



Mid-South News Bulletin

November 2009



A publication of the Mid-South Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc

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Out on the Seaboard

Annual dues are due!



Death and taxes may be all that's certain, but we certainly can't pay the bills or keep R&LHS going without member support. Your membership dues are vital to our efforts to preserve and share our wonderful railroad heritage with present and future generations. If you would like to continue receiving the *Mid-South Bulletin* and enjoying the outstanding programs and educational opportunities available to our members, please take a moment now to return the enclosed membership renewal / application form with your chapter dues. Thanks for your continued support!

November meeting highlight

Frisco No. 4018 "on the move"

Our November program will feature a video presentation by Mountain Brook Mayor Terry Oden, who helped spearhead the effort to relocate Frisco steam locomotive No. 4018 from the Birmingham Fairgrounds to its new home at Sloss Furnace Museum.

Built in October 1919 by the Lima Locomotive Works of Lima, Ohio, No. 4018 is a USRA 2-8-2 Light Mikado-type of the "War Baby" class ordered through the United States



Frisco #4018 reposes at Fairgrounds

Railroad Administration (USRA) during World War I. No. 4018 was purchased by the St. Louis—San Francisco Railway ("Frisco") in 1923, and the "Mike" spent most of its career hauling freight through the heavily industrialized territory between East Thomas Yard and Bessemer.

No. 4018's last run took place on February 29, 1952 when the locomotive was moved to the Fairgrounds over the adjacent Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL). Over the next 57 years, Frisco employees and groups of local rail enthusiasts attempted to maintain No. 4018's cosmetic appearance, but exposure to the elements and lack of security accelerated the locomotive's deterioration.

In 2008, as the City of Birmingham planned redevelopment of the fairgrounds area, funds were raised to move the locomotive to a more secure location. Through the hard work of Mayor Oden and others, the move to Sloss Furnace took place during the period of February 19 -21, 2009.

Please join us on Saturday, November 14 at 2pm as Mayor Oden chronicles the successful team effort to relocate and preserve this important part of our local railroad history.

Special Holiday Events for Mid-South Members

Several special occasions will highlight the holidays for members of the Mid-South Chapter.

- Smokey City Model Rail Show, Saturday, December 5. The chapter will have a display table and all are invited to participate. Details on the web at <http://www.smokeycityrails.com/5.html>
- Holiday Tour of Joe Fiore's S-Scale Model Railroad, Vestavia Hills - Date and time TBA
- Family Social and "Railroads in Winter" Slide Show at the Depot - Date and time TBA

From the Head Shed

Board receives chair reports, discusses plans for 2010

The Mid-South Chapter board of directors convened on November 1 to conduct the chapter's business and receive reports from the newly appointed committee chairs. The following reports were made:

- Publicity & Publications (Marvin Clemons)** - The chapter brochure has been published and is available for distribution. A website is under development and should be on-line by mid-2010. The November newsletter will be distributed on November 9. It was noted that this will be the last complimentary issue sent to non-members.
- Programs & Special Events (Ron Mele)** - The program schedule for 2010 is shaping up with several speakers already committed. Group outings to BNSF's East Thomas Yard, Red Mountain Park and/or the Southern Museum of Civil War and Railroad History at Kennesaw, GA are under consideration.
- Membership (Stan Burnett)** - Membership renewals for 2010 are due by December 31st. A family membership category has been added and members are encouraged to renew at the family rate of \$15, which includes spouse and children. A renewal form will be distributed with the November newsletter.
- Exhibits & Artifact Acquisition (Tim Smith)** - The first design sketches for the Exhibit Room were submitted and will be presented at the November meeting. A museum curator will be consulted regarding the final design and for assistance with developing an overall plan for the depot exhibits.
- Grants & Fundraising (Lee Singletary)** - Grants will be pursued to support restoration work and exhibit development. Fundraising events for the coming year will include souvenir sales at model train shows and possible sponsorship of a rail show at the depot.
- Community & Government Relations (Eddie Cook)** - A meeting will be scheduled with the Leeds Historical Society to discuss security needs at the depot. Continued efforts will be made to involve local officials and civic leaders in the chapter's development and activities.
- Strategic Development & Marketing (Dan Ferris)** - The board will develop a strategic short and long-term development plan, including a budget for 2010. A strategic planning session is planned for the board's first meeting in February 2010.

The board wishes to thank Dan and Sam Ferris for hosting members and their families to an enjoyable gathering at their lovely home. The board will meet again on December 19 to take up its regular business and develop a slate of officers for the annual election at the January membership meeting.

