



# The Mid-South Flyer

March 2010



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

## March meeting highlight

## BNSF's Bryan Schaffer to bring program on Citizens for Rail Safety, Operation Lifesaver



Because of their long history with railroads, on-line communities are vital to ensuring America's rail network remains safe from vandalism and mischief. Since many Americans follow the industry and trains with interest, it is only natural to tap the interest of these citizen-rail fans to help safeguard the railroads from unwanted incidents.

That is the premise that lead Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to develop Citizens for Rail Security (CRS), the industry's first community-based rail fan reporting program. Since its inception in 2006, CRS members have helped protect the railroad by reporting security violations, trespassers or unusual occurrences. By the end of 2009, CRS had 9,273 members spanning all 50 states. CRS membership is now international representing Australia, Japan, Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Due to the program's astonishing success, BNSF has broadened its scope by educating community and legislative groups, law enforcement, schools, and the rail fan community at large on citizen involvement in railroad security. As part of that effort, BNSF special agent and Mid-South Chapter member Bryan Schaffer will be bringing our March program on CRS and Operation Lifesaver.

Bryan began his career in public safety at age 18 as a firefighter and rose through the ranks to fire chief. His service includes work in emergency medical care and in public law enforcement. He is now a senior special agent and K-9 handler with the BNSF Railway Police in charge of the Birmingham office. Bryan's territory includes parts of three states, and he is frequently called upon to help with special events and operations elsewhere on the BNSF system.

When not out protecting the railroad, Bryan enjoys family life with wife Tonie, son James and daughter Jordan. The Schaffers make their home in Pinson, AL.

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