

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Web Site: WWW.RRVVRS.ORG On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)
Russell Pedro – President W. Conway Link – Vice-President Jim McClure – Secretary
Bill Hasheider – Treasurer Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – DDBland@aol.com

December, 2015

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 34th Year

KCS Holiday Express



This is the ultimate Christmas train for young and old alike! It is a beautifully decorated six-car train that brings Santa Claus and his elves to communities throughout KCS's U.S. rail network at scheduled stops. Guests to the train can visit with Santa Claus and walk through three cars filled with holiday displays. Each event is free, open to the public and no tickets are required. In addition, at each scheduled stop, a charitable contribution is made to the local Salvation Army to provide warm clothes and other necessities for children in need.

Here is what the www.kcsouthern.com website has to say about the train: *“The Holiday Express was created in 2001 as volunteers dedicated more than 8,000 hours to transform retired rail cars. Today, these cars feature a smiling tank car named Rudy; a flatcar carrying Santa's sleigh, reindeer and a miniature village; a gingerbread boxcar; the elves' workshop; a reindeer stable; and a little red caboose. The 2015 Holiday Express is in memory of a special member of the KCS Holiday Express family, Willis F. Kilpatrick, who passed away in June. Kilpatrick was among the founders of the KCS Holiday Express in 2001 and was its head elf through 2012, retiring in early 2013. It was his leadership, inspiration and tremendous heart that made the train and the charitable initiative the wonderful experience that communities enjoy today. It is with gratitude for his contributions that we honor his memory. The theme this year is Darby Bear. In recent years, one of the toys in the free gift bags for kids has been a small teddy bear in the colors of a KCS locomotive. This year's bear is called “Darby”, a nickname given to Kilpatrick by his family. The bear is yellow, his favorite color”.*

Several of our RRVVRS members help prepare the train each year and some ride on the train from November 27 to December 20, a period of over 3 weeks. Almost every day they are in a new town, so they prepare for the kids (and adults), open it up about 4 p.m., greet the kids dressed as elves, give out the goodies, close it down and ride the train to the next location. The decorated cars are pulled by

KCS's business train, the *Southern Belle*, which is used to house and feed the volunteers during their travels. The train was in Shreveport on December 4th, and will end up at the Kansas City Union Station for a December 16-20 conclusion.

Upcoming Events

December 18 – RRVVHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

January 8 – NOTE THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FOR JANUARY - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

The President's Message

Hello Railfans!

Tis the season! The holidays are upon us and as usual I am not prepared. I hope the rest of you have already planned for the holidays. I would like to wish all a very, very happy Holiday Season.

I hope to be in good enough shape to start attending meetings real soon. I also want to thank each and every one of you for carrying on in my absence. I have not heard a word from the city on the piece of property next to the Water Works. I will call and see if I can get the ball rolling soon. We heard from Bobby Jelks not long ago about helping with fund raising. There has been some talk about using the old Union Station grounds as a possible site, also.

Well, that's about all I know at this time but I will keep plugging.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

It's Time to Pay Your 2016 Dues

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting
December 18