

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

www.rrvrhs.org

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July, 2014

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 33rd Year

Did You Hear About This Wreck in Texas ?



On a recent trip to College Station, Texas, my son asked me if I wanted to see a train wreck. I said “sure!” so he took me to this scene of a massive train, school bus and auto wreck. Fortunately, it was staged for training purposes in “Disaster City” at Texas A&M. Here is a description of the facility from their website:

“Emergency responders climb into the mangled steel and glass that was once a bustling passenger train. Behind the wreckage, another search and rescue team uses canines to sift through a building’s rubble left from a terrorist attack or natural disaster – hoping to find survivors. Families who were moments ago shopping in strip malls are now trapped beneath several tons of steel beams and debris, with friends nearby struggling to survive inside a collapsed movie theatre...”

Welcome to Disaster City®, a place where tragedy and training meet – a place where anything is possible. Located in College Station, Texas, this 52-acre training facility is situated adjacent to the world-renowned TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field and delivers the full array of skills and techniques needed by today’s emergency response professionals.

Created by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), a member of the Texas A&M System, the mock community features full-scale, collapsible structures designed to simulate various levels of disaster and wreckage which can be customized for the specific training needs of any group. Emergency responders from across the globe venture to Disaster City® for unparalleled search and rescue training and exercises. Simply put, Disaster City® is the most comprehensive emergency response training facility available today.”

As you can see from the photos, it is very realistic because real vehicles and train cars are used. There are several buildings that can be “burned” repeatedly for fire and rescue training purposes, overturned railroad tank cars for hazardous material training, large piles of building debris and even the top portion of a small ship. When training sessions occur, they ask for volunteers who will be “trapped, burned, severely injured or die” complete with very realistic make-up.

A great article on the facility appeared in Popular Science (www.popsci.com/disastercity).

Upcoming Events

- July 18 RRVRHS Meeting – 7 p.m. in the Library at The Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. For information or directions call (318) 470-5933.
- Aug. 1 First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum/ Railroad Museum – 142 N. Common St. – call (318) 458-3123 for information.

The President's Message

Hello Railfans !

I can't believe another month has gone by. Before you know it summer will be gone. Time sure flies when you are having fun. I still have not heard from Mr. Huddleston on the fate of the Caspiana Depot. The city is working on the property we desire. Last week they sent someone to take pictures of the hill.

Dale Ward, Director of the Water Works Museum, has issued a report stating that visitors at both museums has been much heavier than in past years. We may even surpass last year with its large crowd on the official opening day.

At the last meeting we decided to postpone the fish fry until September. Also, we have had several new people come to the meetings and join the Society. Some members have expressed an interest in moving our meeting to the Water Works Museum on N. Common St. We will discuss this at our July meeting at The Glen, so watch for a possible change for our August meeting. It will be announced in this newsletter.

Well, there is not much news this month so I will close now

Happy Railroading!
Russell

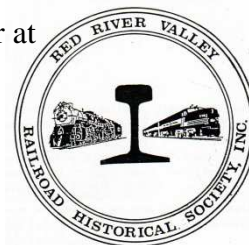
Are You Up-to-Date on Your Dues ?

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 _____



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