

# Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.



## Southeast Chapter Newsletter No. 135 February 2013 [www.rlhssec.org](http://www.rlhssec.org)

### **“Trainspotters, you’re welcome back to Bowden”**

**As published in The Florida Times-Union, December 9, 2012**

Dear Call Box: My 86-year-old husband, who is a Navy veteran, likes to watch trains. For years, we have parked our car near Bowden Yard to watch them go by. On Nov. 17, we were asked to leave. We contribute to the Jacksonville economy when we visit by staying in your hotels and eating at your restaurants. We truly regret that we are not welcome anymore. From: A.G., Daytona Beach Shores.

Dear A.G.: You and your husband are welcome to return to the Florida East Coast Railroad yard at any time, said Bob Ledoux, the railroad’s vice president. On weekdays, there is someone to direct visitors to the parking lot area where they can safely indulge their trainspotting hobby and snap pictures or video. What happened is that you came to the yard on a Saturday when the building is closed, and a security guard was on duty. The guards have been told to tell future weekend visitors that it’s OK to stay, as long as they remain in the parking area, Ledoux said. The yard is at 7150 Philips Highway between Baymeadows and Bowden roads.

By the way, one of the most popular places to watch trains is Folkston, Ga., about 42 miles north of Jacksonville, said Gary Sease, a spokesman for CSX Transportation. In 2001, the town got a \$30,000 state grant to build a platform that boasts chairs, ceiling fans and a scanner to listen to radio traffic between trains. It attracts fans from along the East Coast and visitors from as far as England and France. Picnic tables, a grill and a restroom facility are adjacent to the platform, according to its website.

Nicknamed the “Folkston Funnel,” the double track is one of the busiest spots on the CSX line and serves as the main artery for train traffic into and out of Florida. The number of trains averages 35 to 40 but sometimes goes up to 60. In April, one day is designated as Rail Watch, a time for aficionados to compare notes and photos. In 2013, it’s set for Saturday, April 6th.

### **Steam Photo Special**

**Published January 22, 2013, by Trains Magazine**

Tavares, FL - Get on board for a photo train that is friendly to railfans and photographers! The Tavares, Eustis & Gulf Railroad will operate a spring photo special on March 9, 2013. The “8:10 to Lake Jem” will depart Tavares at 8:10 AM for a 3 hour round trip.

The trip will be pulled by No. 2, a 1907 2-6-0 wood-burning locomotive built by Baldwin. Consist will include 3 vintage coaches, built in 1915, and one Cotton Belt caboose, built in 1918. The train will make four photo run-by stops.

Fares for this excursion are \$40 for adults and \$25 for kids ages 4 to 12. Cupola seats are \$45, regardless of age. Prices includes the train ride, photography opportunities, coffee, breakfast rolls, soft drinks, water, and snacks.

For more information on the Tavares, Eustis & Gulf Railroad or this excursion, go to [www.orangeblossomcannonball.com](http://www.orangeblossomcannonball.com), or call 352-742-7200.

***Southeast Limited***

# Rants & Raves

As published in The Florida Times-Union in December 2012.

Trains in San Marco (A Jacksonville, FL suburb)

“Same Issues in Springfield” (Also a Jacksonville, FL suburb)

“A note to those residents of San Marco trying to use tax dollars to silence the trains at street crossings. Living in Springfield means the constant sounds of the trains horns as they are moving around Talleyrand. Within weeks you will either not even notice them or, like me, will find them music to your ears. They are as much a part of the sounds of life as the Birds singing and the children playing.” From Laura Nevadomsky, Jacksonville, FL.

Editor’s Note: I could not resist including a local “rave” that says train sounds will become “music to your ears”! - JAS

## Announcements

February 14 - Regular meeting of the Southeast Chapter at the CSX building.

February 16 - Golden Spike Enterprise - Jacksonville, FL train show. We have a R&LHS table.

March 2 - NE Florida Model RR Club open house at Green Cove Springs, 10AM to 4 PM.

March 9 - Tavares, Eustis & Gulf RR photo trip with their 1907 wood burning steam engine.

March 14 - Regular meeting of the Southeast Chapter at the CSX building.

April 6 - Folkston Funnel Rail Watch.

April 11 - Regular meeting of the Southeast Chapter at the CSX building.

April 13 - Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairground, Deland, FL.

June 6-9 - Annual R&LHS Convention, Madison, Wisconsin.

## Southeast Chapter Items For Sale!

#1—R&LHS Reprint of Bulletin No. 86, with additions and corrections from Bulletin No.88. Titled “The Story of the Florida Railroads”, written by George W. Pettengill, Jr.

This reprint has been authorized by the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc., who first published Bulletin #86 in July, 1952, and #88 in May, 1953. These books have long been out of print and a new generation of both rail and Florida historians are seeking the information offered in the reprint. Bulletin #86 was the first publication by the R&LHS to be entirely devoted to the railroads within a southern state. It was our good fortune to be able to reproduce this material gathered by Mr. Pettengill on the railroads of Florida up to the turn of the century.

This reprint is a full reproduction of Bulletin 86 plus 14 pages of additions and corrections from Bulletin 88. The page numbers of the originals have been retained to support index searches. The photographs are not page numbered as in the original publication, but they are reproduced in the same location.

To buy this Bulletin, please send a check for \$13.95 to the following address:

Southeast Chapter, R&LHS, P. O. Box 600544, Jacksonville, FL 32260-0544.

#2— Railroad Music CD: Southeast Chapter member, Ed Mueller, wrote and directed the material for this interesting DVD. It is an informal presentation of aspects of railroad history as indicated by the publication of sheet music, so prevalent many years ago. The narration on the DVD was done by R&LHS Southeast Chapter members Bill Howes, John Leynes, Ed Mueller, Art Towson and Steve Vertescher.

The cost is only \$10.00 and includes shipping. To buy a copy, contact the Southeast Chapter via mail to P. O. Box 600544, Jacksonville, FL 32260-0544.

### SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS

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