

# THE FLATWHEEL

The Official Monthly Publication of the Central Florida  
Railway Historical Society, Inc.



## April 2014

### April 2014 Meeting

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Central Florida RR Museum  
101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Rail Trip Across Canada  
**By:** Bob Woodbery  
**Refreshments:** Mike Ryan

### May 2014 Meeting

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Central Florida RR Museum  
101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Orange Belt Railway: The  
Lost Decade 1892-1902  
**By:** Richard Cronin  
**Refreshments:** Irv Lipscomb

### Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.

#### Central Florida RR Museum Host Duty Schedule — April 2014

DAY	DATE	HOURS	MUSEUM HOST
Saturday	4/5/14	10 A.M. – 5 P.M.	K. Murdock/J. Reynolds
Sunday	4/6/14	12 Noon – 4 PM	P. Cross/S. Lamb
Saturday	4/12/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Allen Quinn
Sunday	4/13/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Gary Dettman
Saturday	4/19/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Irv Lipscomb
Sunday	4/20/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	<b>CLOSED—EASTER</b>
Saturday	4/26/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Jerry & Ginger Honetor
Sunday	4/27/14	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Piet
Saturday	N/A	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	N/A
Sunday	N/A	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	N/A

### National Train Day Celebration May 10, 2014

**Tampa Union Station**  
**601 North Nebraska Avenue**  
**Tampa FL 33602**

National Train Day at Tampa Union Station returns on Saturday, May 10! The Tampa celebration will feature Amtrak and privately-owned railroad equipment on display, live music, food trucks, model railroad displays, exhibits from community organizations like the Tampa Bay History Center, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library, the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers, Operation Lifesaver and many more! This family-friendly event is in its 7th year in Tampa and is completely free. For up-to-date event details, see [www.tampaunionstation.com](http://www.tampaunionstation.com) Join the fun at historic Tampa Union Station!

### April 2014 Museum Work Session

**Saturday, April 19, 2014**

**8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Please come out and help  
with the many chores that  
need to be done!!!!**

### April Birthdays

**Clarence Hurt 4/4**  
**Connor Murdock 4/5**  
**Dwight Stoffel 4/8**  
**Warren McFarland 4/16**

# This Is The Way It Was

This monthly photo column by Ken Murdock features railroad scenes of the past, a look back into railroading's history.



Winter Park is getting its fourth depot this year and most of us don't remember its first or second ones. This circa, 1935 photo shows their second depot, built by the ACL and located on the east side of the tracks where Morse Boulevard crosses today. The depot was accessed via a bricked cul-de-sac off of Park Avenue. - Barriger Library collection



ACL's purple and silver E7A #529, only a year and a half old, with a south bound train, probably the West Coast Champion, has made a stop at Winter Park's second depot on January 8, 1947. - Richard Kearns collection



ACL's E7A #511 north bound has made a station stop in Winter Park on August 11, 1960 with a train that is probably the West Coast Champion. The roof of the depot can be seen over the top of the train. Still in purple and silver, the black and yellow paint scheme had been introduced in September 1957 and can be seen on the RPO car following the locomotives. - Conniff/Richard Kearns collection

## March 2014 Museum Report

By Ken Murdock, Museum Curator

March wasn't quite as productive as January or February due to combining the monthly museum workday with the quarterly board meeting. I do this often to reduce the number of trips required by our members during the month, especially those working on inventory. Typically, after a quarterly board meeting we have a house cleaning session, taking care of vacuuming, emptying trash cans, cleaning the restroom and etc. This is the minimum, but it holds us until the following month.

I did expand the March workday, however, to more than just after the board meeting. I opened it up for all who wanted to come out at 8:30 AM and work on things while the board was conducting its business. I had two, Allen Quinn and Al Sharp, who chose to do just that. Since the weather was perfect, Allen brought his sand blaster and finished blasting and painting the caboose stove. It is really looking great! Al worked in the library, cleaning out the cabinets and countertop in our snack bar area. We now have regained our countertop for our refreshment time and some extra space in the cabinets. Thanks to both of you for your dedication to our organization.

We also had four Wednesday inventory workdays during the month with Al Sharp, Roger Wilson, Jerry and Ginger Honeter and me participating. Irv Lipscomb also came out on several Thursdays during the month and continued his photography work for our inventory. The pace has slowed a bit on inventorying additional items, because we have been concentrating on items already inventoried, checking for mistakes and for items not yet photographed or items missed in showcases that have been mostly completed. Mike Ryan has been busy at home scanning photos and cleaning them up before putting them on CDs.

Jerry has continued pulling duplicate books from the shelves and will meet with the library committee soon to determine the value of each and best way to dispose of them. We will probably offer them to our members first, then place them in our gift shop, or on eBay, or donate them to a school library. Ginger continued with her silver cleaning job and is keeping everything sparkling, the way the railroad dining car personnel once did.

Thank you to each of you who participated in workdays or hosting or both. We couldn't keep our museum open without you. Please don't forget to log in your volunteer hours including travel time and lunch time.

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Society's caboose (former CRR #1073) in service near Johnson City, TN.

Thanks to Society Member Bill Dusenbury for the photo.

## Upcoming Events

**April 12, 2014** — Deland, FL — 47<sup>th</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**April 14, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**May 12, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**June 1, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Quarterly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society Board of Directors at 8:30 AM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**June 7-8, 2014**—Tampa, FL—11<sup>th</sup> Tampa Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**June 9, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**July 12, 2014** — Deland, FL — 48<sup>th</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**July 14, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**August 11, 2014** — Winter Garden, FL — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

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**47<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Model Train Show**

**NORTH ATLANTA TRADE CENTER**  
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Norcross, Georgia 30093

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9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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- Directly off I-40 and Exit 125 (Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard)
- 9:00am - 3:00 pm
- Free Parking for vendors & patrons
- Close to CHL, W-S, Greenville
- Last year nearly 1k people, 250 tables
- \$5 admission -Adult
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## Winter Park's Station Dedication

By Ken Murdock

On Monday, March 03, 2014, at 10:30 A.M., Winter Park held their formal dedication and ribbon cutting for their new Amtrak/SunRail station. A SunRail train was brought to the station for the ceremony. About fifteen minutes prior to the start of the ceremony, Amtrak's south bound *Silver Star* made a station stop. This presented a great photo opportunity with SunRail and Amtrak both in the station at the same time. The Silver Star had to make two stops due to the platform not being open on the south side of Morse Blvd. The first stop put the Amtrak and Sun-Rail locomotives almost nose to nose, but on adjacent tracks. The second stop put the Amtrak locomotive and the SunRail cab control car almost side by side.

The station wasn't 100% completed for the ceremony. There were many exterior details yet to be done and Amtrak hadn't moved in, but the interior looked completed and was very, very nice. The interior material selections were very upscale and durable. The floor is ceramic tile and the agents counter is granite. The ceiling in the waiting room is very high, sloping with the roof pitch, thus giving it a spacious feeling. The old station, with boarding canopy removed, remains fully operational, but if you want to get a few last photos of it, you had better hurry. It will be demolished very soon.

Guest speakers for the ceremony, who thankfully, kept their remarks brief, included, Randy Knight, Winter Park City Manager; Ken Bradley, Winter Park Mayor; Teresa Jacobs, Orange County Mayor; Tom Kirk, General Superintendent, Amtrak Southern Division; Frank O'Dea, Florida DOT District 5; and John Mica, U.S. Congressman, 7<sup>th</sup> district. Congressman Mica has done more than anyone else to get the funding and to promote this project, which has now become a reality.

The crowd at the ceremony was larger than expected, probably in the range of 300 to 400. A three piece orchestra provided music before and after the ceremony. After the ceremony and ribbon cutting, the station and train were both opened for everyone to tour. No, regrettably, the locomotive wasn't included in the tour. Lemonade and cookies were served and SunRail passes were on sale.

Our former member, Kevin Sweat, was the engineer who brought the display train down from Sanford. Kevin was hired early by Bombardier as an engineer and has been training other new hires as they prepare for their start up in mid-April. Kevin said they are hiring engineers from many main line and short line railroads, one coming from Alaska. In 2013, Bombardier won a 10-year \$195 million contract to operate and maintain SunRail including dispatching. Bombardier also handles operations and maintenance for the Tri-Rail system in South Florida.

Kevin also said that SunRail will charter one of their trains for private excursions. With tables between most seats, we could check into the possibility of chartering a train for a catered banquet, depending, of course, on the price. Kevin also said FDOT, who now owns the tracks, will permit privately owned equipment to operate over their line as long as it meets FRA regulations and SunRail's insurance requirements. Insurance could kill it, but can you imagine seeing the Orange Blossom Cannon Ball running down this double track main line on a weekend!!

**Continued on Page 4**

You will be able to buy a one-time fare or reusable, reloadable plastic SunCards. SunRail will be free April 15-18 and April 21–25 to encourage people to try it and hopefully, become regular riders. You can't beat that price, so go out and give it a try!

### SunRail's Locomotives

SunRail will have 7 locomotives, numbered 100 thru 106, when delivery of phase one is completed. The locomotives are MP32PH-Qs built for SunRail by Motive Power, Inc., a Wabtec company based in Boise, Idaho. SunRail's units were built to similar specifications of MPI's new MPXpress cowl units, except they are remanufactured units that had previously operated on MARC as GP40WH-2 locomotives. Inside the locomotive, the 3000 H.P. EMD 16-645 prime movers have been completely rebuilt and electronics have been upgraded using the same equipment as that on their new MPXpress locomotives. The main difference is on the outside where the MP32PH-Q units retain the hood unit layout of the MARC GP40WH-2s, but have the new MPXpress aerodynamic, wide cabs.

Kevin said these locomotives have plenty of power, accelerating their train to 79 MPH within a mile and braking is excellent as well. The disc brakes on the passenger cars probably contribute to this, plus dynamic braking on the locomotive. He said they only have two stretches of track where they can run a 79 MPH. There will be 12 station stops in phase 1 and many, many grade crossings.



SunRail's train was on display at Winter Park's new Amtrak/SunRail station dedication ceremony with its remanufactured MP32PH-Q locomotive #100. Engineer Kevin Sweat is seen climbing aboard.



SunRail's display train at Winter Park's new depot dedication had two coaches, the last one being a cab control car. SunRail's standard seems to be the cab control car in the lead south bound and the locomotive in the lead north bound.



Amtrak's south bound *Silver Star* made a station stop just before the ceremony bring the nose of their lead locomotive #159 almost nose to nose with SunRail's #100.



The *Silver Star* had to make a second station stop, due to platforms south of Morse Blvd not being open, thus bringing their lead locomotive #159 right alongside of SunRail cab control car #2003.



The *Silver Star* departs Winter Park for Orlando with a Heritage baggage car on the rear behind a Viewliner sleeper. No class!



A large crowd had gathered for the ceremony. The speaker's podium was located between the center set of columns on the left (third space from the far end), almost not visible from this angle.



Congressman John Mica, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida, is between the center set of columns to the left, addressing the crowd. He seemed almost relieved that this long fought for project was finally becoming a reality.



This is another view of the crowd with the speaker on the right between the columns under the half round window in the gable end. Kevin Sweat can be seen standing on the locomotive, watching the ceremony.

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**Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.**  
**Combined Board & Regular Meeting Agenda**  
 Central Florida RR Museum  
 March 10, 2014  
 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Vice President Jerry Honetor Board members present included: Jerry Honetor, Phil Cross, Joe Lehmann, Irv Lipscomb, Ken Murdock, David Rhea, and Phil Piet. President Dusenbury was working.

Meeting Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance – David Rhea

Recognition of Visitors – Jerry Honetor — Roger Wilson introduced Greg Stiles

Recognition of Members/Friends Concerns – Jerry Honetor — Former member, David Eslick passed away this past month.

Approval of the February 10, 2014 Combined Board & Regular Meeting Minutes – Bill Dusenbury — Motion by Irv Lipscomb, second by Phil Cross; the motion to approve was unanimous

**Continued on the Next Page**

February 2014 Treasurer's Report – David Rhea

- David Rhea reported that Frank Milmore recommended we purchase more certificate of deposits and spread them out so that we will have liquid funds when needed for the renovations.
- It was recommended to take some money from the checking account and purchase certificate of deposits.
- Phil Cross made a motion seconded by Irv Lipscomb to table the recommendation until the board meeting. The motion to approve was unanimous.
- David Rhea reported on the renewal of insurance coverage.

Vice President of Membership & Programs Report – Jerry Honetor

- **Membership Report:** Dues for 2014 are due. 41 members have renewed at this time and we have 3 new members.
- **Programs & Refreshments Report:** Programs and refreshments are handled for the remainder of the year.
- **Society Events and Field Trips for 2014:** None to report at this time.

Museum Curator Report – Ken Murdock

- **February 2014 CFRR Museum Report – 729** visitors for February; and **1,176** visitors for 2014 to date. **269.00** volunteer hours donated by the membership during February; and **599.75** hours donated for 2014 to date. **Please be sure to enter your hours in the record book at the Museum’s Docent’s desk.**
- **The Next Museum Work Session:** Scheduled for **March 15, 2014**, immediately following the Quarterly BOD Meeting.
- **Recent Acquisitions & Donations:** There was a donation of a MOPAC Route Map from 1977. Mike Ryan has been scanning photographs and putting them on CDs. He has completed several CDs as of now. Received news articles listing all the recent rail work being done on the Florida Central.

Museum Host Schedule for April 2014 – Irv Lipscomb — Adding extra coverage for the Spring Fever on the Garden April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The museum to be open 10 to 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ken Murdock and Jarrod will work together on Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Phil Cross and Sharon Lamb will host the museum from 12 to 4 on Sunday.

President’s Report – Jerry Honetor reported for President Bill Dusenbury

- **Winter Garden Heritage Foundation Board of Directors Activities** – The Foundation continues with their Capital Campaign Program. History Center construction is underway. Currently scheduled to be complete and ready for occupancy in December 2014.
- **CFRHS Facebook Page Update** —The update was not available as President Dusenbury was absent.

FCRR, FMRR, FNRR & SunRail Update (Including FCRR Track Upgrade Update) – Bill Dusenbury — The update was not available as President Dusenbury was absent.

Tourist Train Operations on the Florida Central RR – Neil Bagaus — Neil Bagaus provided update. If all goes well the Cannon Ball is planning to dead head the train to Winter Garden and run 6 trips between Winter Garden and Ocoee both Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup>. They may need help selling tickets for the trips.

Items from the Board of Directors – none.

Items from the Membership – none.

Tonight’s Program: **Riding With Ringling by Neil Bagaus**

Tonight’s Refreshments Provided By: **Jerry & Ginger Honetor**

**Reminder – Please help clean up the museum after monthly meetings. We want to leave the Museum in as-good or better condition than we found it. Also, please remember to put away the circular table and return the children’s interactive train display to its designated location. All help in this matter is greatly appreciated.**

Meeting Adjournment — Motion by Phil Cross, second by Irv Lipscomb; the motion to approve was unanimous.

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**Central Florida Railway Historical Society**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**  
 Central Florida RR Museum  
 March 15, 2014  
 8:30 AM

Call to Order – Vice President Jerry Honetor. Board members present; Jerry Honetor, Irv Lipscomb, Frank Milmore, Joe Lehmann, Phil Cross, Ken Murdock and Phil Piet. President Bill Dusenbury is attending a funeral for his neighbor.

Opening Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance – David Rhea.

The Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. – Bill Dusenbury.

- Society 2014 Budget Update – David Rhea & Frank Milmore.
- Society Certificates of Deposit – David Rhea & Frank Milmore.
  - ◇ Motion by Irv Lipscomb, second by Phil Cross to move \$5,000 from checking to Vanguard Mutual fund account. The motion carried unanimously.
- Society Membership – Jerry Honetor.
  - ◇ **Membership Report**
    - \* Society Members = 34
    - \* Society Century Members = 9
    - \* Society Family Members = 14
    - \* Society Friends = 8
    - \* Corporate Members = 1
    - \* **Total Members = 66**
  - ◇ Review of Membership List (Members & Supporters).
  - ◇ Membership Renewal for 2014. 41 members renewed for this year and there are 3 new members.
- Society Field Trips & Other Activities – Jerry Honetor.
  - ◇ A tour of the Florida Central Railroad – **Bill Dusenbury is the coordinator**. To be scheduled after the completion of the rail upgrade.
  - ◇ Other suggestions for field trips – there were none at this time.
  - ◇ SunRail is providing free rides April 15 to 18 and 21 to 25. Formal operations begin May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Museum Update – Ken Murdock.
  - ◇ Past Perfect Database Update. Continuing to work on inventory, on almost every Wednesday.
  - ◇ Library Committee Update – The Library Committee continues to work on the cataloging of the books, periodicals and videos in the library. Duplicate copies of books are being removed from the library shelves and will be disposed of thru various means after offering them to members first.
  - ◇ Technology Committee Update. No report.
  - ◇ Website Committee Update – The committee is working on completing two pages still under construction (Railroad History and Photo Gallery).
  - ◇ Museum Update. Ken has been rearranging cases so that collection of like items are together instead of being spread around.
  - ◇ Recent Donations. We received a Missouri Pacific system map mounted on hardboard.
  - ◇ Computer Security, no report.
  - ◇ Other items.
- Expansion Plans for the Central Florida Railroad Museum – Ken Murdock & Phil Cross.
  - ◇ Initial plans for the Roper Building have been prepared by Ken Murdock.
  - ◇ The WGHF is currently in a building campaign for the construction of the new History & Education Center that will be attached to the east end of the Heritage Museum. The Foundation continues with their Capital Campaign Program.
  - ◇ Construction has officially started and completion is scheduled for December 2014.
  - ◇ Ken Murdock, Phil Cross and Jerry Honetor met with Mr. Skip Lukert, the City of Winter Garden's Building Official, on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM to discuss some initial plans and what the Society will need to do to carry out those plans.
  - ◇ Ken Murdock, Phil Cross and Jerry Honetor met with Tom Mikels of RC Stevens Construction on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, to discuss some preliminary plans for the expansion into the Roper Building. Mr. Mikels will work on some plans to present to the City of Winter Garden and a cost estimate for each item discussed.
  - ◇ Inquiry from Kay Cappleman (WGHF). Phil Cross received email from Kay regarding payment of utilities for the museum.
  - ◇ Other items. We need to insure network access for the Past Perfect program remains after the WGHF moves into their new building.
  - ◇ We need to focus on getting all documents and electronic files located within the Museum.
- 2014 Annual Meeting – Jerry Honetor — Scheduled for Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 801 City Grille, Corner of Eighth & Montrose Streets in downtown Clermont, beginning with a social hour at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 7 PM and installation of the 2015 officers at 8 PM. There will not be any program. Entertainment will be Armando Valesquez on the piano.

- CFRR Museum Facebook Page – there was no update as President Dusenbury was absent.
- Review and Approval of the Society's 2014 Mission Statement, Purpose & Goals – Frank Milmore/Bill Dusenbury.
  - ◊ Motion by Irv Lipscomb second by Phil Cross to approve changes in the mission statement purpose, short & long term society goals for 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - ◊ Motion by Irv Lipscomb second by Phil Cross to approve all the recommended changes in committee goals and responsibility. The motion was unanimously approved.
- FCRR, FMRR, FNRR and SunRail Update (Including FCRR Track Upgrade Update) – They are wrapping up the rail upgrade work on the Florida Central. Expect to be completed by late March.
- Tourist Train Operations on the Florida Central Railroad – there was no update as President Dusenbury was absent.
- Items from Attending Board Members.
  - ◊ Ken Murdock said the Winter Park Historical Society will be meeting with him today to select loan items for them for their museum's railroad display. Their display will last for one year.
  - ◊ Irv Lipscomb wanted to recognize David Rhea for covering the last minute for Bill Dusenbury. David Rhea will be covering docent duties Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday while Greg Fox is out on medical leave.
- Items from Attending Members – Jarrod Reynolds reporting fixing a track on the train display.
- Selection of Date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014 Board Meeting – Saturday, June 7, 2014 was selected as the date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014 Board Meeting.
- Meeting Adjournment — Motion to adjourn by Frank Milmore a second by Phil Piet. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Thanks to Society Member Roger Wilson for the following story.

## St. Marys Railroad Lives on in Georgia

By Jim Wrinn  
Thursday, March 2, 0 2014

It's the time of year when I start thinking about getting out more often and exploring railroads across America. At *Trains*, we just finished our annual tourist railroads and railroad museums issue and got it back from the printer. You'll see the May issue with Southern Railway 4501 on the cover in your mailboxes and on newsstands soon. I've been fortunate to visit many preservation railroads and museums in my time, but a few have evaded me. One of the railroads that I haven't reached is the St. Marys Railroad in coastal Georgia. I always knew it as a heavy-duty paper mill road, but a few years back, the mill shut down, and the railroad struck out on its own. Today that means both freight and tourists.

The railroad's Barbara Ryan asked me if *Trains* could prepare a story about their line. We'll start working on that, but since it may be a while before it gets to print, I asked if we could play 10 questions, so she and General Manager Paul Pleasant were kind enough to do so. Here's what they told us about their railroad.

### What's the power and the rolling stock?

GP16 No. 507, SW1200RS No. 506, cabooses X395, 671, and three 65-foot **container cars converted to open air excursion cars**, Nos. 1001, 1002, and 1003.

### When does the railroad run?

Freight trains run as needed. Themed excursions run on Saturdays throughout **the year. The schedule changes by the seasons.**

### What's the history on this line?

The St. Marys & Kingsland started in 1865. The first two locomotives arrived by barge to open the 10-mile line from St. Marys to a connection with what became the Seaboard Air Line at Kingsland, Ga. The railroad went by a variety of names and had many owners as its fortunes ebbed and flowed. Its sale to Gilman Paper in 1939 created the St. Marys Railroad. The short line grew in 1955 with an extension to a U.S. Army ammunition storage base. The railroad planned a 20-mile extension to Folkston, Ga., to reach the Atlantic Coast Line, but the 1967 Seaboard Coast Line merger made that a moot point. The railroad became a part of Gilman Paper in 1999, then went to Durango Paper, which closed in 2002. In 2007, Boatright Cos. bought the railroad.

### What are the biggest challenges in bringing the railroad back as a viable freight carrier and as a new tourist line?

On the freight side, trucking is our major obstacle. With our biggest customer (Georgia-Pacific) it's not so much a question of freight rates but delivery time. We're having a difficult time competing with that. For the excursion train it's determining market appeal. So far, every excursion has sold out.

### Do you use volunteers or paid train crews?

The engineers, conductors, and trainmen are professionals, and volunteers serve as entertainers and car hosts.



**What's your annual ridership?**

15,000

**What freight traffic do you have on the railroad?**

Paper products, polyurethane pellets, military supplies for Kings Bay submarine base, and other bulk commodities.

**How many carloads does the railroad carry per year?**

Carloads vary between 600 and 1000. We also have storage for up to 500 cars and average 80 percent of capacity.

**Where do your riders come from?**

Mostly from a 100 mile radius with the bonus of additional people from across the country who come to the area for vacation.

**What three things do you want to see the railroad accomplish in the next 3-5 years?**

Increase our freight business utilizing vacant properties and existing industry adjacent to the railroad. Increase number of excursions so as to attract larger groups. Do a Day Out with Thomas event.

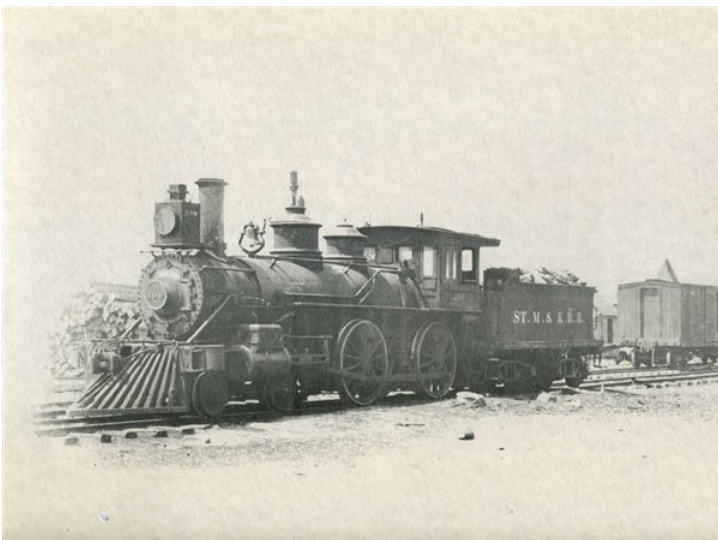


St. Marys GP16 switches freight cars. *Paul Pleasant photo.*

SW1200RS No. 506 pulls three open cars and caboose. *Courtesy of St. Marys Railroad.*



St. Marys & Kingsland 4-4-0 No. 100. *Courtesy of St. Marys Railroad.*



## CFRHS Membership Statistics

Society Members	34
Society Century Members	9
Ward Britt	
Phil Cross	
Ann Cross	
Bill Dusenbury	
Chuck Hanus	
Jerry Honetor	
Frank Milmore	
Ken Murdock	
Jim Shoemaker	
Society Corporate Members	1
Andy Healy	
Society Friends	8
Society Family Members	14
Society Student Members	0
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>66</b>

**April 2014 Museum  
Work Session**  
**Saturday, April 19, 2014**  
**8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**  
**Please come out and help  
with the many chores that  
need to be done!!!!**

**The Flatwheel** is the official monthly publication of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society. Opinions and views expressed in this publication are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Society.

Material for the Flatwheel (including exchange newsletters) should be sent to the editor via e-mail at:

[editor@cfrhs.org](mailto:editor@cfrhs.org) .

**Please Note:** Material from The Flatwheel may be reprinted in other publications provided credit is given as to the source.

**The Central Florida Railroad Museum** is located at 101 South Boyd Street, Winter Garden, FL, 34787 (downtown Winter Garden, immediately north of the water tower).

The Museum is open daily from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (excluding selected holidays) or by special arrangements. Large groups are encouraged to contact the Museum at 407-656-0559 to arrange for their tour in advance.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum is operated under a cooperative agreement between the City of Winter Garden, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc..

**The Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the **Central Florida Railroad Museum**. The Museum is located at 101 South Boyd Street in downtown Winter Garden immediately north of the water tower. Guests and visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All correspondence and other materials for the Society should be mailed to:

Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 770567

Winter Garden, FL 34777-0567

Or e-mailed to the Society at: [info@cfrhs.org](mailto:info@cfrhs.org)

Web page: [www.cfrhs.org](http://www.cfrhs.org)

**Mission:** The mission of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. is: Promoting railway heritage and preservation and educating members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on Central Florida.

**Purpose:** The purpose for which this Society is formed and the business or objects to be carried on and promoted by it are mainly historical, educational and not-for-profit. The more particular objects are:

- Preserve the historical materials of rail transportation of all kinds and issue publications relative to the subject.
- Acquire by donation, purchase, lease or otherwise, real or personal property, and to maintain, sell, lease, deed or otherwise manage in a manner appropriate for the Central Florida Railroad Museum and the above mentioned purposes.
- Plan and run a series of programs and events for Society members' education and participation.
- Work and support the activities of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation. Assist in any and all group projects which benefit the goals and activities of the Society and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation.

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