account. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

- Newsletter: Jim Smith reported that he has contacted a number of members, especially those that have not paid 2010 dues, on whether or not they would like to remain members and if they can receive the newsletter via e-mail. He also updated a number of email address. The August issue is being worked on.
- Trip Committee: Paul Newton will send out an email asking members when they would want to take a possible Tampa Bay train trip. The weekend of Aug 21 & 22 is the winner.
- Website Committee: There was much discussion surrounding keeping, or not, the rlhssec.org website after the October renewal is required. Cliff Vander Yacht researched having our website be connected with the National website. Indications are that the Chapter should keep and have its own unique website. The Chapter will vote on keeping the site at the August meeting.

Old Business:

- There is no update on the ACL 1504 project. More meetings of the interested parties are planned.
- Ed Mueller reported on his and John Leynes' project regarding a new DVD on railroad music. This topic is still pending and will be discussed further as it is developed.
- Ed Mueller recommends a meeting in conjunction with the Palatka Railway Preservation Society group and will research having the Palatka group give a presentation for our August meeting.

New Business:

- Larry Shugart is hosting a reception February 26th, 2011, and has requested volunteers to help host his event.
- Upcoming Programs:
 - August 12: Palatka Railway Preservation Society.
 - September 9: Paul Newton on a private luxury railcar excursion.
 - October 14: Fred Brechler, the 20th Century Limited.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM by Chairman Jim Smith.

The evening's speaker was Cliff Vander Yacht on the 2009 Train Fest held in Owasso, Mi. A DVD of the event was shown.

Also Jim Smith gave a brief report with photo's, on the Fort Worth Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Leynes - Acting Secretary