



Mid-South News Bulletin

March 2009



A publication of the Mid-South Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society

Chapter Newsletter Launched!

Welcome to the *Mid-South News Bulletin*, the official newsletter of the Mid-South Chapter, R&LHS!

This is the first issue of a new bi-monthly publication featuring chapter news and articles on railroads and railroad history from the mid-South region. We are grateful to chapter member James Simms (aka "Tuscaloosa Guy") for taking on the editorial responsibilities of the *Bulletin*. James is a sparkplug of energy and ideas, and he will develop a first-class publication worthy of your support.

Speaking of support, a newsletter is only as good as its content, and we will rely on your contributions. If you have anything of interest to share—a news item, a short article on a favorite railroad, or a railroad-related anecdote—please email it to James at jbsimms@comcast.net.

To jumpstart member involvement, we're announcing a "Name the Newsletter" contest. We recognize "News Bulletin" isn't very sexy, and we're looking for a banner that captures the "flavor" of our chapter. An ad hoc awards committee will select the winner to be announced in the May issue. The winner will also receive an all-expense paid...oops, wrong contest!...make that, will receive appropriate recognition at the May meeting.

March program to feature presentation on Red Mountain ore mines and railroads

Our next program on Saturday, March 14 will feature a presentation by Eric McFerrin, noted expert on the ore mines and railroad lines that once operated along Birmingham's Red Mountain.

Although Eric's professional background is in aviation, a change in his company's ownership provided him with a new career opportunity. For the past 15 years, Eric has been an avid explorer of Red Mountain and has performed an in-depth study of Birmingham's coal, iron and railroad history. His expertise led to his being named the first park ranger for the new Red Mountain Park. With funding from a grant, Eric is currently photographing and clearing historic mine sites, leading public tours, and continuing to research ore mining history on the mountain.

In addition to a quick rundown of proposed plans for Red Mountain Park, Eric's program will cover the history of the mines of Redding, Alabama, and their connection to the L&N. In addition to his slide

(Continued on next page)

