

January 2009 No. 1

Meeting - Monday January 12th 6:30 PM

Tavares Train Festival Jan. 16 & 17

Chapter News

Chapter Banquet was the Best Yet

Ken Murdock

If you missed the 2008 Chapter Banquet this year you really missed one of the best that I can remember. Chapter members gathered at the Inland Lakes Railway depot in Eustis on Saturday, December 6, for an outing on their diner train. The event began with a social time in the lounge car and then we made our way through the dome car to the 48 seat dining car. The dining car was beautifully furnished and decorated and our members and guest filled almost every seat. Our invited guests present were Bert and Barbara Roper from Winter Garden. They are the family who donated our back building to us a number of years ago that we now refer to as the Roper Building. They are delightful people and they expressed their gratitude for being invited and said that they enjoyed the evening including, food, train ride and fellowship very much.

Neil Bagaus and the Inland Lakes Railway were gracious hosts and generously made this event very affordable for all of our members. The servers began working before the train began to move and did their work! Their job is far more difficult than their counter-parts in non-moving restaurants. The servers were carrying trays from the kitchen through the dining car, through the vestibule doors, into the dome car, through the narrow hall under the dome and up the steps to the dome! They really worked hard and this is what they do every time the diner train runs. They were extremely helpful and courteous and it was very obvious that they really enjoy their work.

All food was prepared in the dining car kitchen by a chef who is only 23 years old and has been with the Inland Lakes 4 years! The food was outstanding! All of the menu choices were tried by the folks sitting around me and not one was disappointed. Neil pointed out that his train is one of the very few diner trains in the country that prepares their food onboard. They use an ex-baggage car behind the kitchen that is equipped with large refrigerators and freezers and head-end power.

The train took a different route this year in lieu of going through Tavares to Lake Jem. There were activities in Wooten Park and cars would probably be parked on the tracks. So Neil made the decision to turn left at the wye in Tavares and go to Mt Dora. Neil knew that the Christmas lights along the waterfront would be very beautiful and that decision scored a lot of points with the ladies. Neil was in his conductor's uniform and had an enjoyable evening as well. He was even able to sit in the dining car and enjoy a meal with us, something he usually doesn't have time to do.

After dinner, the chapter members moved to the lounge car for a short meeting and to elect and install officers. Most of the wives stayed in the dining car and visited. After the meeting we made our way back to the dining car for a very delicious dessert. The train soon rolled back into Eustis and a very enjoyable evening came to

an end. Thank you again Neil for a most enjoyable evening. We are a very blessed chapter to have the museum and meeting facilities that we have and to have the Inland Lakes Ry and the Florida Central RR as our very good friends.

Taylor Johnson provided the banquet program on the progress of his private railcar restoration.

Our Baggage Wagon Goes to Church

By Ken Murdock

On November 5, I received an e-mail from Pastor Haskell Williams of the Apopka Seventh-day Adventist Church with an unusual request. He wanted to borrow our baggage wagon to use as a sermon prop. He said he owned an un-restored baggage wagon (used at Landrum, SC) which he had intended to restore and use for this purpose but his sermon was moved ahead for some reason which had put him in a bind.



He also told me that he owned a Southern Railway conductor's uniform and planned to wear it while doing his sermon while standing next to the baggage wagon. The title of his sermon was "Life's Railway to Heaven". I explained to the pastor the difficulties of removing the wagon from the elevated platform. He assured me that he had the available manpower to handle it, so with the concurrence of President Cross, we granted him permission to borrow it.

Knowing that the pastor owned a conductor's uniform and a baggage wagon, I had to ask the question, "are you by chance, a rail-fan?" His response was, "that would be an understatement". So I did the logical thing and invited him to attend one of our meeting and if he may be interested in joining. He was planning on attending our November meeting but has an emergency. He does hope to make our January meeting. By the way, Pastor Williams reported to me that he had received more comments on this sermon than any that he had done!

November Museum Report

By Ken Murdock

(This report was delayed due to it being on my computer when it went into the shop at press time)

We had a very productive workday on November 15, with six members participating. President Phil Cross did an outstanding job of cleaning the interior museum rooms around and behind the displays where things tend to get overlooked when doing normal vacuuming and dusting. Phil then moved into the very junky looking operator's office and started throwing away miscellaneous "stuff" that had accumulated over time. The room looks much, much better now but Phil says he isn't through yet! Mike Ryan got busy first thing and painted the front entrance door to bring it up to par with the recently repaired and painted screen door. Mike then painted the two red wheels on the baggage wagon to match the two that were recently restored and repainted. Mike likes painting so we then put him to work priming the outside window frames and door frame of the new office. Mike really has these areas looking good.

Allen Quinn finished the ceiling repair in the caboose and painted it to match the existing green. His repair job is so good that you can't tell where it was patched! Allen then moved inside the museum and continued filling and sanding the window stools where we had some major termite damage. These areas will probably be ready for painting next workday. Clarence Hurt continued filing the photos from the Schnaiter and Dowling collections. The collections are massive but with Clarence's persistence, we are getting them organized where it will be easy to find things.

Al Sharp and I worked in the new office again. We installed two drawers and a computer keyboard pullout under the desktop. We also installed an additional countertop opposite the desk for office equipment such as a paper-cutter, laminator and binding machine. Al put on his telephone company cap and got the phone jacks activated in the office. If anyone would like to donate a cordless phone for the office, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who came out and pitched in. We had a very productive day and had some great fellowship as well.

December Museum Report

Ken Murdock, Curator

On Friday, the day before the workday, I went out to the museum to meet Bob Rapalje, who donated the Trains Magazine collection of his late father, John Rapalje, one of our founding members. Bob kept volume 1 for now but donated the remainder which starts in 1941 and is complete through 1999 when John passed away. About one third of the volumes are hard bound as books. John even had a card file index of the complete set listed by railroad names, giving the volume, date and page of each article for any given railroad. This will be an invaluable tool for anyone doing research. The collection also included some early Railroad Magazines, Timetables, Official Guides, RR employee magazines, RR advertising brochures and several other miscellaneous items. I was told that John's RR books will also be coming in the near future. John's wife, Bunny, came along and had a few jokes to tell, as she always did in years gone by. She looked great and asked for me to say "hello" to all of you who knew her.

We had an exceptionally productive workday on Saturday, December 20, 2008 with seven members participating. Librarian Jerry Honeter had his work cut out for him, organizing the Rapalje collection, moving it into the library and moving the old incomplete collection out. Phil Cross and Lloyd Brown gave Jerry some help. Their work began by cleaning out all of the junk and non-library items in the library. Mike Ryan gave the wheels on the baggage wagon a second coat of red

paint and then painted the trim on the outside of the new office. The baggage wagon really looks good again after over 10 years with mismatched wheels! Mike also painted the window stools in the front museum room that had been repaired due to termite damage.

Phil installed an outside lock on the sliding loading dock door at the request of the Heritage Foundation personnel. They need access to the restroom through this door in the mornings before the museum is opened, so this arrangement secures the museum and give them access. The outside locking arrangement will only be used in the mornings by using the same padlock that is used on the inside. When you find a short chain on the lock when it is on the inside, please leave it on the lock. It will be used when the lock is moved to the outside.

Lloyd Brown and I attempted to treat the caboose for dry-wood termites. We will check next month and see if we were successful. Al Sharp hung the Hunter ceiling fan in the new office. Lloyd and I assisted Al in that project. This fan was donated by Hughes Supply about 20 years ago and we finally have found a home for it. Clarence Hurt arrived slightly before lunch, and after a lot of arm twisting, I was able to talk him into working on the photo archives. It wasn't easy, but he finally agreed to do it.

Phil and I worked on getting things ready to take to the Inland Lakes Train Festival in Tavares in January. We will have a table on Saturday, the 17th only, with the primary purpose being to promote the chapter. If you would like to help anytime between 9AM and 4 PM, we can use you. Thanks to all of you who came out and pitched in during 2008. We have accomplished a lot towards making our facility the envy of most other chapters!!

Museum Christmas Tree

Irv Lipscomb



This is the Christmas tree currently on display at our Railroad Museum. It was created by a Winter Garden Heritage Foundation committee, headed by Gretchen Boyd.

I thought they did a great job, and I wanted everyone to see it.

December Birthdays

Bill Dusenbury

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER, NRHS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 6, 2008

The Meeting was called to order at 7:50pm by President Phil Cross.

Chapter Chaplin David Rhea lead the Meeting in prayer.

Recognition of Visitors and Guests – Phil Cross

- Bert and Barbara Roper
- Clayton Bishop and David Peterson as Charter Members.

Recognition of Members and Friends Concerns – Phil Cross

- Phil Baker is doing well after his recent heart attack.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – Bill Dusenbury

- David Rhea made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 2008 Combined Board of Directors and Membership Meeting as printed in the “FLATWHEEL”. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report – David Rhea

- David Rhea summarized the November 2008 Treasurer’s Report. Also noted was that the Chapter received a large donation. Al Sharp made a motion that the Treasurer’s Report for November 2008 be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jerry Honetor and was unanimously accepted.

Historian Report – Phil Cross

- Updated the Chapters Activities History as time permitted.
- Compiled electronic copies of missing “FLATWHEELS”.
- Continued the collection of Central Florida Railroad and Logging Operations information and photographs.
- Cataloged and identified railroad and logging photographs.
- Began work on the creation of the T&G RR DVD with Bill Dusenbury and Thomas East.

President’s Report – Phil Cross

- The CFC-NRHS had a great year in 2008.
- Thanked each member of the Board of Directors for all of their hard work and support of the Chapter.
- Thanked each Chapter member for their support of the Chapter, Chapter activities, monthly work sessions, and hosting the CFRR Museum.
- Recognized Ken Murdock for his outstanding job as the Chapter’s Curator for the 26th year.
- Thanked Irv Lipscomb for taking over and doing an outstanding job as the Chapter’s Museum Host Duty Coordinator.
- Improved the Chapter’s working relationship with the WGHF & the City of Winter Garden – Thanks to Clarence Hurt and Irv Lipscomb for their efforts representing the Chapter on the WGHF Museums Board.
- Created and operated with a Balanced Operating Budget for 2008 – Thanks to David Rhea and Jerry Honetor for their work with the budget.
- The Chapter had great programs and field trips – Thanks to Cory Ward and Thomas East for all of their efforts.
- Continued a great relationship with the Florida Central Railroad and the Inland Lakes Railway – Thanks to Ben Biscan and Bill Dusenbury with FCEN and Neil Bagaus with Inland Lakes Railway for their outstanding support of the Chapter in 2008.
- Worked on the creation of goals for the Chapter – Thanks to Ken Murdock and David Rhea for their help in the creation of the Draft Goals Document.
- Worked on the updating of the Chapter’s Constitution and Bylaws – Thanks to Clarence Hurt and Lloyd Brown for their assistance with the updating of both documents.

New Business

- Irv Lipscomb made a motion that the Chapter give Denise Wurster a Christmas Bonus of \$100. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted unanimously.

Election of Officers – The following have been nominated for Office in 2009

- President – Phil Cross
- Vice President Programs & Membership – Thomas East
- Vice President Education – Irv Lipscomb
- Secretary – Bill Dusenbury
- Assistant Secretary – Clarence Hurt
- Treasurer – David Rhea
- Assistant Treasurer – Jerry Honetor
- National Director – Chuck Ansell
- Museum Curator – Ken Murdock
- Historian – Phil Cross

Lloyd Brown made a motion to accept the Nominations Committee’s slate of Officers for 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell and the motion was accepted by all with the exception of one dissenting vote (Neil Bagaus).

Chapter member David Peterson installed the 2009 Officers.

Incoming Presidents Remarks – Phil Cross

- Continue improvement of the Chapter’s working relationship with the WGHF and the City of Winter Garden.
- Work closely with the FCEN, the WGHF, and the City of Winter Garden to explore the possibilities of upgrading the track between the Museum and Toronto to allow the return of passenger service to Winter Garden.
- A balanced operating budget for 2009.
- Great field trips for 2009.
- Continue the chapter’s great relationship with the Florida Central Railroad and the Inland Lakes Railway.
- Increased membership participation in weekend museum hosting, Chapter work sessions, and special events.
- Continue working on the Chapter Goals Document.
- A T&G RR DVD to sell as a fund raiser.
- Work closely with the WGHF and the City of Winter Garden to get a fire sprinkler system installed in the museum.

Neil Bagaus thanked the Chapter for their support during 2008.

December 2008 Program – Taylor Johnson

Irv Lipscomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ansell. The motion was accepted unanimously and the Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
William C. Dusenbury
Secretary

Flatwheel

Delivery of the Flatwheel by email in PDF format is available. If you wish to signup, please send me an email or talk to me at the meeting.

I’m always looking for reader articles and photos. Did you do any rail fanning on your vacation? Tell us about it! When giving me photos etc., please put your name on them so I can return them promptly.

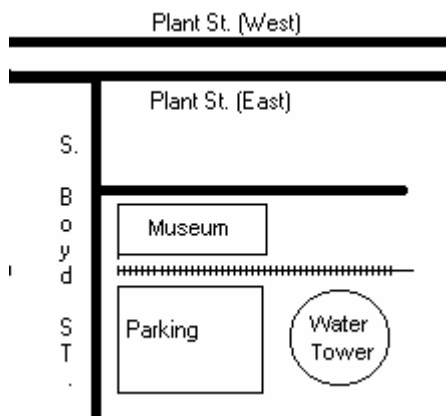
THE FLATWHEEL

1354 Foxfire Drive
Apopka, FL 32712

January 2009

The Museum: is located in downtown Winter Garden at 101 South Boyd Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787

It is open to visitors on **Daily 1-5 PM**, excluding holidays, or by special arrangements.



The Central Florida Chapter of the NRHS meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the museum location. Guests and visitors are encouraged to attend. The executive board meets at 6:30 PM of the same evening unless otherwise announced.

Club correspondence and other materials for the club should be sent to:

CFC-NRHS
PO Box 770567
Winter Garden, FL 34777-0567

Web page: <http://www.cfcnrhs.org>

Flatwheel- Material for the Flatwheel (including exchange newsletters) should be sent to:

The Flatwheel
Kim Fallon, Editor
1354 Foxfire Drive
Apopka, FL 32712
407-884-5342 (home)

Email: WB2GRX@cfl.rr.com